



## GIANT'S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK

**Telling the Story of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve**



Facebook



Twitter



Website



YouTube



Stephanie Nikita, Editor.

April 2016

Volume 14, Issue 11

---

# Welcome to spring!

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre comes out of hibernation in April with a special exhibit on Faces found in nature along the Bruce Trail, new fossils from the Royal Ontario Museum, and our collection of Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere resources and materials.

We're also happy to introduce a new line of Giant's Rib pottery from Escarpment Pottery Studios! The dragonfly series is coming with new mugs and spoon rests!

We're gearing up for June when our guided hikes begin and look forward to seeing you at the Centre in 2016!

---

## **Inside this month's Issue:**

[Artist of the Month](#)

[Lecture](#)

[Teacher's Kits Now Available for Download](#)

[Waterfall of the Month](#)

[Photo of the Month](#)

[ROM Corner](#)

[Board Positions Open](#)

---

## **Save the Date!**

### **Saturday April 2, 1-4pm,**

### **Sunday April 3, 1-4pm**

Hello GREEN Team Volunteers,

The Giant's Rib is going to be opening the centre this coming weekend (April 2 and April 3) and we could mightily use some volunteer support in getting things up and running!

Acting President Jen McPherson will be there on Saturday from 9am-1:00pm to dust off our fossils and welcome in the new season of Escarpment Education! Past President Ken Hall will be there on Sunday until 1pm to keep the ball rolling and show off the new ROM fossils.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support! We look forward to another fantastic season of Escarpment Education!

Best,  
Jenn Wilson



## Lecture Series for April 2016

Bugs, man

Guest Speaker Marvin Gunderman, McMaster University's resident bug expert will introduce us to many of the creepy-crawlies of the Niagara Escarpment!

Presentation will be held on **Sunday October 25, 2015 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** at the **Waterfront Trust Centre, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton.**

Parking is free, but there is an admission charge of \$5.00 for each of the presentations.

Door prizes and refreshments will be provided after the presentation, along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speaker!



## Artist of the Month

The artist of the month for April 2016 is Daniel Wilson with a special exhibition... Face to Face with Bruce – An Unique Photography Exhibit of Faces Found In and Around the Bruce Trail

Dan is a nature and wildlife photographer whose pictures have appeared in a small number of Canadian publications including the Bruce Trail Conservancy magazine. He was born and raised in the Niagara region and currently resides in St. Davids. When he's not looking for faces, you can find him hiking the Bruce Trail, kayaking Georgian Bay or shooting spiders, dragonflies and any other tiny creatures he happens to meet along the way (with his camera of course). You can view more of his photography at:

[danielkwilsonphotography.blogspot.com](http://danielkwilsonphotography.blogspot.com)

## **2016 Lecture Series Schedule**

### **Sunday April 3, 2016 – Topic: Bugs**

Marvin Gunderman, aka “The Bug Man”, from the Department of Biology at McMaster University

### **Sunday April 24, 2016 – Topic: Randle Reef**

Chris McLaughlin, Executive Director Bay Area Restoration Council

---





# waterfall of the month

## Horseshoe Falls

Giant's Rib Escarpment Education Network's Waterfall of the Month for April 2016 is Horseshoe Falls.

Horseshoe Falls, also known as the Canadian Falls, is located on the Niagara River in Niagara Falls (both Ontario and New York State). It is considered a Plunge Curtain type waterfall with a height of approximately 52 m and a crest width of approximately 670 m.

Horseshoe Falls is one of three waterfalls that make up the world famous Niagara Falls, with the other two being American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls.

Even though Horseshoe Falls is sometimes referred to as the Canadian Falls, only 2/3rds of the waterfall is located in Canada with about 1/3rd in the USA.

There are over 500 other waterfalls in the world that are higher than Horseshoe Falls,

however Horseshoe Falls has the largest volume of water flowing over it in the world (due to the Great Lakes), making it one of the Natural World Wonders.

