

February 2007 Newsletter

Toronto Outdoor Club

Watch for falling ice!

This has been an interesting winter. My streetcar was diverted today to avoid the sheets of falling ice cascading off the CN Tower - an event that made international news! Although spring is nearly here, and with it, warmer weather, hiking and portaging, and all the great outdoor activities our city and region have to offer.

This month we say hello to Perkin Lee, the latest edition of our member profile. We also welcome the first edition of a regular column in the newsletter called 'Examining Our Environment'.

We are exploring ideas for other newsletter columns that will become regular fixtures in the newsletter. If you have an idea for a column, or would like to be involved in production of the newsletter, please contact me.

As always, I can be reached at info@torontooutdoorclub.com if you have any questions, comments or ideas for the member profile.

Cheers,
Deb (TOC PR & Communications Officer)

Examining Our Environment

A new TOC Feature Column

Welcome to the first of a series of articles in the TOC newsletter on environmental issues that affect many of the places we love to go, as well as no-trace camping tips to help keep our canoeing, hiking, and camping routes beautiful. This month we're discussing the threat of quarry development on Michipicoten Bay, on the North Shore of Lake Superior near Wawa.

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North shore of Lake Superior

TOC BULLETIN BOARD

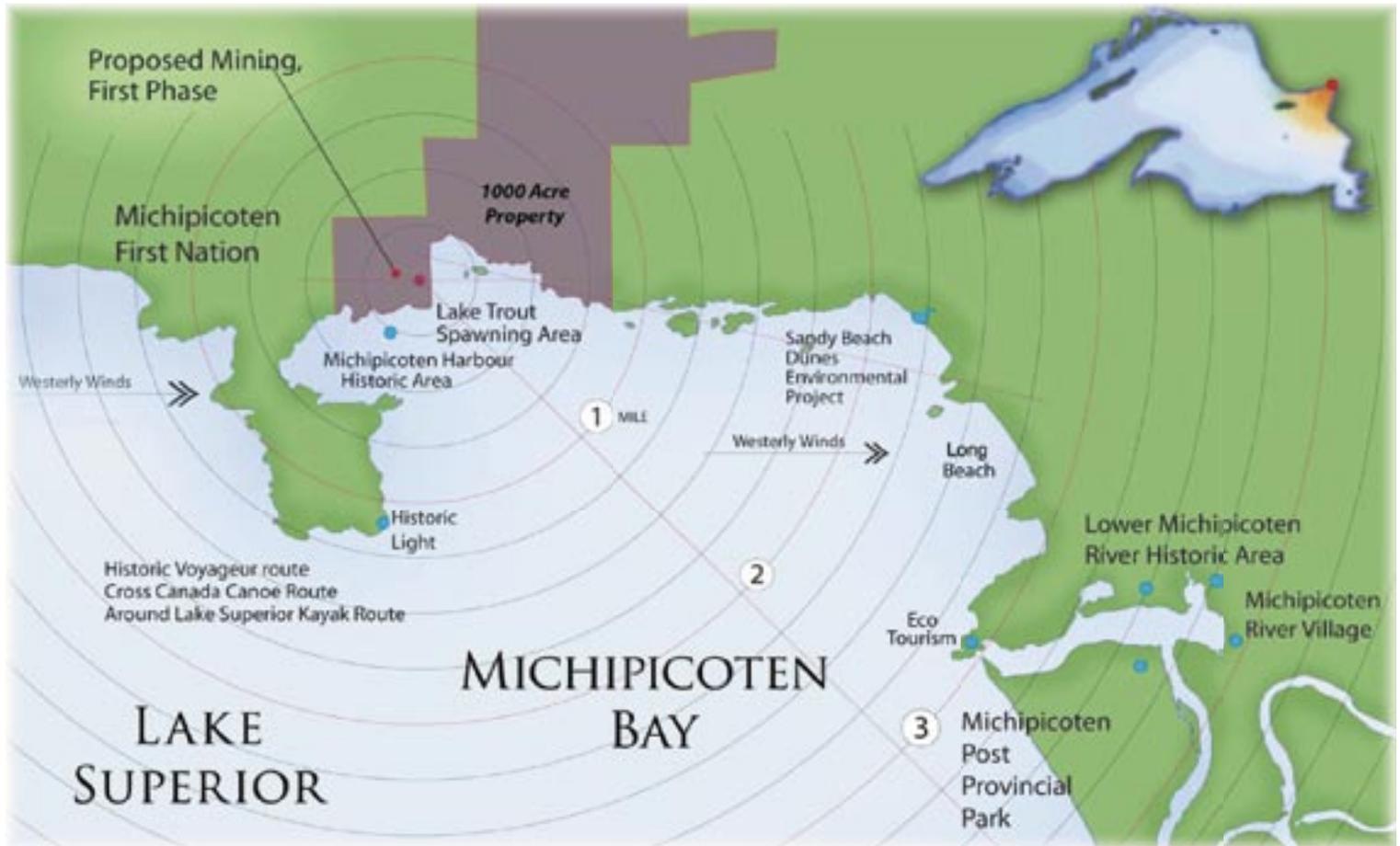
News from the Operations Team

The TOC Operations Team is responsible, amongst other things, for the look and feel of the TOC website. We are currently reviewing existing requests for new functionality, and prioritizing the work that needs to be done. If you have a suggestion to improve the way in which the TOC website works, please send an email to content@TorontoOutdoorClub.com. Suggestions will be prioritized as they come in and regular progress updates will be posted under the Operations Team discussion on the TOC forum.

Event Reminder:

TOC 2nd Annual Picnic

All TOC members are invited to attend the second annual TOC picnic at the Toronto Islands on Saturday, June 16, 2007. The festivities will begin at 1 pm and run until the last ferry back to the city. This is a great opportunity to meet the volunteers and other members. We will have a potluck picnic and access to a fire pit (so don't forget those marshmallows!). You can go to the beach, take the kids to Centreville, ride a bike around the Islands, and lots more...



