



# OCAsional news

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EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

- Happiness is the reward of service to others. -

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can you open your monthly calendar and mark down NOVEMBER 15, 1988 at 7:00 p.m.? Please plan to come on this date to Boardroom 1E at the Sport Ontario Offices, 1220 Sheppard Ave. E., for THE MOST IMPORTANT VOTING MEETING THIS ASSOCIATION HAS HAD IN MANY YEARS.

The culmination of our Operational Review takes place with this all important vote on our new Constitution. We need a minimum of 10 percent of the voting members there to support us in this change that affects the direction, the growth, the future of the Ontario Camping Association.

Please bring your questions. Please support us. We need YOU.

JANE McCUTCHEON  
President

## EDITORIAL

Our daughter started her university career at Queens this September sharing a basement room at Vic Hall with three other students. She was most grateful for this somewhat cramped accomodation, as over the summer she had resigned herself to the fact that having lost out on the lottery she might not get a space in residence at all. Three weeks into the term, she was notified that she could now move into a spacious, third floor, corner room. Her joy was another's sorrow.

The previous occupant had been on the phone every night to her parents tearfully pleading with them to come and take her home. She didn't like it. She had no friends. No one talked to her. The food wasn't like Mom's. Had this young lady had the benefit of a good camping experience at an earlier, suitable age, she would have already learned in a supportive environment how to live happily away from home; to be independent; to make friends in a new setting--and Andrea might still be living in the basement!

CATHERINE ROSS  
Editor

## BARK LAKE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

As a first time Camp Director some 10 years ago, I distinctly remember the feelings of "jump in the air" happiness mixed with the "weight of the world" responsibility that accompanied almost everything I did. These feelings came back even stronger 2 years ago when I took over the reins of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation's Ontario Camp Leadership Centre at Bark Lake. Not only did I have to cope with the massive infrastructure of government, but, even worse, the "death by lethal ELBOW" of the COMMUTER system between Hamilton and Toronto.

I came into the job knowing very little about what actually went on at this place everyone affectionately calls "Bark Lake". Out of some 70 professional and student part-time staff I knew absolutely no-one

and the administrative system was as foreign as anything I'd ever seen. Fortunately, I had the strong guidance of Dorothy Walter, who spent a month breaking me in before she "officially" retired.

The summer program was unique! What other place registers 600 teens, sponsored by day/resident camps, schools, youth serving organizations, municipal recreation departments or other outdoor education/recreation organizations from across the province and runs 4 intensive 13-18 day resident courses in outdoor skills and leadership development? Further, it is a one time only experience for each of the participants (LITs). Add to this an Adult outdoor skill development course, a full spring and fall program of outdoor education/recreation programs for schools and provincially run organizations (OCA, COEO, OCDW, ORCA, etc.) and you have what the experts call a "diversified product".

Staffing this "product" is highly unusual. Our counsellors are mostly teaching professionals, and are hired to work only one or two courses. Staff flow in and out all summer long. There is no traditional precamp. Training happens one weekend in May and one day before the course they are working. However, I have been constantly amazed with the spirit of professional FUN these "adults" have with the LITs.

The LITs are the essence of Bark Lake. Most come alone, maybe knowing one or more other LITs, but all are ambassadors of their camp, school or organization. They are motivated and willing to do almost anything, displaying remarkable talents in all aspects of our camping tradition, from music to drama, orienteering to canoeing. There are some part-time "downers" who need a push or a hug but the groups usually pick this up quickly. Best of all, they teach our staff members something new about themselves, and what it is like to be a young adult in today's environment. Maybe it's the fact that it's a one-time only experience or maybe the beauty of the site and surroundings, but on the last day, after only 13-18 days, I see 17-year-old young men and women crying their eyes out before leaving...and that's camp.

