

Q&A with the OAC

Why were glue-in bolts chosen for the Rattlesnake Project (RSP)?

This project represents the first of its kind in Ontario. We chose to use the best possible practices in terms of products and installation techniques.

Does the OAC need help with [other] bolting projects?

There are no bolting projects at this time.

When is the OAC going to start buying crags?

There are numerous possibilities for purchasing new climbing areas. The possibility of this is solely dependent on support from our members and the greater climbing community. More information on this will be forthcoming.

What are the different ways volunteers can support the OAC?

The OAC is always happy to have help! Financial donations keep us running, and we often need volunteers to help run our events. Every summer we look for volunteers to assist with running our Beaver Valley Climbing Festival, as well as Site Hosts at Halfway Log Dump. Occasionally we also need volunteers for smaller events. If you'd like to get involved, please contact info@ontarioallianceofclimbers.ca.

Why does the OAC not provide funding to individuals engaged in retro-bolting?

The RSP project is the first project where the OAC has provided products for the purpose of bolting. This project is unique and not representative of efforts to re-bolt existing routes. The majority of old hardware in Ontario has been replaced by individuals, with the exception of climbing areas challenged with specific access issues. The OAC cannot support re-bolting efforts at areas where access is not clearly defined.

Does the OAC have policies in place about who can bolt?

The OAC has no direct involvement with bolting practices. All bolting at the RSP project was conducted by qualified and experienced volunteers.

Are records being kept of hardware specs when bolting / retro-bolting is being done?

The date of the RSP project will be recorded. The lifespan of the installed bolts is projected at 50-100 years or longer.

Will more 2019 OAC calendars be available?

We were happy to sell out of our 2019 calendars! We'll definitely consider the demand for more calendars when we put out our 2020 calendars later this year. Remember to submit your photos for consideration!

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE MEMBERS OF
ONTARIO CLIMBING ACCESS COALITION /
COALITION POUR L'ACCÈS AUX PAROIS D'ESCALADE DE L'ONTARIO
(the "Corporation")

HELD in Milton, Ontario at Rattlesnake Point on June 1, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Constitution of Meeting

A quorum of the members of the Corporation being present in person and notice of the meeting having been duly sent, the meeting was declared regularly constituted.

Tony Berlier took the Chair and Jeremy Fortier acted as Secretary of the meeting. John Vellone was appointed scrutineer.

Financial Statements

Kevin Pawliw, Treasurer, presented to the Meeting the audited financial statements of the Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Election of Directors

The Chair then stated that it was in order to proceed with the election of directors and declared the meeting open for nominations. The following individuals were nominated:

Mike Penney
Leslie Timms
Kacy Wilson

The Chair confirmed that all three candidates have consented to their election as directors. No member having demanded a ballot, the election of directors was conducted by a show of hands following a motion made and seconded by members in attendance.

The election having been held, the Chair declared the three candidates to be duly elected as directors of the Corporation to hold office for a term of two years, or in each case, until their successors are elected, subject to the provisions of the by-laws of the Corporation. No member abstained from or dissented to the vote.

Election of Co-Chairs

The Chair then introduced the special resolution appointing Mike Penney and Randy Kielbasiewicz as co-chairs of the Board of Directors. The Chair explained that the by-laws and the *Corporations Act* (Ontario) require that any chair be elected by the members by special resolution.

No member having demanded a ballot, the election of co-chairs was conducted by a show of hands.

On motion duly made by members in attendance and carried, the special resolution electing Mike Penney and Randy Kielbasiewicz as co-chairs of the Board of Directors was approved. No member abstained from or dissented to the vote.

Appointment of Auditors

The Chair introduced the next item of business, the appointment of Peters, Brown LLP as auditor of the Corporation and authorizing the Board to fix the auditor's remuneration.

No member having demanded a ballot, the Chair conducted the vote by show of hands.

