



Stan Nowak, Editor
November 2013

www.giantsrib.ca
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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.

Upcoming presentation of the season: Sunday, November 17th, 2013

Biological Battleground: Invasive and Endangered Species of the Niagara Escarpment

With Kyle McLoughlin, Giant's Rib Board member, Co-ordinator of Field Trips

The Niagara Escarpment world biosphere reserve is the last line of defense for a multitude of endangered species, and the front line for an equally large number of invasive plants and animals that would permanently displace those in such a precious position in our environment.

This one-hour lecture will introduce some of the endangered and invasive species in the Giant's Rib, the legislation surrounding their protection, their roles in the ecosystem, and how they affect our daily lives.

Kyle McLoughlin is a climbing arborist for the Davey Tree Expert Company specializing in plant disease pathology. An experienced naturalist and wilderness guide, Kyle was featured in the Hamilton Spectator for his extensive knowledge of edible wilds in the Carolinian and St. Lawrence forests. In his spare time Kyle is the Director of Outdoor Programming for the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, and the Leadership Skills Instructor for the McMaster Outdoor Club.



Our upcoming full schedule for this season's Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series is pending, but all 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 \$5.00 for this presentation. 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
Sylvia Zsidi sylviaz@cogeco.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.

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, Robert Gerritsen rjgerritsen@cogeco.ca

For the Month of November 2013:

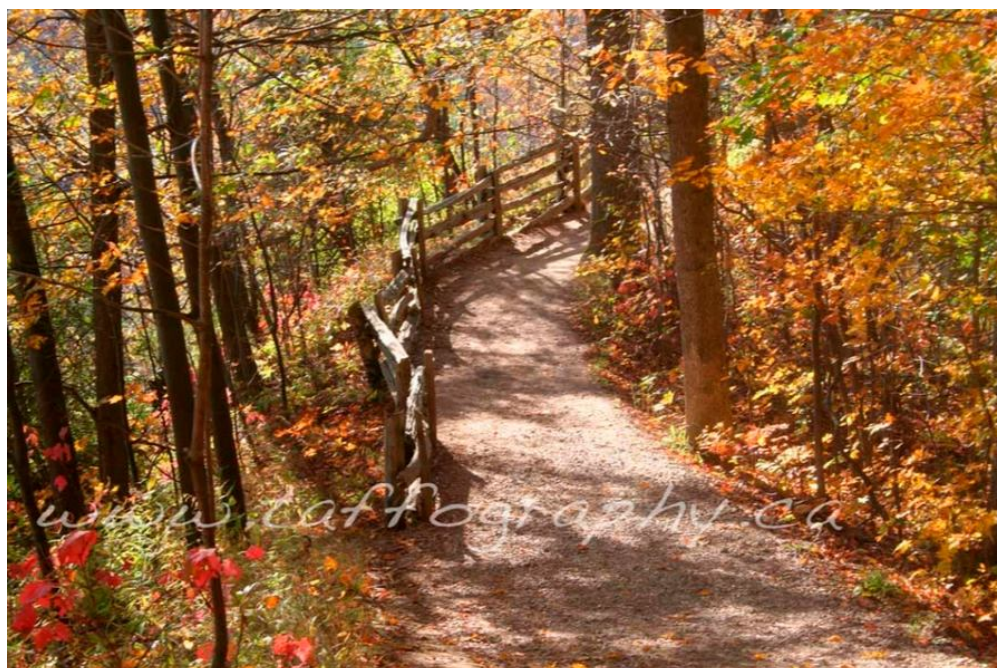
Taffography – the photography of Hayley Sousa

Hayley Sousa has been capturing her passions in life on film over the past fifteen years.

Born in South Wales, Hayley immigrated to Canada in 1992 and began developing her passion for photography. She found Dundas in 1997 and instantly fell in love, as the valley and surrounding area brought her closer to home.

Hayley attended the Dundas Valley School of Art for Photography and learned the more classic methods of film photography and dark room development. Kicking and screaming, she reluctantly progressed into the digital age and now has taken it by storm, with stunning photography of her surroundings whether they be people, places or things.

You can often find her hiking the Dundas Valley with her husband, children and three dogs, with her camera in tow.



www.taffography.ca

Rib Happenings

A big "Thank You" goes out to all of our volunteers! Many volunteers were able to make it out to an appreciation barbeque in October. A group hike led by Kyle McLoughlin was followed by some burgers and dogs on the barbe! To all those who couldn't make it, thank you for all your hard work and we hope you can make it out next time.

To all our "Friends of the Giant's Rib", thank you for supporting us and we are getting closer step by step for some exciting new displays and enhancements to our website over the next year or so. We still need help in running the Centre and ask you share our volunteer opportunities or consider volunteering at the Centre.



So, once again, a big "THANK YOU!" to all our hardworking volunteer directors, centre staff and hike leaders!

Chris Hamilton
President, Giant's Rib Discovery Centre



**Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

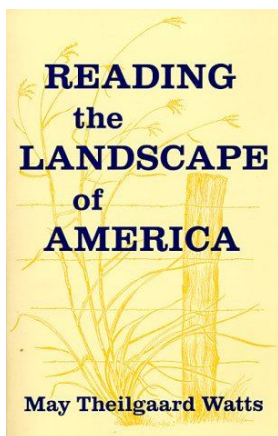
Great News from Along the Rib!

We are pleased to announce that the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation have approved our grant application!

The Foundation has approved a grant of \$10,000 to the GRDC to go towards our expansion project. The first stages of this project include new displays and improvements to our current Centre, redevelopment of our website into a one-of-a-kind educational resource on the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve, and the production of a travelling display to be hosted at locations around Ontario!

