

BETTER TIMES

Produced for A.A. members, by A.A. members in the GTA



'Tis the Season

Winter Season Alkathon

Saturday December 24th, 2022

Sunday December 25th, 2022

New Year's Alkathon

Saturday December 31st, 2022

Sunday January 1st, 2023



Alcoholics
Anonymous

DECEMBER 2022

Winter Season and New Years'

Virtual Alkathon

Winter Season Virtual Alkathon

Saturday December 24

12 noon to 12 midnight

Sunday December 25

4 p.m. to 12 midnight

(Event IDs and
PWs to follow)

New Year's Virtual Alkathon

Saturday December 31

12 noon start thru to

Sunday January 1

until 12 noon

(Event ID and
PW to follow)

CALLING ALL GTA ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GROUPS

If your group wants to host a meeting [contact our committee now](#).
Prime spots are moving fast!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

To be a Tech Host for the event.
Anyone with Zoom Hosting experience
is welcome; training also provided!
Minimal time commitment; maximum
service reward!

WANT TO JOIN OUR COMMITTEE?

It's not too late! Our next
meeting: **Mon December 12th at 7
PM** ID# 899 5764 1062 / PW 038086

Medallions

NAME	YEARS	GROUP	DRY DATE	CELEBRATION
Shae J.	5	Erin Mills	Nov 11, 2017	Dec 5 @ 8 PM
Syd W.	1	Fifth Tradition Group	Nov 18, 2021	Dec 6 @ 8 PM
Lyla L.	20	Erin Mills	Dec 2, 2002	Dec 12 @ 8 PM
Dave M.	1	Fifth Tradition Group	Dec 11, 2021	Dec 13 @ 8 PM

Meeting Changes

This pandemic has brought about incredible changes and quickly; please don't forget that our website and meeting list updates are dependant on you letting us know [here](#)

Opinions expressed in *BETTER TIMES* are those of the authors and don't necessarily reflect those of the [GTA A.A. Intergroup](#). The Editor reserves the right to edit for length, content and grammar in accordance with layout and quality purposes. Submit group news, medallions, other event notices to: webmaster@A.A.toronto.org. Letters or articles to the Editor (200–500 words) for *BETTER TIMES* at better_mes@A.A.toronto.org



GREATER TORONTO AREA
INTERGROUP

Winter Season Open House 2022

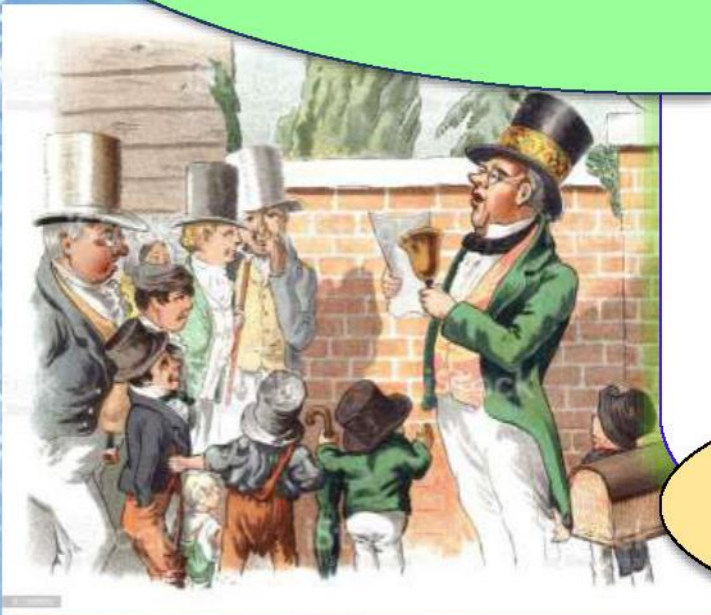
2022 Event Committee Volunteers are Welcome!

Come join us at our

Next committee meeting

Sunday December 11 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bloordale United Church, 4285 Bloor St. West, Etobicoke



Food contributions appreciated!

Turkeys ~ Hams ~ Sweets ~ Soft Drinks ~
Water ~ Snacks

**If you or your group can help, please
contact Tony Z. 416-836-7511**

WSOH@aatoronto.org

SUBCOMMITTEES:

**If you would like to have an information
table at the event, let us know so we
can make arrangements**

This year's event will be held

Sunday, December 25, 2022

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Roncesvalles United Church

240 Roncesvalles Avenue, Toronto

All Are Welcome

Fun, Food, Fellowship, AA and AI Anon Meetings – details to follow

Winter Season and New Years' Virtual Alkathon

**Calling all AA
Groups!!!**

18 meeting spots are still available!

If your group wants to host a meeting, [contact our committee now](#)

Prime Spots are moving fast!

