

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
April 2014

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 9, Issue 3

Giant's Rib DISCOVERY Centre

Exploring the Niagara Escarpment
World Biosphere Reserve

Niagara Escarpment Photography Contest

In partnership with CD Video Productions, the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is launching an online photography contest focusing on digital images of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

Each person may enter three (3) photos in each of three (3) categories:

Wildlife, Waterfalls and Landscapes.

In order to qualify, photographs must be taken along the Niagara Escarpment. This contest is another addition to the GRDC's public programs designed to increase public awareness of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

The contest closes April 30, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. and selected entries will be featured at the Discovery Centre in July, August and September.

The 2014 - 2015 contest will open May 1, 2014.

To enter your photos or for full contest details visit cdvideo.ca/gallery. Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to gallery@cdvideo.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 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 6th, 2014

That's Amore: Opening your eyes to Hamilton's waterfall wonders

With Jon Wells, award-winning journalist and author



Jon Wells is an award-winning journalist and author with the Hamilton Spectator, where he writes primarily long features on subjects ranging from true crime to arts and the environment.

Jon started working for the Spectator in 1997, and over the years his work has won 15 Ontario Newspaper Awards and two National Newspaper Awards.

He has to date published seven books; five of these have been true crime, focusing on Hamilton homicide investigations. His book "Post-Mortem" was nominated for an Arthur Ellis Award.

His latest book is "Death's Shadow", published by Dundurn.

Jon has written features about Hamilton's natural wonders, including "Jon's Journey," a first-person account of his experiencing canoeing, biking, and hiking around Hamilton -- a story that won a Hamilton Tourism Award and an Ontario Newspaper Award.

Jon was born in Montreal, raised in London, Ont., attended the University of Western Ontario and then Carleton University in Ottawa, where he earned his Masters Journalism degree.



This presentation will take place from 2:00 – 3:00 PM at the former Parks Canada Parks Discovery Centre, on 57 Discovery Drive, and now administered by The Hamilton Waterfront Trust.
Parking is free, but there is an admission fee of \$5.00 for this presentation.
Refreshments will be provided after the presentation along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speakers.

For further information: Sylvia Zsidi sylviaz@cogeco.ca

Upcoming Presentation

Sunday, May 4, 2014: Topic TBA with **Lynda Lukasik**, co-founder, Environment Hamilton

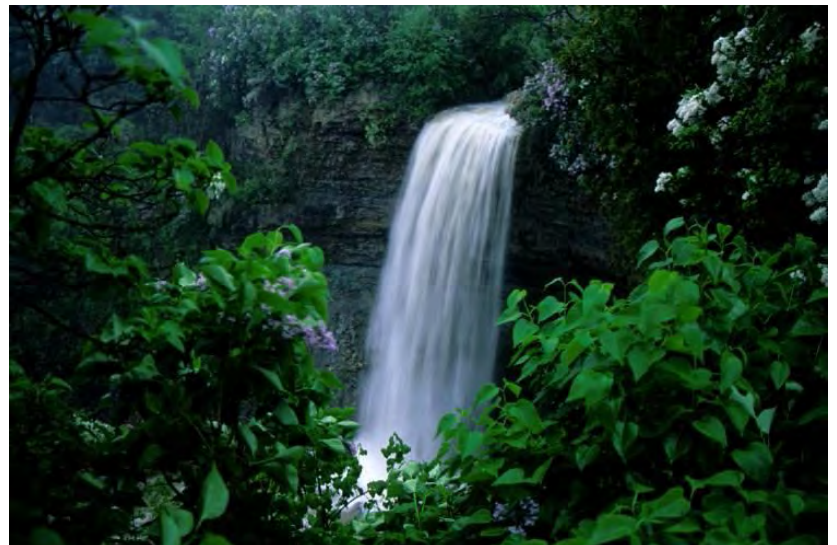
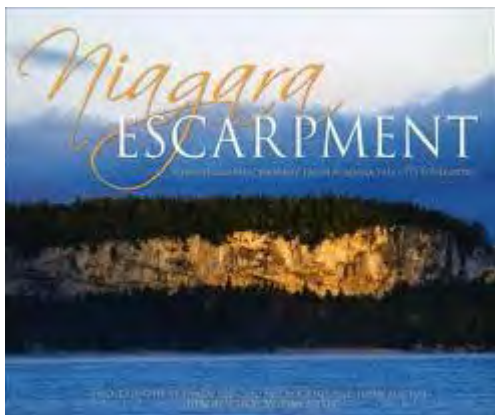
Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

For the Month of April 2014:

Works from the Permanent Collection of the GRDC

Featuring the works of local artists:

Sandy Bell
Don Corby
Paul Duff
Dean Gugler
Vic MacBourne
Lynn Macintyre
Les Mazaros
John Novak
John Nugent
Frank Panabaker
Norris Podetz



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 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 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 any other Hamilton conservation area that same day.

