



TaraNotes

Fall Issue: 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear TaraNova Members:

Our 25th year is going strong! I am very pleased to again report that maintenance fees did NOT increase for 2017. Dues remained the same for 2015, 2016 and now 2017! I would like to thank the board for their on-going commitment to oversee the Club operations and to ensure a positive and healthy outlook for TaraNova.

Members are travelling all over the world, not just to their home resorts. We have noticed more of our members are taking their grandchildren on their holidays. Parents and grandparents appreciate the added convenience of a kitchen for family meals and are thankful for space to unwind and to spend quiet family time after hectic fun-filled days.

Through RCI, Orlando Florida continues to be a preferred location for TaraNova members with little ones. Children, parents and grandparents alike love theme parks. Our SeaWatch Myrtle Beach location is also a favourite destination with golf courses, miles of sandy beach, great fishing, restaurants and many attractions nearby. Our Costa Rica resort continues to be a location to enjoy an exciting week full of activities. From world class white-water rafting, hot springs, zip lining, hiking through the rainforest and so many other eco-tour adventures. Our tour operator, Mark at Sol Tropical (www.soltropical.com) is always ready to assist in making your stay an exciting vacation. If you enjoy snow, the slopes of Tahoe and New Hampshire are right outside our resorts. Ski the mountains in the winter or hike the mountains in the summer and enjoy the clean air and beautiful views. With TaraNova, there is an abundance of excitement waiting for you in 2017.

We had a record hot summer that I'm sure we all enjoyed, but soon we will be changing tires and shoveling snow. Winter is just around the corner and many of our members have their winter vacations confirmed. Some even have their 2018 weeks reserved! If you have not already made your plans, don't take a moment longer to reserve your vacation spot. We still have availability for 2016 weeks including Christmas and New Years in some resorts. Reservations are being confirmed every day, so make sure you contact us as early as possible to try to secure your desired dates and locations. Once they are booked, they are gone!

In this edition of TaraNotes we have Letters from Members and also interesting RCI facts and some useful travel hints. As always, the staff at the TaraNova head office is eager to assist you with your vacation plans. We wish you, your family and friends Best Wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season and a fantastic year!

Regards, Teresa Knapp

Nominations for the TaraNova Board of Directors

Your Board of Governors exercises jurisdiction over and ultimately controls your resort properties, approves the annual budget and fully understands how the Club is managed. Every year at least one Board Member is elected to a 3-year term to ensure continuity of experience. In June 2016, Mac Walker and Walter Klywak were both elected by acclamation. There will be two vacancies available on the Board for election in June 2017. Clarence Clark and Michael Sudbury have advised they will seek re-election. All members in good standing may seek election. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please notify Teresa Knapp, in writing, prior to December 31, 2016. If there are more candidates running for election than vacancies, a short bio of those seeking election will be distributed in the spring mailing along with an election ballot.

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TaraNova does it Again!!

NO increase in Maintenance Fees for 2017

We maintain low maintenance fees, with favourable trade value within the RCI system. We have floating weeks so our members can travel to the TaraNova resorts at different times of the year and to different locations. There are no extra fees for high priority weeks and all our TaraNova units are at least 2 bedrooms with many 3 bedroom units.

Many of our members are utilizing 2 weeks simply by exchanging their 1 week of TaraNova accommodation through RCI for other resort locations.

**TaraNova is dedicated to personalized customer service.
Your needs are important to us!**



The **American Resort Development Association (ARDA)** is the Washington D.C.-based trade association representing the vacation ownership and resort development industries (timeshares). **ARDA** has nearly 750 corporate members ranging from privately held firms to publicly traded corporations with extensive experience in shared ownership interests in leisure real estate. The membership also includes timeshare owner associations (HOAs), resort management companies, industry vendors, suppliers, and consultants.

ARDA has a code of ethics, collects industry information and presents its findings through its reports, and lobbies for government legislation.



At the **Co-operative Association of Resort Exchangers (CARE)** conference held in May 2016 a report was presented by **ARDA** on the overall average maintenance fees within the timeshare/vacation club industry. The study was based on 2014 recorded maintenance fees. It was reported that the average maintenance fee in 2014 for a 2 bedroom unit was \$900US/week. For a 3 bedroom unit the maintenance fee was \$1,200US/week. TaraNova maintenance fees for 2017 are still well below the 2014 industry average. TaraNova continues to offer lower maintenance fees and personalized customer service with friendly, knowledgeable staff to assist you with all your TaraNova vacation needs.

