

# Toronto Island Canoe Club

## *Membership Handbook*



[www.torontoislandcanoecub.org](http://www.torontoislandcanoecub.org)

## *Our History*

“The first canoe-related club to form on the Islands was the Island Amateur Aquatic Association, established on Centre Island in 1888. Its formation followed that of the first aquatic club that specialized in canoeing, The Toronto Canoe Club, founded in December of 1880. It served an Island based membership with a number of activities, canoeing, swimming, and tennis suggesting its origins were more socially and recreationally than sport oriented. It offered little competition for the Toronto Club during the 1890’s. As close as I have been able to come, the I.A.A.A. competed in the CAA for the first time in 1908, two years after the Toronto Canoe Club joined. Once the CAA competition between the two clubs developed but not until the second decade of the 20th century did the Island club prove real rivalry to Toronto led by Aubrey Ireland Sr. (The trophy for Men’s Sr. Singles 1000m is the Aubrey Ireland Trophy). Ireland won his first CCA medal on C-1, a third in 1911. Ireland had the misfortune to have to compete against the great Toronto paddler Alastair Mackenzie. He followed Mackenzie across the line between 1911 and 1914. With restoration of Championships in 1919, and Mackenzie’s death in battle in 1914, Ireland dominated senior Singles for a couple of years before retiring.

Island legends include Bert Oldershaw, his tandem partner Bill Stevenson and Tom Hodgson. Beginning in the 50s the Island community was dismantled by the city of Toronto and some paddlers from the Island went east providing support for a West Rouge Club and I.A.A.A. provided a great tradition on which to build a modern canoe club. In 1994 Island Canoe Club merged with Toronto Canoe Club to form the Toronto Island Canoe Club. Today Toronto Island Canoe Club is comprised of a small group of avid canoeists and includes recreational, sprint racing and other recreational activities. TICC is a non-profit organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors. TICC is a member of: Western Ontario Division; Canadian Canoe Association; Canoe Ontario; Ontario Canoe Sprint Racing Association; Ontario Recreational Canoe Association.

The Book of Champions by Fred Johnston gives a complete account of the performance at the nationals and Olympics of a host of great island paddlers.

\*Thank you to Ken Butler for providing this historical information. Ken was a longtime member who lived on Wards Island.

## *General Membership*

General Membership is open to adults over 18 years and is for one year starting May 15. Fees are not prorated if you sign up later than May 15.

### Privileges and responsibilities

- eligible to store a vessel upon payment of a fee
- may rent a locker (subject to space)
- are entitled to use of club facilities
- may vote at General meetings
- may serve on committees
- are required to volunteer for one of several tasks posted at the club
- are ambassadors for the club
- are to sign in and out for every visit to the club.
- follow the Member Code of Conduct

### Member Code of Behaviour

Members are expected to be on their best behaviour and to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Use of recreational drugs, smoking of marijuana or tobacco and consumption of alcohol are strictly forbidden on club property and in surrounding areas. Failure to observe this rule will result in immediate suspension of club privileges without compensation. Should members, for any reason, be suspended then he/she may appear in person at a meeting of the Executive Board and request reinstatement.

### Security

You will receive a code to unlock the club. **DO NOT** tell the entry codes to anyone.

The Club is to be kept locked at all times when a Member or Staff person is not in attendance.

Members shall be responsible for locking their own boat to the rack with a combination type lock. The combination will be provided to the club in the event the vessel must be moved.

## Guests

Members are responsible for their guests at all times. Please be a good host and remember to sign your guest in and ensure that they sign a waiver while visiting the club. Consider inviting your guest to become a member and support our organization

NOTE: If you have a tandem (2-person) canoe stored at the club and have a regular paddling partner you may sign that person up as an Associate Member. All tandem owners who store vessels at the club are issued a limited number of guest passes for their occasional guests. If you need more they may be purchased from the Membership Coordinator.

## Member Involvement

The Club has two work parties a year, spring and fall. The club depends on Volunteers to do a wide variety of tasks. Some involve special expertise or require long time experience, but most do not. Some are year long commitments and others require short bursts of effort. Make your talents known.

## What is included in your Membership?

- Use of clubhouse and surrounding areas
- Shoreline access for launching (do not leave your vessel unattended at the shore)
- Boat storage racks upon payment of a storage fee
- PFDs. Please sign the PFD out each use in the the Sign in book.
- Common areas. Please respect your fellow Members by maintaining the spaces, communicating and keeping the club a friendly place. There is a bulletin board where Members may post club related information.
- Volunteer opportunities.
- Club updates by email.
- We do not loan or rent any boats or equipment (other than PFD's). Club vessels are only to be used by staff, and registered program participants.

## *Boating Safety*

Minimum Coast Guard Requirements apply at all times.

All watercraft must carry:

1 Canadian approved PFD of appropriate size for each person on board.

1 buoyant heaving line not less than 15 metres in length

1 bailer

1 paddle

1 sound signal i.e. whistle or horn

TICC strongly recommends each Member wear an approved PFD at all times.

### Cold Water Policy

If the water temperature OR the air temperature is below 10C then you must wear an approved PFD. This is a Club Rule. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.

### Lightning

At no time shall a Member be on the water if lightning or thunder is perceived. The apparent distance or direction of the lightning is irrelevant.

### Paddling Activity

Boat owners recognize the inherent risks in paddling alone or with others and holds the club harmless. Members must follow Coast Guard regulations.

### Rescue Signals

Use a whistle to attract attention by one long blast and repeating.

If you do not have a whistle you can attract attention by holding a paddle overhead and waving it.

## *Emergency Information*

In the event of an emergency call 911 and say you are at Toronto Island Canoe Club (the old fire hall). If 911 is called for any reason a member of the Executive Board must be notified at the earliest opportunity. The current year's Board list is posted by the club phone.

### First Aid

First aid kits are located in the washroom and in the Day Camp Staff area..

### Important Contact Numbers

Ferry Docks 416-392-8193(4)

Harbour Police non emergency direct line 416-808-5800

Island Fire Hall non emergency 416-203-0895

Marine Unit Metro Police 416-808-5800 (non-emergency)

Poison Control 416-813-5900

QCYC 416-203-0929

Toronto Island Marina 416-203-1055

Toronto Island Residential Community Trust Office

416-203-6163

Water quality hotline 416-392-7161

Water Taxi Ralph - from foot of York St. 416-203-8294/203 TAXI OTTER 416-995-6809

Weather Office 416-661-0123

*Have a safe and enjoyable season on Toronto Island.*