On motion duly made by members in attendance and carried, it was resolved that Peters, Brown LLP be appointed as the Corporation's auditor for the 2019 financial year, and that the Board be authorized to fix the auditor's remuneration. No member abstained from or dissented to the vote.

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting then terminated, as moved and seconded by members in attendance.

Chair

Secretary

Tony Berlier

Jeremy Fortier

OAC ACCESS SENDS 2018/2019:

Summary

CLIMBING AREAS

- **Niagara Glen partnership**
- **Halfway Log Dump partnership continues**
- **Turtle Crag**

CLIMBING COMMUNITY

- **Organized climber events:**
 - **Beaver Valley Climbing Festival 2018**
 - **Southern Ontario Ice Fest 2019**
 - **Rattlesnake Spring Fling 2019**
- **Onboarded an Outreach Coordinator**
- **Rebranding of the OAC as the Ontario Alliance of Climbers**

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

- **Organized community events:**
 - **Niagara Glen Earth day**
 - **Rattlesnake Bolting Project (Conservation Halton)**
- **Participated in:**
 - **Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee**
 - **Dawn Wall Film Event**
 - **Camista Film Event**
- **The OAC continues to be in conversation with members of the MNR and Ontario Parks to develop long term sustainable climbing management strategies.**
- **Restructuring OAC board meetings to increase efficiency and onboard more qualified volunteers.**

OAC ACCESS SENDS 2018/2019

CLIMBING AREAS

Niagara Glen – The Niagara Glen has been experiencing yet another surge in bouldering over the past couple of years. With so many new climbers flocking to the area, the OAC has identified the need to increase our presence in the Niagara Glen.

Following the completion of the Niagara Glen Bouldering Guide with co-authors Jesse Wong and Jack Szumilas, Kacy joined the OAC as Portfolio Manager for the Niagara Glen. Since Spring 2018, she has worked closely with the Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) to address access concerns, including the opening of 3 previously closed areas/boulders. She also works with the NPC to plan community outreach events including Spring & Fall Cleanup Events. In 2019, Kacy will be working with the NPC and the Buffalo Climbing Coalition on a graffiti removal project in the Niagara Glen.

Remember, your annual bouldering permit comes with a free annual parking permit!

Turtle Crag - Turtle Crag launched with a bit too much enthusiasm and required a “cooling off period” to evaluate how to sustainably reopen the crag. The OAC is hoping to launch a trial reopening of the Turtle through a daily online registration to limit maximum daily usage

Halfway Log Dump – The OAC and Bruce Peninsula National Park are into our 9th year of partnering to supply weekend volunteer Bouldering Site Hosts. Bouldering Site Hosts, like Camp Hosts, act as stewards and caretakers for the area. The Site Host program has been a huge success for all parties involved since its launch in 2010.

CLIMBING COMMUNITY

BVCF – The 6th Annual Beaver Valley Climbing Festival took place in August 2018 and was a huge success. We attracted close to 300 people and raised funds to support future OAC projects. The weekend was packed with games, clinics, vendors, competitions, entertainment, yoga, massage, music, dancing, and tasty food. The highlight was the performance by headliner Ariana Gillis. The event is a rare opportunity for the Ontario climbing community to come together and celebrate the beauty of the Beaver Valley. Don't miss this year's BVCF, August 16-18, 2019.

SO Ice Festival - Once again the OAC helped sponsor the third Southern Ontario Ice Fest February 8-10th 2019 in Maynooth, ON. The event brought together the growing ice climbing community. At this year's event we raised \$685 for the North Hastings Children's Services in Bancroft. The event also helped increase local awareness of ice climbing's economic benefits in the region.

Fundraising and Outreach Coordinator contract – The OAC is excited to be contracting out some access work so that we can continue to improve our service to the climbing community. Please welcome Marianne Stewart to the OAC team! Lots of exciting new things are in the works this coming year.

