

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
February / March 2014

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 9, Issue 2

Giant's Rib DISCOVERY Centre

Exploring the Niagara Escarpment
World Biosphere Reserve

Niagara Escarpment Photography Contest

In partnership with CD Video Productions, the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is launching an online photography contest focusing on digital images of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

Each person may enter three (3) photos in each of three (3) categories:

Wildlife, Waterfalls and Landscapes.

In order to qualify, photographs must be taken along the Niagara Escarpment. This contest is another addition to the GRDC's public programs designed to increase public awareness of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

The contest closes April 30, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. and selected entries will be featured at the Discovery Centre in July, August and September.

The 2014 - 2015 contest will open May 1, 2014.

To enter your photos or for full contest details visit cdvideo.ca/gallery. Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to gallery@cdvideo.ca



www.giantsrib.ca



The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

This Series, proudly sponsored by the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, is named in memory of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority and is dedicated to promoting our Niagara Escarpment as an internationally-recognized World Biosphere Reserve and a truly unique topographic element of our natural and cultural heritage.

Upcoming Presentation of the Season: Sunday, March 23rd, 2014

The Restoration of the Trumpeter Swan

With Liz Benneian and Beverly Kingdon, Trumpeter Swan Advocates



Beverly Kingdon (left in photo) retired from a 27-year career in Corporate Banking and she felt the need for passionate involvement in a worthwhile project. She has had a love of swans since childhood and when Scott Paper requested funding assistance for a restoration program in Ontario for trumpeter swans, Beverly responded. This began her endearing partnership with Order of Canada recipient Harry Lumsden, who was responsible for the program, as well as her involvement with the North American Trumpeter Swan Society. Beverly has participated in six international trumpeter swan conferences and a global swan conference. She has volunteered for 32 years with the restoration of trumpeter swans in Ontario. She was awarded the Harry Lumsden Environmental Award for her outstanding work with swans, was nominated Burlington's Citizen of the Year, receiving the Civic Recognition Award in appreciation of her contribution to the quality of life within Burlington where the trumpeter swans overwinter.

Liz Benneian, (right in photo) past-president of Oakvillegreen Conservation Association and currently Manager of Public Education and Communications, is also the founder of a number of organizations including the Ontario Zero Waste Coalition, the Escarpment Highway Coalition and the Trumpeter Swan Coalition. A former journalist and newspaper editor who has worked in Europe and Canada, Liz has been a full-time environmental advocate since 2004.

With a degree in Science from the University of Toronto and her background in journalism, Liz has combined her excellent communication skills with the ability to thoroughly research issues to make her a very effective advocate. Under her leadership, Oakvillegreen successfully fought plans to build an incinerator in Halton, convinced the Province to turn 675 acres slated for development into two new conservation areas, stopped plans to put a paved pathway through a critical migratory bird stopover area and secured a bylaw to stop developers from clear-cutting trees.

In 2007, Liz was awarded both Oakville's Individual Community Spirit Award and the Rotary's Paul Harris Fellowship Award for outstanding contributions to her community. In 2009, she was chosen as Earth Day Canada's National Hometown Hero and in February of 2010 she received an award from the Ontario Heritage Trust in recognition for her success in conserving the Province's natural heritage.

This presentation will take place from 2:00 – 3:00 PM at the former Parks Canada Parks Discovery Centre, on 57 Discovery Drive, and now administered by The Hamilton Waterfront Trust.

Parking is free, but there is an admission fee of \$5.00 for this presentation.

Refreshments will be provided after the presentation along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speakers.

For further information: Sylvia Zsidi sylviaz@cogeco.ca

Upcoming Presentations

Sunday, April 6, 2014: *That's Amore: Opening your eyes to Hamilton's waterfall wonders* with **Jon Wells**, award-winning journalist (Hamilton Spectator) and author

Sunday, May 4, 2014: Topic TBA with **Lynda Lukasik**, co-founder, Environment Hamilton

Full details in upcoming newsletters

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment



For the Month of March 2014, featuring the Art of Josh Tiessen

"Although I have experimented with a variety of subject matter, in my photography and acrylic paintings I most frequently choose nature and wildlife, as I believe God created the world and I take delight in emphasizing its beauty, particularity and diversity. I especially enjoy unique angles on nature, animals and still life subjects. I am also fascinated by the effects of nature and the elements on architectural structures as they weather and age over time.

My "Josh Tiessen Studio Gallery," on the corner of King & Gray in Olde Stoney Creek, is situated in a large sunroom at the back of my home and has a beautiful and inspiring view facing the Niagara Escarpment in the Golden Horseshoe region of southern Ontario. Every day I am treated to the sights and sounds of a wide variety of birds chirping away in my backyard as I paint.

