

# The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor  
June 2013

[www.giantsrib.ca](http://www.giantsrib.ca)  
Volume 8, Issue 5

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 Giant's Rib proudly presents our Seventh Annual



The poster features a sunset background with the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre logo at the top. The main title 'SUMMER SOLSTICE' is in large, white, serif capital letters, with 'Celebration & Fundraiser' in a smaller, white, script font below it. The date 'Thursday, June 20' is prominently displayed in white. The venue 'Hamilton Air Force Association Banquet Hall' and address '128 King St. E., Dundas L9H 1V2' are listed, along with 'Cocktails at 6:00pm • Presentations at 7:00pm'. A section titled 'JOIN US FOR' lists activities: 'Silent auction, prizes, draws, cash bar, live music, sunset hike and birthday cake to celebrate the Niagara Escarpment Plan's 40<sup>th</sup>'. Ticket information 'Tickets \$40 • [tickets@giantsrib.ca](mailto:tickets@giantsrib.ca)' is provided, with a note 'TICKET PRICE INCLUDES 10 DRAW TICKETS'. The website 'www.giantsrib.ca' is at the bottom.

Giant's Rib  
DISCOVERY  
Centre

## SUMMER SOLSTICE

Celebration & Fundraiser

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### Thursday, June 20

Hamilton Air Force Association Banquet Hall  
128 King St. E., Dundas L9H 1V2  
Cocktails at 6:00pm • Presentations at 7:00pm

.....

JOIN US FOR

*Silent auction, prizes, draws, cash bar,  
live music, sunset hike and birthday cake to  
celebrate the Niagara Escarpment Plan's 40<sup>th</sup>*

**Tickets \$40 • [tickets@giantsrib.ca](mailto:tickets@giantsrib.ca)**  
TICKET PRICE INCLUDES 10 DRAW TICKETS

**[www.giantsrib.ca](http://www.giantsrib.ca)**

**Come celebrate some milestone Escarpment Birthdays with us!**

Happy 35th CONE! ~ Happy 40th NEC! ~ Happy 50th Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club! ~ Happy 55th HCA!

Help us raise funds for Centre improvements and new programs!

Enjoy a sunset over the "Giant's Rib" on the doorstep of the Eco Park and C2E lands!

# 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.  
Your parking fee supports the Dundas Valley Conservation Area and can be used towards admission at any other Hamilton conservation area on the same day.

There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.  
For further information: Kenneth Hall [kenjoan75@sympatico.ca](mailto:kenjoan75@sympatico.ca), Robert Gerritsen [rigerritsen@cogeco.ca](mailto:rigerritsen@cogeco.ca)

**For the Month of June 2013:**

## Paintings from The Bay to the Escarpment

Featuring the work of artist Paul Duff



Born in Hamilton, Canada, January 15th, 1928, Paul Duff has been painting professionally since 1945. A graduate of McMaster University and Hamilton Teacher's College, he subsidized his career in the visual arts as an itinerant teacher in Switzerland and Brazil.

At age 22, he exhibited with members of Canada's Group of Seven, leading to official recognition by the National Gallery of Canada as a Canadian Painter in August, 1956.

Nineteen years later, he was invited to exhibit at the National Gallery of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro. The next year he became the first Canadian to receive an honorary citizenship to the City of Rio de Janeiro and later inducted as a member of the order of Honorary Cariocas.

Paul Duff returned to Canada in 1981. His paintings appear in public and private collections with representations in Australia, New Zealand, United

Kingdom, Germany, France, Holland, Switzerland, Brazil, Bermuda, the Philippines, China, and the United States. To date he has had ninety-one solo exhibitions on three continents.

In May, 1997, a painting from his Scottish collection was acquired by the National Gallery of Scotland for their permanent collection. About the same time, Paul Duff was conferred a knighthood in the Order of St. Andrew of Jerusalem

He is the author of the book, "The Eternal Apprentice" (1999) used as a text-reference book at the Ontario College of Art and Design, and Sheridan College. In 2009, his autobiography, "My Life, My Art" covering seventy years of his career was published and is available through his gallery (226-974-1928).

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## Birds of Prey: The Spring Nesters

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 local birds.

This month, the exhibit will feature local birds each placed in their own distinctive and unique nests.

