

The Giant's Rib

Dedicated 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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The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre presents the Fourth Annual

Giant's Rib Summer Solstice



The perfect way to welcome the Summer of 2010!

Silent Auction, Wine and Cheese, Music on the Patio, Art Show, Presentations, Fun with Friends - and a chance to witness a glorious sunset over the Niagara Escarpment!

Tickets available from the GRDC [Directors](#) \$50 each (includes a \$35 tax receipt) or e-mail Stan Nowak. The event begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Parks Canada Discovery Centre, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton.

Further details pending. Keep your calendar open!

The Giant's Rib presents

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly announces the next presentation of the 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 - Sunday, April 18:

Fossils of the Niagara Escarpment

with Peter Russell, Curator, Earth and Environmental Science Museum, University of Waterloo

Peter Russell was born in Leeds, England where he became interested in rocks and minerals as a child visiting the Yorkshire Dales and coastline. He apprenticed at the University of Leeds as a geological technician before landing a job at the University of Waterloo in 1967. Peter started work as a lab technician, progressed to draftsman and finally administrative assistant and museum curator. Peter retired from the university in 1996. He continues to work as the Earth Sciences Curator. Peter co-published a book titled "Manitoulin Rocks! Rocks, Fossils and Landscape of Manitoulin Island in 2006. The University of Waterloo conferred the title of "Honorary Member of the University" at the June 1999 convocation to Peter for his work on public awareness of science. He also received the Ward Neale Medal of the Geological Association of Canada in May 2004 for his public awareness activities. Peter installed a rock garden on campus, which is now named for him. Peter's hobbies include photography, rock collecting, sketching, travel and encouraging his five grandchildren. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions following the presentation

Upcoming presentations

Sunday, May 16: [The Bruce Coast Lighthouses](#)
Betty McKillop, President, Bruce County Light House Association

Sunday, June 6: [The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake](#)
Sean Liipere, Communications Officer and Species-at-Risk Technician, Bruce Peninsula National Park

****PLEASE NOTE:****

All presentations this season will be held at the **PARKS CANADA DISCOVERY CENTRE**, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton. The Parks Canada Discovery Centre is located one block from Parks Canada's HMCS Haida National Historic Site, on the harbour in the city of Hamilton. The Centre is wheelchair accessible. To get there, head north on James Street (towards the waterfront) and follow it until it ends at Guise Street; turn right at Guise Street, then turn left at Discovery Drive (at the mast).

For full directions, please visit: http://www.pc.gc.ca/canada/decouvertes-decouvertes-discovery/itm1/index_E.asp

There are no parking fees, but there is a charge of \$2.90 for admission to the Discovery Centre. Refreshments will be provided during a get-together with Beth Kümmling after the presentation. Donations are welcome and appreciated. All presentations will be held Sunday afternoons of the noted date starting at 2:00 p.m.

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 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Park entrance fee is a \$3.00 per person, or a maximum \$6.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12.

For April:

