

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
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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, February 10th, 2013

Origins of The Niagara Escarpment Plan

With Corwin T. Cambray, former Niagara Escarpment Commissioner

The Niagara Escarpment Plan published in June 2005 and was last updated on October 25, 2012. The Plan includes policies for seven land-use designations (Natural, Protection, Rural, Recreation, Urban, Minor Urban and Mineral Resource Extraction), provides development criteria and establishes objectives for the Niagara Escarpment Parks System as 141 parks and protected areas.

The Niagara Escarpment includes a variety of topographic features and land uses extending 725 kilometres from Queenston on the Niagara River to the islands off Tobermory on the Bruce Peninsula.

The particular combination of geological and ecological features along the Niagara Escarpment results in a landscape unequalled in Canada. It is also a source of some of southern Ontario's prime rivers and streams and one of the province's principal outdoor recreation areas.

Human impact on this environment is reflected in a variety of ways. The Escarpment area is the site of a large mineral aggregate extraction industry. Demand for permanent and seasonal residences in many areas is intense. Farming ranges from the cultivation of tender fruit and specialty crops in the Niagara Peninsula to the raising of beef cattle in Bruce County while the proximity to Ontario's largest population centres makes the Escarpment a popular tourist destination. Many archaeological sites and historical homes and buildings reflect, in a richly picturesque and valuable way, the development of the current landscape and economy of the area. The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act established a planning process to ensure that the area would be protected. From this emerged the Niagara Escarpment Plan which serves as a framework of objectives

and policies to strike a balance between development, preservation and the enjoyment of this important resource.

On February 8, 1990, the Bureau of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man and Biosphere (MAB) program approved the designation of the Niagara Escarpment as a Biosphere Reserve.

Source: Introduction: The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act



From 1974 until 2007, Corwin T. Cambray, of St. Catharines, was employed with the Regional Municipality of Niagara, where he advanced from Head of Policy Planning to Commissioner of Planning and Development. Prior to his work with the Municipality, Mr. Cambray was a private consultant. He holds a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Waterloo.

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 **Origins of The Niagara Escarpment Plan**
CORWIN T. CAMBRAY, former 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)

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 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 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: Kenneth Hall kenjoan75@sympatico.ca

For the Month of January 2013:

Featuring the artistic works of Bruce Mackenzie



Bruce Mackenzie graduated from University of Guelph in 1976 in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and has worked in various conservation areas for the Hamilton Conservation Authority since moving to the Hamilton area in 1976.

At present, he is Manager of Customer Services and Operations for the HCA. He is also a Past-President of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club.

For his artwork, Bruce works with acrylics, oil with palette knife and pencil.

Landscapes are his main inspiration and how plants and animals work together.

He started painting at the age of 48. "Sometimes it just takes time for the layers of the onion to slip away until the sweet part is found."

Saturdays and Sundays only from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area

A Note from
Kyle McLoughlin
GRDC Hike Co-ordinator



Join us on Saturday, January 26 at 10 am at the Limehouse Conservation Area, for a hike led by Beth Kummling, Executive Director of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. This hike follows up the talk she gave last month in our Lecture Series. No parking fees are required, but donations are accepted. The Limehouse Conservation Area is located at 12169 Fifth Line, Limehouse (Halton Hills).



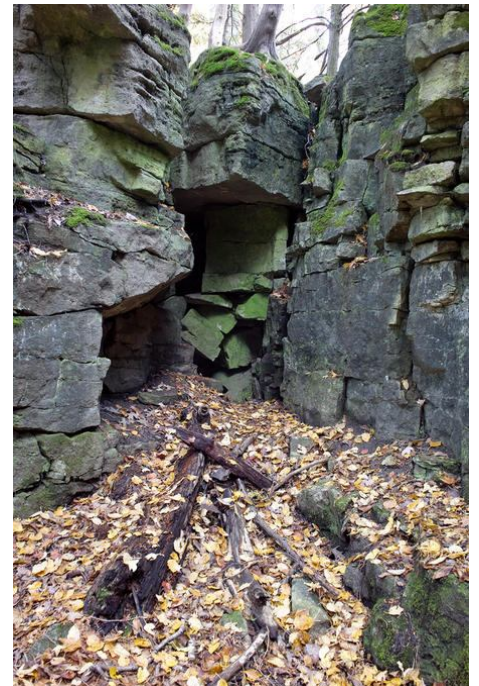
There are a limited number of spots available so **please register by contacting me at kmcloughlin@giantsrib.ca by Thursday January 24, 2013. If you do not have e-mail please contact Chris Hamilton at 905-320-5531 and leave a message.**

We're looking forward to more Lecture Series Hikes this year all along the Rib!



