

BEACH DIRT

The official newsletter of
TORONTO WINDSURFING CLUB
P.O.Box 534, Toronto, ON., M3C 2S2
www.Torontowindsurfingclub.ca



FALL 2007

MAKE YOUR BEST SPEED TO **TWC'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** (5:00 P.M.) **/DINNER DANCE** (FOLLOWING AGM)



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10

KEATING CHANNEL PUB

NO CHARGE !

Limited Seating...Reserve ASAP!

RSVP TO Jenny Tucker , luvthepets@sympatico.ca (see details on p. 3)

President's Message: Looking Back and Looking Forward

I want to begin this message with a special thanks to the members who stepped up and helped out with the numerous programs, events and general upkeep required to keep this club running. I want to put together a list of everyone that stepped up. The danger is forgetting someone. The board did some head scratching and compiled includes 65 names – not bad for a club of 560 members and undoubtedly we are short several names. So, a nameless but very heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers who pitched in this year. The list we have compiled will be posted on the website where it can be updated to ensure that those omitted aren't forgotten. See the volunteer article on p.4.

This year, we filled up our storage by July, and Jerry Caplan has taken sole responsibility of the waiting list, ensuring a fair chance for all at getting a storage space. We have now set in place the maximum number of storage containers allowed under our lease. In that regard, the club cannot expand further. With a cap on storage, it follows that growth in the general membership may also slow or stop.

As noted above, our club now has 560 members, if we count individuals (209) who joined under a family membership. Here are some membership numbers from the past to give some perspective to our growth:

1990 – 157, 1995 – 213, 2000 – 344, 2005 – 502.

I attribute our recent growth to three drivers: the addition of a clubhouse on our site; the expansion of our Learn to Windsurf program; and the introduction this decade of the new stable, light-wind equipment that has simplified instruction and made for more exciting sailing in our typically light winds.

We will finish 2007 with a substantial amount of cash (expected to be approximately \$70,000) in the bank. These funds will be used to enhance the club facilities (for example running water) or even expand the physical club. Ultimately, the decision on how to use these funds will be made by the membership.

Looking back on the year, this board of directors can take pride in the numerous achievements and advances in programs, administration and facilities. (See "Thank You TWC Volunteers" p.4).

Despite the many significant achievements of this board and over 50 other volunteers, these achievements have not come without problems for our Club and in particular the Board. Anyone who has spent much time at our site has heard first hand, or has heard of, the "politics" at the beach. The environment at our club has been described as toxic, as people have taken sides on issues facing the club and have dug in deep, leading to an atmosphere of suspicion, mistrust and even bullying. The environment at the beach led to the resignation of three instructors, including the head instructor, Tom Mae. Behaviour and politics based on mistrust at our club must stop and it is up to our membership to see that it does stop, because this board seems to have failed to do so.

I personally believe the root of these problems lies in differing visions for the club among directors. With our annual meeting on November 10th, comes the opportunity to elect a board of directors. To help the membership better understand those running, we will ask nominees (except those nominated at the meeting) to fill out an information form designed to provide the members with some background on each candidate, including a photo and their own views on the club and its programs as well as a statement in support of their nomination. This information will be updated on the club website, as the meeting approaches. Since we cannot accommodate all members at the AGM, we will provide for a vote by proxy. I hope this brings more of the membership into the governance process and leads to a more informed vote. I hope to join you for some great fall sailing at our site. The water is still warm, but with the cooler weather it can change quickly so always sail with a buddy.

Bill Mackenzie
CAN 61

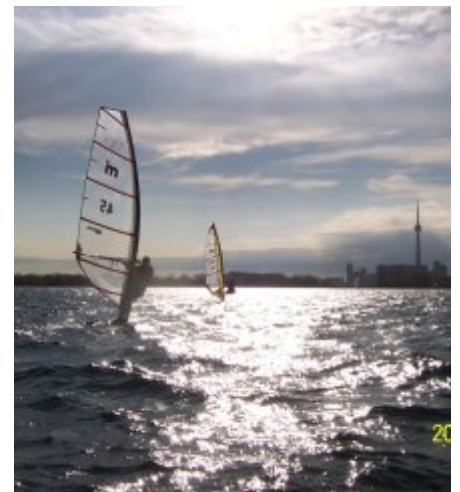
KIDS CAMP 2007 (Andree Gauthier reporting)

A great big thank you goes out to our instructors for this summer's kid's camp. Ian Matthew, Simon Rickard, Josh Woodworth and Paul Carr all did a great job at improving the windsurfing skills of our participants. The weather and wind cooperated for the two weeks the camp was offered. We received a lot of positive feedback from the kids and parents alike. TWC will once again offer 2, week long camps for kids 12 years and up next summer, possibly around the same dates as this past summer.



