

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
February 2011

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 5, Issue 2

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is now on Facebook! Visit our website and look for the link:  Login with Facebook
or use the link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Giants-Rib-Discovery-Centre/173267026030262?v=wall>
for the latest news and updates.

The Giant's Rib presents:

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre announces the return of the winter edition of the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series, starting in February 2011.

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, February 6, 2011

Healthy Hamilton's Watershed Action Plan

with Jaime Overy and Sheila O'Neal, Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program

The Healthy Hamilton Watersheds Action Plan is an initiative to establish a collaborative effort among all of the agencies and organizations in Hamilton to work toward improving and preserving the local natural environment.



Hamilton-Halton
Watershed Stewardship Program

Jaime Overy is a Project Planner within the Planning and Engineering Department of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, currently serving co-ordinator of the Watershed Action Plan. Jaime is passionate about helping people and communities develop and utilize tools for sustainability as she continues to focus her career and efforts toward that goal.

Since 2006, **Sheila O'Neal** has served as the Manager of the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program of the Hamilton and Halton Conservation Authorities. Previously, Sheila worked as a Watershed Stewardship Technician, meeting with watershed landowners on their properties, providing recommendations for land management practices to improve water quality and habitat. Sheila is passionate about the natural environment and educating landowners on how effective stewardship practices can lighten their impact on the land.

Please note that 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).

Upcoming Presentation: Sunday, March 6, 2011

Battles Along the Niagara Escarpment during the War of 1812

with James E. Elliott – Author of Award Winning “Strange Fatality, The Battle of Stoney Creek, 1813”



Author **James Elliott** will discuss the battles that took place along the Niagara Escarpment from Queenston to Stoney Creek during the War of 1812, including the pivotal battle of June 6th, 1813 in Stoney Creek, an intense military struggle that stemmed the tide of American invasion in what became one of the most decisive reversals of military fortune of the War of 1812

that greatly determined the fate of Upper Canada.

James Elliott is a local journalist and author who has written extensively on the War of 1812 on subjects ranging from the Bloody Assizes to the Burlington Races - and most recently on The Battle of Stoney Creek. Mr. Elliott lives with his wife, Irene, in Hamilton - just four miles from the historic Stoney Creek battlefield.

“Strange Fatality, The Battle of Stoney Creek, 1813” will be on sale during this presentation.

For further information on Mr. Elliott's book, please visit www.strangefatality.com

The Giant's 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.

Please note that the Park entrance fee is now \$4.00 per person (walk-in or bicycle), or \$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 February 2011:

Featuring Photography by Michael Babyn

A continuation with **Michael Babyn**, photographer, presenting two additional DVD slide shows of natural settings in Hamilton, Mississauga and Toronto, set to musical sound tracts.

The Trail Center Exhibition Hall will be set-up with (2) DVD viewing stations, surrounded by a selection of color photographs from the series. Still photographs will be available for sale, as well as copies of DVD presentations.

Using his 8 mp Canon Digital camera, Mr. Babyn has created unique photographic journals of his visits to the beachfront at The-Head-of-the-Lake, Rattray Marsh Mississauga, High Park and Sunnyside Beach Toronto.



Saturdays and Sundays 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area

Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

Information regarding the 2011 International Youth Eco-Hero Awards Contest



Each year Action for Nature, a San Francisco based non profit organization recognizes youths (8 to 16 years) for their environmental activism or projects.

The awards recognize the accomplishments of young people whose personal accomplishments have significantly improved the environment.

Award recipients will receive up to \$500.00 cash, an award certificate and other forms of recognition.

Eric Babb is an example of a past winner from 2010. He started "Plant Patrol" a project to help bring awareness to issues of invasive species. Through "Plant Patrol" Eric has taught individuals how to identify and remove non- native species.

The applications will be judged according to several criteria including but not limited to: originality, difficulty, organization, length of time devoted to the project, influencing/educating others, use of outside resources (e.g. library, experts, media, community leaders), degree of success in reaching goals, the impact on the environment.

The judges will base their decisions on the following criteria:

- the project's concerns for environmental health, advocacy, research or protection of the natural world,
- the project is action based and self initiated, and not one assigned by a teacher or another adult,
- the project has reached a significant stage or has been completed within the last year,
- applicants must be within the ages of 8 and 16 on Feb 28, 2011
- Science Fair or Scouting Badges will only be considered if they include environmental action, educational outreach to others or extended studies beyond the Science Fair,
- The judges do not accept (a) projects related to domesticated or confined animals, (b) compositions or reports.

Application forms are available on the web-site:

www.actionfornature.org/mail@actionfornature.org or from

Action for Nature, 2269 Chestnut St. #263, San Francisco CA 94123 USA

Application must be submitted by Feb. 28, 2011. Award winners will be notified in May 2011

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

Please note that past items from "Teachers' Corner" are available at www.giantsrib.ca in the Newsletters section.

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Clappison Falls is located on the west side of Highway #6 (the Dundas side), about 120 m north of the closed-up Old Guelph Road and about 20m north of a large highway light pole as you drive up the Niagara Escarpment towards Clappison's Corners.



It was noticed after the widening of Hwy #6 with the cutting of the escarpment and it originates from fissures in the rock face and not from the surface. This waterfall actually is a twin ribbon cascade with the water coming from two separate rock fissures side by side.

The total width is 3m (10 ft.) and total height is 7 m (23 ft.).

This waterfall is dry much of the time and normally has flow after rainfalls.

Clappison Falls is visible from the roadway as you drive on Highway #6 however there is no safe place to pull over to photograph it. One way of getting a picture of it is to exit at York Rd. towards Dundas, turn right at Old Guelph Rd., then turn right at the Stop sign onto the closed section of Old Guelph Rd. Park at the end of the roadway as close as possible to Hwy #6, then walk 120 m. up the highway behind the concrete barriers along the top of the roadside ditch. You

will require a wide angle lens to capture the entire waterfall as you have to stay behind the concrete barrier.

Joe Hollick is the GRDC's Waterfalls of the Niagara Escarpment Research Coordinator. He has prepared an audio-visual show of the Waterfalls of Hamilton which is suitable for classroom presentation at any Grade level where water, watersheds or the Niagara Escarpment is being studied.

Contact Joe at 905-628-3132 or joehollick@sympatico.ca to arrange a presentation for your class.



Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2011

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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.

Come on and join our Team! 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.