

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
May 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, May 13th

Climate Change, Impacts and Adaptive Strategies in the Established and Emerging Wine Regions of Ontario

with ANTHONY SHAW – Professor, Department of Geography, Brock University

Dr. **Anthony Shaw** is a Professor in the Department of Geography and a Fellow of CCOVI (Cool Climate Enology and Viticulture Institute) at Brock University. He teaches courses principally in the areas related to meteorology, applied climatology, viticulture, and environmental sustainability. His research areas include wine terroirs, site selection methods for new vineyards, freeze protection methods, renewable energy, building climatology and climate change and impacts. He disseminates his research in a variety of forums including refereed wine and climatology journals, technical reports and conference proceedings. His last major research projects include the demarcation of sub-appellations in Ontario's main wine regions for the Vintners' Quality Alliance, Ontario and the assessment of new areas for wine production. His current major research area funded by the Ontario Research Fund is to determine evidence of climate change and assess the potential impacts on Ontario's main wine appellations and emerging regions. He regularly attends international and national scholarly conferences and is involved in collaborative research with Universities in Ontario, Quebec, United States and France. He has also conducted research and published in the areas related pollution climatology and Latin American and Caribbean developmental issues.



This presentation examines evidence of climate change over the last forty years by assessing the long-term trends in key climatic indices and the implications for existing grape varieties, wine quality, freeze injury and the emergence of new areas and cool climate grape varieties. In light of these changes, the study also proposes adaptive strategies to deal with the impacts of climate change. Preliminary findings indicate that a warming climate would bring mixed benefits to the wine industry. Positive changes include an extension of the growing season, expansion into areas currently considered marginal, reduction in winter freeze and an improvement in grape quality. Likely negative impacts include volatility in weather, moisture stress and possible depreciation in the quality of key cool climate varieties.

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 Co-ordinator of ONTBIRDS
April 29	The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada LORRAINE JOHNSON –Editor / Author, City Farmer Lecturer- York University
May 13	Climate Change, Impacts and Adaptive Strategies in the Established and Emerging Wine Regions of Ontario 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 May 2012:

Colours of the Valley

Featuring the photographic works of Andie Parton



When **Andie Parton** retired from her medical technology job and picked up her first camera, it was passion at first click. And with that, she no longer just looks, she sees! Now she doesn't ever check the weather, she only checks the light. She roams the countryside on her bicycle, camera on her neck, chasing the beauty everywhere.

Her photos have taken first place awards at Rockton Fair and illustrate the pages of several publications. She has recently set up a home studio for portrait photography, another passion to master. Andie has 3 kids and 4 grandkids, all of whom require bribery and coercion to sit for their sessions. They do however love the gorgeous results.

Andie lives with her partner Steve in the village of West Flamborough, where they wander the trails of Christie's with their black labs. And, yes, she takes her camera. You may find glimpses of wagging tails hiding in some of her best nature shots....

Saturdays and Sundays only

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

Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

Upcoming Giant's Rib Events

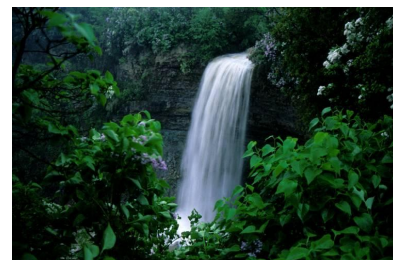
Hike Series

Join us on **June 9th**, starting at 9:00 AM for a hike through the Carolinian forest, one of the most bio-diverse ecosystems in the country. Learn about how certain trees shed their branches like a dog sheds hair (neat eh?), and about some of the trees in our own backyard that are older than the Sistine chapel.

We will be hiking from the parking lot at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Rock Chapel to Borer's Falls (seen at right) with many opportunities to stop and talk about the interactions that are happening all throughout the forest.

Due to the terrain, hiking boots are highly recommended and strollers are highly un-recommended. The hike should take a maximum of two hours.

Kyle McLoughlin is an experienced wilderness guide and naturalist.



Mark off **Thursday June 21st, 2012** on your calendar!!



Our sixth annual **Giant's Rib Summer Solstice** Fundraiser will be held at The Atrium at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West in Burlington this year!

Wine & Cheese with a twist ... featuring create your own Bruschetta and Crepe Stations while gazing through the glass walls and ceilings of the fabulous newest addition at R.B.G.!

