

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 presents

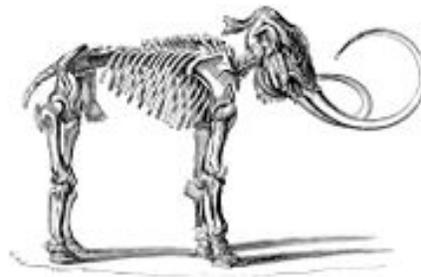
The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre announces the return of fall edition of this year's annual Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series. This series, named in honour of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, 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.

Next Presentation: Sunday, October 24:

Studying the Woolly Mammoth

with **Dr. HENDRIK POINAR, Professor / Researcher at McMaster University**



Dr. Hendrik Poinar is an Associate Professor at McMaster University and a molecular evolutionary geneticist and biological anthropologist by training who specializes in ancient DNA research. In 2005, Dr. Poinar was reported to be working on the sequencing of the woolly mammoth genome. So far, he and his team have mapped 1 per cent of the woolly mammoth genome, and they say they should be able to finish the rest in a year or two. In September 2008, his laboratory published results showing that after a long period of separation in the mammoth populations of Siberia and North America, the Siberian mammoth population had been completely replaced by mammoths of North American origin.

Join Dr Poinar on Sunday, October 24th, as he discusses the life and times of these long extinct elephant-like creatures that once roamed extensively over Southern Ontario.

Upcoming Presentation

Sunday, November 28: The Halton Conservation Lands and Parks on the Niagara Escarpment with Bob Edmundson and Hasaan Basit, Conservation Halton.

PLEASE NOTE: Presentations will continue to be held on Sunday afternoons, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., at the former Parks Canada Discovery Centre on 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton, now administered by the Hamilton Waterfront Trust. Parking is free, but there is an admission charge of a toonie (\$2.00) for the presentation. For further information: Kenneth Hall (kenjoan75@sympatico.ca), Stan Nowak (basil.cottage@sympatico.ca).

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 October:

The Westover Artists

The Westover Artists are a local group whose members work in a variety of media, including pen and ink, oils, watercolours, acrylics and pastels.

Over the years, the Westover Artists have presented regular showings of their works and have been successful participants in juried shows. Their paintings are now included in collections throughout Canada, the U.S.A and Great Britain. The paintings in this show depict either a specific place or what you may see on a walk through a conservation area.

The Westover Artists Group are pleased to be a part of this year's Giant Rib Discovery Centre Exhibition at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre.



The Westover Group at their Christmas party last year.

The Westover Artists Group is comprised of:

MARG BANKS – one of the flounders of The Westover Artists Group. She is self-taught in many advanced methods of watercolour, pen and ink and mixed media.

JOYCE CANFIELD

Although the challenges of watercolours helped develop the skills applicable to both mediums, the love of oil on canvas – particularly landscapes, seascapes, and the latest endeavour – abstracts, are Joyce's current passions.

JOHANNA GEEAR has studied under several artists and has been a part of art groups in Scarborough, Burlington, Hamilton and Westover, working in the mediums of oil, watercolour, acrylic, pastel, pen and ink.

MICHAEL GEEAR has joined art groups with his wife, as well as studied under Les Ducak, Joan Ng, Ron Bruce and Edgar Gonzales. His preferred mediums are watercolour, pen and ink.

BETTY KENNEDY has studied with well-known Hamilton artist Gertrude Hawcutt as well as at the Dundas Valley School of Art, taking courses in drawing, sketching and watercolours. Betty has now added oils, acrylics and mixed media to her portfolio, all of which she finds exciting and rewarding.

WANDA KURAS has been painting for approximately 10 years and her medium is oil.

BOB MASON specializes in portraits, life drawings, paintings gift cards and streetscapes from Dundas to Cambridge. Robert also likes to paint rugged landscapes in the tradition of the Group of Seven. His mediums include pen and ink, acrylics, watercolours, pastels and pencils.

ANGELIKA PLATH-GODFREY "The fascinating beauty of nature captured my heart from a very young age. Through work with photography and stained glass, nature revealed itself in an even greater panorama. In the year 2000, I pursued my long admiration of watercolour painting and attended various courses and workshops, but in General, am self taught."

EV WAGG finds a rich source of interest in the Canadian scene and his watercolours reflect its variety and inspiration. Pride in his East Coast heritage is strongly apparent in his authentic marine subjects.

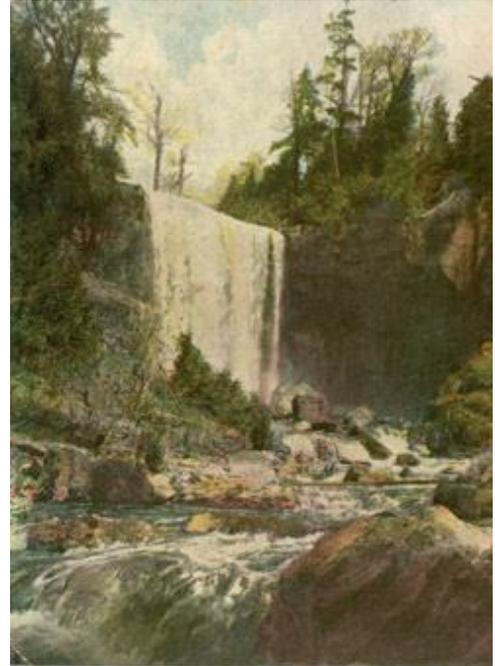
BETTIE WALMSLEY has taken lessons at the Sackville and Alberton Seniors Centres where she enjoyed painting as it gave her a "life". Bettie has dabbled in oils but much prefers watercolours, as her current works demonstrate.

