



Stan Nowak, Editor
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www.giantsrib.ca
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Welcome to the new Program Season

Hi Everyone! We hope you have enjoyed your summer so far and have had opportunities to explore the Niagara Escarpment's wonders. Since our last newsletter a whole lot has happened and we'd like to share with you news, events and a look forward into the 2013-2014 seasons. So bear with me, I'll try not to babble on too much!

Hiking with The Giant's Rib and a BIG "Thank You" to Volunteers

First, let me say thank you to our Outdoor Program coordinator Kyle McLoughlin, our hike leaders and our volunteers at the centre for a great summer. As you know we rely entirely on volunteers to operate our Centre and programs. Our new Saturday guided hike program has been a big success! Even though numbers were not huge, we've had hikers show up for a majority of the weekends and every hike received great feedback! Thanks hike leaders for a job well done! The hike program continues through to Thanksgiving and we anticipate larger numbers of visitors for fall colour hikes. This program was started to draw visitors to the Centre and to deliver important Niagara Escarpment World



Biosphere information to the public in a healthy, fun, interactive way. The hikes are all registered with Conservation Ontario's Healthy Hikes Challenge and are worth 200 bonus points to that program. There's still time if you want to participate!



We hope to build on this program by enhancing the Dundas Valley hike as we progress and developing it also as a self-guided hike. As well, with enough volunteer support we hope to expand our hike series to include a weekend hike at Albion Falls for 2014! We'll keep you posted!

Keep an eye out as well for our special themed hikes. We wrapped up this year with an overnight to Tobermory in search of orchids and found these two...



Summer Solstice



The 2013 Summer Solstice Fundraiser celebrated the 40th birthday of the Niagara Escarpment Protection Plan, the 50th birthday of the Bruce Trail Association and Iroquoia Club, the 35th birthday of CONE, and the 55th of the Hamilton Conservation Authority. It was a great evening featuring displays from the Bruce Trail Association, the Cootes to Escarpment Plan, CONE and the Dundas EcoPark. We raised about \$4,000 which will cover our operating costs for another year! We also gave Ken Hall a token of

appreciation for his everlasting devotion to the GRDC!



So thank you to our supporters, donors, entertainers and contributors, but especially to the volunteers who made this night a big success.

Biosphere Bash

With all the birthdays surrounding the Niagara Escarpment this year, Rob Winninger, the manager at Ball's Falls Conservation Area, contacted us about putting on an Escarpment Celebration on the day of his normal Nature Festival. We invited groups from all over Ontario to come and showcase their work along the Escarpment. Not as many groups participated as we would have liked and the weather threatened thunderstorms, but the raindrops stayed away and more than 300 visitors showed up to enjoy the festivities. Even though visitor numbers were not huge we had media coverage through CHCH and TVCogeco Niagara, as well as some great coverage by the Friends of the Greenbelt which can be found here:

<http://greenbelt.ca/news/environment/niagara-escarpment-festival-biosphere-bash-balls-falls>



Our "[Giant's Rib](#)" video is now hosted on the NEC website, and is playing on Cable 14 in Hamilton and TVCogeco Niagara!

The GRDC is getting out more in the community with outreach opportunities and we hope that the Biosphere Bash at Ball's Falls sticks around! We attended a number of open houses in support of Cootes to Escarpment and the Eco Park, outreach events at the Hawkwatch Open House and Mount Nemo Day introduced the GRDC to Halton!

Looking Forward

Are you ready for the new season? We have a new series of lectures on the way with follow-up hikes to accompany them, a new series of artists, and more outreach opportunities on the way. We'll be at Halton's Forest Festival on Saturday October 19 at Rattlesnake Point and attending the NEC's Leading Edge conference later that week.



We are recruiting new volunteers for all sorts of positions, so check out our volunteer section later in this newsletter and pass it on!



What we're most excited about is our **future**. So far this year we received money from the TD Friends of the Environment to cover costs for hike leader first aid training. We also received a grant from Allegra printing to print new brochures (OMG we're almost out already!) so a big thank you to both those funders. We have grant applications out in the world right now to assist us in growth and expansion. This next year will see us redevelop and redesign our website, upgrade displays at the Dundas Centre, develop a travelling display for outreach and to be hosted at locations all along the Escarpment and... with some luck establish new Discovery Centres along with our programs to more nodal parks along the Biosphere Reserve. We hope to engage the community and local Colleges and Universities to help develop these resources!

