

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
October 2011

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 6, Issue 9

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is now on Facebook!

Visit our website and look for the link:  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 23rd

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!



©EthanMeleg.com

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Complete 2011 – 2012 Program

- October 23 **The Wonders of Long Point, One of Canada's World Biosphere Reserves**
STUART MACKENZIE – Land Bird Program Coordinator for the Long Point Bird Observatory
- November 13 **Experiences in Exploring the Natural Areas of Hamilton**
JON WELLS – Award Winning Reporter for the Hamilton Spectator
- December 4 **Creating Ecological Improvements within the Red Hill Valley since the Construction of the Parkway**
JAMES ROCKWOOD – Environmental Coordinator, Public Works Department, City of Hamilton
- January 22 **The Formation of the Niagara Escarpment**
Professor JOHN EYLES – Expert on glaciations and ice sheets
Author – Ontario Rocks, Canada Rocks
Advisor and participant with CBC's Geologic Journey and Host of Geologic Journey – World
- February 12 **Trails Along the Niagara Escarpment Utilized in the War of 1812**
JOHN BRYDEN – former journalist for Hamilton Spectator, Globe and Mail and Toronto Star
Former MP, Historian. Author and Researcher
- March 18 **The Niagara Peninsula Hawk Watch**
MIKE STREET – Hamilton Naturalists' Club.
A local expert on Hawk Migrations
Developer and Hamilton-Wentworth Coordinator of ONTBIRDS
- April 29 **The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada**
LORRAINE JOHNSON – Editor / Author, City Farmer
Lecturer- York University
- May 13 **The Effects of Climate Change on the Ontario Wine Regions**
PROFESSOR ANTHONY SHAW- Department of Geography, Brock University
- June 10 **Escarpment Parks and Open Spaces: Effective Management Planning**
SUSAN COOPER - Natural Heritage Advisor, Land Use and Planning Department, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

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 **\$3.00** for each of the presentations. 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), Stan Nowak (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

For the Month of October 2011:

Westover Artists 2011

Artistic works from the Westover Artists.

The paintings in this show are a celebration of the landscape and wildlife of the Niagara Escarpment and its environs. There is a variety of work in all media. Each artist has his or her own unique style of painting and their own way of seeing and interpreting what they see.



JENNY ANGOLD – Recently moved from England to Canada. She trained in Fine Art in England at West Surrey College of Art and has been painting and exhibiting for over 20 years. Her paintings are a celebration of the beauty of landscape. She paints in all media. 'Sunrise' by Jenny Angold at left.

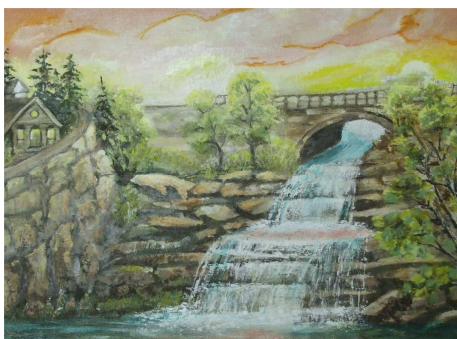
CAROLE BEATON – Carole has been painting for approximately a year and is discovering her creativity. She enjoys being part of the group and the friendly assistance. She works mainly in oils and acrylics.

JOHANA GEEAR – Johana has taken an interest in art since childhood. She studied under several artists and has been a part of art groups in Scarborough, Burlington, Hamilton and Westover, working in

mediums of watercolour, acrylic, pastel and pen and ink.

MICHAEL GEEAR – Michael has joined art groups with his wife as well as studying under Les Ducak, Joan Ng, Ron Bruce and Edgar Gonzales.

PAT GREEN – Pat began her career as a commercial artist doing technical drawings for handbooks, also fashion and product illustration. Her keen interest in the outdoors, led to spending time sketching the local scene using pen and ink or pencil to portray natural areas, plants and old structures. 'McCormack's Barn' by Pat Green at right.



BETTY KENNEDY – has studied watercolours with well-known Hamilton artist, Gertrude Hawcutt as well as at the Dundas Valley School of Art, taking courses in drawing, sketching and watercolours. Betty has now added oils, acrylics and mixed media to her portfolio, all of which she finds exciting and rewarding.

WANDA KURAS – Wanda has been painting for over ten years and her medium of choice is oils. 'Sunset Serenade' by Wanda Kuras at left.

BETTIE WALMSLEY – Bettie has taken lessons at the Sackville and Alberton Seniors Centres where she enjoyed painting as it gave her a "life". She has dabbled in oils but much prefers working in watercolours.

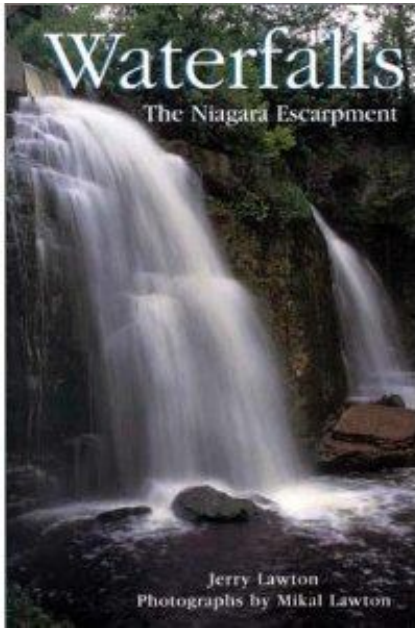
Saturdays and Sundays 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

The Literary Rib

A Book Review by Ken Hall

Waterfalls: The Niagara Escarpment

Author – Jerry Lawton Photography by Mikal Lawton Publisher – The Boston Mill Press



Jerry Lawton has been a producer and writer for CBC and CTV television networks for over 40 years. He has received numerous international awards for excellence on documentary television.