There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information: Robert Gerritson rjgerritson@cogeco.ca

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joe Hollick

Princess Falls has been known by other names such as Lang's Falls, Upper Princess Falls and Westerly Falls on Chedoke Radial Trail.

Princess Falls is located on Lang's Creek and is the uppermost waterfall of three falls situated on Lang's Creek in west Hamilton. It is considered a ribbon falls which includes an upper cascade portion and a lower plunge section. Its height is 7m and has a width of approximately 2m when flowing full, which however can be reduced to zero flow during dry periods.

Its Latitude and Longitude Coordinates are 43° 14' 45" N, 79° 55' 48" W.

To reach Princess Falls from Hwy 403, take the Linclon Alexander Parkway exit and then the first exit to Mohawk Road. Turn left onto Mohawk Road and proceed to Scenic Drive, where you turn left. In about 1.5 km, Scenic Drive makes a 90 degree turn to the right and immediately after this turn there is a small parking lot on the left side. Beside this parking lot look for the entrance to the Bruce Trail / Chedoke Radial Trail combination and follow it eastward for about five minutes to Princess Falls. You will notice that the water from Princess Falls flows under the Chedoke Radial Trail via culverts to the other side where it becomes Lower Princess Falls which is visible from Hwy 403.



Happy Waterfalling!

Rib Happenings

News from 'round the Rib



Exploring the Niagara Escarpment
World Biosphere Reserve

Hike Leaders and Volunteers Needed



Calling all outdoor explorers and adventurers!

Do you love hiking the Bruce Trail along the Niagara Escarpment? Would you like to share the wonders of the Escarpment with others? You can help promote the protection of this magnificent and unique World Biosphere Reserve and help others explore by volunteering with the Giant's Rib!

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre needs interested and energetic hike leaders to lead interpretive weekly hikes from June to October! Hikes run Saturdays in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, monthly at Albion Falls, and, depending on interest, the Giant's Rib may begin offering hikes in Halton.

The commitment is 3-5 hours per month and Emergency First Aid Training is included. This is a great way to build your resume, gain valuable experience while having fun, and play a positive role in your community.

Please contact Kyle McLoughlin at: kyle@giantsrib.ca

Volunteers are also needed to talk about the Escarpment at our Centre in Dundas on weekends. Minimum commitment of 3 hours per month. All volunteer hours are eligible for school credit.

For more, contact volunteers@giantsrib.ca

The Giant's Rib is an early Canadian name for the Niagara Escarpment. The GRDC is a charitable organization educating the public on the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.



www.giantsrib.ca



Giant's Rib Discovery Centre receives grant from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



**TD Friends of the
Environment Foundation**

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC) has officially announced receipt of a \$10,000 grant from the TD Friends of the Environment

Foundation (TD FEF) last month. The grant will help fund improvement projects which include upgrades to the current Centre, upgrades and redevelopment of the GRDC website, and the development of a travelling educational display.

Volunteers and visitors will begin to see changes and improvements to the Centre and its resources over the next few months. New storage containers for fossil specimens have already been purchased and the GRDC has also acquired a new and rare fossil which will be announced and on display later this spring.

Since 1990, TD FEF has provided more than \$65 million in funding to more than 22,000 environmental projects across Canada. In 2013, TD FEF provided more than \$4.4 million in support to over 900 projects. Thousands of donors gave to TD FEF on a monthly basis and TD Bank Group contributes in excess of \$1 million annually TD also covers the management costs of running TD FEF, which guarantees 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to funding environmental projects and programs.

For more information on how to donate, please visit www.tdfef.com

Giant's Rib Discovery Centre receives grant through Allegra's Footprint Fund

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is again this year a recipient of the Footprint Fund courtesy of Allegra Printing. Each year Allegra's FootPRINT Fund® helps eligible non-profit organizations enhance their image, expand their services and extend their printing budgets utilizing Allegra's marketing and print services.



Last year the Footprint Fund provided the GRDC with a newly updated brochure. This year they are providing the GRDC with a pamphlet to help advertise our guided interpretive hiking programs which will begin again this spring and run to October.

The Footprint Fund helps eligible non-profit organizations enhance their image, expand their services and extend their printing budgets utilizing Allegra's marketing and print services. The Footprint Fund is available to any non-profit group, association or charitable organization in Hamilton and area that meets the Footprint Fund selection criteria. Services can include graphic design, printing, copying and interior signage.

For more information, please visit www.allegrahamilton.com

A big "Thank You" to Allegra for once again selecting the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre as a recipient and helping us to grow!

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre wants YOU!



HELP! The “**Almost the Summer Solstice**” Fundraiser is set for Friday, June 20, 2014 at the Hamilton Air Force Association Hall in Dundas.

