

# December 2015 Newsletter

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## GIANT'S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK

**Telling the Story of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve**



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Stephanie Nikita, Editor.

December 2015

Volume 11, Issue 8

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### **Season's Greetings ffrom the Rib!**

Those of us at the Giant's Rib would like to thank you all for your support in making this year the most successful year ever! We'd like to wish you a Merry

Christmas and Happy Holidays for whatever you may be celebrating! A big thank you goes out from me to all of our volunteers and Board members as well who made great things happen!

This year we saw the Centre get a facelift, brought in new display cases to showcase new fossil donations, had a great summer solstice celebration at the Dundas Valley Golf Club, unveiled our new travelling display, our new website, brought in visiting fossil displays from the ROM, and set the stage for more new things in 2016!

The centre will not have staff or volunteers over the holidays, but we will be back again in 2016 with our featured artists, lectures, hikes and more. The fossils and new displays are always out for you to see in case you haven't visited this year.

Over the winter we're working on a revamped centre at Inglis Falls in Owen Sound, a new printed "mini Discovery Centre" in honour of the Escarpment's 25th Anniversary, new interpretive signage at Cabot Head and our travelling display heading to Misery Bay Provincial Park on Manitoulin Island! Plus, we have a few new surprises we're itching to tell you about, but will have to wait until 2016!

So "Thank you!" to all our partners, volunteers and supporters for helping 2015 be a banner year! In 2016 we will have been operating educational programs in the Dundas for 10 years, so celebrate with us!





## Artist of the Month

The Arts and Photography of the Niagara Escarpment program will resume in 2016. Have a great holiday!



## Lecture Series for January 2016

[Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series - The Griffin House. A National Historic Site](#)

Guest speaker Anne Jarvis, Interpreter for Griffin House, National Historic site will speak about the significance of this 2 storey heritage house. As a prelude to Black History month, this site holds a special history, owned by Eneals Griffin, a former slave who immigrated to Canada and bought the house in 1834.

Presentation will be held on Sunday January 31, 2016 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Waterfront Trust Centre, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton.

Parking is free, but there is an admission charge of \$5.00 for each of the presentations.

Door prizes and refreshments will be provided after the presentation, along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speaker!

## **2015-2016 Lecture Series Schedule**

**Sunday January 31, 2016 – Topic: The Griffin House, A National Historic Site.**

Anne Jarvis, Interpreter at the Griffin House national Historic site.

**Sunday February 28, 2016 – Topic: TBA**

Dr. David A. Galbraith, Head of Science for Royal Botanical Gardens

**Sunday April 3, 2016 – Topic: Bugs, man**

Mark Gunderman, McMaster University's resident bug expert

**Sunday April 24, 2016 – Topic: Randle Reef**

Lois Corey, Curator, Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum, Ancaster Old Town Hall and Griffin House

**Sunday February 28, 2016 – Topic: It's a Surprise**

Chris McLaughlin, Executive Director, Bay Area Restoration Council



### **Raffle winner!**

Well, we held our draw for the Stephen Landers print worth \$400. And the winner is... Karen McRone (Sorry Warren and Don, we know you had your hearts set on winning!)

Stay tuned for a new print for raffle coming in the spring.

Big thanks to Stephen Landers of the McMaster Gallery for donating this print. Funds raised go towards keeping our Discovery Centre open. To help the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre continue to enhance your visitor experience to the Dundas Valley and continue delivering Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere programs, we will be raffling off a new piece of art every few months!

## **Grade 4 Rocks and Minerals units now available for download.**

Now Ontario Grade 4 teachers anywhere can get a copy of our teacher's kits. Simply e-mail us with the name of your school and we will send you a link to download the kits directly!

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## **waterfall of the month**

The Giant's Rib Escarpment Education Network's Waterfall of the Month for December 2015 is Stephanie Falls.

Stephanie Falls is considered a Complex Classic Cascade with flow year round. It is located on private property in the Ancaster section of Hamilton on Tiffany Creek with a height of 9 metres (30 ft.) and a crest width of 5 metres (16 ft.).

There are three waterfalls located on Tiffany Creek and Stephanie Falls is the uppermost waterfall of the three. A vintage postcard dated 1928 features Stephanie Falls however at that time it was called Tiffany Falls. Today Tiffany Falls is the name

Falls, however at that time it was called Tiffany Falls. Today, Tiffany Falls is the name given to the lowest of the three waterfalls on Tiffany Creek and no longer refers to the uppermost waterfall (Stephanie Falls).

