

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
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www.giantsrib.ca
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Giant's Rib Discovery Centre Board of Directors - 2008

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



Friday, June 20, 2008
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Canada Parks Discovery Centre
57 Guise Street East, Hamilton

Tickets \$50.00 each (with a \$35.00 charitable tax receipt)

A social evening of fun and enjoyment with friends and associates celebrating the 'Giant's Rib' while experiencing a magnificent sunset over the Hamilton Bay and the Niagara Escarpment to welcome the summer!

The evening will include a wine and cheese reception and silent auction with musical entertainment and a film presentation "Life on the Edge" (Parks Canada).

On display will be Living Art (Local Florists and Spirit of Nature)

Wine for the Summer Solstice again is being provided through the [Vineland Estates Winery](#). This winery has won many international awards for its wine. Of particular note are it's Dry Riesling, Cabernet Merlot, Vidal Icewine and Sauvignon Blance. The picturesque Vineland Estates Winery is located in Vineland on the Bench of the Niagara Escarpment. The landmark Stone Tower stands proudly over a former Mennonite Homestead that dates back to the

1840's. Included in the cluster of carefully restored buildings is a Century Barn and a stone Carriage House.

Cheese connoisseur, Mickey McGuire, again will be serving samples of his cheeses at the Summer Solstice. Mickey is the owner of the Mickey McGuire Cheese Shop in downtown Dundas. He presently offers over 400 varieties in his shop, including Italian Cheese matured in grape skins, Tasmanian Blue Cheese, Basque Sheep Cheese, Guinness Cheddar and Banon, made with peppers and wrapped in chestnut leaves.

This Spring our background music will be provided by Jennifer McMahon. Jennifer has over 15 years of experience performing a wide variety of vocal and piano music, including jazz, easy listening and light classical pieces.

Hugh Fraser, music reviewer for the Hamilton Spectator, had this to say about one of Jennifer's performances: "She gathered us up with her songs as if gathering flowers in a basket and took us wherever she wished".

For ticket information, please contact the following GRDC Directors:

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The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

... will return in the autumn.

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: Gerten Basom - "Biophilia" ~ Recent Collage Works

Born and raised in rural Peterborough, Ont., Gerten Basom experienced her initial art training at the feet of her parents, watching and absorbing their creative endeavors throughout her early years. Creating art in elementary and high school always held a fascination for her and her formal education in art began at York University, straight out of high school. Raised in a family of wanderlusting individuals, found her leaving university after first year, to travel, work and live in Europe for an extended period of time.

Twelve years later, she resumed her art studies at the Ontario College of Art & Design in Toronto, completing an Honours in fine arts degree at McMaster University. The years between schooling proved to be as inspiring and enlightening as that of formal study, ultimately enhancing and clarifying her later educational processes.

Together with her husband and their two sons, they purchased their second home in the rural setting of Ancaster, which continues to be the anchoring point of much of her work based on her daily 5-6 km walks. A great outdoor enthusiast since childhood, she enjoys hiking, birding, swimming, camping, gardening, cycling and any other outdoor activity thrown in for good measure.

Last summer was the onset of reentering my hiking days at the Dundas Valley Conservation Authority under canopied, cathedral-like trees. While our sons were young we were often found on various trails attempting to keep up with them as they tumbled along the paths, taking in all forms of flora, fauna, winding streams, salamanders, snakes, deer, birds and much more. My first plein air painting course actually took place at the DVCA inspiring my return to art school in a formal setting. It was the onset of a truly memorable occasion due to the emphasis and stimulation of all of the senses, resulting from this natural setting. A true love affair. My responses to my bodies of work are now often triggered by long walks in plain air settings. The connection to outdoor experiences rewires our thinking and sensing abilities if only we will take the time for this.

These collage works are the result of a desire for movement - physical, mental and spiritual. They also document a turning point which celebrates the 50th anniversary of my parent's union, including the onset of independent journeying of my now young, adult sons. It is a joyous and reflective time, yet filled with bursts of great energy toward a new form of independence of my own. A time of celebration. The title "Biophilia" resulted from stumbling across the writings of Edward O. Wilson and became the recurring theme running through these works. Wilson describes biophilia as "the innate tendency to focus on life and lifelike processes. The love of living things - our innate affinity with nature".

In his book "The Biophilia Hypothesis", Wilson writes, *"I have argued in this book that we are human in good part because of the particular way we affiliate with other organisms. They are the matrix in which the human mind originated and is permanently rooted, and they offer the challenge and freedom innately sought. To the extent that each person can feel like a naturalist, the old excitement of the untrammelled world will be regained. I offer this as a formula of reenchantment to invigorate poetry and myth: mysterious and little known organisms live within walking distance of where you sit. Splendor awaits in minute proportions"*.

I invite you to experience these thoughts through the reinterpreted process of collage and all it has to offer in its openly expressive ways, surrounded in the most magnificent gallery setting of all - "nature".

