

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
November 2011

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 6, Issue 10

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is now on Facebook!

Visit our website and look for the link:  for all the latest news and updates.

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre announces the return of the 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 of this Season: Sunday, November 13th

Jon's Journey - Experiences in Exploring the Natural Areas of Hamilton

with JON WELLS – Award-Winning Reporter for the Hamilton Spectator



Jon Wells is an award-winning feature writer and author who has written for the Hamilton Spectator for 13 years. Born in Montreal and raised in London, Ont., he was educated at the University of Western Ontario and Carleton University where he earned his Masters Degree in journalism. His work with the Spectator has included everything from covering local news and people to the funeral of Pierre Trudeau in Montreal, an execution in Virginia, and Tiger Woods at the Canadian Open. Jon has written ten multiple-part narrative serials for the Spectator, five of which have been published as books (Heat, Poison, Sniper, Post-Mortem, Vanished.) His most recent series was "Darkness on Indian Trail" about the murder of Audrey Gleave. His true crime

research has taken him from San Francisco to New York, Paris and India. Jon's print and online account of his human-powered 70 km trip around Hamilton, called "Jon's Journey", appeared in the Spectator last May.



Jon will discuss his ground-breaking series for The Hamilton Spectator, "**Jon's Journey**".

This past May, Jon embarked on a 70-kilometre natural trek around Hamilton, involving five consecutive day trips by canoe, shoe and a bit of bicycle. He wrote a long

feature at the conclusion of the trip, but each day regularly tweeted and recorded video documenting his journey. His trip started in rough waters of the west harbour, continued by canoe through Cootes Paradise, then hiked the Dundas Valley, up the escarpment, biked across the Mountain, hiked the Red Hill Valley, and paddled through the east harbour to the Beach Strip. Jon was



teased by editors as an "indoors guy" prior to the experience; he will talk about what it was like for a nature newbie to tackle the physical challenge of the trip, and what his impressions were seeing sights in Hamilton neither he, nor many readers, had ever experienced before. Jon will answer any questions about his journey, and indeed any questions members might have about his award-winning career in general.

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Complete 2011 – 2012 Program

- October 23 **The Wonders of Long Point, One of Canada's World Biosphere Reserves**
STUART MACKENZIE – Land Bird Program Coordinator for the Long Point Bird Observatory
- November 13 **Jon's Journey - Experiences in Exploring the Natural Areas of Hamilton**
JON WELLS – Award-Winning Reporter for the Hamilton Spectator
- December 4 **Creating Ecological Improvements within the Red Hill Valley since the Construction of the Parkway**
JAMES ROCKWOOD – Environmental Coordinator, Public Works Department, City of Hamilton
- January 22 **The Formation of the Niagara Escarpment**
Professor NICK EYLES – Expert on glaciations and ice sheets
Author – Ontario Rocks, Canada Rocks
Advisor and participant with CBC's Geologic Journey and Host of Geologic Journey – World
- February 12 **Trails Along the Niagara Escarpment Utilized in the War of 1812**
JOHN BRYDEN – former journalist for Hamilton Spectator, Globe and Mail and Toronto Star
Former MP, Historian, Author and Researcher
- March 18 **The Niagara Peninsula Hawk Watch**
MIKE STREET – Hamilton Naturalists' Club.
A local expert on Hawk Migrations
Developer and Hamilton-Wentworth Coordinator of ONTBIRDS
- April 29 **The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada**
LORRAINE JOHNSON –Editor / Author, City Farmer
Lecturer- York University
- May 13 **The Effects of Climate Change on the Ontario Wine Regions**
PROFESSOR ANTHONY SHAW- Department of Geography, Brock University
- June 10 **Escarpment Parks and Open Spaces: Effective Management Planning**
SUSAN COOPER - Natural Heritage Advisor, Land Use and Planning Department, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Presentations will 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 \$3.00 for each of the presentations. Refreshments will be provided after each presentation, along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speaker!

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

Rib Facts

The Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve

The Directors of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre form a Committee of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. Their basic responsibilities are directed to helping ensure that the Niagara Escarpment continues to meet the three basic criteria of a biosphere reserve:

- Contribute to conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
- Foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
- Provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local national and global issues of conservation and development.



