

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
February 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:  Login with Facebook 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, February 12th

Trails along the Niagara Escarpment utilized in the War of 1812

with John Bryden – former journalist, MP 1993-2004, Historian, Author and Researcher

Born in Dundas, **John Bryden** grew up there and went to McMaster University, graduating in English and History and went on to complete a Masters of Philosophy at the University of Leeds in England. He began his career in journalism as a reporter for the *Hamilton Spectator*, went on to *The Globe and Mail* and then to the *Toronto Star* where he served as features editor, business editor and senior news editor.

He struck out on his own to write books and is author of "Deadly Allies: Canada's Secret War", dealing with Canada's role in the development of chemical and biological warfare weapons during the Second World War, and "Best Kept Secret", discussing Canada's role in code and cipher breaking. John was also the Member of Parliament for the federal riding of Dundas-Ancaster-Flamborough-Aldershot from 1993 to 2004.

He has had a long interest in the early history of the Dundas Valley and, in the course of his research for his next book, ran into some fascinating maps of the region in the National Archives in Britain.

This presentation will deal with some of these exciting discoveries!



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: Arts Program Co-ordinator Kenneth Hall kenjoan75@sympatico.ca

For the Month of February 2012:

Dundas, The Heart of the Niagara Escarpment

Featuring the artistic works of Danuta Niton



Born in Poland, Danuta earned her diploma in Commercial Art and Advertising before setting her roots in Canada more than 25 years ago. Danuta expanded her studies by taking many additional art courses ranging from Graphic Design, Creative Watercolour to the Artist Educator Program.

Her portfolio includes a variety of media, such as computer graphic design; publishing a newspaper and a magazine; oil and acrylic painting; watercolour; portraits in pencil; and creative window painting, as well as huge wall artwork (murals) created for private and commercial clients.

Danuta currently, lives, works and creates in her home studio in Dundas, Ontario. She has a growing watercolour collection of historical buildings located there.

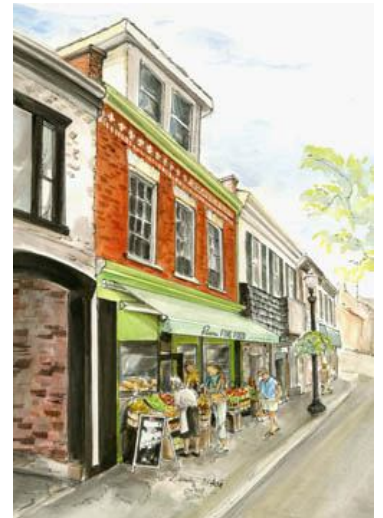
Artistic Statement:

My education led me to become a graphic artist but my heart is pointing toward many different forms of art; like painting, drawing, and mural creation. I capture places that mean a lot to me by painting them; like Dundas historical buildings, some old ruins, playground by the lake, ice cream by the Williams Café, Tuscany scenery, etc. This is my way of saying: I will never forget the people I went there with and the places I visited.

My lifelong vision includes enrolling communities to courageously support the active creation of community art and graffiti parks; a place where kids can artistically express themselves in public.

I believe in letting children, youth and adults get beyond fears of expressing themselves artistically, through drawing, creating, imagination and colour - beautifying our streets and communities through artistic example. I believe in bringing galleries to people not just people to galleries.

I am also an owner of graphic design and printing business, "Art of Design", which serves Hamilton businesses and many artists.



www.artofdesign.ca

Tel: 905-628-1234

Cell: 905-570-2120

On Sunday, February 19th, Danuta's daughter, Kasia Niton, an established artist herself, will be on hand for some face-painting for the kids!

Saturdays and Sundays only

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

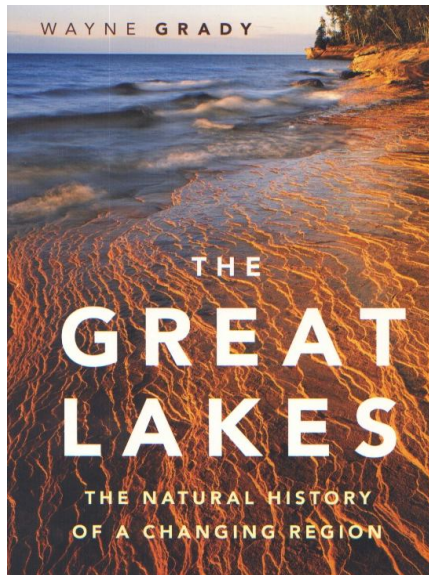
Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

The Literary Rib

The Great Lakes: The Natural History of a Changing Region

by Wayne Grady

Greystone Books and the David Suzuki Foundation



When I first approached this book for review, I was a little puzzled as to what “kind” of book it was. Its contents and high quality paper stock suggested a coffee table book. But the size (19cmx25cm) said “text book”! But, it doesn’t read like a textbook. It’s far more conversational in style and there are frequent diversions of thought.

The more time I spent with it, the better I liked it!

Despite my early uncertainty about “genre”, the book does come with an impressive number of awards: Gold Medal from the Independent Publishers for regional non-fiction, National Outdoor Book Award and Silver Medal as *Foreward Magazine’s* Book of the Year.

