

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
January 2012

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:  for all the latest news and updates.

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

This series, proudly sponsored by the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, is named in honour of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority and 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 of this Season: Sunday, January 22nd

The Formation of the Niagara Escarpment

with **NICK EYLES** – Author, Ontario Rocks, Canada Rocks; advisor and participant with CBC's Geologic Journey and Host of Geologic Journey – World



Nick Eyles, Ph.D (East Anglia), D.Sc. (Leicester) is Professor of Geology at the University of Toronto. His prime research interest is in glacial sedimentology and has many years experience with field work at modern glaciers. He has worked at the universities of Leicester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and East Anglia in Great Britain; at Memorial University in Newfoundland and has been at Toronto since 1981 when he was awarded a prestigious NSERC University Research Fellowship. He has authored more than 150 publications in leading scientific journals on ice age geology and environmental geology and has conducted geological fieldwork from the Arctic to the Antarctic, including work with the Ocean Drilling Program onboard the drillship Resolution. Recent sabbaticals have been held in Brazil and Australia.

He has edited books on glacial geology ('Glacial Geology: An Introduction for Engineers and Earth Scientists' published by Pergamon), co-edited a book on paleoclimate ('Earth's Glacial Record' published by Cambridge University Press) and urban geology ('Environmental Geology of Urban Areas') published by the Geological Association of Canada.

He is well known for his public outreach activities and the well known 'Rocks' series published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside such as 'Toronto Rocks' (1998 with L. Clinton), 'Ontario Rocks' (2002) and 'Canada Rocks: The Geologic Journey' (2007) (*see The Literal Rib further on in this newsletter*).with Andrew Miall (Toronto Star 'Science Book of the Year') Two other books 'Canadian Shield – The Rocks that Made Canada' and 'Road Rocks - Geological Wonders of Ontario' will appear shortly. 'Earth Rocks' is in preparation.

Nick was on the road with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for seven months in 2009-10 as host of Geologic Journey –World a five part 'Nature of Things' series with David Suzuki. 'Tectonic Europe', 'Along the African Rift', 'Pacific Rim West', 'Pacific Rim: The Americas' and 'Asia: Collision Zone' will begin airing in late October 2010. Consult the CBC web site for full details and how you can contribute to it.

When not looking at rocks in the field or writing about their history, Nick is an avid adventure motorcyclist and hockey player.

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 **Jon's Journey - 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 Red Hill Parkway**
JAMES ROCKWOOD – Environmental Coordinator, Public Works Department, City of Hamilton
- January 22 **The Formation of the Niagara Escarpment**
Professor NICK 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**
ANTHONY SHAW – Professor, 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 January 2012:

Works from the Permanent Collection

Featuring the works of local artists:

- Sandy Bell
- Don Corby
- Paul Duff
- Dean Gugler
- Vic MacBourne
- Lynn Macintyre
- Les Mazaros
- John Novak
- John Nugent
- Frank Panabaker
- Norris Podetz



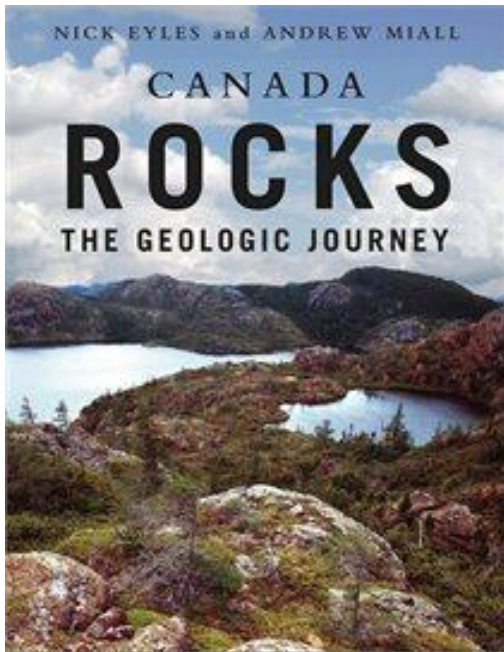
Saturdays and Sundays only 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

The Literary Rib

Canada Rocks: The Geologic Journey

by Nick Eyles and Andrew Miall

Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Trade Paperback



For anyone curious about the geological history of our country, *Canada Rocks, The Geologic Journey* is a marvelous portrait of what the authors describe as the incredible 4 billion year "construction project" that gave shape to the continents, mountains, and oceans of planet Earth, and created the world's second largest country - Canada.

Profusely illustrated throughout with full colour and black and white photographs, charts, maps, graphs and sketches, the book explores the country from north to south and from east to west, exploring that incredible history through modern day sites and land shapes created in our distant past.

Read about:

- Rocks in Point Pleasant Park in Halifax that were once part of Morocco, left behind when the Atlantic Ocean came into being.
- Canada's Arctic regions that were formerly part of what today is Siberia. Greenland was once a part of Labrador.
- Fossils in a road cut in Cache Creek, British Columbia that once lived in a sea that covered China.
- The violent collisions of continents and other land masses, the growth and decay of enormous mountain ranges, the impact of meteorites, and the comings and goings of vast ice sheets are explored in fascinating detail, as is the creation of our rocky resources from coal to diamonds.

