

In the Spotlight – Canada

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Canada is the world’s second largest country, second only to Russia in total area. It is fourth in total landmass due to having the most lakes (nearly [2 million](#)) and waterways. According to Canada.ca, the name Canada comes from the Iroquoian word for village . . . “Between 1534 and 1542, Jacques Cartier made three voyages across the Atlantic, claiming the land for King Francis I of France. Cartier heard two captured guides speak the Iroquoian word kanata, meaning ‘village.’ By the 1550s, the name of Canada began appearing on maps.”

Although many parts were claimed by France, both France and the United Kingdom continued to explore the inland regions of Canada. After the 7 Years War, France fell on hard times, and gave up claim of these various territories to the United Kingdom at the [Treaty of Paris](#) in 1763. Other provinces eventually merged and expanded the UK territory. It would not be until 1931 when Canada was given full country status, but remained dependent on the United Kingdom until 1982, when all dependencies were eliminated in the [Constitution Act of 1982](#).

Moving on to the Hash House Harriers, Canada was the 85th country to get a hash of their own. Just one year after eliminating their dependence on the United Kingdom, Canada was once again invaded by the British Empire in the form of the **Calgary H3**. As the first hash club to form in Canada (Alberta), the Calgary H3 was founded by Mike 'Oombala' Carr on 30 May 1983. Oombala had been hashing in Jakarta, Indonesia before bringing the sport to Calgary. Over the ensuing years, other hash clubs would be formed in Calgary including the Calgary FM H3 in 1993, Calgary Kids H3 in 1997, Calgary Only Goes Sometimes H3 in 1997, and the Calgary Dog H3 in 2001. The Calgary H3 is still actively hashing every Monday evening at 7 pm, and has completed over 2350 hash trails.



Calgary had the sole hash in Canada for only 5 months, until 4 Nov 1983, the **Prince George H3** was founded in the province of British Columbia. Not much else is know about this club, other than the founder was Dan 'Lucubrator' Domes according to the HHH Genealogy.



It would not be until 27 May 1985, before a hash formed in the eastern part of Canada when Tony Egan founded the **Ottawa H3** in the province of Ontario. Tony had been hashing in the capital city of the Sudan, with the Khartoum H3. He was assisted by his wife Maureen, Scott Hetherington formerly of the Moscow H3, and Bob Archambault who had come in from Tokyo. The Ottawa H3 is still actively hashing on Monday evenings, and have completed over 2100 hash trails.

Two years later, five more hash clubs would form in 1987. The **Hogan's H3** (also in Ontario, in Toronto) was founded by Duncan 'Plunger' Plastow in January, bringing his hash experience from South Korea, where he had been running with the Seoul H3. Hogan's hashers meet regularly, on the last Friday of the month.

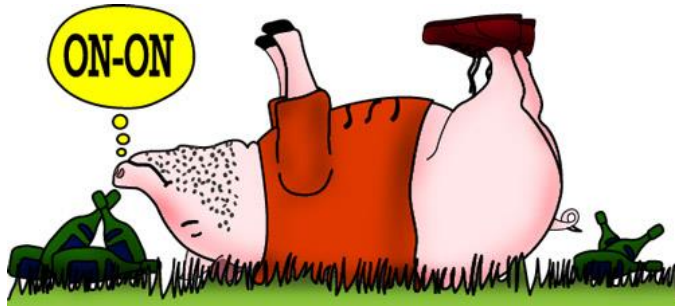


Next, we go way out west to the Pacific coast for the founding of the **Vancouver H3** on 6 April 1987. Coming over from the Singapore H3, Chris Griffiths established this club with the assistance of Lorraine Griffiths, Anthony 'Gobsheit' Ussher, and 'Rump Roast.' The Vancouver H3 still actively hashes on Wednesday evenings.

For the next two hash clubs, as Obi-Wan Kenobi would say . . . *We have a disturbance in the force.* As you may recall, Bill Panton built the hash genealogy by grabbing every bit of a trace of any hash club he could find in documents, hash trash, or direct submissions. Originally assembled on a long sheet of plotter paper, these tidbits were eventually digitized into the online listing we see today. Those thousands of bits of data were all manually typed into the matrix, and sometimes things get mixed up, as we see here. The University of Victoria is 2400 kms west of Winnipeg, so it seems odd that they both would have the same founders, on the same day . . . so if anyone out there has any info on either of these clubs that could shed some light on their actual information, please let me know.

Nearby and just to the south of Vancouver, the **University of Victoria H3** may have set their first trail on 22 September 1987, and may have been founded by Bob Mason and assisted by Bob Ashman, nothing more is know of this hash club. On the other hand, headed back east to the middle of the country, the first **Winnipeg H3** might have been founded in the province of Manitoba also on 22 September 1987 by Bob Mason, assisted by Bob Ashman. There have been two follow-on iterations of the Winnipeg H3. Depending on the data listed above, the original or second Winnipeg H3 was founded by Leslie 'Sagebush' Watson in December 1996. That club eventually floundered, and the current Winnipeg H3 was founded on 3 May 1998 by Denzil 'Tin Man' Feinberg.





The last new hash club of 1987, and the second to form in Toronto, also by Duncan 'Plunger' Plastow, was the Hogtown H3 founded in November as a mixed hash. This time he was assisted by 'Dumppo' and 'Scratch.' Still very active, the Hogtown H3 used to run on alternating Mondays and Saturdays, full moons, and various

other special occasions, but has settled into a regular Saturday rotation now.

Wrapping up the 1980s, the Sarnia H3 was founded on 11 September 1988 by Tom 'Scorecard' Chester who came over from the Pattaya H3 in Thailand. He was assisted by Jerry 'Gypsy' Balieu. This club is still very active, and run on various days, so you will need to check their [website](#) for the details.



After these first 8 or 9 clubs were established, another 58 clubs have started (and some faded away) throughout Canada, for a total of 67 known clubs. Only 29 are believed to be active at this time, and you can see the entire listing on their [national website](#).



On the international scene, Canada has hosted the **InterAmericas Hash** twice, first in 1993 in Calgary, and a second time in 2005 in Toronto. And I also witnessed Mr. Peeeenut taking the stage in Hobart at Interhash 2000, and offering a potential bid for Interhash 2006 to be hosted in Edmonton. Although that bid never developed, the Canadians are certainly a great asset to the hashing community. Other notables in

Canada, Ra hosts the [Half-Mind Catalog](#) that was passed down to him from Flying Booger several years ago, as well as his [On-On Podcast](#).



I have fond memories of the Hogtown H3, starting with the very first time I visited them in December 1995. Dashing through the snow, it was a cold day in Toronto, so getting inside and putting some dry clothes on felt great. During circle, I had the pleasure to meet two very enthusiastic hashers that not only knew many hash songs, but had also written many of their own. After circle, I enjoyed singing for over an hour with Rose-eh and Sex Toy, two very accomplished hashers, and the major driving force behind InterAm 2005.