



GIANT'S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK

Telling the Story of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve



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Chris Hamilton, Guest Editor.

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Inside this month's Issue:

[Artist of the Month](#)

[Lecture](#)

[Fundraising Print Raffle](#)

[Christmas gifts at the Centre](#)

[Teacher's Kits Now Available for Download](#)

[Waterfall of the Month](#)

[Photo of the Month](#)

NEW [ROM Corner](#)



Artist of the Month for November

This month's artist is Elizabeth Wamsley.



Lecture Series for 2015-16

Our November Lecture continues with Guest Speaker David Rudkin, Assistant Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology, Royal Ontario Museum speaks on the amazing fossils of the Niagara Escarpment, representing some of the earliest life on Earth.

The ROM's collections contain a wealth of fossil remains from the ancient seabed deposits that form the rocky foundations of the Niagara Escarpment, and by sharing a representative selection of these we hope to help foster an interest in, and appreciation for, life's deep history on this amazing planet.

Presentation will be held on **Sunday November 29, 2015 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** at the **Waterfront Trust Centre, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton L8L**

8B4. 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 September 27, 2015 – Topic: What the Heck is a Biosphere Reserve?

Rebecca Launchbury, Executive Director, Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Fund

Sunday October 25, 2015 – Topic: Ancient Cedars of the Niagara Escarpment

Peter Kelly, Coordinator, Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark

Sunday November 29, 2015 – Topic: Fossils of the Niagara Escarpment

David Rudkin, Assistant Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology, Royal Ontario Museum

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

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

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

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

Sunday April 3, 2016 – Topic: Bugs

Marvin Gunderman, aka "The Bug Man", from the Department of Biology at McMaster University

Sunday April 24, 2016 – Topic: Randle Reef

Chris McLaughlin, Executive Director Bay Area Restoration Council

Art Raffle!

**Only a few weeks left to buy your tickets before the draw!
Tickets available at the Centre or at the McMaster Gallery in Dundas.
Contact any Director for tickets as well.**



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!

On display now at the Discovery Centre is a framed print , Dawn's Light, by Stephen Landers. It is a print of an original Stephen Landers photograph, professionally framed by McMaster Gallery and Framing in Dundas. Stop by the Centre and have a look for yourself! Tickets are on sale at the cash counter all week long or in the Discovery Centre on weekends. Tickets are also available by contacting us, or at the McMaster Gallery in Dundas.

Tickets are \$10 and the draw will take place Saturday December 5 Just in time for Christmas!

Winner need not be present for draw. Winning entry will be notified.



Looking for a great Christmas gift?



Handcrafted pottery from Escarpment Pottery Studios can be purchased from the Centre!



You can also pick up a waterfalls poster for a stocking stuffer!
Watch for the new Dragonfly series coming soon!

[For more info click here.](#)

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!



The GREEN Waterfall of the Month for November 2015 is Lafarge Falls.

Lafarge Falls is Horsetail Ribbon falls with flow after a rainfall or during the winter snow melt. It is located on private property in Hamilton on a tributary of the Sydenham Creek with a height of 15 metres (49 ft.) and a crest width of 2 metres (7 ft.). It is named after the Lafarge Company which owns the land around the waterfall. This waterfall is accessible via a worn trail, even though it is on private property. Just remember to leave no garbage behind.

To visit Lafarge Falls, follow Hwy #5 westward from Clappison Corners (junction of Hwy #6) and turn left onto Sydenham Rd. to Dundas. At the bottom of the escarpment turn right onto the first road, Livingstone Dr. and park on the side of the road in front of Cascades Park. At the top or north end of the park, a path leads to the Bruce Trail leads and an old railway bridge, however follow the section of the Bruce Trail on the west side of Sydenham Creek and do not cross the bridge over the creek. Follow this trail until you reach some stairs. At the top of the stairs, the Bruce Trail goes left; however follow the well worn trail to the right for about 100m to a small ravine on the left side which flows into the main Sydenham Creek. Follow this small ravine about 30 m to the waterfall.

