

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
March 2011

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 5, Issue 3

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is now on Facebook! Visit our website and look for the link:  Login with Facebook
or use the link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Giants-Rib-Discovery-Centre/173267026030262?v=wall>
for the latest news and updates.

The Giant's Rib presents:

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre announces the return of the winter edition of the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series, starting in February 2011.

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, March 6, 2011

Battles Along the Niagara Escarpment during the War of 1812

with James E. Elliott – Author of Award Winning Strange Fatality, The Battle of Stoney Creek, 1813



Author **James Elliott** will discuss the battles that took place along the Niagara Escarpment from Queenston to Stoney Creek during the War of 1812, including the pivotal battle of June 6th, 1813 in Stoney Creek, an intense military struggle that stemmed the tide of American invasion in what became one of the most decisive

reversals of military fortune of the War of 1812 that greatly determined the fate of Upper Canada.

James Elliott is a local journalist and author who has written extensively on the War of 1812 on subjects ranging from the Bloody Assizes to the Burlington Races - and most recently on The Battle of Stoney Creek. Mr. Elliott lives with his wife, Irene, in Hamilton - just four miles from the historic Stoney Creek battlefield. Strange Fatality, The Battle of Stoney Creek, 1813 will be on sale during this presentation.

For further information on Mr. Elliott's book, please visit www.strangefatality.com



Photo by Irene Reinhold

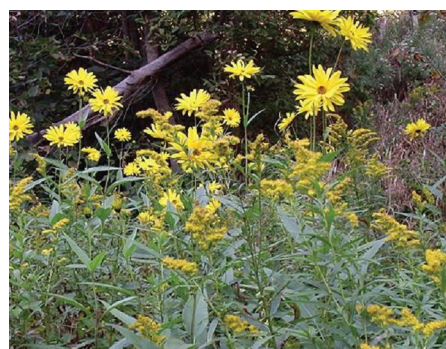
Please note that presentations will continue to be held on Sunday afternoons, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., at the former Parks Canada Discovery Centre on 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton, now administered by the Hamilton Waterfront Trust. Parking is free, but there is an admission charge of a toonie (\$2.00) for the presentation.

For further information:

Kenneth Hall (kenjoan75@sympatico.ca), Stan Nowak (basil.cottage@sympatico.ca).

Upcoming Presentations for the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series:

April 10, 2011 The Ugly but Beautiful Turkey Vultures of the Niagara Escarpment
Christopher Hamilton, Conservation Hamilton



May 15, 2011 Discovering the Spring Wildflowers in Hamilton's Natural Areas
Dean Gugler, Hamilton Naturalists' Club

The Literal Rib

We hope you will enjoy this new feature for the Giant's Rib Newsletter. We will regularly present a review of a book that highlights the cultural and / or natural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment.

Whenever possible, the review will focus on a recent publication produced by the featured Bruce Duncan Series speaker for that month

This month, a press release from last Fall commends our upcoming speaker James Elliott's recent publication on the Battle of Stoney Creek. This book will be on sale at our next presentation.

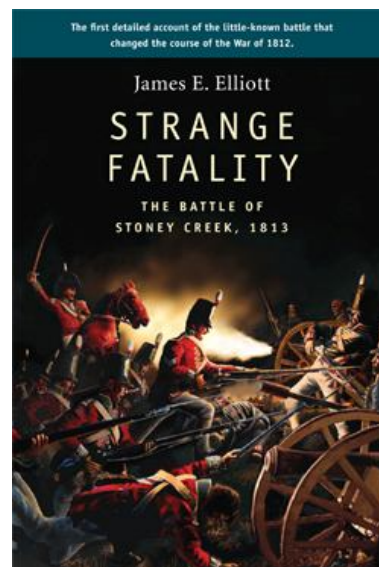
War of 1812 battle history wins Hamilton book award

James Elliott's acclaimed War of 1812 book, *Strange Fatality*, won the non-fiction book prize in the 17th Annual Hamilton Literary Awards.

The award was made November 15, 2010 by Arts Hamilton in a ceremony at Theatre Aquarius.

Elliott's study of the Battle of Stoney Creek has been widely praised on both sides of the border for showing how an obscure, largely-forgotten action in June 1813 changed the course of the war and quite likely saved the future province of Ontario.

A Hamilton-based journalist and writer, Elliott spent more than five years researching and writing the book. His revelations on the neglect of soldiers' remains on the battlefield were instrumental in convincing municipal politicians to approve a major recovery and reinternment project set for next year. Published by Robin Brass Studio in Montreal, *Strange Fatality* is now in its third printing.



The Giant's 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 different 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.

Please note that the Park entrance fee is now \$4.00 per person (walk-in or bicycle), or \$7.00 per car.

There is still no admission fee for children under 12.

There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.

