

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
December 2012

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 7, Issue 10

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.



Hello Friends,

We wanted to keep you filled in with what's going on at the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, so here's a little update. We recently had our Annual General Meeting in November and held annual elections for directors and executive. You will find the new roll on our website. Ken Hall stepped down as President this year. Ken was a founding member of the GRDC and will continue in the role of Past President retaining many of his previous duties. We all want to thank Ken for his unfailing dedication and countless hours of service. He has been an inspiration to me and was the reason I joined the GRDC. We also want to thank Joan Hall for all the coffee and cookies. I know we couldn't have survived this long without them!

Ken recently met with the Ontario representative of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) as UNESCO is reviewing Biosphere Reserve designations in the country. I am happy to tell you

that the GRDC was lauded for their programs. We were singled out as a group who represents the Biosphere Reserve as a whole and does so consistently throughout its programs. Well done Giant's Rib!

The GRDC hopes to continue delivering excellent public programs with a desire to improve and expand. 2012 saw new guided hikes as follow-ups to our lecture series, and hope to grow these as we go. We signed Hamilton's Climate Change Charter in October and have continued to grow our relationships with other concerned Escarpment organizations

Stay tuned for more updates. We're asking for your help in finding more volunteers to help us grow. Keep an eye out for postings in this newsletter, our website and our Facebook page. We have nearly 1,000 Friends of the Giant's Rib, yet only 150 followers on [Facebook](#). Please check out our page, share our photos and videos, submit your own and help spread the word about our organization!

Every time I spend a day at the Centre I talk to people fascinated by ancient cedars, nearly half a billion year-old fossils, waterfalls and the many aspects of the Giant's Rib. By simply sharing our links and resources online or telling people about us you can help preserve this amazing natural feature.

Thank you all and we'll see you along the Rib!

Chris Hamilton
President
Giant's Rib Discovery Centre

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

... returns on Sunday, February 10th, 2013

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Complete 2012 – 2013 Program

- September 30 **Fungi: Friend or Foe**
KYLE McLOUGHLIN Experienced Wilderness Guide and Naturalist
- October 21 **For The Birds: What Birdwatchers Do**
JOHN BLACK, Past President of Ontario Field Ornithologists
Co-Author of "Niagara Birds"
- December 2 **My Favourite Hikes Along the Bruce Trail**
BETH KUMMLING, Executive Director. Bruce Trail Conservancy



February 10 **The Niagara Escarpment Biosphere 10-Year Review**
CECIL LOUIS, Niagara Escarpment Commissioner

- March 24 **Rehabilitation of Escarpment Quarries**
MOREEN MILLER, President, Ontario Stone Sand and Gravel Association
- April 14 **The Cootes to the Escarpment Plan**
BRIAN BAETZ, Environmental Engineer, McMaster University,
Member of the Cootes to the Escarpment Planning Team
- May 5 **The Wild Orchids of the Bruce Peninsula**
SEAN LIPERE, Species at Risk Outreach Coordinator and Ecological
Communications Officer for the Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five

Attempts will be made to organize field trips related to the Lecture Series presentations.

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)

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Valley Falls is located in the Dundas section of Hamilton on lands controlled by the Royal Botanical Gardens near the Bruce Trail.

Valley Falls is a Classical Plunge type waterfall located on a small tributary in the Borer's Creek watershed, approximately 30 m west of the intersection of Valley Road and Patterson Road. It has a crest width of 4.3 m and a height also of 4.3 m. Valley Falls is dry much of the year, thus the ideal time to visit it is after a heavy rainfall or during the winter snow melt.

This waterfall is named after Valley Road due to its close proximity to that roadway.

To visit Valley Falls, follow Highway #5 (also called Dundas St.) westward from Highway #6 (Clappison's Corners) and turn left onto Rock Chapel Road, then turn left onto Valley Road. Once on Valley Road, there are actually two ways of reaching Valley Falls. One way is to park in the small parking area on the south-east corner of Valley and Patterson Roads, then cross over Valley Road and the brush area to the creek (about 30 m). Follow the creek downstream about 30 m to the waterfall. Alternately, you can park on the west side of Valley Road just south of Patterson Road where the shoulder widens out for a few cars at the Bruce Trail opening in the guard rail. Follow the Bruce Trail westward and at the first creek follow the creek upstream about 50 m to the waterfall.



Happy Waterfalling!

