

May 27, 2020 - HOC Sport Activity Update

Hiking and Cycling: Isabel Bravo and Heather Wilson, Hiking and Cycling Directors, along with your Board, have taken the decision **to cancel all activities for the month of June 2020**. We will resume activities as soon as possible thereafter, once conditions have improved significantly and our governments have provided the approvals and clear guidelines needed to keep our members and trip leaders safe. Further review will occur through June in order to determine our approach for July.

Paddling (Kayaking): There is no change to the status communicated on May 14, 2020, namely, **to cancel all June and July paddling events** through to and including the August long weekend.

What your Sport Directors and Board are doing to prepare for resumption of activities:

As promised in the May 14 update, Sport Directors are actively working across sports, with their activity leaders and with the Board to develop guidelines for safe operation of trips.

This work is well underway and guidelines will be ready for resumption of our activities what it is considered safe to do so.

May 14, 2020

Earlier we provided you with an update as to where HOC stood as to providing its sport activities for April and May. While there appears to be significant improvement in the fight with Covid-19 the Health Authorities and Governments are taking slow steps forward to open the Canadian economy and consequently access to parks and outside facilities we need in order to offer our Sport activity programs.

In addition to following the guidelines set out by the Health Authorities here in Ontario, the Halton Outdoor Club is also very conscious of the safety of our members and the activity leaders responsible for the members while on those activities. We know that social distancing and group sizes of 5 or less with access to hand washing or cleansing wipes and face masks will be with us for some time.

Based on what we know today and as time passes through May into June, we are proposing the following approach to opening up HOCs Sport Activities. Please look to the HOC Updater and the HOC website for the most up to date information available as to each of the individual sport activities originally planned for 2020. Your Sport Directors, the activity leaders and the Board are committed to undertaking as many of these activities as are possible within the Health Authority guidelines provided at the time and where HOC feels these activities can be undertaken safely by all those involved. We will continue to update you as material changes occur in our ongoing planning of 2020 Sport activities.

Hiking and Cycling - Isabel and Heather are anticipating that we will be unable to offer activities in May. For June we are taking a wait-and-see approach as to whether we are able to offer our activities, which ones and when they may occur in the month. We are likely to follow this approach well into July unless there are material changes in either the guidelines or the conditions set out under the Ontario Emergency Services mandate.

Paddling (Kayaking) - It has not been an easy decision to cancel June and July paddling events through to and including the August long weekend. Sandy, in concert with her Trip Leaders, is concerned with being able to provide a safe paddling experience under the current Health Authority guidelines. Meeting “social distancing” guidelines during rescues whether training or on actual sport trips would be impossible to consider at this point. In addition, many of the areas we require to carry out training or our sport activities are under restriction as to use with no idea as to when these restrictions will be lifted.

We will continue to follow the Government’s direction and we will keep a close eye on our partner organizations in the kayak community and the activities they feel comfortable undertaking. If and when we understand more, and we can operate safely within the existing Government guidelines, we can consider bringing back some of the day paddles and possibly rescheduling wilderness trips where appropriate.

For paddling activities that required deposits/upfront payments, you will be hearing from HOC as to the return of these amounts as soon it is possible to do so.

Your HOC Sport Directors will continue to monitor this constantly evolving situation closely. They are working hard, in consultation with their trip leaders and other Board members, to develop appropriate trip protocols that will prepare our programs to safely resume as soon as government policies allow.

Sport Directors are also enhancing HOC’s activities by continuing to engage our members in new ways to increase knowledge of our sports, leadership skills and other related topics. For example, Paddling has developed a multi-week series of meetings to discuss kayaking topics via ZOOM. This past week’s event saw 29 members sign on – and all are welcome on Thursday evening. Similar meetings are being discussed for Cycling and Hiking to maintain contact with members. Your Board recently used ZOOM meeting technology to hold a 2-hour meeting to carry on with HOC’s business.

Please contact Sandy, Isabel, Heather, Bonnie or me should you require further information.

Please stay safe and we look forward to having everyone back on the trails and on the water as soon as we possibly can!!!

Don Logan
Interim President