CONTACT OUR COMMITTEE AT winterseasonvirtualalkathon@aatoronto.org

DATE	TIME	HOME GROUP HOSTING	DATE	TIME	HOME GROUP HOSTING
SAT. DEC.24	12 noon	GTA Intergroup	SUN. DEC.25	4:00 p.m.	AL-ANON/Family
	1:00 p.m.	Noon Rap		5:00 p.m.	TBA
	2:00 p.m.	The Dogs		6:00 p.m.	Responsibility
	3:00 p.m.	AL-ANON/Family		7:00 p.m.	TBA
	4:00 p.m.	Silverbirch		8:00 p.m.	Markland Wood
	5:00 p.m.	The Beaches		9:00 p.m.	TBA
	6:00 p.m.	Group Needed to Chair		10:00 p.m.	TBA
	7:00 p.m.	Mississauga		11:00 p.m.	TBA
	8:00 p.m.	Gay Sober Men		12 Midnight	TBA
	9:00 p.m.	Welcome			
	10:00 p.m.	Group Needed to Chair			
	11:00 p.m.	Group Needed to Chair			

DATE	TIME	HOME GROUP HOSTING	DATE	TIME	HOME GROUP HOSTING
SAT. DEC.31	12 noon	Gladstone	SUN. JAN.1	12 Midnight	Mount Royal-York
	1:00 p.m.	The Hill		1:00 a.m.	TBA
	2:00 p.m.	Birds of a Feather		2:00 a.m.	TBA
	3:00 p.m.	Traditions & Concepts		3:00 a.m.	TBA
	4:00 p.m.	AL-ANON		4:00 a.m.	TBA
	5:00 p.m.	No Nonsense		5:00 a.m.	TBA
	6:00 p.m.	Open Hands		6:00 a.m.	Markland Wood
	7:00 p.m.	One Paragraph at a Time		7:00 a.m.	TBA
	8:00 p.m.	Anniversary		8:00 a.m.	Credit Valley
	9:00 p.m.	TBA		9:00 a.m.	Love & Tolerance
	10:00 p.m.	TBA		10:00 a.m.	AL-ANON
	11:00 p.m.	TBA		11:00 a.m.	GTA Intergroup



Virtual Meetings on the hour; every hour:

Sat. December 24 - 12 noon until 12 midnight*

Sun. December 25 - 4:00 p.m until 12 midnight*

Sat. December 31 - 12 noon until 12 midnight*

Sun. January 1st - 12 midnight until 12 noon*

Meeting IDs and Passcodes to Follow

KEEP COMING BACK!

OARC 2023



IN-PERSON EVENT! MARCH 17-19, 2023

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Craig F. - Glasgow, Scotland (Banquet Speaker)
America K. - Los Angeles / Paul G. - Cleveland
Tina A. - Los Angeles / Christina G. - Cleveland



**Register today and book your room
at Sheraton Toronto at aaorc.ca**

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel 123 Queen St. West, Toronto, ON
Ontario Regional Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous



**PHONE GREETERS
ARE NEEDED**

24/7/365

**Call
416-487-5591**

**Or sign up for a
shift by emailing
12step@aatoronto.org**

Check Out These Other Service Opportunities!

Express your interest by sending an email. It's that simple to give back what has been so freely given to you and me!

[Information Technology \(IT\)](#)
[Finance](#)
[Winter Season Open House](#)

[Twelfth Step & Phone Greeters](#)
[Operating](#) (formerly Executive)
[Communications](#) (Better Times Needs Writers!)

BBeaches Group



Tuesday December 13 at 8pm (in-person)

Kew Beach United Church, 140 Wineva Ave. (east of Lee Ave., north of Queen St. E.).

On Tuesday December 13, 2022 at 8 pm (in-person) the [Beaches Group](#) will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary. All [A.A.](#) members are invited to join us and experience this 75th Milestone Celebration in Carrying the Message to the Still Suffering Alcoholic!!!

The Open Meeting will be chaired by Paul McA., the longest sober group member with 54 years of sobriety. Paul's dry date is December 13, 1968. The guest speaker



will be Al R. from the [Fellowship Group](#) in Toronto. Al celebrated 50 years of sobriety this past July.

The Beach Group (original name of the group) was started on December 7th, 1947 by Wilf D. (dry date Aug. 6, 1946) and Fred H. (dry date April 13, 1946). The two members belonged to the "1170" Yonge Street meeting and felt that an A.A. group was needed in the area where they lived. In late 1977 the group changed its name to the Beaches Group to reflect the name change of the area.

