

# The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor  
September 2011

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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 for all the latest news and updates.

## The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre announces the return of the fall edition of this year's 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.

The First Presentation of this Season: Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

## The Wonders of Long Point, one of Canada's World Biosphere Reserves

with STUART MACKENZIE – Land Bird Program Coordinator for the Long Point Bird Observatory

Stuart Mackenzie will provide an intriguing overview of operations at this famous birding hotspot in Lake Erie, providing us with insight into the importance, role and functioning of Long Point Bird Observatory and Bird Studies Canada. His presentation will include a number of photographs of the birds and scenery of the area. Bird Studies Canada is a not-for-profit research organization funded by a number of entities, including the Canadian Wildlife Service.



The Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO), founded in 1960, was the first organization of its type in North America. As a non-profit, research and monitoring station, LPBO is committed to involving Canadians in research directed at the conservation of wild birds and their habitats. The programs at Long Point are focused on local breeding and migratory birds, with a special interest in promoting the participation of amateurs and volunteers. *"We believe that many people working together can accomplish a great deal more than could a few professionals working alone".*

Long Point is a 32-kilometre-long sand spit which extends at an angle into Lake Erie. The area includes an incredible diversity of habitats, including extensive forests—both coniferous and deciduous, and ranging from typical southern-Ontario mixed Carolinian-type forest to the Boreal-style forests which one typically associates with northern Ontario.

Long Point is a globally important bird area, and a designated United Nations World Biosphere Reserve. The land is special not only because of the wide variety of habitats, but also the variety of species it supports. Countless birds use the area as a stopover during the annual migrations, and many water birds and forest birds make the point their home.

Rare avian species abound at Long Point; at least 160 species breed at Long Point, out of a total of 385 species observed to be present in the area. The Prothonotary Warbler (shown at right), considered rare in Canada, has 20 breeding pairs at Long Point. Other notables include the Cape May Warbler, the Least Flycatcher, the Northern Oriole, the Summer Tanager, the Bay-breasted Warbler, the Red-bellied Woodpecker, the Hudsonian Godwit, and the Blue-Grey Gnatcatcher. Many of these birds winter in South America, and with habitat destruction occurring at an accelerating rate in these areas, the long-term survival of these bird species remains uncertain.

Larger birds can also be observed at Long Point. Bald Eagles, once rare due to widespread pesticide use, are currently on the rise. Some birds arrive in large flocks, thus making for a spectacular sight!



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**Presentations will 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. Refreshments will be provided after each presentation, along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speaker!**

**For further information: Kenneth Hall ([kenjoan75@sympatico.ca](mailto:kenjoan75@sympatico.ca)), Stan Nowak ([basil.cottage@sympatico.ca](mailto:basil.cottage@sympatico.ca)).**

*The Giant's Rib presents:*  
**Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment**

Celebrates '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 \$4.00 per person (walk-in or bicycle), or \$7.00 per car.

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 September 2011:

## **Collection of Colour**

Photographic works presented by John Overmeyer.

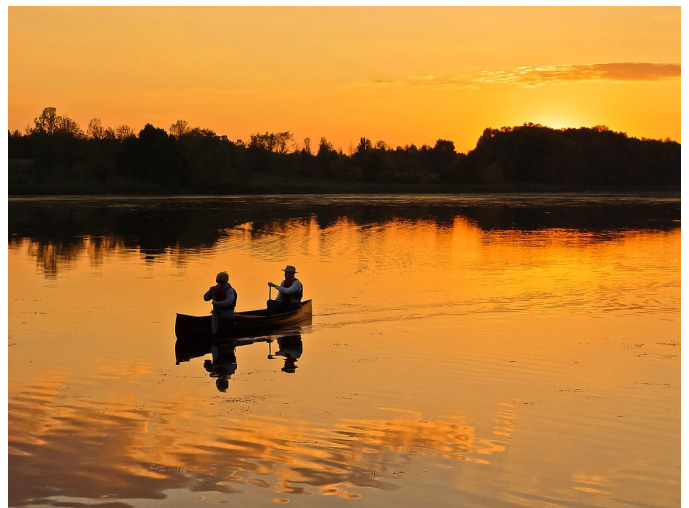


*"My interest in photography started after high school in 1981. After several night classes at Mohawk College, I became comfortable with the technical aspect of the camera.*

