

# The Giant's Rib

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

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The Giant's Rib presents

## The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly announces the next presentation of the second annual Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series.

This series, named in honour of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, 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.

Next Presentation: April 13, 2008

### The Last Stand: Ancient Cliff-Face Forests of the Niagara Escarpment with Peter Kelly

**Peter Kelly** grew up in Lambeth, Ontario with a passion for the natural environment and photography. He received an Honours B.Sc and M.Sc. in Physical Geography from the University of Western Ontario. Here, he conducted fieldwork in the Canadian Cordillera and on Devon Island in the High Arctic. Peter conducted ecological research and conservation work on the old-growth forests of the Niagara Escarpment for over 17 years as part of the Cliff Ecology Research Group at the University of Guelph. He has co-authored two books related to cliff ecology (Cliff Ecology: Pattern and Process in Cliff Ecosystems (2000) and The Urban Cliff Revolution (2004)).

His latest book: "**The Last Stand; a Journey through the Ancient Cliff-face Forest of the Niagara Escarpment**" was published by Dundurn Press in 2007 (*read a review of the book below*). He has published extensively in the popular and scientific press and given numerous talks to a broad range of audiences. He has traveled extensively and photographed on all 7 continents including Antarctica. Peter was co-recipient of a Niagara Escarpment Achievement Award from the Niagara Escarpment Commission in 2002 for his efforts. He currently resides in Guelph, Ontario

All presentations will be held at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas. Park entrance fee is a \$2.00 per person, or a maximum \$5.00 per car. There is no admission fee for children under 12.

All presentations will be held Sunday afternoons of the noted date starting at 2:00 p.m.

There is no charge for the lectures, but donations are welcome and appreciated.

For further information: Kenneth Hall ([kenjoan75@sympatico.ca](mailto:kenjoan75@sympatico.ca)), Stan Nowak ([basil.cottage@sympatico.ca](mailto:basil.cottage@sympatico.ca)).

Everyone is welcome - we look forward to seeing you !!

## **Book Review by Gloria Hilderbrandt, Editor Escarpment Views**

**The Last Stand: A Journey Through the Ancient Cliff-Face Forest of the Niagara Escarpment**

**By Peter E. Kelly and Douglas W. Larson**

The authors estimate that seven million people live within 100 km of the Niagara Escarpment. No one would expect there to be an old growth forest here that has survived humans' activities of land clearing and lumber harvesting.

Peter Kelly and Doug Larson have discovered that an ancient forest still exists today along the whole length of the Escarpment. The trees are hundreds of years old, yet are tiny and live along the cliff face, their roots reaching far into cracks in the rock for nourishment. Their small size is the reason they have been ignored as lumber, and the difficulty in reaching them has ensured their survival until recently. The oldest found in Lion's Head Provincial Nature Reserve and named The Ancient One, goes back to 688 A. D. and is thus 1,320 years old.

The ancient forest is made up of eastern white cedars that have evolved astonishing survival techniques. They can grow upside down, and even when they look dead, they can have a narrow strip of bark that continues to feed water and nutrients from the roots to the tip.

"They can be summed up by the following adjectives" write the authors, "deformed, stunted, gnarled, weathered, grotesque and beautiful."

The main danger this forest faces from humans is from rock climbers who carelessly scale the rugged cliffs where the trees cling. The authors have seen ancient trees that have been sawed off for convenience and they call for the climbing community to become more educated about the Escarpment.

They pose the question "If we can't recognize the importance of one thousand year old trees in the heart of an increasingly urbanized southern Ontario what hope have we got for protecting anything else?".

This is a fascinating book about the discovery of old-growth trees where they were least expected.

**Natural Heritage Books, 2007**

**\$39.95**

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### **The Giants Rib presents**

## **Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment**

**Celebrating 'the art' of the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment at the Dundas Valley Escarpment Centre featuring a new local artist every month  
Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Please Note: There is no exhibition for March.**

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# Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

## **Boundary Falls**

**Boundary Falls** is named as such because it is located on the boundary line of two cities. The top of the waterfall is located in Hamilton (Waterdown section) and the bottom is in Burlington. It is situated on a very small tributary of the Grindstone Creek which originates from a storm sewer pipe under the railway tracks on the south side of Main Street in Waterdown. As the catchment area is extremely small, this waterfall is dry most of the time.

This is a ribbon waterfall with a height of 6 metres and a crest width of 2 metres. Boundary Falls has a large overhanging cap rock which even when dry is very interesting to visit because of this rock formation. The ravine at the bottom of this waterfall cascades down and connects into a larger Grindstone tributary between Snake Falls and Lower Snake Falls (both of these waterfalls are located in Burlington).

To reach Boundary Falls, park on the south side of Main St. in Waterdown opposite the entrance to the sewage treatment plant at the curve. Cross over the railway tracks on the south. Be careful both crossing the tracks (trains) and coming down the hill (the hill is slippery and steep). You most likely will hear the sounds of water at Snake Falls which is nearby and flows continually; however Boundary Falls is the falls closest to the railway tracks.

This photo shows Boundary Falls in Winter with water flowing over.



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## Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib

Your assistance would be welcome in helping the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre to increase awareness and protection of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve; or you may wish only to be kept informed of upcoming GRDC activities and events. We hope to hear from you.

**For more information, please contact:**

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