

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
April 2011

www.giantsrib.ca
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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, April 10, 2011

The Ugly but Beautiful Turkey Vultures of the Niagara Escarpment

with Christopher Hamilton, Conservation Hamilton



Chris Hamilton is a long-time Burlington resident with a passion for the Niagara Escarpment and its preservation. Since childhood, he has been hiking the trails and exploring the caves at Mount Nemo Conservation Area, and it is there his interest in turkey vultures was peaked.

He has researched and observed these unique birds since 2004, and considers himself fortunate to have spent a season observing and photographing a venue of vultures in 2006.

Chris is a nature photographer specializing in the Niagara Escarpment and its conservation areas in Halton and Hamilton. Much of his work can be seen on the interpretive panels in the Dundas Valley Trail Centre – home of the GRDC – and on the Hamilton Conservation Authority's website. Chris is currently the Community Information Officer for the HCA, and often speaks to the public about the role and importance of conservation in our communities.



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 Presentation for the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series:

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.

Copies of this book are available at Bryan Prince Bookseller, Coles and Chapters.

The Niagara Escarpment, From Niagara Falls To Tobermory

Photography by Sandy Bell, Vic MacBournie & John MacRae

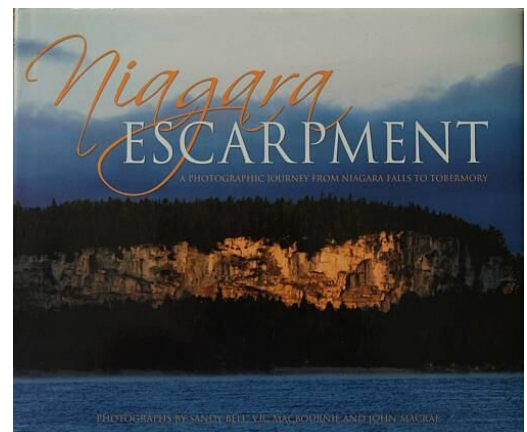
Publisher, James Lorimer



Local photographers John MacRae, Sandy Bell and Vic MacBournie

The Niagara Escarpment stretches more than 700 kilometers from Niagara Falls, through Hamilton, to Tobermory on the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, before dipping under Georgian Bay. Designated a United Nations World Biosphere Reserve in 1990, the meandering ridge is home to over 300 bird species and countless wildlife, many of Ontario's rare plant species, and the oldest old growth forest east of the Rocky Mountains. The Bruce Trail, the pre-eminent walking trail in southern Ontario, winds along its length.

The photographs of **Sandy Bell, Vic MacBournie** and **John MacRae**, taken from more than 70 points south to north, show the Escarpment in all its variety, moods and seasons. Providing background on the protection of the escarpment - and the continuing demands for resource extraction and urban expansion - is an introductory essay by Joan Little, a resident and friend of the Escarpment who has worked with citizen and government groups to preserve its unique features.



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 April 2011:

What's That Flower? Photographic works by Dean Gugler



Dean Gugler has been searching out and trying to identify wild flowers for over 60 years, with the last 45 years being spent primarily in the Hamilton region. He has belonged to the Hamilton Naturalists Club for most of those 45 years and spent them, at first, learning about the local wild flowers and then, for the last 30 years, passing the information along to others on wild flower walks. He has volunteered for 12 years in the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens and spent thousands of hours in the forests and fields of the RBG grounds and the Dundas Valley. He has found wild flowers in bloom

during every month of the year, even during the depths of winter, and has discovered two species never before seen in the area.

Although not a professional photographer, he has enjoyed photographing wild flowers and other natural objects and has participated in slide shows in Italy, Malta, the U.S.A. and various places in Canada. After shooting for years with a Pentax SLR, he moved to digital and wore out several cameras. Photos in the current show were taken either with a Fujifilm FinePix 9100 or a Canon PowerShot G11.

