

### Letter from the Editor

With the holidays upon us, the number of events slow down slightly during December. However, there are still lots of activities going on. Be sure to send in your event photos once you have been on an event. Coco, our photo historian, would love to receive them - she will also post them to the web site. Please email photos to her at [photos@torontooutdoorclub.com](mailto:photos@torontooutdoorclub.com).

The new year also brings a slight change to the way we run the volunteer portfolios. Now, members are invited to join specific 'streams' - basically, teams under each portfolio that work with the VP of that portfolio (i.e. the newsletter team, the safety & ops team, etc.). If you are interested in becoming involved in any of the portfolios, please contact the volunteer responsible for that stream. Some contact details are listed on page four of this newsletter; the rest can be found on the web site under 'volunteers'.

This edition of TOC news features an article by Hassan, the club's safety & operations / partner & sponsor officer, about recent activities in that portfolio. We also have a new member profile - say hello to Gerry!

If you have ideas for future member profiles, please email me at [info@torontooutdoorclub.com](mailto:info@torontooutdoorclub.com).

Cheers,  
Deb (TOC PR & Communications Officer)  
[info@torontooutdoorclub.com](mailto:info@torontooutdoorclub.com)



**Happy Holidays  
from the Toronto  
Outdoor Club!**

### News from Hassan: from Sponsorships and Partners to Safety and Operations

Hi Everyone,

There have been some questions and interest in exactly what falls into the domain of the "Safety and Operation / Partner & Sponsorship" stream of the TOC. Some questions were addressed during the AGM, but I thought I'd take this opportunity to share the info with everyone.

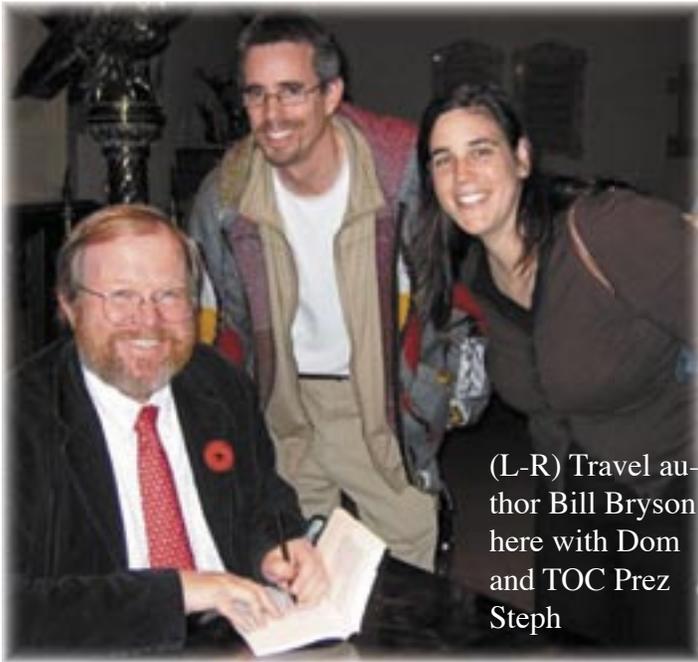
#### Partner & Sponsorship Portfolio

As VP Partner & Sponsor, I am responsible for relations with the official TOC "Clubhouse" and sponsor(s). The Partner and Sponsorship team brokered a deal with the Goose and Firkin that suits both parties well. They are also in constant communication with the sponsor and as a result, and complaints, concerns, or suggestions regarding our clubhouse (good, or bad) should be sent to the Partner & Sponsor team. Are you happy with the clubhouse? If not, please let us know.

The team also works with Jason (our Promo Guy) to help identify potential club sponsors and external organizations willing to partner with the TOC on future events, paraphernalia production, and discounted group rates. *(continued on page 2)*



*Hassan on the Killarney backpacking trip*



(L-R) Travel author Bill Bryson, here with Dom and TOC Prez Steph



### Upcoming Events

- Dec 12 - Learn - Becoming a TOC Event Coordinator - Info Session
- Dec 14 - Social - Great Spicy Chinese Sichuan Cuisine
- Dec 15 - Overnight - Carriage Ridge Resort & Skiing at Horseshoe Valley (Weekend)
- Dec 15 - Skate - Outdoor Waterfront DJ Skate
- Dec 16 - Hike - Short Hills Loops Hike
- Dec 16 - Overnight - Introduction to winter camping II: The Pinery
- Dec 28 - Social - Alphabet Challenge: Irie Food Joint
- Dec 29 - Social - Holiday Kris Kringle
- Dec 30 - Hike - Highland Creek Hike
- Dec 30 - Social - Dim Sum Feast

*(News from Hassan - continued from page 1)*

### Safety & Operations Portfolio

We've all heard the adage "it's all fun and games until someone loses an eye." This team is here to help keep things full of fun and games, and to help people keep their eyes.

### General Safety

In hopes to best inform the members of the level of experience required for any given event, this team will review newly posted events and let organizers know of any information they may have overlooked in the event description, recommended items to bring, difficulty ratings, terrain ratings, and so on. Together with the event coordinator, the Safety & Operations team work to make the event posting as accurate and informative as possible.

