



## GIANT'S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK

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



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Chris Hamilton, Guest Editor.

October 2015

Volume 10, Issue 6

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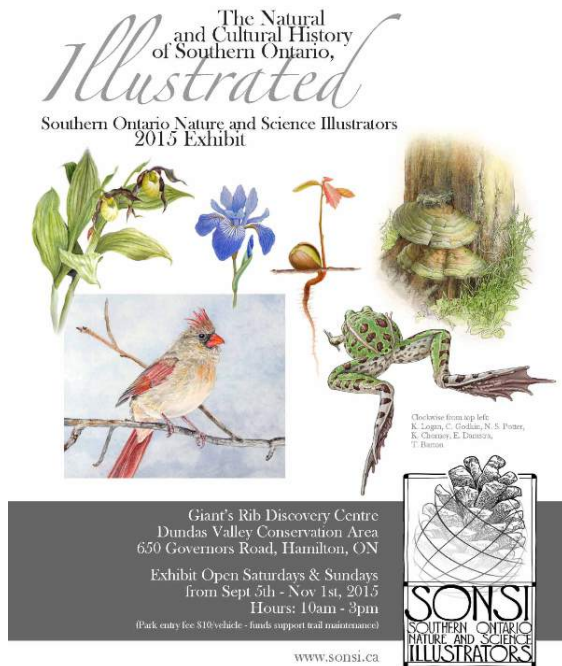
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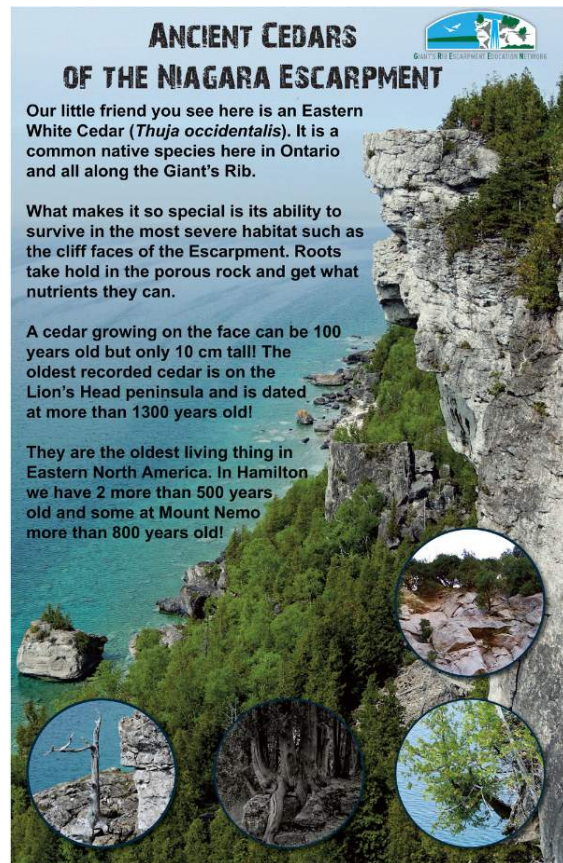
## In the News



## Artist of the Month for September-October

We have the privilege of hosting SONSI, the Southern Ontario Nature and Science Illustrators who have each created a unique piece specifically for this exhibit. The theme this year is *The Natural and Cultural History of Southern Ontario*! View works from [Tarja Barton](#), Kathryn Chorney, [Emily Damstra](#) (whose work can be seen in our new Ancient Seas mural!), [Celia Godkin](#), [Robin K. Herman](#), [Kathryn Killackey](#), and [Karen Logan](#).

For full details visit the [Arts and Photography](#) section of the website.



## Lecture Series for 2015-16

Our October Lecture continues with Peter Kelly, Coordinator, Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark will speak on the discovery of Ancient Eastern White Cedars along the Niagara Escarpment. These cedars have been dated as old as 1300 years!

Presentation will be held on **Sunday October 25, 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

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## **Volunteer Appreciation and Official Re-opening October 17**

Come out and see the new Centre! We are holding a volunteer appreciation day Saturday October 17 at 12:30. A few quick words of thanks, some snacks and the opportunity to meet the artists. See the new features we've added in the last year.

So if you are a donor, supporter, volunteer or past board member, spend a nice fall day in the Valley and see what's new!

(Shhhhh..... here's a peek!)



