

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
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The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Fourth Annual Giant's Rib Summer Solstice



The fourth annual Giant's Rib Summer Solstice was held on Thursday, June 17th, 2010 at the Parks Canada Discovery Centre, where a great crowd turned out to celebrate another successful year of promoting awareness of the merits of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. The evening saw Councillor Brian McHattie convey greetings from the City of Hamilton, a special appearance by Chris Ecklund and the 'waterfall bus', and special 80th birthday celebrations for Executive Director Ken Hall and his wife, Joan. Once again we were blessed with perfect weather which guaranteed a wonderful sunset over the waters of Hamilton Harbour and the Niagara Escarpment. The Directors of the GRDC would like to thank all who supported us by participating in this event. For a look at the entire photo album, please visit www.giantsrib.ca We look forward to seeing you all in 2011 for Summer Solstice V!



The Giant's Rib presents

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

... resumes in October. Details will be available in the next GR Newsletter.

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 September:

Promoting Awareness - Photographic Works by Chris Hamilton

Within our Conservation Area and along The Niagara Escarpment, his works capture the endearing characteristics of our unique World Biosphere.

Christopher Hamilton is a Burlington photographer specializing in nature and wildlife photography taken within the region's Conservation Areas and along the Niagara Escarpment.



After leaving a career in the transportation industry he focused on promoting awareness through photography of the Escarpment and the wildlife within, with a special interest in the turkey vultures of Mount Nemo Conservation Area.

He is also the author of *The Cookbook for Men Whose Wives Don't Cook* available at Amazon.com.

Currently he is Information Officer for Hamilton Conservation Authority, and examples of his writing and photography may be seen on the interpretive panels this coming month in the Dundas Valley Trail Centre.

The actual photos at this exhibition are not for sale, but high quality prints of any of these photographs may be

custom ordered. Prices start at \$50 for an 8 x 10. Custom framing is also available.

Contact Chris for pricing at the Hamilton Conservation Authority nature@conservationhamilton.ca or call him at 905-525-2181 or 905-648-4427 x146.



Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Buttermilk Falls is considered a terraced ribbon type falls which is located on a tributary of the Red Hill Creek in east Hamilton. Its height is 23 m (75 ft.) and its width is 8m (26 ft.).

At one time it is believed that the flow over this waterfall was greater than today as seen in the 1889 photo below (courtesy of Hamilton Public Library, Special Collections Dept.), however due to development many decades ago above the waterfall, the catchment area most likely has been altered. Today the large flow is present only after a heavy rainfall or during the winter snow melt as normally the flow is either a trickle or non-existent.



To reach Buttermilk Falls, from the LINC, exit on Dartnall Rd. and head south, turn left onto Stonechurch Rd. E. Then turn left onto Pritchard Rd., then left again onto Mud St. Continue past Albion Falls and park in the Oak Knoll Park parking lot on the right side just past Limeridge Rd. Then walk back towards the bridge over the creek.

Currently the clearest location to see the waterfall from above is from the south side of the waterfall beside the chain link fencing near the roadway. This is where the current photo below was

taken in December 2008. Most other areas have vegetation growth blocking the view or are dangerously close to the cliff faces.

For the extreme hikers; to reach the bottom of the falls either:

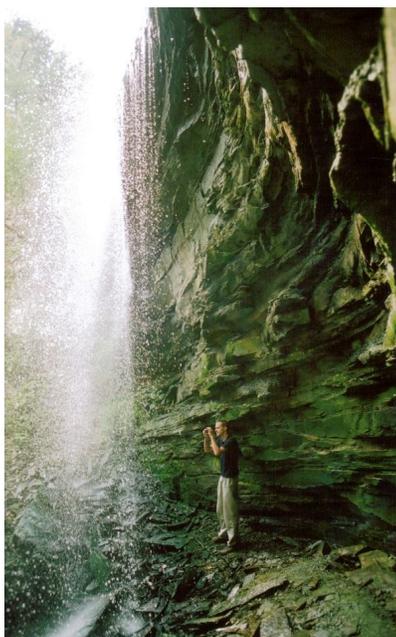
a) you can hike down the escarpment at Albion Falls and follow the Red Hill Creek downwards to the junction of the tributary coming from Buttermilk Falls or

b) climb down (hopefully dry) the rock face of Oak Knoll Falls on the north side of Oak Knoll Park, follow that ravine down and then around the point of land southward to the ravine from Buttermilk Falls, then up the ravine to the base of the falls.



