

Fall 2011 Newsletter

Thanks for a great summer!

The season is starting to wind down but it's not too late to catch the Island fall colours. Ferries to Ward's Island run year round and the Rectory Cafe is open Wednesday to Sunday and a great place to catch a bite to eat at the end of an autumn walk or bike. Thank you to everyone who joined us for events this summer. We've enjoyed having the chance to meet more people that care about the Toronto Islands and we're pleased with how our organization is growing.

Special thanks goes out to all those who attended the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup in September with the FOTI group. It was our third year holding the event and we had more people and more garbage collected from the lagoon and Snake Island shorelines than ever before. Thanks too to the Island Park staff for allowing a group to camp overnight at Snake Island after the cleanup event.



This month we have two special requests that we'd like to pass along to our mailing list. Far Enough Farm and the Toronto Brigantine can benefit from you going online and simply registering a "vote". There's more information below on both of these excellent causes where your support can help.

Upcoming Events

Nov 10 – Pub Night at The Fox

At the brand new Fox located on Bay at Lake Shore right near the ferry docks. Come join us for a drink from 7:30pm

Dec 8 – Skating and Pub Night

For our pub night in December we're going to start at the Natrel Rink at Harbourfront. Stay tuned for details.

Dec 18 – Santa Claus Cruise

Join a FOTI group for a family harbour cruise featuring Santa and his elves. Between 1:30pm and 3.

PUB NIGHT AT "THE FOX" – Thursday November 10

There's a brand new pub called The Fox that just opened on Bay Street south of Lake Shore Blvd, very close to the Ferry Docks. We're going to check it out starting at 7:30 until 10pm. The season is winding down and it's time to start thinking about what we can do as an organization for next year. We welcome your ideas. Attendance is free and open to all Toronto Island enthusiasts. Please pay for your own food and drinks. RSVP is appreciated. info@torontoislands.org

SANTA CLAUS CRUISE – Sunday December 18

As part of Winterfest on Toronto's Waterfront, Mariposa Cruises is back for the 6th year with its Annual Santa Claus Cruise series. Families are invited to join Santa and his elves for this magical one hour cruise around the Toronto Harbour. Children under 6 are free and there are complimentary refreshments for all. Free photos with Santa are also provided courtesy of Redpath Sugar. There are morning and afternoon cruises December 10, 11, 17 and 18. A group from FOTI will be joining on December 18 with boarding by the Queens Quay Terminal starting at 1:30pm. For more information check out mariposacruises.com or call (416) 203-0178.

Far Enough Farm – Facebook Petition

The fate of Far Enough Farm is still up in the air as the City searches for ways to save money. The farm, which includes a petting "zoo" with a variety of barnyard animals, is located on Centre Island right beside Centreville and is one of the few island attractions that is open year round. We would hate to see it close. If you haven't already done so we encourage you to show your support by finding "Save Toronto Island's Far Enough Farm" on Facebook and registering a "Like". About a 1000 people have already done so and your support counts.

Special Request - Support the Toronto Brigantine by Voting Online

The Toronto Brigantine is a charitable organization with two Tall Ships that are used for a summer youth training program. This is the organization that hosted our excellent Tall Ship event in June. The organization has requested funding of the AVIVA Communities Fund's Ideas Competition for \$150,000 with proceeds going to cover repairs and retrofitting of the Pathfinder while the boat is out of the water this winter. It's a competition as opposed to a grant proposal and to win they need your votes for their "idea". To vote click on the link below (every 24 hours if you can until November 9). It's a great Toronto Waterfront charity and they would definitely appreciate your support. <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf12378>

Harbourfront Skate & Pub Night – Thursday December 8

The Natrel Rink at Harbourfront Centre will be opening in mid November as weather permits and for sure the skating season will be well underway in time for our December Pub Night. We'll start our evening off at 7:30 at the rink. Then following a group skate we'll find a place to sit down for a drink. Stay tuned for details. The Natrel Rink is an artificially-cooled outdoor rink that's free to the public and open all winter long. It's a great place to skate while taking in the beautiful surroundings of Lake Ontario and the Toronto Islands. Skate rentals, lockers, change rooms and sharpening are available.



Artist Preview Gala & Wine Tasting – A recap

Thanks again to everyone who attended the Artist Preview Gala & Wine Tasting event at the Queens Quay Terminal in September that celebrated the winners of the My Waterfront Photo Contest. FOTI was there selling greeting cards of the 50 photos that were selected as the best submissions over the summer. We appreciate The Waterfront BIA's support and our participation in the event. There are still some greeting cards left and although we don't have plans for another selling event if you're interested in buying greeting cards with some spectacular Waterfront scenes then please get in contact with us at info@torontoislands.org.

Maze Reconstruction

You may have noticed recently that the cedar hedge "maze" at the south end of the Centre Island bridge is gone! The maze was originally constructed in 1967 to mark Canada's centennial with contributions from the Dutch-Canadian community. The cedars were more than 40 years old and the base of the trees were basically just thick trunks and dead wood. Reconstruction will take place in the spring to be ready for next summer season. A decision has been made to relocate slightly to the east, closer to the Boat House, in order to open up the area around the gardens along the walk to the beach.

Support our efforts for just \$10

Friends of Toronto Islands is a not-for-profit organization with the goals of supporting the City in maintaining and enhancing our beautiful Island Park, and encouraging people to get out to enjoy it. Money that we raise through memberships is applied towards these goals. Our Japanese Cherry Tree planting was one of our projects and we have more in the planning stages. Register online at torontoislands.org/support. Thanks for your support!