Rebranding as Ontario Alliance of Climbers – We kept our acronym, but the Ontario Access Coalition is now known as the Ontario Alliance of Climbers. We felt a more inclusive name and logo would be more welcoming and meaningful to new and old members alike.

Metcalfe - We are currently working with the MNR and local guides/organizations/community to ensure environmental impact at Metcalfe is reduced.

Gym to Crag – With the influx in climbing popularity, the OAC has continued to develop their Gym to Crag initiative by connecting with local guides and mentors to create more unified Gym to Crag transitioning information. The Rattlesnake Spring Fling is the OAC's first attempt at getting the community together to promote best climbing practices in Ontario; this event will also celebrate another successful year working with Conservation Halton. In 2018, the OAC helped develop a national 'Climbers Code of Respect' with access groups across the country, to support a national gym to crag initiative called Rock Respect. Four years ago the OAC partnered with the Access Fund to co-brand our logo onto their Gym To Crag poster. Posters can be found in local gyms and climbing establishments.

OAC calendar – The OAC continues to produce a high quality calendar showcasing the beautiful and diverse climbing areas in the province that we are lucky to call our local spots. All calendar proceeds go to the OAC and support access efforts. Our social media outlets were again inundated with submissions to our photo contest. Keep those submissions flowing this year!

OAC Social Media - Facebook group and Instagram – We surpassed 2124 likes for our OAC Facebook group and 1194 followers for our Instagram account as a result of regularly posting updates relevant to the climbing community. Check out and follow us on Instagram @ontarioallianceofclimbers, or on Facebook @ontario.climbing!

OAC membership – Our membership continues to increase steadily with another 375 members joining in the 2018-2019 year. Total membership is now 2082 individuals. The OAC has 16 active and renewed corporate memberships representing many of the climbing gyms in Southern Ontario, as well as guiding companies. We are also have been lucky to have MEC as a partner organization.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee – Dr. Garrett Hutson (Brock University) continues to participate in strategic meetings as the non-motorized trails representative for the Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee. His role is to be the conduit between non-motorized trail users and the province, keeping communication channels open and leveraging opportunities to resolve conflicts when they arise.

Conservation Halton (CH) – Rattlesnake Bolting Project - During the winter of 2018, Conservation Halton (CH) and the Ontario Alliance of Climbers (OAC) opened discussions regarding ongoing concerns about climber safety and the impact of climbing on Mt. Nemo. The OAC proposed a plan which would address several key points. This plan was approved with support from Conservation Halton, as well as feedback from the guiding and instructional community. Several routes have been identified at Rattlesnake Park and have been updated to the modern standard of sport climbs. In addition, a teaching station has been installed to better facilitate anchor management practice.

Rattlesnake Park is the only climbing area in the CH properties which allows for guiding or teaching. Teaching stations at all other climbing areas will be removed. Several routes at Mt. Nemo will be reviewed and may be removed if deemed necessary. More details can be found on the OAC website.

Dawn Wall Fundraising Event - On Feb 8, 2019, Patagonia on King St. in Toronto hosted a Dawn Wall movie screening with the proceeds going to the OAC. Tommy Caldwell was there to introduce the film, and stuck around afterwards to answer questions. Needless to say, it was a packed house and a wildly successful event with over \$1200 raised for the OAC. A huge thank you to Patagonia and Tommy Caldwell for their support for the Ontario climbing community.

Camista Film Event - On Nov. 8, 2018, Patagonia on King St. in Toronto generously hosted a screening premier of Camista. Camista is a short film by local filmmaker and climber Shawn Robertson telling the story of “Big” Mike and “Little Mike”, and their relationship and adventures with their boat at Ontario’s Lion’s Head. Donations at the door were forwarded to the OAC, and over 170 people came out and enjoyed the film. Big thanks to Patagonia, Shawn, and the Mikes for the inspiring film, and for being good stewards for climbing in Ontario. Keep up the great work guys!