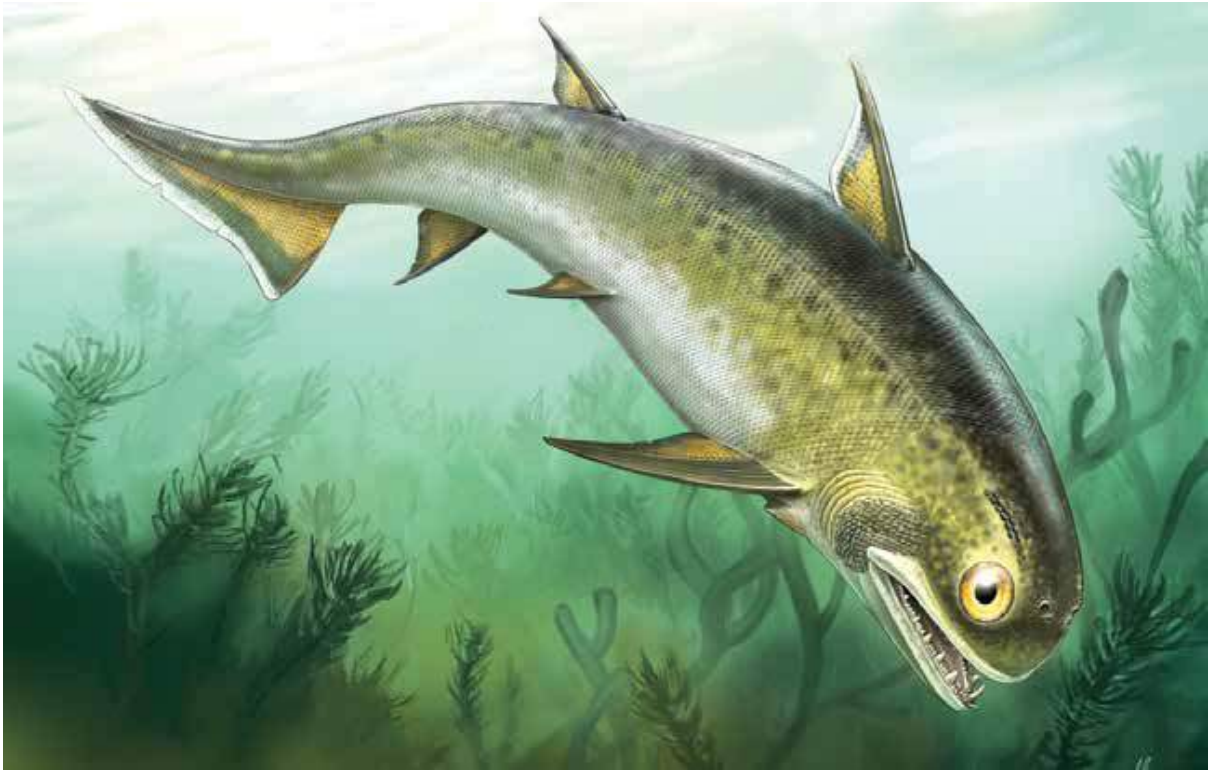
By Joseph Hollick



Photo of the Month

The Photo of the Month is this beautiful print by E. Robert Ross.

"Towards Dundas Peak" Spencer Gorge, acrylic painting, 36x36 inches by [E Robert Ross](#). From the lookout between Tew's and Webster's Falls was shared on our Facebook page this month. Thanks for sharing!



ROM CORNER

A new feature for the newsletter is the ROM Corner. This month is 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.

^{**}Gould, Stephen Jay. *Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1969. 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

Secretary

Media Coordinator

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

Chris Hamilton, President

Ken Hall, Past President

Warren Beacham, Treasurer

Jennifer McPherson, Director

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

: Secretary

Ernie Kuechmeister: Coordinator, Recognition Program

Cindy Marr: Coordinator ROM Programs

Jennifer McPherson: Director

Kyle McLoughlin: Coordinator Outdoor Programs

Leigh Kirschner : 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 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.

Please consider the environment.
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