



# Kickstand

News and views of the Toronto Wings – Chapter T of the Goldwing Touring Association  
October 2005

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Linda Pennock  
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## Coffee Nights

Every Thursday 8:00 p.m.  
Tim Horton's Donuts  
4400 Dufferin Street  
(on Dufferin – south of finch)

## Breakfast Meetings (in the winter)

(Date & location determined each month)  
check out our webpage for changes  
as we often try new locations in the winter

## Web Site

<http://www.torontowings.com>  
(check regularly for meetings and changes)

## Ramblings from the Editor(s)

Hello everyone. Since no one has axed us from this job as editors, we are still tempting fate. It's October already and Halloween is just a few weeks away. Weather has gotten a little cooler and we are all trying to get in more rides before snow and ice hit.



I've got new oil and lube (Bob this is for you) and both tires replaced on my wing. Linda still has to clean her virago before it is put away. Don't forget that gas stabilizer. Linda may be ready to put her bike away but I am not. I'm faithfully still riding my virago to school unless it rains.



I just wanted to share a general comment again about safety. It really hit me when I was on the Toma ride, this year how vulnerable we are on our bikes. I must have ridden close to 20,000 km and then went on the Toma ride. I remember talking with Big Pete Hicklin before we all took off for the event. "Bit of rain never deterred a real biker right" we joked. Peter was looking forward to the ride.

There were about 150 bikes in 3 main



groups. As it turned out, one biker and his wife went down 2 bikes ahead of Tom who was in group one. The woman on the back was thrown in the air. Both were able to walk away unharmed. Tom advised her to get checked out at a hospital anyway. Tom told me about this incident at the first check point.

Ed and I were at the back of group two as we made our way to Hamilton. 7 bikes ahead us pulled off to get gas. When we arrived in Hamilton at the conclusion of the ride, we heard someone had gone down and was killed.

I have never been on a ride where someone had died. I am still upset by this 1 month later. I told Linda about these 2 accidents when I got home and then switched on the 6 pm news to get more accurate info.

I recognized the hill that was now blocked off on TV. Was the person killed one of those that had pulled off to get gas from my group? Were they trying to catch up to us? What made the group stop just over a hill. Of course there would be no visibility and/or enough reaction time for any vehicle to stop coming from behind? Answers I'll never know.

Later I heard Big Pete was the one performing CPR on the woman who went down. Thank God Peter was there but her time was up despite his efforts.

So now lets change my attitude. Is the glass *only* ½ full or is the perspective “Wow I still have ½ a glass left”. Good things can come from this situation. It has made me stop and think yes “I am an accident waiting to happen” when I ride the bike. Yes ..it does not matter how cautious you are, it is just a matter of time but I can choose to go on safer

rides.

In retrospect this year I have been on 3 GWTA rides that were well organized. The leaders and sweeps had good signals and communication. For those of us with CB's we could hear “watch out for the sand on the turn” etc. People pointed out the dead animals on the road etc. The attitude of a GWTA rider seems to be not just destination friendship but also arrive alive and be safe.

I complement the 3 GWTA chapter organizers for the safe rides I went on this year: May-MADD ride, Aug-Hurononia ride and the Sept Barrie Toyride. Lets put more emphasis on rider education and safety for next year so we can really enjoy what we do best. Ride safely, be an example to others and chose your rides carefully.

rose

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### ***Toronto Wings Membership:***

Alex and Geri Biller, Carolin and Chris, Peter Quan have their memberships expiring in October...Its easy to renew on line at [www.torontowings.com](http://www.torontowings.com). Just follow the instructions on line or print out a copy and send it to the USA.

Renewals completed by Paul and Sharon Haberman. Welcome to Olga Dickie our latest addition

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### **No October Birthdays to announce**

Linda wants to know your days/month Please reply: [bikechick222](mailto:bikechick222)

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*Photo's from Bike Rides*

Red Knights TOMA RIDE September



Alex and Rose ready to go



Ed waits at curve



1<sup>st</sup> check point stop



Eating hamburgers in Hamilton



Jaws of life demo



Our hero's at scenes of accidents

Barrie Toyride SEPTEMBER

I sent Cec (barrie webmaster) 6 photos of his event which he posted on their website. Very well run event. Great leader and sweep combo.

[http://www.wingz.ca/toy\\_ride\\_2005.htm](http://www.wingz.ca/toy_ride_2005.htm)



...check Linda out on her last ride after 6 weeks of no riding!

## My trip on the TAIL of a DRAGON

My dream come true was undoubtedly riding *DEALS GAP* this summer, with my partner Rose. Having said that however the only way Rose knows how to get somewhere is to ride like the end of the world is trying to catch up with you and you need to stay in front of it. The pace was furious. As we left Ontario it was raining on and off and the temperatures were around 31<sup>0</sup> C. The weather didn't dampen our spirits as the adventure was just beginning.



We meet all kinds of other travelers on the road and 2 days later in the Smokey Mountains we were greeted by a cool 90<sup>0</sup> F despite our elevation.

Now you have to remember Rose sits on a goldwing and my rear sits on a virago. Big difference. It took us 2 days to get there and it was worth every grueling KM.



Our home base was Robbinsville N.C.

for the next few days. We planned our rides well and enjoyed the scenery I now know why they are called them the "Smokey Mountains" because even at 2:00pm there is mist in them there mountains.



Deals Gap also called "tail of the dragon" is 318 curves in 11 miles. Or as I like to call it "the best damn road I've ever been on". I guess that's why we road it as often as we could make excuses to get back on it (for Rose that meant 12 times) and she even did it 2 up with me on the back of her goldwing several times ! WOW !

The people of North Carolina are very friendly. What fond memories I have of this trip to carry with me for the rest of my life. Rose even managed to squeeze in a ride up Mount Washington on a rare gorgeous clear day.

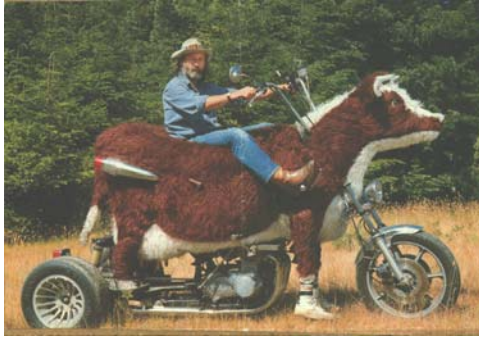
Rose is dying to go back there while I am still recovering. It pays to be tall and able to ride a goldwing. There are lots of great places to go and we look forward to our new adventures in 2006. After all what else is there to do in the winter in Canada except to internet and find those new roads less traveled.

Your roving reporter  
Linda

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Nedda still has tickets for Pickering's Halloween Dance. Come join us and let your goulish side play for a day.

Need a winning costume....



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"Hit and Run" our Humor Attempt



ok kid.....sign here!



Think a wing is more comfortable?

### BIKE FOR HIM....



### BIKE FOR HER....



Scooter for Seniors

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Please submit photo's and articles to Nedda for our next newsletter.

Rose & Linda