

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
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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.

This Month's 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.

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 hve 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

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), Stan Nowak

(basil.cottage@sympatico.ca).

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

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.

This Month: "Sculptural Arboretum" by Lynn McIntyre

Lynn Macintyre was born in England and came to Canada at an early age. She lived in Winnipeg and on the West Coast before eventually settling in Dundas in 1970.

Her artistic interests were evident in High School but she chose to go to University instead of Art School. She returned to art with ceramics, but soon moved to drawing and painting, and then photography, etching and wood engraving.

She has studied with many of the teachers at the Dundas Valley School of Art.

Currently she concentrates on photography and printmaking, in which media she tries to show her delight in the natural world, its patterns and textures, and the way in which light can surprise us with new insights.

A great deal of Lynn's work has been centered on the Dundas Valley Conservation Area and the surrounding Niagara Escarpment.

The April 2008 show at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Giant's Rib Weekend Gallery is entitled "**Sculptural Arboretum**" where Lynn translates her thoughts on natural sculpture through photography.

Lynn's Thoughts on Sculpture

Is found art sculpture? Does sculpture have to be formed by man's hand to qualify? How about our vision, our ability to perceive the same qualities in a natural object that appeal to us in a man-made form? Is this why the gnarled roots and reaching branches of trees appeal to me?

Can this vision, this internalization, be considered as my active role in the "creation" of sculpture? When it is translated photographically to the image before you, do you "see" my intention?

Is what appeals in a 2D image what ultimately appeals in sculptural form as well? Or is it that when we see an image of a form in 2D we immediately apply our 3D analysis to it, seeing its appealing form in the light of a sculpture? Is there a difference in appreciation of 2D vs 3D?

Ultimately the question is "why do I like this image" Is it the subject? Is it the pattern my eyes take over it? Do I look at 2D differently than 3D? Is that difference because there is a recognizable object in front of me that I apply the "sculptural" code of analysis rather than the "flat surface" code?

I think that when I look at a landscape as a whole, I am looking for the presence or absence of harmony, colour interest, lights and darks, interesting visual patterns through the image. When I look at the photo of a sculptural object, I want to touch it, take it in my arms, feel its substance and texture. A red barn in a golden fold of hills doesn't make me feel like that, but makes me want to look at it over and over again, different from the sculptural object.

The image of the two maples in particular inspires this "sculptural" response. I delight in the movement of my eye up into the blank sky, but more than that I want to hug those trunks, walk around them, appreciate them from every angle, wonder at their marked diminishment as they reach for the light (even though emphasized by the angle, it still is marked, just as it is marked in Willow 1), think about the tiny area of the sky that these branches own in relation to the massive trunks. All of this leads to an appreciation of the occupation of space that the subject of the image occupies.

Thus opens a dialogue on the nature of the appeal of the sculptural even though this show is composed of 2D images.

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

Puddicombe Falls

Puddicombe Falls is named after the Puddicombe family which own and operate the nearby Puddicombe Farms and Winery. This waterfall is the most easterly falls in Hamilton located just before the eastern boundary of Hamilton (in the Stoney Creek section of Hamilton).

This is a ribbon cascade waterfall with a height of 6 metres (20 ft.) and a crest width of 2 metres (7 ft.). It is located on a tributary of Fifty Creek above the Bruce Trail east of Fifty Road. This waterfall has a small catchment area and thus will dry up often. The best time to see water flowing over is after a heavy rainfall or during the winter snow melt.

To reach Puddicombe Falls from the QEW, take the Fifty Road exit and follow it south up the escarpment. Park on the shoulder at the top of the escarpment and carefully walk down Fifty Rd. to the Bruce Trail and head east. The waterfall is located on the south side of the Bruce Trail a short distance after the side trail (marked by a sign) to Puddicombe Farm.

This photo shows Puddicombe Falls in late winter during the snow melt.



Upcoming Event:

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Second Annual **Giant's Rib Summer Solstice**

*Keep the longest time of the year clear for this gala fundraiser for the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre.
Date: Friday, June 20, 2008 at the Parks Canada Discovery Centre, 57 Guise Street, Hamilton
Details will be forthcoming in upcoming e-issues of the Giant's Rib e-newsletter and at giantsrib.ca.*

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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