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](http://www.jimswildlifetaxidermy.com)

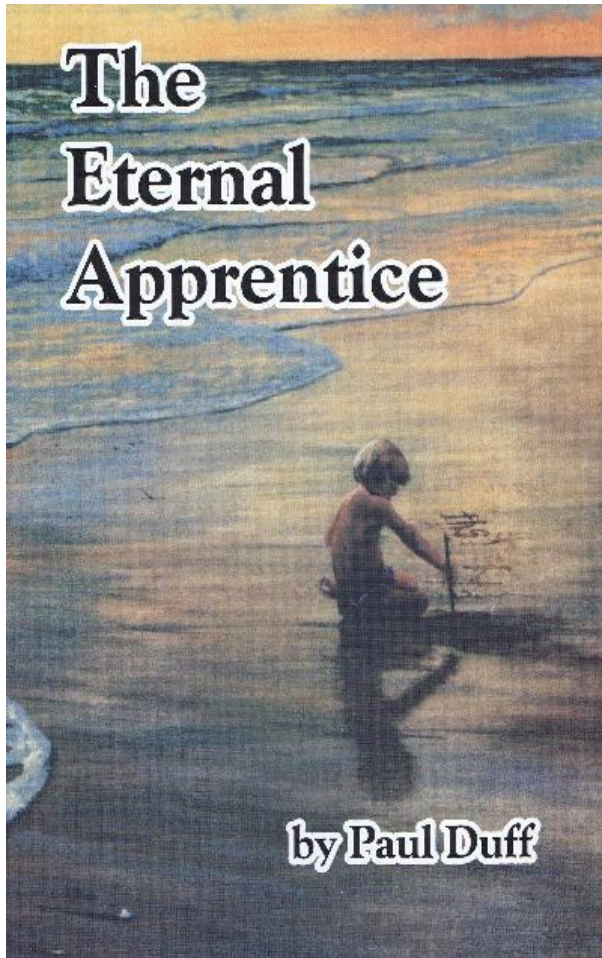
**Saturdays and Sundays only from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area**



# The Literal Rib

Two Literal Works from our 'Artist of The Month'

Source: [www.paulduffgallery.com](http://www.paulduffgallery.com)



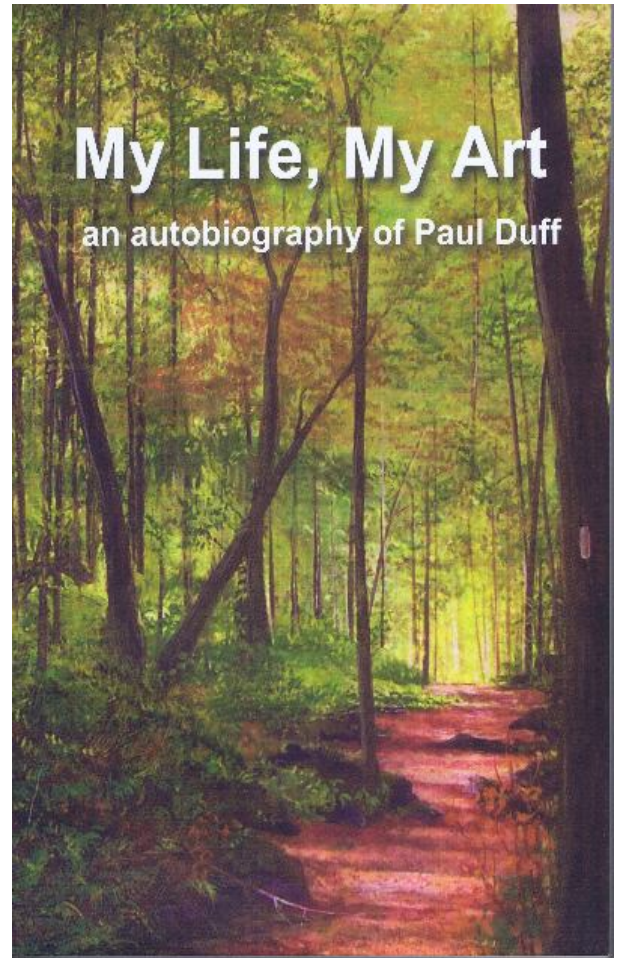
ISBN 0-9685326-1-6

"Paul Duff's book provides the reader in search of artistic fulfillment, with cogent, practical advice, based on fifty years of spiritual and aesthetic commitment."

*The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, P.C., C.C.,  
K.St.J., O.Ont., Q.C.  
Former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario*

"Paul Duff's life in art is a story of determination to succeed as a painter coupled with the realization that making a living may require time spent away from the easel. For how long? As long as it takes, for a successful artist like Paul will never put commercialism ahead of artistic integrity."