One of my favourite pastimes is hiking the Bruce Trail, which I can access on foot just down the road from my studio, and I especially love the many waterfalls and rock formations. I also go on hikes through the Royal Botanical Gardens with The Hamilton Naturalists' Club. I bike on the Waterfront Trail of Lake Ontario, which I can peddle to a couple kilometers from my home.

Another place I love to go is the Eramosa Karst, a protected conservation land located a short drive away, and I am part of the "Friends of the Eramosa Karst" (FOTEK). Camping at Killbear Provincial Park on Georgian Bay is a yearly tradition that I share with my family, and as a member of the "Friends of Killbear," I support the preservation of this vast forest peninsula and its

surrounding islands (Scott Island is one of my favourite places on earth). All of these places and experiences, coupled with my further travels in Canada and to other countries, provide an endless supply of creative ideas and inspiration for my work.

My Nikon D7000 goes everywhere I do, recording subjects for future compositions in photography, acrylic painting and graphic design.

My artistic style, referred to as "High Realism," best reflects who I am as a person because it combines the patient attention to fine detail and the elements of creativity in an original composition, with my experiences of interacting in the natural world.

For this reason there is often a very personal story behind each of my pieces, however, without this knowledge it is left up to the viewer to unravel the mystery of the scene. For those interested, all of the stories and descriptions of my paintings appear on my website under each one.

As stated, I capture all of my experiences with photos, and I use up to twenty of them as references for each of my works, sometimes combining their elements into a composition and other times using them merely as resources to support the composition which has already formed in my mind. The conversation between my subjects and their natural environments is very important to me, and I have increasingly given more attention to environments in order to elevate them from mere backgrounds. I am especially interested in juxtaposing the contrasts that naturally occur in nature but are sometimes blurred by idyllic landscapes often seen in traditional art."

-- Artist's Statement by Josh Tiessen

www.joshtiessen.com

Celebrating 'the art' of the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment regularly featuring a local artist at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governors Road in Dundas. Saturdays and Sundays only from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Park Entrance is \$9.00 per car, but walk in and bike in is free.

Your parking fee supports the Dundas valley Conservation Area and can be used towards any other Hamilton conservation area that same day.

There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information: Robert Gerritson rgerritson@cogeco.ca

Cootes To Escarpment EcoPark Art News

"Naturally Connected", a juried exhibition of local artwork creating awareness and support for the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, will be running March 21, 22, and 23 in the gallery space of Togo Salmon Hall at McMaster University in Hamilton.

This exhibit is unique in that the students of McMaster are hosting the event. The works selected will also be open to a silent auction where 20%, 50%, or 100% of the proceeds of each work sold will be donated towards the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System. As many as 20 artists will participate in the exhibition with works selected by an independent jury.

The theme of selected artworks will pertain to the Cootes to Escarpment vision, incorporating key ideas and motifs.

For more information on the event, please contact petrelan@mcmaster.ca.

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joe Hollick

For this issue: two waterfalls



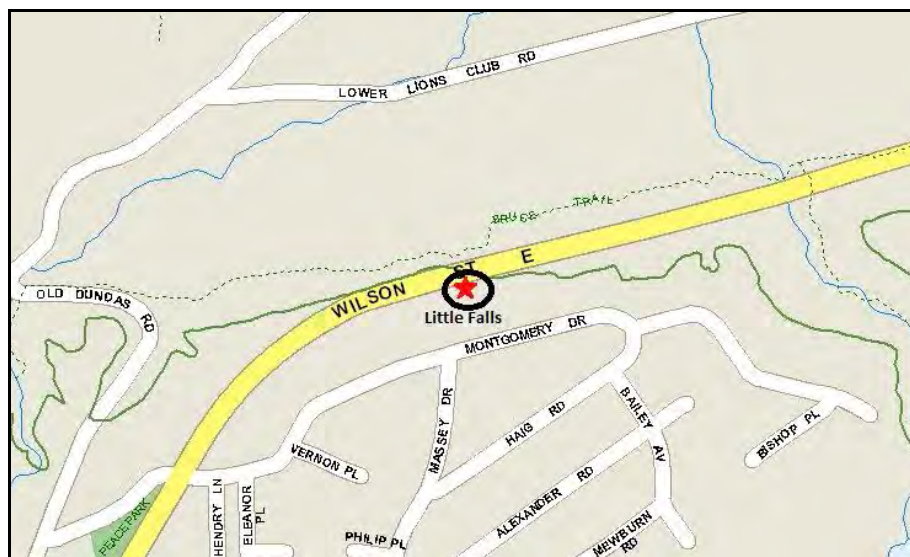
Little Falls is located in the Ancaster Section of Hamilton on the south side of Wilson Street between the Tiffany Falls parking lot and Montgomery Drive on a small tributary of the Ancaster Creek. Note that this waterfall is visible from the roadway as you drive up bound on Wilson Street and if the leaves are off the trees.