MAINTENANCE FEE BREAKOUTS

2014 Industry Average Maintenance Fees

<u>Unit Type</u>	<u>Maintenance Fee</u>
Studio	\$ 540.00 USD
1 BD	\$ 695.00 USD
2 BD	\$ 900.00 USD
3 BD*	\$ 1,200.00 USD
Overall Average	\$ 880.00 USD

The above table represents the ARDA reported industry averages for 2014 Maintenance Fees.

TaraNova 2017 Maintenance Fees are well below the industry average.



TARANOVA SOCIAL GATHERING

The Social Gathering held this past May was well attended. Rosanne Guanabara presented information on TaraNova and answered questions from members.

Mac Walker has again offered to set up another Social Evening. The last social gatherings were held in Georgetown and this time, Mac is considering a meeting for the Mississauga-Brampton area.

TaraNova will send a separate e-mail to all members inviting them to attend the meeting once the date and venue have been confirmed.

Any member that would like to assist Mac or set up their own Social Gathering, please contact either TaraNova at 416-499-8600 or Mac Walker directly at 905-627-2820

PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

Each country has specific entry requirements for Canadians or any other citizen from another country for entry into their country. Always check on the government website to verify entry requirements for the country you wish to visit. You may need a VISA or specific vaccines. Also, check for any alerts that may be issued with respect to the country you are planning to visit. For example: www.bahamas.com/entry-requirements* This site states that if you are Canadian you will not require a visa and you may stay for a maximum of 8 months. However, you must have a Canadian passport with an expiry date that is NOT less than 3 months after leaving the Bahamas (for direct travel) and NOT less than 6 months (if transiting through other countries such as the US). Each country's requirements may change from time to time. **TaraNova cannot verify the validity of the contents of this website at the time you travel and we suggest you follow due diligence to ensure you have the proper information and documentation.*

Canadian citizens may now receive a passport that will not expire for 10 years. If you are planning to travel outside of Canada, make sure you have your passport and all required documentation. We suggest that you keep a copy of your passport at home or on a secure computer so that you have the information should you require it while you are absent from Canada. We also suggest that you find out the contact information of the nearest Canadian Consulate. For our non-Canadian members, please make sure to check on any requirements and contacts pertaining to your current passports.

CAP Cancellation Administration Package

We know you look forward to your well-deserved, hard earned vacation. Sometimes circumstances arise when you just need to cancel your plans. The CAP allows you to cancel your TaraNova Resort Reservation for ANY REASON at ANY TIME with no extra cancellation fees and protects your week to be used later. Contact TaraNova for more information on the CAP* (*Some restrictions may apply).

INSURANCE: In addition to the CAP, TaraNova recommends members check with their travel agent or home owner's insurance to ensure they have adequate protection for: travel; health; trip interruption; car; air and other transportation; theft; and all other insurance as may be useful during your vacation.

Dates to Remember

November 15, 2016

LAST day to bank 2016 week into RCI.

If you have not banked your 2016 week,

Contact: club@taranova.com.

If your week is not utilized by this date you may lose your week. We still have weeks available at TaraNova resorts. They are going fast!

December 1, 2016

2017 Maintenance Fees due.

Review the attached Information, or

Review it on line at: www.taranova.com

December 31, 2016

Last Day to advise TaraNova in writing of your intent to seek election to the Board.

Winners of TaraNova Survey!

Thank you to the members that filled in our TaraNova Survey. Those that answered the survey were entered into a draw to win one free week of accommodation at a TaraNova resort or one week into their RCI account. Congratulations Lisa B & Pat M winners of the "Survey Draw". Also, we congratulate those members who were selected to receive a free upgrade. Please remember that by answering any survey, it will help the Club to better understand anticipate membership needs.

For more information on additional weeks, amendments, transfers or any other TaraNova related issue please contact: Rosanne Guanabara, Club Supervisor
416-499-8600 ext. 30 or rosanne@taranova.com

Check out www.rci.com for all the benefits and features of your RCI membership.

The earlier you deposit your TaraNova week into RCI, the greater your "Trade Value" will be!

Many of our members have confirmed 2-RCI weeks for their 1-TaraNova week. Some even have "Value" left over for a last minute get-away or they have combined their weeks.

There will be more opportunity for RCI to offer you a match if you are flexible as to the size of unit, location, dates, or type of resort. Make sure to check for anything specific, such as accessibility units, pet policy or any other special requirements. Also, investigate air flights and any other travel arrangements before you confirm your week.