How can you help?

If you don't have the time to volunteer, then help us share the word. Social media is current and can go like wildfire with the right help. Share our posts on social media, tell people about us, come out on a hike, attend a lecture or donate through the website using Canada Helps. We are seeking to raise \$100,000 before March of 2014 to implement our expansion project. It is a lofty goal, but we are already well on our way and I'm confident we can hit the mark.

Now I said I wouldn't babble, so I'll try to stop now! Before I go, please enjoy the rest of the newsletter, let me send another big thank you out to our volunteers and supporters, and I big hug goes out to Niagara Escarpment Views magazine for all their help. The fall issue is out now, so please check it out along with coverage of the Summer Solstice and our new ad!

If you are interested in the Niagara Escarpment and want to help protect it, you can help by volunteering with us. Do you have a particular skill or talent you feel can help? Just let us know! Here are some Volunteer positions we have available:

[Marketing and Communications Coordinator](#)

[New Program Coordinator](#)

[Hike Leaders](#)

[Social Media Coordinator](#)

[Discovery Centre Volunteers](#)

If you would like to volunteer, please contact volunteers@giantsrib.ca or check our website for detailed information. www.giantsrib.ca.

Explore, enjoy and protect our magnificent Giant's Rib,

Chris Hamilton

President, Giant's Rib Discovery Centre

chamilton@giantsrib.ca

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

This series, proudly sponsored by the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, is named in honour of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority and 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.

First presentation of the season: Sunday, September 22nd, 2013

Birds of Prey

With the Staff of the Mountsberg Raptor Centre



Join us as we kick off the season with a special treat... get "nose-to-beak" with live Birds of Prey presented by the Mountsberg Raptor Centre courtesy of Conservation Halton! Come and learn about some Ontario species of raptors and see some really close up and personal!

The **Mountsberg Raptor Centre** is currently home to 15 different species of native birds of prey. Many of the Raptor Centre's resident birds

of prey have permanent injuries that have left them incapable of surviving on their own in the wild. In many cases, these injuries were caused by human activity.

With the help of these feathered ambassadors, the Mountsberg Raptor Centre teaches the community about the native birds of prey that share our environment and how to reduce the negative impact we can have on them.

Admission is \$5.00. Seating will be limited and on a first come-first served basis. Further donations to support this program are welcome. There will also be some great door prizes to be won!



Our upcoming full schedule for this season's Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series is pending, but all 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.

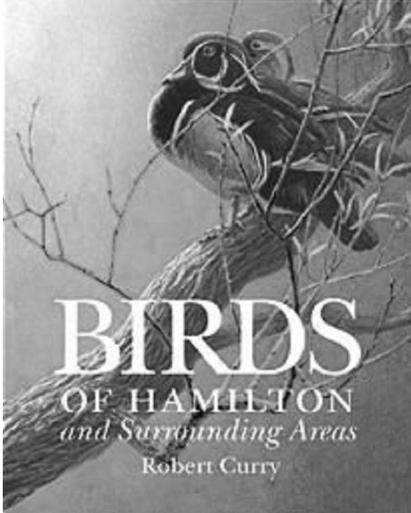
Parking is free, but there is an admission charge of \$5.00 for this presentation. Refreshments will be provided after each presentation, along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speaker!

For further information: Kenneth Hall kenjoan75@sympatico.ca, Sylvia Zsidi sylviaz@cogeco.ca

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

... will return in October.

The Literal Rib



BIRDS OF HAMILTON and Surrounding Areas by Robert Curry

A 600-page reference guide book to the status of over 385 species of birds that have occurred in the Hamilton Study Area (HSA), which includes the cities of Hamilton and Burlington and all or parts of the counties of Brant, Haldimand, Halton, Norfolk, Peel, Waterloo, Wellington and Niagara.

