

UTOC NEWSLETTER

WINTER- SPRING 2022



MARCH 18, 2022



RECENT TRIPS

Highlights of our recent cabin trips and city events



UPCOMING

How you can get involved in the club!

WWW.UTOC.CA

Editor: Lisa Klekovkina

UTOOC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER SKI TRIP

DEC 19-20, 2021

BY SCOTT ROBERTSON



Originally, this trip was planned to be an XC Skip Trip at Highlands Nordic, but mother nature had different ideas. With the lack-of snow, a day of skiing there would be impossible - unless you'd like skiing on grass which I'm sure their groundskeeper wouldn't be a fan of either. So as a change of plans the 9 of us that ended up going planned for a hike at Nottawasaga Bluffs. In usual fashion as the trip leader, I was the last to arrive 15 or so minutes late. Nevertheless everyone was keen to go hiking and explore the area. We all introduced ourselves and set off. I recall this was the first snowfall of the season and the forest was white with snow! . On the trip we had a member who enjoyed doing handstands and got some "influencer" content (we're still waiting on our fit tea sponsorship!!) and finally made it to the viewpoint! On the way back we were getting cold and peoples toes were getting cold (protip: tennis shoes aren't appropriate hiking footwear) so we had to hustle.



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We then went to the Ravenna Country Market for hot coffee and succulent sandwiches which everyone wolfed down. We then went to the cabin to regroup. With formal skiing out of the picture we tried to make our own ski/snowboard day at the cabin's ski hill! We also managed to make a toboggan Salolom! First place went to Alea who was on exchange here in Toronto from Germany.



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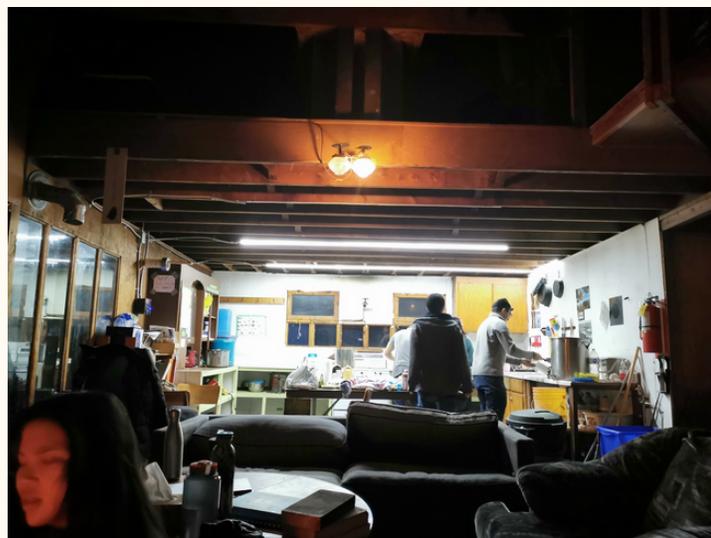
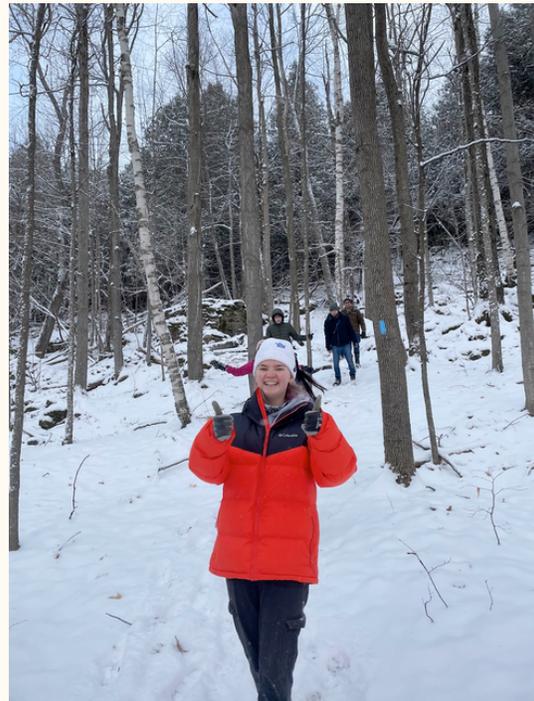
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Later that night we ended up going into town for supplies and ended up doing a dinner at the cabin of pasta and homemade mulled wine. With all the activities that day bedtime was quite early. Later that morning we did a short hike to the top of the escarpment doing the Bruce Trail Side Trail by the cabin then returned home to Toronto. Overall an uneventful trip but 10/10 for checking out new trails in the area!