*Dr. Peter George, President & Vice-Chancellor,  
McMaster University*



ISBN 978-0-9812089-0-9

"A parallel theme that haunts him throughout his life is his ability to generate funds to meet his living expenses. He resisted and continues to resist the temptation of succumbing to the lucrative market of reproduction prints for no other reason than to promote the status of Fine Art in our Culture."

I thought that I knew Paul Duff. This book was a revelation that gave me a much deeper appreciation of the man - as it will you."

*David Haley, Editor  
"The Eternal Apprentice"  
August 8, 2008*

Both of these books are still available at Paul Duff's gallery or you can call 226-974-1928 to arrange for a copy.




# Rib Happenings

Beginning **June 1st 2013** at the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, the Giant's Rib will be providing free interpretive hikes every Saturday beginning at the trail center at 11:00am occurring on the main loop trail.

These hikes will feature Hike Ontario Certified Hike leaders sharing information regarding the history of the area, basic escarpment geology, and the ecology of the Carolinian forest.

Once again, these hikes are **free** and will be offered every Saturday at 11:00 from June 1st, until Thanksgiving weekend. Come out and learn about the incredible conservation area in your own backyard!



**Giant's Rib**  
**DISCOVERY**  
Centre

**NEW PROGRAM LAUNCH**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2013**


Presents

**Guided Hikes**  
of the  
**Dundas Valley**

Join us Saturday June 1st at 11 a.m. to help us launch our new guided interpretive hiking program!

Spend an afternoon on the Main Loop Trail and discover the wonders of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve (a.k.a. The Giant's Rib!)

We are located in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas, Ontario.  
Hikes leave the Trail Centre at 11 a.m. every Saturday from June through Thanksgiving.



Parking fee of \$9 per car per day applies. Parking fees are used to maintain trails and conservation projects in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

[www.giantsrib.ca](http://www.giantsrib.ca)





Speaking of hikes, the Orchid Hike in Tobermory held on Saturday, May 11 and led by Walter Muma was a huge success!

Many amazing plants and orchids were seen, including the Calypso Orchid and Ram's Head Lady Slipper.

Here's the link to the highlight reel on YouTube:

<http://youtu.be/2l4yBB3p5sA>

Enjoy!



Calypso Orchid



Ram's Head Lady's Slipper



Planning a photo outing to Dundas Valley Conservation area?

Dundas Valley is an UNESCO world biosphere site. In co-operation with the Giant Rib Discovery Centre, the Burlington Photography Meetup Group will be hosting a photo exhibition for those who participate in the outing over the month of June.

The Burlington Photography Meetup Group is for residents of Burlington and surrounding areas to meet up in for photographic outings to share our photos and to meet others with similar interests, to learn from each other and enjoy this great hobby.

Framed prints of your images will be on display and for sale if you wish in the Trail Centre in the Dundas Valley.

The photographer will be responsible for all printing, framing and delivery to the Discovery Centre; set-up will take place June-1st.

For more information: [www.conservationhamilton.ca/dundas-valley](http://www.conservationhamilton.ca/dundas-valley)



# Ball's Falls proudly presents the **Niagara Escarpment Festival Biosphere Bash!**

**Join us in this celebration  
July 7th, 2013  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

- Live music with David Gillis & Jude Johnson
- 20 Valley Wine Tent
- Live animal show with Bird Kingdom
- Kids bouncy "turtle" & "water play" inflatables
- Bird house building by RONA
- Environmental group displays & activities
- Guided hikes ... and much more!



The Escarpment Festival is presented in partnership with:



The Escarpment Festival is supported by the following businesses:



The Escarpment Festival is supported by the following media sponsors:



For more information  
visit [www.ballsfalls.ca](http://www.ballsfalls.ca)  
or call 905.562.5235



Join us at Ball's Falls on July 7 for the Biosphere Bash!

# Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

Waterfalls of the Month by Joseph Hollick

**Lower Punchbowl Falls** is located on Stoney Creek, about 100 m below the larger and well known waterfall, Devil's Punch Bowl, in the Stoney Creek section of Hamilton.

Lower Punchbowl Falls is considered an Overhang Classical Falls which does dry up. To view it with water flowing, the best times are after rainfalls and during the winter snow melt. Its height is 6 m (20 ft.) and its width is 6 m (20 ft.).

This waterfall received its name from the curved rock formation upstream, resembling a bowl, where the first waterfall (Devil's Punch Bowl) is located.

