From McMaster University follow Cootes Drive into Dundas. Cootes Drive becomes King Street (Regional Road 8) as you drive up the escarpment to Greensville. Turn right at Harvest Road. The parking lot for Tew’s Falls is on the right-hand side of the road. From the parking lot, walk the short gravel trail to the information board. The stairs to the left of the information board and path to the right lead to the two platforms overlooking the falls.
Features at this site...

- Two outlook platforms allow for an unobstructed view of Tew’s Falls and the Spencer Gorge.

- The local stratigraphy is well-exposed next to the falls (this site is not recommended for sedimentary logging exercises due to the inaccessibility to some of the units).

- An information board located near the outlook gives a general description of the formation of the Spencer Gorge.

- A suitable location for introductory geomorphology and hydrology students (can accommodate a large group).
At approximately 41 metres in height, Tew’s Falls is the tallest waterfall in the City of Hamilton. It is only 13 metres shorter than Niagara Falls. There is significantly less water flowing over Tew’s Falls than other waterfalls in the Hamilton area, but the sheer height of Tew’s Falls sets it apart from all the rest. Tew’s Falls sits at 219 metres above sea level; the highest waterfall in the Hamilton area.

This photo was taken from one of the two lookout platforms adjacent to the falls. Both are easily accessible from the parking lot via well-marked trails.
The Spencer Gorge Wilderness Area

The Spencer Gorge Wilderness Area is significant in Ontario for its gorge, rare and diverse variety of plants and animals. The Wilderness Area is also part of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. To your right is the trail leading to Tew's Falls; to the left the trail to Dundas Peak. Webster's Falls is a short distance along the Bruce Trail, and is easily accessed between the creek and the parking lot just behind you.

Central to this Wilderness Area is the distinctive Spencer Gorge; a Y-shaped bedrock gorge with two very scenic waterfalls: Webster's Falls created by the main trunk of Spencer Creek; and Tew's Falls, formed by Logger's or East Spencer Creek.

Tew's Falls

At Tew’s Falls observe how it flows over a bowl-shaped rock formation; the most recent and smallest of a series of bowl-shaped basins in the Spencer Gorge. Over the past 12,000 years, erosion from ancient waterfalls have caused these formations. As illustrated, the widening of the gorge downstream suggests the falls was once as large as the Horseshoe Falls in Niagara. The gorge, at Tew’s Falls, is 41 metres (134.5 ft.) high; Horseshoe Falls is 52 m., (170 ft.).

Layers of bedrock common to the southern Niagara Escarpment are exposed at the falls. Look for red lenses of Queenstone shale; fine, grey sandstone and harder, more resistant ledges of blue-grey limestone.

Dundas Peak

Dundas Peak is at the mouth of Spencer Gorge, and provides a spectacular view of the “Dundas Valley” from Stoney Creek and the Hamilton Harbour in the distance, to Dundas and Ancaster immediately below and to the west. Look for familiar landmarks such as McMaster University, Cootes Paradise and Highway #403 as it climbs the escarpment towards Brantford.

The lookouts at Tew’s Falls and Dundas Peak have been financially assisted by the Ontario Heritage Foundation through the Niagara Escarpment Program.
Map of the Spencer Gorge
Schematic Section of Tew’s Falls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORMATION</th>
<th>ROCK TYPE</th>
<th>metres</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lockport</td>
<td>Dolostone Chert</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dolostone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester</td>
<td>Shale (grey)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irondequoi</td>
<td>Dolostone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reynales</td>
<td>Dolostone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thoroid</td>
<td>Sandstone and Shale (grey)</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grimsby</td>
<td>Shale (red)</td>
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<td>Siltstone</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sandstone</td>
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<td>Cabot Head</td>
<td>Shale (grey)</td>
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<td>Limestone</td>
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<td>Sandstone</td>
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<td>Manitoulin</td>
<td>Dolostone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whirlpool</td>
<td>Sandstone</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenston</td>
<td>Shale</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Highlighted formations are visible at this site.
The upper part of the stratigraphy at Tew’s Falls is dominated by the Lockport Fm. The Rochester Shale is also well-exposed at this site, and the resistant dolostone of the Irondequoit Fm is easily identifiable.

Due to the elevation of Tew’s Falls, none of the formations beneath the Irondequoit are exposed, except for the Reynales Fm which has been covered by talus.
Logie’s Creek

Logie’s Creek is a tributary of Spencer Creek that flows over the Niagara Escarpment at Tew’s Falls.
Top of the Falls

Looking out over the Spencer Gorge.

The top of the falls as seen from one of the lookout platforms.
The area directly beneath the falls is strewn with very large pieces of rock broken off from the exposed rock face.
More Pictures of Tew’s Falls
The Spencer Gorge

View of Logie’s Creek joining Spencer Creek downstream of Tew’s Falls. The main channel then flows through the Spencer Gorge.
View of the Spencer Gorge from the lower outlook platform at Tew’s Falls.
Acknowledgements:

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