All of us at The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre are grateful to the Foundation for their support and look forward to new and exciting things! Further grant applications are outstanding, so stay tuned to our social media and newsletters for (fingers crossed) more good news!

Chris Hamilton
President, Giant's Rib Discovery Centre



The Literal Rib

by Stan Nowak

A discussion about this book came about between Kyle McLoughlin and me during the recent Giant's Rib volunteer appreciation barbecue and guided hike, which was led by Kyle himself.

"Reading the Landscape of America" was a recommended text for me when I was studying Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph and it has become one of my favourite books on any subject and, therefore, has a permanent place in my own personal library!

In a series of short essays, May Watts describes her field trips across the continental United States, from the deserts to the plains to the mountains and to the coasts. In each location, she comments on the interaction between the land and the types of plants found there. As she tells us, it is often the plant life that creates and molds the underlying landscape.

May Watts' writing style always places the reader right on the trail beside her whether examining the composition of a sand dune or the ecology of a bog. Her descriptions are accompanied by a series of sketches (her own) showing the changing silhouettes of trees and homesteads as she travels from urban to rural settings and beyond. This book is like a diary, a journal of exploration and revelations as she travels across the diverse landscape of America.

She comes across as a learned botanist who also happens to be your favorite aunt, like Angela Lansbury's TV detective Jessica Fletcher from "Murder, She Wrote".

I'm not sure if this book is readily available in local book stores as it was originally published in 1957, with subsequent limited editions in 1975, 1985 and 1999, but it's definitely available on Amazon.

If you are a lover of nature or of stories about nature, then this is definitely a book for you! Mine sits proudly alongside Henry David Thoreau's Walden!

Teachers' Corner

by Kenneth Hall

Here is some information about an Ontario Society that might be of interest to teachers who are teaching their classes about rocks and minerals.



It is THE BRANTFORD LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY

The Society holds monthly meetings with interesting speakers and pot luck dinners. Visitors and guests are always welcome. The Society also conducts lapidary workshops where professional instructions in stone cutting and polishing is provided. The Club is one of the best-equipped in Canada. Members learn basic skills in selecting materials, cutting shapes and polishing to a finished product. Various field trips are organized throughout the year. Some trips include fossil and mineral collecting. Experienced members are quick to help new members learn what to look for and how to gather specimens. The club has an extensive library of lapidary, mineral geology, jewellery and fossil books available for their members'

convenience. Their monthly newsletter informs members of upcoming shows, events, classes, past and future meetings. It is available by mail to members and on their website www.brantfordlapidarymineral.ca

E-mail brantfordlapclub@live.ca

They will be holding their annual Gem and Mineral Show on April 5 - 6
PARIS FAIRGROUNDS
139 Silver Street, Paris, ON, N3L 3E7

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joe Hollick

Wall Falls is located on private property belonging to CN Railway, in the Fruitland section of the City of Hamilton, thus is not accessible to the public.



Wall Falls is considered a Complex Ribbon Cascade type waterfall with flow only after heavy rainfalls or during the winter snow melt. Its height is 4 m (13 ft.) and its width can vary from 1m to 2m (3 ft. to 6 ft.) depending on the amount of flow. This waterfall originates from an opening in the rock face of the Niagara Escarpment wall and not the surface, thus the name of Wall Falls. It is not known exactly where the water source is but appears to be some form of underground stream or flow which depends on rain water as Wall Falls is dry for much of the year. The water at the bottom of the waterfall then flows into the ditch which is located beside the railway tracks.

Its Latitude and Longitude Coordinates are 43° 12' 20" N, 79° 42' 40" W.

To reach Wall Falls, from the QEW take Fruitland Road exit, travel south for 2 km to Hwy #8. Turn right onto Hwy #8, then left onto Dewitt Road. Proceed upwards on Dewitt Road and immediately past the railway tracks part way up the Niagara Escarpment, park on the left side where the shoulder widens out and Dewitt Road becomes one way up bound. Wall Falls is located about 600 m to the east or 10 minutes walking beside the railway tracks. There is No Trespassing along the tracks, however if you do proceed, be very careful as trains do travel along these tracks and this is private property.

Wall Falls is located on the south side of the tracks directly below the first house which can be seen on top of the Niagara Escarpment.

Happy Waterfalling!

Giant's Rib Photo of the Month



No, this is not some exotic tropical hideaway situated somewhere in the Caribbean!
This is the Georgian Bay Grotto, located in Tobermorey, Ontario, Canada.

This Grotto is a sea cave carved out of the Niagara Escarpment and is the most popular attraction in the Bruce Peninsula National Park.

The park is located directly on the Georgian Bay coastline, where cliffs and caves of the Niagara Escarpment create a dramatic setting for photography.

A big cave on the shore, it was carved out by the waves of the Georgian Bay over thousands of years. It's directly along the Bruce Trail that's a rugged route including natural rock tunnels, arches, and a boulder beach with 40-metre-high cliffs that overlook the Georgian Bay.

From the Bruce Trail, you can climb down through the natural chimney in the rock of the Niagara Escarpment

Everyone must experience hiking to the Grotto once in their lifetime!

It's a pristine setting; there are no signs, lights, stairs or handrails here.

The cave itself is stunning, with sunlight from the outside revealing a brilliant underwater tunnel on the inside. You can walk along a ledge inside its cavity or swim in its cool, clear, turquoise water.



CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE LA FAUNE

Photo by the Canadian Wildlife Federation and shared on Facebook by the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre.

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 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

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
Naomi Mahaffey	Volunteer Co-ordinator
Stan Nowak	Newsletter Editor
Danya Scime	Co-ordinator, Special Events
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
others via e-mail.***