

The Giant's Rib

DEDICATED TO INCREASING AWARENESS AND PROTECTION OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Stan Nowak, Editor

<http://www.giantsrib.ca>

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Giant's Rib Discovery Centre Board of Directors - 2009

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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: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8:

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club - Celebrating 90 Years of Protecting Nature

with Jen Baker, Land Trust Co-ordinator, Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust Program, HNC



The Hamilton Naturalists' Club (HNC) has been protecting and exploring natural spaces for 90 years. This had led to many conservation successes which range from tracking bird sightings to speaking out about conservation issues to permanently protecting land, including sections of the Niagara Escarpment. Using stunning images Jen will describe the nature sanctuaries we've protected along the Escarpment and the wildlife that depend on these areas as well as stewardship activities to care for the sanctuaries. She'll also describe a strategy to conserve a significant part of the Escarpment in the Hamilton/Burlington area.

Jen Baker is the Land Trust Coordinator with the Hamilton Naturalists' Club. She works with landowners to permanently protect their land and coordinates education and outreach activities within the community. Jen also works at Ontario Nature where she manages the boreal program. Her education includes Ecosystem Management from Sir Sandford Fleming College, as well as Environmental Assessment from Niagara College. Jen has also served as Secretary on the board of the HNC, and enjoys karate, canoeing, running and hiking.

All presentations will be held at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas, starting at 2:00 p.m. Park entrance fee is a \$2.00 per person, or a maximum \$5.00 per car. 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 featuring a new local artist every month at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre.

Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas. Saturdays and Sundays only from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Park entrance fee is a \$2.00 per person, or a maximum \$5.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12.

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Vic MacBournie: The Niagara Escarpment - Wild and Free

Nature photographer **Vic MacBournie** explores the wildlife and wildflowers near his Ancaster home along the Niagara Escarpment in the

November photographic exhibition at the Train Station gallery in the Dundas Valley Conservation area. Vic is an accomplished photographer who has had his photographs published in books, magazines and newspapers as well as recently publishing a book on the Niagara Escarpment along with fellow Spirit of Nature photographers Sandy Bell and John MacRae. His exhibition of prints focuses primarily on the Hamilton, Ancaster area and explores the fauna and flora that makes the Niagara Escarpment such a wonderful place to call home.

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

Dundas Falls is located at the west end of Dundas, just west of the former Dundas District School about 30 m north of King St. on the Spencer Creek. Dundas Falls is considered a Terraced Classic Falls with a height of 6.4m (21 ft.) and a width of 6.7m (22 ft.). As Dundas Falls is located on Spencer Creek, water flows year round and at times very heavily.

To view this waterfall, there is parking for a couple vehicles on the north shoulder of King St. just west of the former school, past the bridge over Spencer Creek. Then it is a short 30m walk north to the waterfall. The actual waterfall is located on CNR right-of-way and is fenced off for the public's protection, however by peering through the fence, the waterfall is visible.

Joseph Spencer built the "Gore Street Grist Mill" in 1834, near this waterfall to utilize its energy to power the mill. This mill was gradually improved and expanded in 1851 to become the Gore Paper Mill. In July 1863 John Fisher purchased this Mill. Gore Mills produced carpet, felt, newsprint, paper and wrapping paper over the following decades. This mill often would run day and night when the water flow was high. However times changed and in 1929 the mill was demolished to provide a site for a new school. At this time Dundas Falls was reconfigured to its present shape including the construction of a large wall to separate Spencer Creek from the new school property (to prevent flooding at the school).

The actual structure of Dundas Falls is considered manmade, however over it flows the natural waters of Spencer Creek, the same water which flows over Webster's Falls in Greensville.

The following photo of Dundas Falls was taken after a few weeks of no rain and thus shows it at low flow.



Teacher's Corner

The Giant's Rib has Niagara Escarpment Posters available to teachers at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre. They are suitable for mounting in your classrooms. Pick them up at the Trail Centre on any weekend. – no charge.

If you are doing any special things on rocks and minerals that you would like to share with other teachers, submit your ideas to us and we will convey them to others through our monthly newsletter.

Teacher's Kit Available

The Giant's Rib is able to provide teachers of Grade 4 with a guide and resource package on "ROCKS AND MINERALS" based on the Ontario Science and Technology Curriculum. There will be no costs to schools or teachers because this project is sponsored by TD FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION.

If you are interested or know teachers who would be interested in receiving this package please contact **Ken Hall** at **905-627-1320**.

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**

Please consider the environment. Don't print this newsletter unless you really need to.

But please feel free to share this newsletter with others via e-mail.