

# 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: May 4, 2008

## Amphibians of Hamilton and the Importance of Vernal Pools

with Bruce McKenzie

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre continues its second annual Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series with a presentation of "***The Significance of Vernal Pools in the Dundas Valley***", presented by Bruce Mackenzie of the Hamilton Conservation Authority. Many of the amphibian populations in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area are dependent upon vernal pools for survival. Vernal pools are temporary spring time water bodies where some amphibian species, like the Jefferson's Salamander, breed and they are home

to many other wildlife species. Come out and learn about how they came to be and the critical habitat they provide in the Valley. The biology of the amphibian species in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area will be reviewed.

Bruce Mackenzie is the Manager of Customer Services for the Hamilton Conservation Authority and has worked in a number of the Hamilton Conservation Areas including the Dundas Valley since 1976. Bruce is well known naturalist in the Hamilton area and is a Past President of the Hamilton Naturalist Club. He is a graduate of the University of Guelph in Fisheries and Wildlife biology, and has a particular fondness for reptiles and amphibians.

The presentation will be held at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas,

Sunday May 4th, starting at 2:00 PM. Park entrance fee is \$5.00 per car.

**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 !!**

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: Janusz Wrobel

For four decades, professional art photographer Janusz Wrobel has honed his skills in isolating the pure essence of scenery and objects. This approach has earned him a major international award and his images have been used in many publications across five continents. By extracting key elements in natural landscapes, he exposes underlying processes that build these environments. A long time adventure traveler, he presents the "big picture": large, immaculately composed images, each with complex and intertwining story lines.

"Landscape photography is not about the art of seeing but more about the art of experiencing. I take time to study and identify the relationships of all key elements. By the time I arrive at a personal perspective I have become a part of the picture."

**Saturdays and Sundays throughout May, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre Museum, 650 Governor's Road, Sunday, April 13th, starting at 2:00 p.m.**

For further details: [www.giantsrib.ca](http://www.giantsrib.ca) , or contact Stan at [www.basil.cottage@sympatico.ca](mailto:www.basil.cottage@sympatico.ca)

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## Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

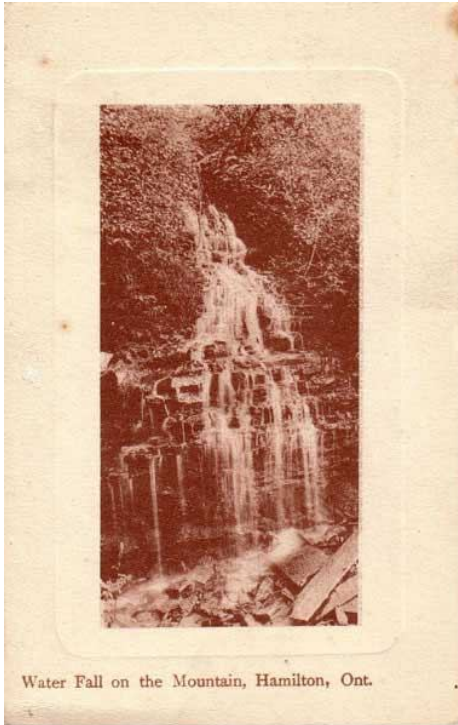
**Mountview Falls** has been known for at least 100 years as there is a vintage postcard dated 1908 showing it, however it did not have a name back then. On the 1908 postcard it was called "Water Fall on the Mountain, Hamilton, Ont." Next, when the "WATERFALLS OF HAMILTON SEASONS" poster was printed in 2002 this was one of the 20 waterfalls shown on it; however it was called "Easterly Falls

on Chedoke Radial Trail". Finally in 2005 it was officially named "Mountview Falls" in the Hamilton Conservation Authority's report on Hamilton's waterfalls, as at one time there used to be a small community near the falls called Mountview.

This is a complex cascade waterfall with a total height of 10 metres (33 ft.) and a crest width of 1.2 m (4 ft.) where it comes out from a large storm sewer pipe but it widens to 6 metres (20 ft.). It is located on a tributary of the Chedoke Creek. In 1908 there was a creek at the top; however sometime afterwards, the creek was enclosed into a storm sewer system to allow for development on the mountain. The waterfall itself however remains the same as in the 1908 postcard.

To reach Mountview Falls the easiest way is to park in the small parking lot on Scenic Drive (Hamilton mountain) at the west end where Scenic Drive makes a 90 degree turn southward towards Mohawk Rd. From the parking lot follow the path to the Chedoke Radial Trail and go eastward. Mountview Falls is the second waterfall along the trail (the first is Upper Princess Falls). It is located upstream of a manmade channel which runs to the base of the waterfall.

The photos below show Mountview Falls, first as it was in 1908 and then today.



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### **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](http://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:**

**Ken Hall            905-627-1320**  
**Gord Perrault     905-648-8041**