

Date, Event and Description Summary Winter 2008-2009

Fri. Dec. 5 – Ice Skating – York Mills Arena

Enjoy 2 hours of ice skating at this indoor ice surface, adults only. Refreshments at a nearby café after skating.

Sat. Dec. 6 – Ski/Hike – Ganaraska Trail

Ski the Ganaraska Trail on the Oro moraine between Bass Lake and Horseshoe Valley. This is an activity for intermediate skiers. If the snow is lacking, there will be a hike.

Sun. Dec. 7 – Day Hike – Bruce Trail near Kolapore– 15 km

We'll hike along the Bruce Trail near Kolapore.

Wed. Dec. 10 – Evening Walk – A Merry Walk at Christmas

Our annual walk in the crisp air through some of Toronto's finest neighbourhoods during the Christmas season. View elegant homes laden with colourful strings of lights, reindeer, joyful wreaths and other decorations of the season.

Fri. Dec. 12 – Ice Skating – York Mills Arena

Enjoy 2 hours of ice skating at this indoor ice surface, adults only. Refreshments at a nearby café after skating.

Fri. Dec. 12 – Special Event – Christmas Concert

This has been quite popular in past years so we are returning to the Etobicoke School of the Arts for their annual Christmas concert. The orchestra and choirs will present a mix of seasonal and classical music. The evening's climax is the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's 'Messiah' performed by the school's award-winning choir group.

Sat. Dec. 13 – Crawford Lake Conservation Area – 12 km

We will be hiking a loop from Crawford Lake Conservation Area to Rattlesnake Point C.A. and return. At Crawford Lake we will have time to visit the reconstructed Iroquoian village. Bring your Bruce Trail membership card for free parking. Bring icers if there's snow and/or ice.

Sat. Dec. 13 – Great Foods of the World® – Krakow

Impeccably clean and minimally adorned, this Roncesvalles Ave. family-friendly spot specializes in extremely hearty Polish fare. Outgoing staff make first-timers feel like long-lost relatives.

Sun. Dec. 14 – Urban Hike – Lower Humber to High Park – 8-10 km

A walk through the lower Humber River valley to the Martin Goodman Trail, up through High Park, and back to the subway at Bloor Street. Come out and enjoy a break from the Christmas preparations and get some fresh air and exercise. Bring your lunch and a hot beverage and we'll find a sheltered spot to enjoy our meal. Optional refreshment stop at the end.

Fri. Dec. 19 – Skating – Harbourfront

Come skating at Harbourfront, largest outdoor ice surface in Toronto. After skating, we will go to a nearby restaurant for hot chocolate and snacks. Good access by TTC, parking available in garage nearby.

Fri. Dec. 19 – Ice Skating – York Mills Arena

Enjoy 2 hours of ice skating at this indoor ice surface, adults only. Refreshments at a nearby café after skating.

Sun. Dec. 21 – Day Hike – Seaton Trail & Pub – 14 km

The Seaton Trail follows the West Duffin Valley north of Pickering. We will hike from the south end north to Whitevale and return the same route. This is an easy trail but could be muddy and slippery or snowy and icy at this time of year. Bring icers if there's snow; snowshoes if there's deep snow. Afterwards, we will go for refreshments at a local pub.

Thurs. Jan. 1 – Day Walk – Toronto Island

Traditional New Year's walk on the islands. It's a different world on the islands in winter. The farm animals of Centreville look for visitors, skaters grace the canals and Christmas decorations still adorn the houses of Ward's and Algonquin Islands. Snow crunches as you walk along the boardwalk and explore the quaint cottage communities.

Sat. Jan. 3 – Bus Trip No. 1 – Highlands Nordic/Bruce Trail

This outing will combine a cross-country ski outing and a snowshoe outing. For skiers, Highlands Nordic at Duntroon offers Niagara Escarpment Nature at its best with 20 km of ski trails. They are groomed daily for classic and skating skiing. The trails go through maple bush and rolling hills with panoramic views of Georgian Bay.

A snowshoe leader familiar with the area will take the group to the nearby Bruce Trail. It offers many kilometres of trail with views of Georgian Bay. Snowshoe rentals are available at Nordic Highlands. Advance booking of a Discovery package for beginners is recommended.

