

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
September 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.

First Presentation of this Season: Sunday, September 30th

Fungi: Friend or Foe?

with Kyle McLoughlin

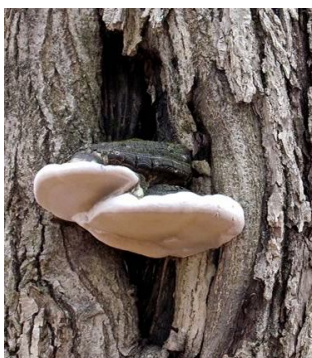


This presentation will focus mainly on the interaction of fungi with the living environment, and try to dispel some of the misinformation regarding these helpful organisms. Often understood only as 'rot', mushrooms and their cohorts (cankers, slime molds, etc) perform many roles beyond simply decomposition.

In this brief lecture, we will explore the fascinating lives of fungus, with a focus on species found in the Niagara Escarpment. Beginning with their structure, we will move beyond to their interaction with the environment, and touch on how they relate to humans, specifically in preparation for our upcoming mushroom hike.

Although we will only scratch the surface, you will certainly find yourself mystified by these incredible beings.

Kyle McLoughlin is an experienced wilderness guide and naturalist.



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.

PLEASE NOTE: Park entrance fee is now \$9.00 per car, but walk in or bike in is FREE.

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 September 2012:

Featuring the artistic works of
The Golden Horseshoe Carvers Club

It is our pleasure to welcome craftsmen from the **Golden Horseshoe Carvers Club** to the Trail Centre at the Dundas Valley Conservation Authority.

Artists will be at the Trail Center to showcase their artwork and demonstrate a wide variety of wood carving skills.

Everyone is welcome to drop in to chat with an artist about the tools and skills that carvers employ to produce original works of art.

This is a free service as the craftsmen simply wish to share what they are able to achieve using wood from the region's bountiful forests.



Saturdays and Sundays only

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

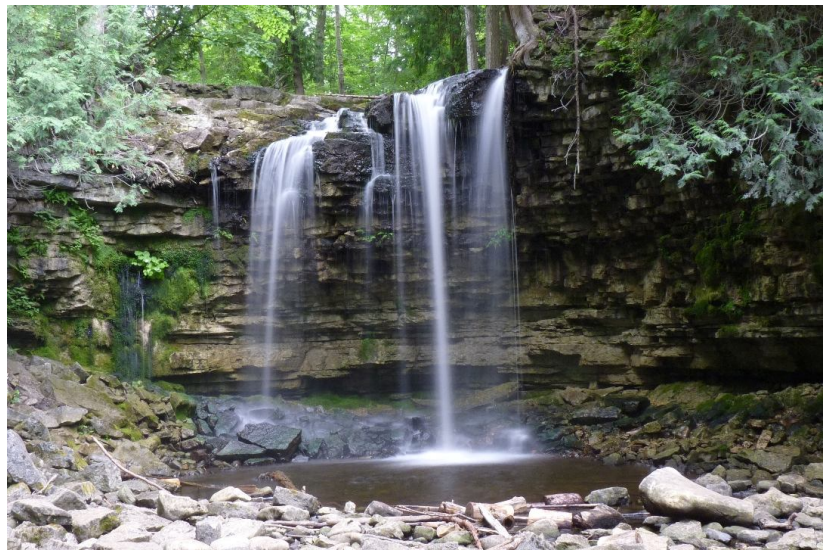
by Joseph Hollick

Hilton Falls is located on the Niagara Escarpment in the town of Milton.

Hilton Falls is plunge type falls situated on Sixteen Mile Creek in the Hilton Falls Conservation Area. Its height is 10m. (33 ft.) and its crest width is approximately 6 m. (20 ft.). Hilton Falls has year-round flow and thus can be visited at anytime of the year.

In 1835, Edward Hilton constructed a mill at this location and thus the falls is named after him. According to Jerry Lawton in his book "Waterfalls, The Niagara Escarpment", Edward Hilton was involved in the Rebellion of 1837, but on the losing side! He fled Canada into exile and oblivion. The mill fell into other hands and eventually burned in 1867 and was never rebuilt. There are still some remains of this mill located beside the waterfall.