Learn to Windsurf (LTW) 2007 (Andree Gauthier reporting)

TWC's learn to windsurf program has wrapped up for the season. Thanks to Tom Mae, the web booking and payment process made things a little easier. A large number of new windsurfers are now under way and we see them around TWC with their own gear and new enthusiasm for the sport. Many thanks go out to the many volunteer instructors who helped our employed instructors with the large volume of students. In order for the LTW program to continue we require volunteers to help in the planning, running and instruction of the program. The summer of 2008 is already in the planning stages and assistance is required. Contact ????? if you are interested in helping out in 2008.



WEDNESDAY SERIES SUMMARY Blue, Gold, Red & White Fleets

PI/	Sail #	Skipper	Fleet	Total
1	3	Ian Matthews	Gold	33
2	1711	Paul Carr	Gold	51
3	141	Mike Keltz	Gold	58
4	32	Nick Cox	Gold	58
6	130	John Darling	Red	119
7	212	Jerry Caplan	Red	158
8	774	Mike Chupricove	Red	176
10	G	Gander	Blue	192
13	37	Chris Hope	Blue	235
14	2684	Barry Holtzkener	Blue	246
16	J4	Max	White	287
22	175	Reet Mae	White	424
24	92	Robert Felkai	White	594

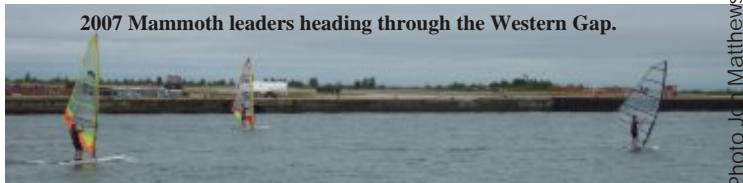
4 Oct, '07, 10:04

2007 WEDNESDAY NIGHT RACE SERIES

New sailors and new boards filled the Wednesday start lines this season. Fleets averaged close to twenty each night and over fifty races were run in winds from almost non-existent to 20+ knots. Congratulations to Ian Matthews, club champion for the third (fourth?) time! We missed Ian at the Wednesday night wrap up session...good to know he was busy starting a windsurfing team at Lakefield College where he's a staff member! TWC's Wednesday night series is amongst the best club racing series on the continent and the club and its racers should be proud of this TWC tradition and cornerstone activity. Thanks to series organizers Paul Carr and Chris Hope. We've provided a table showing the top three in each of the four fleets (gold, red, blue and white). Come join the racers in early May next year for a season of competition and camaraderie!

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK A TWC SPOT IN HATTERAS, APRIL 2008!

TWC'S 2008 Hatteras trip is already 70% full with 37 registered for either April 12-19 and/or April 19-26, 2008. In late April, Hatteras wind is about as reliable as any location relying on frontal winds. The last three years have brought shortboardable winds for at least ten (as many as 13) out of the 14 days in the two week period and temperatures are warmer than here in Ontario. Pamlico Sound is knee to shoulder deep in most places as far as three miles out. Accommodation is soundfront in some of the best windsurfing houses in Hatteras and the Loonie goes farther than it has in a long time in the US. With a superb location, with accommodation prices averaging \$250 per week per person for the last several years and the Loonie promising even cheaper costs this year, with Dave Marshall (former Winsport clinic coach) back to coach both weeks, Hatteras with TWC shapes up as one of the best. There is still lots of space in the April 12-19 week and limited space in the April 19-26 week...if you book by the end of October. After that, we'll do our best, but pickings may be thin! See the website for details and a registration form or e-mail Bill Quantock at ibillyq@rogers.com.



25TH MAMMOTH...AN ADVENTURE!

Every so often Mother Nature and meteorologists conspire to create a Mammoth Marathon that's truly an adventure! The 25th Mammoth on September 10th was one of those!

The 11:00 a.m. start brought 4-15 knot NE winds (iwindsurf) and flat water to Cherry Beach, the wind direction prompting race officials to send racers 17 km counter-clockwise around the Toronto Islands instead of the usual clockwise course. This meant racers encountered the full 15-24 knot winds (iwindsurf) and the 4-5 foot waves once through the eastern gap, western gap and out into the open lake! The combination of wind and waves kept the rescue crews on their toes, rescuing five racers (yours truly included!) from the warm but wavy waters!