Tues. Jan. 6 – Skating – Cedarena

Enjoy an evening of skating. This picturesque outdoor natural ice rink is located at Cedargrove on Reesor Rd., just north of Steeles Ave. E.

Wed. Jan. 7 – Ski – Wilket Creek

Another short ski in the park on a moonlit night.

Fri. Jan. 9 – Ice Skating – York Mills Arena

Enjoy 2 hours of ice skating at this indoor ice surface, adults only. Refreshments at a nearby café after skating.

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Sat. Jan. 10 – Bus Trip No. 2 – Hardwood Hills Demo Day

Hardwood Hills is Ontario's best ski resort. Under new management, Hardwood has five recreational ski trails with 88 km available. The Demo Day gives skiers and snowshoers a chance to try new equipment for 20 minutes without renting it. Snowshoers either use resort trails or go to the nearby Simcoe County Forest to snowshoe for free. This bus trip is going to offer a ski/snowshoe day.

Sat. Jan. 10 – Snowshoe/Ski – Long Sault Conservation Area

Rugged terrain and an enchanting day for anyone who has some experience on snowshoes. Ski poles would be a definite asset and a camera is a must. Call the trip organizer for more details.

Sat. Jan. 10 – Urban Hike – Lawrence to Broadview – 15 km

From Yonge and Lawrence, we will hike through the Northern Ravines & Gardens, Sunnybrook Park, ET Seaton Park, and the Lower Don Parklands to the Broadview subway station on the Danforth. Depending on weather conditions, you could try using your snowshoes. This is a joint hike with the Toronto Bruce Trail Club.

Sat. Jan. 10 – Great Foods of the World® – Anatolia

Consider Turkish cuisine true crossroads cooking. Combining familiar elements from Greek, Persian and Arabic dishes, this friendly eatery in an Etobicoke strip mall offers classic stews and starters that are not only tasty but health-conscious, too.

Sun. Jan. 11 – Snowshoe – Glen Major

We will explore various hills and valleys in the large wilderness area for 4-5 hours.

Tues. Jan. 13 – Skating – Cedarena

Enjoy an evening of skating. This picturesque outdoor natural ice rink is located at Cedargrove on Reesor Rd., just north of Steeles Ave. E.

Wed. Jan. 14 – Ski – Wilket Creek

Another short ski in the park on a moonlit night.

Fri. Jan. 16 – Ice Skating – York Mills Arena

Enjoy 2 hours of ice skating at this indoor ice surface, adults only. Refreshments at a nearby café after skating.

Fri. Jan. 16 to Sun. Jan. 18 – Snowshoe Weekend – Waubaushene and Area – Part 1

We'll go where the snow takes us. Most areas will be on Crown land using map and compass through hidden trails, bushwhacking and frozen marshes and swamps. Muskoka, Severn, Tay and Georgian Bay townships are all within easy reach from our base in Waubaushene, an old 1880s farmhouse ½ hr. north of Barrie. Bring your lunches and pot luck dish for Saturday night's dinner.

Sat. Jan. 17 – New Orleans Jazz (afternoon) & Chinese Dinner

Contact XXXXX to confirm attendance and to learn time of event.

Sun. Jan. 18 – Bus Trip No. 3 – Horseshoe or Ganaraska Trail or Snowshoe Copeland Forest

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing activities, alpine skiing available at resort.

The bus will drop track skiers at Horseshoe Resort, off track skiers on the Ganaraska trail and snowshoers in Horseshoe vicinity. At the end of the day, the bus will pick up all participants at Horseshoe and return home.

For track skiers, Horseshoe offers 40 km of trails meticulously groomed for both classical and skating techniques. There are trails catering to all skiing levels. For lessons, beginner skiers can book a Discovery package.

Off track skiers will ski along the nearby Ganaraska Trail with XXXXX from Oro Concession 4 and follow an improved version of the trail to Concession 11 to be picked up by the bus at the end of the day – a distance of 14 km through wooded uplands.

For snowshoers, XXXXX will take the group to Horseshoe and the adjacent Copeland Forest with its many kilometres of quiet forest trails. If you are lucky, you may see a herd of deer that visit this area. Snowshoes rented at Horseshoe must pay a trail fee.