As mentioned above, Stephanie Falls is located on private property and there is no public access to it, thus please enjoy these two picture of it, one taken in 1928 and the recent photo in 2015.

Joe Hollick

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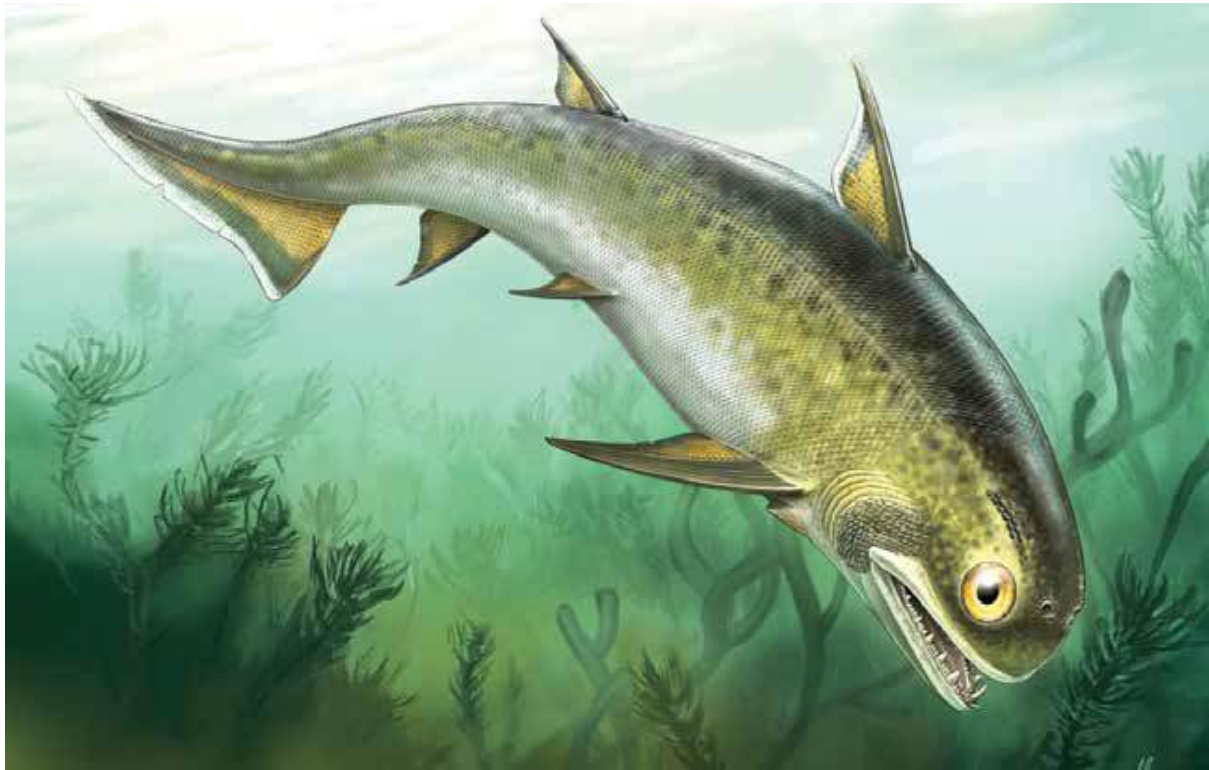


## Photo of the month

**Have you heard the one about the mushroom at a party? He was a real fungi!**

With the warm weather, it feels like a different time of year. This photo was posted as part of an ongoing nature photography challenge on Facebook. Fungi Foto by Chris hamilton.

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## ROM CORNER

A new feature for the newsletter is the ROM Corner. This month we repeat an article about a new species of fish from the Silurian period, discovered along the escarpment in Ontario. We will bring you more articles from the Royal Ontario Museum in upcoming issues. [Click here to open the PDF article!](#)

Below is information about the new Early Life exhibit coming to the Museum in the future. Fundraising is ongoing.

# The Dawn of Life Gallery

Where do we come from?  
How did life begin and evolve? By exploring our past, the ROM's Dawn of Life Gallery will help us to shape our future.

### Our roots

This landmark gallery will examine our deep past –from tiny, single-celled beginnings billions of years ago, through the first steps on land, to the appearance of dinosaurs and mammals over 200 million years ago. It will showcase spectacular fossils and groundbreaking research discoveries using innovative new technology.