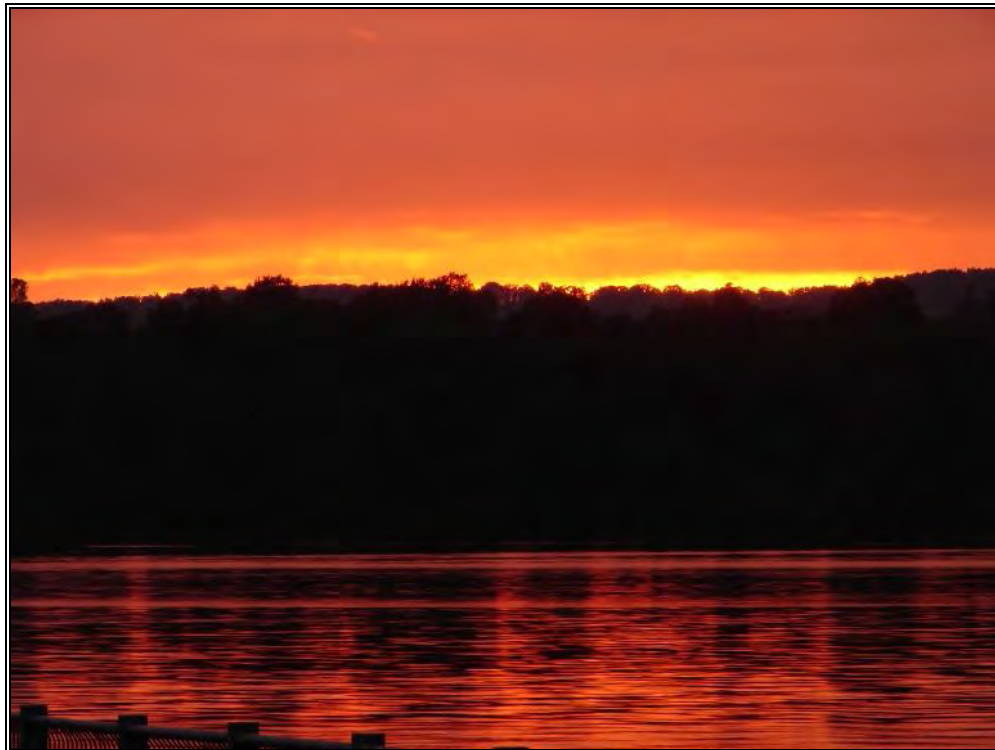
We can always use help from our friends!

If you are able to donate or arrange a donation for either our draw prizes or our silent auction PLEASE let us know. If you or anyone you know may wish to sponsor a table at the event, please contact any GRDC Director.

This annual fundraiser pays for our operating expenses, website fees, insurance for volunteers and all the little things that allow us to keep the Centre open.

There's a lot going on at the Giant's Rib and you should stay tuned for next month's newsletter where we will have even more great news!

In the meantime, a very big “Thank You” to all of our volunteers who give their time on weekends to talk to people about the wonders of the Niagara Escarpment and take care of our Centre.



Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

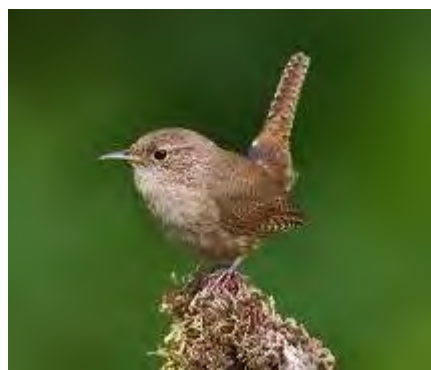
Over the next couple of months, many birds will return to the Niagara Escarpment Region after spending several months in the sunny south. Teachers might have their students spend a little time researching these birds so that they can identify them. Have them develop charts where they record first sightings, first signs of nest or home building, first indication of egg laying, and finally a count on the number of chicks that hatch from the nests.

The birds I have listed are song-birds and often are back-yard feeders. Teachers might like to add a few other birds that are common to their areas most of the year like robins and blue jays but also have their young in the Spring.

The birds listed can all be found in any of the Ontario bird books:

Ruby -throated Humming Bird
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Tree Swallow
Eastern Bluebird
Pine Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Field Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Pine Siskin

Red-headed Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Purple Martin
House Wren
Brown Thrush
American Redstart
Chipping Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
American Robin



Good luck in your findings!

Giant's Rib Photo of the Month



How cool is the Escarpment? Really!
Check out one of its most amazing features... Crawford Lake!

Frozen Fingers in Crawford Lake

The frozen finger pushes into the sediment and bores down into the lake basin. A researcher injects liquid nitrogen into the finger to freeze the sediment, and preserve the sample for examination. During careful analysis of the sediment, researchers discover corn pollen, but this corn pollen is hundreds of years old.

Want to read more? Check out our Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Facebook Site!

Think you can take photos as beautiful as this one? Then show your stuff!
Our photography contest is underway, so the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre invites and encourages all friends and family with a lens to submit their work and have their work featured this summer at the Trail Centre! Details are on the first page of this newsletter!



This Snapping Turtle is a resident of Crawford Lake.
This little guy would be a nice submission for the 'Wildlife' category in our photo contest, but don't forget the 'Waterfalls' and 'Landscapes', too!

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 2013 - 14

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
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.***