There are NO ADDITIONAL SEARCH fees!

Once you initiate and pay the "Exchange Fee" RCI will search for your desired vacation. By paying the Exchange Fee, you will be placed on a wait list and RCI will contact you if a potential match is found. If you do not accept any RCI matches, you may request that RCI refund your Exchange Payment or initiate a new search.

As at Oct 31, 2016 the following number of weeks were showing as available through RCI.com for check-in between Jan 1-April 22, 2017. RCI members are exchanging and depositing weeks daily, so the inventory continually changes. Don't wait!*

***38,590 available units**

***29,746 needed 10 or under trade value**

***5,300 were 2 bedroom units (under 10 value)**

***For illustration purposes only. Peek at a few of the resorts that were showing availability on rci.com**

Orlando's Sunshine Resort II (#5592) Orlando, FL



Rating: ★★★★★

The Cliffs at Peace Canyon (#6389) Las Vegas, NV



Rating: ★★★★★

The Royal Harbour Resort (#3982) Thornbury, Canada



Rating: ★★★★★

Vitality Assurance at Collingwood (#D571) Ontario



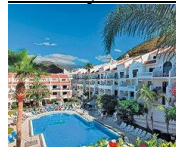
Rating: ★★★★★

Holiday Inn Club Vacations at Ascutney Mountain Resort (#A430) Brownsville, VT



Rating: ★★★★★

Beverly Hills Heights (#2398) Tenerife, Canary Isl



Rating: ★★★★★

Grand Lake Resort (#4300) Kissimmee, FL



Rating: ★★★★★



Letters from Members

Congratulations Mark & Elizabeth, WINNERS of an RCI week! We love to hear from our members. Just mail, fax or e-mail telling us about your vacation. Your name will be entered into the draw and you too may win a week into your RCI account courtesy of TARANOVA! Your letters let us know what we are doing right, and in some cases – things that need to be brought to our attention. We value all your input which helps us to provide you with great TaraNova vacations!

Dear Rosanne: How are you and the fine team at TaraNova?

We have just returned from spending a week in the Berkshires at the Berkshires Mountain Lodge in Pittsfield. This is a very good location and close to the many place of interest we were able to visit, like the Clark Institute of Art, the MOCA, Williamstown University Art Gallery and The Berkshires Botanical Gardens. This is our second visit to the area and we managed to see many different attractions we were not able to see the previous time. We preferred Berkshire Mountain Lodge to where we stayed the previous visit not only because of the location but because of the special attention of the people who work there, in particular, the front desk staff.

One small detail that irked us was the fact the one could only get 1 (one) roll of toilet tissue each time additional supplies were requested. Regards,Regards, Glynis H

Hi Rosanne:

It was lovely speaking with you and, thank you for the amazing recommendations. Thank you once gain for all your help with my booking.

My kids are so excited now we are booked. The resort looks very nice. I will make sure to connect with you when we return and let you know how it went.

Have a great day!! Marta R

With your approval, I'd like to book 3 consecutive weeks at SeaWatch.... My kids and their families have agreed to come each for one of those weeks whereby requiring a minimum accommodation for 6 people each week. Thank you so much for your suggestions and recommendations, this is certainly a workable solution for my family and I.

You are the Best!Ian D

Editor's Note: Thank you for prepaying your dues and requesting your weeks early. By requesting your weeks almost a year in advance, we could assist you in making your family vacation become a reality.

My wife and I were recently retired and have been members of TaraNova Vacation Club since 1992. As the Canadian dollar was low at 75 cents US and the price of gasoline was reasonable at below a dollar, we decided to spend our vacation week in Canada and within driving distance. We chose Mountain View Villas at Cranberry (#0538) and spent our vacation week after the Labour Day weekend. The resort is only 2 hours drive from Mississauga, via either Hurontario Street or Airport Road. We were pleasantly surprised that Collingwood is a beautiful scenic vacation spot literally right in our own backyard.

Casino Rama runs complimentary bus shuttle on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with pick-ups at convenient locations near our resort. It also offers free buffets to participants. As it was our first time at the Casino, my wife and I each received free \$10 credits on our player's cards when we signed up. With my credits, I won \$25 on the slot machines.

Although this resort is popular for its winter activities, with Blue Mountain ski slopes nearby, it too is an excellent get-away spot during the summer. Wasaga beach is only 20 minutes away. Many festivals are hosted by nearby countries between June and August. They are a blast for both young and old.

My wife and I will certainly visit this resort again. Sincerely..... Mark & Elizabeth T

