

# BEACH DIRT

The official newsletter of  
**TORONTO WINDSURFING CLUB**  
P.O.Box 534, Toronto, ON., M3C 2S2  
[www. Torontowindsurfingclub.ca](http://www.Torontowindsurfingclub.ca)



SPRING 2007



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Bill Mackenzie reporting)

Welcome back it's sailing time again! Greetings members! Things are changing fast around our little patch of paradise. The area between the bike path and Unwin Ave. has been completely cleared of trees and contaminated soil in preparation for the completion of two soccer fields. The area has a much different feel now, but the positive aspect may be that the lack of trees will perhaps reduce the wind shadow that makes sailing back to our beach so difficult in offshore wind conditions.

Under the big plan, the soccer fields will be removed to make way for a park with more natural land features that are more characteristic of an untouched shoreline. At risk in this plan is the future of not only our club, but the whole group of clubs along the north shore of the Outer Harbour that make up the Outer Harbour Sailing Federation (OHSF). To ensure we may keep our place on the shoreline, the OHSF have published a position paper profiling these unique and accessible clubs and the value they offer to the City. However this may not be enough to ensure our tenancy over the long run.

The philosophy of the TWC has been one of "no fences" to facilitate public access. This has been easier for us as we have containers in which we lock up our gear. The other clubs, with boats and trailers are in a more difficult position in this regard. However, we are optimistic that the inexpensive access to sailing that the OHSF clubs offer will increase the odds that we will continue to thrive in Lake Ontario Park. Last year the TWC signed a new 20-year lease for our property. However, the lease provides the City with the right to evict us with six months notice.

So, we must be on our best behavior to ensure that Lake Ontario Park plans continue evolve in concert with existing windsurfing and sailing activities. In this regard, and to reflect the fact that we are in an open park setting, the TWC Board voted to adopt a proposal banning alcohol consumption on the TWC property. The TWC Board has also taken steps to formalize and document its governance processes. Getting our heads around such an initiative has been a challenge for the likes of many of us who would like to live by one and only one rule: "if it's windy, drop everything and go sailing." However, to better equip the board to manage a club with nearly 500 members, having some rules and a director orientation package will project a more professional image of our club to members, potential Directors, and anyone in a position to scrutinize our activities.

I do believe we must project a very positive and professional image to ensure that we keep our existing site. Besides a clean, presentable site, that image includes a quality teaching program to bring new people into the sport, organized race or other competitive programs to build on Canada's successes in competitive windsurfing, but most importantly, a diverse community of people, brought together by windsurfing, who are absolutely great fun to hang out with between sessions on the water and on those summer days when it is too calm to sail.

Hopefully there won't be too many calm days. With many of us now pumped up on the idea of being the fastest on the beach, GPS accuracy has brought speed sailing to the forefront as inexpensive waterproof units are increasingly finding their way into the hands of us Dunkerbeck wannabes. In fact, we expect to have two Garmin units available to members this year. With inter-club rivalry brewing, expect to see more speed-oriented gear on the beach this year.

We will be the recipient of a "demonstration" bio-toilet installation this year. This Japanese-built, self-contained unit will be installed against the exterior of the north wall of the clubhouse. We can expect occasional visits by Ryerson University students and the manufacturer's representative who will monitor its performance. The unit will be provided essentially for no cost to the TWC and its use will be limited to female members of the club, who understandably are not excited about using the TWC porta-potty.

Upcoming dates to keep in mind include: May 2, the start of our Wednesday Night Race Series (brrr don't dunk!); May 26<sup>th</sup>, the start of our Learn to Windsurf Program; and June 9<sup>th</sup>, the first Ontario Sailing Association (OSA) race followed by our Springboard event and new member welcome on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Keep your eyes on the website for details on more upcoming events and news solely related to windsurfing and the TWC!



### TWC's Beach 'Dried Up'!

At a recent Director's meeting, a motion was passed to prohibit members from consuming alcoholic beverages on TWC's site. The site is zoned as parkland and local by-laws prohibit the consumption of alcohol in public parks. TWC's directors want members to do everything possible to ensure our tenure on the present site is not jeopardized and passed their motion to match Toronto by-laws.

