

August 2006

Welcome to the new Toronto Outdoor Club newsletter!

In just over one year, we have come a long way. Over 530 people now call themselves TOC members, and nearly 130 events have been held. From social gatherings to strenuous hikes, our events have something for everyone. This edition of the newsletter is a test version of our new format. In future months, the newsletter will become longer, more thorough, more diverse and content will be directed more by our members. As always, we welcome your stories and suggestions. Send them to Deb, the TOC info chick at info@torontooutdoorclub.com

As late summer approaches, our members have enjoyed many great outdoor activities from hiking to biking to relaxing on patios. If you have been put on the waitlist of a recent event, don't despair! We have had so much interest in the club this year, which has led to a few waiting lists. Our advice: get involved! Coordinating events is a great way to ensure you get to participate in the events you want to.

Why volunteer for the TOC?

As a completely volunteer-run club, the generous contributions of our volunteers are our lifeblood. They are a very committed bunch indeed! Here are some musings from a couple of our current volunteers:

“The TOC is my weekly mini-vacation, enabling me to start the week fresh and more relaxed.”
-Michal

“Helping other people discover the value of the outdoors is like giving a gift that has more value than the mundane, and the TOC is a perfect means to that personal reward.”
-Hassan

Featured Event

Every month, we will profile an event that has taken place over the past few weeks.

July 2, 2006: Cheltenham Badlands hike

It was a very hot day for hiking, so this easy afternoon hike was perfect! The first challenge was a Y intersection which was unclear as to which direction to choose - but a little back tracking and we were on our way. The Bruce trail here is very skinny so the first part of the trail made it difficult for socializing, but when we hit the Caledon rail trail the hiking became easy and pleasant. So pleasant that we almost missed our cut off to turn back...

Despite the extremely hot weather conditions, and a few deerflies in the first kilometre or so, the rest of the hike was blissfully bug-free.



TOC Feature: Event Photography Tips

Some simple ways to take great event photos:

1. The rule of thirds: imagine that your photo is split into thirds, either horizontally or vertically. Then, ensure that the skyline, the major object or the person in your photo is between two of the thirds, not in the centre.

2. Framing: select an object that will be the subject of your photo. Frame the rest of the photo in relation to the subject. If the subject is a person, crop the photo so that their head is nearer the top than the middle - this is a great way to do a portrait shot. Allow the subject of your photo to fill the frame.