

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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Pottery at the Rib!



Now visitors to the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre can take away more than just a memory! GREEN has now arranged to have a line of pottery available for sale at the Centre. Visitors to the Centre or the Dundas Valley can now take home a hand-crafted piece of stoneware pottery, each a unique piece of Canadian made art!

Each piece is made especially for the Giant's Rib and is signed by the artist, Barbara Van Sickle of Escarpment Pottery Studios. www.escarpmentpotterystudio.ca

The stoneware is made with environmentally friendly materials and processes, dishwasher and microwave safe, and comes in a choice of a brown or turquoise theme.

All proceeds from pottery and other sales go towards keeping the centre open and continuing to provide public education programs and outreach about the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere.

Stop by the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre weekends from 10 to 3, see works from our featured artist, fossils from nearly half a billion years ago on display, peruse our Niagara Escarpment library and enjoy the wonders of the Dundas Valley.

Stay tuned for more new and exciting news from the the Giant's Rib Escarpment Education network!

Mugs \$20

Birdfeeders \$35

**Cheese Tray with
Dip Bowl \$40**



We also sell greeting cards, waterfalls posters, fossil medallions and more to come!

From the blog of Christopher Hamilton at www.giantsrib.ca

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

This series, proudly sponsored by the Giant's Rib Escarpment Education Network, is named in memory of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority and is dedicated to promoting our Niagara Escarpment as an internationally-recognized World Biosphere Reserve and a truly unique topographic element of our natural and cultural heritage.

Next presentation of the Season: Sunday, April 26th, 2015

The Bruce Peninsula: Living in a Biosphere Reserve Community with Sean Liipere, Program Manager Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association

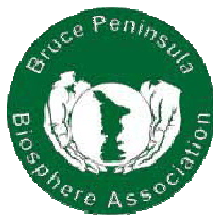


Our Niagara Escarpment is recognized as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve alongside other global treasures such as the Galapagos Island, the Serengeti Plains, and the Amazon Rainforest. Although this designation recognizes the ecological importance of a region, it also celebrates the significant role of local communities in keeping these places special for future generations. It provides a framework for communities throughout the biosphere reserve to work together to protect their natural environments, build a prosperous economy, and preserve their ways of life.

Located at the northern part of the Niagara Escarpment, the Bruce Peninsula is an important part of the biosphere reserve. It is one of the largest remaining intact natural areas in Southern Ontario and is recognized as an important stronghold for many rare and endangered species. The community has a long history of environmental stewardship from the traditional teachings of its early Aboriginal inhabitants to modern ecosystem management practices.

This presentation will explore what it means to be a biosphere reserve community and how this designation has helped foster a culture of stewardship on the Bruce Peninsula. It will share the stories of the region's rich and irreplaceable natural environment, as well as those of a community dedicated to safeguarding its future.

Originally from the Bruce Peninsula, **Sean Liipere** returned to the area in 2002 after graduating from the University of Western Ontario. His first step into the world of conservation began through an internship with the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association which led to a 12-year career with Parks Canada focused on outreach education and partner relations. He returned to the Biosphere Association in 2013 as the Conservation and Stewardship Program Manager and has been responsible for developing and implementing a community-based action plan on the Bruce Peninsula. He has been actively involved in the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve over the past 10 years as Past Chair of the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association and has travelled to many biosphere reserves throughout Canada and internationally.



www.bpba.ca

All presentations will start at 2:00 PM on the last Sunday of every month from October to April at the former Parks Canada Discovery Centre, now administered by the Hamilton Waterfront Trust.

Parking is free, but there is an admission fee of \$5.00 for this presentation.

Door prizes and refreshments will be provided after each presentation along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speakers. Please check our website www.giantsrib.ca for upcoming presentations.

For further information: Sylvia Zsidi sylviaz@cogeco.ca

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

For the Months of April and May 2015:

The Photographic Works of Paul Wright



A veteran employee of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, **Paul Wright** spends most of this time in nature.

His unique perspective is translated into stunning photographs featuring the best of the surrounding areas wildlife and landscapes.

Paul Wright has been taking photos for over 30 years, 29 years with 35mm film - and just started working with digital images in June 2010. His professional experience includes commercial work for insurance companies and sporting event photography, including boat and bicycle races.