The photo on the right shows Hilton Falls as it appears from the front at low flow. At low flow, a person can walk behind the waterfall (you may still get wet), which I did, and the photo below shows Hilton Falls from behind it (and it shows a portion of the old mill on the right side).



To visit Hilton Falls, Take Hwy 401 west to Exit 312 (Guelph Line) and go north. Turn right on to Halton Rd. 9 (Campbellville Rd.), which is only a few hundred meters north of Hwy 401.

Follow this road for a 3 kilometers and watch for the entrance to the Hilton Falls Conservation Area on the left. There is a small fee to enter this park and the walk from the parking lot to the waterfall is about 20 minutes.

You can obtain a map of the park which shows where Hilton Falls is located when you pay your entrance fee.

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.

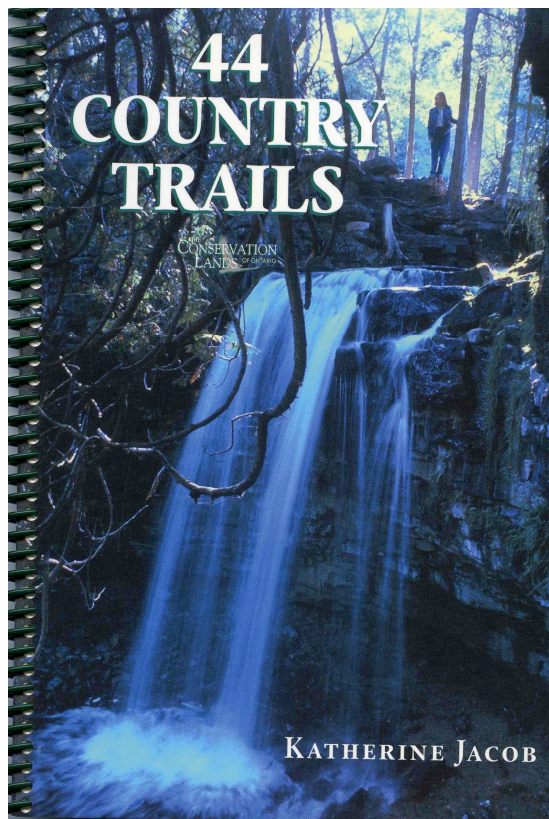
If you're interested in having Joe present this to your group, please contact him at **905-628-3132** or at joehollick@sympatico.ca

The Literal Rib

by Ron Fulton

44 Country Trails by Katherine Jacob

\$19.95



This little 100 page spiral bound book is wonderful guide to hiking trails in the Hamilton, Grand River, Long Point, Halton and Niagara areas. Over 40 trails are featured in the guide. The author, Katherine Jacob, has also written *Grand River Country Trails 1 and 2*, *The Best of the Bruce Trail*, *Bruce Peninsula Trails*, and *Trails of the Oak Ridges Moraine*.

Proceeds from these book sales go to support several local charitable, environmental and conservation projects.

The guide begins with a note on “how to use the guide”, and a regional map locating all the trails, and ending with references to services, accommodations, campsites and conservation authorities – the book is very comprehensive which adds to its utility.

Each trail description is a 2 page spread. The spiral binding allows the book to be opened and folded back completely – an advantage when you are taking the guide in and out of a pocket or backpack to check the same pages.

The page layout for each trail begins with the trail name and its location, length of the trail, its difficulty rating, and biologic or geologic highlights.

The trail surface is described (dirt, gravel, boardwalk, etc.) and road directions are given for getting to the trail head.

As a geographer I am most impressed with the quality of the

maps. Too often trail guide maps are hand drawn, black line sketches which leave a lot to be desired. In Jacob's books they are professionally done, with scale, north arrow and ample symbols to aid in navigation.

The book was first published in 1998 and in the intervening years, changes have occurred in some of the trails. This is particularly true for the trails in and around the Red Hill Creek valley in East Hamilton. The building of the expressway necessitated realigning and even closing certain trail sections. For the adventurous, this would be a suitable challenge – find where the trails are now!