*During the 90's, the camera stayed on the shelf during the raising of a young family. In 1999, the digital bug bit me and I purchased my first digital camera and have shot exclusively digital ever since.*

*Soon, I became a regular contributor to the Flamborough Review and a few other papers, photographer for the Rockton World's Fair, Westfield Heritage Village and the Hamilton Conservation Authority. The last two years I was president of the Trillium Photography Club in Burlington. The digital format gives me the opportunity to be more creative and I enjoy many types of photography, from macro, travel and event, to creative, night and nature.*

*I focus on capturing the beauty of the world."*

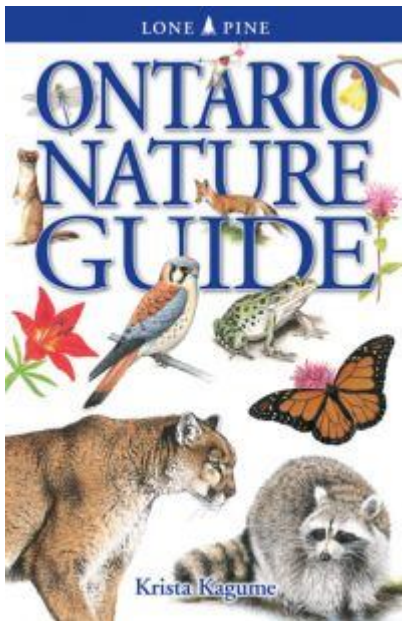


Start your Christmas shopping early as 10 large prints and a selection of 8 x10s will be on display and available for sale during ten month of September.

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

# The Literary Rib

## A Book Review by Ken Hall



In the **Ontario Nature Guide**, 382 animals and plants are identified, grouped and colour-coded for easy reference.

They are divided into groups of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, fish, invertebrates, as well as trees, shrubs and herbs, grasses and ferns.

There is also a reference chart for all species, similar species cross-references and special notes on the native use of plants, animal behavior, ecology and range, and colour maps showing eco-regions, parks and natural areas.

The guide is well indexed and contains a glossary and a list of additional references.

The author, Krista Kagume holds a BSC in Conservation Biology and is a passionate writer of natural history. She is a born adventurer. She began birding at her family cabin at age 5 and at 17 began a long cycling voyage across Canada, where she frequently headed off the beaten track in search of wildlife and plants.

Ontario provides unique accessible wilderness and spectacular landscape features. By learning to identify the plants and animals and their various roles in the province's ecosystem, your experience in travelling through Ontario's natural areas will become much more rewarding.



The Ontario Nature Guide was published in 2008 by Lone Pine Publishing. [www.lonepinepublishing.com](http://www.lonepinepublishing.com)

**Krista Kagume** is a nature writer who has travelled across North America, working as a freelance journalist, cycling-tour guide and deckhand on a commercial fishing vessel. After earning her degree in conservation biology, Krista focused on environmental research and communications. She remains an avid cyclist and frequently heads off the beaten path in search of wildlife and plants.



# Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

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 to obtain 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 to become actively involved in turtle preservation you are welcome to join the 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, please contact the Dundas Turtle Watch at [dundasturtlewatch@hwc.org](mailto:dundasturtlewatch@hwc.org).

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Over the past two years, with the sponsorship of the TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC) has been able to print and distribute the Rocks and Minerals, Grade 4, Unit of Work to teachers working in schools in Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton Regions. This was done at no cost to the teachers. However, because of shipping expenses, it was not possible to freely distribute these materials beyond that area.

Now in partnership with the GRDC, the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) has just placed the Giant's Rib Rocks and Minerals Educational Kits for Grade 4 classes on their web-site.

It is now possible for you as a teacher, no matter where you are teaching, to copy the Teacher's Guide and the Student's Resource Package from the NEC web-site and use the materials in your classroom.

Please note: You will also need the Quicktime Movies that accompany the Rocks and Mineral Kits to assist you in teaching the unit of work.

To obtain these Quicktime Movies, e-mail your request to the GRDC at [kenjoan75@sympatico.ca](mailto:kenjoan75@sympatico.ca). Include your name, your school and school address, and either yours or your school's e-mail address.

The Quicktime Movies will be sent to you at your school.