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Webster's Falls is considered a Classic Plunge type falls which is located on the Spencer Creek in the Greenville section of Hamilton. Its height is 22 m (72 ft.) and its width is 30m (100 ft.) making it the widest waterfall in Hamilton. In the past Webster's Falls has been called other names such as Dundas Falls, Spencer Falls and Hatt's Fall's but today it is referred to as Webster's Falls.

Webster's Falls appears to have been the most popular waterfall a century ago as it had numerous different postcards depicting it. For this article, a 1905 postcard (at right) was chosen to show it at that time.



WEBSTER'S FALLS, NEAR HAMILTON, CANADA

Stanley Mills Co., Limited, Hamilton, Canada 1107



Today Webster's Falls still is one of the most popular falls in Hamilton as a large park has been built around it and on some weekends there could be hundreds of visitors to the area. The photo on the left, taken in October 2009, at the base of the falls bears witness to this.

Although the major of visitors are not aware of this fact, Webster's Falls is one of Hamilton's falls where adventuresome (or foolhardy) people actually can walk in behind the falling water. To reach the trail you have to climb over the rocks on the left side of the falls (where many of the people are standing in the photo) and you will see a narrow, usually muddy trail

leading to the back of the waterfall. The third photo (below right) taken on the same day as the other photo is a rare picture, actually taken from behind Webster's Falls and looking out towards the creek. If you plan to venture behind the falls, be careful and expect to get wet!

To reach Webster's Falls from Hwy 403, take Hwy #6 North to Hwy #5 (Dundas St.), turn left, turn left again onto Olfield Rd., turn right onto Harvest Rd., turn left onto Short Rd. which turns into Fallsview Rd. and follow it to the end where there is a parking lot on the right side at the Spencer Gorge/Webster's Falls Conservation Area.



Teacher's Corner

ECO Art – Bringing nature and art into schools in downtown Hamilton

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club (HNC) and The Print Studio (TPS) have developed a unique program called ECO Art that delivers free environmental and art based programming to Hamilton classrooms, primarily in the downtown core. Many of these students receive no other dedicated art or environmental based programming.

Through the ECO Art program expert naturalists from the HNC deliver environmental education workshops on topics such as habitats and wildlife found in Hamilton. After this discussion we take the students on a nature outing to an HNC nature sanctuary or to an area close to their neighbourhood such as the Red Hill Valley. During the nature outings students participate in stewardship activities to help care for the nature sanctuary. This can range from removing invasive plants to cleaning up garbage.

Students then create print art with professional artists from TPS, demonstrating what they learned during the classroom discussion and nature outing. On completion, the artwork is publicly presented to over 1,500 visitors in The Print Studio's gallery during the James Street North Art Crawl.

Since 2008 we've worked with over 1,000 students and aim to keep the program going to foster an appreciation of nature and the arts in Hamilton's students.

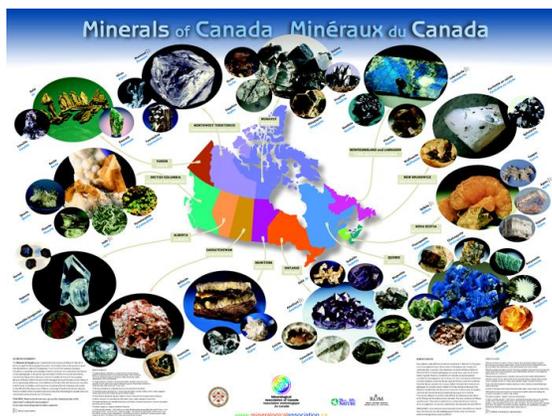
The HNC is a volunteer-based, charitable organization with almost 700 members that has been protecting nature and promoting public awareness and appreciation of the natural environment since 1919. TPS is a not-for-profit charitable arts organization that facilitates visual artists in the creation, production, preservation and promotion of print media.

This innovative project has been supported through a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

By Jen Baker, Land Trust Coordinator, Hamilton Naturalists' Club

As a teacher, you might be interested in getting your class involved in this program. If so, contact Jen Baker, Land Trust Coordinator, Hamilton Naturalists Club at 1jenbaker@gmail.com for more information.

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



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

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

Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Executive of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is looking for volunteers who wish to assume leadership roles with an organization that strives to educate the public on the need to preserve our Niagara Escarpment as a World Biosphere Reserve.

If you are such a person, please contact **Ken Hall** at **905-627-1320** or at kenjoan75@sympatico.ca

You will learn more about the goals and objectives of the Giant's Rib and also have the opportunity to express what skills and talents you could offer to help the organization achieve its present undertakings and to move forward in new directions.

We hope to hear from you!

Please consider the environment.

Don't print this Newsletter unless you really need to.

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