UTOOC NEWSLETTER

VALENTINE'S DAY SKATE

FEB 14, 2022

BY EMILY MACCALLUM



UTOOC had a great turnout for the Valentine's Day skate at Harbour Front Center. We were joined by members both old and new, who all braved the cold to share the ice and catch up over some hot chocolate. As the weather warms and rinks close, we can't help but look forward to more skate days next winter.



UTOC NEWSLETTER

WINTER WEEKEND W/ UOFT WILDERNESS MED. SOCIETY

FEB 25-27, 2022

BY JESSE MCDUGALL



My Dad grew up in Montreal but attended university in Tennessee where he joined his school's Outdoor Club in 1981. Forty years later I've become a part of my school's outdoor club, UTOC, and during winter reading I led my first trip up to the cabin.

It was a joint trip between UTOC and the Wilderness Medicine Society, and that Friday we left Toronto with five cars and lots of excitement. Upon arriving at the cabin, I lit the wood stove as people helped bring in food coolers and boil water from the stream. A large bag of perogies was cooking on the stove, and a nice smell filled the cabin.



Folks were shy at first when we went in a circle introducing ourselves, but in no time the room filled with chatter. Before bed I baked a dessert recipe from my dad with apples and pancake mix, and it reminded me that in all that time not much had changed.

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As I stoked the fire the next morning people started in on breakfast. A kitchen crew formed and promptly started grilling sausages and cracking eggs. Later we hit the hiking trail behind the cabin and enjoyed a lookout point on top of Metcalfe Rock.

Lunch passed quietly, and around 2pm we tidied up the kitchen and drove into Thornbury towards the lakeshore. Everybody wanted to see the spectacle when a few of us stripped down and waded into the icy water. Surprisingly, several other people stepped up and clambered into the shallow water to join us. All told, 8 people had joined in the lake swim, and for that I judged it a big success.

That night everyone was content to hang around and trade stories. We made an Indian curry for dinner, and some selfless volunteers attacked the dishes under lamplight. The grand finale of the night was a crackling bonfire under the stars with a few toasted marshmallows to boot.

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The Wilderness Medicine Society made a big Sunday breakfast with French Toast, and there was much celebrating at the return of two UTOCers who had spent the night in a snow Quinzhee outside. Some folks planned to drive to Blue Mountain for skiing and sledding, and about 8 UTOCers decided to tag along.

At the mountain we found a skating path along the Niagara Escarpment curved through the trees for 1 kilometer. It had a nice view of the ski resort, and once the clouds parted, we could see down to Lake Huron.



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In the afternoon our group unlaced and drove back to the cabin, arriving to see that kind UTOCers had already cleaned up the cabin and done every last dish. On the ride home we felt triumphant about having enjoyed the trip to its fullest, and my experience as a trip leader couldn't have been better.

UTOC cabin trips are highlights of my time at U of T, and it's something I can share with my dad who ran his own trips back in the olden days. Before too long I'll be back at the cabin, playing crokinole and tending to the fire.

UTOOC NEWSLETTER

HOW TO GET INVOLVED: CABIN CUSTODIAN POSITION



Don't have a summer job lined up? Want to work up in Collingwood? Or just want to spend the summer hiking, mountain biking or climbing?

If you fall into any of these categories, we are looking for volunteer custodians to stay at our cabin (free of charge) in exchange for a number of duties, similar to what you'd expect in a hostel as we aim to run it this way (drop-in style) this summer if the program permits. A minimum 2 week stay would be required and a vehicle is essentially required, unless you have a workaround (the club will not be arranging transport). You are also welcome to stay with a partner instead of just by yourself. Note that this would not be your primary residence but rather a "camp" type arrangement as the cabin is a shared space.

Please find the full outline of duties and the position posting attached. If you have any questions please feel free to get in touch after reading the posting. If you know anyone that would be interested please feel free to share the link! We encourage all interested parties to apply.

To apply please fill out the form here:
<https://forms.gle/fEo1ARwbWJEaj5sv6>

Note if you are looking for work during your stay a number of places are hiring including the Bruce Trail (Beaver Valley Section is by the cabin):
<https://brucetrail.org/pages/about-us/job-opportunities>

UTOOC NEWSLETTER

HOW TO GET INVOLVED: ELECTION 2022!



Our annual election is coming up on April 7th at 6PM!

During the election, we will be voting in members to the following positions:

- Directors
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Cabin Officer
- Equipment Officer
- Membership Officer
- Webmaster
- Activities Officer
- Publications Officer
- Fundraising Officer
- Archivist

We invite you all to run for any of the above positions, but we are in particular looking for individuals interested in the following positions:

- President
- Equipment Officer
- Membership Officer

You could be one of our 2022-2023 Executive Members!