

TORONTO

Outdoor Club

2013 Spring Newsletter

Editor's Note:

Welcome to the latest inaugural edition of the TOC Newsletter. It is my intent as your new editor to produce a newsletter quarterly to connect with our members and volunteers. One of my goals in doing so is to see us regain the sense of "community" we felt in the early days of the club.

We've grown very quickly in the 8 years since the club was founded and we've seen much ebb and flow in the membership, volunteer base and thus the sort of events that are popular on the calendar. I encourage members to offer ideas regarding content for future editions by sending email to: newsletter@torontooutdoorclub.com.



Memories of the 2006 Inaugural TOC picnic (in the rain)

Volunteering with the TOC

The club is always on the lookout for new volunteers to help populate our calendar and fulfill the demand created by our numerous eager members.

If you enjoy the TOC, have attended at least 5 outdoor (not social) events and are interested in becoming a volunteer, please let us know by emailing volunteers@torontooutdoorclub.com.

Sales Pitch: Becoming a volunteer enables you to set up an event on our calendar where and when you want to do a given activity, and attract likeminded members to accompany you. You call the shots, and build interest in your pastimes.

Don't have a car? No problem – include a carpool in your event to get you and your group where you need to go. As the volunteer you're pretty much guaranteed a spot!

Members, please remember that our Event Coordinators are volunteers and thus do not get paid to put on events. Please do your best to show respect for their efforts and ensure that they have a good time as well, or there will be fewer events for you to enjoy.

“The TOC Tell”

The TOC began its inception as an idea. Our Founder (Stephanie) was living in Calgary and a member of the Calgary Outdoor Club.



She was moving back to Toronto (where she'd grown up) and thought we needed a similar club in Toronto. She asked Erik to assist with the set-up and costs of the launch of our site.

Wanting to be more than just a facilitator Erik booked a flight and went out to Calgary (February 2005), attended several events, met the people running the club to find out what it was all about and how it all worked. Side Note: Stephanie was to go snowboarding with Erik on one of these events (Lake Louise, Banff), but broke her wrist the week before (silly snowboarders) and was unable to come.

Hindsight would prove this to be a fortunate happenstance as Erik learned so much just being a member in that 2 hour drive each way in the carpool. Erik heard lots of great insight from the members that probably wouldn't have been revealed had Stephanie or any other volunteer been in the car.

Long story short, Erik returned to Toronto and with Stephanie and Rhonda's (designer of our fabulous website) assistance the club was launched (May 2005). While Erik continues in a role on the Executive of the club, Stephanie went off to get married and have a family, but has always been there to lend an ear and advice to current and past Presidents having assumed her mantle.

Trail Mix and Trivia

Toronto, a (not-so) short history:
In appreciating and celebrating the history and diversity that we know as life in the metropolis of Toronto, you might be interested to know:

- People have lived here since shortly after the last ice age.
- The first settlement in the entire area, was Teiaiagon, which was populated by the Seneca Indians and then later by the Mississauga Indians on the East bank of the Humber River.
- From a nearby spot by the Humber Bay Marshes, Lake Ontario was first ever seen by a European – Étienne Brûlé on September 9, 1615.
- In 1670 the name Toronto made its first appearance in history as 'lac de Tranteau' on a map of Southern Ontario drawn by the French priest Father Rene de Brehant de Galinee.
- A French map from around 1675 shows the future city's name as "Taronto". "Lac de Taronto" on the same map indicated the present Lake Simcoe".
- In 1787 the Toronto area was purchased from the Mississauga Indians.
- The urban community in this area only dates to 1793 when British officials founded the "Town of York" on what then was the Upper Canadian frontier.
- The provincial capital was moved here from the vulnerable border village of Niagara.
- That backwoods village grew and was renamed the 'City of Toronto' on March 6, 1834.

Submitted by Ghanesh Das,
TOC Event Coordinator and
Past Safety Committee Member



May 2013 Ice Pellets

Wait Lists

A complaint we hear from new members is that it's hard to get onto TOC events.

Always signup if you want to go. There generally is a high dropout rate for events, particularly just before hand. Many people from the waiting list often make it on the event.

If a waitlist is long enough, sometimes another volunteer will create a 2nd version of the same event on the same day, taking much of the waitlist.

Some volunteers are running events specifically for new members, such that those with 5 events or less in their history get priority on the event. Your odds of making it from the waiting list onto the event as a new member are much greater for events like this.

If you're interested, after 5 events, you can even investigate becoming a volunteer yourself, and help the TOC offer even more events to keep up with the demand from people just like you.

Some events have a low maximum number of participants. There are some good reasons why:

- Safety – the larger the group, the more risk of someone being lost/left behind, etc.
- Ecological protection – in sensitive areas, having a whole pack of people all at once can create quite a bit of damage.
- Camaraderie - if a group is too large; people feel anonymous, new members might not feel truly welcomed.
- Volunteer Preference – some volunteers don't want to be responsible for herding a huge crowd of people on their event.

So add your name to waitlists, and keep an eye out for that first "You've been added to an event" e-mail!

Submitted by Cynthia Beernink,
TOC Event Coordinator and TOC Past President

Facebook

Please join the TOC Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2222484362/>

We post event photos and other items of interest to our members.

Support our Parks & Trails

The TOC Executive Committee has long debated how we can "give back" and support the various Parks and Trail systems we utilize (often at no charge) during our events.

As a Not-For-Profit club, the TOC's ability to contribute is quite limited and we ask that our volunteers and members support these resources in the following ways:

- Happily pay any fees for use (including parking), and don't cheat. It's worth noting that if you cheat or don't pay at all, you're technically trespassing which is against the law and TOC policy.
- Purchase Trail Guides/Maps as appropriate.
- Signup or volunteer for Trail Maintenance, Stream Habitat Creation and other Eco Rehabilitation Events.

Annual Picnic

Please join us on June 23rd on Olympic Island (site 18) for the TOC Annual Picnic

The TOC Executive

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints, we need to know! Too often when there is an issue with a member or even a volunteer, we aren't aware of it until long after it would've been ideal for us to address. Please feel free to contact a member of the Club's Executive:

Julian – Executive Committee President
julian@torontooutdoorclub.com

Erik - Treasurer
erik@torontooutdoorclub.com

Andrew - Executive Committee Secretary
info@torontooutdoorclub.com

Colin - Director-at-Large
colin@torontooutdoorclub.com

Jessie - Member Coordinator
jessie@torontooutdoorclub.com

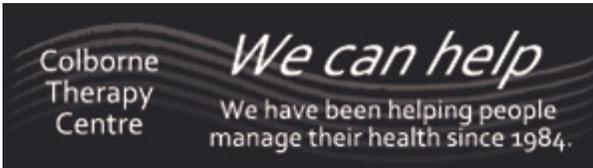
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Simply contact one of the below agents @ 905-660-7000 and identify yourself as a TOC member:

Barbara Yack: Ext 229 (Barbara@yyztravel.com) – Caribbean, Las Vegas, Destination Weddings

Joe Inacio: Ext 322 (Joe@yyztravel.com) – Europe, Cruises, Rail, Escorted Tours

Irena Artamonova: Ext 355 (artamonova@yyztravel.com) – Mediterranean, Cuba, South Pacific