Little Falls is considered a Terraced Ribbon Cascade which usually is dry but has flow after rainfalls and during the winter snow melt. During winter, it can freeze over completely as shown in the attached photo. Its height is 7 m and its width varies to a maximum width of 3 m.

Its Latitude and Longitude Coordinates are 43° 14' 22.73" N 79° 57' 55.54" W.

To reach Little Falls from Hwy 403 southbound, take the Lincoln Alexander Parkway exit and keep to the right to merge onto Rousseaux Street. Continue on Rousseaux Street to the "T" intersection and turn right onto Wilson Street East.

Park at the Tiffany Falls CA and walk back up the escarpment on the shoulder to Little Falls.





The Devil's Punch Bowl, also known as the **Devil's Punch Bowl Falls**, was featured as the "GRDC Waterfall of the Month" in May 2010, however we are re-features it this month to show how the long cold winter of 2014 has affected this waterfall and to give you an opportunity to see it before the warmer weather arrives.

The Devil's Punch Bowl is located on Stoney Creek in the section of Hamilton known as Stoney Creek. It has a height of 37m and a width of 3m and is considered a ribbon type waterfall.

Its Latitude and Longitude Coordinates are 43° 12' 38.06" N, 79° 45' 21.41" W.

The first photo (above) accompanying this article was taken on Feb. 14, 2014 and shows that the water is falling out of an "Ice Funnel" into an "Ice Volcano" with only a few metres of visible water. However with a strong wind present, the water actually is blowing to the right side and not falling straight down. These two ice features are due to the long cold winter that we have experienced and are not present every year to this extent.

Three days later on Feb 17, the cold weather had continued and for the first time that we can recall, the entire height of the Devil's Punch Bowl was covered with ice with no water visible although it was still flowing inside the ice structure (photo, right). If you wish to see the Devil's Punch Bowl completely covered in ice, now is the time to do so before the spring thaw begins.

To reach the Devil's Punch Bowl from the QEW, take Centennial Parkway exit and follow this road to Ridge Road which is the first road at the top of the escarpment. Turn left onto Ridge Road and follow it to the Devil's Punch Bowl Conservation Area on the left side.



Happy Waterfalling!

Rib Happenings

A Message from **Kyle McLoughlin**, our Co-ordinator of Field Trips



Greetings Intrepid Wanderer!

The Giant's Rib Discovery Center of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve needs interested and energetic hike leaders to lead interpretive hikes on a weekly basis from May to October!

Hikes happen regularly in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, and monthly at Albion Falls. Depending on the response of committed hike leaders, the Giant's Rib may begin offering hikes in other areas of the Escarpment, including Crawford Lake.

The position also includes Emergency First Aid Training.

The commitment is 3-5 hours a month, from May to October. Depending on volunteer response, additional workshops will be available to Giant's Rib hike leaders including Niagara Escarpment Geology, and Carolinian Forest Ecology. This is a great way to build your resume and gain valuable experience while having fun, and playing a positive role in your community.

Any and all interested parties may contact Kyle McLoughlin at: kyle@giantsrib.ca

Please forward this along at your discretion to any and all interested parties!



Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

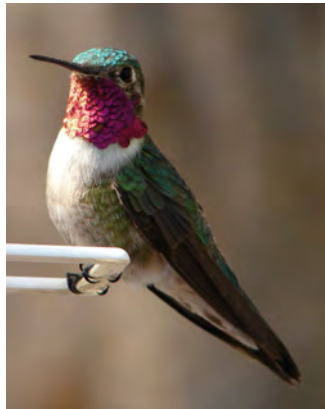
Over the next couple of months, many birds will return to the Niagara Escarpment Region after spending several months in the sunny south. Teachers might have their students spend a little time researching these birds so that they can identify them. Have them develop charts where they record first sightings, first signs of nest or home building, first indication of egg laying, and finally a count on the number of chicks that hatch from the nests.

The birds I have listed are song-birds and often are back-yard feeders. Teachers might like to add a few other birds that are common to their areas most of the year like robins and blue jays but also have their young in the Spring.

The birds listed can all be found in any of the Ontario bird books:

Ruby -throated Humming Bird
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Tree Swallow
Eastern Bluebird
Pine Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Field Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Pine Siskin

Red-headed Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Purple Martin
House Wren
Brown Thrush
American Redstart
Chipping Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
American Robin



Good luck in your findings!

Giant's Rib Photo of the Month



ONCE IN A LIFETIME!

Jody Munn of Tobermory had a story to tell today (Saturday, March 1st) when he arrived at The Tobermory Snowmobile Club's poker run!

He had just returned from an incredible snowmobile ride to Flowerpot Island! Jody said the journey was about 3 miles over frozen waters from Dunks.

This is definitely not a ride over ice that the Tobermory Club endorses but we are all green with envy!

Source: Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Facebook Site – check it out!

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 2013 - 14

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Don't print this Newsletter
unless you really need to.***

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