FEATURES

- A historical account of birding activity in the HSA highlights local pioneers and Hamilton Naturalists' Club (HNC) involvement in bird study.
- Chapters by leading local field naturalists cover a wide range of birding projects in the HSA: bird-banding, the Grimsby Hawkwatch, Fall, Winter and Waterfowl Bird Counts, bird migration and seasonal movements, research projects sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Service and various universities, and the bird conservation projects undertaken by the HNC over the last century.
- Informative maps detail birding hot spots and vegetation types.
- Thorough and up-to-date species accounts document over 385 bird species in the HSA, including their rarity, relative abundance, seasonal occurrence and other important information.
- Colourful photographs, donated by local field naturalists and photographers, illustrate the birds and their habitats.
- Numerous drawings by professional bird illustrators Robert Bateman, Dave Beadle and Peter Burke enliven the species accounts.
- Graphs and tables detail such topics as seasonal occurrence, trends in bird populations and nesting occurrence.
- Original artwork by artist Robert Bateman is featured on the cover and the frontispiece.
- Fred Bodsworth, author of *Last of the Curlews*, *The Sparrow's Fall* and other Canadian favourites, has contributed a provocative foreword.

Birds of Hamilton and Surrounding Areas is the first such study since Thomas McIlwraith published his *Birds of Hamilton, Canada West* in 1866. It is a must-have natural history reference for birding enthusiasts, teachers, students, libraries and residents of the HAS area and beyond.



A publication of The Hamilton Naturalists Club

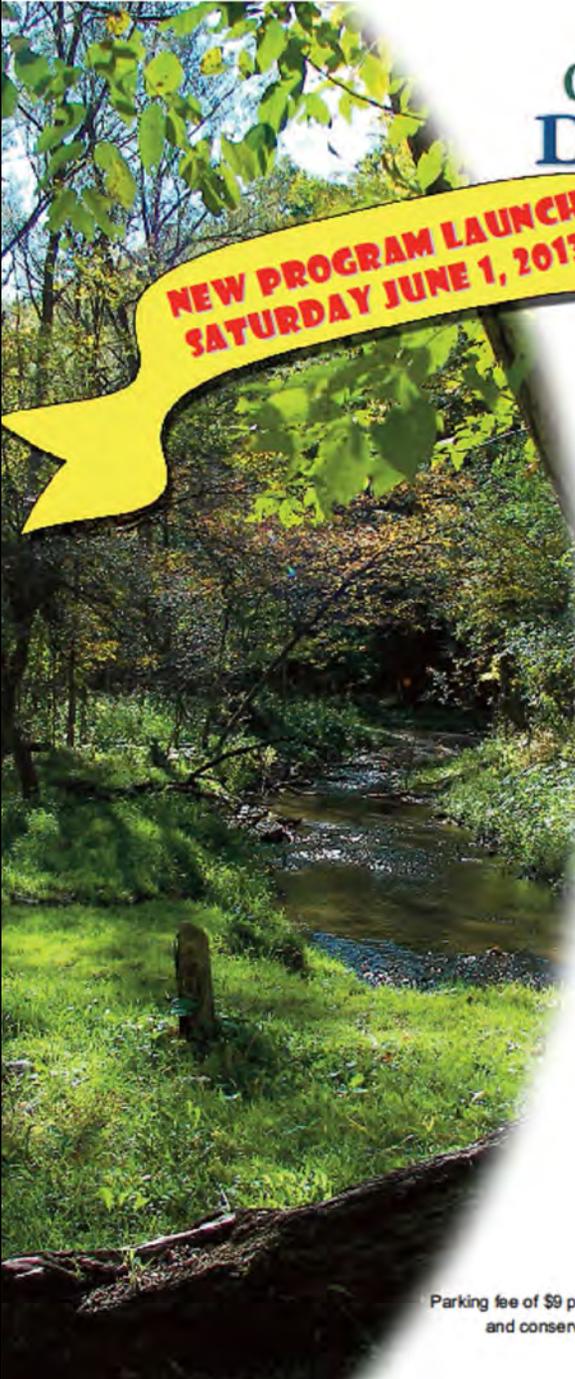
Source: www.conservationhamilton.ca

Rib Happenings

Only 4 weeks left of our guided hike program! The Giant's Rib provides free interpretive hikes every Saturday beginning at the trail center at 11:00am occurring on the main loop trail.