### Predicting our future

Through its long journey, life evolved, diversified and faced major crises. What happened in the past literally changed the face of the Earth. By documenting our past, the gallery will shed light on climate change and our current biodiversity crisis.



## A Canadian story

This exciting new gallery will offer a uniquely Canadian perspective, showcasing fossils from coast to coast to coast, from several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and even from within Toronto's city limits.



ROM Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology  
Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron in the field in  
Kootenay National Park, summer, 2014.



## World-renowned collections and research

Encounter the biggest and most comprehensive display of fossils from British Columbia's Burgess Shale—"the most precious and important of all fossil localities."\*\* Experience an unparalleled view of some of the first animals that inhabited the oceans of our planet, half a billion years ago, and discover how ROM scientists collect, study, interpret fossils, and make groundbreaking discoveries.

## Trailblazing technology

Amazing animations will bring long-extinct plants and animals back to life. Digital technology and photorealistic computer-generated imagery will fully immerse you in the ancient seas and allow you to witness life's first forays onto the land and into the air.

The dawn of a new gallery experience





- Fossils from 3.5 billion to 200 million years ago
- Over 2,000 specimens, more than 50% Canadian
- Fossils—from the minuscule to the majestic
- Permanent gallery of over 10,000 square feet
- Appealing to audiences of all ages

## Be a part of this revolutionary (and evolutionary) new gallery project.

Your support will help further our understanding our own world and the current changes we are facing. With your help, the ROM can build a groundbreaking new gallery with uniquely Canadian content and leading-edge technology. To learn more about the future Dawn of Life Gallery, please contact Susan Horvath, President & CEO, ROM Governors at 416.586.8055 or [susanh@rom.on.ca](mailto:susanh@rom.on.ca).

\*Gould, Stephen Jay. Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History. New York: W.W. Norton, 1989. Print.



## Volunteer Board Members Needed

Are you passionate about the Niagara Escarpment? Would you like a valuable position with a growing, positive environmental organization? GREEN is expanding across the province and needs your help.

Here are some of the positions open:

Vice President

[Volunteer Coordinator](#)

[New Program Coordinator](#)

[Hike Leaders](#)

[Discovery Centre Interpreters](#)

## Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2014 - 15

Executive Officers

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chris Hamilton, President  
Warren Beacham, Treasurer

Ken Hall, Past President  
Jennifer McPherson, Director

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Kenneth Hall: Coordinator, Friends of The Giant's Rib, Education Committee

Chris Hamilton: Coordinator Outreach/AV/Website

Joseph Hollick: Coordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research

Stephen Landers: Coordinator, Art and Photography Series

Jenn Wilson: Secretary

Ernie Kuechmeister: Coordinator, Recognition Program

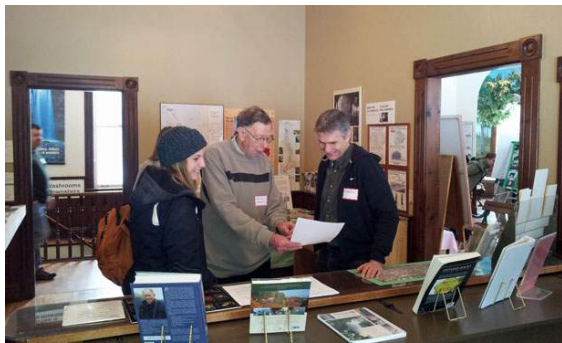
Cindy Marr: Coordinator ROM Programs

Jennifer McPherson: Director

Kyle McLoughlin: Coordinator Outdoor Programs

Stephanie Nikita : Newsletter Editor

Sylvia Zsidi: Coordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series



### **Come Join the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!**

Are you interested in the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve? Do you want to learn more about it and contribute to its protection? Volunteering with the Giant's Rib is one way you can do that. We have positions available for volunteers on weekends at the Centre, and Director openings as well. We're growing and expanding, so if you're excited about the Niagara Escarpment, this is the place to be. Please visit [www.giantsrib.ca](http://www.giantsrib.ca) to learn about available positions or [contact us](#) to inquire.



The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre tells the story of the Niagara Escarpment through interpretation at the Centre on weekends and through our public outreach programs. These include a weekend Arts and Photography Series featuring a local artist each month, guided interpretive hikes, the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series, and we offer a Grade 4 curriculum-based Rocks and Minerals unit to elementary schools free of charge.

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