Sun. Jan. 18 – City Walk – Dreaming of Palaces and Palms in the Winter

Speaking of Palaces, we will start at what was originally called Palace Street but has long since been renamed Front Street; and speaking of Palms, we will finish at the comfortably heated Palm House in Allan Gardens. Along the way we will learn about some of the interesting buildings and some of the historic figures that used to live in this area. This may not be exactly the palace and palm environment you were dreaming about, but imagine how happy you will be, thinking about all the travel time and air fare money you have saved!

Tues. Jan. 20 – Skating – Cedarena

Enjoy an evening of skating and join in the annual Birthday Celebration of Cedarena (since 1927). This picturesque outdoor natural ice rink is located at Cedargrove on Reesor Rd., just north of Steeles Ave. E. There are spot-skate prizes, hot chocolate and donuts included in the \$4 admission price. Should it be cancelled due to weather conditions, it will be re-scheduled to the following week, Tues. Jan. 31.

Fri. Jan. 23 – Ice Skating – York Mills Arena

Enjoy 2 hours of ice skating at this indoor ice surface, adults only. Refreshments at a nearby café after skating.

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Fri. Jan. 23 to Sun. Jan. 25 – Ski Weekend – Camp Wanakita

Camp Wanakita is a YMCA outdoor centre 12 km south of Haliburton village. There is a main lodge with dining room and recreation facilities. We will have sole use of the Bear Den building which has rooms with 3 or 4 beds plus a common room, washrooms with showers, a laundry and a full kitchen. Wanakita provides a group facilitator dedicated to our group who will lead guided snowshoe or ski trips and offer some ski and/or snowshoe instruction. Skis and snowshoes are available for participants to borrow at no charge. The centre has 25 km of groomed X-C ski trails and 25 km of snowshoeing trails as well as a skating rink, toboggan hills and an area for indoor games. It is also close to the 100 km trail system of the Haliburton Nordic Trails Association. On Saturday night, there is a guided ski excursion to a fire pit.

Sat. Jan. 24 – Chinese New Year – Year of the Ox – Pacific Mall & Dim Sum

In celebration of the upcoming Chinese New Year, we will learn a little about Chinese culture while touring the Pacific Mall. We will finish our visit with Dim Sum at one of the many restaurants in this fascinating mall.

Sun. Jan. 25 – Bus Trip No. 4 – Wasaga Provincial Park

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Wasaga Beach Provincial Park offers some of the most exciting Nordic ski terrain in Central Ontario with 32 km of trails located in the Dunes area. Expert skiers are challenged on the groomed track set High Dunes Trail, or you may choose a more leisurely ski on the Blueberry Plains Trail.

For snowshoers, XXXXX will take the group along the Ganaraska Trail with its many kilometres of forest trails. The ski lodge rents snowshoes. Come on out for a great day in the snow.

Sun. Jan. 25 – Day Hike – Hilton Falls

A hike along the Bruce Trail in the Campbellville area. There should be burning fire pits, glacial pot holes and ice frosted waterfalls. Icecs required.

Tues. Jan. 27 – Skating – Cedarena

Enjoy an evening of skating. This picturesque outdoor natural ice rink is located at Cedargrove on Reesor Rd., just north of Steeles Ave. E.

Fri. Jan. 30 to Sun. Feb. 1 – Snowshoe Weekend – Oxtongue Lake

Join us for a fun-filled weekend at the very rustic Wolfden Bunkhouse at the Oxtongue River near Algonquin Park. Explore by snowshoe the many trails in this beautiful area. Relax in the log sauna or socialize at the cozy fireplace. Mico, the black lab, would love to play Frisbee with you. The potluck dinner on Saturday night is always delicious. All previous trips booked out quickly so register early to avoid disappointment.

Sat. Jan. 31 – Bus Trip No. 5 – Scenic Caves/Kolapore

The bus will drop track skiers at Scenic Caves Trail Centre; off track skiers at Kolapore Wilderness Uplands. At the end of the day the bus will pick up all participants at the Scenic Caves Trail Centre and return home.

For track skiers, Scenic Caves offers 16 km of trails meticulously groomed for classic, beginner and intermediate with excellent views of Georgian Bay from up on top of Blue Mountain.

Off track skiers will ski at Kolapore doing a fairly moderate off track trail with possible deep new powder snow.