The photographic prints in the show will be available for sale and, hopefully, a book with those photos, and more, will be available before the end of the April show. Check out what flowers are currently blooming, all through the year, at www.deanswildflowers.com. Dean has updated the site, almost weekly, since it started in 1997.



Please note: Dean Gugler is the guest speaker for April's Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series on Sunday, May 15, 2011: Discovering the Spring Wildflowers in Hamilton's Natural Areas.

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



The **Westfield Heritage Village** is an interesting place to take your class for a full day field trip. The village offers a stunning collection of 35 historical buildings which has made it one of the most interesting historical destinations in Ontario. Carefully restored and staffed with costumed interpreters, the buildings capture the true charm and spirit of early Canadian culture. Visitors may witness living history demonstrations and take part in guided tours of the 130 hectare site which is bordered by beautiful woodlands, meadows and trails. Westfield offers many hands-on, curriculum driven programs and can create unique educational adventures that suit the needs of your class.

Special Programs



The Sweet Taste of Spring Gr. K – 6

Discover a truly unique Canadian Spring tradition and join the maple syrup harvest, learning modern and historical production techniques. Beginning in March and available until syrup stops running

A Child's Village: Gr. K – 6

Students will learn what life was like in an 1800s village by visiting homes and schools and becoming an apprentice to the tradesmen. Available all year

Down on the Farm: Gr. K – 6

Become part of the pioneer community – children experience first-hand life on the early Ontario farm. Available all year, but best suited for April and June.

The Trail to Brant's Ford: Gr. K – 6

Discover the fur trade, native folk lore and everyday life in the 19th century, through hands-on activities and the taste of fresh bannock. Available Spring and Fall.

To book a program, contact Westfield Heritage Village at **1-800-833-0104**. Check out their web- page at www.westfieldheritage.ca



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.

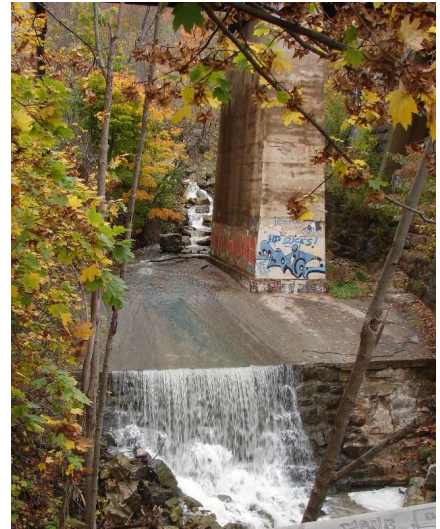
Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Lower Sydenham Falls was featured on a vintage post card dating back to 1909 (courtesy of Councilor Russ Powers) and then it was called Sydenham Ravine, Dundas.



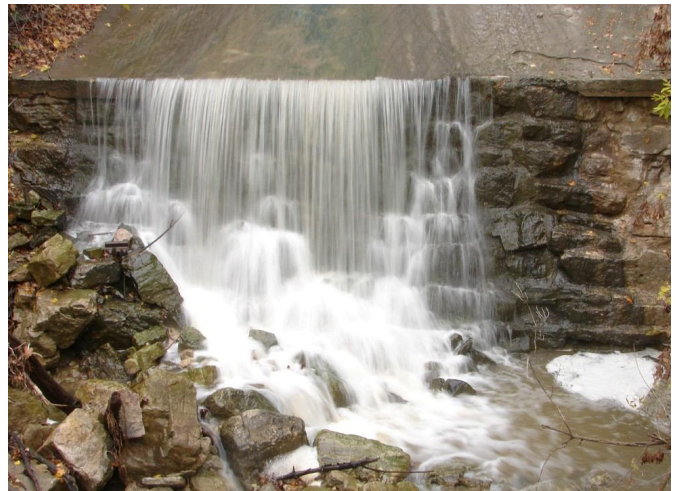
Attached are pictures of this post card (left) and a current picture (right) taken in 2006 showing the same area and taken from the same vantage point, a wooden bridge which crosses the Sydenham Creek. In 1909, this bridge was used by the Great Western Railway for one railway track. Most likely someone riding the train saw this lovely ravine, took a picture and it was made into this post card. Today this bridge is used by the Bruce Trail as a walking trail. The railway has been moved upwards and slightly northwards and the graffiti