Lower Punchbowl Falls is located beside the Bruce Trail and thus can be viewed fairly easily. From QEW, take the Centennial Parkway exit and follow this road for about 3 km to King Street. Turn left towards Stoney Creek and then right onto Mountain Avenue South. Follow this road to the end and there is an entrance to the Bruce Trail at this point which crosses the railway tracks. Follow the Bruce Trail eastward beside Stoney Creek a short distance to Lower Punchbowl Falls.



# Happy Waterfalling!



# Teacher's Corner

by Ken Hall



The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority runs a program for elementary schools in the Niagara Region known as **Canopies for Kids**. It is aimed at planting shade trees in school grounds. The goal of Canopies for Kids is to engage young students and volunteers to learn through hands-on involvement

the benefits that trees provide not only for a healthy environment, but also to recognize the important contribution that trees make to our health.

The science-based programs, adapted for grades 1 to 8, meet the Life Systems Strand of the Ontario curriculum. The program will provide a deeper look at how trees improve biodiversity, water quality and air quality. Studies have shown that shade provided by trees can reduce asthma rates related to poor air quality, contribute to increased physical activity, mood improvement and promote psychological well being. Students will learn about the benefits of trees and forest and how they help our ecological, economic and social environment.

Schools selected to participate in Canopies for Kids will be engaged through interactive school assemblies and workshops provided by NPCA program staff. Staff will work with the school teams on planting and site design incorporating both large and small Niagara tree species. On request, the Conservation Authority will send detailed program information to schools. There is no cost to the schools and a maximum of ten schools per year will be selected for participation.



Apply to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, 250 Thorold Road, Welland, ON, L3C 2W2 or phone 905-788-3135 or email to [info@npca.ca](mailto:info@npca.ca) .

If your school is not within the Niagara Region, you might point out the program to your own local Conservation Authority and see if they would introduce it in your area.



# Giant's Rib Photo of the Month



Have you ever wondered what the marsh area beside Cootes Drive looks like on your way into Dundas from Hamilton? Well this photo shows a portion of it! Just wear waterproof boots if you plan to venture there! The area is teeming with wildlife!

Cootes Paradise was first recognized for its significant wildlife in the 1770s, when Captain Thomas Coote, a British soldier, regularly visited the area to hunt and fish. When the area was first settled in the 1790s, it was called Coote's Paradise.

Local naturalist Charles Durand wrote, in 1818-19, that Cootes Paradise "was a paradise for game of all kinds. Immense flocks of ducks and wildfowl and wild animals innumerable in old times were seen there. It was also the resort of wild fur animals, such as otter, perhaps beaver, fisher, minks and especially muskrats; snakes were abundant there of all kinds".

Giant's Rib Discovery Centre shared this photo on Facebook.

Photo credit: Joseph Hollick



# 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](http://www.giantsrib.ca) to learn about the available positions listed below



### **Discovery Centre Interpretive Volunteers**

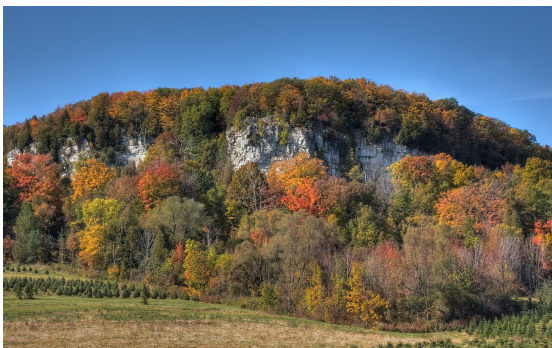


### **About the GRDC**

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](http://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](mailto: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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<b>Kenneth Hall</b>	Co-ordinator, Friends of The Giant's Rib Director, Education Committee
<b>Chris Hamilton</b>	Outreach Co-ordinator A / V Presentation Co-ordinator
<b>Joseph Hollick</b>	Co-ordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research Co-ordinator, Site and Building Development
<b>Robert Gerritsen</b>	Co-ordinator, Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment
<b>Ernie Kuechmeister</b>	Co-ordinator, Recognition Program
<b>Jennifer McPherson</b>	Marketing and Fund-raising
<b>Kyle McLoughlin</b>	Co-ordinator, Field Trips
<b>Naomi Mahaffey</b>	Volunteer Co-ordinator
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<b>Danya Scime</b>	Co-ordinator, Special Events
<b>Rob Willett</b>	Co-ordinator, Marketing and Communications
<b>Sylvia Zsidi</b>	Co-ordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

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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.***