See you on the trail,

Kyle McLoughlin,
GRDC Hike Co-ordinator





PROTECTING LAND IN PLEASANT VIEW INFO NIGHT

Tuesday, January 22, 7-9 p.m.
Charlong Community Centre,
287 Old Guelph Road, Dundas

We need your help to ensure the Pleasant View land is
protected forever!

The Hamilton Conservation Authority, Hamilton
Conservation Foundation and Pleasant View Ratepayers
Association invite you to an *Info Night* to
discuss current activities that are protecting natural
lands in the area. Activities include improving policy
through the Niagara Escarpment Plan proposed
amendments, acquiring and stewarding land and
fundraising to support this important work.

These activities are helping to protect this
ecologically significant land from development. But the
work is not done. We need your help to ensure the land
is protected forever! Join us to learn how you can help.

For more information please contact Jen Baker at
land@hamiltonnature.org or 905-524-3339



Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Quarry Falls is located in the Waterdown section of Hamilton in a former quarry directly behind the Rona Home Centre at the Clappison Power Centre. There is no access from Rona to the waterfall, however the last paragraph describes how to view it from the Bruce Trail.



Quarry Falls is considered a Horsetail Ribbon type waterfall which drains surface water from the top of the former quarry to the lower section of the quarry as it falls over rock that had been quarried many decades ago. It has a crest width of 1 m (3 ft.) and a height of 6.2 m (20 ft.). Quarry 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 the former quarry in which it is located.

To visit Quarry Falls, take Hwy #6 north from Hwy 403, then turn right onto Mountain Brow Road which is just before (south of) Hwy #5 at Clappison Corners. Follow this road to the end and park at the barricades at the end of the roadway, taking care not to block a driveway to a private residence. Follow this pathway, which is the Bruce

Trail, easterly to the abandoned quarry. When you can see the Rona building in the distance on the north side, look at the escarpment rock face in front of it to find the waterfall. Quarry Falls is located on private property, thus there is no access to it, just viewing it from a distance.

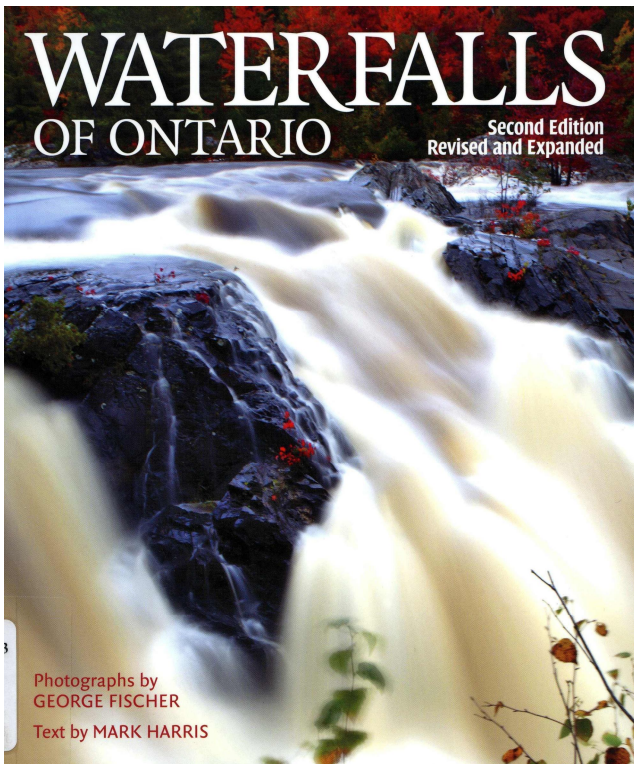
Happy Waterfalling!

