

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
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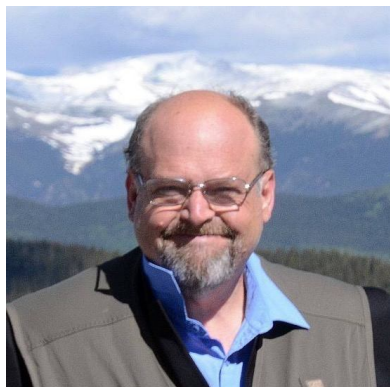
The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

This series, proudly sponsored by the Giant's Rib Escarpment Education Network, 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, November 30th, 2014

The Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System: Making the Vision a Reality

With David Galbraith, Head of Science, Royal Botanical Gardens



This presentation will be looking at just what makes this area so special and interesting, the history of protection and establishment of protected areas, and the potential to better link up and protect nature right here in Hamilton and Burlington. The present work of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System will be described, and how the participating land-owning agencies envision the future for this important park alliance.

The natural areas and open spaces in and around Cootes Paradise Marsh and the Grindstone Creek are extraordinary for their both their biological richness and their fascinating cultural heritage. These areas are not a single, contiguous park but are owned by several different agencies and have roads and other land uses fragmenting the landscape. Action is needed to protect this landscape, including securing lands that are still not developed, restoring the large areas that are already protected, and seeking support for recognition of their importance to the surrounding population.

Since 2006 a group of organizations that own these natural areas have been working together toward a permanent alliance to better manage natural spaces and seek additional support for major projects. Following extensive background preparations, research, and public consultations, a strategic plan was published in 2009 and adopted in 2010 by all of the municipal councils and the boards of the participating agencies. In 2013 the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System became a reality with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement among the nine different partners, which includes the City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Halton Region, the Hamilton Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Hamilton Naturalists Club, McMaster University, and Royal Botanical Gardens.

David Galbraith is Head of Science at Royal Botanical Gardens. A wildlife biologist by training, David undertook his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees at University of Guelph and his Ph.D. at Queen's University at Kingston, and then studied conservation biology during a two year post-doctoral fellowship at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology in Canterbury, England. In scientific circles David is best known for his studies of the ecology of Ontario turtles.

He joined RBG in 1995 to develop conservation initiatives among botanical gardens across Canada. He was named Head of the Science Department in 2006. Since 2006 David has also served as Canada's National Focal Point for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, part of the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity.

David has led the development Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System since its inception in 2006 as chair of the steering committee. In 2010 David was named the 2009 Dr. Victor Cecilioni Hamilton Environmentalist of the Year, in part for his leadership of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System program.

He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Biology Department of McMaster University and an avid amateur photographer and astronomer.

Please note that all presentations will start at **1:00 PM** on the last Sunday of every month from October to April at the former Parks Canada Discovery Centre, now administered by the Hamilton Waterfront Trust.

Parking is free, but there is an admission fee of \$5.00 for this presentation.

Door prizes and refreshments will be provided after each presentation along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speakers. Please check our website www.giantsrib.ca for upcoming presentations.

For further information: Sylvia Zsidi sylviaz@cogeco.ca

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

For the Month of November 2014:

The Artistic Works of Mark Williams (The Greenbelt Guy)

Our Featured Artist for the month of November is Mark Williams (a.k.a The Greenbelt Guy).

Mark Williams is a Hamiltonian who was called to become a nature and wildlife photographer by a Yellow Warbler.

Read the story online @

greenbeltguy.ca.

Greenbeltguy.ca was initiated after Mark spent several years shooting digital photographs up and down the Greenbelt region of Ontario and amazed at the diversity of wildlife and beautiful scenery right here in our own backyard.

The presentation displayed here at The Giant's Rib is a small cross -selection of some of Mark's photography. Also featured are recent works from his trip to Newfoundland and some of Eastern Canada's amazing landscapes.



Any interest or inquiry to acquire these works can be made by contacting Mark.

Mark Williams:

"This is my passion; to capture the pictures, tell the stories and support the education and edification of our most wonderful green spaces."

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 AM – 3:00 PM. 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 visiting any other Hamilton conservation area that same day. There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Please check our website www.gantsrib.ca in the coming weeks for a complete schedule for all the artists for this season.

For more information: Robert Gerritson rjgerritson@cogeco.ca

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joe Hollick

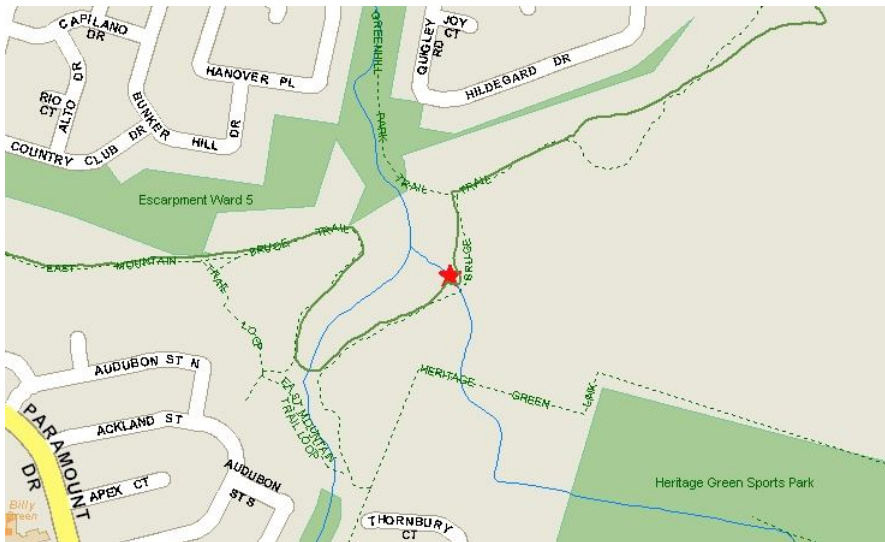
The Giant's Rib Escarpment Education Network's waterfall of the month for November 2014 is **Heritage Green Falls**, also known as Taro Falls.