Paul has a Fine Arts diploma from Mohawk College and has been employed for over 35 years at the Hamilton Conservation Authority as an Assistant Superintendent for the Dundas Valley.

Paul takes most of his photographs within fifteen kilometres of the Dundas Valley.



Paul states, *"It is very relaxing for me to sit or walk and take these pictures, it helps me to see nature in its real life than on TV or in books. Every day I go out shooting is rewarding if I can get 1 or 2 pictures."*

Celebrating 'the art' of the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment regularly featuring a local artist at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governors Road in Dundas.

Saturdays and Sundays only from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Park Entrance is \$9.00 per car, but walk in and bike in is free.

Your parking fee supports the Dundas Valley Conservation Area and can be used towards visiting any other Hamilton conservation area that same day. There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Please check our website www.gantsrib.ca in the coming weeks for a complete schedule for all the artists for this season.

For more information: Stephen Landers info@landerscreativecollections.com

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joe Hollick

DeCew Falls, also known as Upper DeCew Falls, is located on Beaverdams Creek in St. Catharines. It is considered a Ribbon Plunge type waterfall with a height of approximately 20 m and a crest width of approximately 10 m. It has year round flow and thus worth a visit anytime.

Its coordinates are 43.1105 N and 79.2645 W.

The DeCew Falls Generating Station, located nearby, was originally built in 1898 to supply electricity to Hamilton, and is still in use today, making it the oldest continually running hydroelectric power generating station in Canada.



Shown on the right is a vintage postcard courtesy of Janet Forjan-Freedman dated 1911 showing DeCew Falls.

A recent photo (top left) of DeCew Falls shows the ice formation covering much of the waterfall in winter.

The third photo (bottom right) shows a fairly large Ice Cave located behind the waterfall in winter due to a large cavity under the rock behind the falls' wall of ice.



To visit DeCew Falls, take the Highway 406 exit off the QEW, then exit at St. David's Road and go right. In a short distance, turn left onto Merrittville Highway, then right onto DeCew Road.

Follow this for 1.8 km to the Morningstar Mills parking lot on the right side.

The waterfall is beside the trail past the building.



Happy Waterfalling!

Rib Happenings

Upcoming Events

Our GREEN Discovery Centre's Grand Re-opening on Saturday June 6.



So, you've been hearing for a while about grants received and improvements to the Centre, and now things are starting to happen and change.

We have our fingers crossed that everything will be ready for a Grand Re-opening on Saturday June 6 from 10 to 2, coinciding with the launch of our hiking season, International Trails Day, and a Cootes to Escarpment / McMaster Hiking Week.

We will also be celebrating and promoting the 25th anniversary of the Rib's biosphere designation and 10 years of the Greenbelt.

As of now, in addition to fossil medallions, gift cards, and waterfalls

posters, we now sell pottery made especially for us by Barbara Van Sickle of Escarpment Pottery Studios. GREEN is the only local authorized distributor.

Currently, we accept cash, but over the next few weeks we hope to have a Giant's Rib button programmed into the cash register at the snack bar so we can process debit and credit sales. We will keep you advised.

Sale items coming soon:

Niagara Escarpment photo book; hats, shirts and vests – all with our new GREEN logo; raffle tickets for framed print.

New items coming:

Small wall-mounted TV; all new wall displays; glass display case for showcasing premium fossils; visiting fossil exhibits from the Royal Ontario Museum; travelling exhibit (mini discovery centre); printed mini Discovery Centre.

We plan on having a mini Greenbelt farmer's market, guided hikes, ecological demonstrations with a small tree planting, donor recognition and an invisible ribbon cutting to re-open the centre.

This promises to be a Rib-fest of a Mother Nature!

The Ninth Annual Summer Solstice Celebration



Wednesday, June 17 at the Dundas Golf & Country Club, tickets \$40.00.

Guest Speaker: David M. Rudkin, Assistant Curator in Invertebrate Paleontology, Royal Ontario Museum

Full and confirmed details for both events in next month's newsletter

Giant's Rib Photo of the Month



Ahh Captain, She's Breakin' Up!

Well, the last satellite shot we put up you all seemed to really like, so here's the current story.