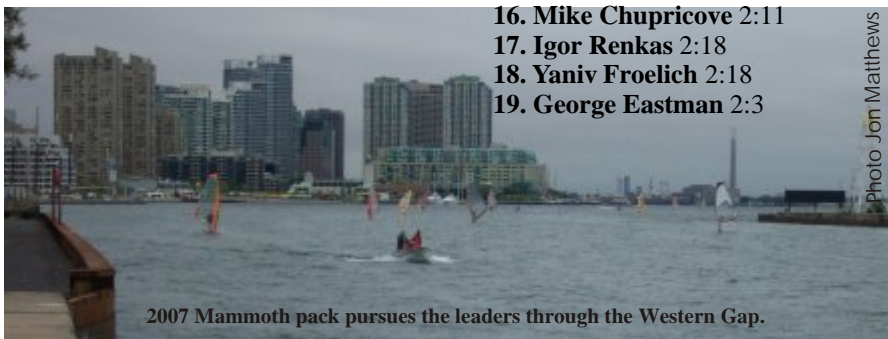
The short Inner Harbour and learn to Windsurf courses went off without a hitch. Congratulations to all the organizers and rescue crews for another great Mammoth!



Here's a smile that'll make you forget all that cold grey water!

Mammoth Marathon 2007

1. Nick Cox 12:36
2. Paul Carr 12:37
3. Andree Gauthier 12:42
4. Bob Shuttleworth 12:44
5. Keith Whiston 12:47
6. Gander Tawastterna 12:54
7. Max Robinson 12:54
8. Marc Zegers 1:00
9. Nick Ledonne 1:02
10. Stephanie Todd 1:05
11. Jerry Caplan 1:06
12. Ivan Dimic 1:11
13. Mike Huebner 1:26
14. Chris Hope 1:41
15. Mike Tindall 2:02
16. Mike Chupricove 2:11
17. Igor Renkas 2:18
18. Yaniv Froelich 2:18
19. George Eastman 2:3



TWC Annual General Meeting and Dinner Dance, Sat. Oct. 10.

This year's AGM/Dinner Dance will be held at the Keating Channel Pub, southeast of the Cherry Street bridge, right across the channel facing the Gardiner Expressway and Lakeshore Boulevard. Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club, the venue for our dinner dance over the last number of years, was not available for the time we required this year. We decided to go with our neighbourhood pub (2 Villiers St. Toronto, M5A 1B1, 416 572 0300, (www.keatingchannelpub.com)). They promise to put on a great spread for us, and there is tons of parking.

Since we are trying a new and less expensive venue for the meeting and dinner/dance, there will be no charge for members to attend. We do require that you book promptly and plead with you now to notify us if you must cancel your reservation (so that we can give it to another member).

MAKE SURE YOU RSVP PROMPTLY TO "Jenny Tucker, 185 Waverley Road, Toronto, ON M4L 3T4, or

luvthepets@sympatico.ca"... DINNER SEATING IS LIMITED! You will receive an e-mail confirmation once your seat(s) is/are reserved. The AGM will start at 5:00 and will end at approximately 6:30, which will be the official start of the dinner dance. This year we will provide the opportunity for members to vote even if they are not able to attend the meeting. A form of proxy with instructions will be provided to you. Another member may vote on your behalf at the meeting. Accompanying the proxy will be information on the matters to be decided at the meeting. We intend to provide information on the board candidates in advance of the meeting. Members will vote on the reappointment of Michael Keltz, CA, as auditor, elect directors and vote on a by-law amendment to allow member access to the minutes of the board (as approved). We intend to provide information on the board candidates in advance of the meeting. Note that we are still accepting nominations and will have a last call for nominations from the floor at the meeting.

If you are keen to make a difference at the club and would consider becoming a director candidate, please contact the president (bill@twsc.ca) or our nominating committee (antonella@twsc.ca or john@twsc.ca) to explore a directorship position.

Wow, See What TWC Volunteers Did This Year!(Bill Mackenzie reporting)

This year, our volunteers really stepped up and made it a banner year for programs and activities at the club.

Our ongoing Learn to Windsurf program had two paid instructors who worked with 18 volunteers to put about 160 new sailors on the water. Although this was about the same number as last year, LTW managed to do it with a newly self-imposed maximum of 12 students per session and using less physical space. Although financially sound last year, this year, even without counting the membership fees paid by the students, the program more than covered its costs.

With the help of 13 volunteers, the TWC Tips sessions brought in or tapped from our own ranks, top talent who generously imparted their knowledge to members through clinics held right at the club.

The Wednesday Night Race series relied completely on volunteers for another great season that saw over 20 racers in the fleet most nights. This is an important venue for Windsurf racing in Canada. Many of Canada's top Olympic class windsurfers were launched from this series. This year, member David Hayes, placed sixth in the World Youth racing at Cork in Kingston. Drawing on this pool of expertise including 10 volunteers, through our Learn to Race program, we are developing new racers, like young Max, who just keeps getting faster.