COVER SHOT: Longtime TWC member and expert windsurfer Masao Abe blasts away in Margarita in early March while a PWA pro flies overhead and a kiter follows in pursuit. Like many TWC members, Masao headed south to get an early start on the season. See articles elsewhere. At right, Wes Skronowski carves a gybe at Sherman Island in California, late 2006.



## 2007 Membership and Storage (Jerry Caplan reporting)

2006 was the second year in a row where TWC had around 500 members and about the same is anticipated for this year. For 2007, a student membership of \$50 for full time, post secondary school students 25 years and under has been introduced. Other membership fees have remained the same. The Single Early Bird fee (received before March 31<sup>st</sup>) is \$75 and the Family Early Bird fee (two adults + all children under 19) remains at \$115. For applications received after March 31<sup>st</sup>, Single membership remains at \$90, Family membership is still \$125 and Youth (under 19) membership remains at \$50. For 2007, the online application has been significantly improved. Storage fees are also unchanged for this season, at \$150 for 1 slot and \$100 each, for additional slots.

At the end of 2006, TWC brought in the tenth and last storage trailer allowed under our lease agreement, eight for member equipment plus the LTW trailer and Boat trailer. Total available slots 279. This should be sufficient to accommodate club needs, but members should be aware no other additional storage will be available once these slots have are filled.

Sometime this season, TWC is hoping to bring lighting into the trailers, and in preparation for this, trailer captains will be organizing a clean out day so that abandoned equipment can be identified and removed. Members storing equipment should have everything labeled and put into the member assigned slot(s), leaving only labeled 1 piece masts on the rafters.

The trailer captains for this season are; Tr. 1 Graham Drinkwalter, Tr. 2 Chris Kuryllo, Tr. 3 Ian Caldwell, Tr. 5 Alan Backlund, Tr. 6 Nick Cox, Tr. 7 Barry Holtzkeener, Tr. 8 Jerry Caplan and Tr. 9 Tom Mae.

If you would like to contact your trailer captain and can locate him at the beach, just send them an e-mail using our club addresses. (eg. )

Late last fall, (under Jerry's supervision) changes were made to our rigging and parking areas. By pushing the driveway further north we were able to grass in the areas to the east, west and north of the of the clubhouse. As well, we have added grass east from the boat trailer as well as repaired many of the bare patches in front of the trailers on the west side of the property. In total, we now have an additional 5000 sq. feet of rigging area while maintaining nearly all of our parking spaces.

Wishing you all an enjoyable, windy and most of all, a safe 2007 windsurfing season!

( ed. note... Thanks Jerry for organizing these improvements to the site!)

## TWC'S Place in a Changing Waterfront (Bill Quantock reporting)

It seems TWC's location at Cherry Beach is secure for at least the present. TWRC (Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation)'s draft plan for the portion of Lake Ontario Park where north shore Outer Harbour Sailing Federation Clubs (including TWC) are presently located shows some changes, but leaves TWC where it is. Hanlan's Rowing Club will move to a spot near the Outer Harbour Marina and Water Rats will move to Hanlan's present location, leaving the present Water Rats location (immediately east of TWC) as public land.

Sports playing fields on the land immediately north of TWC are scheduled for opening sometime this summer and expected to be in operation for at least 15 years. Excavation is under way and the trees to the north of TWC's site are gone.

During April and May, 2007, portions of the Martin Goodman Trail, as well as the entire east parking lot at Cherry Beach (not TWC), will be closed so environmental restoration work by TWRC and TEDCO can take place.

A temporary fence will be set up in the eastern portion of Cherry Beach, securing the area south-west of the former Safety Kleen facility at 115 Unwin Avenue to Lake Ontario.

The work is necessary to remove contaminants that are floating on the groundwater. This involves digging trenches and installing a pumping system to pump the contaminated groundwater to a treatment station on the former Safety Kleen site **where the contaminants will be screened, filtered, and treated appropriately. The contaminated material will then be shipped to a licensed treatment facility on a regular basis.**



## LTW Program Changes

For 2007, Tom Mae and the Learn to Windsurf (LTW) instructors have decided to restrict the impact the LTW program has at the site in the following manner;

1. The total number of students on the water at any one time (lessons or practice) will be limited to 12.
2. The LTW program will use the grass area immediately south of the east trailer block for LTW rigging and parking.

