

October 2006 Newsletter

Toronto Outdoor Club

Remember: this is your newsletter! If you've enjoyed your experiences with the TOC, why not send a quote, a quick paragraph or even an article to info@torontooutdoorclub.com - get the word out about a hiking location, a new activity, or just dazzle us with your wit and wisdom. Submissions may be edited for space and clarity.

TOC News Flash

There has been a lot of club activity this month - many great hikes, camping trips, portages, city discovery walks, and more - and we're up to nearly 650 members!

Again, a challenge to those who have just joined or who are not yet active members: sign up for that first event, it's a great way to meet a great group of people with similar interests - the outdoors!

LAST REMINDER: Annual General Mtg.

All TOC members are invited and encouraged to come along to the **first-ever annual general meeting (AGM) on Saturday, October 28th**. There will be awards, volunteer elections, and great opportunities to meet club members you've never met before. New members are particularly encouraged to attend!

Taking your bookings...

There are already events on the calendar for August 2007 - but don't let that stop you from signing up for something this week! Here's a snapshot of just a few of the 24+ events happening this month:

- Oct 1: Pick-your-own Apples at Chudleigh's Farm
- Oct 3: Indoor Rock Climbing
- Oct 7: 2nd Hiking weekend in the Bruce Peninsula
- Oct 7: Caledon Rail Trail Bike
- Oct 7: The TOC President's Birthday - dinner, drinks
- Oct 8: Orphan's Thanksgiving dinner
- Oct 9: Traditional Thanks giving dinner

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Featured Event

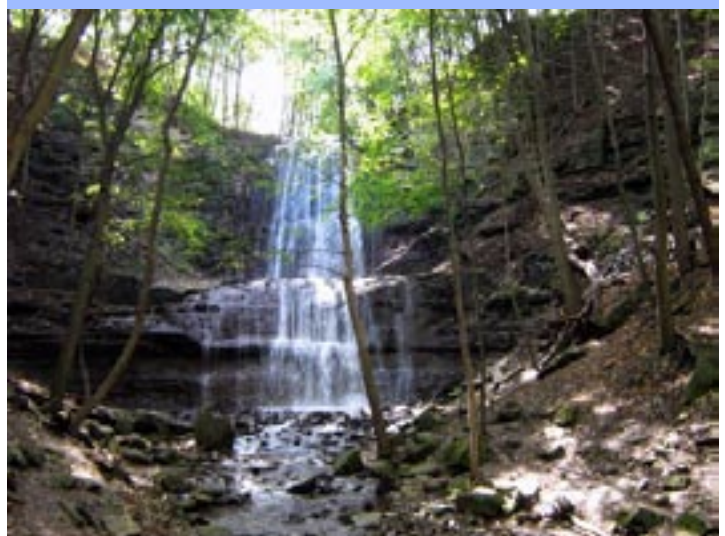
Every month, we will profile an event that has taken place over the past few weeks.

September 24, 2006: Dundas Valley Headwaters Trail

A Victorian Railway Station, replete with a 1929 carriage, played backdrop as 11 eager hikers buckled their backpacks and laced up their boots.

A brisk pace through the densely wooded conservation area brought them to the ruins of a hermitage built in 1855 by a Scottish settler. The wise old monument looked down kindly as the explorers walked around, peered through the windows, and recorded the moment with digital novelties. Back on the main loop interesting formations of moss-covered rocks lined a cliff. Before long, the adventurers branched off to the Heritage trail. A couple of H2O breaks, a half dozen bikers, some deer spotting, and a garden snake later they reached the Sherman Water Falls.

A high school class was studying rock formation and water erosion, while the hungry ate lunch. Fifty meters was not close enough, so Saif, Tara, and Coco took on the eastern flank, whereas Jason, Hong, and Prashanth climbed up the western rocks to get up close and personal with the falling water. *(cont'd on page 3)*





TOC Officers & Administrators

Unfortunately there's not enough room here to name all of our event coordinators as well. Please have a look at the web site for a full list.

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Oct 9: Urban Hike - Fall Colours Afternoon hike-Kingston Rd to the Bluffs

Oct 9: Bike - Thansksgiving Day Bike Ride on the Georgian Trail: Cycle 65-70 km in a Day!

