

# OTR

## W ON THE ROAD

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

**TWILIGHT FOREST'S**  
**Jorge de la Garza**  
Co-Owner and  
Operator **PG.7**



## TWILIGHT FOREST



Nested in the core of the Oak Ridges Moraine, **Twilight Forest** is looking at offering the public the opportunity to be outdoors in a convenient and affordable way all year round through the rental and sale of fat bikes, electric bikes, fishing kayaks and snow shoes to enjoy nature in every season.

Jorge de la Garza, co-founder of Twilight Forest, moved to York Region back in 2001 and started to discover all of the wonders that the area provides. Jorge is a life and outdoors enthusiast who enjoys camping, hiking, biking, snow shoeing and kayaking and enjoys being in nature all year round. Being a mechanical and industrial engineer, Jorge worked for different companies over the years following the traditional 9 to 5ish schedule, which often ended up being more like a 9 to whenever he would finish his duties. Like most of us, this left him with only weekends or vacation days to do the activities he loved outside of work, as it typically requires a few hours to travel to the traditional camping, hiking, biking, kayaking locations such as provincial parks, to enjoy being in nature.

When Jorge moved to Stouffville to his property next to the York Regional Forest, he realized how wonderful the Oak Ridges Moraine is and how convenient it is to have one of the most lush forests in our province in literally our back yard, without having to spend hours to get there to enjoy a good hike or bike ride. He had heard about fat bikes and how well they handle sandy terrain and snow, as well as electric bikes being very popular in Europe as they help people to tackle hills with very little effort enabling them to go further or to areas they never thought they could reach. Jorge thought it would be a great opportunity to offer fat bikes and electric bikes for visitors, and why not equipment for the snow too. For those of us who enjoy hiking alike, having access to snow shoes will allows us to enjoy the snowy hills of the forest during the winter months and explore the terrain on foot.

As Jorge continued to explore the area looking for places where

to kayak, he discovered the beauty of the shores of Lake Simcoe that is less than 45 minutes away for most of York Region residents. He recalls being surprised about how warm the water gets in the summer months at the shore and how nice it is to launch a kayak from a sandy beach or go for a swim. During his kayaking journeys he talked to many boaters and fellow kayakers and learned about how good fishing can be on Lake Simcoe and also about how beautiful the marsh ecosystem is along the Holland River, which feeds lake Simcoe with water from streams and rivers all over York Region.

After 20+ years of working for multiple corporations and dealing with high stress levels and very little time to be in nature, Jorge decided to follow his passions and start Twilight Forest with the mission of offering people a way to "reinvent being in nature". Reinvent how convenient it can be to spend time outdoors through renting a bike or a kayak that is delivered to the forest or the lake and simply ride or paddle. Not worrying about where to store the equipment at home or getting the appropriate racks to carry it around.

He also thought about a way of getting more people off their electronic devices and get them out to enjoy fresh air, exercise and reconnect with their surroundings by watching forest animals, birds and plants alike. He would like to see more people enjoying the pleasure of riding a bike and provide the opportunity for less fit people or seniors who thought biking was out of their scope, to ride again using an electric bike. Finally, for some of us who are afraid of getting into a kayak as we may tip it, we learned that the fishing kayaks that Twilight Forest is offering are so stable that you can stand on them and use them as a paddle board, so that gives us great piece of mind. We may still enjoy the fun of jumping into the water and go for a swim while on the lake to refresh and cool off on this scorching hot summer!

[www.twilightforest.ca](http://www.twilightforest.ca), 905-888-6659