

# FINSBelow

Winter2020

Newsletter



## DIVING COZUMEL JAN 2020

More on page 8

This year's club Dive Trip traveled to Cozumel, a Mexican island in the Caribbean Sea and a popular cruise ship port of call famed for its scuba diving. 14 EUC members jetted off to the tropical destination at the end of January. Judging from the photos on page 8, all the divers enjoyed an awesome week of diving.



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# EUC Executive Committee 2019 – 2020

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Recording Secretary	Sue Wenzl	
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Have any good stories that you would like to share? Send them in to [euc\\_fins@euc.ca](mailto:euc_fins@euc.ca). Please do not email pictures. The Editor will provide you with Dropbox access to upload picture files.

Text submissions can be sent in Word, plain text or PDF format. JPEG is the preferred file format for pictures.

**Note: Do not send or upload anything that you do not want to be published to the members of the Club.**

FINS Below Newsletter and FIN Strokes Bulletin are official publications of the Etobicoke Underwater Club Inc.(EUC).The mandate of EUC is to teach proper and safe use of SCUBA and to bring to its members the sound benefits and pleasures of organized activities. The opinions expressed in articles in this publication, reflect the views of the writers and do not necessarily indicate the attitude of the Club. FINS Below and FIN Strokes are published six times annually. Articles and pictures should be submitted for publication electronically to the FINS Editor at [euc\\_fins@euc.ca](mailto:euc_fins@euc.ca). Submissions should be received by the 15th of the month before the publication issue. By submitting material for publication, the owner gives unlimited Use Rights to the Club. All articles and photos submitted must not infringe any copyright, violate any property rights, or contain any scandalous, libelous, or unlawful matter.

Only photos original to the submitter or with proof of permission, may be published.

Any ideas for events or activities that you would like to see the club involved in? Let the Events Chair know.



[euc\\_events@euc.ca](mailto:euc_events@euc.ca)



**Follow us!**



# NOTICES

## Membership Update

### General Meeting: Save the Date March 30 2020

**Hi All! Your executive has been working hard on the task of restructuring the club and are excited to share with you the plan for moving forward! We'll be holding a general meeting on March 30th at 7:30. It will take place at the Loblaws upstairs Community Room (380 The East Mall).**

**We will be emailing ahead the proposed changes. A list of gear for SALE to the membership is on the next page.**

## CONDOLENCES

THOMAS RICHARDSON, member since 2000, passed away at age 74 on Thursday, December 5, 2019. EUC's only blind diving member, we first met Tom while he was working at the Wellesley hospital as a nursing educator, and later he went on to start his own business as a CPR instructor. Tom was our CPR Instructor for a number of years and Instructor Trainer for several of us. He was also a member and supporter of the Canadian guide dogs school for the blind in Ottawa. And for the last 3 years was a member of ACAT (advisory committee on accessible transit) for the TTC.

Our heartfelt sympathies go to Todd Pope and his family on the loss of his Mom. JOYCE POPE, 89 years, passed away peacefully on January 21, 2020 at Erie Shores Hospice surrounded by her family. She was a dedicated volunteer, donating countless hours to her time to help others.

## DONT MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS..

2020 Membership Renewals due  
Jan 1 2020



Shipwrecks Symposium  
Sat March 14 2020  
Welland



Water Docs Film Festival  
March 25 - 29 2020  
Rogers Centre, Toronto



General Meeting  
March 30 2020  
Loblaws Community Room, Etobicoke



Scuba Swap  
Sat April 25 2020  
Rameses Shiner Centre, Toronto





### EUC Gear to sell

We will be selling off the club gear to members on a first come-first served basis. All gear is used and will be sold "as-is". Proper service of tanks and BCD's is strongly recommended. Please email Cam at [euc\\_president@euc.ca](mailto:euc_president@euc.ca) to reserve your choices. Only pre-reserved gear will be brought to the general meeting on March 30 with payment due that day (either exact cash or cheque).

### Tanks (all requiring viz)

63 CU Ft and 80 CU FT

With hydro -\$100

Needing hydro -\$50

### Uncoated Lead Weight- \$2 per Lb

### Wrist Compasses-\$25



### BCDs-\$50

Sherwood Avid-6 total

1 small, 2 med, 3 large



Aqualung Wave-8 total

2 small, 2 med, 2 large, 2 XL

# Gear 4 SALE



**Fins \$5 per pair**

Both slipper and boot

Various sizes, colours and wear



**BCD/Reg Hangers-\$15**



**Give Away Table (not reserved ahead-only at general meeting)**

Will include pink gloves, dust caps, weight keepers, weight belts, buckles both plastic and metal, mouthpieces, safety vests.....etc.



# IN MEMORIAM

Tom Richardson 1945 - 2019



He entered the change room at Albion Pool, stopped, then made his way to a vacant spot near a bench. Shortly thereafter, he made a few circuits of the change room before exiting onto the pool deck. Ah, there was a cozy spot in the corner by the shallow end where he could lay down to rest and observe the goings on in the pool area. Eldridge, the black lab, dog guide for Tom Richardson savoured his time on the pool deck being patted and attended to by EUC members and lifeguards during Tom's in-pool scuba training sessions.