These hikes will feature Hike Ontario Certified Hike leaders sharing information regarding the history of the area, basic escarpment geology, and the ecology of the Carolinian forest.

Once again, these hikes are **free** and will be offered every Saturday at 11:00 from June 1st, until Thanksgiving weekend. Come out and learn about the incredible conservation area in your own backyard!



Giant's Rib
DISCOVERY
Centre

NEW PROGRAM LAUNCH
SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2013

Presents

Guided Hikes
of the
Dundas Valley

Join us Saturday June 1st at 11 a.m. to help us launch our new guided interpretive hiking program!

Spend an afternoon on the Main Loop Trail and discover the wonders of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve (a.k.a. The Giant's Rib!)

We are located in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas, Ontario.
Hikes leave the Trail Centre at 11 a.m. every Saturday from June through Thanksgiving.



Parking fee of \$9 per car per day applies. Parking fees are used to maintain trails and conservation projects in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.
www.giantsrib.ca

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

Waterfalls (Poster) of the Month by Joseph Hollick

The Fourth edition in the “WATERFALLS OF HAMILTON” poster series has just been released. It again features 20 of Hamilton’s waterfalls and cascades but this time all the photos have been taken in Winter, thus the “WINTER” edition.

Its background is a grey colour to reflect the wintery lack of colour and in doing so, it tends to highlight the waterfall photos drawing the viewer’s eye to the actual waterfalls and surprisingly, their winter colours.

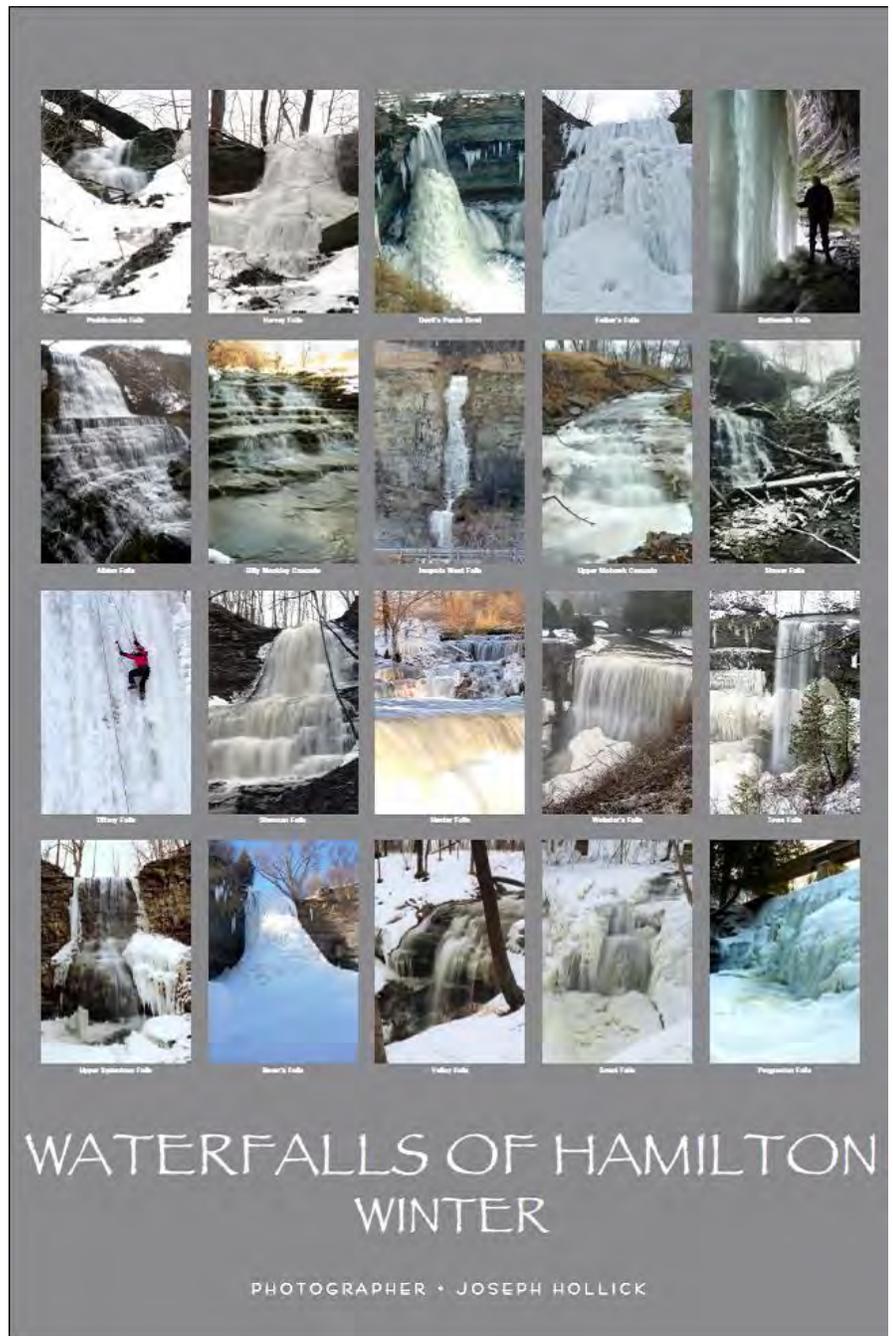
Again most of the popular waterfalls have been featured in this poster as well as several lesser known falls and cascades. The waterfall photos have a systematic order on the poster starting with the top row, left side at Hamilton’s east end and continuing westward towards the bottom row, right side.

