

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
May 2014

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 9, Issue 4

Early Bird Special!
Buy Your Tickets by May 16 and get 10 free draw tickets!

Giant's Rib
DISCOVERY
Centre

Summer Solstice Celebration and Fundraiser

"Under the Ancient Seas"

Friday June 20, 2014

Hamilton Air Force Association Banquet Hall
128 King St. E., Dundas L9H 1V2
Cocktails at 6 pm ♦ Dinner at 7 pm

*Dinner, silent auction, draw prizes,
cash bar, live music. All in support of
Niagara Escarpment education programs.*

Tickets \$40
tickets@giantsrib.ca
www.giantsrib.ca

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre wants YOU!

HELP! The **"Almost the Summer Solstice"** Fundraiser is set for
Friday, June 20, 2014 at the Hamilton Air Force Association Hall in Dundas.

We can always use help from our friends!

If you are able to donate or arrange a donation for either our draw prizes or our silent auction PLEASE let us know.

If you or anyone you know may wish to sponsor a table at the event, please contact any GRDC Director.

This annual fundraiser pays for our operating expenses, website fees, insurance for volunteers and all the little things that allow us to keep the Centre open.

There's a lot going on at the Giant's Rib and you should stay tuned for next month's newsletter where we will have even more great news!

In the meantime, a very big "Thank You" to all of our volunteers who give their time on weekends to talk to people about the wonders of the Niagara Escarpment and take care of our Centre.



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.

Final Presentation of the Season: Sunday, May 4th, 2014

The Toxic Challenges in Hamilton That You Need to Know About

With Lynda Lukasik, Executive Director, Environment Hamilton

Lynda is a co-founder and current Executive Director of Environment Hamilton (a not-for-profit environmental organization established in 2001 with a mandate to provide Hamiltonians with the knowledge and skills to protect and enhance the environment around them).

She holds a B.Sc. in Biochemistry from McMaster University, a Masters of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University and a PhD in Planning from the University of Waterloo.

Her environmental work has been recognized with the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee medals, a Canadian Environment Award, and the Dr. Victor Cecilioni Hamilton Environmentalist of the Year award. Lynda has also taught courses in environmental planning and environmental policy at Ryerson University and environmental governance at the University of Guelph.

Lynda is a life-long Hamiltonian and when she's not working on environmental issues, she enjoys cycling, gardening, photography and knitting.



**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

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

For the Month of May 2014:

Works from Mark Williams, The Greenbelt Guy



Works from **Mark Williams** (The Greenbelt Guy!) will be on display during the month of May. Greenbeltguy.ca was initiated after Mark spent several years shooting digital photographs up and down the Greenbelt region of Ontario and amazed at the diversity of wildlife and beautiful scenery right here in our own backyard.



This photo was NOT taken by Mark Williams

"A Yellow Warbler first introduced me to nature photography.

Several years ago ... while on my lunch break I parked my car at a nearby ravine from where I was employed. There was a small stream running through it. While I was having lunch in the car and enjoying the solitude, this yellow beauty landed on my driver-side mirror, seemingly unaware of me in the car, the window was up. He would tap on the mirror with his beak or sometimes fly head first into the mirror. Wondering if he was looking for a mate or defending territory, I was curious and intrigued by this little yellow bird's tenacity. The following day I purchase my first digital camera, a Kodak with a 10x optical zoom.

I returned to the same spot for several days and so did the Yellow Warbler, entertaining me with his aeronautics and one-sided love affair with his image in the mirror. I snapped many pictures, but this one in particular became my favourite as I managed to get this beautiful bird in mid-song as designated by the focused upper beak and the vibrating lower beak, and a beautiful song it was too!"

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 rjgerritson@cogeco.ca

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joe Hollick

Borer's Falls was featured as the "GRDC Waterfall of the Month" in June 2010, however we are re-features it this month to highlight a feature unique to this waterfall as described below and to allow time to plan your visit to view this spectacle in May (or early June this year due to the cold winter).

Borer's Falls, also known as Rock Chapel Falls, is considered a plunge ribbon type falls which is located on Borer's Creek in the community of Flamborough and has year round flow. Its height is 15m (49 ft.) and its width is 5m (16 ft.).

Its Latitude and Longitude Coordinates are 43° 17' 37.4" N, 79° 56' 12.3" W.