These measures will help keep site congestion lower than on some occasions last year and will increase safety and ease of getting from your car/container to the water, especially if you're carrying your gear.

For more highlights of the 2007 LTW and Learn to Race (LTR) programs, see Tom's article later in this newsletter and on the website.



## Learn to Windsurf 2007 (Tom Mae reporting)

The 2007 season schedule looks to be the most flexible yet. Lessons are on weekends and every evening of the week (excluding Wednesday...reserved for practice or Wednesday night fun races). Please look over the 2007 schedule at [www.torontowindsurfingclub.ca](http://www.torontowindsurfingclub.ca) New in 2007, the four lessons (1,2,3,4) of the Learn to Windsurf course needed to learn the basics of windsurfing, are picked by the student on days that best suit their own schedule. Lesson cost is \$80 dollars, which includes all 4 lessons and equipment needed. Students should bring their own water shoes, as we have a limited selection of sizes.

Lessons must be picked in sequential order of lesson 1,2,3, 4, but can be picked over any length of time the student chooses.

Students can learn to windsurf on a weekly basis(same day/time on consecutive weeks), over one weekend or week (approx. once a month) or spread over the entire summer. There is even a midweek lesson series on July 9,10,11,12 at 1:30pm.

In 2007 there is a limit of 12 students per session (lesson or practice) so instructors can better help you while on the water. All lessons/practice boards are pre-booked on line at [www.torontowindsurfingclub.ca](http://www.torontowindsurfingclub.ca) . Lessons must be prepaid with cheque or credit-card (via paypal at our website). Cash will not be accepted at the beach. Once a member has completed 4 lessons and received their Passport to Practice card they can book additional practice board time at a cost of \$20 per session. There is no deposit required this year, but students may lose the privilege to lessons/use of practice boards if LTW guidelines /boundaries and LTW instructors directions are not followed.

Once you have completed the LTW course you may be interested in taking in part of the TWC "TIPS" program (Training to Improve Performance in Sailing)

This is members helping members based training with tips of all kinds from rigging to highwind/lowwind strategies. The schedule for this will be posted at the bulletin board in the clubhouse and at our website. Check it regularly to see what's new. If you are an experienced windsurfer and would like to help with this , please contact Tom Mae at [juri1@rogers.com](mailto:juri1@rogers.com)

Our regular Youth program will take place on Tuesday nights along with the new Learn to Race program. This fun race will help a novice learn the basics needed to get around a simple triangle course and will be followed by a pay as you go BBQ. There will be Tips from our local pro racers that will get you ready for the Wednesday night fun race around an "I" course and BBQ. It is a great way to meet other new club members and share tales of this great sport.

If you are interested in hearing about additional youth events please contact Tom Mae at [juri1@rogers.com](mailto:juri1@rogers.com).

Check our website often for updated information. We look forward to you joining us for a great 2007 fun filled season on the water!

## THREE YEARS...MORE THAN THREE CROWNS! (David Hayes and Bill Quantock reporting)

Seventeen year old David Hayes has rapidly earned himself the reputation as one of the best ever racers at TWC. In three years, he's taken on three different racing forums, local, N.American and R: SX and come away with more than three championships!

2004 was David's local competition year in which he competed primarily on the IMCO longboard, winning the TWC Wed night series, the OSA circuit and TWC's Mammoth Marathon. That same year, he took time to compete in the North American Formula Experience event in Kingston. He didn't have any Formula equipment and showed up with a GO board he'd borrowed from Iris Sage and a borrowed sail. He met the Solystiak brothers, Josh Wood and the US Youth team who would all become friends. David won the event on Iris' GO board and between the new friends and his success, the die was cast...David would look for new levels to challenge.

