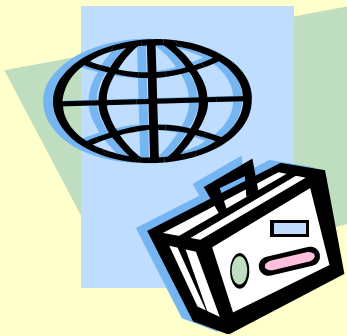




What Travel Writers Say Newsletter

www.whattravelwriterssay.com

Outward Bound: Mike Keenan



I spent three enjoyable days in Grey County, Ontario's winter wonderland! One busy day involved snowshoeing at the Scenic Caves where we climbed to the top of the Niagara Escarpment to view the surrounding frozen land mass and Georgian Bay, often referred to as the sixth Great Lake.

There was a good mix of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing along marked trails and later, we walked again to view the suspension bridge. In warmer seasons, people zip through the treetops here on cables.

The modern snowshoes that we rented were composed of lightweight metal with bindings that easily snapped on and off. They featured a claw-like device set in the middle that allowed safe ascent and descent on steep grades without fear of slipping.

After snowshoeing, we devoured warm chili at the snack bar inside the rustic winter chalet. Next, we visited Le Scandinave Spa, Blue Mountain, minutes from Blue

Please see *Outward Bound* on page 2

“The six colours, including the white background, represent the colours of all the world's flags... this is a true international emblem.”

Pierre de Coubertin

Focus: the Winter Olympics arrive!

Now that the Winter Olympics are here, we will soon see if Canada's ambitious and expensive "Own the Podium" program will pay off - literally. I think the hockey will be particularly amazing and wish all athletes their personal best. Just to get there makes them special, win or lose. You may wish to read about some of the sites from articles on the What Travel Writers Say website.

Check out the piece on Richmond's beautiful skating oval, truly a thing of beauty at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/richmondbc.html> It's composed of 5,600,000 kilograms of steel rebar, 1,100,00 cubic feet of concrete, 1,000,000 board feet pine lumber, 170,000 cubic metres of sand, 8,000 seats, 2,200 stone columns, and a 6.5 acre roof that can fit four airliners inside, side by side!

Next, read about Whistler, including the new Peak 2 Peak lift which provides speedy service between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indexwhistlerbritishcolumbia.html> where you will

Please see *Focus* on page 3

Featured Tip

Worried about deep-vein thrombosis on long plane flights? For the latest information, check: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/tipsthrombosis.html>

The important thing in life is not victory but combat; it is not to have vanquished but to have fought well.

Pierre de Coubertin

Also, regarding travel tips, do you wish to:

- Learn the capital of every country?
- Discover the US National Parks list as rated by retired employees?
- Learn what NATO is all about?
- Know where to find navigational charts?
- Find an NGO?
- Locate countries with no armed forces?
- Discover the stats on nuclear reactors and weapons per country?
- Visit an observatory somewhere in the world?
- Read about the OAS?
- Discover facts about oceans and seas?
- Find out how many Olympic medals a country has won?
- Find an Ontario fair to visit?
- Understand the machinations of OPEC?
- Find an opera house to visit?
- Look at packing tips from the experts?
- Access tips on travelling with pets?
- Read photography tips?
- Find a particular pyramid?

That's just the "N-P" list of travel tips located at www.whattravelwriterssay.com where there are hundreds more links to every conceivable travel related question that you might have, including access to the cheapest flights and accommodations. Be sure to bookmark the site to assist you resolving answers to problems or travel interests in the future.

See Featured Tips, p. 4

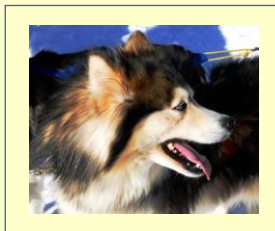
Outward Bound from page 1

Mountain Resort and downtown Collingwood.

The unique Scandinavian baths are set in the heart of a naturally treed 25 acres. At first, I was surprised to see people in bathing suits, some lounging outside in minus 2 C weather. However, if you follow the recommended circuit of hot baths, Finnish sauna, Norwegian steam room, thermal waterfall and relaxation areas, you easily manage the outdoors and cold plunges. Mix in either a Swedish or Hot Rock massage along the way, and you feel wonderfully refreshed.

