



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.

Hello to all our Friends and Readers!



We've actually had a real winter this year, so many of us have been out exploring the beauty of the Giant's Rib in winter. In fact, about a dozen volunteers hiked the Main Loop Trail in January at our Volunteer Appreciation and Orientation Day, enjoying the fresh air and good company. It was also the first step in planning our new guided hike series scheduled to begin this summer.

That's just one of the new and exciting happenings on the Rib you'll be hearing about this year. 2013 is shaping up to be a year of change and growth. Our Board has seen some changes over the past few months. With our heartfelt thanks for their contributions to the Niagara Escarpment and our organization, we say goodbye to William Edwards, John MacRae, and Nancy Martin and wish them all the best. We also welcome new directors Warren Beacham, Robert Gerritsen, Jennifer McPherson, Dave Savelli and Sylvia Zsidi to our Board. They all bring with them experience, expertise and enthusiasm for protecting and promoting the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

Even with our new directors, we still need your help. We have positions available to help us move forward and expand. Have a look further in the newsletter for positions available.

A sneak peak at 2013? Well, I can give you a few teasers. Aside from our new hike programs you can still look forward to our Summer Solstice Fundraiser (hold June 20th on your calendar!). You'll hear soon about an Escarpment Celebration at Ball's Falls in July. There are lots of Escarpment anniversaries to celebrate including the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club's 50th, CONE's 35th, the Niagara Escarpment Plan's 40th and more. On the books is an orchid hike in Tobermory in May and plans for Discovery Centre improvements coming soon. I can also let you in on a little secret that we're investigating expansion by establishing satellite Centres in the Niagara and Halton Regions! To help us with that, we've joined the Halton Environmental Network to help us spread the word about our Centre.



So, there's a lot on the go at the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre this year! Stop by; meet some of our new volunteers and find out what's new. Most of all, you can help us by simply spreading the word. Thanks for all your support. As always, contact us with any suggestions or ideas.

Until then, we wish you all the best in discovering the Giant's Rib!

Chris Hamilton
President, Giant's Rib Discovery Centre

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, March 24th, 2013

The Cootes to the Escarpment Plan

With Brian Baetz, Member of the Cootes to the Escarpment Planning Team



Brian Baetz is an environmental engineer with degrees from the University of Toronto and Duke University. Currently the Chair of McMaster's Civil Engineering Department, Brian is also the Director of McMaster's Engineering and Society and Engineering and International Studies Programs and is the head of the Sustainable Communities Research Group. His research interests lie in the area of decision support systems for sustainable communities and their related green infrastructure. Brian is an associate member of the Dofasco Centre for Engineering and Public Policy within McMaster's School of Engineering Practice.

Featuring an introductory presentation:

Update: Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy

With Anuja Ramgoolam, Project Manager, Hamilton Conservation Authority

The Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) has, over the past 50 years, advanced the protection of significant ecosystems, natural lands and the Escarpment in the Dundas Valley. Now, to ensure the Dundas Valley area is protected in perpetuity, HCA is taking a proactive approach to the conservation of the Valley by implementing the *Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy*. With the help of the community, the Vision was created in 2009 through collaborative efforts. To initiate this 50-Year Vision, an 18-month early implementation phase is currently being undertaken from the period of 2012-2013. The core objectives of this phase surround project planning and design, policy development, and community participation. With community input, 10 strategic directions/action areas out of the Vision's 43 have been identified for implementation within the first 5 year cycle. One of the priority areas is to 'Preserve the escarpment and rural countryside, including selected vistas'. Through this work plan we hope to:

1. Conduct a "Viewsheds" study for Dundas Valley that includes developing criteria for identifying areas of Visual Significance for viewsheds in areas excluded from NEC development controls (i.e. urban areas).
2. Identify protection policy for inclusion in City of Hamilton's zoning by-law review in 2013 (e.g. height control by-laws) (City of Hamilton to develop protection principles within its 2009 zoning by-law)
3. Develop and work with community groups to support work to preserve areas
4. Investigate the impacts of Climate Change on the Niagara Escarpment in the Dundas Valley area