There are too many amazing facts of Horseshoe Falls and the entire Niagara Falls, that you just have to visit it to experience the majesty of this waterfall!

By Joseph Hollick

## **Grade 4 Rocks and Minerals units now available for download.**

Now Ontario Grade 4 teachers anywhere can get a copy of our teacher's kits. Simply e-mail us with the name of your school and we will send you a link to download the kits directly!

---



## **Photo of the month**

**These petals are the only white we should see  
on the ground from here on in, 2016!**

---





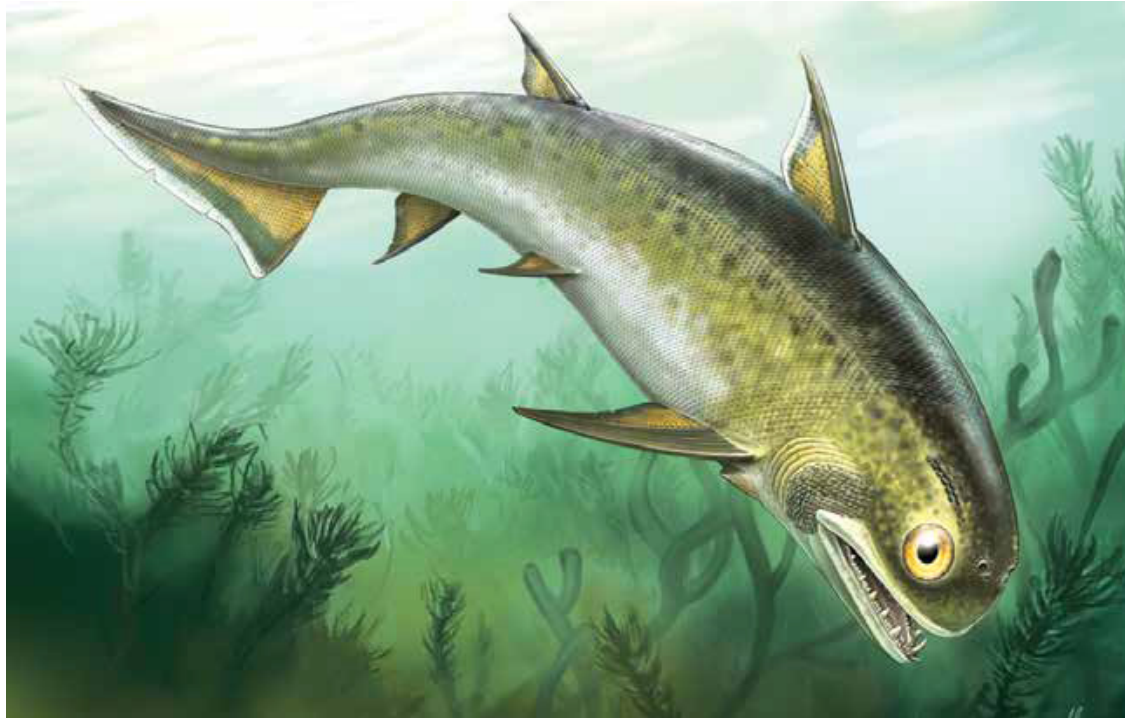
## ROM CORNER

Returning to the Discovery centre in April are visiting fossils from the Royal Ontario Museum. In addition to our extensive permanent collection you can experience some of the excellent specimens from the ROM's vault!

A new feature for the newsletter is the ROM Corner. This month is an article about a tiny Devonian fish, 390 million years old! [Click here for the PDF!!](#)

A new Early Life exhibit will be coming to the Museum in the future. Fundraising is ongoing.

---



## ROM CORNER

A new feature for the newsletter is the ROM Corner. This month is an article about a new species of fish from the Silurian period, discovered along the escarpment in Ontario. We will bring you more articles from the Royal Ontario Museum in upcoming issues. [Click here to open the PDF article!](#)

Below is information about the new Early Life exhibit coming to the Museum in the future. Fundraising is ongoing.