The unique feature of Borer's Falls is that numerous lilac bushes flourish on top of the escarpment edge around Borer's Falls and every May when the lilacs are in bloom, Borer's Falls takes on a park-like setting to compliment its location, being situated on lands belonging to the Royal Botanical Gardens. A suggestion to the readers is to visit Borer's Falls this month when lilacs are blooming to witness this short-lived yearly bouquet of colour surrounding a lovely waterfall as seen in the photo above taken last May.

To reach Borer's Falls, follow Highway #5 westward from the intersection of Highway #6 for about 2 km until you reach Rock Chapel Road on the left (south) side. Follow Rock Chapel Road until you pass over a small bridge and then park in the Rock Chapel parking lot on the left side about 300 m. further on. Borer's Falls is located beside this bridge, thus you have to follow the Bruce Trail back towards this bridge and to the other side of the ravine to find a small lookout. Note that there is a small fee to park in the parking lot.

Happy Waterfalling!

Rib Happenings

News from 'round the Rib

Giant's Rib DISCOVERY Centre
Exploring the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve

Hike Leaders and Volunteers Needed

Calling all outdoor explorers and adventurers!

Do you love hiking the Bruce Trail along the Niagara Escarpment? Would you like to share the wonders of the Escarpment with others? You can help promote the protection of this magnificent and unique World Biosphere Reserve and help others explore by volunteering with the Giant's Rib!

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre needs interested and energetic hike leaders to lead interpretive weekly hikes from June to October! Hikes run Saturdays in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, monthly at Albion Falls, and, depending on interest, the Giant's Rib may begin offering hikes in Halton.

The commitment is 3-5 hours per month and Emergency First Aid Training is included. This is a great way to build your resume, gain valuable experience while having fun, and play a positive role in your community.

Please contact Kyle McLoughlin at: kyle@giantsrib.ca

Volunteers are also needed to talk about the Escarpment at our Centre in Dundas on weekends. Minimum commitment of 3 hours per month. All volunteer hours are eligible for school credit.

For more, contact volunteers@giantsrib.ca

The Giant's Rib is an early Canadian name for the Niagara Escarpment. The GRDC is a charitable organization educating the public on the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

www.giantsrib.ca [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [Pinterest](#)

Giant's Rib DISCOVERY Centre
Presents

Hiking the Giant's Rib

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre provides free guided interpretive hikes from June through Thanksgiving. Join us as we discover the wonders of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve (a.k.a. The Giant's Rib!)

DUNDAS VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA
Hikes leave the Trail Centre at 11 a.m. Saturdays from June through Thanksgiving. Hike distance is 3.5 km and lasts approx 1.5 hours. Strollers, dogs on leash welcome.

ALBION FALLS
Hikes leave the main parking lot at 11 a.m. on alternate Saturdays. Check the website or Facebook for a complete schedule.

HALTON HIKES
Hikes along the Escarpment in Halton will be listed on the website.

Check website/Facebook for cancellations due to weather or area closures.

Our guided interpretive hikes are part of Conservation Ontario's Healthy Hikes Program!

Please note for all hikes parking fees may apply. Memberships available through your local Conservation Authority.

www.giantsrib.ca

Official Healthy Hikes 200 BONUS POINTS EVENT

Secret Gardens Tour 2014

A Celebration of Art and Gardens ~ 21st Anniversary

Sunday June 1st, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

The annual Secret Gardens Tour is a self-guided tour of Dundas and area gardens, and includes door prizes, a poster, live jazz music, and complementary refreshments in the Carnegie Gallery "Tea Room".

This year's line-up has eight new gardens in Dundas, Greensville and Westdale. Look for artists painting, sketching, carving, and making jewelry in the gardens.

Cost is \$20. Tickets will be available May 1st at:
Carnegie Gallery, 10 King Street West, Dundas, (905) 627-4265
The Keeping Room, 6 Cross Street, Dundas
The Village Bakery, 104 King Street West, Dundas
Bryan Prince Bookseller, 1060 King Street West, Hamilton, (905) 528-4508



Photo by Eileen Shannon

To see images of last year's Secret Gardens Tour, follow this link: [SGT 2013 youtube video](#)

www.carnegiegallery.org

... and now, an urgent Bulletin from The Valley Town:

THE DAILY NEWS
www.dailynews.com THE WORLDS FAVORITE NEWSPAPER - since 1879 -

Giant Sea Scorpion Spotted in Dundas!

Residents of Dundas didn't know what was going on when they first saw this huge creature coming down Main Street. Sources say the beast escaped from the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre in search of food.

Giant's Rib volunteers tried to capture the escaped prehistoric beast, but were unsuccessful.

The creature was last seen entering The Collins for a lunch special.

