

# The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor  
June 2011

[www.giantsrib.ca](http://www.giantsrib.ca)  
Volume 6, Issue 6

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 Discovery Centre proudly presents Our Fifth Annual

## Giant's Rib Summer Solstice



This Year's Summer Solstice venue: the Lakeview Banquet Centre on 180 Van Wagner's Beach Road in Hamilton

Please note that this year's Giant's Rib Summer Solstice gala event  
has been SOLD OUT.

*This evening will include:*

*A delicious meal prepared by Carmen's  
Spectacular Panoramic Views*

*Live and Silent Auctions  
Sun Setting, Stars Shining*

*Local Entertainment and special guests The Hamilton Amateur Astronomers Club  
joining our evening with telescopes for our viewing pleasure!*

*On a clear night, Venus and Mars will be visible as well as the rings of Saturn!*

*Thank you to all who purchased tickets! We'll see you on the 21st!*

# The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

...wil I return in the fall.

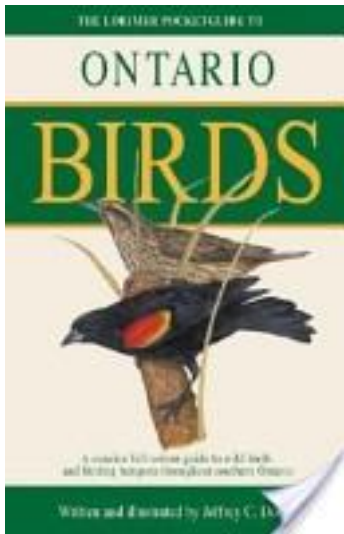
## *The Literal Rib*

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.

## The Lorimer Pocket Guide to Ontario Birds

Written and illustrated by Jeffery C. Domm  
James Lorimer and Company Limited, Publisher



This is a concise and full colour guide to wild birds and birding hotspots throughout Southern Ontario.

Jeffery C. Domm has had a lifelong interest in nature and wildlife. Over the past two decades he has illustrated more than 20 wildlife books, including Toronto Birds, London Birds, Kitchener – Waterloo Birds and Hamilton Birds. He lives and works close to the shores of Halifax in the village of Cowboy, Nova Scotia.

There are 225 birds identified in this book. Key information on each bird includes a full colour illustration, observation calendar, identifying features, silhouette showing size, nesting location and egg in full colour.

A visual bird index, arranged by size and colour, makes it easy to match the bird you see with its descriptive page in this book.

A section is also included featuring 100 of the best places for spotting birds in Ontario. Each spot is listed with directions and a map. These locations have been selected by birder and conservationist, Ted Cheskey. He is the coordinator of the important Bird Area Program for Ontario Nature.

"Domm's beautiful illustrations are complemented with information on size identification, foot type, flight characteristics, feeding technique and nesting location."

"...provides the reader with an easy way to quickly identify a bird."

"...is a valuable resource for those who enjoy watching birds."

- N. Glenn Perrett, author, animal welfare activist.

"Geared to novice birders, although veterans will also enjoy it, here's just the guide you need to help identify that black streak that just dive-bombed you because you came too close to its nest ....relying more on visual aids than wordy descriptions, the book is user-friendly for field use."

"Identifying birds accurately can be difficult but with this practical guide, packed with tips, the challenge comes much easier and all the more rewarding."

This book is available in Hamilton at **Bryan Prince Bookseller**, 1060 King Street West, 905-528 4508, [www.princebooks.net](http://www.princebooks.net)

*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](mailto:nancyclarkehauser@gmail.com)

**For the Month of June 2011:**

## **Watercolours Inspired by the Dundas Valley**

**Featuring the Art of Ursula (Uschi) Vielkind**

*"I grew up on an estate where I was exposed to animals and plants of all kinds. From my early childhood on, I had two major interests: the natural world around me and the desire to recreate it on paper. At the age of five, for example, I drew in great detail all the animals I had recently seen in a circus - and I am in the fortunate position that these early artistic attempts are still in my possession.*

*My dream was to become a scientific illustrator - hence, I studied biology. Instead I became a scientist working in the laboratory. Unfortunately, this didn't leave me any time to pursue my artistic inclinations.*

*When moving to Dundas 20 years ago, I discovered the Dundas Valley School of Art (DVSA) and started taking evening classes. I did so mainly as a form of relaxation, but I was also curious to see what was left of the artistic part of myself. What you see in this show is the result of classes taken during the years 1990 to 1995.*

*Over the years, I sold most of my watercolors and drawings at the 'DVSA Art Auction', the 'Art in the Yard' event during the Dundas Cactus Festival, or to private individuals. After changing my career from lab scientist to freelance biomedical translator, I haven't painted a single piece. But I am thinking of soon going back to classes at the DVSA ..."*



**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

This summer the Hamilton Conservation Authority is running a series of one-day mini camps called **Adventures in the Valley**, for boys and girls age 6 to 9. Each day includes fun-filled games, activities and a take home craft.

The programs will be held in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governors Road, Dundas.

## Dates (Fridays) and Programs

July 8: Nature Sense – Smell, taste, touch and hear your way through a fun filled day. Find out how different animals use their senses in amazing ways.

July 15: Young Explorers- Focus on the natural world of the Dundas Valley. Discover how the creatures that live here connect to each other.

July 22: Habitat Heroes – Find out why conserving habitat is important to maintaining balance in nature. Help out with a conservation project.

August 5: Sky Hunters – Learn about raptor adaptations and the natural communities where they live. Discover other airborne predators in the valley

August 12: Magical Metamorphosis - The Valley is filled with all kinds of small creatures that start life as one thing and end up as something different.