This waterfall is located on a small ravine which originates from the Heritage Green Sports Park and flows into Davis Creek, about half way between Little Davis Falls and Felker's Falls in the Felker's Falls Conservation Area. Its coordinates are 43.2047 N / 79.7875 W.



Heritage Green Falls is considered a ribbon cascade type falls and has a height of approximately 12.2 m. (40 ft) and a crest width of 1.8 m (6 ft.). A unique feature of this waterfall is that it actually consists of two separate waterfalls, the larger falls as described above and a small falls on the left side which originates from a small opening in the rock face, similar to a karst feature (see photo above).

This waterfall, (both the ravine and karst portions), dries up often, thus plan to visit it after a heavy rainfall or during the winter snow melt.



To visit Heritage Green Falls, from QEW take the Red Hill Valley Parkway South. Keep left onto Mud Street. Keep straight on Mud Street West. Turn left onto Paramount Drive. Turn right onto Ackland Drive. Park at the Felker's Falls CA. Follow the Bruce Trail which crosses Davis Creek above Felker's Falls via a bridge and then back towards Felker's Falls and past it until you reach a small ravine as shown in the map on the left.

Happy Waterfalling!

Giant's Rib Photo of the Month



One Fabulous Fungus!

It is amazing what can be found in the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System!
For the most part, fungi live out of sight under our feet or hidden in a fallen log
or the inside the trunk of a living tree.

When they do make their appearance, it is usually as a rather unassuming fruiting body.
Sometimes they may be bright and colourful or in the case of puffballs, big and good to eat.

Rarely are they both big and colourful.

That makes this Sulphur Shelf or Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) all the more remarkable.

This specimen measured about 73 by 61 centimetres.

It was found growing on the side of a very large Red Oak just inside the east entrance to
Woodland Cemetery off of Spring Garden Road in Aldershot.

This species is not a pathogenic fungus that kills the host tree but can cause "brown rot" in
the heart wood which structurally weakens it and makes it susceptible to strong winds.

Photo and write up by Paul D. Smith, Hamilton Naturalists' Club's Conservation & Education Director

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?

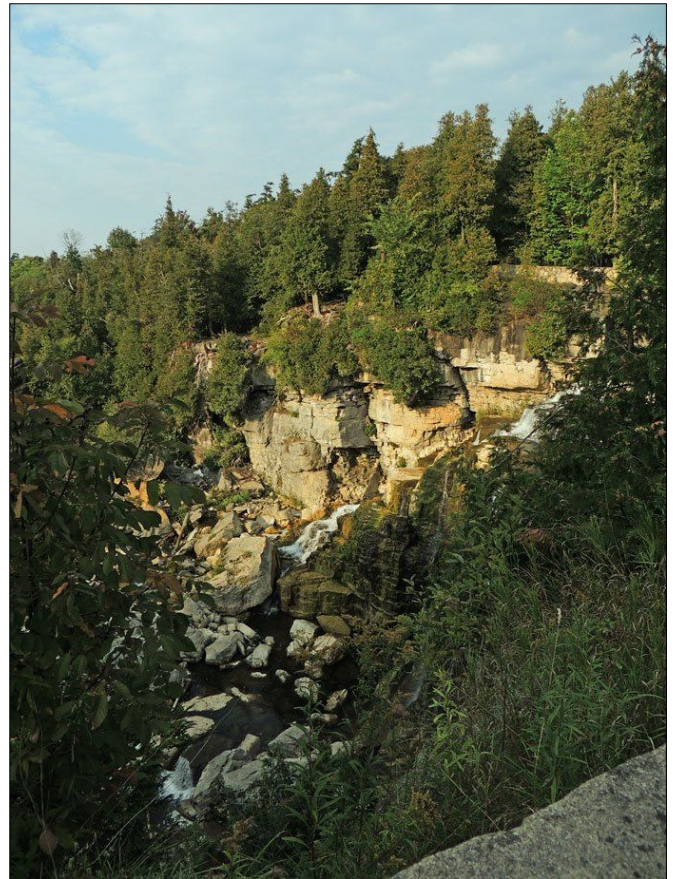
Volunteering with the Giant's Rib is one way you can do that. We have positions available for volunteers on weekends at the Centre, and Director openings as well. We're growing and expanding, so if you're excited about the Niagara Escarpment, this is the place to be.

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

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Warren Beacham, Treasurer **Joseph Hollick**, Secretary

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unless you really need to.***

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with other friends via e-mail.***