



MEDIA RELEASE

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

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC) is pleased to announce it has received a \$10,000 grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF). 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.

"I can't stress enough how grateful we are to the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for this contribution," says GRDC President, Chris Hamilton. "The Foundation has supported us in the past by funding our teacher's kits and volunteer training, but this level of support is the kind of thing that helps a small group like ours to move forward and grow. These funds will not only enhance the educational visitor experience to our small Centre, but allows us now to take our educational resources beyond the Dundas Valley to the rest of the Escarpment and beyond, the way the project was intended."

The Centre concept was originally intended as a multi-million dollar visitor/tourist centre serving as the "Urban Gateway to the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve" around the turn of the century in honour of the UNESCO Biosphere designation. Since 2006 the GRDC has operated a small Discovery Centre in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

"We are proud to support the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre in their efforts to reach new audiences along the Niagara Escarpment," said Mary Desjardins, Executive Director, TD Friends of the Environment. "It is always great to see new and innovative ideas aimed at furthering environmental education."

Resource development for the improvement project is already underway. The first Centre improvement arrived this past weekend with the introduction of containers suitable for properly storing the Centre's fossil specimens.

About the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre:

The Centre features fossil specimens, Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve displays and information, a Grade 4 curriculum-based Rocks and Minerals Unit free to teachers, public education programs such as an arts and photography exhibits, a monthly lecture series and guided interpretive hikes from June to October. The Centre and the charitable organization are run entirely by volunteers. The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC) has been recognized by the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association as a local biosphere committee for the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

About TD Friends of the Environment Foundation:

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 of over 900 projects. Thousands of donors give 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 per cent of every dollar donated, goes directly to funding environmental projects and programs. For more information on how to donate, visit www.tdfef.com.

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Canada's early settlers once called the Niagara Escarpment a "Giant's Rib." The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is a not-for-profit organization promoting uses of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve that will ensure retention of its natural state for future generations.