The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Designation

The biosphere is all of the land, water and atmosphere that support life

A biosphere reserve is an international designation of recognition from UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) for an area in the world which is deemed to demonstrate a "balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere". By this is meant that collaborative efforts among people in the designated area serve to promote the sustainability of local economies and communities, as well as the conservation of the terrestrial/or coastal ecosystems they are in.

Rib News

Giant's Rib Receives Recognition

Richard Murzin, President of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association, announced on Thursday, June 21, 2007 that the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC) has been recognized as a local biosphere committee for the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve.

The Association considers that the Giant's Rib is already fulfilling many activities for the Niagara Escarpment, which reflects the Escarpment's designation as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. They are pleased to acknowledge this and to thank the GRDC for their support for research, education, training and encouragement for sustainable development related to the Niagara Escarpment.

A biosphere reserve draws its strength from active involvement and cooperation within a community of interest. The GRDC is exemplary in this regard and the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve is honoured to recognize the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre as a biosphere committee.

The Giant's Rib presents:

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

Celebrates 'the art' of the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment featuring a new 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 \$4.00 per person (walk-in or bicycle) or \$7.00 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 November 2011:

Highlights of the Escarpment

Photographic Works from Shirley Dennis.



Shirley Dennis is an award winning photographer who specializes in landscape, nature and animal photography. Shirley makes her home in Dundas, Ontario and is passionate about the outdoors. She enjoys hiking and horseback riding in Dundas Valley and the surrounding area and finds inspiration for her photographs wherever she walks and rides.

Shirley also travels extensively and with a keen eye for exceptional compositions she has captured stunning images in many parts of the world.

With a photographer's instinct for catching the perfect moment in time, Shirley vividly captures the beauty and drama of the world around her. Whether it be a contemporary composition or a classic scene of nature, an awe-inspiring landscape or an intimate study of texture.

In a professional capacity, Shirley photographs pets and horses. She has the ability to capture the unique personality of each animal that she works with and produces wonderful natural images of the animals in their own surroundings.

Shirley is a member of the Hamilton Camera Club, the Latow Photographers Guild and Studio 12 (a photographic artists' collective). Her images have recently been on display at the Print Studio on James Street North in Hamilton and the Burlington Arts Centre.

E-Mail: sadennis@cogeco.ca



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

The Literary Rib

A Book Review by Ken Hall

Wetlands – The Audubon Society Nature Guides

Author – William A Niering

Publisher – Chanticleer Press



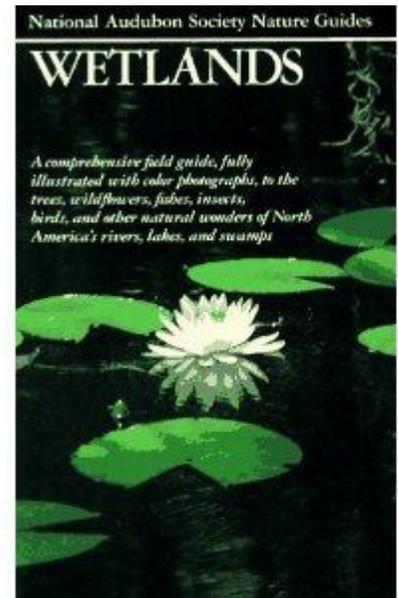
Wetlands – long considered insect-ridden, unattractive, and dangerous areas – have this century begun to be recognized as beautiful places with a rich and exciting variety of plant and animal life just waiting to be explored by the curious and the adventuresome.

This comprehensive field guide is fully illustrated with colour photographs, of the trees, wildflowers, fishes, insects, birds and other natural wonders of North America's rivers, lakes and swamps.

Wetlands are described as areas where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life. In this guide the kind of wetlands are carefully defined from marshes to swamps and floodplain forests to bogs, rivers and streams to lakes and ponds. In each type of wetland the fishes, amphibians reptiles, wild flowers ferns and grasses, mushrooms, butterflies and moths, insects and spiders, trees, birds and mammals are carefully identified. There are many maps to show the range and interesting comments are provided for each species. In the appendices there is an excellent glossary, bibliography and index.

