

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
November 2010

www.giantsrib.ca
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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, November 28:

Enjoying the Escarpment through Conservation Halton Parks

with **NORM MILLER**, Communications Advisor, Conservation Halton



Can you think of a place that has skiing, hiking, rock-climbing, swimming, a birds of prey show, a world-famous geological feature, maple syrup, Santa Claus, snowshoeing, camping, a reconstructed Iroquois village, picnicking, ancient trees, mountain biking and other activities and incredible natural treasures?

Conservation Halton has six primary parks that offer all of these activities and sites for residents and visitors to enjoy - Crawford Lake, Hilton Falls, Kelso/Glen Eden, Mount Nemo and Rattlesnake Point.

With this presentation, you will learn how you, your family and friends can enjoy these recreational opportunities that are available in Halton.

Norm Miller has been a Communications Advisor with Conservation Halton since June 2008. His responsibilities focus on raising awareness of the organization's programs and services with residents in the watershed. This includes community outreach programs, website, publications and media relations. Norm previously worked for two years as communications specialist with the Regional Municipality of Halton and two years as communications advisor with the City of Burlington.

www.conservationhalton.on.ca



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.

Please note that Park entrance fee is now \$4.00 per person (walk-in or bicycle), or a maximum \$7.00 per car.

There is still 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 November:

"My Curiosity with Nature" with Bruce Mackenzie, Manager of Customer Services and Operations, Hamilton Conservation Authority



Bruce Mackenzie graduated with a degree in Fish and Wildlife biology from the University of Guelph in 1976 and is Past President of the Hamilton Naturalist's Club. He has been working in conservation areas with the Hamilton Conservation Authority in various roles since 1976.

His travels have taken him across North America and his artwork is a reflection of nature's impressions that have left their effect on him.

Bruce started painting with acrylics and oils in 2000 and enjoys "taking memories captured in my photos and bring them to life on the canvas".

Says Bruce, "I have so many things I wish to paint, oh the time is elusive".

All artwork is for display only, not for sale.

bmackenz@conservationhamilton.ca



Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Erland Falls is considered a washboard ribbon cascade type falls. Its height is 15 m (49 ft.) and its width is 2m (7 ft.). Erland Falls only has water flowing during peak storm events and after the winter snow melt, thus it is dry much of the year.



Erland Falls was first mentioned in Mark Harris' waterfall website in the early 2000's and in his book titled Waterfalls of Ontario of 2003.

Its catchment area consists of lands above Ridge Road at Dewitt Road around Erland House Museum in the Fruitland section of Hamilton. The water flows into a storm sewer pipe which crosses Ridge Rd. and outlets above the waterfall.

Erland Falls is visible from Ridge Road opposite the museum however the best views of it are from below. There is parking on Dewitt Rd. just above the railway crossing in front of Dewitt Falls and Erland Falls is located approximately 300 m. westward along the tracks. Be extremely careful if you walk along the tracks westward to Erland Falls as this is private property and numerous trains use these tracks.

Teacher's Corner

Canada Atlas Online (CAOL)

There is lots of information available at the **Canadian Atlas Online (CAOL)** on fresh water. Included is a thematic module on watersheds which outlines the hydrological cycle, drainage basins and cross-border issues among other topics.

Canadian Geographic in partnership with Natural Resources Canada has prepared the new thematic module on watersheds. With support from RBC Blue Water Project they will offer teachers an interactive map to increase public awareness of our 595 watersheds, enable users to identify their home watersheds, learn about the issues affecting them and how to get involved.

These will be released in June 2011 at www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas along with Canadian Geographic's special issue on watersheds.

An additional CAOL thematic module on watershed protection, which will include Flash animation, audio narration, games and quizzes, is being developed

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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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.