Anuja Ramgoolam is an experienced Project Manager currently based at the Hamilton Conservation Authority. Anuja's areas of expertise entail integrated strategic planning for a diversity of project areas ranging from renewable energy, agriculture, green business, sustainable tourism, watershed management among others. Anuja's core strengths lie in project management, facilitation, writing, communication, and consultation design. She is a certified practitioner by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) and holds a Master's of Environmental Studies (MES) degree from York University along with a graduate diploma in Environmental Education and Sustainability (ESE). Anuja has also graduated with a Bachelors of Science (BSc.) degree from the University of the West Indies with a major in Environmental and Natural Resource Management and minors in Marine Biology and Chemistry.

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 **The Cootes to the Escarpment Plan**
BRIAN BAETZ, Environmental Engineer, McMaster University
Member of the Cootes to the Escarpment Planning Team

- April 14 **Rehabilitation of Escarpment Quarries**
MOREEN MILLER, President, Ontario Stone Sand and Gravel Association

- 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)

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 March 2013 – Two Exhibitions:

Looking In / Looking Out

Featuring the artistic works of Karen Suk



Karen Suk is a multi-media artist who works in a variety of themes, two of which are highlighted in this show.

She received her BA (Fine Art Major) from the University of Guelph in 1996. Karen lived in Vancouver, BC for 12 years and was a member of the Vancouver Life Drawing Society where she spent two years as the Gallery Co-ordinator. She moved back to Ontario in 2008 and is living in the burgeoning art Mecca of Hamilton, Ontario. Karen has been a member of the Hamilton Artists' Inc since her arrival in Hamilton, and served on the board of directors for two years. She is an active member of the local art scene, having exhibited her work several times in the James Street North area.

In the composite works, she peers into a smaller version of our world. Similar things might be viewed from different vantage points and different things might be viewed from similar vantage points. By doing this she explores the relationship between similarities and differences, attempting to capture the way that nature is manifested in repetitive patterns as well as unpredictable diversity.

The brightness of her palette in these works expresses the wonder and exuberance she feels when observing the patterns of life, which seem to be balanced carefully between the random and the planned. Is it ordered? Is it chaotic? Can it be both, simultaneously?

When representing trees, Karen makes connections between them and humanity. She has a strong background in figurative work, which evolved into seeing human physical characteristics in trees. But, in addition, the trees in her drawings (and possibly in real life) have human-like personality and expressiveness.



To see other works and themes, please visit www.karensuk.com

Birds That Remain In Winter

Featuring the work of taxidermist Jim Jackson



Jim Jackson is an award-winning taxidermist, having gained international recognition at various taxidermy competitions, including the World taxidermy Competition. His work will be a regular feature at our Trail Centre in the coming months and will showcase birds. This month, the exhibit will feature local birds that stay with us throughout the winter.

Jim is based in Hamilton and he is a member of the National Taxidermists' Association with over 30 years' experience.



For more on Jim and his work, visit www.jimswildlifetaxidermy.com

Saturdays and Sundays only from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area

The Hiker's Rib

Field Trip News from Kyle McLoughlin

Quarry Restoration Hike

The Giant's Rib will be visiting Kerns Road in Burlington on the 27th of April to view the effects and methods of Quarry Restoration in relation to the topic of our April lecture by Moreen Miller for the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series. It will begin at 10:00 am at the Kern's Road parking lot and end at the starting location at 12:00 noon. There are limited spots available, so please contact kmcloughlin@giantsrib.ca to reserve a spot. A \$5 donation to the Giant's Rib would be appreciated.