1988 marks Bark Lake's 40th anniversary. The future will see some changes to our program. More emphasis must be placed on multiculturalism, Franco-Ontarians and the physically and mentally challenged. Linkages with other government programs (education, colleges and universities) and provincial organizations such as the OCA will be vital. As well, the demand for year round programs grows.

After two years in the job, I'm still feeling like a new director, but I know now it's due to the leadership potential OCLC Bark Lake has to create another 40 years of camping and outdoor education tradition.

ROB HEMING

#### BARK LAKE FROM THE LIT'S PERSPECTIVE

Participating in the LIT program at Bark Lake presents several challenges. First, upon arriving, participants from the same organization are deliberately separated. This almost guarantees that in your group of approximately twenty people you will know no one. At first I considered this to be a disadvantage; however, I soon realized that the exact opposite was true. With this arrangement everyone was in the same boat. No one knew anyone, thus making it necessary but easy to get to know people, even for a relatively shy person like myself.

The second challenge was the reality of a very tightly scheduled day from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. LITs were involved in group and interest sessions led by Resource Counsellors as well as lessons and programs run by the LITs themselves. In group sessions, striving to obtain consensus on decisions was time consuming and frequently frustrating.

During my 18-day stay I enjoyed the opportunity to make use of the extensive equipment and facilities to learn new skills. It was worthwhile sharing ideas with LITs from different camps and learning something new to take back to my own camp. Overall I had a great time and consider Bark Lake to have been a very beneficial experience.

CHERYL ROSS

**REPORT ON CAMPING RESEARCH AT TRENT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES**

The historical records of the Ontario Camping Association and the Canadian Camping Association have been accepted and preserved at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. Efforts by Dr. Mary Northway and others prominent in the camping movement culminated in an Official Presentation of records to the University on October 22, 1969. As Mary said in a statement at that time: "Archives are to groups, as memory is to the individual. Knowledge of the past enlightens our understanding of the present and, as a flashlight, discovers paths to the future."

Those involved in that first transfer of records to a place of permanent preservation would surely be gratified to know that the collection has grown to around 70 cubic feet of textual materials, plus hundreds of photographs and cassette oral history tape recordings. The emphasis in those early days was on the acquisition of materials. As the collection has grown, we have turned now to encourage use of these important records for research purposes in addition to the continued collection of camp brochures, staff lists, photographs and the myriad pieces of paper which comprise the administrative record of an organization.

Recent research projects may serve to indicate the use of the camping archives. A representative from Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Ltd., Ottawa, Ont. spent a couple of days in the Archives reviewing photographs of camp interiors from the 1930s. Copy photographs were made to authenticate displays at the new National Museum of Civilization. Over the years many M.A. theses have been written using original resource materials gleaned from the camping archives. One recently completed project was done for the University of Western Ontario and was entitled "The Not So Lazy Days of Summer: The Ontario Camping Association and the Debate Over Standards". Meg Stanley spent many hours in the Archives digging through the finding aids and then the papers themselves to write her paper which begins by giving a brief overview of organized camping and the advent and growth of the O.C.A. and goes on to explore the problems inherent in any organization's attempt to

implement, interpret and enforce recommendations initiated at the committee level.

Undergraduate students at Trent studying recreational geography routinely make use of the camping archives and, along with the external research projects, reflect the predictions of Prof. Thomas H.B. Symons, President of Trent at the time of the initial presentation of records: "We are honoured and delighted to have these significant Archives at Trent. I am sure they will be of use to interested students and scholars throughout many years to come."

BERNADINE DODGE  
University Archivist

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

The Institute for Earth Education proudly announces its fourth International Conference on May 3-7, 1989 at the Rocky Mountain YMCA's Yamnuska Centre in Calgary, Alberta. To receive conference registration information write: The Institute for Earth Education, Conference Registration Committee, P.O. Box 288, Warrenville, Illinois 60555, U.S.A.