The Literal Rib

A book review by Ron Fulton

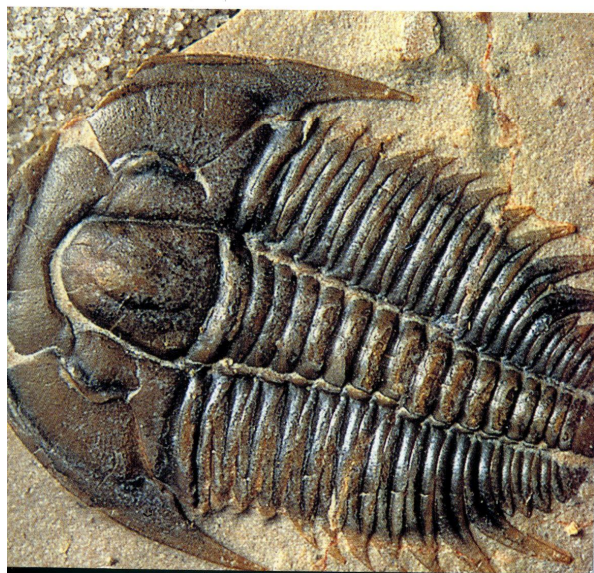
Golden Guide to Fossils
160 pp \$7.95

Frank H.T. Rhodes
ISBN 1-58238-142-9

a *Golden Guide*® FROM ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

Fossils

Fully Illustrated • Authoritative • Easy-to-Use



Finally the author surveys Invertebrate and Vertebrate Fossils and lastly Plants. The text is liberally illustrated throughout.

This is a useful purchase for the youngster just beginning an interest in fossils or for the older novice who hikes the escarpment and wants to put a name to a fossil found along the way.

Well, this is a little gem of a book! And before you dismiss it as only for children, know that it comes highly recommended as a fossil guide for anyone who is a novice in the field. The recommendation comes from none other than the Curator of the Earth and Environmental Science Museum at the University of Waterloo!

Like all the "Golden Guides", it is little. At 10cmx15cm, it's great for the field, fitting nicely into the palm of your hand or your pocket/purse. It's inexpensive and has a sturdy binding.

The book begins with a brief description of how life has evolved from the past to the present and how life forms have adapted to changing conditions over time.

The author then introduces us to fossils. What happens to their soft parts and how the hard parts are preserved? He answers the question "Why collect fossils?", suggests where to look for them and lists some of the tools which make fossil collecting easier. The final part of the introduction includes how to prepare and clean your fossil finds, how to identify and label and further references for study.

The second part of the book looks at Geologic Time and with the aid of maps and diagrams, looks at life and the environment during each of the major Geologic Eras and Periods.

FOREWORD

This guide to the life of the past differs from other guides. Instead of dealing with a single group of plants or animals, it deals with them all. Instead of being concerned only with the immediate present, its scope covers over half a billion years. Instead of dealing with life first hand, this guide must rely on only scant clues—bits of shell, bone, or sundry fossil impressions. Such clues are scarce, so each must be studied minutely. Details are important and they have been stressed in the systematic survey of fossil forms. Most fossils have only scientific names and these refer to groups rather than to species.

We have many institutions to thank for aid with this book. Dioramas and murals of the Chicago Nat. Hist. Museum are the basis for many of our restorations. The University of Illinois, the Illinois Geological Survey, the U.S. National Museum, the University College of Swansea, the Ward's Natural History Establishment, Inc., loaned us specimens. So did M. W. Sanderson, A. F. Hagner, W. W. Hoy and F. J. Koenig. Angela Heath and Shirley Osborne have assisted the senior author, and many more of our colleagues have given us photographs, specimens, comments, and suggestions.

F.H.T.R.
H.S.Z.
P.R.S.

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**Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment
and Teachers' Corner**

... will I return in the New Year!

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 !



Happy Holidays!

*From all of us at the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre,
We would like to wish upon you and yours the very best
of this Holiday Season!*

*May all the fortunes and blessings of the New Year
be with you all in 2013!*



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

Executive Officers

Chris Hamilton, President **Ken Hall**, Past President
Warren Beacham, Treasurer **Joseph Hollick**, Secretary

William Edwards	Web-Site Administrator
Kenneth Hall	Co-ordinator, Friends of The Giant's Rib Co-ordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series Co-ordinator, Arts Program
Chris Hamilton	Outreach and AV Co-ordinator
Joseph Hollick	Co-ordinator of Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research Co-ordinator of Site and Building Development
Robert Gerritsen	Co-ordinator, Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment
Ernie Kuechmeister	Co-ordinator, Recognition Program
Kyle McLoughlin	Field Trip Co-ordinator
Nancy Martin	Publicity and Communications Director
Stan Nowak	Newsletter Editor

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