Oct 10: Tuesday Night Movie: Trailer Park Boys: The Big Dirty

Oct 12: Overnight - Trip to Atlanta - AOC

Oct 13: Overnight - Algonquin Provincial Park

Oct 14: 2006 - Sport - Ultimate Frisbee

Oct 15: Fall Colours Hike - Osler Bluffs

Oct 20: Weekend - Autumn Leaves Trail Ride on Icelandic Horses

Oct 21: Adventure - Skydiving--Second Call

Oct 21: Urban Hike - Historic Brickworks, Moore Park Ravine, Mt. Pleasant Cemetary

Oct 22: Paintball Sunday

Oct 27: TOC swim club: session two

Oct 28: TOC annual general meeting

Oct 29: Hike - Rattlesnake Point to Crawford Lake

Oct 29: McMichael Canadian Gallery - Group of Seven Collection *...and much more to come!*

In their own words...

This is a new segment that will feature a different TOC member each week. This week, we feature Elliott. Please send comments or responses to info@torontooutdoorclub.com.

Name: Elliott

Nicknames:

Carrot boy:

I tend to “dangle the carrot” with friends, meaning I pretend to not know stuff and get people to tell me.... it is a stupid game that ends up frustrating everyone!

Yellow Boy:

I have slightly yellow hands sometimes!?

Elmo: a shorter form of Elliott

EJ: my first two initials

TOC member since: the beginning of the summer, 2006

Favourite TOC event so far:

Algonquin blew me away, I am a city boy, grew up in London (UK), never really did that much outdoors stuff certainly nothing like the trip we had. I was scared to pop to the Loo one night when I woke up busting, as it would have meant going to the Wooden Privy in the woods on my own, in the dark ... I was convinced a bear was waiting for me! I just held on til the morning. All my brothers back in London said they would have done the same thing...I am going to toughen up though ...!

Hometown:

I am from the town of Ilford, in the county of Essex, which is part of North East London. I came to Toronto in February 2004 for my job at Sick Kids, I am a biochemist and study how proteins work.

Other non-TOC hobbies:

Spanish conversation classes, volunteer work with elderly, swimming, cooking and food.

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

My bike

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

Anybody would be fascinating, although reliving a day of my nine year old self would be cool too. Being 9 was fun.

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

Leaving everything else behind and soaking up the wonders of nature.

Here's Elliott at Algonquin Park:



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The fall is in two stages: first a 60 meter drop on to a flat rock face and then another 40 meters straight down. The six had climbed up to the sides of the 40m high rock face and Prashanth lived dangerously by walking across the water flow.

Back on the trail, graced again by the elusive two-eared deer, we trotted along to the apple orchard. Jason and Hong got some apples and then... it happened. Thick gobs of rain came down, but only to fall on colorful rain gear. The rain soon stopped and we were back to the trail center greeted again by Jet and Kinsley (the retrievers).

Epilogue

While others left, Tara, Hong, Prashanth, Jason, and Saif stayed back to search for the mythic Sulphur Spring. The rancid water is said to engender superhuman capabilities.

Photos clockwise from top left:

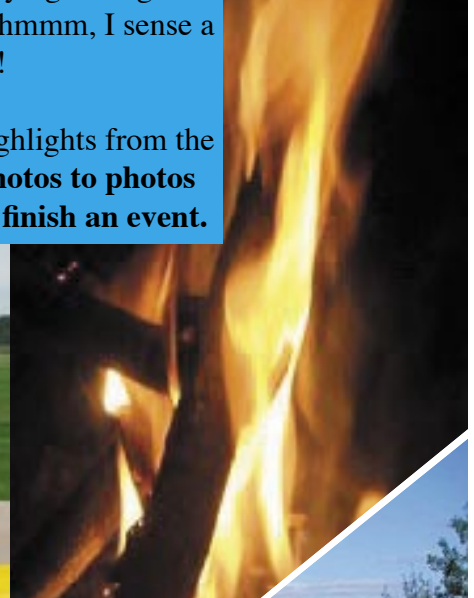
A small army showed up for the Forks of the Credit hike; Saif as Mr. Canoehead (anyone remember that show?); Coco's first campfire; Deb at Forks of the Credit; sunset in Killarney; Kevin with a butterfly on his nose at Petroglyphs national park. Centre: Coco practicing her skydiving pose.



September photo gallery

Lots of camping and backpacking trips happened during September - as well as a bit more flying through the air (skydiving), similar to last month...hmmm, I sense a trend...! Great pics, keep them coming!

Here is a quick look at a few of the highlights from the month. **Remember to send in your photos to photos @torontooutdoorclub.com once you finish an event.**



This is Deb, your newsletter editor, at the Forks of the Credit hike. Please send all newsletter feedback, submissions and ideas to me at info@torontooutdoorclub.com.