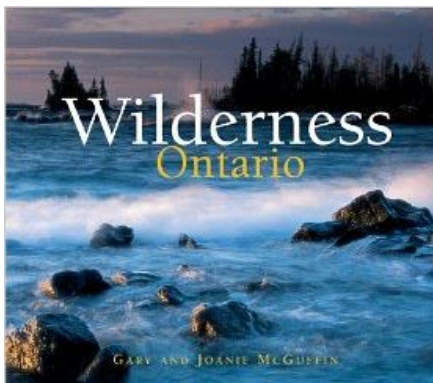
Kyle McLoughlin
GRDC Hike Co-ordinator

The Literal Rib

A book review by Ron Fulton

Wilderness Ontario
Gary and Joanie McGuffin

ISBN 978-1-55046-504-4
Boston Mills Press, 2007



If you like coffee table books with wonderful photography and minimal text, this might be the book for you! In 240 pages, the authors take us on wilderness journeys in Northern Ontario – from northern Georgian Bay, through the Temagami and Algoma regions, to the shores of Lake Superior and Lake Nipigon and Quetico Provincial Park.

There is a brief, 3 page introduction and then just photos - wonderful photos, taken from quite close up to far reaching wide-angles. Photos taken at dawn and at dusk, in mists and at night, from cliff tops to the waters edge. Many are quite compelling in their composition and beauty. Each photo has a brief descriptor, including its location. I like the book for its simplicity and the selection of photos. The challenge for the would-be buyer will be to actually acquire a copy.

Chapters/Indigo are currently sold out and Amazon. com only offers copies through third parties. Perhaps your local bookseller will have better luck in getting you a copy.

My suggestion would be to visit the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre library in the Trail Centre at the Dundas Conservation Area. They have a copy that you are more than welcome to enjoy!

Ron Fulton
Giant's Rib Discovery Centre Volunteer

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Beamer Falls is located on 40 Mile Creek in Beamer Memorial Conservation Area in Grimsby, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Beamer Falls is considered a Ramp-type Cascade waterfall which usually has year-round flow, although occasionally during extreme drought periods, it can dry up. The accompanying photo of Beamer Falls was taken after a heavy rainfall which caused much silt to wash into 40-Mile Creek, giving it a brownish colour. Its height is approximately 45 feet and it has a crest width of approximately 20 feet which widens out significantly towards the bottom.

The waterfall is named after John Beamer who purchased 300 acres of land in the late 1780's, then built a dam just above the waterfall to provide water power for his sawmill and grist mill.

To visit Beamer Falls, take Exit 71 (Christie St.) off the QEW in Grimsby. As you follow Christie Street, the road becomes Mountain Street, but continue on it up the Niagara Escarpment. Then turn right onto Ridge Road and follow it for about 1 km where you will see a small parking area on the right side just before 40-Mile Creek. Beamer Falls is about a one minute walk from this parking lot on the north side of Ridge Road.



Happy Waterfalling!

Come Join the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!

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 the available positions listed below



Discovery Centre Interpretive Volunteers

Website Coordinator

Communications Coordinator

Recognition Program Coordinator

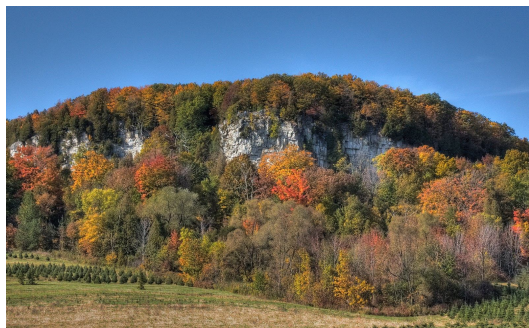


About the GRDC

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.

For detailed descriptions, please visit www.giantsrib.ca



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

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|---------------------------|---|
| 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 Co-ordinator, Site and Building Development |
| Robert Gerritsen | Co-ordinator, Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment |
| Ernie Kuechmeister | Co-ordinator, Recognition Program |
| Jennifer McPherson | Marketing and Fund-raising |
| Kyle McLoughlin | Co-ordinator, Field Trips |
| Stan Nowak | Newsletter Editor |
| Dave Savelli | Co-ordinator, Trail Centre Volunteers |
| Danya Scime | Co-ordinator, Special Events |
| Sylvia Zsidi | Co-ordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series |

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unless you really need to.***

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others via e-mail.***