This is a satellite shot from Sunday, April 12th, 2015.

You can see it's quite a different story from earlier in the month.

The ice is really starting to break up, and hey, what's that on the East side of the Bruce Peninsula...
the color *green*?

Spring is really here! Another good rain or two and the things will really start to transform!

Photo courtesy of Owen Sound Flight Services

Source: www.facebook.com/GiantsRib

Come Join the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!



**Do you love the
Escarpment too ?**

The Discovery Centre Needs Your Help!

Are you interested in the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve? Do you want to learn more about it and contribute to its protection?

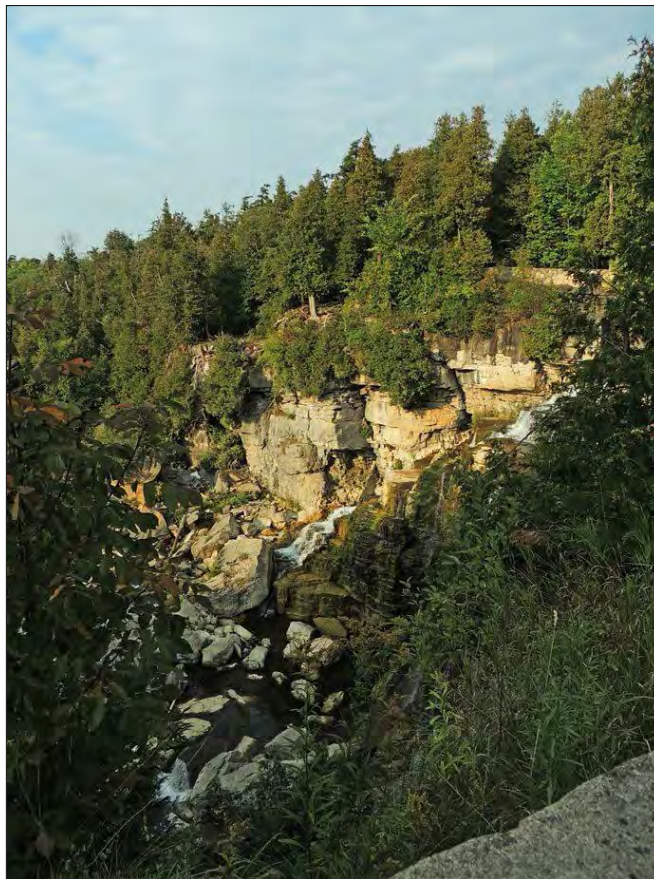
Volunteering with the Giant's Rib is one way you can do that. We have positions available for volunteers on weekends at the Centre, and Director openings as well. We're growing and expanding, so if you're excited about the Niagara Escarpment, this is the place to be.

Please visit www.giantsrib.ca to learn about available positions.

About the GRDC

The Giant's Rib of the Niagara interpretation at the through our public include a weekend Arts featuring a local artist interpretive hikes, the Series, and we offer a and Minerals unit to charge.

We require interpretive weekends at the Dundas Valley Governor's Road in manage public annual fundraiser in For detailed www.giantsrib.ca



Discovery Centre tells the story Escarpment through Centre on weekends and outreach programs. These and Photography Series each month, guided Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Grade 4 curriculum-based Rocks elementary schools free of

volunteers to work half-days on Centre (located within the Conservation Area at 650 Dundas) and co-ordinators to programs and support our June. descriptions, please visit

**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 2014 - 15

Executive Officers

Chris Hamilton, President **Ken Hall**, Past President
Warren Beacham, Treasurer

Jessica Banas	OAC Co-ordinator
Subul Khalid	Secretary
Kenneth Hall	Co-ordinator, Friends of The Giant's Rib Director, Education Committee
Chris Hamilton	Outreach Co-ordinator A / V Presentation Co-ordinator
Joseph Hollick	Co-ordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research
Stephen Landers	Co-ordinator, Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment
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Jennifer McPherson	Marketing and Fund-raising
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Cindy Marr	New Program Co-ordinator
Stan Nowak	Newsletter Editor
Cassandra Pollard	Volunteer Co-ordinator
Sylvia Zsidi	Co-ordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

***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.***