### Equipment

Being prepared is one of the most important aspects of staying safe and having fun. The Safety and Operations team is home to whom many refer as "The Gearheads" of society. If you have any questions regarding what type of equipment is best for any given event – or if you are in the market to purchase new equipment, we are here to help you collect information, and will help you make the best decision for your needs. Generally, we will know about most equipment first hand, and if we don't we will do our best to gather the information you may need.

### Training

Also as part of doing our best to leave people's eyes where they belong, the Safety and Operations training branch works with external organizations to bring training sessions to volunteers & members. Training sessions are in the works for First Aid, CPR, and wilderness survival certifications.

So there you have it. If you would like to help the club out with anything mentioned here, please contact Hassan. There is always much to do, and the extra hand is always much appreciated.

If you are interested in Volunteering, and would like to join the Safety and Operation / Partner & Sponsor Streaming path, please contact Jo and/or Hassan.

Merry Christmas! [Hassan@TorontoOutdoorClub.com](mailto:Hassan@TorontoOutdoorClub.com)  
*If you are interested in Volunteering, and would like to join the Safety and Operation / Partner & Sponsor streaming path, please contact Jo and/or Hassan.*



## Member Profile: Ten Questions

This month marks our third member profile section. Our feature member for December is **Gerry Dombrower**.

*If there is someone you'd like to see profiled, email Deb at [info@torontooutdoorclub.com](mailto:info@torontooutdoorclub.com).*

**Name:** Gerry Dombrower

**Nicknames:**

I have been told by practically everyone that I look and act like a certain character on Seinfeld, and it's not Jerry or Kramer. I think this is completely ridiculous, outrageous and preposterous. In my opinion, there is no way, shape or form that I have anything in common with that character. I was told by some old friends (who pre-date Seinfeld) that I look like a wrestler called George the Animal Steele. I have no problem with that nickname. I've had other nicknames but those are not suitable for printing.

**TOC member since:**

I have been involved with the TOC for about 10 months. I found out about it from someone in another club which I have been a member for over 10 years.

**Favourite TOC event so far:**

I guess that would be the Niagara on the Lake Welland Canal cycling tour back in June for the simple reason that I have never been in that area before. I also enjoyed the Prince Edward county cycling event, although the weather that day could have been a bit better. (see photo at right)

**Hometown:**

Toronto is my hometown and it has been so since I was eight years old. I was born in Sarnia, Ontario but I was less than a year old when we moved. We moved quite a bit, about 8 times up until then. My earliest memories are in Ottawa, which I lived from Kindergarten to Grade 3.

**Other non-TOC hobbies:**

I belong to several other clubs, and I also enjoy movies, playing computer games, and reading.

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

That would probably be my computer, which I need to access among other things future TOC events. I have had internet access for about 11 years (I was using dial-up for about five of those 11 years)

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

I would like to travel to some far off destination, preferably somewhere I have never been before, however I probably would need a lot more than just a day to accomplish this.

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

This is a very difficult question to answer. I have never in my life considered being someone other than myself.

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

...being away from the rat race and the daily grind, even if it is just for a few hours.

Here's Gerry (at left) on his favourite event so far:



**Want to get in touch with the TOC?**

Here are some email addresses to write to:

**Steph, TOC President**

[pres@torontooutdoorclub.com](mailto:pres@torontooutdoorclub.com)

**Erik, VP and Treasurer**

[erik@torontooutdoorclub.com](mailto:erik@torontooutdoorclub.com)

**Hassan, VP Safety and Operations**

[hassan@torontooutdoorclub.com](mailto:hassan@torontooutdoorclub.com)

**Deb, PR and Communications Officer (& newsletter)**

[info@torontooutdoorclub.com](mailto:info@torontooutdoorclub.com)

**Coco, Photo Historian**

[photos@torontooutdoorclub.com](mailto:photos@torontooutdoorclub.com)

Check out the volunteer page at:

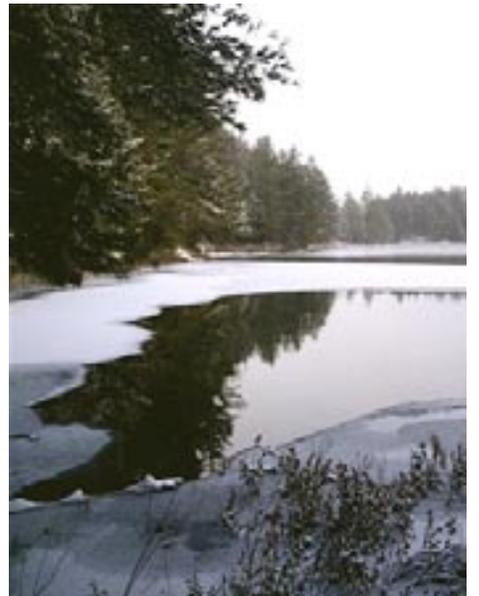
<http://www.torontooutdoorclub.com/aboutus/officers>.



Black Bank: Bruce Trail



Hilton Falls Side Trail



Backpack Algonquin Park



Long Sault Conservation Area



Walker Woods

**November Events Photo Album**



Hilton Falls Side Trail



Rock, Paper, Scissors World Championship



Devils Glen: Return to Mad (Mud!) River