

The Giant's Rib

Dedicated to increasing awareness and protection of
the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve

Stan Nowak, Editor
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www.giantsrib.ca
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The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre presents the Fourth Annual

Giant's Rib Summer Solstice



This is the only way to greet the Summer of 2010!

A wine and cheese reception with a silent auction, an art show, presentations, fun with friends - and a chance to experience a glorious sunset over the Niagara Escarpment! Musical entertainment with Jude Johnson.

Tickets are still available from the GRDC [Directors](#) at \$50 each (includes a \$35.00 tax receipt) or e-mail [Stan Nowak](#).

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Parks Canada Discovery Centre, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton.

The Giant's Rib presents

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly announces the next presentation of the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series, named in honour of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority. This Series is dedicated to promoting the Niagara Escarpment as an internationally-recognized World Biosphere Reserve, as well as being a truly unique topographic feature of our natural and cultural heritage.

PARKS CANADA DISCOVERY CENTRE, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton, starting at 2:00 p.m.
There are no parking fees, but there is a charge of \$2.90 for admission to the Discovery Centre.
Refreshments will be provided during a get-together with Sean Liipere after the presentation.
Donations are welcome and appreciated.

For further information: Kenneth Hall kenjoan75@sympatico.ca, Stan Nowak basil.cottage@sympatico.ca

Next Presentation - Sunday, June 6:

The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

with Sean Liipere, Communications Officer and Species-at-Risk Technician,
Bruce Peninsula National Park



When you hear the word “rattlesnake” do you begin to feel as cold-blooded as the creature itself? Or do you find these slithering reptiles simply sensational? As Ontario’s only venomous species, the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake has provoked both fear and fascination among people and has become a victim of an undeserved reputation. Once found throughout a large portion of southern Ontario, the distribution of the Massasauga has been dramatically reduced to only four areas in the province and it has earned the unfortunate designation as one of Canada’s species at risk.

This presentation will explore the hidden and mysterious life of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake by providing information on its unique biology and behaviour, the challenges it faces in Canada, conservation efforts to help its recovery, and tips for staying safe in rattlesnake country. Sean will also have his pet rattlesnake at hand for this presentation.

Sean Liipere is the Species at Risk Outreach Coordinator at Bruce Peninsula national Park, focusing on the recovery of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake through public education and various research projects to better understand its habitat and behaviour.

Most recently, Sean has been the Ecological Integrity Communications Officer for the Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park, addressing regional ecological issues through public education and partner engagement initiatives.

Sean has also been extensively involved in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program as Chair of the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association for four years through which he has represented the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve in several regional, national, and international initiatives.

The Giants Rib presents

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

Celebrating 'the art' of the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment featuring a different local artist every month at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas. Saturdays and Sundays only from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Park entrance fee is \$3.00 per person, or a maximum \$6.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12. There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.

For further information: Artistic Director Nancy Clarke Hauser nancyclarkehauser@gmail.com

For the Month of June:

The Westover Artists present "Nature Alive"!

Westover Artists are a local organization of talented artists who work in a wide variety of media, including pen and ink, watercolours, oils, acrylics, pencil and pastels.

Over the years, Westover Artists have presented regular showings of their work and have been successful participants in juried shows.

In many cases, these paintings have been recognized as extremely professional in both quality and presentation and have found their way into both private and public gallery collections throughout Canada, the USA and Great Britain.

The paintings in this exhibition are artistic interpretations of what anyone might see as they walk through the natural forest area that are so well managed by our conservation authorities.

Westover Artists are very pleased to be part of this month's Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Exhibition at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre.



This 1999 photograph shows the founding members of the Westover Artists; Elsie Irvine (seated), Marg Banks (centre) and the late Evie Morrill.

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Borer's Falls also known as **Rock Chapel Falls**, is considered a ribbon type falls which is located on Borer's Creek in the community of Flamborough and has year round flow. Its height is 15m (49 ft.) and its width is 5m (16 ft.).

To reach Borer's Falls, follow Hwy #5 westward from the intersection of Hwy #6 for about 2 km until you reach Rock Chapel Road on the left side. Follow Rock Chapel Rd. until you pass over a small bridge and then park in the Rock Chapel parking lot on the left side about 300 m. further on. Borer's Falls is located beside this bridge, thus you have to follow the Bruce Trail back towards this bridge and to the other side of the ravine to find a small lookout.