I was approached by Mary, who said she had a visually impaired friend who wanted to learn to scuba dive. She had told him that she knew just the person who could teach him. At this point in my life I had no experience at all teaching blind or visually impaired people. I agreed to meet Tom to discuss the skills to be learned during the pool sessions.

Tom attended the classroom part with his classmates and then joined me for pool skills activities. The first session I was nervous because I did not know what words to use when orienting Tom to mask, fins, snorkel and scuba gear. He told me just to talk, teach and describe (see this, look at that etc.) as usual. So it began. I described equipment and asked Tom to "look at it" in whatever way worked for him. We were assigned the swim lane against the pool wall opposite to the change room side. It was here, that for 22 pool sessions Tom and I worked as a team to facilitate his learning and mastering of skin and scuba skill necessary to participate in his basic scuba open water dives.



In the pool, I would describe to Tom how to do the skill. He would verbally repeat the sequence then practise in the shallow end, then do it in the deep end. I had to be very precise stating procedural skill steps in the correct order so that Tom could learn and perform them. He was a great student with an awesome memory and sense of humour.

Tom and I problem solved together. We had a pool lane to ourselves. Tom had peripheral vision. I wore a signal light strapped on my right upper arm so that Tom would know where I was and keep himself positioned in the swim lane. I was always on his left side. To help Tom orient himself underwater to know where the bottom was I rigged a small diameter curtain rod about 46 cm (18") to act similar to his white mobility cane. All went well until one time while descending Tom contacted the pool bottom with his cane, kept on going down and his weight crushed the frail curtain rod. Plan B. Tom said the length of the rod was fine. So off I went to a ski shop, purchased a child's ski pole, had them cut it to 46cm (18") and put the basket back on. This sturdy ski pole worked fine.

Tom and I developed a tactile set of hand signals for up, down, something screwy (meaning I am unsure, I need assistance etc.), something is amiss (either gear or me, but I can deal or fix it myself or need my buddy's assistance to solve the issue, just letting you know). We had signals for stop, kneel, stay in one spot, go etc. It was very fun for Tom and I to develop the tactile set of hand signals.

The pool sessions passed very quickly and soon it was time for Innerkip Quarry (Trout Lake) check out weekend. Tom and I walked into the quarry, submerged and began his open water checkout dives. Without a doubt Tom had the best dive experience of the weekend in the silty, cloudy almost zero visibility quarry waters. We worked as a team using our hand signals and the ski pole to maintain safe, effective communications, descents and underwater exploration.

Tom earned his basic scuba certification and went on to participate in advanced and rescue programs. Confidence was gained as he learned and developed his diving skills. But, I was the one who gained the most. Working with Tom to teach him scuba diving skills is one of my favourite instructional experiences. Tom's patience and sense of humour put me at ease right at the start. He was always willing to try, give feedback and jointly problem solve. He tested my communication skills, and embraced my sense of adventure to try new things. For this I am grateful.

Paula Huber





# CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019

CANADIANA RESTAURANT Christmas party...

Photos by Mike Yano

A very merry time was had by all!

[Click here for more of the Christmas Photo Album](#)



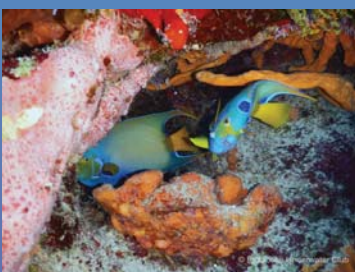
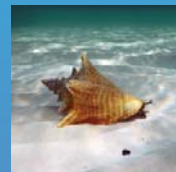




# DIVING COZUMEL



Click here for more of the Cozumel Trip Photo Album 





## The Niagara Divers' Association presents its 23rd Annual Shipwrecks Symposium



Saturday March 14, 2020

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Centennial Secondary School

240 Thorold Road, Welland, Ontario

### Speakers & Presentations



**Speakers...Movies...  
Presentations...Door Prizes**

**Tickets: \$54.00**

**INCLUDED IN YOUR  
ADMISSION AT NO EXTRA  
CHARGE**

**Lunch and refreshments  
Loads of free door prizes**

For More Information & to register  
online please visit:

<https://www.niagaradivers.com/shipwrecks/sw2020/reg2020.html>

[www.niagaradivers.com](http://www.niagaradivers.com)

Tom Wilson  
Master of Ceremonies

David Gilchrist  
Hope Island/Christian Island  
Shipwrecks Revisited

Jill Heinerth  
Into The Planet - Journeys in Cave  
and Polar Diving & Rebreather  
Safety

Jim Kennard  
A journey of Discovery  
Ian Kerr-Wilson

Accessibility is an Issue: Public  
Education and the Hamilton &  
Scourge National Historic Site