Date for Annual Fundraiser Announced

Summer Solstice Celebration and Fundraiser
Friday, June 20, 2014

Okay, this event didn't actually happen, but giant sea scorpions once did thrive aplenty in this area! Read on...

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC) has acquired a new fossil for display at our Centre in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area. The specimen consists of the fossilized remains of a 417 million year-old Giant Sea Scorpion (*Eurypterus remipes*) originating from a section of the Bertie lime formation in New York State.

"As I understand it, the rarity of this specimen comes from the fact that these fossils are found in only two regions on the planet: Eastern Europe and in North America in the area of the Niagara Escarpment," says GRDC President Chris Hamilton. "The fossil itself does not come from the Niagara Escarpment, but from an adjacent formation formed about 3 million years later. What it represents, however, is a form of life which lived in the ancient seas while

the Escarpment was forming. These creatures are thought to be one of the first to leave the oceans and move onto land and were a major predator of the time. While our specimen fits nicely in a display case, some species could grow to be two metres in length!"



"This acquisition is part of our efforts to upgrade our displays and enhance the learning experience for our visitors. You can't see one of these just anywhere," Hamilton says. "When I first started volunteering at the Centre and learned all about these creatures, I knew that if we ever had the chance, we had to try to acquire one. Thanks to a recent grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, we were able to make it possible."

The specimen is now on permanent display at the Discovery Centre, located in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area's Trail Centre. The GRDC, open weekends from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., offers information on the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve, a number of public education programs and free guided interpretive hikes from June through Thanksgiving.

Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

Thanks to taxidermist, Jim Jackson, the Giants' Rib has started to display a collection of small mammals that inhabit the Niagara Escarpment. At present there are three specimens: a beaver, a woodchuck, and a mink on display at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre. Both young people and adults are enjoying having the opportunity to examine these creatures up close and to feel and touch their hair and other body parts such as teeth and claws. Jim Jackson will change the mammal collection every two months.

As described in the Atlas of Mammals produced by Kara Vlasman:



The beaver is a large, bulky rodent, with small rounded ears and soft dense, dark brown inner fur and a large, scaly, paddle-shaped tail. The back hind feet are webbed and each has 5 toes. The beaver has large dark incisors. (adult total length - 90-120cm)

Beavers inhabit streams, rivers, marshes, lakes and ponds. Some build dams and large wooden lodges. The main tree species beavers use to build their lodges are also their preferred food sources: poplar, aspen, willow, birch and maple.

The woodchuck, (groundhog) is brown with reddish to blackish hairs grizzled with brown hairs. It has a prominent bushy tail, small ears, short legs, dark brown or black feet and white incisors.

Woodchucks are diurnal species that can be found in a variety of habitat types including pastures, meadows, old fields and wooded areas. They eat grasses, clover, alfalfa, plantain and corn. (adult body length – 42- 82 cm)