Snowshoers will be led by XXXXX who is knowledgeable with the area. Snowshoeing through Kolapore is only for those that can bushwhack and they should have their own equipment. Rental snowshoes are available at Scenic Caves while we are there.

Sat. Jan. 31 – Urban Hike – Ravines, Belt Line and Gardens – 12 km

A scenic Discovery Walk through Cedarvale Ravine, along the Central Beltline and through the Mount Pleasant Cemetery to the St. Clair subway station at Yonge Street. Optional lunch at a local pub or restaurant afterwards. Be sure to bring a snack and hot beverage.

Feb. 2009 Advance Notice – 4th Annual Reel Paddling Film Festival

The Outing Club of East York and the Complete Paddler will once again co-host the Reel Paddling Film Festival, the best canoeing, whitewater and sea kayaking films of the past year. Half of the proceeds from this event go to Project C.A.N.O.E. (Creative and Natural Outdoor Experience Inc.) a non-profit organization providing wilderness canoe trips for youths at risk.

Mon. Feb. 2-9 or 9-16 – Cuba Vacation

One or two week trip to St. Lucia Beach in Cuba. Note: This is a non-insurable OCEY event.

Tues. Feb. 3 – Skating – Cedarena

Enjoy an evening of skating. This picturesque outdoor natural ice rink is located at Cedargrove on Reesor Rd., just north of Steeles Ave. E.

Wed. Feb. 4 – Ski – Wilket Creek

Another short ski in the park on a moonlit night.

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Thurs. Feb. 5 to Tues. Feb. 10 – X-C Ski and Snowshoe Long Weekend – Val David, Quebec

We will be staying 5 nights, or fewer, if you cannot come for the whole time, at the Chalet Beaumont Hostel above the Village of Val David about 80 km north of Montreal. Accommodation will be in private rooms with 2 beds each and shared bathrooms. The hostel has a comfortable common room, solarium, full kitchen with food storage, laundry facilities and a bar in the basement. (The liquor licence prohibits guests from bringing in their own alcoholic beverages). There is access to 70 km of cross-country trails from the door of the hostel as well as opportunities for snowshoeing on nearby hiking trails and downhill skiing.

Sat. Feb. 7 – Snowshoe – Spencer’s Gorge Wilderness Area

Rugged terrain and spectacular waterfalls will make this frozen wonderland and enchanting day for anyone who has some experience on snowshoes. Ski poles would be a definite asset and a camera is a must. Call the trip organizer for more details.

Sun. Feb. 8 – Bus Trip No. 6 – Mansfield Outdoor Centre

For skiers, Mansfield offers 35 km of groomed and track set trails catering to all skiing levels. If you are new to Mansfield, be sure to ski the blue trail to the lookout with a view of the Pine River Valley. XXXXX will take a group of snowshoers to Dufferin County Forest with its many kilometres of forest trails. Rental snowshoes are \$5 a pair. Come on out for a great day in the snow.

Sun. Feb. 8 – Snowshoe – Glen Haffy Conservation Area – 10 km

We will snowshoe along the trails, through the woods and bushwhack up hills and down valleys in a meandering loop back to our start point.

Tues. Feb. 10 – Skating – Cedarena

Enjoy an evening of skating. This picturesque outdoor natural ice rink is located at Cedargrove on Reesor Rd., just north of Steeles Ave. E.

Wed. Feb. 11 – Ski – Wilket Creek

Another short ski in the park on a moonlit night.

Sat. Feb. 14 – Bus Trip No. 7 – Ski Horseshoe or Ganaraska Trail; or Snowshoe Copeland Forest

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing activities, alpine skiing available at resort.

The bus will drop track skiers at Horseshoe Resort, off track skiers on the Ganaraska trail and snowshoers in Horseshoe vicinity. At the end of the day, the bus will pick up all participants at Horseshoe and return home.

For track skiers, Horseshoe offers 40 km of trails meticulously groomed for both classical and skating techniques. There are trails catering to all skiing levels. For lessons, beginner skiers can book a discovery package.

Off track skiers will ski along the nearby Ganaraska Trail with XXXXX from Oro Concession 4 and follow an improved version of the trail to Concession 11 to be picked up by the bus at the end of the day – a distance of 14 km through wooded uplands.