covered concrete column supports the new bridge which accommodates two railway tracks. In constructing the new bridge and supports, the Sydenham Creek was rebuilt, thus the original Sydenham Ravine now has a man-made component to it with a sloping concrete slab and a rebuilt waterfall face.

Lower Sydenham Falls is considered a complex classic falls. Its height is 4 m and its width is 4m. This waterfall does dry up thus to catch it with water flowing, it is best to visit after a rainfall or during the winter snow melt.

To visit Lower Sydenham Falls, follow Hwy #5 westward from Clappison Corners (junction of Hwy #6) and turn left onto Sydenham Rd. to Dundas. At the bottom of the escarpment turn right onto the first road, Livingstone Dr. and park on the side of the road in front of Cascades Park. At the north end of the park, follow the Bruce Trail to the old railway bridge and the waterfall is located beside it.



Joe Hollick is the GRDC's Waterfalls of the Niagara Escarpment Research Coordinator and has developed a presentation of the Waterfalls of Hamilton.

If interested in having Joe present this to your group, please contact him at **905-628-3132** or at joehollick@sympatico.ca

Activities on The Giant's Rib



Bruce Trail Hiking 101 Learn how to hike.

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club is offering a Hiker Initiation Program in the Spring of 2011 for those people who would like to know more about hiking the beautiful trails of Southern Ontario.



It will begin with a classroom session on Monday May 9, 2011 at 7PM. This will be held at Tumblehome Source for Adventure (401 Brant St. Burlington). Experienced hike leaders will teach the essentials so that you will have safe, enjoyable hiking experiences.

A shopping experience at the same location with knowledgeable staff on hand, will be offered for those who are interested, on the same evening following the classroom session.

And finally, on Saturday, May 14, 2011 starting at 10:00 AM, an experienced hike leader will lead you on a scenic hike of the Bruce Trail in Lowville.

You are required to register for the program. For more information or to register, please contact Linda Tiley at 905-627-4150 or lindatiley@hotmail.com.

For further information on activities offered by the Iroquoia Bruce Trail club go to www.iroquoia.on.ca

Golden Horseshoe Orienteering Club



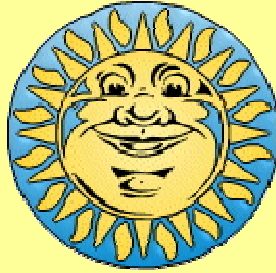
Giant's Rib Raid - Adventure Running

If you would like to test your physical endurance and experience the Niagara Escarpment up close and personal at the same time this is the event for you. The 2011 edition of the Raid will be held on April 9 at Albion Hills Conservation Area near Bolton. Registration closes April 5.

For details go to www.dontgetlost.ca

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly presents
the Upcoming Fifth Annual

Giant's Rib Summer Solstice



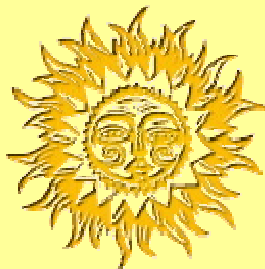
This is the perfect way to welcome the Summer of 2011!
This year, at a new venue with new activities!



Sunset on the Niagara Escarpment at Summer Solstice 2010

The date is the First Day of Summer:

Tuesday, June 21st, 2011



Details will be available in your May Newsletter.
Keep your calendar open!

