



O.C.A. sional news

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EDITOR: MARTIN HUNT

MAY YOU HAVE JUST ENOUGH CLOUDS IN YOUR LIFE TO MAKE A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET

FROM THE PRESIDENT

"My summer was excellent - how about yours?", so asked a member of the Executive of the O.C.A. at our meeting last week. Both the Executive and Board have met and I am delighted to indicate that the Association is alive and well - very much into our Fall agenda. Summer 1984 is now history. Overall, camps report successful operations. Some 60 of our sites were 'visited'; a number of new camps have joined the Association. Tragedy and loss were also experienced this summer forming part of our experience as life moves along at its own pace.

The agenda of the Board includes plans for International Year of Youth; an on-going examination of our standards; new ways of gaining visibility in the Province (did you see the TV ad this summer?); creative use of the new Office computer; responsible financial planning; engaging educational events.

The life of the Association is measured by the involvement of individuals dedicated to quality camping in the Province. As we are committed to the tasks, so the Association influences the life-giving memories of children, youth and adults.

Welcome to the Fall. May our paths cross in a variety of ways as we continue to serve the O.C.A.

K. Grant Kerr,
President.

EDITORIAL

We're back! And I trust that by the time you get this, you will have taken some precious time to yourself! I spent most of the time in Scotland, this summer, (picking up my special education part 1). Now here is an idea for those budding new directors or for those wanting to branch out: Camping in Scotland! Camping as we know it, in a residential sense, is very sparse. You can still pick up a castle for about 35,000 pounds (as a ruin, however, it will need a little work). Along with rock climbing, kayaking, sailing, prisoner's base; hill walking, and gorge exploring are popular activities. To top it all off you will be one of the first if not the premier summer camp. One draw back is that you will have a six week season, not to mention the much feared haggis monster chewing away at your 'castle's foundation during the wee hours of the night!

On my return to Ontario, I had a delightful tour of camps experiencing that warm camping hospitality at each site. (The ice cream cones from Thessalon came up on top, including Haliburton, I'm afraid).

As this is the beginning of our publishing year, I will invite you to send in articles for eclectic camping, briefs on upcoming events or other bits of news that might in some way pertain to camping and the out-of-doors. Happy trick-or-treating!

Martin Hunt,
Editor.

DO TELL

Tell me what I can do to improve the outtripping skills of campers before they leave camp!

Much of the sense of wilderness or semi-wilderness canoe tripping and the development of an overall trip behaviour can only be gained by the experience itself but basic skills (familiarization with tents and equipment, knot tying, navigation, and firelighting) can be introduced very well in camp. Given such in camp trip preparations campers on even short excursions can develop a sense of commitment and satisfaction with their input into the success of the trip. One of the most useful of skills and a great builder of self esteem is firelighting.

Take a 100 oz. tin can and cut two holes in it. Each hole is 1" x 4". The first hole is just below the rim of the open end. The second hole is opposite the first but just above the rim of the closed end. With this home made hibachi you have a stove which:-

1. supports a pot readily and safely.
2. provides good ventilation for heating.
3. has minimum impact on the firesite.
4. concentrates heat.
5. uses small quantities of wood fuel.
6. burns wood to white ash.
7. is fun to use!

Introduce different wood types; tinder, kindling, hard wood, and softwood. Show the necessity for ventilation, fuel and ignition source. Show different fire types.

Have each person collect a stick which can be lit by a match. Light the first with a match and light each in turn with the last. The first team to light a candle with the last stick wins.

Collect fuel and build a fire in a hibachi. Heat water for hot chocolate. Race against another to burn through a string over the hibachi. Find dry wood in a rainstorm and build a fire. All these activities are in camp fun exercises which prepare for outtrip necessities.

DO TELL!

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ECLECTIC CAMPING

THE ACID RAIN ISSUE AND OUR CAMPERS.

Experiments relating to acid rain and its effects have been suggested as possible activities during summer camps. I would like to introduce a few thoughts to ponder before such "how bad is it today?" - programmes are embarked upon.

The acid rain issue is a serious concern of responsible adults. What about children? By our example we can teach them restraint in dealing with our energy resources. While we can make them well-informed with regard to acid rain, there is nothing our campers can do about it. Anxiety-provoking knowledge which cannot be accompanied by action which eliminates the source of the anxiety, is weakening. Feelings of powerlessness in the face of disaster reduce our sense of self, our value in our own eyes.

Our children grow up in an anxiety burdened world. Camp offers a wonderful opportunity to strengthen them.

Let me illustrate by using the example of a camp activity suggested at the O.C.A. 1983 Counsellors Conference. Instructions were given for building a terrarium. Some soil, grasses, bugs, water, etc. in a glass jar. What happens? The plant I watch in my jar, the bug which crawls around in it become my plant, my bug. As I watch them I love them. They are like all the other grasses and bugs, but they are made special to me by my knowledge of them, by my love.

So far so good.