Ornithology - The Study of Birds

featuring the art of Robert Curry and Tom Thomas

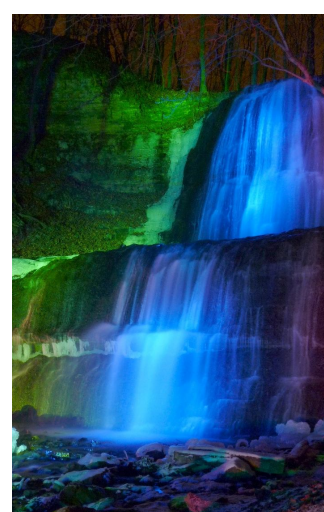
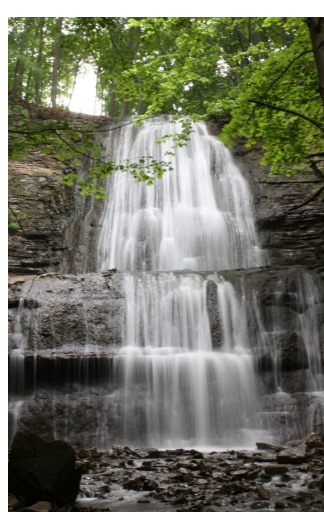
Our upcoming art exhibition explores the illustrious birding history and diverse bird population of the Niagara Escarpment region. In 1866, the first annotated provincial bird book in Canada was published by a Hamiltonian, Thomas McLlraith. Our exhibit of images will depict early artifacts, noteworthy contributors, the changing manner of birding, sites, past and present. Special thanks to **Robert Curry**, publisher of "Birds of Hamilton and Surrounding Areas", for providing the historical images and invaluable knowledge; and **Tom Thomas**, co-ordinator of The Christmas Bird Count, Naturalist, and contributor of his wonderful local bird photography.

PLEASE NOTE: All monthly exhibits will still be featured at The Dundas Valley Trail Centre. There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.

For further information: Artistic Director Nancy Hauser nancyclarkehauser@gmail.com or Stan Nowak, basil.cottage@sympatico.ca

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

Sherman Falls, also known as Smith's Falls, Whitton Falls, Fairy Falls or Angel Falls, is located on Ancaster Creek in the Ancaster section of Hamilton. It is a terraced ribbon falls with a height of 17 m (56 ft.) and a width of 8 m (26 ft.). The waterfall has been known by many names depending on who owned the property at the time such as the Smith, Whitton and Sherman families. The Sherman family founded the Dominion Foundries and Steel Co. (Dofasco) in 1912 and it is the Sherman name that most people now use when referring to this waterfall. Sherman Falls is located on private property, however the Bruce Trail crosses in front of it, thus public viewing is possible. From Ancaster, follow Wilson St. towards Hamilton and turn left onto Montgomery Rd. Then turn right onto Old Dundas Rd. and follow it to the first three way Stop intersection. Go straight onto Lions Club Rd. and park on the gravel shoulder. Sherman Falls can be reached by following the Bruce Trail 200m upstream of the intersection. Sherman Falls is one of Hamilton's most spectacular waterfalls at any time of the year and is well worth visiting in every season. This waterfall takes on a magical angelic or fairy like appearance, thus the alternate names of Fairy Falls or Angel Falls. Attached are two photos of Sherman Falls, the first one taken in summer and the second in winter at night under coloured spotlights (the lights were provided by the www.cityofwaterfalls.ca group led by Chris Ecklund)



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 - at 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.

Check out www.mineralogicalassociation.ca/poster to get a free poster on the Minerals of Canada. This poster has been designed for teachers and students exploring curricula related to rocks and minerals. With the poster you can explain several properties of minerals: luster, cleavage, colour, crystal form and iridescence.

Looking for a guest presenter for your class? Try **Ruth Nicholson**, U.E. B.A. B. Ed., President, Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. She is a former Halton elementary school teacher and is now doing Loyalist/Pioneer educational presentations suitable for Grade 3 to Grade 7 classes. Ruth is an excellent speaker, appears in costume and brings numerous pioneer artifacts with her. There is no cost to schools for her presentations. Ruth can be reached at 905-689-7554 or at ruth.nicholson@sympatico.ca

The Toronto Zoo has produced a Turtle Conservation Curriculum Resource Guide for Educators. It is based on the Ontario curriculum and contains materials suitable for Grades 1 to 7. Each of the first 6 Units begins with a table describing the Science Expectations met within the Unit.

To receive this curriculum resource contact **Erin Nadeau**, Adopt A Pond Coordinator, 361 Old Finch Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario, M1B 5K7 Tel. 416-392-5999 Fax: 416-392-4979 E-Mail: aap@toronyozoo.ca

If you are interested or know teachers who would be interested in this information, please contact **Ken Hall** at 905-627-1320 or at kenjoan75@sympatico.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**

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.