**Thank You to our long-time Directors!**

This year we say goodbye to two Directors who have served on the Giant's Rib Board since it's beginnings **ten years** ago! Joe Hollick, our Secretary, Site Development and Waterfalls Coordinator is seen above wearing his Giant's Rib hat at the Great Wall of China. Stan Nowak our Newsletter Editor and past Communications Coordinator is

seen above holding "Shelly", a rare and significant fossil he donated to us and then to the ROM!

After a decade of service to the Giant's Rib, these two friends are movin' on! Stan and Joe appear in the very first GRDC Newsletter (January 1, 2007), with Stan editing the newsletters from day one. The second newsletter in February introduced the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series. In the third newsletter we are introduced to the Arts and Photography series, and Joe Hollick was the speaker that month on... what else?... the waterfalls of Hamilton!

Now, while both friends step off the Board, they will both continue contributing to GREEN. Joe continues to give us our waterfall of the month, and Stan will contribute articles as we move forward.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our Past President and inspiration Ken Hall, and myself especially, I would like to thank both Joe and Stan for the hard work and dedication to the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere. Without them, we would not have lasted ten years, and would not be enjoying the success we have today. Thanks, guys. Oh, and Stan, your hat and shirt are at the Discovery Centre. Stop leaving your laundry around..

So as a throwback tribute to our retiring friends, here are their bios from our first newsletter season in 2007.



**EXECUTIVE PROFILE - Joseph Hollick  
as appeared March 2007**

Joe was born in Hamilton in 1945, but has lived for the last 22 years in Dundas with his wife, Marilyn. They have two grown daughters and two grand-daughters. Joe, a professional Engineer, earned his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from MacMaster University, and a Master's in Environmental Engineering from the University of Western Ontario.

He retired over a year ago after 31 year's with the City of Burlington's Engineering Department, where he overlooked the construction of over 500 projects, including Burlington's waterfront, LaSalle Pavilion, fire stations, pools, ice rinks, libraries,

community centres, Joseph Brant Museum, Ireland House Museum, and many major road and bridge reconstruction projects. After retiring, Joe became a Director of the Burlington Museum Board, and of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre. He is part of a waterfall group, which includes the Hamilton Conservation Authority, the City of Hamilton, Tourism Hamilton, Hamilton Naturalists Club, the Bruce Trail Association - Bruce Trail Iroquoia section, and waterfall enthusiasts that meets several times a year to continually update Hamilton's waterfalls, work on access to the falls and increase their tourism potential.

One of his hobbies is locating every waterfall in Hamilton and photographing each one several times during the different seasons. He is also the creator of the "Waterfalls of Hamilton Seasons" and "Waterfalls of Hamilton Seasons" poster series, which earned the 2004 Hamilton Tourism Award for the category of 'New Tourism Idea". Joe has been an avid curler for 45 years, and just finished volunteering as a driver during the recent Tim Horton's Brier at Copps Coliseum.