Walter Lewis  
Early Steam Wrecks on the Great  
Lakes

David Trotter  
"Desperate Voyage" - Discovery  
and exploration of the Keystone  
State

Tom Kowalczk:  
Discovery of the "Argo" – The  
Great Lakes' Top Environmental  
Hazard

Valerie Van Heest:  
Fatal Crossing – The Mysterious  
Disappearance of NWA Flight 2501



**The festival is the centrepiece of Water Docs programming – several days of high-impact films, animated discussions and community learning, with opportunities to take action to protect water.**

<https://www.waterdocs.ca/ecologos-programs>

**Date & Time (EDT)**

Starts: Wednesday Mar 25th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM  
 Ends: Sunday Mar 29th, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

**Location**

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema  
 506 Bloor Street West, Toronto

**2020 festival lineup**

**The Captain Is In!**  
 Wednesday, March 25, 2020  
 6:30 PM 10:00 PM  
 Innis Town Hall, St. George Campus,  
 University of Toronto  
 Join us as we celebrate a life of passion for our oceans.

**All Creatures Great and Small**  
 Thursday, March 26, 2020  
 6:00 PM 8:30 PM  
 Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema  
 It's up to us to be good stewards of our water.

**It's Party Time!**  
 Thu, Mar 26, 2020 8:30 PM Fri,  
 Mar 27, 2020 12:00 AM  
 CSI Annex Lounge  
 Come celebrate water with us!

**Cinema Sit-in**  
 Friday, March 27, 2020  
 6:00 PM 8:30 PM  
 Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema  
 Ever wonder what you can do to make a difference?



**Stand-up For Water!**  
 Friday, March 27, 2020  
 9:00 PM 11:30 PM  
 Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema (map)  
 Learn about the Indigenous prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor.

**Life On The Line**  
 Saturday, March 28, 2020  
 6:00 PM 8:30 PM  
 Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema  
 Come and see the best of this year's film submissions.

**Water Drops Shorts Program**  
 Water Drops Shorts Program  
 Sunday, March 29, 2020  
 3:00 PM 5:30 PM  
 Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema  
 Join us for our much loved short films program.

**TICKETS**

\$40

Your Festival Pass can be used for up to 6 tickets. Come to all the screenings, or bring friends to one or more screenings.



Ontario Underwater Explorers Scuba Club's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual

# SCUBA \ SWAP

Saturday, April 25, 2020  
9 am - 3 pm

**Rameses Shriners**

124 Queens Plate Drive, Toronto

# & SALE

## Your trusted source for USED & NEW SCUBA GEAR

- Dive Shops & Services
- Incredible Bargains
- Cool prizes to be won!



For more information  
[www.scubaswap.org](http://www.scubaswap.org)

Gear Registration  
and Drop Off:  
**Friday, April 24**  
6 pm - 9 pm

**Admission only**

# \$7<sup>00</sup>

**FREE Admission:**

- Youth under 18
- Students with student card
- Newly certified divers (within 12 months or in progress) with certificate card



# EUC EVENTS CALENDAR

# March 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 <b>Shipwrecks Symposium</b>	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 <b>Water Docs Film Festival</b>	26	27	28	29
30 <b>General Meeting 730PM</b>	31					



# EUC EVENTS CALENDAR

## April 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Scuba Swap</b>	26
27	28	29	30			

## TENTATIVE 2020 Dive Schedule



[Contact: euc\\_divetrips@euc.ca](mailto:euc_divetrips@euc.ca) / [dive organizer](#)

Dates	Dive Name	Venue	Price	Dive Organizer	Avail. Spots
2-May	Season warm-up #1	Shore	\$5.00	EUC	
	Morrison	O&A			U
09-May	Season Warm-up #2	Shore	\$5.00	EUC	U
	Welland Scuba Park	O&A			
?		ADV		Aquanolics	8.00
6/7 June	Open Water Checkouts or Windmill	Shore		Training	
13 June	Johnson's Beach	Shore	\$5.00	Euc	U
01 Aug	Tobermory	Boat	\$210.00	Divers Den	12
2-Aug	Tobermory	O&A		Divers Den	12
3-Aug	Tobermory Advanced	Boat Adv	\$70.00	Divers Den	12
		O/W			
12 Sept	Tobermory Evening / night dive	Boat	\$65.00	Divers Den	12.00
		O & A			
13 Sept	Cedar Park Warton	Shore	\$5.00	EUC	U
19-Sep	Welland Swing Bridge	Shore	\$5.00	EUC	U
<b>Note:</b>	<b>Club Dives are Non Sanctioned</b>	<b>Unless</b>	<b>Divemaster</b>	<b>Present</b>	

**NOTE:** CHARTERS NOT FILLED MAY BE CANCELLED

Legend: U - Unlimited Spots, TBD-To Be Determined, NS-Non sanctioned, A - Advanced Dive, O - Open water