Upcoming Events

- Mar 6 2007 - Indoor Rock Climbing
- Mar 8 2007 - Novice Intro to SCUBA Diving
- Mar 9 2007 - X-C Ski - TOC + UTOC Joint X-Country Ski Weekend
- Mar 10 2007 - Standard First Aid and CPR
- Mar 11 2007 - Tobogganing
- Mar 13 2007 - Indoor Rock Climbing: With Lessons
- Mar 16 2007 - Overnight - Slide Lake Loop - Frontenac Provincial Park
- Mar 17 2007 - Downhill Skiing at Horseshoe Valley
- Mar 17 2007 - Dance - Latin Fever
- Mar 18 2007 - Social - Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club
- Mar 18 2007 - Winter - Ultimate Frisbee
- Mar 24 2007 - Maple Sugar Bush Adventure
- Mar 24 2007 - Hamilton Area Winter Waterfall Tour
- Mar 25 2007 - Tobogganing
- Mar 30 2007 - Volunteer Weekend: UTOC Cabin
- Apr 5 2007 - Overnight Easter Camping trip - Mew Lake, Algonquin Park
- Apr 6 2007 - Sport - Trail Run - Luther Marsh
- Apr 7 2007 - Hike - Montgomery Creek Loop
- Apr 10 2007 - Indoor Rock Climbing: With Lessons
- Apr 13 2007 - Overnight - Backpack Frontenac Provin-

(Examining Our Environment, continued from page 1)

Michipicoten Bay sits in the middle of the 300 kilometres of coastline consisting of parks and other protected areas. These parks include Pukaskwa National Park and Lake Superior Provincial Park, where the TOC will be backpacking along coastal trails this summer. From Michipicoten Bay towards and encompassing Pukaskwa, this coastline consists of 120 km of roadless wilderness. This is a place where woodland caribou still make their home, increasingly rare in much of Ontario because of roads and other encroachment on their territory. The coastline of the North Shore of Lake Superior is truly rugged; it is a hard shore that rewards effort with its beauty. Also along this coast are important canoe and kayaking routes, where paddlers can test their skills and follow the paths of the voyageurs. This is the longest stretch of near wilderness left in the entire Great Lakes. Efforts are underway to secure UNESCO World Heritage Site status for this 300 km stretch of Lake Superior Coast.

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Member Profile: Ten Questions

This month marks our third member profile section. Our feature member for February is **Perkin Lee**.

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

Name: Perkin Lee

Nicknames:

I don't really have any. Although as member of my 5th grade swim team, I was called a penguin for being a short and still a pretty fast swimmer.