Now, it was suggested, one might add a few drops of acid to the little universe in the jar and observe what it does - see how destructive it is. What happens? Our plant, our bug, dies. To cope with that we have to become detached, be the cool sharp-eyed scientist.

We have the choice: let the child treasure life as he finds it and let him set free the contents of his jar when it is time to go home - or build anxiety in him, in this example augmented by guilt by killing something.

If we foster love and awe for our natural surroundings in children we strengthen them and establish a healthy basis for concern, responsibility and action when they reach adulthood.

Yvonne Philpott,
Heimdall Camp.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Another successful ECO-Skills Workshop was held at Camp Hockley Valley, June 8-10, 1984. Thirty-four delegates and thirteen full and part-time resource people participated in an exciting weekend of learning and sharing.

ECO-Skills is a project of the Environmental Concerns Committee. The goal of the workshop is:- "to enhance the quality of the environmental programs at summer camps in Ontario". Hence the program provides delegates with practical skills and activities that help campers to appreciate, enjoy and understand the natural world.

Peter Rasberry and Tom Knowlton started off the workshop with a dynamic evening program of games, songs, skits and stories. On Saturday morning we were "energized" by Clare Magee who challenged us to examine the purpose of nature programs and to look at programming as part of the development of an environmental ethic. This ethic being composed of attitudes, knowledge and behaviour.

Program highlights of ECO-Skills '84 included:-

- * "Get in Touch with the Earth" - games and other awareness building activities.
- * "Woodsie Words" - literary expression in and about nature.
- * "The Ramble" - The nature like updated!
- * "Sunship Earth - A magical Approach to Ecology".
- * * "Looking at Nature Through Art" - Dry printing - a form of nature photography.

The response to ECO-Skills '84 from the delegates was very positive. Workshop evaluations were filled out by 76% of the delegates. When asked on the evaluation form how well their objectives had been met, 15% of the respondents marked 'well', 50% marked 'very well' and 35% stated extremely well. All respondents indicated that their objective for the weekend had been met.

ECO-Skills workshops have run for the past three years. Due to talented and dedicated environmental educators workshops continue to provide an excellent opportunity for camp staff to learn effective approaches and program ideas that help children build a personal relationship with the natural world. If you are a camp director, consider the ECO-Skills Workshop as a professional development event for your senior staff.

Judy Paul,
ECO-Skills '84 - Co-Ordinator.

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"WHAT'S HAPPENING!"

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL
O.C.A. CONFERENCE.

Thursday, February 21 - Saturday, February
23, 1985.

The Constellation Hotel - 900 Dixon Road

"The Camping Event of the Winter"

AQUATIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 29 - 7:30 P.M.

23 Noel Avenue - Phone 425-9796.

New Members Welcome.

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THIS & THAT

THE OLD LADY'S CAMPING TRIP

The irrepressible Old Lady Who Lived in a Shoe is back! This well-known symbol of fire prevention, whose messages combine hilarious antics with commonsense information, is featured here in a lively animation spoof about the do's and don'ts of camping.

Distributed by:- National Film Board of Canada.

Screening time: 9 minutes 4 seconds.

16mm: 106C0183021 - \$225.00

Video: 116C0183021 - \$100.00

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There are a few things in life more rewarding than the satisfying pull of the paddle against the sun speckled ripples of Canada's waterways. Our Canadian heritage has provided us with a canoeing history steeped in tradition. The Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the perpetuation and the promotion of recreational canoeing.

For further information and membership applications, contact Rob Metras, C.R.C.A., Box 500, Hyde Park, Ontario, N0M 1Z0, (519) 473-2109.

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Hotels, motels, colleges and universities are taking advantage of Goodwill Industries mattress rebuilding factory and saving at least 50% on mattresses and box-springs.

If you are interested, contact Sharon Duchscherer at 362-4711 Ext. 251.

HELP WANTED

C.C.A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Interested Candidates:

- demonstrated management skills
- effective communication
- some bilingual capacity.

Resumes and references submitted by November 1, 1984.

Please send resumes and references to:-

Selection Committee,
Canadian Camping Association
1806 Avenue Road
TORONTO, Ontario
M5M 3Z1

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CAMP DIRECTOR WANTED FOR:- Glen Mhor Camp. A Presbyterian Church Camp located near Baysville, Ontario.

The qualified candidate is asked to commit themselves to the position for a minimum of 2 summers and to be prepared to work with the committee through the year.

Please submit resumes to:

Miss Karin Beaumont
2645 Jane Street, Apt. #437
DOWNSVIEW, Ontario
M3L 2T3 By December 15, 1984.

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THE OCA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING
NEW MEMBERS

COMMERCIAL

Matsushita Electric of Canada Limited
Ottawa River Kayak & Canoe School
The Tarp Shop

INDIVIDUAL

Mary Pat Armstrong
Vance H. Cooper
Robert E. Ewing
Cherlyn M. Fagan
Linda K. Funk
Beverley J. Hagedorn
Carolyn H. Harris