For further information: Artistic Director Nancy Clarke Hauser nancyclarkehauser@gmail.com

For the Month of March 2011:

Up Close and Personal, photographic works by Paul Wright

Paul Wright has been taking photos for over 30 years, 29 years with 35mm film - and just started working with digital images last June

His professional experience includes commercial work for insurance companies and sporting event photography, including boat and bicycle races.

Paul has a Fine Arts diploma from Mohawk College and has been employed for over 35 years at the Hamilton Conservation Authority as an Assistant Superintendent for the Dundas Valley.



Paul takes most of his photographs within 5 kilometres of Dundas from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. or from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. He uses a Nikon d 90 camera and an 18-105 lens or 80-400 lens.

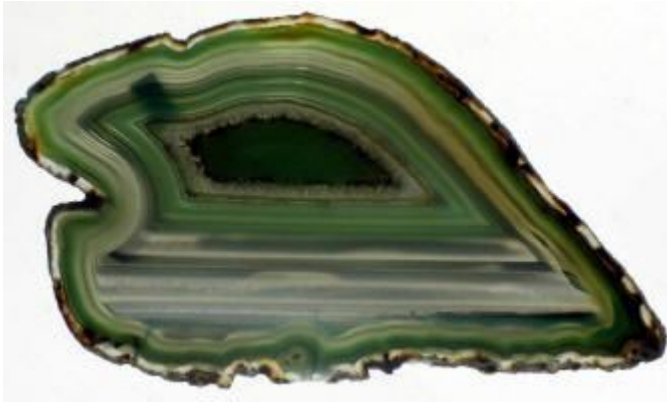
Paul's multi-media exhibition will showcase still photographs that will be available for purchase during the month of March.

**Saturdays and Sundays 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area**

Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

Rocks For Kids is the website about rocks and minerals written for kids with most links to kid-friendly rock information on the web.



This site is for kids of all ages who love rocks. Here you will find out stuff about rocks and minerals and where to go to find out more.

If you already collect rocks then this is the place for you! Find out where you can get more rocks, look at some super pictures of rocks, and learn how to identify the rocks you already have and discover neat things you can do with rocks.

If you are doing a school project on rocks and minerals, you will find things here that you can use. There is a Rocks and Minerals School Visit Program. All of this information is based on the Ontario Grade 4 Rocks and Minerals Curriculum.



www.rocksforkids.com



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

Please note that past items from "Teachers' Corner" are available at www.giantsrib.ca in the Newsletters section.

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

The **Hermitage Cascade**, sometimes called Hermitage Falls, is a Classic Cascade type waterfall located on a Sulphur Creek tributary in Ancaster. It is one of Hamilton's smaller waterfalls, having a height of only 4 m (13 ft.) and a width of 5 m (17 ft.). However, it does have year round flow and is worth a visit due to its beauty, easy access and the unique history of the Hermitage ruins on this property.

In 1853, George Leith purchased the Hermitage property and the Hermitage mansion was built in 1855 as a summer home. The property remained in the Leith family until 1902 when it was purchased by Alma Dick-Lauder, but unfortunately the house was destroyed by fire in 1934. A portion of the property (which includes the ruins and gatehouse) was purchased by the Hamilton Conservation Authority in 1972 and turned into a conservation area.

There is a parking lot at the entrance (with a parking fee) and from there visitors can explore this property with its trails, ruins (which have been stabilized), the gatehouse and of course the waterfall.

From Hwy 403 up bound, take the Lincoln Alexander Parkway exit and keep to the right to merge onto Rousseau Street. Continue along Rousseau to the T junction and turn left onto Wilson Street. Then, at a set of traffic lights turn right onto Sulphur Springs Road, then turn right again at the 3-way Stop intersection and continue along Sulphur Springs Road. The Hermitage parking lot is on the right side about 2 km, just before the intersection at Mineral Springs Road.

The Hermitage Cascade is situated at the Hermitage ruins property on the creek located beside the entrance to the parking lot, between the Gatehouse and Sulphur Springs Road.



Joe Hollick is the GRDC's Waterfalls of the Niagara Escarpment Research Coordinator. He has prepared an audio-visual show of the Waterfalls of Hamilton which is suitable for classroom presentation at any Grade level where water, watersheds or the Niagara Escarpment is being studied.

Contact Joe at **905-628-3132** or at joehollick@sympatico.ca to arrange a presentation for your class.



Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2011

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Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Executive of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is looking for volunteers who wish to assume leadership roles with an organization that strives to educate the public on the need to preserve our Niagara Escarpment as a World Biosphere Reserve.

If you are such a person, please contact **Ken Hall** at **905-627-1320** or at kenjoan75@sympatico.ca

You will learn more about the goals and objectives of the Giant's Rib and also have the opportunity to express what skills and talents you could offer to help the organization achieve its present undertakings and to move forward in new directions.

Come on and join our Team! We hope to hear from you!

***Please consider the environment.
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But please feel free to share your newsletter with others via e-mail.