His son, **Mikal Lawton**, holds a bachelor's degree in photographic arts from Ryerson Polytechnic University.

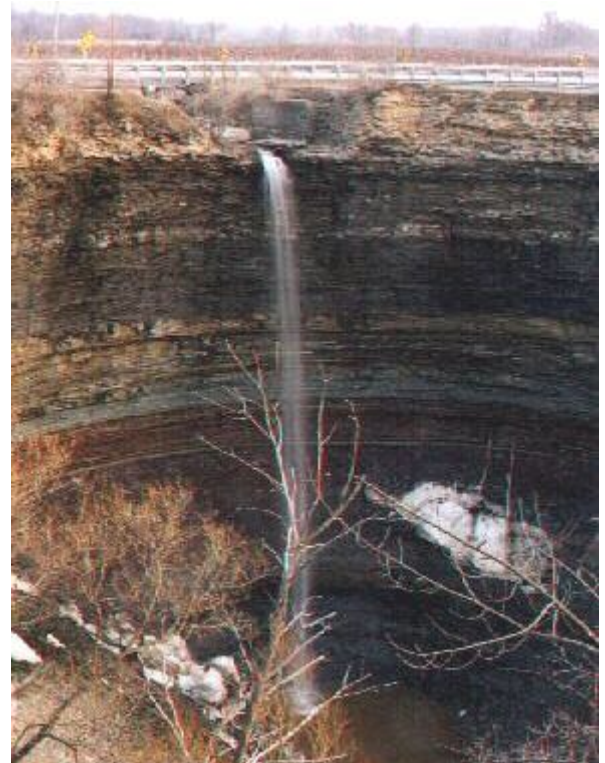
In their study of the waterfalls of the Niagara Escarpment, the Lawtons have concentrated on the larger falls. They have highlighted 32 waterfalls from the following areas, Niagara Peninsula, Hamilton, Halton to Caledon, the Beaver Valley and Owen Sound.

The falls included in the study are: Niagara Falls, DeCew Falls, Swayze Falls, Rockway Falls, Balls Falls, Thirty mile Creek Falls, Beamer Falls, the Devil's Punch Bowl (shown below, at right), Felker Falls, Albion Falls, Buttermilk Falls, Chedoke Falls, Tiffany Falls, Mill Falls, Sherman Falls, Hermitage Falls, Heritage Falls,

Westers Falls, Tews Falls, Boer's Falls, Grindstone Falls, Hilton Falls, the Cataract, Hogg's Falls, Eugenia Falls, Lavender Falls, Anthea's Falls, Walter's Falls, Inglis Falls, Jones Falls and Indian Falls.

In each falls studied there is a complete natural history, including colourful historical notes. The height and crest width of each falls has been accurately measured. Good maps are provided, accompanied by printed directions on how to reach each falls. The best season and time of day for viewing is also recommended for each falls.

One of the additional features of this book is the photographic tips provided for photographing the falls. Particular attention is given to shutter speed and determining the way the light plays on the subject. There is an interesting little chapter at the end of the book which traces some waterfalls beyond Southern Ontario and exposes sections of the Escarpment in the United States previously unknown to many readers.



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.



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.

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. 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.

Karen Carruthers of the Niagara Escarpment Commission is available to make in-class presentations in schools along the Niagara Escarpment. She is interested in giving presentations about the Escarpment and has a nice set of slides with wonderful pictures to share.

If you are interested in having her visit your class, please contact Karen at, karen.carruthers@ontario.ca, for more information.

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

Progreston Falls is located near Progreston Rd. (thus its name) on the Bronte Creek in the hamlet of Carlisle within the greater City of Hamilton.

It is considered a terraced curtain falls with year round water flow. Its height is 6.7 m (22 ft.) and its width is 16.5 m (54 ft.).

In the early to mid 1800's, there were several industries located on this site taking advantage of the creek waters and water power. They included three saw mills, two grist mills, a peg factory and a blacksmith shop. In 1869, the Green family began operation of a woollen mill in one of these buildings which continued until 1911, when it was destroyed by fire.

Today, no industries exist here. However a few foundations and pipes can be seen as well as the dam structure forming the top portion of the waterfall above the natural rock section. A railway bridge also can be seen high above Bronte Creek adding to this unique waterfall appearance.

Progreston Falls is located on private property; however there is a trail to it and as long as no garbage is left on site, visitors can access this trail and waterfall.

To find Progreston Falls, travel north on Hwy. 6 from Hwy. 403 for about 13 km to Carlisle Rd. Turn right onto Carlisle Rd., continue past the hamlet of Carlisle, turn right onto Progreston Rd. The waterfall is located beneath the overhead railway bridge on the left side just before the 3-way Stop intersection.



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.

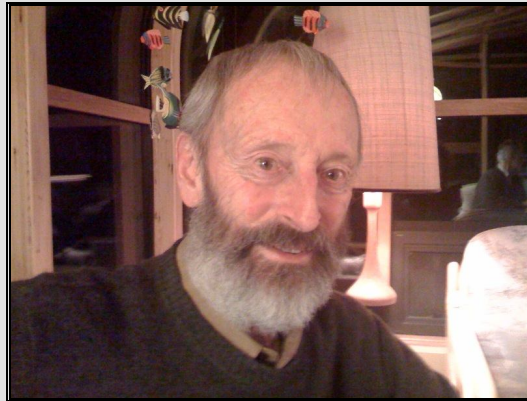
If you're interested in having Joe present this to your group, please contact him at **905-628-3132** or at joehollick@sympatico.ca

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

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



***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.