Silent Auction and Live Entertainment with "Judy and the Noteworthy's" featuring Judy Marsales! Starting around 6 p.m. stay for the spectacular Summer Solstice Sunset!!!

Stay tuned for more up-dates here, at www.giantsrib.ca and on Facebook!



Mark your Calendars ~

SECRET GARDENS
An Annual Fundraiser for the Carnegie Gallery
19TH TOUR OF ARTISTIC GARDEN RETREATS

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2012

Carnegie GALLERY

10 King St. W. Dundas, ON L9H 1T7

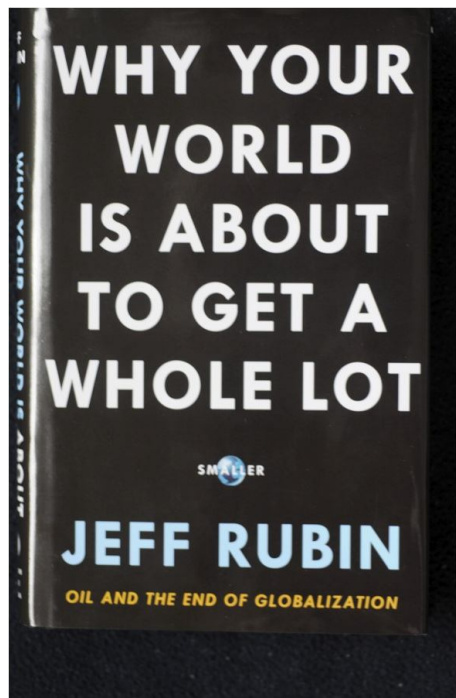
905 627-4265

The Literary Rib

Why Your World is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller: Oil and the End of Globalization

Written by Jeff Rubin
Hardcover \$29.95 286 pp

Random House Canada, 2009



Had Rubin's book been required reading for our MP's and MPP's, and the Congressional leaders in the United States, the massive bailout packages for the auto industry and monies for highway infrastructure might never have seen the light of day!

Jeff Rubin, former Chief Economist at CIBC World Markets, knows of what he writes. Triple digit oil prices will bring about a wholesale change in what we consume, how we travel and where we live. Talk about your paradigm shifts!!

In 2005, Thomas Friedman told us "The World is Flat". Globalization forces and advances in communication technologies were bringing us closer and closer together. A tech expert in Bangalore was as close to you as her counterpart in Ottawa. What happens in China, half a world away, can have an immediate impact in Canada. Rubin is now telling us that our world is getting a whole lot smaller!

According to Rubin, high oil prices are inevitable as we climb out of our current recession. What does \$4 a litre sound like for you next fill up? The way of life common to most Europeans will become the new order for us in Canada. Urban sprawl will become a thing of the past as commuting becomes unaffordable. Use of public transit will see a resurgence. Growing and buying foods locally will be the new norm.

Industries which over the past decades moved to low labour cost countries, will return to Canada as the costs of transportation outstrip the cost savings of cheaper labour. "Distance costs money" will be the mantra of the new locally based economy.

This all sounds of great interest, wouldn't you say? New models for urban growth, revised transportation studies and rethinking the future of "globalization" – pretty heady stuff.

Rubin uses his Economics background and recent statistics on "peak oil" to persuasively make the point that cheap oil will soon be a thing of the past. The large, easy and inexpensive to recover supplies in the Middle East, the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska are on the wane. Future supplies are in places like the tar sands of Canada or 6000 metres below the ocean surface off the coast of Brazil or in politically and environmentally fragile parts of the world! Not only is world oil production falling, the cost of what we are recovering is going up! Add to this the growing demands in the BRIC nations (Brazil, Russia, India and China), and artificially low prices for oil due to state subsidies in many OPEC nations and demand is only going to skyrocket.

The challenge, Rubin says, is to grow our economy without burning more oil. The solution starts with the roads, according to Rubin, since over 50% of all oil consumption is for motor fuel. This means less travel using fewer, smaller and more efficient cars - looking to Europe for our growth models, not the United States.