The falls portrayed on the WINTER poster are:

Puddicombe Falls, Harvey Falls, Devil’s Punch Bowl, Felker’s Falls, Buttermilk Falls, Albion Falls, Billy Monkley Cascade, Iroquoia West Falls, Upper Mohawk Cascade, Shaver Falls, Tiffany Falls, Sherman Falls, Hunter Falls, Webster’s Falls, Tews Falls, Upper Sydenham Falls, Borer’s Falls, Valley Falls, Great Falls and Progeston Falls.

Waterfalls in winter are interesting for viewing as they can vary dramatically in only a short time period from 100% water flowing to 100% frozen or ice covered and this poster highlights these extreme differences.

This poster is available at the following stores in the Hamilton area: Art Gallery of Hamilton gift shop, Dundurn Castle gift shop, Carnegie Gallery in Dundas, Royal Botanical Gardens gift Shop on Plains Rd. in Burlington and of course the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre at the Trail Centre in Dundas on weekends.



Happy Waterfalling!

Giant's Rib Photo of the Month



This photo was taken this past August at the remains of a historic mill site at the Hilton Falls Conservation Area located in Campbellville, Ontario; a reminder that there are many aspects of our cultural heritage to be rediscovered and experienced along the Natural Escarpment along with our natural heritage!

Hilton Falls is a conservation area known for its ten-metre waterfall with a picnic area (where the remnants of this mill site can be viewed) and its hiking trails. There is a total of 16 km of trails in the park. The longest trail 9.5 km. The Hilton Falls Trail intersects with two other loop trails in the immediate area.

The Hilton Falls Conservation Area constitutes 1,600 acres (6.5 km²) and also offers mountain biking, cross-country skiing and also presents a variety of geological and wetland features (geological pot hole and beaver meadow).

It is owned and operated by Conservation Halton. Hilton Falls Conservation Area was first a 200-acre (0.81 km²) property that was purchased from a private landowner in 1963 for \$45,000.

Come Join the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!



**Do you love the
Escarpment too ?**

The Discovery Centre Needs Your Help!

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.

About the GRDC

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. We require interpretive volunteers to work half-days on weekends at the Centre (located within the Dundas Valley Conservation Area at 650 Governor's Road in Dundas) and co-ordinators to manage public programs and support our annual fundraiser in June.

For detailed descriptions, please visit www.giantsrib.ca



If you are interested in any of these positions, or if you have a specific skill set you feel may assist us, please contact Chris Hamilton at chamilton@giantsrib.ca



Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2012-13

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unless you really need to.***

***But, by all means, please feel free to share your newsletter with
others via e-mail.***