For snowshoers, XXXXX will take the group to Horseshoe and the adjacent Copeland Forest with its many kilometres of quiet forest trails. If you are lucky, you may see a herd of deer that visits this area. Snowshoes rented at Horseshoe must pay a trail fee.

Sat. Feb. 14 – Great Foods of the World® – Wild Card

This date is open to allow booking for new/exciting or “by popular demand” venues not covered in the regular schedule. Stay tuned!

Sun. Feb. 15 – Skiing – Beausoleil Island

We will ski across the ice from Honey Harbour and circumnavigate the island. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. Dinner after in Honey Harbour or Coldwater.

Mon. Feb. 16 – Skiing – Five Winds Trails

Ski the challenging Five Winds Trails northwest of Gravenhurst. This will be an all day activity for intermediate skiers. Be prepared to break trail and contend with deep snow on narrow trails.

Tues. Feb. 17 – Skating – Cedarena

Enjoy an evening of skating. This picturesque outdoor natural ice rink is located at Cedargrove on Reesor Rd., just north of Steeles Ave. E.

Fri. Feb. 20 to Sun. Feb. 22 – Snowshoe Weekend – Waubaushene and Area – Part 2

We’ll go where the snow takes us. Most areas will be on Crown land using map and compass through hidden trails, bushwhacking and frozen marshes and swamps. Muskoka, Severn, Tay and Georgian Bay townships are all within easy reach from our base in Waubaushene, an old 1880s farmhouse ½ hr. north of Barrie. Bring your lunches and a pot luck dish for Saturday night’s dinner.

Sat. Feb. 21 – Spring Minus One Month Walk along the Beltline – Part 1 - 5 km max

The first of a two-part exploration of Toronto’s ravines.

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Sat. Feb. 21 – Special Event – Pub Night

Share good cheer and snacks at a lively pub in the city. Leave the winter blues behind and enjoy a night out with other club members. A good time is always had by all. Light refreshments will be provided. Beverages are extra.

Sun. Feb. 22 – City Walk – Distillery District via Cabbagetown and Corktown

If it's a cold day, we will walk directly – to keep warm – to the always interesting Distillery District. If the weather is balmy and nobody is in a great rush, we will explore the side streets and learn about the histories of some of the residential neighbourhoods along the way.

Sun. Feb. 22 – Bus Trip No. 8 – Wasaga Provincial Park

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Wasaga Beach Provincial Park offers some of the most exciting Nordic ski terrain in Central Ontario with 32 km of trails located in the Dunes area. Expert skiers are challenged on the groomed track set High Dunes Trail, or you may choose a more leisurely ski on the Blueberry Plains Trail.

For snowshoers, XXXXX will take the group bushwhacking through forests. The ski lodge rents snowshoes. Come on out for a great day in the snow.

Tues. Feb. 24 – Skating – Cedarena

Enjoy an evening of skating. This picturesque outdoor natural ice rink is located at Cedargrove on Reesor Rd., just north of Steeles Ave. E.

Fri. Feb. 27 – Ice Skating – York Mills Arena

Enjoy 2 hours of ice skating at this indoor ice surface, adults only. Refreshments at a nearby café after skating.

Fri. Feb. 27 to Sun. March 1 – Snowshoe Weekend – Steenberg Lake

This trip and location was popular last year, so book early. We'll stay at a cozy cottage on the grounds of Crowe Conservation, north of Madoc, Ontario (3 hours drive, max). We'll snowshoe all day on Saturday through another conservation area, The Gut, which looks like a winter wonderland. On Sunday, we'll have time to snowshoe along the Black River. If there is no snow, we will hike.

Sat. Feb. 28 – Urban Hike – High Park to Christie Pits – 14 km

From Bloor Street in High Park, we will hike through High Park where we will see and smell the animals, along the lakeshore with its brisk breezes, and up through the Garrison Creek Discovery Walk with its many urban parks. Dress warmly. This will be a joint hike with the Toronto Bruce Trail Club.

Sat. Feb. 28 – Bus Trip No. 9 – Scenic Caves/Kolapore enroute stop

The bus will drop track skiers at Scenic Caves Trail Centre; off track skiers at Kolapore Wilderness Uplands. At the end of the day the bus will pick up all participants at the Scenic Caves Trail Centre and return home.