An essential reference for students and anyone fascinated with the geological forces that created our country, the book includes a great many sites that can be visited for close-up study, making it an invaluable field guide for exploring our history and the world around us.

Review

"Every page of the volume sparkles with information and entertainment. . . Just reading the captions in this profusely illustrated volume provides an education in the geological forces that have shaped our land for four billion years."

- from "The Year's Best Science Books" - *The Toronto Star*

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

West Iroquoia Falls, is located on a Chedoke Creek tributary on the Niagara Escarpment side of Hwy 403 in west Hamilton. It is located on public lands owned by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) as part of the Hwy 403 Right-of-Way (ROW). The water originates from a small westerly ravine in the Iroquoia Heights Conservation Area.

West Iroquoia Falls is a terraced ribbon falls with a height of 19.8m (65 ft.) and a normal crest width of 1m (3 ft.) when water is flowing, however it can widen out to 3m (10 ft.) with ice buildup in winter (as seen in attached photo). During much of the year when the vegetation surrounding this waterfall is covered in foliage, this waterfall may not be easily visible from the highway. In addition, West Iroquoia Falls is dry much of the time, thus the best time to view this waterfall is after a rainfall or during the spring snow melt when there is no foliage or during the winter when it is covered in ice.



This waterfall can be seen from the roadway if driving up bound on Hwy 403 from west Hamilton towards Ancaster and is located behind the second rock protection fence about $\frac{3}{4}$ the way along the fence. There is no safe location to stop to view this waterfall from Hwy 403. The photo on the right was taken from the White Chapel Cemetery in west Hamilton using a telephoto lens.

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

Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

Would you like to incorporate a little of the environment into your classroom music program? Teach your class this song for the Niagara Escarpment inspired by the tune of "Colours of the Winds" by Vanessa Williams from the Disney movie Pocahontas, with lyrics adapted by Danya Scime, the Giant Rib's Co-ordinator of Special Events.

The song debuted at our most recent Giant's Rib Summer Solstice on June 21, 2011 with Danya's daughter Krysta Lee (www.krystalee.com) providing the vocals accompanied by Kevin Beeby on guitar.

Check it out on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/waterfallsenior#p/u/0/GnoWLMHS3R8> Enjoy!

Voices of our Escarpment

Some think they own whatever land they land on.
The earth is just a dead thing some may claim
But I know every waterfall, tree and creature
Has a life, has a spirit, has a name
Some think the flowing water is just water
The rocks are just nothing more than few
But if you walk in the footpaths of our trails
You'll learn things you never knew, you never knew

Have you ever heard the wolf cry to a full new moon?
Or witnessed the summer sun fading in?
Can you sing with all the voices of the escarpment?
Can you paint with all the colours of the wind?
Can you paint with all the colours of the wind?

Come run the hidden pine trails of our forest
Come taste the sun-sweet berries of our earth
Come roll in all the riches all around you
And for once, be at awe at what they're worth

The rainstorm and the river are our brothers
The heron and the turtles are our friends
And we are all connected to each other,
In a circle, in a hoop that never ends

Have you ever heard the wolf cry to the full new moon?
Or let the eagle tell you where he's been?
Can you sing with all the voices of the escarpment?
Can you paint with all the colours of the wind?
Can you paint with all the colours of the wind?

How high does the sycamore grow?
If you cut it down, then you'll never know

And you'll never hear the wolf cry to the full new moon
For whether we are living City or Country
We need to sing with all the voices of our escarpment
Need to paint with all the colours of the wind

You can own the earth and still
All you'll own is earth until
You can paint with all the colours of the wind



If you know teachers or anyone else who would be interested in this information, please 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.

Rib Facts

The Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve

The Directors of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre form a Committee of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. Their basic responsibilities are directed to helping ensure that the Niagara Escarpment continues to meet the three basic criteria of a biosphere reserve:

- Contribute to conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
- Foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
- Provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local national and global issues of conservation and development.

The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Designation

The biosphere is all of the land, water and atmosphere that support life.

A biosphere reserve is an international designation of recognition from UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) for an area in the world which is deemed to demonstrate a "balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere".

By this is meant that collaborative efforts among people in the designated area serve to promote the sustainability of local economies and communities, as well as the conservation of the terrestrial/or coastal ecosystems they are in.



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 and join our Team today! We hope to hear from you soon !



Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2012

Executive Officers

Kenneth Hall, President John MacRae, Treasurer Joseph Hollick, Secretary

William Edwards Web-Site Administrator

Kenneth Hall Co-ordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series
Co-ordinator, Arts Program

Chris Hamilton Outreach Co-ordinator

Joseph Hollick Co-ordinator of Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research
Co-ordinator of Site and Building Development

Ernie Kuechmeister Co-ordinator, Recognition Program

Dr. John MacRae Director of Audio-Visual Presentations

Maya March Field Trip Co-ordinator

Nancy Martin Publicity and Communications Director

Stan Nowak Newsletter Editor

Donna Quigley New Direction's Co-ordinator

Danya Scime Co-ordinator, Special Events

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unless you really need to.

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with others via e-mail.***