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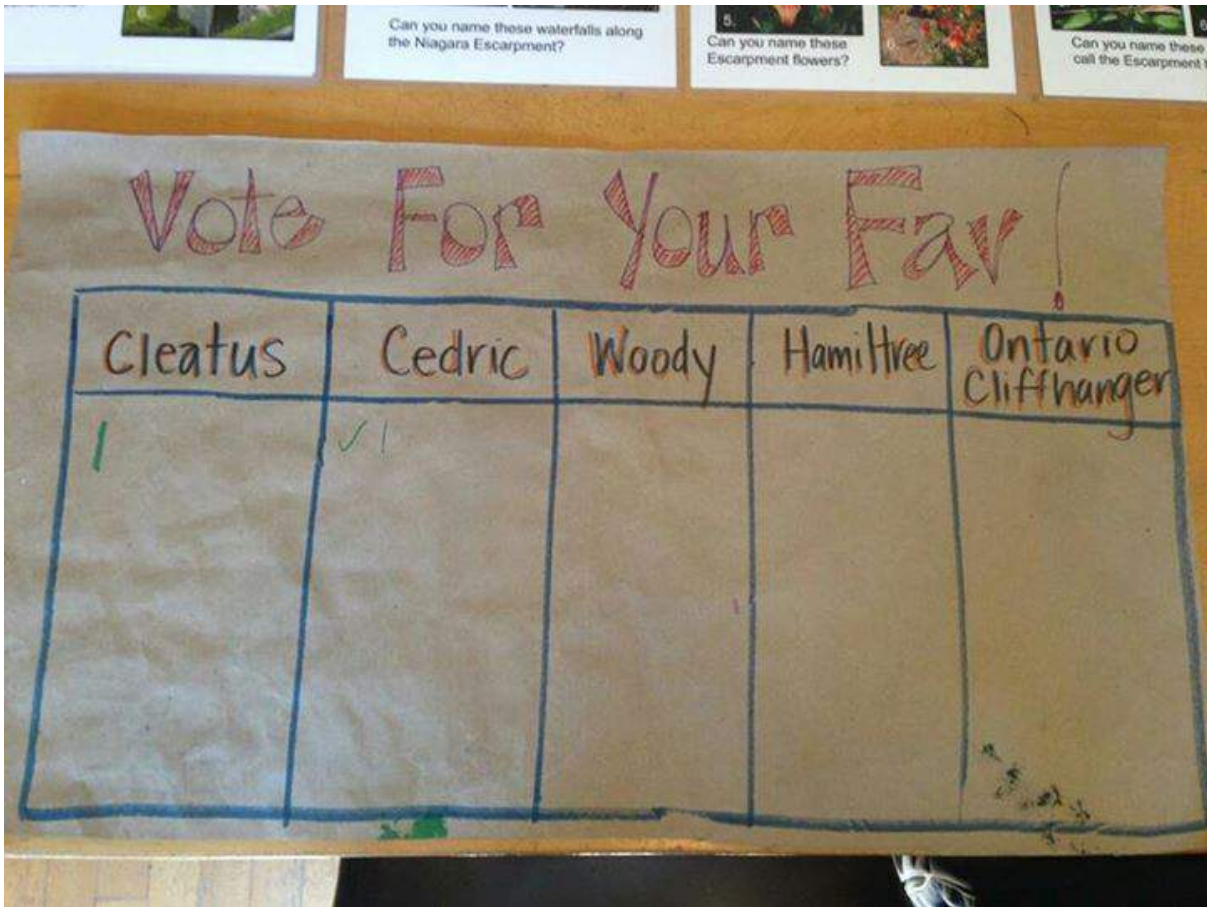
**DIRECTOR PROFILE - Stan Nowak  
as appeared in April 2007**

Stan serves as Publicity & Communications Chair for the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (now the Dundas Valley Escarpment Centre), and is also the Chair of the Hamilton-Wentworth Stewardship Council. He is also a cofounder and the current President of the Dundas Valley Historical Society. He is an enthusiastic community activist, with an avid interest in local natural and cultural history. He also volunteers with the Dundas Cactus Festival Parade, with the Dundas Museum, and sits on the Knowles Bequest Board.

Stan's community activities recently earned him the 2006 Vocational Award from the Rotary Club of Dundas and a Volunteer Recognition Award from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Stan and his wife Sally both work for Scotiabank's Ontario Central Accounting Unit in Hamilton and have lived in Dundas since 1999.

Thank you both for ten great years!

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Don't forget to stop by the centre and place your vote to name our Eastern White Cedar!