## The Dawn of Life Gallery

Where do we come from?  
How did life begin and

### Our roots

This landmark gallery will examine our deep past –from tiny, single-celled beginnings billions of years ago, through the first steps on land, to the appearance of

evolve? By exploring our past, the ROM's Dawn of Life Gallery will help us to shape our future.



dinosaurs and mammals over 200 million years ago. It will showcase spectacular fossils and groundbreaking research discoveries using innovative new technology.

### Predicting our future

Through its long journey, life evolved, diversified and faced major crises. What happened in the past literally changed the face of the Earth. By documenting our past, the gallery will shed light on climate change and our current biodiversity crisis.

### A Canadian story

This exciting new gallery will offer a uniquely Canadian perspective, showcasing fossils from coast to coast to coast, from several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and even from within Toronto's city limits.



**FOSSILS &  
EVOLUTION**

ROM Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology  
Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron in the field in  
Kootenay National Park, summer, 2014.



## World-renowned collections and research

Encounter the biggest and most comprehensive display of fossils from British Columbia's Burgess Shale—"the most precious and important of all fossil localities."\*\* Experience an unparalleled view of some of the first animals that inhabited the oceans of our planet, half a billion years ago, and discover how ROM scientists collect, study, interpret fossils, and make groundbreaking discoveries.

## Trailblazing technology

Amazing animations will bring long-extinct plants and animals back to life. Digital technology and photorealistic computer-generated imagery will fully immerse you in the ancient seas and allow you to witness life's first forays onto the land and into the air.

## The dawn of a new gallery experience

- Fossils from 3.5 billion to 200 million years ago
- Over 2,000 specimens, more than 50% Canadian
- Fossils—from the minuscule to the majestic
- Permanent gallery of over 10,000 square feet
- Appealing to audiences of all ages

## Be a part of this revolutionary (and evolutionary) new gallery project.

Your support will help further our understanding our own world and the current changes we are facing. With your help, the ROM can build a groundbreaking new gallery with uniquely Canadian content and leading-edge technology. To learn more about the future Dawn of Life Gallery, please contact Susan Horvath, President & CEO, ROM Governors at 416.586.8055 or [susanh@rom.on.ca](mailto:susanh@rom.on.ca).

\*\*Gould, Stephen Jay. *Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1989. Print.





---

## **Volunteer Board Members Needed**

Are you passionate about the Niagara Escarpment? Would you like a valuable position with a growing, positive environmental organization? GREEN is expanding across the province and needs your help.

Here are some of the positions open:

Vice President

[Arts and Photography Program Coordinator](#)

[Outdoor Program Coordinator](#)

[Volunteer Coordinator](#)

[New Program Coordinator](#)

[Hike Leaders](#)

[Discovery Centre Interpreters](#)

---

## **Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2015 - 16**

### **Executive Officers**

Chris Hamilton, Past President	Ken Hall, Past President
Peter Petrusich, Vice President	Warren Beacham, Treasurer
Jennifer McPherson, Interim President	

---

Kenneth Hall: Coordinator, Friends of The Giant's Rib, Education Committee

Chris Hamilton: Coordinator Outreach/AV/Website

Joseph Hollick: Coordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research

Ian Hendry: Secretary

Steve Watts: Coordinator of Awards and Education

Ernie Kuechmeister: Coordinator, Recognition Program

Cindy Marr: Coordinator ROM Programs

Jennifer McPherson: Director



### **Come Join the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!**

Are you interested in the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve? Do you want to learn more about it and contribute to its protection? Volunteering with the Giant's Rib is one way you can do that. We have positions available for volunteers on weekends at the Centre, and Director openings as well. We're growing and expanding, so if you're excited about the Niagara Escarpment, this is the place to be. Please visit [www.giantsrib.ca](http://www.giantsrib.ca) to learn about available positions or [contact us](#) to inquire.



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.



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

Copyright © \*|2015|\* Giant's Rib Escarpment Education Network, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

MailChimp

---