

December 22, 2020

Hello HOC Members, Hike Participants, Winter Sport Participants and Leaders

Based on the latest news from our provincial government, that Ontario will enter into "Province wide Shut Down" starting December 26th, 2020; HOC has decided to pause both the hike program and the alternative ski activities until, at least, Jan. 31, 2021.

A decision will be announced the first week of January, 2021, with regard to the Near North trip, scheduled for Feb. 12–14. We will announce the status of the February Midweek Getaway, scheduled for Feb, 23-24, no later than Jan. 21, 2021.

It is unfortunate that we have to proceed with these measures, but HOC will strictly respect the regional lockdowns and government and public health guidelines. We feel that it is our social responsibility to keep you and your families safe, at home, and not travelling between regions.

The Lockdown in Southern Ontario is currently set to last 28 days. We will announce the Club's possible plans for any February events in late January, when we know the results of the Lockdown. Meanwhile, the Club Executive, Jim Blair (ski director) and Isabel Bravo (hike director) will closely monitor the situation.

We will continue planning outdoor activities in preparation for when restrictions are relaxed. Any further changes will be communicated through email blast, Bonnie's Bulletin and the Updater, so please stay tuned.

We would like thank Bonnie Quinn, Marjorie Dieterman and Patti Blair for providing invaluable support as we find ourselves navigating through a year with Covid-19. Our leaders deserve special thanks, as well as our members, for their participation in the many activities we have enjoyed together in 2020. You and our leaders, have remained strong and encouraging throughout the year.

Your patience and understanding have been crucial to keeping us moving forward in this time of continuous change. We encourage you to continue with your winter outdoor activities on your own. Until we can meet again, keep physically and socially healthy.

We look forward to seeing you on the trails as soon as we can.

May you all have a safe and merry Holiday Season and all the best in 2021!

Isabel Bravo
Hike Director

Jim Blair
Ski Director