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

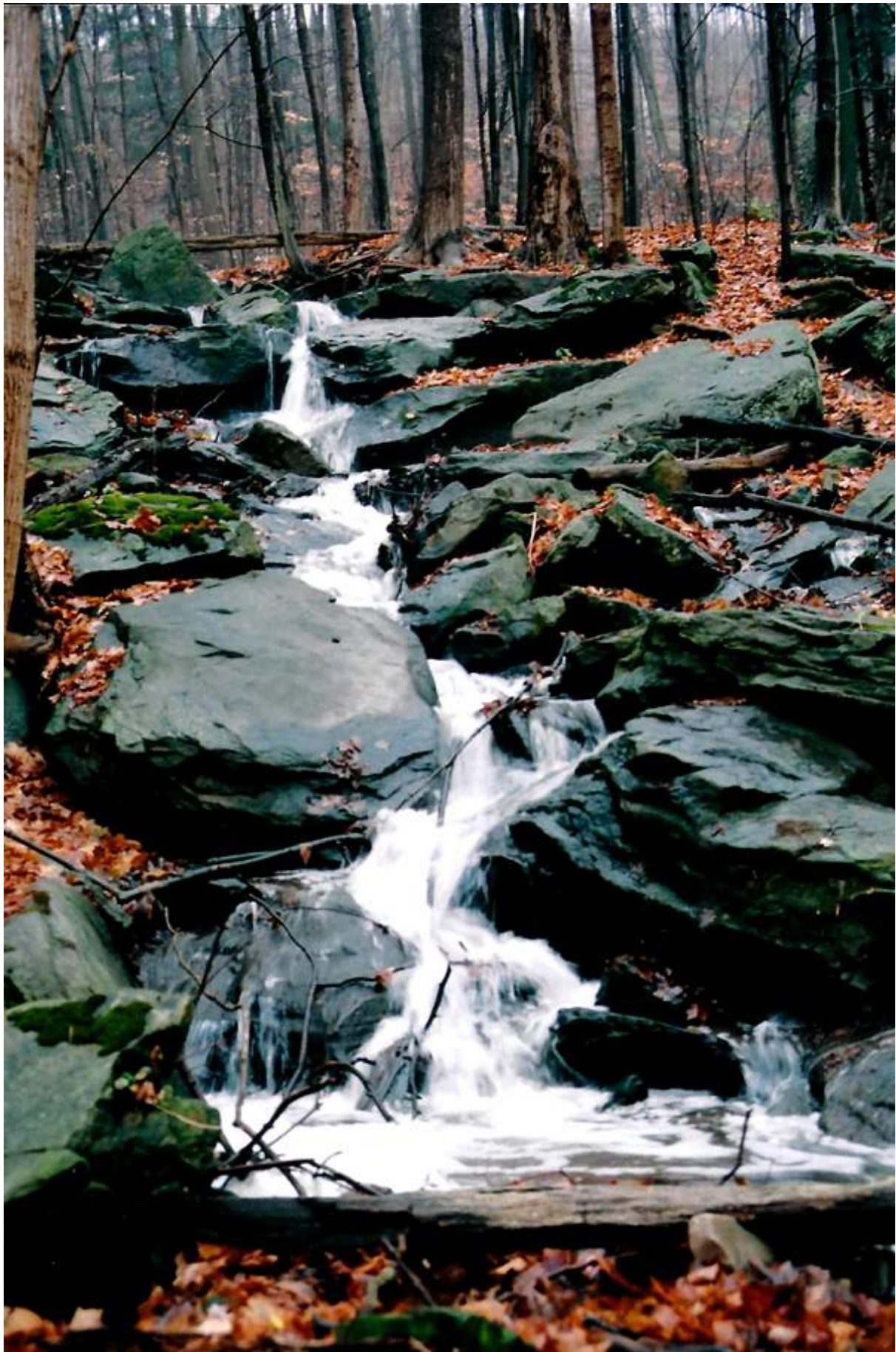


Landers. It is a print of an original Stephen Landers photograph, professionally framed by McMaster Gallery and Framing in Dundas. Stop by the Centre and have a look for yourself! Tickets are on sale at the cash counter all week long or in the Discovery Centre on weekends. Tickets are also available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

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The GREEN Waterfall of the Month for October 2015 is Lower Snake Falls.

Lower Snake Falls is a Complex Cascade with flow after a rainfall or during the winter snow melt. It is located on a tributary of the Grindstone Creek with a height of 5m to 6 m. and a width that varies from 1m to 3m depending on flow.

It is located in Burlington, just outside the boundary of the Waterdown section of Hamilton.

To visit Lower Snake Falls, exit Hwy 403 onto Hwy #6 North (towards Guelph) and travel approximately 3 km to Hwy #5. Turn right onto #5 and when in the village of Waterdown, turn right onto Mill St. Immediately after passing under a railway bridge, turn right into the parking lot for the Smokey Hollow area. Then follow the Bruce Trail down the Grindstone Creek for about 10 – 15 minutes to where a small tributary flows into the Grindstone Creek. The lower section of this tributary is Lower Snake Falls.

By Joseph Hollick

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### Photo of the Month

The Photo of the Month is this spectacular image taken the night of May 18th or 19th by Anthony S. It shows the Grotto, the Milky Way and an aurora. Holy wow.

This image is from the [Explore the Bruce Facebook](#) page, where they are hosting a photo contest. Check out more amazing photos or submit your own.

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## **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:

[Secretary](#)

[Media Coordinator](#)

[Volunteer Coordinator](#)

[New Program Coordinator](#)

[Hike Leaders](#)

[Discovery Centre Interpreters](#)

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### **In Case You Missed the News**

[Discovery Centre 2 Go Hits the Road](#)

[Giant's Rib Donates Fossil to the ROM](#)

[Giant's Rib Receives Significant Fossil Donation](#)

## **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

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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

: 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](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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