For track skiers, Scenic Caves offers 16 km of trails meticulously groomed for classic, beginner and intermediate with excellent views of Georgian Bay from up on top of Blue Mountain.

Off track skiers will ski at Kolapore doing a fairly moderate off track trail with possible deep new powder snow.

Snowshoers will be led by XXXXX who is knowledgeable with the area. Snowshoeing through Kolapore is only for those that can bushwhack and they should have their own equipment. Rental snowshoes are available at Scenic Caves while we are there.

Fri. March 6 to Sun. March 8 – Snowshoe Weekend – Beaver Valley

The rustic Kimbercote farm in the beautiful Beaver Valley is ours for the weekend. A fun time (as always) is guaranteed.

Explore by snowshoe the many trails in the area. The Bruce Trail is nearby. The potluck dinner on Saturday night is always delicious. The previous trip booked out quickly, so register early, space is limited.

Sat. March 7 – City Walk – Belt Line and Cedarvale Ravine

Enjoy a brisk walk through some of the most scenic parkland in the city. A great antidote for the mid-winter blues.

Sun. March 8 – Bus Trip No. 10 – Ski Horseshoe or Ganaraska Trail; or Snowshoe Copeland Forest

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing activities, alpine skiing available at resort.

The bus will drop track skiers at Horseshoe Resort, off track skiers on the Ganaraska trail and snowshoers in Horseshoe vicinity. At the end of the day, the bus will pick up all participants at Horseshoe and return home.

For track skiers, Horseshoe offers 40 km of trails meticulously groomed for both classical and skating techniques. There are trails catering to all skiing levels. For lessons, beginner skiers can book a discovery package.

Off track skiers will ski along the nearby Ganaraska Trail with XXXXX from Oro Concession 4 and follow an improved version of the trail to Concession 11 to be picked up by the bus at the end of the day – a distance of 14 km through wooded uplands.

For snowshoers, XXXXX will take the group to Horseshoe and the adjacent Copeland Forest with its many kilometres of quiet forest trails. If you are lucky, you may see a herd of deer that visits this area. Snowshoes rented at Horseshoe must pay a trail fee.

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Sun. March 8 – Day Hike – Kilbride

A hike along the Bruce Trail in the Burlington area. Most of the year this has some very buggy patches. In wintertime with its long boardwalks over the swamp and rocky terrain leading down to it, it is both comfortable and beautiful. Icecs required.

Sat. March 14 – Bus Trip No. 11 – Hardwood Hills

Hardwood Hills is Ontario's best ski resort. Under new management, Hardwood has five recreational ski trails with 88 km available. A good challenging snowshoe trail that takes the snowshoer all throughout the resort and nearby Simcoe County Forests.

Sat. March 14 – Great Foods of the World® – Lisbon

Like the futebol on the giant plasma TV, this charmingly off-kilter Kensington Market institution remains a restaurant of two halves: one a traditional coastal Portuguese seafood eatery with formal, family-friendly decor, the other a sometimes rowdy locale complete with reasonably priced pints, top-notch Lisbon-style pub grub and a clientele that ranges from fishmongers to original Queen West legends.

Sun. March 15 – City Walk – From the ROM to where the Eaton's Roamed

Starting near the ROM we will explore the Annex neighbourhood. Among other things we will learn where Timonthy Eaton had his mansion and where a Massey Murder occurred (the butler had nothing to do with this one, just ask the maid). Time permitting, we will also explore the Casa Loma neighbourhood.

Sat. March 21 – Urban Hike – Toronto Islands

Come and see the Islands before the crowds. It's a different world out there on the islands in the early spring. We'll visit the zoo at Centreville and explore the communities of Ward's and Algonquin Islands before heading off to Hanlans Point.

Sun. March 22 – Bus Trip No. 12 – Highland Nordic/Bruce Trail

This outing will combine a cross-country ski outing and a snowshoe outing. For skiers, Nordic Highlands at Duntroon offers Niagara Escarpment Nature at its best with 20 km of ski trails. They are groomed daily for classic and skating skiing. The trails go through maple bush and rolling hills with panoramic views of Georgian Bay. Snowshoers will go to the nearby Bruce Trail with XXXXX. It offers many kilometres of trail with views of Georgian Bay. Snowshoe rentals are available at Nordic Highlands. This will be the last bus trip, although Highlands Nordic will be open for at least one month more.