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**TOGETHER  
TOWARDS  
TOMORROW**

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**ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS**

**1989 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
FOR DIRECTORS AND SENIOR STAFF

**JANUARY 26 - 28, 1989**  
FOUR SEASONS Inn On The Park Toronto

**FEATURES**

- Over 50 Workshops
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For More Information Please Contact:  
**ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION**  
1806 Avenue Road, Suite Two  
Toronto, Ontario M5M 3Z1  
(416) 781-0525

## FOR SALE

The following pieces of office equipment:

- \* 2 Cardex File Drawers (for 6" x 4" cards)
- \* 1 Filing Cabinet for hanging stencils
- \* 1 Table with folding legs (approx. 29" x 92")
- \* 1 Electric Typewriter - IBM Selectric

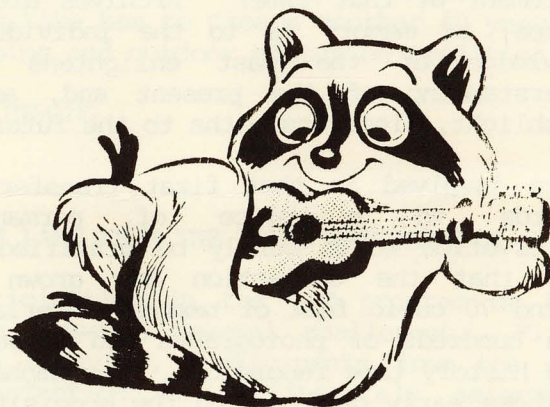
For further information, please call the OCA Office, (416) 781-0525.

## WANTED

The City of York Parks and Recreation Department requires the rental of a residential camp from June 26 to 28, 1989 for the purpose of training summer playground staff. If your camp is located within a 2-hour drive of Toronto, and you are interested in renting your facility during this time, please contact Darlene Hearst at (416) 394-2669 or Kevin Bowser at (416) 394-2474.

## POSITION WANTED

Betty Fallis-Trow is presently exploring future career possibilities. She has worked for over 8 years in the Recreation field and presently holds a Recreation Leadership diploma. If your Camp has an opening for a Senior position, please contact Betty at (416) 638-3376.



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## PARKS AND RECREATION FEDERATION OF ONTARIO

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### ONTARIO MUNICIPAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION (OMRA)

The first OMRA Conference was held in Brantford in 1946 and for forty-two years OMRA has been the collective voice of the lay volunteer for municipal recreation in Ontario.

OMRA functions as a non-profit, non-political organization keeping the values and benefits of recreation in the public eye at all times. OMRA maintains and develops channels for the exchange of ideas, methods and techniques; stimulates members and others to become better informed in the field via workshops, seminars and conferences; and monitors events and issues at Federal and Provincial government levels affecting recreation.

OMRA works with Federation, the Ministry, professional recreationists, volunteers and recreation organizations to identify and improve recreation to best serve the people of Ontario.

For a learning, social and uplifting experience, don't forget our Annual Conference, May 25th to 28th, 1988 in Kingston, Ontario.

### ONTARIO PARKS ASSOCIATION (OPA)

The advancement of Parks, civic beautification and conservation of the natural beauties of Ontario, through meetings for the mutual exchange of ideas, inspection of parks systems, gathering and dissemination of information and any other means useful to members to aid in the education and training of persons for park purposes. These words define the objectives of the OPA and its 750 members throughout Ontario.

OPA was formed in 1936 in Brantford and was a founding member of the Parks and Recreation Association of Canada. The OPA was reorganized in 1953 in Guelph when it became obvious that park problems in Ontario were not common to the rest of Canada.

Today, OPA is healthy, visible and offers a tremendous range of services including four Educational Conferences per year and has established a significant planning program to assist municipalities in all facets of parks operations.

The newsletter "Green Sward" provides members with statistical and educational information, career opportunities, profiles and general information on the activities of the Executive, fellow members and their municipalities.

Ontario Camping Association is one of the member organizations of PRFO