If you do this, you can experience the thrill of going behind the water of Buttermilk Falls as seen in the third picture taken in October 2008.

But be careful as both routes are very difficult and long and the rocks can be slippery, especially in heavy flows!



Teacher's Corner

The Ancaster Gem and Mineral Show will take place at the Ancaster Fairgrounds on the weekend of **October 1 – 3, 2010**.

On Friday, October 1st, there will be special programs for school classes, including:

- Rocks minerals and fossils from around the world, displayed by over 30 vendors,
- A variety of talks and hand on demonstrations, geared to the grade 4 level,
- Ideal trip for midway through or to culminate the unit of study of rocks and minerals.

For more details, please visit www.ancastergemshow.com/schooltourdetails.htm

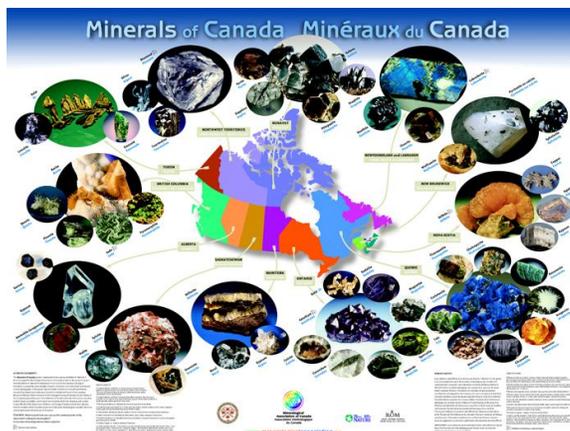
The Giant's Rib has Niagara Escarpment Posters available to teachers at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre They are suitable for mounting in your classrooms. Pick them up at the Trail Centre on any weekend – at no charge.

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

Farewell and Thank You!



The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre bids sincerest farewells and heartfelt thanks to **Leo DeLoyde**, our President & Liaison Coordinator with Affiliated Groups as he embarks on a new career with the Municipality of North Bay, Ontario.

Leo DeLoyde retires after over 30 years of public service, of which 25 have been with the City of Burlington, where Leo served as General Manager of Community Services, which is responsible for Parks and Recreation, Roads, Transit and Environmental Management.

His volunteer work includes organizational development and strategic planning work with the Bruce Trail Association. Leo has also served as Vice-president of the Bruce Trail Association and on the Board of the Bay Area Restoration Council. In recent years, Leo was instrumental in working to develop and implement a "Bay to the Escarpment Environmental Land Preservation Plan" which is now being co-coordinated successfully by the Royal Botanical Gardens. He has been President of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre since 2006.

Leo's contributions to promoting environmental projects in the "Bay Area" have been significant. The leadership that Leo provided to the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is fully appreciated by his fellow Directors and the Friends of the Giant's Rib Association. He will be missed!

Good luck to Leo, Carolyn and their children on their new life in North Bay.



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

William Edwards Web-Site Administrator
Clive Freeman Manager, Giant's Rib Facility
Nancy Clarke Hauser Arts Program Co-ordinator
Joseph Hollick Secretary & Co-ordinator: Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research,
Site and Building Development
Alex Kormarinski Chair, Educational Committee
Ernie Kuechmeister Recognition Program Co-ordinator
Jack Lee Field Trip Coordinator
Dr. John MacRae Treasurer & Co-ordinator of Special Events
Stan Nowak Publicity and Communications Director
Donald Pfeffer Co-ordinator, Niagara Escarpment Research Projects
Barbara Rusnak Co-ordinator, Funding Applications

Executive Director

Kenneth Hall Co-ordinator, Friends of the Giant's Rib, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

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

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