Our volunteers organized the best-ever series social events this year with live music right at the beach. Hundreds enjoyed the great atmosphere and some danced until the wee hours of the morning.

Our spring Boardfest and late-summer Mammoth Marathon events both showcased the capabilities of a volunteer-run club.

Volunteers put together our second series of "Kids' Camps" which brought some sorely needed youth to the sport. We are committed to our outreach program, and with volunteer help, we will implement a plan to partner with the "Big Brothers" and "Big Sisters" organizations to introduce underprivileged kids to windsurfing.

Volunteers ensured several conveniences were installed this year. The new bio-toilet housed in the small building at the back of the clubhouse is in itself, a showpiece. A waterless biowaste processing system using wood chips has been installed and made available for no charge by the Canadian agent for the Japanese manufacturer, Seiwa. In return, the supplier will benefit from access to our open site for demonstration and documentation purposes. The unit is "women only", but we are talking to the supplier about adding a men's urinal, possibly next year.

Volunteers worked to get in a new and vastly improved wood-burning stove, installed doors on the change rooms for increased privacy, organized the acquisition of a bike rack and lockers to make the club more user-friendly to those arriving without a car. Volunteers picked up garbage in and around the clubhouse and cleaned up.

Volunteers helped organize the delivery, painting and setup of one final storage container to the property to give us more storage space this season. They organized the replacement of locks and distribution of keys.

Volunteers did what it took to keep our expanded lawn area clean, beautifully groomed and well watered, giving us perfect rigging conditions.

Volunteers ensure that maintenance is done, the club boat is maintained and stored properly, systems are winterized and the property is checked over the winter months.

Volunteers contributed photos, wrote articles, created artwork and logos and gave their time to prepare and mail newsletters, brochures and flyers.

Through volunteer work, we have a robust database with current and historical member information based on data from membership forms. From this we can draw on volunteers based on their noted area of interest.

Volunteers helped; further develop our website, update the calendar, and ensure operation of the webcam. With volunteer help we successfully implemented an on-line payment system for memberships and Learn to Windsurf payments based on the "PayPal" secure payment system. This will help reduce the amount of cash handling by instructors and volunteers, enhance record keeping and protect the club. Eleven volunteers worked on the website.

Volunteer effort enabled the production of a detailed operating budget, enhanced bookkeeping and financial reporting showing actual results versus budget and enhanced internal controls to protect the club against fraudulent activity.

Volunteers put in time representing the TWC at meetings of the Outer Harbour Sailing Federation, and became knowledgeable on and involved themselves in the planning of Lake Ontario Park to help ensure we have a future in the City's plans.

Several volunteers helped develop needed board policies, basic rules and improved the format of board of directors meeting agendas and meeting minutes and implemented processes to run more orderly and efficient board meetings.

The club needs to draw more heavily on its membership to contribute a small number of volunteer hours. While there will always be some that do more work than others, some individual members are putting in hundreds of unpaid hours per year. I hope more members can make the board's task of distributing work a little easier by being proactive or simply picking up or grabbing a broom and sweeping.

2007 OUTER HARBOUR WEATHER TRIVIA

—courtesy Toronto Port Authority

	September 2007	2007
Highest Recorded Temp	30.6°C	33.3°C
Lowest Recorded Temp	7.3°C	-20.6°C
Lowest Recorded Wind Chill	6.1°C	-30.3°C
Highest Recorded Windspeed	38.5 knots	83.5 knots!

*Speed Sailing Season
ends Nov. 1! 2006
Champion Jeff
MacIntosh presently
is top TWC member
on the ladder with
33.1 knots!*



Editor's Message :Looking Forward

After six years and 18 issues, this is in all likelihood the last TWC newsletter I will edit. New obligations and interests and the TWC problems mentioned by President Bill have meant this season I visited TWC less than any other season in the last ten years. I'm no longer confident I know what's happening at TWC.

However, I do have a few thoughts relating to the problems the Board has faced this year and in a rare and final moment of editorial licence offer the following.

In my opinion, to move forward, TWC (the Board) needs to develop a new and more detailed mission statement based on the wishes of the membership. A survey of member wishes would be one way to seek input on issues such as growth, the scope of the LTW program and other cornerstone activities. Once the new mission statement is developed, Board members need to keep each other on track by referring to it.

If Beach Dirt or whatever it may be called in the future continues, I wish the editor(s) well.

Thanks,
Editor Bill

*Sometimes...
even editors go sailing!*