Sun. March 22 – City Walk – Follow Garrison Creek – 7-10 km

Although most of the creek and its bridges are buried underground, we will follow the route from Christie Pits to the Lake, taking in the Music Garden park on the waterfront and depending on interest and energy, we may walk back (a different route) to Christie Pits, where we could warm up in a local café. A lunch break location will depend on the weather.

Thurs. March 26 – 2009 Spring, Summer & Fall Info Night

This event will launch our new calendar, April to November, listing the best selection of outdoor events in the city. Our hiking, cycling and paddling programs will be highlighted as well as many social outings.

This is a great opportunity for members to meet up with each other and to get a head start on the upcoming activities. Bring your friends along. There is no better time to introduce them to the club and the tremendously varied program we offer. Refreshments will be provided.

Sat. March 28 – Day Hike – Mono Cliffs – 10 km

Our route has us walking a glacial spillway, through hardwood forests still covered with the retreating snow, along a cliff top and the perimeter of McCarston's Lake in this natural environment park. Spectacular views are guaranteed.

Sat. March 28 - Ski - Awenda Provincial Park

Don't put away those skis just yet. The ski trails at Awenda still have some snow. The terrain is relatively flat and there are excellent views of Georgian Bay from the crest of the Nipissing Bluff. Along the shore, there will be the unusual remains of gigantic snow banks. If we must, then hike we will.

Sun. March 29 – 'All that Jazz' Hot House Café Brunch & Inuit Art Gallery Visit

Come and support great live jazz at the Hot House Café in Market Square (Church and Front Streets). Parking is available off Church St. and in the area. This extremely popular restaurant offers excellent variety and value. Reservations are a must so book early or you will miss out!

After brunch, we will walk to the Toronto-Dominion Gallery of Inuit Art (optional). Tradition and Innovation – The Inuit, the people native to the Canadian Arctic have created distinctive works of art for over 3,000 years, but only in the last 50 years have these works gained widespread recognition for their artistic merit. As the works of art in this exhibition serve to demonstrate, Inuit Art today is one of the most vital and genuine art forms of contemporary Canada.

Sat. April 11 – Great Foods of the World® – Munich

An old favourite among German ex-pats. Traditional German fare served with gusto.

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Sat. April 18 to Sun. April 19 – Waterfalls of Grey County/Beaver Valley

Come out and see 9 waterfalls over the weekend in Grey County. This is a joint hike with another Outdoor Club to be announced. These hikes highlight the many interesting waterfalls at this time of the year at spring flood levels, and hopefully no bugs. Pace is leisurely, around 8-12 km per day. Rain or shine (very bad weather, trail conditions, and time permitting). We will drive and hike in short loops to the falls. This hike is all about fun, not speed. We will meet in Owen Sound on Saturday to see Inglis, Weaver, Jones and Indian Falls. On Sunday, we will start down the Beaver Valley to see Keefer, Walter's, Anthea's, Eugenia and Hogg's Falls. On Saturday night, there is a group reservation at Jazzmyn's in Owen Sound, www.jazzmyns.com. Please call XXXXX if you would like to join the group for dinner. Here are some helpful links: www.greyroots.com 1-877-473-9766; www.owensound.ca 1-888-675-5555; www.visitgrey.ca 1-877-733-4739.

Fri. April 24 to Sun. April 26 – Weekend Hike – Spring in Algonquin

There is no better time than spring to spot moose families in Algonquin Park. We'll hike the best routes in the Park, as well as possibly Ragged and Gravel Falls, enjoying the last vestiges of winter and the first ones of spring. A late snowfall is quite possible but if spring is early, we may need bug spray! We will stay at Wolf Den Hostel, a cozy lodge type facility with great ambience. Saturday night pot luck supper is always a feast.

Sat. May 30 to Tues. June 2 – Hiking in the Adirondacks

Back by popular demand, this trip will leave you breathless; mostly because of the spectacular views, but partially because of the physical exertion involved. But we will not be totally roughing it as we will be sleeping indoors in a dormitory style setting with a complete kitchen and hot showers. The trip fills up quickly, therefore it is advisable to call early if you are interested in going. Note: This is a non-insurable OCEY event.