Editor's Note



Last month's presentation of our Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series brought together a fascinating combination of cultural and natural heritage as author James Elliott discussed the "Battles Along the Niagara Escarpment during the War of 1812".

Afterwards, many of you inquired about upcoming events that our numerous local heritage associations are hosting and planning.

There are far too many events to list here, but I've done the next best thing and have listed the websites and contact information of our local volunteer heritage societies and associations that thrive in the City of Hamilton, including the Dundas Valley Historical Society, of which I am currently President.

Ancaster Township Historical Society
www.ancasterhistory.ca

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
e-mail: Ken Coit kcoit@cogeco.ca

Arts Hamilton
www.artshamilton.ca

Beach Canal Lighthouse Group (BCLG)
www.bclg.ca

Beverly Heritage Society & Archives
Contact: Vi Collins (905) 385-7946

Canadian Club of Hamilton
www.canadianclubofhamilton.ca

Dundas Valley Historical Society
www.DundasHistory.ca

Friends of Battlefield House Museum & Park
e-mail: battlefield@hamilton.ca

Friends of Westfield Inc.
e-mail: Aline Chan alinchan@cogeco.ca

Glanbrook Heritage Society
www.glanbrookheritage.ca

Hamilton Folk Arts Heritage Council
www.hamiltonfolkarts.org

Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society
www.headofthelake.ca

MacNab Circle
e-mail: srleslie@sourcecable.net

Ontario Archaeological Society
e-mail: exec@oasnet.ca

Ontario Genealogical Society, Hamilton Branch
www.ogs.on.ca/hamilton

Sir John A. Macdonald Society
www.hamiltonhistory.ca

Stoney Creek Historical Society
www.stoneycreekhistoricalsociety.701.com

United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada, Hamilton Branch
www.uel-hamilton.ca

Waterdown East Flamborough Heritage Society
www.wefhs.hamilton.ca

Women's Art Association of Hamilton
Contact: Marjolaine Richardson (905) 679-4289

I sincerely thank you all for your interest and hope this will assist many of you in attending any upcoming events and perhaps becoming actively involved with your local heritage association!

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,

Stan Nowak
Publicity and Communications Director, Giant's Rib Discovery Centre
President, Dundas Valley Historical Society

The Giants' Rib Discovery Centre

Volunteer Recognition Award for Spring 2011

The Board of Directors of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly announces the first recipients of this new quarterly Volunteer Award of Recognition as the husband and wife team of

Stan and Sue Worthington



Since its inception, Stan and Sue have consistently devoted their time and energy as dedicated volunteers to the smooth operation of The Giants' Rib facility at the Trail Centre located in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

Having both spent their careers in the field of education and teaching, their experiences translate easily to engage the interest - and answer the queries - of all Trail Centre visitors.

Over the years, they have donated time and materials for construction and installation of items for use at the Trail Centre, such as the Art Exhibit easels and, most recently the office storage cubbies.

The Worthingtons are residents of Dundas with a prominent view of "The Dundas Peak" from their doorstep.

It is because of their enthusiasm to share their time and interest in promoting the Niagara Escarpment that we acknowledge Stan and Sue with this award of recognition.

**Congratulations and Sincerest Thanks
from the Board of Directors of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!**



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

William Edwards Web-Site Administrator
Kenneth Hall President, Co-ordinator, Friends of the Giant's Rib,
Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series, & Research
Nancy Clarke Hauser Arts Program Co-ordinator, Trail Centre Manager
Joseph Hollick Secretary & Co-ordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research,
Site and Building Development
Ernie Kuechmeister Recognition Program Co-ordinator
Jack Lee Chair, Education Committee & Liaison Coordinator with Affiliated Groups
Dr. John MacRae Treasurer, Director of Audio-Visual Presentations
Mike McCallion Co-ordinator of Funding Applications
Stan Nowak Publicity and Communications Director
Danya Scime Co-ordinator of Special Events

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.
Don't print this Newsletter unless you really need to.***

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