The author, Wayne Grady, was born in Windsor and now lives outside of Kingston so one could say he has the Great Lakes in his blood and his backyard! He has been editor of both *Harrowsmith* and *Equinox* magazines. The photographs, used throughout the book, (credits are given to a large number of sources) are outstanding! They are full colour, focussed, and very well chosen for their illustrative role. Throughout the book, there are full and half pages of what I would call “did you know” inserts. These are little

digressions, side bars or in-depth focuses on a particular subject – ie. “native thoughts on the origin of the whitefish”, “the use of stormwater ponds in controlling urban runoff”, “Bear facts in the Great Lakes Basin” and “The Oak Ridges Moraine”. They in themselves make an interesting read!

The book is organized in 9 chapters. The first is the “overview” - the “What and Where” of the Great Lakes and the lands that surround them. Grady introduces the concept of “ecoregion” and maps the eight eco-regions which surround the Great Lakes basin. Chapter 2 is the “Why and How” of the formation of the Great Lakes basin. The reporting is detailed enough for the science expert yet approachable enough for the novice. The next three chapters examine in turn, each of three forest types identified in the basin – Boreal, Great-Lakes St. Lawrence and Carolinian. It is here that my only quibble arises.

After spending quite some time describing *eco-regions* and flora and fauna associated with each in Chapter 2, Grady now switches the unit of analysis to *forest types* (each of which include parts of several eco-regions. To the lay person, this inconsistency could be confusing, and to me, renders the eco-region concept less meaningful.

The remaining 4 chapter deal with what the author calls “marginal” habitats (marshlands, urban forests and alvars), life in and on the Lakes themselves and the problems of pollution and invasive species, and the future of the Great Lakes – “what (they) might be like a century from now if all the mistakes of the past are at least halted if not corrected”. I saw this as a refreshingly optimistic view of what is too easily seen as “going to hell in a basket”.

The final pages include a substantial list of references for further reading, four pages of scientific names for Great Lakes flora and fauna, and a comprehensive index.

In his closing paragraph, Grady quotes David Dempsey, author of *On the Brink: The Great Lakes in the 21st Century*. Dempsey is encouraged by the public’s growing engagement with the Great Lakes. If there is good news, Dempsey says “it’s the slowly rising tide of consciousness”.

Wayne Grady, in this work, has done an admirable job of contributing to this “rising tide”.



Ron Fulton
Giant’s Rib Volunteer

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Little Davis Falls is located on Davis Creek, a tributary of the Red Hill Creek, in east Hamilton, on public lands owned by the City of Hamilton. With it being located downstream of Felker's Falls, it sometimes is referred to as Lower Felker's Falls.

Little Davis Falls is considered a Terraced or Twin Curtain Falls with a height of 3m (10 ft.) and a width of 8m (26 ft.). It has flow year round however heaviest flow is after a rainfall or during the winter snow melt as seen in the attached photo.

To reach this waterfall from the Red Hill Valley Parkway, take the Greenhill Ave. exit and travel east to Quigley Rd. Turn right, or south, and follow Quigley Rd. to the end. Park on the adjoining street, Hildegard Dr. Walk back to the end of Quigley Rd. and follow the access/grass area towards the escarpment. As the grass area widens out past several bushes, turn right and walk about 25m to Davis Creek and Little Davis Falls.



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

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC) has distributed to teachers, upon request, within the Hamilton and Halton Regions, the Grade 4 Rocks and Minerals Unit of Work.

Teachers using this Unit of Work have been very pleased to receive it and have found their students enjoying the guided learning process. It was the goal of the GRDC to offer these materials to teachers throughout Ontario, especially to those teaching in schools relatively close to the Niagara Escarpment. However, to date, the shipping costs have prohibited the GRDC from doing that.

To help solve this problem, the Niagara Escarpment Commission has offered to place the print materials for the Rocks and Minerals Unit on their web-site and the TD Friends of the Environment (Hamilton Branch) have given the GRDC a grant to distribute the related CDs of Quick Time Movies to teachers who wish to teach this Unit of Work.

The Hamilton Branch of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation had given an original grant to the GRDC to print the materials and were quite willing to extend their support so that other teachers throughout the province could receive the Unit at no cost.

If you are a Grade 4 teacher who would like to have the Rocks and Minerals Unit please proceed by doing the following:

- Search through the Niagara Escarpment web-site (www.escarpment.org/home/index.php)
- Look for Ontario's Niagara Escarpment
- Check Education and select Teachers' Corner

Under Elementary Level 1-6

- Find Giant's Rib Educational Kit for Grade 4 – Science and Technology
- Make a copy of the Unit of Work

Note that there is a box to check to receive the Quick Time Movies

- Use this box to E-mail your request to the Giant's Rib, addressed to Ken Hall

On requesting the Quick Time Movies include:

- Your own E-mail address (Usually teachers use the one assigned to them by their Board)
- Your School and school address
- Your Board

You should expect the CDs to arrive within two weeks of the GRDC receiving your request.



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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with others via e-mail.***