August 19: Nutty for Nature – Share your appreciation of the great outdoors with fellow nature nuts. Hike, make a craft, and explore plants and much more.

There is also a Junior Conservationist program for boys and girls age 10 –12

Dates (Tuesdays) and Programs:

July 12, Becoming a Naturalist

July 26, Species at Risk

August 9, Outdoor Skills

August 23, Habitat Restoration

For more information, contact Beth Stormont at [bethdvca@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:bethdvca@conservationhamilton.ca) or at 905- 627-1233.



The Toronto Zoo has produced a **Turtle Conservation Curriculum Resource Guide for Teachers**. It contains six units with educational activities - Turtles of Ontario, Turtle Biology, Turtle Ecology, Ethics and Culture, Turtle Conservation and Additional Resources. A seventh unit reviews the Ontario Curriculum Expectation and lists the Science Expectations of each activity in the booklet.

If you would like this educational package, please contact the Adopt-A-Pond Coordinator at 416-392 -5999 or at [aap@torontozoo.ca](mailto:aap@torontozoo.ca) .



If you would like some active involvement in turtle preservation you are welcome to join a citizens group called the **Dundas Turtle Watch**. This group has been organized to help protect the turtles in the Cootes Paradise region of Hamilton Harbour. Many of these turtles are killed attempting to cross local roads during the mating, egg laying and egg hatching seasons. Members of the Dundas Turtle Watch walk these roads at specific times to move turtles to safe places while identifying types and recording such things as size of turtles, site locations, egg nests and road kills.

For more information contact the Dundas Turtle Watch at [dundasturtlewatch@hwc.org](mailto:dundasturtlewatch@hwc.org) .

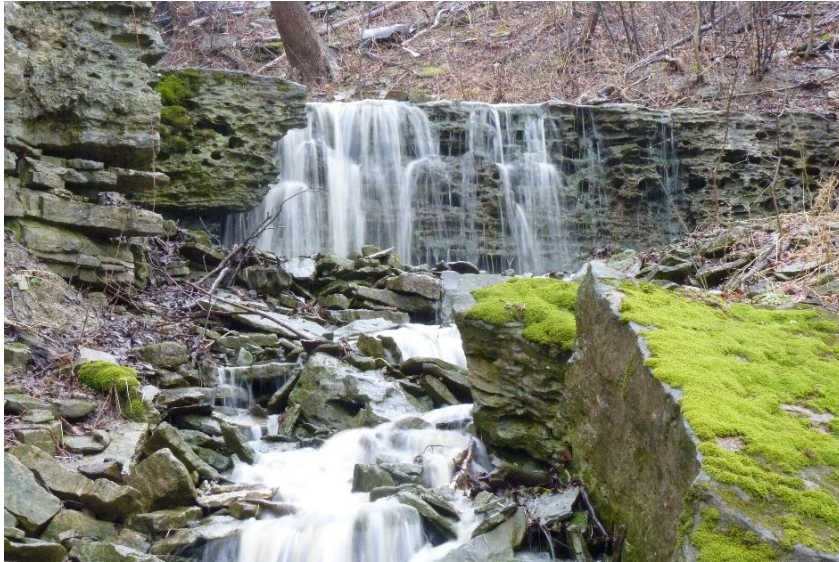
**If you know teachers or anyone else who would be interested in this information, contact Ken Hall at 905-627-1320 or at [kenjoan75@sympatico.ca](mailto:kenjoan75@sympatico.ca)**  
**Please note that past items from “Teachers’ Corner” are available at [www.giantsrib.ca](http://www.giantsrib.ca) in the Newsletters section.**

# Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

**McNeilly West Falls** (also called West McNeilly Falls) was featured in the Hamilton Spectator Classified page on May 10, 2011, thus readers may wish to learn more about this waterfall as it can be quite picturesque.

McNeilly West Falls actually has two separate drop sections which are very close together connected by a short cascade section but the two drops cannot be photographed together, thus the two pictures featured here are required to show the entire waterfall.



Its total height is 6 m (20 ft.). The crest width at the upper drop is 5.2 m while the second or lower drop has a width of 8.2m however the majority of the flow is on the left side through a narrow opening. This waterfall does dry up often and has flow normally after heavy rains or during the winter snow melt. Its catchment area is primarily some farmers' fields on top of the Niagara Escarpment. This waterfall is located on an unnamed creek west of McNeilly Rd. in the Vinemount section of east Stoney Creek.

To visit McNeilly West Falls, there is parking on McNeilly Rd. on the east shoulder for a couple vehicles at the hairpin turn located half way up (or down) the Niagara Escarpment at the Bruce Trail crossing. Follow the Bruce Trail on the west side of McNeilly Rd. to the second ravine (about 200 – 300m away), then follow that ravine up the escarpment about 30 m to the waterfall.

Happy waterfalling!



---

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

If you're interested in having Joe present this to your group, please contact him at **905-628-3132** or at [joehollick@sympatico.ca](mailto:joehollick@sympatico.ca)



# **The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre**

## **Volunteer Recognition Award for Summer 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly presents  
the latest Quarterly Volunteer Award of Recognition to

**George Koblyk**



George Koblyk is a former Giant's Rib board member who helped outfit our room at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre and design our brochure.

A retired Mohawk College psychology teacher, George has a Master's degree in Geography from McMaster University and regards volunteering for the Rib as returning to his roots. He particularly enjoys explaining the geological development of the Niagara Escarpment to visitors at the Centre, and helping children craft the fossil medallions.

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



## Your 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](mailto: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.***