

November 2006 Newsletter

Toronto Outdoor Club

Letter from the Editor

Can you believe it's already November? As the weather gets colder, remember that the TOC does not stop exploring outdoor pursuits. While the amount of outdoor events may decrease slightly, we encourage all members to become involved with winter outdoor events - and perhaps even become an event coordinator! If you've been waitlisted on an event lately, you understand why we need more event coordinators. More event coordinators means more spaces on events! Check out the web site for more information about becoming an event coordinator.

This edition of TOC news features an article by Jason, the club's promotions and partnerships officer, about how you can help the TOC grow. On the right side of this page, read about our new payment policies from Erik, club VP and treasurer. We also have a new member profile - say hello to Mel!

If you have ideas for future member profiles, please email me at info@torontooutdoorclub.com.

Cheers,
Deb (TOC PR & Communications Officer)

Annual General Meeting Review

If you missed the AGM, you missed a great gathering of club members and volunteers. There were costumes, photos, laughs, and awards. Here's a brief recap of a few of the awards won:

- Most improved outdoors person: Coco (honourable mention: Prashanth)
- Most hardcore event: Hamilton-Jerseyville bike ride
- Most money raised from an event: Tracy - Run for the Cure event
- Best trail chef: Jason (honourable mention: Chuck's curry)
- Best recruiter: Christine Kong
- Golden boot award: Elliott (see photo on this page)
- Best event writeup: Jason
- Favourite volunteer: Hassan

News from the Treasurer

I am excited to announce the creation of the TOC Banking System. This system gives our members the ability to deposit lump sums of cash with the club that can go towards their future event payments.

Benefits:

- 1) Fewer transactions mean fewer transaction costs. Does it make sense to incur a \$1.50 PayPal or Interac Fee for each \$7-\$15 event payment?
- 2) Reduce or eliminate delays caused by e-mail server, Canada Post, and PayPal server problems. This may not seem like a big deal, but when an event payment cut-off date is looming, you don't want to lose your spot because the mailman or tech support didn't come to work that day.
- 3) On a waiting list? Guess what?!? When a spot opens up - you're already paid, so you're in - no fuss, no mess.

The treasurer sends out updates every 6-8 weeks detailing your balance and event payments from your balance.

Notes:

- 1) Participation in the TOC Bank is entirely voluntary.
- 2) You may not run a negative balance to pay for your event payments.

- Erik (treasurer@torontooutdoorclub.com)



The Golden Boot award, among others. (AGM 2006)



TOC T-shirts are on sale!
 Each shirt costs \$15. This is the back view - the front has the new TOC logo on it. T-shirts are available in white or navy. To order, send an email to Tshirts@TorontoOutdoorClub.com
Quantity is limited - get yours today!



Upcoming Events

- Nov 4 - Hike - Rescheduled Black Bank - Bruce Trail
- Nov 4 - Hike - Scotsdale Farm
- Nov 5 - Hike - Nature Walk: Devil's Punch Bowl (Waterfalls)
- Nov 5 - Hike - Seaton Trail
- Nov 6 - Learn - Yoga
- Nov 7 - Social - Tuesday Night Movie: Borat
- Nov 11 - Sport - Ultimate Frisbee
- Nov 11 - Horse - Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
- Nov 11 - Hike - Hilton Falls Side Trail: Loop Hike
- Nov 12 - Hike - Walker Woods
- Nov 14 - Climb - Return to the Rock! Indoor Rock Climbing
- Nov 14 - Social - The Queen (movie)
- Nov 18 - Overnight - Introduction to winter camping I: Macgregor Point
- Nov 25 - Hike - Devils Glen - Mad River: Return to Mud River!
- Nov 25 - Learn - Pow Wow Event
- Nov 26 - Social - Sunday Night Movie: For Your Consideration
- Nov 28 - Climb - Return to the Rock 2! Indoor Rock Climbing
- Nov 30 - Overnight - Snowshoe/Backpack Algonquin Park



(front view of shirt)

Sponsorships without the scandal

By Jason 'El Rey Del Fuego' Mazariegos

You thought the Liberals had cornered the market on sponsorships? Well think again! Here at the TOC we are going to begin the new year by actively pursuing various sponsorship, advertising and partnership opportunities that will make our club run more smoothly and enable us to offer our members better deals on the various things we love to do.

How will this help the club you ask? Well, a sponsor could help by sponsoring a particular event, such as a hike, or bike ride, and by doing so, members will not have to provide their voluntary donation for that event (instead you'll get to hear about our sponsor, so pay attention!). Advertisers on our site will generate revenue for the club, allowing us to institute various programs such as first aid training for volunteers, and who wouldn't feel safer on an event knowing the volunteer may be able to save your life (or at least clean an injury and put a nice bandage on you)? Finally, partnerships will give our members some extra buying power, or qualify for particular specials like free equipment rentals, or...paintballs!

So what we need from you, our good non-paying but happy-to-provide-a-donation members, are leads and/or connections to various companies that would be happy to associate themselves with a club that has a growing membership (and the perfect target demographic) that would be more than happy to spend money on gear, products and services that our sponsors offer. Email Partners@TorontoOutdoorclub.com with your sponsorship ideas.