The Literal Rib

A book review by Ron Fulton

Waterfalls of Ontario (2nd Edition) 2011
Mark Harris and George Fischer

ISBN 978 1 55407 791 5
\$29.95



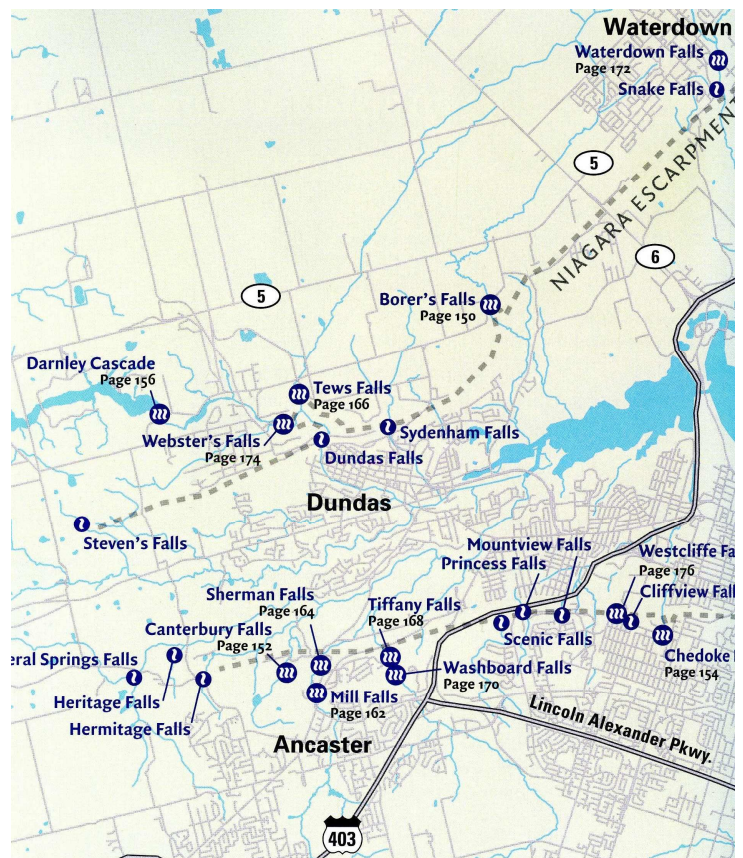
The main body of the book organizes the province into 7 regions (Algoma, Cottage Country, Eastern Ontario, Golden Horseshoe, Hamilton Region, Lake Huron, Northeastern Ontario). Each region has its own map showing the waterfall locations in that region. The book highlights over 125 Ontario waterfalls, most occupying a 2 page spread. Each spread includes a full colour photo, driving directions, a GPS location, a description of the waterfall type as well as the trail approach distance and difficulty. The book ends with a handy “inventory” of waterfalls across the province with a rating for each waterfall based on how interesting the authors believe it would be for the average visitor. Overall, it is a very attractive book, and given it is now in its second edition, a highly popular one too.

Copies are also available through the Hamilton Public Library system.

Waterfalls! As a volunteer with the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre located at the Trail Centre in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, I am surprised by the large number of visitors who ask about waterfalls. “Are there any nearby? How do I get to (fill in the name of a falls) from here? How long a walk is it to the nearest waterfall?”

With many local, small, (and some larger) streams cascading over the Niagara Escarpment, Hamilton has gained the monikers “City of Waterfalls” and “Waterfall Capital of the World”- some 126 have been documented in the Hamilton area!

For those whose waterfall interests go beyond the local area, Harris and Fischer have put together a very attractive book! It's size and weight doesn't lend itself to easily being part of the backpack, but it would do very well on the coffee table! The photographs are excellent (including some by our very own Joe Hollick), and the text is highly readable. The beginning of the book is a brief introduction to “waterfallogy”. Harris outlines the forms waterfalls may take, the associated bedrock formations, their importance to society and how we impact them.



Come Join the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!

Volunteer Positions Available at the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC) is a not-for-profit organization promoting uses of the Niagara Escarpment that will ensure retention of its natural state for future generations. Our public programs interpret the Niagara Escarpment through geographical, geological, historical, agricultural, and cultural experiences.

The GRDC Board of Directors, the Centre itself and its programs are run entirely by volunteers.

We are currently looking for volunteers for the following positions:

- 1) Coordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series (D)
 - 2) Coordinator, Volunteers (D)
 - 3) Coordinator, Marketing and Communications (D)
 - 4) Coordinator, New programs/workshops (D)
 - 5) Coordinator, Awards Recognition Program (D)
 - 6) Interpretive Hike leaders (weekends)
 - 7) Interpretive Centre Volunteers (weekends)
 - 8) Volunteers for subcommittees (fundraising etc.)
- ("D" denotes Director Position)

Detailed descriptions may be found at www.giantsrib.ca



Summary of Positions

To move forward in a positive direction and grow to meet our potential, the GRDC is looking for individuals enthusiastic about the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve, its preservation and interpretation to the public. Volunteers receive free entry to the Dundas Valley Conservation Area and assistance with transportation may be available. Co-ordinator positions may also be asked to attend monthly Directors meetings, and are asked, if available, to volunteer a shift each month at the Centre, although it is not a requirement.



About the GRDC

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre tells the story of the Niagara Escarpment through interpretation at the Centre on weekends and through our public outreach programs. These include a weekend Arts and Photography Series featuring a local artist each month, guided interpretive hikes, the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series, and we offer a Grade 4 curriculum-based Rocks and Minerals unit to elementary schools free of charge.

We require interpretive volunteers to work half-days on weekends at the Centre (located within the Dundas Valley Conservation Area at 650 Governor's Road in Dundas) and co-ordinators to manage public programs and support our annual fundraiser in June. Below you will find detailed descriptions outlining specific details of the positions.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or if you have a specific skill set you feel may assist us, please contact Chris Hamilton at chamilton@giantsrib.ca



Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2012-13

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

***Please consider the environment.
Don't print this Newsletter
unless you really need to.***

***But, by all means, please feel free to share your newsletter
with others via e-mail.***