



## GIANT'S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK

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



Facebook



Twitter



Website



YouTube



Stephanie Nikita, Editor.

February 2016

Volume 12, Issue 9

---

# Welcome to a new year!

Welcome to 2016 from all of us at the Giant's Rib! Our Discovery Centre in Dundas will be soon re-opening on Saturdays in February and we're gearing up for the 2016 season with new artists this spring! Look forward to new fossils from the ROM along with our permanent collection.

We're also looking for hike leaders for our hike program this summer, so if you're an artist or photographer who would like to show your work, or would like to join our hike leader team, drop us a line at [info@giantsrib.ca](mailto:info@giantsrib.ca).

GREEN held its AGM in January and we welcome all our new Board members and coordinators, including our new interim President, Jennifer McPherson. We would also like to thank all of our volunteers and board members who have recently stepped down for all of their contributions and hard work in moving GREEN forward and helping us grow! Thank you!

We have more good news on the horizon, so make sure to keep an eye out here, at the Centre or online!

---



## Artist of the Month

The Arts and Photography of the Niagara Escarpment program will resume in 2016. Have a great holiday!



## Lecture Series for February 2016

Guest speaker Dr. David A. Galbraith,  
Head of Science for Royal Botanical

Gardens will entertain us in his vibrant and enthusiastic manner on the history of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Royal Botanical Gardens is today the largest botanical garden in Canada, a major urban nature sanctuary, the sixth-largest public garden in North America, and one of the most important tourist attractions between Toronto and Niagara Falls. Comprised of over 1,100 hectares of nature sanctuaries, wetlands, gardens, and built amenities, RBG is a fascinating and complex landscape that serves in many different roles for the peoples of Burlington, Hamilton, and Ontario. Such an entity did not spring into existence overnight. Where did it all come from? What was happening on the land before the idea for a major botanical garden arise in the 1920s? And what did the people of the time think a botanical garden was? We'll trace the story of RBG from the formation of the landscape in geological history through to millennia of occupancy and use by indigenous peoples, to the arrival over 200 years ago of European colonists and the conversion of much of the landscape to farming. We'll look at the rise of the surrounding urban areas in the 20th century and efforts directed at civic beautification, amenity-building,

education and research linked to parks and natural spaces. All of these things lead us to RBG's unique programs and landscape today, and its mission statement: "We dedicate our expertise in horticulture, conservation, science and education – together with our unique gardens, facilities and natural lands – to inspire and nurture society's commitment to the environment."

Presentation will be held on Sunday February 28 , 2016 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!

## **2015-2016 Lecture Series Schedule**

**Sunday February 28, 2016 – Topic: TBA**

Dr. David A. Galbraith, Head of Science for Royal Botanical Gardens

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

Mark Gunderman, McMaster University's resident bug expert

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

Lois Corey, Curator, Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum, Ancaster Old Town Hall and Griffin House

**Sunday February 28, 2016 – Topic: It's a Surprise**

Chris McLaughlin, Executive Director, Bay Area Restoration Council

## **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!

---



## **waterfall of the month**

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

Louth Falls is located on Sixteen Mile Creek in the Louth Conservation Area on the north side of Staff Ave. in the Town of Lincoln, Region of Niagara. It sometimes is referred to as Lower Louth Falls as it is located downstream of Upper Louth East and West Falls which were featured as GREEN's Waterfall of the Month for January 2016

Louth Falls has a height of approximately 9m and a width of 6.5m. and is considered a cascade plunge type waterfall. Its Latitude and Longitude coordinates are approximately N43.1245 and W79.3506. During prolonged dry periods, Louth Falls can become dry, thus plan your trip accordingly.

To visit Louth Falls, exit the QEW at Jordan Road. Go south on Jordan road to the end.

Turn left onto Niagara Rd 81 (Old Hwy 8) and then turn right onto 17th St. Continue on 17th St up the escarpment and turn left onto Staff Ave. (just past 7th Ave. on right side). There is a small parking lot on the left side just before Staff Ave curves to the right. Follow the trail at the back of the parking lot, follow it to the second trail on the left side which is located at the bottom of a hill. Take this trail on the left and it will lead you to Louth Falls.

By Joseph Hollick

---



## Photo of the month

The snow that came as quickly as it went made for a brief but beautiful sight on

the trails this winter.

---



## ROM CORNER

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.

---

## 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:

[New Program Coordinator](#)

[Hike Leaders](#)

[Discovery Centre Interpreters](#)

---

## **Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2014 - 15**

### **Executive Officers**

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

---

### **Board**

Warren Beacham: Treasurer  
Rob Gerritsen: Digital Arts Coordinator  
Kenneth Hall: Coordinator, Friends of The Giant's Rib, Education Committee  
Chris Hamilton: Coordinator AV/Website  
Ian Hendry: Secretary  
Ernie Kuechmeister: Coordinator, Recognition Program  
Cindy Marr: Coordinator ROM Programs  
Jennifer McPherson: Director  
Peter Petrusich: Vice President  
Steve Watts: Education/Awards Programs  
Sylvia Zsidi: Coordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

### **Coordinators**

Danielle Davison: Communications Coordinator  
Joseph Hollick: Coordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research  
Stephanie Nikita : Newsletter Editor  
Robyn Sifton: Social Media Coordinator

---



### **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.

---

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 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