

# The Whiff of Grape

Toronto Chapter

**Join us for Great Speakers, Great Fellowship, and Great Fun!**

September 5, 2023

Greetings Fellow Whiffers

We hope you and your families have been enjoying the Summer and that you and those close to you are well. Your Junta has been busy over the Summer planning for the **2023/24 Campaign**.

We enter a new *Campaign* under the direction of Brian Westlake, and once again, we wish to thank Mac Borden for his steadfast leadership over the past two *Campaigns*, 2021-2023.

We are pleased to report that many pieces are already in place for the upcoming *Campaign*. Paul Potvin and Bob Milnes have masterfully arranged speakers for the Fall and well into 2024.

Last year at this time, following a survey of members indicating overwhelming support to resume in-person meetings, we returned to our traditional dinner meeting format. Since our last pre-COVID in-person meeting in February 2020, your Junta is thrilled to report that members' attendance has returned to pre-COVID levels and is reaching the capacity limits of the **RCYC City Clubhouse**. Fortunately, we have other venues for our in-person dinner meetings, including the Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI). However, there may be occasions when space limitations will limit our numbers, and a wait list may be necessary if reservation numbers exceed capacity. For our new *Campaign*, your Junta is not planning to hold *Whiff@Home events*, i.e., virtual meetings via Zoom hybrid meetings.

Our exciting lineup of speakers for the Fall session include:

**September 26<sup>th</sup> - Iain Dobson** – Co-Founder Strategic Regional Research Alliance - **The Impact of Remote Work on Cities** - Iain will talk about how fact-based planning will ensure the future of our cities.

**October 31<sup>st</sup> - Steve Paikin** – Broadcaster, Journalist, Author - **John Turner: An Intimate Biography of Canada's 17th Prime Minister** - Steve will draw on unprecedented access to Turner's personal and public papers to share how John kept his faith in Canadian democracy despite the challenges of his career.

**November 28<sup>th</sup> - Bob Medland** - Commodore (2021-22), Cruising Club of America. **A Night to Remember** - Bob will recount his sinking experience in the Antigua-Bermuda race. Running biennially, this passage, through often very challenging weather and often maddening ocean currents, is seen as a rite of passage for generations of sailors on the East Coast.

Membership dues remain at the same modest annual rate of **\$100** to cover expenses. To encourage younger persons to join the Whiff, the yearly fee will be waived for a new member under age 50 for the year of joining, and if in the future an under-50 member brings in a new member under 50, the fee will also be waived for that year.

With our return to in-person meetings, a separate charge for each dinner for members and guests will continue. At this time, our Treasurer Charles MacRae's request is simple: **please arrange to renew your membership in the Whiff now** by Interac Transfer to [treasurer@whiff-of-grape.ca](mailto:treasurer@whiff-of-grape.ca).

Deposit to the Club's account is **automatic**, so there's no need for a security question. Once you've set up this address as one of your **Interac e-Transfer** correspondents, all future payments to the Whiff will be quick and easy.

And please remember that the Whiff no longer processes membership fees and dinner or guest payments by credit or debit card.

Now that we have returned to our traditional dinner meeting format, you may have friends and acquaintances who would consider joining the Whiff to experience stimulating talks, lively exchanges, and the camaraderie we all enjoy as members of the Whiff. Jim Cairncross and Peter Baines will be delighted to hear from you.

If you have any comments or suggestions for guest speakers, please let a member of the Junta know. You can reach us at [toronto@whiff-of-grape.ca](mailto:toronto@whiff-of-grape.ca). From the Junta's perspective, the critical thing as we enter a new *Campaign* is maintaining **the continuity of the Whiff tradition and the spirit we all enjoy**.

Keep up to date with what's happening at the Toronto Whiff-of-Grape here: <https://whiff-of-grape.ca/>.

Your 2023-24 Junta,

Brian Westlake <i>Chair</i>	Ian Brown <i>Technology</i>	Peter Baines <i>Logistics/Membership</i>
Jim Cairncross <i>Membership</i>	Ron Foreman <i>Technology</i>	Bill Kinnear <i>Secretary</i>
Charles MacRae <i>Treasurer</i>	Stuart McKay <i>Logistics</i>	Paul Potvin <i>Speakers</i>
Mac Borden <i>Chair Emeritus</i>		

**The Toronto Whiff of Grape**

[toronto@whiff-of-grape.ca](mailto:toronto@whiff-of-grape.ca)

[Whiff-of-grape.ca](http://Whiff-of-grape.ca)