2005 was David's year to compete at the North American level. In March David competed in Formula at the Calema Midwinters and placed 11<sup>th</sup>. For the early part of the 2005 summer, David joined Ian Matthews and John Darling on a month long windsurfing tour of the west coast. The three Amigos rented a van (David's mom says she thinks the Mafia were running the rental agency) and headed off to BC for the Squamish North American Formula Championships where they stayed in a youth hostel room...two bunkbeds, three Amigos and all their equipment! David competed in Formula and placed 11<sup>th</sup>. After Squamish the three headed to the Gorge where David competed in the US Nationals: Formula Experience event placing third and later the Formula Experience Worlds for 16 and under which he won. David apparently enjoyed the homage he extracted from his two companions who began referring to him as "Your Majesty".

For the second half of the summer, David, Ian and John headed to the other end of the continent to compete in the Canadians at Ile de la Magdalen where David competed in Formula placing 9<sup>th</sup>. September 2005 took David to Cadiz Spain to compete in one of the first ever first RS:X events.

2006 was an RS:X year for David as he pushed himself in the direction of the 2008 Olympics. In January, 2006 he competed in the Rolex Miami Olympic Class Regatta in Biscayne Bay, Miami where he placed 17<sup>th</sup>. In August he competed in Qingdao China and In July, 2006, David participated in the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships in Weymouth GBR where he finished 11<sup>th</sup>. A highlight of this event for David was the opening ceremonies where TWC members Mike and Jane Tindall showed up to wish him well. He has a good chance of representing Canada at the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships which will be held in Kingston, Ontario in 2007.

In September, 2006, he competed in the ISAF RS:X World championships in Lake Garda Italy placing 87<sup>th</sup> and much higher in some races. Even though still a youth, David is currently rated in the top 100 RS:X racers in the world. He lists TWC as his home club and has contributed to the club as a non-voting (he's still too young) director for the last two years, advocating for youth and youth programs at TWC BoD meetings. He provides advice to aspiring racers and is never too busy to show TWC members how they should rig their RS:X sail or to set up new equipment for the club. He's a great guy, encouraging club racers and recognizing and congratulating them when they do well. He's always positive and upbeat...an inspiration to young and old alike and a great ambassador for the sport and for Toronto Windsurfing Club!

"My main goals for 2007 are 1.) to come top 5 in the ISAF Youth Worlds in Kingston, 2.) progress as much as I can this year to try and be top Canadian by end of 2007 and 3.) get Max racing full tilt!" reports David.

Good luck in 2007 Dave!

## Racing...Get Started!

TWC runs the best weekly club level windsurfer racing in Canada. We're constantly looking for new racers to join the fleet and welcome new racers or helpers in the race committee boat. Racing starts promptly at 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday night from the beginning of May until the end of September.

Although they all start and race together, for the purposes of Wednesday night races, racers are divided into four groups according to experience; Gold, Red, Blue and White, Gold being most experienced. In spite of the reputation that racers have for being intensely competitive, most TWC racers are friendly, helpful types and happy to see new racers join the fleet.

Still, heading out to start a race for the first time can be intimidating and to give you the best chance to de-mystify the start and to call the bluff of the "grumpy old men" who according to Andre Gauthier haunt the start line at Wednesday night races, Tom Mae and other experienced racers will hold a series of Learn to Race clinics on Tuesday nights, followed by pay as you go barbecues.

These clinics will give you a chance to start with confidence...to "cross the starting line in the best position, at top speed, as the start signal goes, and in clean air (no other sailors immediately upwind of you)". So, wanna race? Get Started with Tuesday night Learn to Race clinics!



Classic port tack start by David Hayes. 2005 photo.

## TWC Speed Sailing

2006 saw speed sailing experience a world-wide revival to a level not seen since the late 80's. From the professional level to local club level to personal GPS record-breaking, this windsurfing specialty came of age. Not the least of reasons for this resurgence was the increasing availability of wrist/arm-mounted GPS units designed for use on small watercraft (including windsurfers).

TWC sailors and friends competed for bragging rights and the Hope trophy in 2006. It took until August for the 30 knot barrier to fall but by the end of the season, Jeff MacIntosh narrowly bested Igor Renkas as 2006 TWC speed sailing champ.