Tune in next month when we discuss future plans for TOC promotional products and paraphernalia that will not only make you look cool, but be cool as well.

Member Profile: In their own words...

Following Elliott's musings last month, we have a new member profile for November: meet Melanie Sanchez!

If there is someone you'd like to see profiled, email Deb at info@torontooutdoorclub.com.

Name: Mélanie Sanchez

Nicknames:

"Mel" or "Meli" just because it's shorter to pronounce.

Also "auntie Meli" (but this one is reserved only for my nephew :-)

TOC member since:

First event was in June 2006.

Having lived in California for many years, I took for granted that the outdoors was just right there, easily accessible. I "googled" for an outdoor club where I could enjoy fresh air, the scenery as well as meet like-minded people.

Favourite TOC event so far:

All of the ones I've been at. Too hard to choose just one. Every event is unique.

Hometown:

I consider Montreal and San Francisco my hometowns. I came to Toronto for work in 2002.

Other non-TOC hobbies:

Painting, foreign films, learning languages, reading, music, horseback riding.

Which one item could you not live without on a day-to-day basis?

My bed. I love to slumber!

If you could be someone else for a day, who would be and why?

Myself in a parallel universe to see how I live and if I've accomplished all my dreams.

Finish this sentence: The best thing about being outdoors is...

For the special connection we all feel with nature, also for the beautiful colors and textures found which inspire me every day to paint.

If you had one day to spend however you liked, cost being no barrier, how would you spend it?

If I could fit it all in one day and if anything was possible, I would time travel to the past and future, to see what we as people have learned and what mistakes we keep repeating.

I would visit the pyramids of Egypt, go on a hiking expedition in New Zealand, scuba dive in the Great Barrier Reef, swim with dolphins, fly with eagles and come back just in time for dinner!

Here's Mel on a riding trip:



Want to get in touch with the TOC?

Here are some email addresses to write to:

Steph, TOC President
pres@torontooutdoorclub.com

Erik, VP and Treasurer
erik@torontooutdoorclub.com

Hassan, VP Safety and Operations
hassan@torontooutdoorclub.com

Deb, PR and Communications Officer (& newsletter)
info@torontooutdoorclub.com

Coco, Photo Historian
photos@torontooutdoorclub.com

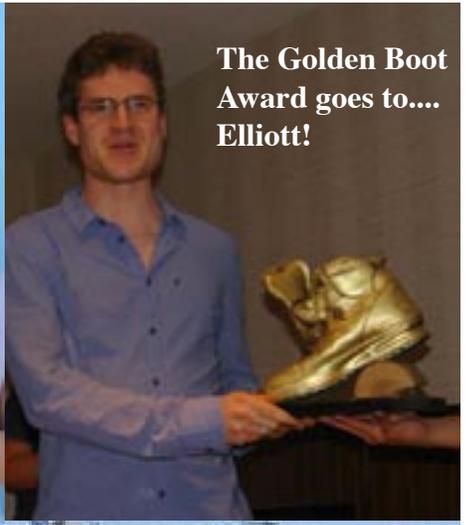
Check out the volunteer page at:
<http://www.torontooutdoorclub.com/aboutus/officers.asp>



'Favourite volunteer', Hassan



Coco on the Georgian Trail Bike Ride



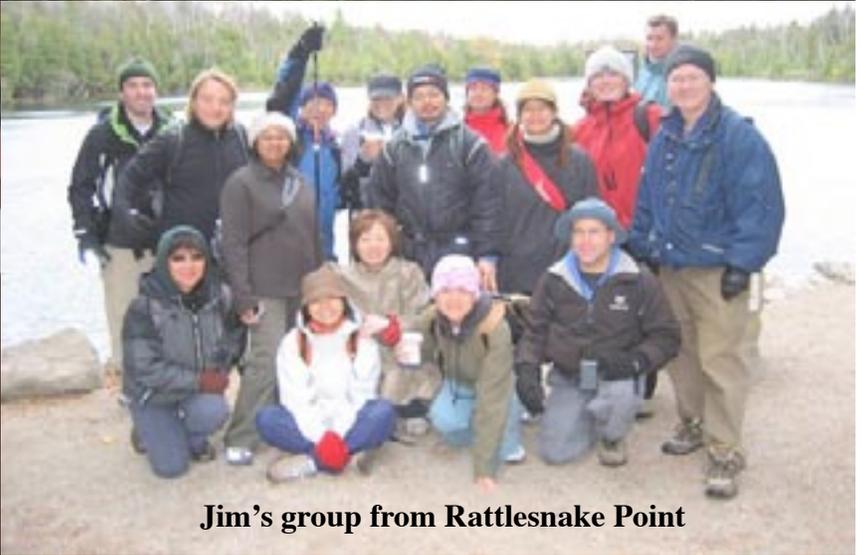
The Golden Boot Award goes to... Elliott!



Fall colours hike: Kingston to the Bluffs



Min and Lorie at the AGM



Jim's group from Rattlesnake Point