Another day, it was Snowmobiling and dog-sledding in Grey, a first-time treat for both. Read all about it on the What Travel Writers Say website at:

<http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/greycountywinter1.html> and
<http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/greycountywinter2.html>

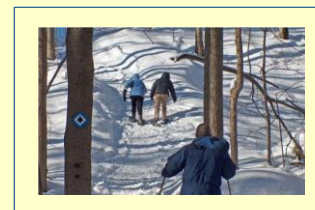


An eager Husky waiting to pull the sled

Website of the month: Vancouver 2010 Olympics

Find everything you need to know about every conceivable component of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics on their website at: <http://www.vancouver2010.com/>

Every sport, all the team members, details that you never considered...it`s all here! Including interesting items to purchase:



Snowshoeing at the Scenic Caves

Focus on Olympics cont'd.

also see articles on the sliding centre, the biathlon and the intrigue that goes into the application of technology and mystical rituals involved in bobsledding and luge, both seemingly a bizarre death-wish response to winter.

Then, it`s back to balmy Vancouver where hockey wars take place as well as the less violent but equally competitive curling with shouts of ``Hurry, hard!`` filling the air. Check out Vancouver at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indexvancouverbc.html>



Here's a sample of the amazing aboriginal art (by sculptor, Bill Reid) that visitors are exposed to as soon as they depart from their aircraft.

First nations themes will be significantly displayed throughout the Games particularly at the opening and closing ceremonies.

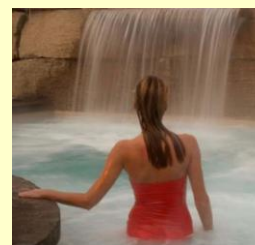
Olympism is a doctrine of the fraternity between the body and the soul.

Pierre de Coubertin

Featured Tip from page 2

Tips bookmark: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indextips.html>

If you have additional travel tips that you would like to share with others, please send them to us for inclusion on our site. *Send suggestions to* www.whattravelwriterssay@coqeco.net



Le Scandinave Spa

Industry News

For the latest travel industry news, visit: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indexnews.html>

For great ``Winter Experiences in Grey County`` here are some important contacts and suggestions:

Visit Owen Sound's pretty Harrison Park for a skate and in the busy downtown area, try the Rocky Raccoon Café <http://www.rockyraccooncafe.com/> for a meal where chef Robin Pradham operates in a Tibetan setting, but strangely, there are more non-vegetarian than vegetarian meals on the menu. (941 2nd Avenue East)

For snowmobile enthusiasts, the Homestead Resort, <http://www.homesteadresort.ca/> is made to order. Contact Gary Menaul, 263530 Southgate Rd 26, Durham, ON N0G1R0, Tel: 519 369 3771

In Owen Sound, we stayed at the Days Inn: www.daysinn.com Contact: Jamie Heimbecker, 950 Sixth Street East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 1H1, Tel: 519-371-1551

Snowshoe at Scenic Caves (rentals & lunch available) See: www.sceniccaves.com Contact: Linda Service, 260/280 Scenic Caves Road, Collingwood, ON L9Y 3Z5, 705-446-0256

For dog sledding, try Rob Roy Dog Sledding Adventures www.dogsledfarm.com Contact: Doug Nixon, 469358 Grey

Road 31, Rob Roy, ON, 519-922-2706

Le Scandinave Spa (Scandinavian bathes and tour) is truly unique. See: www.scandinaveble.com Contact: Mylisa Henderson, 152 Grey Road 21, Blue Mountains, ON L9Y 0K8, 705-443-8484

At Blue Mountain, we stayed at the Westin: http://specialoffers.starwoodhotels.com/Westin_Trillium_House/so.htm?ES=BLUEMOUNTAIN_SITE_LINKSOP_WI_1498_N_EAST with the nearby Village at Blue Mountain offering shops and lots of restaurants. (705-443-8080)

The highlight of the trip was our meal at Tholos in the Village: www.tholos.ca The Greek food was fantastic and where else can you eat fried octopus while watching skiers sail down night-time slopes on skis and boards while listening to a bouzouki player deliver his sterling rendition of the theme from Zorba the Greek!

Another helpful resource: Patti Kendall, Manager, Marketing & Events, Blue Mountain Village Association, 705-445-0231 Ext.6646 (pkendall@intrawest.com)

And finally, our thanks to the lady who put this all together: Amanda Pausner, Tourism Assistant, Grey County Tourism, 102599, Grey Road 18 RR-4, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5N6, 1-877-SEE-GREY, p. 519-376-3365 Ext. 6102, f. 519-376-4654 www.visitgrey.ca

She can be reached at: amanda.pausner@visitgrey.ca

My suggestion to all: if you like winter, Grey County, only two hours from Toronto is a must visit. We will return!

What Travel Writers Say

Contact us:

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Web: www.whattravelwriterssay.com

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