2007 will bring some changes to Speed Sailing at TWC. First a two second timing interval will be implemented for trophy contenders. (Over 30 knot group) and thanks to Jeff's efforts, there's a good chance TWC will battle the Barrie Windsurfing Association for the title of fastest club in Ontario!

For a full run down on Speed Sailing including tips on how to go faster and deal with your GPS, ...visit Jeff MacIntosh's 2007 Speed Sailing pages at [http://ca.geocities.com/ibillyq@rogers.com/speed\\_sailing\\_at\\_twc\\_explained.html](http://ca.geocities.com/ibillyq@rogers.com/speed_sailing_at_twc_explained.html))

Good Speed!



World record holder Finian Maynard at 48+ knots!

## WASN'T IT A PARTY! - 2006 Dinner Dance (Masao Abe pics)



## Hatteras 2007...Record Breaker!

TWC's 2007 Hatteras expedition set records for attendance, wind and fun! 52 sun, wind and wave seekers enjoyed two weeks of virtually non-stop wind; week one giving six days of 20-25 knot NW winds, cool temperatures and at least some sun every day, week two giving six days of 15-25 knot SW winds and shorts and t-shirts sun! (ed. note: I gave up broiling in my steamer and sailed in a bathing suit and rashguard!) Week one enjoyed the added bonus of having our own private coach, Dave Marshall of Windsurfing Kingston, WindSport, and SBC Kiteboard magazines. Not only was Dave a great coach, he won the first week's GPS speed sailing competition with a speed of 29.3 knots!

Houses are already booked for 2008 with a couple of great new additions!

Pictures from upper left, clockwise (1.) **Andre Jubinville** battles first week winds with a 3.7! (2.) **Coach Dave** at work. (3.) **Jeff Martin** jibing. (4.) **First week group**.



## Blasting Away in Margaritaville, Year Two...Andrew Laszadi reporting

Once we made it to the beach at El Yaque, we quickly noticed it was windier and choppier than Hatteras. It took couple of days to get used to, but then it was really fun. An outstanding selection of equipment was available on the beaches in El Yaque. Hotel rooms were small, but clean. Our hotel rooms were noisy, so earplugs were a good idea for a peaceful night! Tasty, plentiful buffet breakfasts got us off to a good start at our hotel. We ate out every night, and in general it was around \$10US per dinner. Car rental was \$50/day, and worth doing at least once. A full tank of gas cost \$1(one!) US...no need to worry if we got lost and had to drive around. There were no 'Stop' signs, but our designated driver Doug, quickly picked up the Venezuelan driving style. He was soon driving like a Margaritan! (not entirely a compliment!) The only way to spot us was that we had no plate, and we had all the signals lights working...quite a few of the cars had no lights working. In Porlamar everything closes at 9PM; so if you go shopping, don't get lost (no street names posted either!).

We learned to wear booties in the water. There were things in the water to spoil your vacation; urchins, poisonous fish, lobster traps and more surprises!

We all had our own on the water adventures! My mastbase came off far from the beach. Doug broke his boom far from shore; ended up turning the boom around and eventually got back. Luckily he had booties that day. He had to walk a while... Tibor learned to ride a kiteboard in a few days. Wes was jumping his kiteboard from ramps over 6 feet high! Veteran John Darling was jibing like a pro in the last few days. Duke was complimented by a young lady as the person who windsurfed the most out of all the people on the beach! Shirin gave waterstart lessons, and stepped into the foottraps.

I stepped onto a toadfish - ugly and poisonous too! Supposedly good to eat, but not to step on...especially when you don't have booties on!



L to R Back row, John Darling, Doug Beadle, Front row, Wes Skronowski, Shirin Zetabfard, Andrew Laszadi, Duke Duyck in Margarita, March 2007

## Lake Arenal – Smokin’ At Both Ends by Bill Mackenzie

The warm winds of January, which lured me down to sail on TWC waters twice in the first few days of 2007, gave way to a prolonged cold snap from which many of us were lucky to escape. I convinced TWC member and GPS speed-sailing authority, Jeff Macintosh, to join me for a week-long total body workover on the very windy Lake Arenal in Costa Rica. Yes, this lake delivers smokin’ winds at one end and a smokin’ volcano at the other.