The group's first location (Dec. 1947- Sept. 1958) was at Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church on Queen St. E. across from the old Woodbine Racetrack. The second location (Sept. 1958- Aug. 2010) was at Bellefair United Church on Queen St. E. opposite Kew Gardens. The third location (Aug. 2010- Dec. 2013) was at St. Aidan's Church



on 70 Silver Birch Ave. The fourth location (Jan. 2014-May 2014) held on Saturday nights was at St. John Norway Church on 470 Woodbine Ave. The fifth and present location (June 3, 2014- present) is at the Kew Beach United Church.

The group has always held its open meeting on Tuesday nights. The meeting time started at 8:30 pm and in April 1999 the time was changed to 8:00 pm. In July 2009 a rotating step/tradition discussion meeting was started and held on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm.

The group started a virtual discussion meeting on March 17, 2020 because of the covid virus outbreak. This meeting was held for 1 year and 5 months. Then on Sept. 7, 2021 in-person meetings were held for the next 4 months with a maximum of 25 people in the room. On January 11, 2022 the discussion meeting went back virtually for a month. On February 22, 2022 to present the discussion and open meetings are back in-person. The group business meeting changed from Tuesday (in-person) to Monday (virtual) on March 7, 2022. Today, the Beaches Group has 55 members. There are 25 women and 30 men in the group.

Come and join us in this "Celebration and the Fellowship of the Spirit" on Tuesday December 13th at 8pm in-person. —**Eddy G.** [Beaches Group](#)





- On Dec. 16, 1943, 80 people attended the first A.A. banquet at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Today this event is called the [Ontario Regional Conference \(ORC\)](#). On March 17-19, 2023 the ORC will celebrate 80 years.
- On Dec. 1, 1985 the first Annual [Archives](#) Breakfast in Toronto was held at the Howard Johnson Motel at Hwy 427 and Dixon Rd. This event was started by the Toronto Intergroup Archives Committee (today the [GTA Archives Committee](#)) to raise money and be self-supporting. The event also brings the Good Old Timers and other members together and raises awareness on the importance of archives.
- On Dec. 7, 1934 Bill W. decided to investigate the Calvary Mission at 246 E. 23rd St., NY. He showed up drunk with a drinking companion he found along the way (Alec the Finn). Bill kept interrupting the service wanting to speak. On the verge of being ejected, Ebby T. came by and fed Bill a plate of beans. Bill later joined the penitents and drunkenly "testified" at the meeting.
- On Dec. 11, 1934 Bill W., 39 years old, decided to go back to Towns Hospital in NY and had his last drink (4 bottles of beer purchased on the way). He received financial help from his mother Emily for the hospital bill.
- On Dec. 18, 1934 Bill W. left from Towns Hospital in NY and began working with alcoholics. He and Lois attended Oxford Group meetings at Calvary Hall in Calvary House in NY on 4th Avenue. After meetings Bill and other Oxford Group alcoholics met at Stewart's Cafeteria near the mission. Attendees included Rowland H. and Ebby T.
- The Dec. 1947 [Grapevine](#) reported that a new 48-page pamphlet titled "A.A. Tradition" was sent to each group and that enough copies were available for each member to have one free of charge. It was A.A.'s first piece of literature dedicated totally to the Traditions.
- In Dec 1948, Dr. Bob gave his last talk in Detroit.



OLD GTA MEETING BOOKS ARE NEEDED FOR THE GTA ARCHIVES
TO DONATE A.A. GTA ARCHIVAL ITEMS, PLEASE CONTACT THE
GTA ARCHIVIST EDDY G. at 416-536-7536



GREATER TORONTO AREA INTERGROUP

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Rexdale Breakfast Meeting Martin Grove United Church 75 Pergola Rd Etobicoke 9 AM Saturday

Rexdale Breakfast Group has been active in Toronto over 40 years. We used to meet at the Catalina restaurant in the back of the restaurant near the bar. After the meeting the members would eat breakfast at the restaurant. However that was years ago and the restaurant is no longer there.

Rexdale Breakfast Group is a service meeting which is good for newcomers. It begins with a 15 minute speaker followed by a topic discussion. The format for the topic discussion is based on the letter of the alphabet from A to Z. If, for example, we were on the letter "I" this week the discussion would be based on Illness, Inferiority, and Immaturity.

There is lots of parking in the Church Parking Lot. We're at Martin Grove United Church, 75 Pergola Rd, Etobicoke. There is a bus stop right across from the church.—**Rexdale Breakfast Meeting**



GROUPS BEGUN IN DECEMBER

Dec. 22, 1974 - [High Park Group](#)
Dec. 7, 1982 - [Last Chance Group](#)
Dec 6, 2013 - [Whitby Freethinkers](#)
Dec. 7, 1947 - [Beaches Group](#)
Dec. 7, 1956 - [Islington Group](#)
Dec. 21, 1973 - [Twelfth Tradition](#)