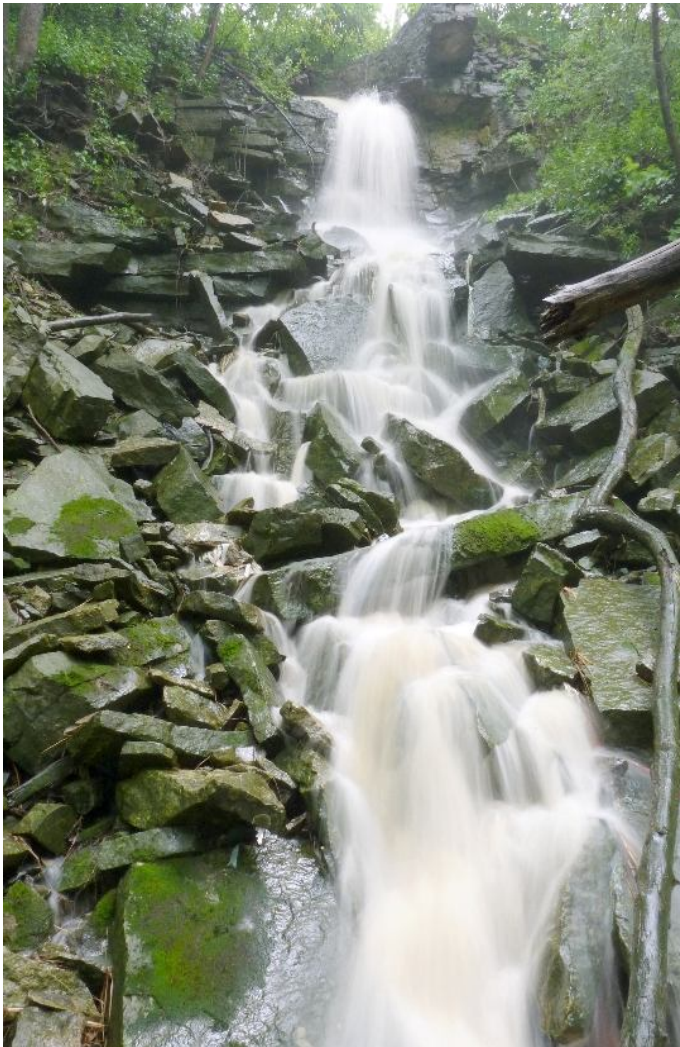
So, no more suburbia, no more 2 and 3 car families, plunging auto sales (especially for trucks and SUV's), more travel by public transit. Where should the bailout monies be spent?

If Jeff Rubin is right, certainly not on highways and the auto industry – maybe on streetcars for Toronto?

Submitted by Ron Fulton
Giant's Rib Volunteer

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick



Jones Road Falls is located in the Stoney Creek section of Hamilton opposite the end of Jones Rd., near the top of the Niagara Escarpment, above the Bruce Trail and below the CN railway tracks.

It appears that when the railway tracks were built along the side of the Niagara Escarpment, a creek or water flow on top of the escarpment was diverted into a pipe which pours into a large concrete structure on the south side of the tracks. From this structure the water then flows through another pipe, which runs diagonally westward under the railway tracks and exits about 50m to the west on the north side of the tracks. The pipe outlets at a 45 degree angle beside a vertical stone wall which deflects the water down the escarpment.

Jones Rd. Falls is considered a Terraced Ribbon Cascade with a height of 6 m (20 ft.) and a width of 2m (7 ft.). It is dry much of the year with flow only after rainfalls and during the winter snow melt.

To reach this waterfall from the QEW, take the Fruitland Rd. exit, go south to Hwy #8, turn left and proceed to Jones Rd. Turn right and go to the end of Jones Rd. just below the Niagara Escarpment. Park on the shoulder and follow the Jones Rd. Side Trail up the escarpment to the Bruce Trail. Then follow the ravine at this location up the escarpment 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

Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

This article appeared in the Hamilton Conservation Foundation Newsletter. I thought it might be of interest to teachers in the Hamilton area who would like to get their classes involved in outdoor environmental programs.



\$10,000 GRANT ENABLES MORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ACCESS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



The gift of outdoor education is coming to more Hamilton students thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Edith H. Turner Foundation. The funding will enable students from high need schools to participate in the Outdoor Environmental Program.

"We see so many faces light up with excitement after having the opportunity to participate," says HCA Program Manager, Beth Stormont.

Students are able to learn and explore nature, wildlife, conservation, leadership and sustainable living while exploring the forests, streams and wetlands in the 3,000 acre Dundas Valley.

The active participation creates lasting memorable experiences for nearly 10,000 students who annually attend the now 40 year-old program. The grant reimburses schools from both Hamilton Boards of Education for student transportation costs.



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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