On our arrival on February 16 to Liberia, Costa Rica, we were greeted by a 30 minute delay which we spent in the plane on the runway, 2 being shaken and buffeted by near gale force winds. Finally, with luggage in hand, we caught the shuttle to pick up our rental car which we upgraded to a Hyundai Tucson, just in case light winds gave us the opportunity to go exploring. Five or ten years ago, an SUV with four wheel drive would have been the only car worth considering, but the roads continue to improve as foreign capital continues to funnel into the country, flowing primarily to the increasingly frothy real estate market. Today, a compact car is adequate for most travel, and will even make it down the rocky “road” to the Tico Wind sailing site.

Our destination was Hotel Tilawa, overlooking Lake Arenal near the town of Tilaran, about one and a half hours drive from Liberia. Accommodations around the lake consist of small hotels, cabins and B&Bs, most of which can be booked on the internet. Hotel Tilawa is an attractive place with beautiful grounds and extensive flora indoors. The hotel food is reasonable and the service, well, someone will get around to you, and more often than not, they’ll speak some English. The Tilawa menu was limited so we found other restaurants; Equus Bar (chicken, refried beans and rice), Mystica Inn (pizza and pasta) and probably the finest dining on the lake, Gingerbread (excellent seafood and decent wines). It is possible to avoid the car rental altogether by arranging with the hotel for a pickup and drop-off at the airport (about \$75 in total). A board rental facility is a 10 minute walk down the road from the hotel. However, Tico Wind, across the bay, has newer gear, serves a hot lunch and offers the companionship of lot of hard-core windsurfing types who have migrated from the Columbia River Gorge to enjoy the big winds of Arenal in December, January and February. One other daily indulgence for Jeff and I at Tico Wind was the on-site masseuse, Helena.

Windy it was, too, as we sailed every day, mostly on sails under 5 meters. On day one, I was on a 4.2 sail and Jeff slightly bigger. We both had some spectacular crashes, and Jeff was sore all week from one crash actually caught on camera (see photo - ouch!). Even sleeping was difficult some nights due to wind noise (rooms without lake views are quieter). Although the water is quite warm, a shorty wetsuit protects from late-day chills and helps manage sun exposure, which is a challenge for us slug-white tourists.

Having been to Costa Rica many times over the last decade, I offered to do the driving so that Jeff could take in the scenery. This trip in particular, I noticed that much has changed since my last visit to the area. Real estate investment has lured foreign money like never before, roads are better than ever, my Blackberry was usable throughout our travels, many more locals spoke English and the ATMs in Tilaran accepted my CIBC bank card, offered service in English, a choice of US dollars or Costa Rican colonies and even gave me the balance in my account in the selected currency. At 216 colonies to the US dollar, I really liked the look of my bank balance!

A windsurfing vacation at Lake Arenal is recommended for more experienced sailors. Conditions are challenging with deep water, steep chop and smokin’ winds. But if you master conditions here, you will be able to sail anywhere.



### TWC Calendar 2007

For detailed Calendar see website

April 1 Speed Sailing Season opens

April 14-28 TWC Cape Hatteras weeks

May 2 Wednesday Night Racing begins

May 12, 13 and 19-21 – OSA Windsurfing instructor Clinic at TWC

May 25, 26, 27 Rondeau Spring Windsurfing Regatta and Gear Swap

May 26 Learn to Windsurf Instruction begins

June 2, 3 Toledo (Ohio) Championships ([windsurf@buckeye-express.com](mailto:windsurf@buckeye-express.com))

June 09-10 TWC Boardfest - fun for all; Ontario Sailing Association (OSA)#1- racing

July 17-21 – Canadian Windsurfing Championships – Squamish B.C. <http://cnwc.nangor.com>

July 23-27 and August 13-17 TWC Kids Camps contact

July 28, 29 – OSA#2 at National Capital Regatta, Britannia Bay YC, [OSAwindsurfing@hotmail.com](mailto:OSAwindsurfing@hotmail.com)

Aug 3-6 Canadian Masters Championships -Deep River ON

Sep. 8-9 Mammoth Race Weekend including 25th annual

Mammoth Marathon distance Race; OSA#3

