



GIANT'S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK

Telling the Story of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve



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Stephanie Nikita, Editor.

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Join the June festivities!

Aside from the fabulous free [hike schedule](#) the Giant's Rib has up and running for the summer, there will also be a free Eco-Fair that will be held on Sat. June 18th at the Hamilton Air Force Assoc., Dundas. Come visit our booth and chat with all of the great environmental groups doing work in our community! Details below.

Did you know that the Niagara Escarpment is home to over 37 species of orchids...some found nowhere else in the world! So check out the [Bruce Peninsula Orchid Fest](#) this month and enjoy the Biosphere's beauty!

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Artist of the Month

Our featured artist for June at the Discovery Centre is a trio: Rick McKenzie, Rob Robichaud, and Rolph King.

You can view their works weekends at the Discovery Centre!

Rick, Rob, and Rolph (the 3 Rs), came together several years ago through a mutual desire to photograph the natural elements of the Niagara Escarpment. The waterfalls in Ancaster, Dundas, and Hamilton have been of specific interest. We discovered from displaying and discussing our work at different venues that many people of the region were either unaware or had rarely seen the majesty of the City of Waterfalls. Our focus, has

been to not only showcase our art but to inform residents and visitors of the magnitude as well as the beauty the waterfalls have to offer.

Our work is mostly based upon views of the landscape, concentrating especially on the many creeks, shorelines, and waterfalls of the area. A great number of the images show moving water and how it has affected the environment through which it flows. In addition, some of the work deals with how the smallest form of water, the water drop, interacts with other drops or a pool of water. Although not visible in the field these interactions are occurring in every waterfall.

Our inspiration comes from the play of light on the subjects, patterns in the natural world, and the calm, smoothness as well as the power of moving water. Furthermore, our artistic vision is developed through the use of both the camera and computer software which allow us to virtually “paint” with pixels, and thereby create images which tell a story, induce a sense of wonder, and help us all to take a closer look at the world around us.

Through our photographic images, we want to share some of the uniqueness of the world that is present in the everyday scenes that many of us never see or take for granted. In each case, we hope to leave the viewer with a feeling that she/he is seeing the familiar for the first time.



Come explore an Ancient Seabed on one of our Guided Hikes!

Let our volunteer guides take you on (an hour or so) hike around the Dundas Valley! Hikes depart from (and return to) the Trail centre at 10am on Saturdays. Hikes are family friendly but please note that the trail may not be suitable for strollers. Remember to dress appropriately with walking/hiking shoes. Cancellations due to weather will be posted on our website by 8am the morning of the hike. Additional dates will be added later on - but we will keep you posted on that!

[Saturdays at 10am](#)

June: 4, 11, 18

July: 9, 16

August: 13, 20

Other Upcoming Events

(come visit our booth!):

Dundas Eco-Fair

Jun 18 | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm | Hamilton Air Force Association, 128 King St. East, Dundas

This is a great opportunity for you to discover and chat with all the great environmental groups doing work in and around your community. This is a family-friendly event with hikes on different themes (turtles, butterflies and restoration). Food trucks will be on-site.





waterfall of the month

Jones Falls

Seen from the Bruce Trail, or glimpsed from Highway 21 heading west from Owen Sound, Jones Falls plunges 12 metres over the Niagara Escarpment just west of Owen Sound on the Pottawatomi River. It's located within the 116-acre Pottawatomi Conservation Area.

The half-kilometre trail from the Visitor Centre and Owen Sound Transportation Company parking lot will take you through various tree types and flora and fauna to the top of the falls, with a view of the surrounding lowlands. In spring, you will find lots of trilliums, columbine and a powerful spring runoff cascading over the escarpment. The Pottawatomi Conservation Area features over 5 kilometres of hiking trails including the

2.3 km Merle Gunby side trail loop off the Bruce Trail, making it suitable location for snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing during the winter, providing you stay on the marked trails.

We stopped by the falls in May and shot some footage on the ol' phone for you. Be sure to visit other Grey County waterfalls, www.visitgrey.ca/waterfalls



ROM Corner

Multiple silicified fossils (ROM 21563) - Silurian Period, Thornloe Formation - Cobalt, Ontario; this slab bears several shells of a small ribbed brachiopod (*Atrypa*), along with numerous sections of crinoid ("sea lily") stems, and a few solitary rugose ("horn")

corals; the original mineral (calcite) that made up the shelly parts of these animals was replaced by silica - a much harder and more resistant material; the limestone surrounding the fossils has been partially dissolved by natural acids to expose the fossils in relief

Grade 4 Rocks and Minerals units now available for download.

Now Ontario Grade 4 teachers anywhere can get a copy of our teacher's kits. Simply e-mail us with the name of your school and we will send you a link to download the kits directly! Email: info@giantsrib.ca

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS!

Are you passionate about the Niagara Escarpment? Would you like a valuable position with a growing, positive environmental organization? GREEN is expanding and can use your dedication and expertise.

Email us at info@giantsrib.ca - here are some suggested positions:

[Communications Coordinator](#)
[Arts and Photography Program Coordinator](#)
[Outdoor Program Coordinator](#)
[Volunteer Coordinator](#)
[Hike Leaders \(weekends\)](#)
[Discovery Centre Interpreters \(weekends\)](#)

Board of Directors for 2015-16

Executive Officers

Chris Hamilton, Past President

Aurelie Dimandja, Secretary

Jennifer McPherson, President

Ken Hall, Past President

Warren Beacham, Treasurer

Kenneth Hall: Coordinator, Friends of The Giant's Rib

Chris Hamilton: Coordinator Website

Steve Watts: Coordinator, Awards and Education

Ernie Kuechmeister: Coordinator, Recognition Program

Sylvia Zsidi: Coordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

Jim Mackey: Coordinator, Volunteer and Hike Programs



Come Join the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!

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



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

Niagara Escarpment, this is the place to be. Please visit www.giantsrib.ca to learn about available positions or [contact us](#) to inquire.

unit to elementary schools free of charge.

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