

May 2010 Newsletter

The season is off to a great start weather-wise and we're looking forward to an excellent summer at the Toronto Islands. The ferries are now on the summer schedule so frequent service is available to all three island locations. Centreville is already open on weekends and will be open all week starting soon. Bars and restaurants are also getting started for the season too. Summer is of course the busiest time of the year at the islands with numerous events and festivals. Check out the Events section on our website for a list of what's coming up.

One of the goals of Friends of Toronto Islands is to encourage social and recreational use of the Toronto Island Park and with that in mind we have several of our own events planned for the season. Some of the upcoming events are listed below. FOTI is a friendly group of people and we welcome new members to join us. We look forward to seeing you at some point during the summer.

Upcoming Events

June 10 – Watermark Pub Night

An evening of conversation and drinks at the Watermark Pub.

June 12 – H.O.P.E. Volleyball

RSVP before May 31 if you'd like to join us in the charity tournament.

June 12 – Tree Festival

Annual Island Tour of Trees followed by family events at Franklin's Garden.

June 13 – House & History Tour

Visit Island houses, hear Island history and enjoy Island hospitality.

June 18 – Kayak Evening

Join us for an evening kayak to the islands and back followed by a BBQ.

June 24 – Marina Pub Night

The Island Marina has a patio with an amazing skyline view. Drink specials!

July 1 – Fireworks at the Beach

Hanlan's Point beach is the spot to watch the fireworks. Join us for a picnic dinner beforehand.

PUB NIGHTS – June 10 & June 24

We continue our regular pub nights at the Watermark in the Queens Quay Terminal on the second Thursday of each month. For the summer season we're also planning a second monthly pub night somewhere on the Islands. Our first stop this season will be at the Toronto Island Marina on June 24th. The Marina provides a shuttle boat service from beside the Second Cup at the foot of York Street. We have arranged special pricing for the evening for our members. www.torontoislands.org/pubnight for RSVP and details.

VOLLEYBALL & TREE FESTIVAL – June 12

Saturday June 12 is a busy day at the islands for us. We are participating in the HOPE charity volleyball tournament at Olympic Island. If you'd like to join our group please let us know as soon as possible. Also June 12, the City is hosting the annual Tour of Trees followed by a special children's tree festival at Franklin's Garden.

KAYAK EVENING & BBQ – June 18

The kayak evening was one of our best events for 2009 and we're excited to offer again this year. Our first kayak event for the season will be on June 18th. We'll meet at the Harbourfront Canoe & Kayak Centre at the Rees Street Pier and paddle together to the islands and back. A BBQ dinner is also included in the price for the event. www.torontoislands.org/kayak for RSVP and details.

CANADA DAY PICNIC & FIREWORKS – July 1

The Festival of Fire takes place off a barge located near Ontario Place and the Hanlan's Point Beach has a perfect view of the show. Join FOTI for a Picnic Dinner followed by fireworks at the beach. RSVP is required for the picnic so we can sort out food for everyone. www.torontoislands.org/fireworks for RSVP and details.

BBQs on the Islands

The Toronto Islands are a great place for a BBQ. Please note that propane or gas BBQs are not permitted on the ferry boats for safety reasons. We recommend that you bring along a small portable charcoal operated hibachi. There are also BBQ stands available throughout the island park for your use. You do not need a permit if your group is less than 25 people. For larger groups, or to reserve a fire pit, please contact the city at (416) 392-8188 for more information. Please note that those with reservations will be assigned specific locations so if you don't have a reservation please kindly move to a different location if a permit holder shows up.

Ferry Dock Update: New Ticket Machines

The City has just installed 5 automated ticket dispensing machines in different locations in the area in front of the ticket counters at the Bay Street ferry docks. They look like parking ticket machines although a bit thinner. You will need exact change in coins, or a credit card, to make a purchase. With your ticket you can proceed directly through the far left side of the ticket counters to the admission gate which is located behind. Standing in line to purchase tickets is always a hassle and hopefully the new machines will speed things up.

Book Review: The Pope of Sailing

Born and raised at the Toronto Islands, Paul Henderson developed a love of sailing which led to a lifelong passion for sailing and amateur sport. His recent autobiography "The Pope of Sailing" paints a great picture of life growing up on the islands, and also includes insightful stories from his Olympic career, and his role in the IOC and Toronto Olympic bids. The book is available for sale at The Nautical Mind at 249 Queen's Quay W.

Tall Ships at the Toronto Waterfront Festival

TALL SHIPS ARE COMING!® Canada Day weekend. The Redpath Toronto Waterfront Festival presents The Great Lakes United TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® 2010. June 30 – July 4. www.TOWaterfrontfest.com. Festival events include ship deck tours, entertainment, the Green Village, the Parade of Sail and more! Activities for families and people of all ages and interests. General Admission is Free. Ship boarding passes go on sale in May. In support of the Toronto Brigantine Inc.

Toronto Island House & History Tour

Ever wonder what life is like on Toronto Island, who lives in those little houses, or what they look like on the inside? Buy a ticket to the Toronto Island House & History Tour taking place on Sunday June 13 and find out! For more information please check out the website at www.torontoislandhousetour.eventbrite.com. All proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Membership Benefits

Membership in Friends of Toronto Islands is only \$10 per year and has its benefits. The newest addition to our benefits program is **Toronto Island Bicycle Rental offering a 10% discount on rentals** with a valid membership card. The rental shop is located at the Centre Island Pier a short walk from the Centre Island docks. They also have tandem and quad bikes worth checking out. We continue to expand the benefits program and will keep you posted on additional participating locations. We now support PayPal so you can sign up and become a member on our website.

