

OAC ACCESS SENDS 2019/2020: Summary

CLIMBING AREAS

- Metcalfe toilet installation
- Pandemic response communication with land managers
- Halfway Log Dump partnership (on hold)
- Niagara Glen graffiti removal project (on hold)
- Swamp rescue planning
- Mount Nemo evacuation plan

CLIMBING COMMUNITY

- Organized climber events:
 - Rattlesnake Spring Fling
 - Beaver Valley Climbing Festival
- Crag ratings, pandemic crag status communications
- Convened community discussions/town halls
- Prepared gym-to-crag road show (on hold)
- Initiated diversity and inclusion initiative
 - Diversity results from survey below
- Membership update (372 new members since June 2019, total 2370)
- Maintained social media presence

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

- Improved volunteer engagement process (including for diversity initiatives)
- Organized community events:
 - Niagara Glen clean up
- Participated in:
 - Patagonia Toronto screening of Rotpunkt, Reel Rock screening, Niagara Escarpment Biosphere event

CLIMBING AREAS

Metcalfe toilets: Given the increased demand on our shared outdoor areas, the OAC has arranged for two porta potties to be installed in the parking lot at Metcalfe.

Pandemic Response: All provincial parks and conservation areas closed for a while. Staged reopening of various areas meant different crags opened up at different times. We are in constant communication with land managers, and conveying the results to the public. Many areas opened to hikers and bird watchers before climbers.

Halfway Log Dump partnership: Our volunteer site host partnership with Bruce Peninsula National Park continued throughout the 2019 season, but has been put on hold given the ongoing pandemic. We will be ready to restart the volunteer program in 2021.

Niagara Glen graffiti removal: In partnership with @buffaloclimbing and Niagara Parks, we are testing graffiti removal methods, starting with the Maha and Pondering boulders. The graffiti on Maha has been around for 10+ years and still saw some results.

Swamp rescue planning: We worked with municipal partners to help develop rescue plans for the area and to improve our relationship with the parks.

CLIMBING COMMUNITY

Rattlesnake Spring Fling: Last year's AGM was held in conjunction with a new event, the Rattlesnake Spring Fling, with 120-160 people and clinics.

Beaver Valley Climbing Festival: We ran the 7th edition of the BVCF during August 16-18 2019, paired with our brand new festival logo:

Distributed OAC swag, wag bag activities, and an extraordinarily popular raffle (we sold out of raffle tickets and had to get more!) We took a stronger stance against waste: charging \$2 for disposable plates and cutlery. Pilates, yoga, and guided excursions were run, in addition to live music at night. 151 participants, net revenue \$4k.



Crag Status document & Crag Ratings document: We augmented the crag status pages with [crag ratings](#) as well as an Ontario [COVID-19 climbing status page](#), including COVID-19-specific crag status and guidelines for safe climbing.

Community Discussions: In 2019 we hosted a number of community discussions to discuss Devil's Glen access issues:

- July 11, Collingwood @climberscorner, 30 people
- July 24 @grr_kw
- August 1 @patagoniatoronto, 50 people

Gym-to-crag: Before the pandemic hit, the OAC gym-to-crag show was in late planning stages, with a presentation prepared, a presenter roster, and a list of gyms.

Virtual Town Hall: To communicate with climbers during the pandemic, we ran a virtual town hall on April 28. Topics included how to climb safely and how our actions affect access. 139 attendees.

Diversity and Inclusion: The OAC released a statement committing the organization to achieve measurable goals around diversity and inclusion.

Membership: We now have a total of 2370 members, with 372 new members since 2019. Thanks to True North for including OAC membership with their annual memberships.

Social Media/Web Presence: We continued to be active on social media and introduced Thursday Tips for Thoughtful Trips. We released one edition of the OAC newsletter and we modernized the payment infrastructure, going to Stripe as our payment processor.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

Volunteer engagement: New volunteer engagement process to onboard new volunteers.

Patagonia Screening of Rotpunkt: Patagonia Toronto held the event as a fundraiser with all proceeds going towards the OAC. Collected \$536 in donations that night.