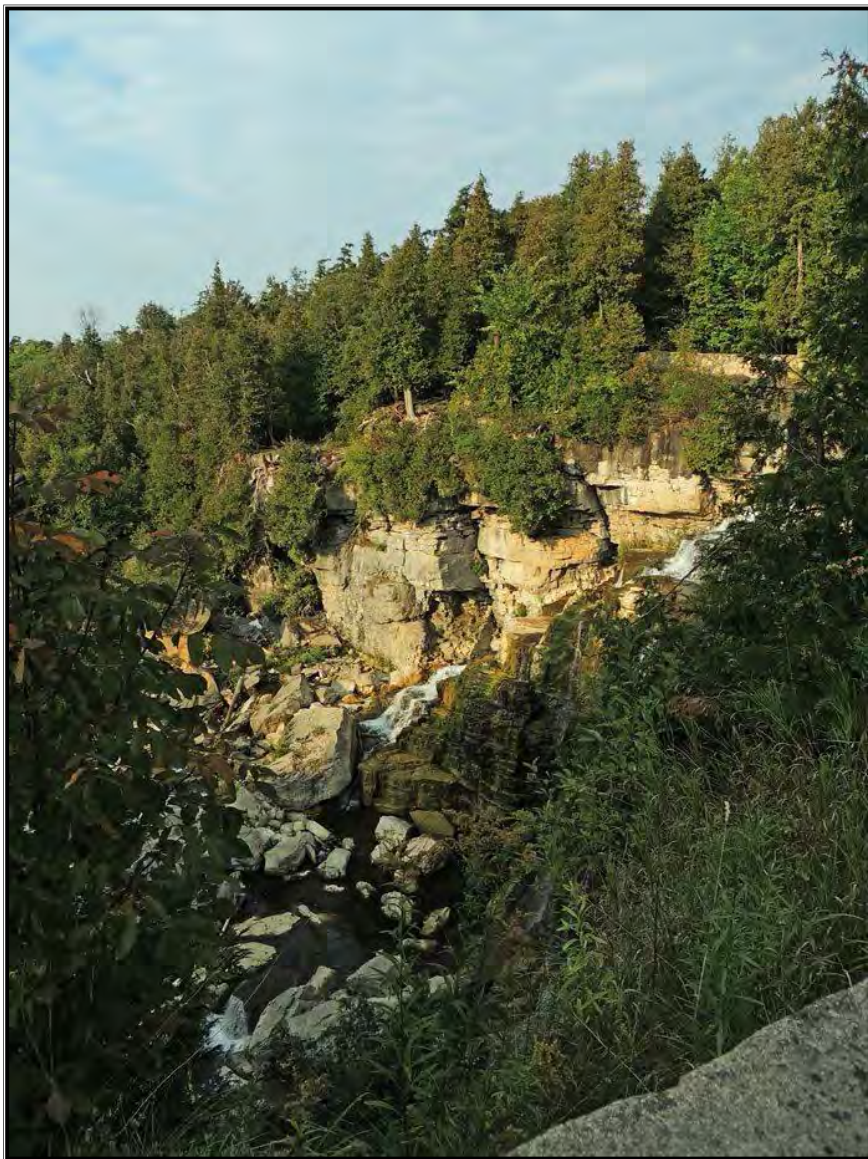
The mink is a sleek-bodied mammal chocolate brown to black with white spotting on the chin and throat. It has a long, somewhat bushy tail. The female is smaller than the male. (adult body length – 49.1 – 72.0 cm)

Mink inhabit wetland areas and are commonly observed near rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds and marshes. They are excellent swimmers and are able to dive to depths exceeding five metres. Their preferred prey is the muskrat, although they also feed on rabbits, mice, chipmunks, fish, snakes, frogs, young snapping turtles and marsh dwelling birds.”



To see these mammals, visit the Giant's Rib Centre or look for them, closer to your own area in the habitats where they most frequently live.

Giant's Rib Photo of the Month



One of three waterfalls that surround the City of Owen Sound, **Inglis Falls** is the best known and most visited. Situated in the heart of the 200-hectare Inglis Falls Conservation Area, Inglis Falls is an 18-metre high cascade, created by the Sydenham River meeting the edge of the Niagara Escarpment. The erosive power of the water has carved a deep gorge at the base of the falls. On a clear day you can see down the valley into the City of Owen Sound and out to the Owen Sound Harbour.

There is something for everybody; a viewing platform for those unable to see over the stone wall, 7.42 km of trails of various difficulty, access to the Bruce Trail, more than 20 species of ferns, bird watching opportunities, a series of geological potholes, historical remains of a grist mill and water filtration plant, picnic facilities and Niagara Escapement Discovery Shop, displays, video and visitor information.

Inglis Falls is named after Peter Inglis, who arrived and settled in the area in 1843, five years after the founding of Sydenham Village (now the City of Owen Sound). This enterprising young Scotsman and millwright saw the potential of harnessing the powerful cascade of the Sydenham River.

In 1845, Inglis purchased a small existing grist mill and 300 acres of deeded Crown land. It was in 1862 that Inglis replaced the old grist mill with a new four-storey mill that produced flour, bran and shorts (feed for animals).

Other ventures of Inglis' included building a saw mill a quarter of a mile downstream of the falls. He also built a woolen mill on the eastside of the river on the brink of the falls. Here were manufactured tweeds, flannels and "rainbow" blankets, so called because of the three coloured stripes at each end. The woolen mill was destroyed by fire around 1885. It was rebuilt only to burn down again in 1901. The family never told Peter of the loss, and the mill was never rebuilt.

Management of the mill was passed on to Inglis' oldest son, William, in 1886. William's son, Victor, managed the mill until 1932, when the property was obtained by the City of Owen Sound for water rights. The mill was idle for two years, until purchased by Emil Henkel. He ran the mill until 1945, when a fire completely destroyed it.

In 1960, the former North Grey Region Conservation Authority (now the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority) acquired what is presently the Inglis Falls Conservation Area. Today all that remains of that earlier industrial scene are the family home, a stone building, the silent millstones and the enduring beauty of Inglis Falls.

Source: www.greysauble.on.ca

Photo Source: Giant's Rib Discovery Centre Facebook Site

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.***