TOC member since:

I've been involved since April or May of 2006. I had just moved to Toronto and was looking for hiking, running & biking trails also other types of outdoor activities in the area when I came across the TOC web site. So I'm glad to have found a great group of people that in addition to enjoying the outdoors have been a great guide to someone new to the area.

Favourite TOC event so far:

Of the recent ones that I've been to, I'd have to say it would be the Intro to Snowshowing & Tubing and also the WinterCity Free Concert with The Philosopher Kings. As it is my first Toronto winter, its great to see and also be part of activities that got me out of the house and actually have fun outside despite the extreme cold temperatures.

Hometown:

Prior to moving to Toronto, I was living in San Francisco. I lived there for a good chunk of my life so I guess it has become home for me wow all of a sudden I can hear Tony Bennett reminding me that my heart's been left there ;-)

Other non-TOC hobbies:

When possible I do enjoy travelling & exploring. I really enjoy playing golf (although this might be a TOC thing too) along with watching and playing all different kinds of sports. I also like reading, mostly non-fiction lately specially on topics that deal with business, economics, history as well as science & technology. And like most people I too enjoy films and other forms of popular entertainment.

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

There's actually two: my running shoes and my iPod. These are essential tools that have become part of some sacred weekly ritual to turn my brain off and go for either a run or walk.

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

If I had the full 24 hours ... It would probably start out with me going to gourmet culinary class with my mom, then a round of golf with my dad at Pebble Beach Golf Links and end the day with my friends at AT&T/PacBell Park in San Francisco and watch my Giants win the World Series.

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

I've never really had any desire to be anybody else. However there is group of people that I would like to be more like. I wish that I could have the patience and determination of all professional golfers who are not rated in the top 50. For in a sport that only pays you when you win, these players continue to keep at it week in and week out, all aiming to keep improving and becoming better than they currently are.

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

...how it humbles me. Being out in nature never fails to put things in perspective.

Here's one of Perkin's favourite events, snowtubing:





Winter weekend at Camp Tawingo



Winter weekend at Camp Tawingo



Lorie's Farewell Party



Cross-country skiing at Horseshoe Valley **February 2007 Events**



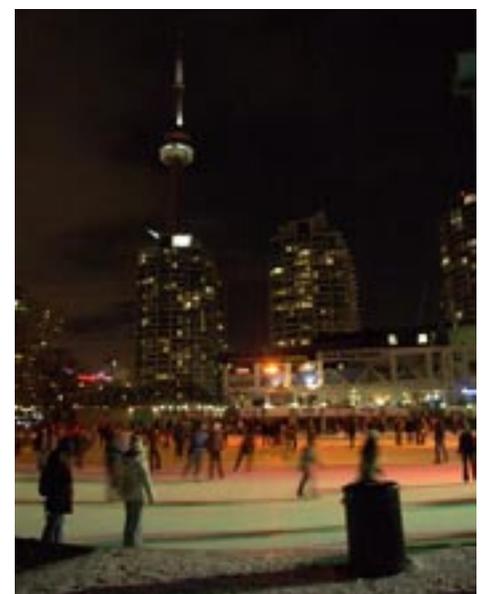
Intro to snowshoeing & tubing



Waterfront DJ Skate @ Harbourfront



Cross-country skiing at Horseshoe Valley



Waterfront DJ Skate @ Harbourfront

(Examining Our Environment - continued from page 2)

However, Michipicoten Bay doesn't sit within one of the protected areas, but rather in between them all, and it is now threatened by a large quarry development proposed for Michipicoten Bay - a 1000 acre site that would blast the rock to within 60 metres of the coastline for aggregate, which will then be shipped across the lake to Michigan and used in highway construction. While the environmental impact would be huge, and continuing - the company attempting to develop the site plans to quarry it for years - it will also put paddlers at risk as large ships will be coming into the bay to transport aggregate. Water quality and air quality, in addition to fish and animal habitat, will be affected, and the local residents - the quarry site borders Michipicoten First Nation and sits close to a few homes of other locals - will also see their living environment destroyed.

The North Shore of Lake Superior truly is one of the most beautiful, and accessible, pieces of wilderness left in Canada, and it is historically important. The impact of the proposed quarry truly would be terrible; if you're interested in learning more, you can visit <http://www.ccmb.ca/index.html> or contact Jenn M through the member network.

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>



Winter weekend at Camp Tawingo



Cross-country skiing at Horseshoe Valley