Borer's Falls once powered a sawmill in the village of Rock Chapel owned by the Borer family for more than 100 years, hence the name of Borer's Falls. Land clearing in the area eventually altered the course and flow of Borer's Creek to such an extent that there was insufficient water to power the mill, so the family switched to steam power to run the mill.

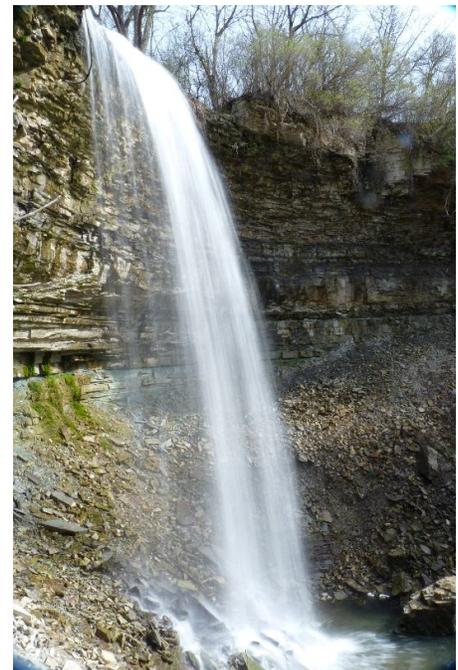
A vintage postcard from 1907 (below, left) shows Borer's Falls with the mill at the top and two men standing at the water's edge. This mill is gone and a roadway and bridge now crosses the creek above the waterfall.



BORER'S FALLS

DUNDAS, ONT.

1907



This current photo was taken from the bottom of the falls in April 2010.

Teacher's Corner

The Giant's Rib has Niagara Escarpment Posters available to teachers at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre. They are suitable for mounting in your classrooms. Pick them up at the Trail Centre on any weekend – at no charge.

Looking for a guest presenter for your class? Try **Ruth Nicholson**, U.E. B.A. B. Ed., President, Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. She is a former Halton elementary school teacher and is now doing Loyalist/Pioneer educational presentations suitable for Grade 3 to Grade 7 classes. Ruth is an excellent speaker, appears in costume and brings numerous pioneer artifacts with her. There is no cost to schools for her presentations.

Ruth can be reached at 905-689-7554 or at ruth.nicholson@sympatico.ca

The Toronto Zoo has produced a Turtle Conservation Curriculum Resource Guide for Educators. It is based on the Ontario curriculum and contains materials suitable for Grades 1 to 7. Each of the first 6 Units begins with a table describing the Science Expectations met within the Unit.

To receive this curriculum resource contact **Erin Nadeau**, Adopt A Pond Co-ordinator, 361 Old Finch Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario, M1B 5K7 Tel. 416-392-5999 Fax: 416-392-4979
E-Mail: aap@toronyozoo.ca



Rocks and Minerals of the Niagara Escarpment

Check out www.mineralogicalassociation.ca/poster to get a free poster on the Minerals of Canada. This poster has been designed for teachers and students exploring curricula related to rocks and minerals. With the poster you can explain several properties of minerals: luster, cleavage, colour, crystal form and iridescence.

Would you like to get a close look at the Niagara Escarpment Strata (rock layers) that formed during the geological Silurian Period? Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens Rock Chapel Sanctuary off Highway # 5 on Rock Chapel Road. There is a stairway down the Escarpment that is built close enough to the scarp face that you can touch the rock as you descend. Each layer of rock is identified and described.



If you are doing some interesting things with the "Rocks and Minerals" unit that you would like to share with other teachers, please let us know and we will include your ideas in future "Teacher' Corners" through our regular Newsletter.

If you are interested or know teachers who would be interested in this information, please contact Ken Hall at 905-627-1320 or at kenjoan75@sympatico.ca



Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2010

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Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib

Your assistance would be welcome in helping the **Giant's Rib Discovery Centre** to increase awareness and protection of the **Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve**; or you may wish only to be kept informed of upcoming GRDC activities and events.

We hope to hear from you!

For further details, Ken Hall, 905-627-1320, kenjoan75@sympatico.ca

Please consider the environment. Don't print this newsletter unless you really need to.

But please feel free to share this newsletter with others via e-mail.