DUNDAS VALLEY TRAILS

LOCATION: Dundas Valley Conservation Area, Dundas
DISTANCE: 3 km/1.9 mi. main loop (Other Area Trails: Please refer to the Dundas Valley Trail Guide)
RATING: Beginner to intermediate
HIGHLIGHT: Niagara Escarpment, Carolinian forest, Hermitage Ruins, Griffin House, reproduction Victorian Train station
LINK: Bruce Trail

TRAIL SURFACE: Gravel and hand-packed earth.

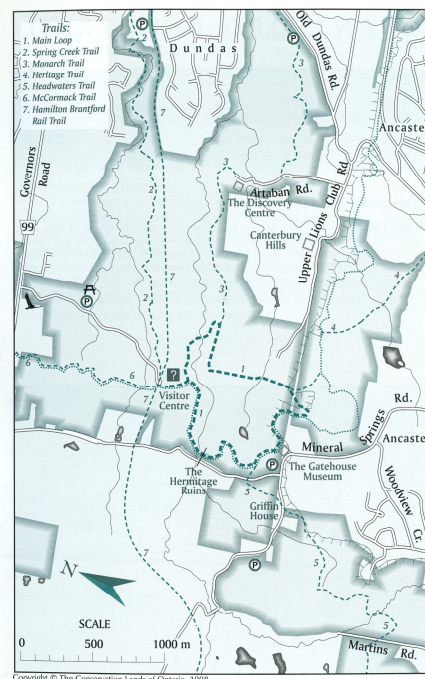
DIRECTIONS: From 403, take Hwy. 52 to Copetown, turn right on Governors Rd. (Regional Rd. 299) to the main entrance of the Conservation area. From Hwy. 401, take Hwy. 6 South to Hwy. 403 West towards Hamilton. Take the Main Street West exit to Dundas. Turn left on Main St. and follow into Dundas. Turn left on Governors Rd. and follow signs to the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

MORE INFORMATION: Visitor Centre (905) 627-1233. For trail conditions check www.hamco.on.ca or call 1-888-319-HRCA. Admission fee applies.

More than 40 kilometres (24.9 miles) of trails pass through the Dundas Valley among 1,012 hectares (2,500 acres) of Carolinian forest and hemlock groves, stream and marsh valleys, historical ruins and rugged Niagara Escarpment hills. For safe hiking among these connecting trails, purchase a Dundas Valley Trail Map at the Visitor Centre, a reproduction Victorian railway station.

Start from the Visitor Centre on the Main Loop Trail, where you'll pass a sulphur spring, once pumped into a local hotel for spa treatments. Next, walk through the ruins of the Hermitage, an 1855 summer estate for the Leith family. Stop at the Gatehouse Museum, part of the original estate that housed the gatekeeper and his family. The museum now exhibits artifacts excavated from the ruins and a model of the Hermitage mansion.

From the Orchard Trail, stroll into a stream valley with rare plants such as the walking fern, green violet and yellow mandarin before reaching an old apple orchard. After travelling through the Merrick Orchard, you'll pass the Apple Cider Shanty. Rest in a nearby clearing on two benches under a large oak tree border before beginning the return descent to the Visitor Centre.



Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

If you are a Grade 4 teacher who is preparing to teach the Unit of Work, Rocks and Minerals you might like to receive the Kit that the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre has prepared.



The Niagara Escarpment Commission has included the Unit of Work in their Google the "Niagara Escarpment Commission – Education" and under Grades 1 - 6 find the new **Giant's Rib Educational Kit for Grade 4**. You may put together a copy of the Teacher's Guide and a copy of a copy of the student's resource package.

Then, if you click below, you will be able to receive the Quicktime movies that accompany the Rocks and Minerals Unit.

When you make your request, you must send your school e-mail, phone number and school address. TD Friends of the Environment have provided funds so that there will be no cost to teachers who would like the the Quicktime Movies.



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
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Stan Nowak	Newsletter Editor
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unless you really need to.***

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with others via e-mail.***