The National Audubon Society is among the oldest and largest private conservation organizations in the world. It protects wildlife in more than eighty sanctuaries from coast to coast. It also operates outdoor education centers and publishes the AMERICAN BIRDS magazine, newsletters, films and other educational materials

The author, the late William A. Niering (1924-1999) was a professor of Botany at Connecticut College in New London and also directed the Connecticut Arboretum. A member of the National Wetlands Technical Council, he wrote numerous articles on wetlands and ecological studies.



Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall



Teachers might be interested in joining some of the rock and mineral clubs that exist in Ontario. The Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club is an excellent example of such clubs.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club was formed in 1965. For more than 40 years this club has brought together people who have an interest in the lapidary arts and in collecting rocks, minerals and fossils.

The club meets on a monthly basis and their meetings include speakers, workshops and the ever popular monthly raffle for gems and minerals. Special events include picnics, pot-luck suppers and field trips. The club also provides a forum for an exchange of information and ideas about the hobby. It also promotes safe and responsible collecting, and work with other federation clubs to secure more collecting areas.

The club is a member of the Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Meetings

- Date: First Friday of each month (except July and August).
- Time : 7:30 p.m.
- Location: Waterloo Community Arts Centre, 25 Regina Street South, Waterloo

Anyone with an interest in rocks and minerals is welcome to attend any one of their monthly meetings. Families and youth are especially welcome.

They have a special Kids Club designed for children 5 to 16 who are interested in rocks, minerals and fossils. Meetings are held monthly on Saturdays at the Waterloo Community Arts Centre.

Each year the Club organizes an annual show, which is open to the public. The Show provides people with an opportunity to buy, sell and exchange rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, lapidary material and equipment. The show is held on the first Saturday in May from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Waterloo Community Arts Centre. Admission is free

Field trips are arranged about twice a year. Past trips have included:

- Bancroft for apatite, biotite, and titanite;
- Cobalt for silver and cobalt arsenides;
- Arkona for fossil corals and brachiopods;
- Herkimer, New York, for quartz crystals



Contact Address

Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club
c/o Stephanie Martin
Waterloo Community Arts Centre
25 Regina Street South
Waterloo, ON, N2J 1R8



If you know teachers or anyone else who would be interested in this information, 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

Rockway Falls is located on Fifteen Mile Creek in the community of Rockway (thus its name) in the Town of Lincoln and in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

It is a cascade ramp type falls with year round water flow. Its height is 19.5 m (63 ft.) and its crest width is 4.5 m (15 ft.) (according to Jerry Lawton in the book "Waterfalls - The Niagara Escarpment").

Not much research has been done on this waterfall, thus little is known of its history. There are two smaller waterfalls, one upstream and the other downstream of Rockway Falls; however this is the largest of the three falls.

To reach Rockway Falls, exit the QEW at Victoria Avenue, then go south up the Niagara Escarpment, past the road to Ball's Falls, turn left onto 8th Avenue (which will



become Niagara Regional Road. 69) and follow for about 6 km to the small Hamlet of Rockway. The waterfall is on the left side and you can park at the community centre which is located on the left side immediately past the bridge over Fifteen Mile Creek. Rockway Falls is about one minute away on the north side of the bridge.

Happy waterfalling!

Joe Hollick is the GRDC's Waterfalls of the Niagara Escarpment Research Coordinator and has developed a presentation of the Waterfalls of Hamilton.

If you're interested in having Joe present this to your group, please contact him at **905-628-3132** or at joehollick@sympatico.ca

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre

Volunteer Recognition Award for Autumn 2011

The Board of Directors of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly presents
the latest Quarterly Volunteer Award of Recognition to

Jack Lee



Jack Lee is a current Giant's Rib board member who serves as the Chair of the Education Committee and liaison Coordinator with Affiliated Groups.

Congratulations and Sincerest Thanks

From the Board of Directors of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre

Come Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib



Would you like 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 magnificent 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!



Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2011 - 2012

William Edwards Web-Site Administrator

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

Nancy Clarke Hauser Arts Program Co-ordinator, Trail Centre Manager

Joseph Hollick Secretary & Co-ordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research,
Site and Building Development

Ernie Kuechmeister Recognition Program Co-ordinator

Jack Lee Chair, Education Committee & Liaison Coordinator with Affiliated Groups

Dr. John MacRae Treasurer, Director of Audio-Visual Presentations

Mike McCallion Co-ordinator of Funding Applications

Stan Nowak Publicity and Communications Director

Danya Scime Co-ordinator of Special Events



***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.