**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

**Upper Mill Falls**, or **Mill Falls** as it is alternately called, is located on Ancaster Creek at the “Ancaster Mill Restaurant” at 548 Old Dundas Road in the Ancaster section of Hamilton. Over the past centuries other names have been used for this waterfall such as Mill Stream Waterfall, Wilson Falls and Rousseau’s Falls.

There actually are two waterfalls located at this restaurant and Upper Mill Falls, as the name suggests, is the first or uppermost waterfall at the restaurant.



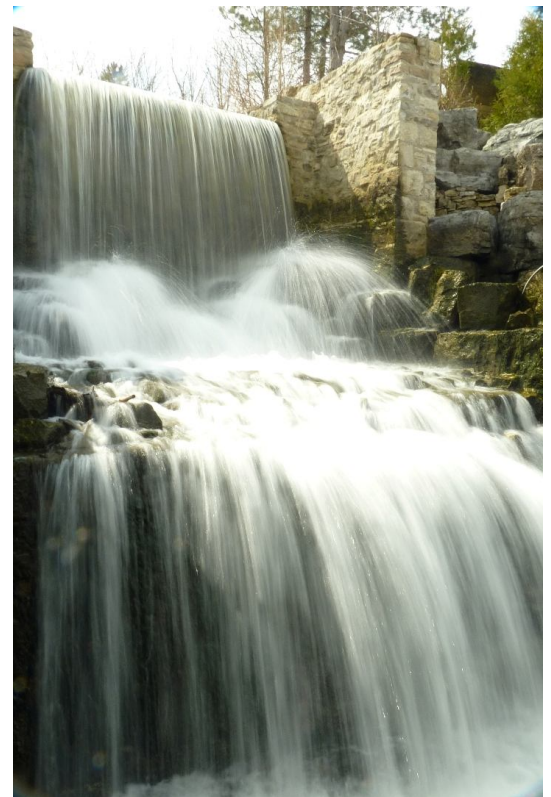
Its height is 7 m (23 ft.) and its width is 4 m (13 ft.). Upper Mill Falls has year round flow and can be visited anytime.

Upper Mill Falls was featured on a vintage post card where it was called “Mill Stream Waterfall” and the post card photo (shown at left) shows this falls as it appeared several decades ago. At that time there was a metal sluice gate at the top to control the flow. However, in 2007/2008 it was replaced with a concrete weir. In addition the area around the waterfall was enhanced to make it safer, more attractive and to create an outdoor patio adjacent to the waterfall.

This is the only waterfall in Hamilton that has a restaurant adjacent to a falls whereby guests can enjoy a meal or drink, either inside the building or on the patio, while admiring a Niagara Escarpment waterfall.

This waterfall is named after the four mills that have been located at this site. The first mill was built in 1791 and it - plus the following two mills - were destroyed by fire.

The fourth and current stone flour mill building was constructed in 1863 using limestone blocks taken from the actual site and its walls are four feet thick at the base. The Ciancone family purchased this site in 1972 and built the “Old Mill Restaurant” in 1979 which exists to this day.



Happy waterfaling!

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

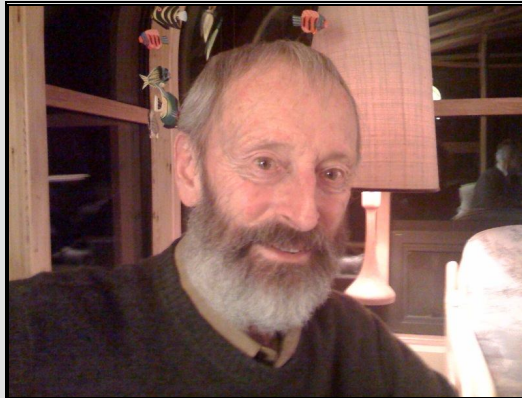
If you’re interested in having Joe present this to your group, please contact him at **905-628-3132** or at [joehollick@sympatico.ca](mailto:joehollick@sympatico.ca)

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

## **Volunteer Recognition Award for Autumn 2011**

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

**Jack Lee**



Jack Lee is a current Giant's Rib board member who serves as the Chair of the Education Committee and liaison Coordinator with Affiliated Groups.

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

## **Come Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib**



### **Would you like 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 magnificent 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!**



## **Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2011 - 2012**

**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



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