For further details: www.giantsrib.ca .

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

“WATERFALLS OF HAMILTON SPRING” Poster

The third edition in the “WATERFALLS OF HAMILTON” poster series has just been released. It again features 20 of Hamilton’s waterfalls and cascades but this time all the photos have been taken in Spring, thus the “SPRING” edition.

Its background is an olive green colour to reflect the emerging spring colours and in doing so, it tends to highlight the waterfall photos drawing the viewer’s eye to the actual waterfalls.

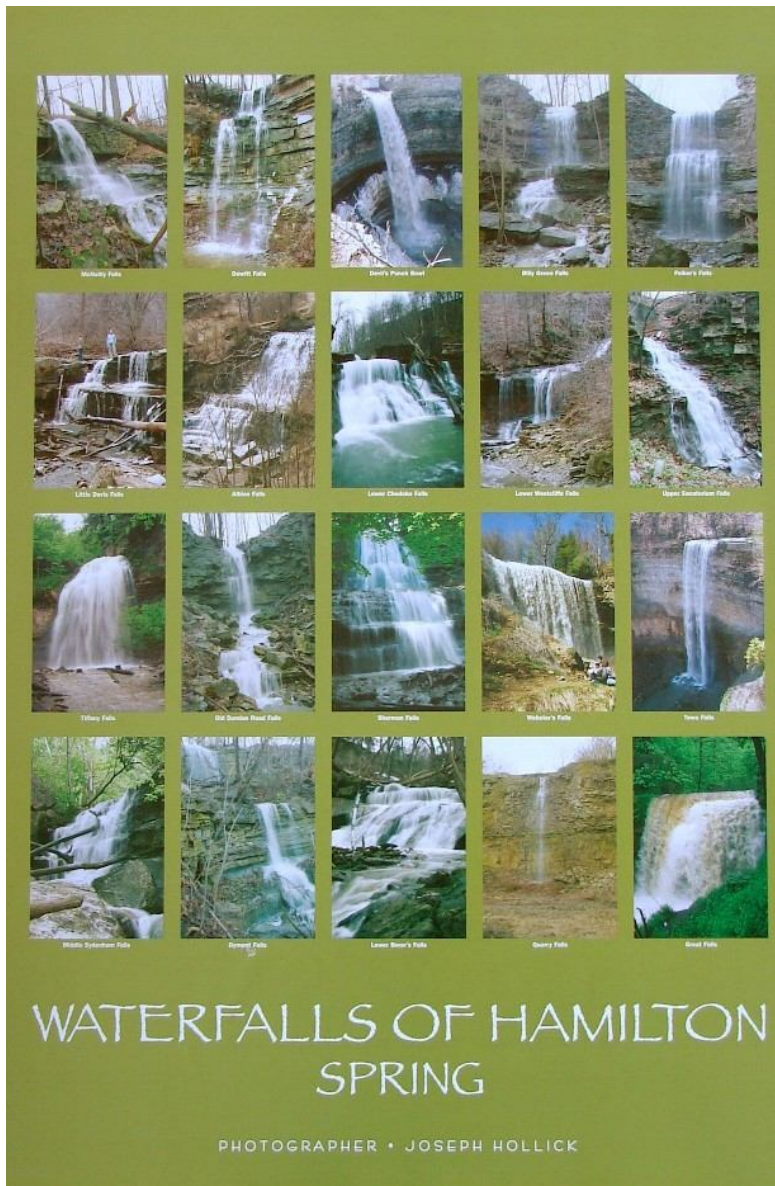
Again most of the popular waterfalls (eight to be exact) have been featured in this poster as well as 12 lesser known falls. The waterfall photos have a systematic order on the poster starting with the top row, left side at Hamilton’s east end and continuing westward towards the bottom row, right side.

The falls that are portrayed on the SPRING poster are:

McNeilly Falls (lower section), Dewitt Falls, Devil’s Punch Bowl, Billy Green Falls, Felker’s Falls, Little Davis Falls, Albion Falls, Lower Chedoke Falls, Lower Westcliffe Falls, Upper Sanatorium Falls, Tiffany Falls, Old Dundas Road Falls, Sherman Falls, Webster’s Falls, Tews Falls, Middle Sydenham Falls, Dymont Falls, Lower Borer’s Falls, Quarry Falls and Great Falls (also called Grindstone Falls).

Early springtime is the best season for viewing several of these 20 waterfalls as a few can be completely dry for many months of the year.

This poster is currently available at only a few stores in the Hamilton area: Art Gallery of Hamilton gift shop, Dundurn Castle gift shop, Parks Canada Discovery Centre on Hamilton’s waterfront and Carnegie Gallery in Dundas.



WATERFALLS OF HAMILTON SPRING

PHOTOGRAPHER • JOSEPH HOLLICK

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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