

PUBLISHED BY THE ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1997

Annual Camp Guider

Incredibly efficient, literate, a details person and a big picture person, responsible, a self-starter, independent, able to run with a project, committed: that's what the job called for and then she appeared! The "job" was and is the annual Camping Guide and Members' Directory and "she" is Catherine Bogle, dedicated OCA Volunteer.

Catherine undertook the production of this key OCA document for 1997 and is already making recommendations for improvement to the 1998 Guide. The magnitude of this project is huge. This year, the OCA will distribute 12,000 copies of our annual Camp Guide and an additional 1,000 copies of the Members' Guide. As Co-ordinator, Catherine oversees the layout, photo content, camp descriptions and general production of the Guides. As with all OCA work, the Office Staff is instrumental in taking the volunteer's ideas and work and making them tangible. Catherine's efforts were supported by the work of the Membership Committee ensuring all members in good standing were included. Keith Publicover, Board Member, stepped in



Lending a hand - Robyn and Sue "Canoe" Photo Credit: S. Kate Moore

Photo submissions welcome

when I was out of the country. He reviewed the photo submissions and the informational pages at the start of the Guide. Joel Brenner, who painstakingly handled the "dot" work for the Activity Charts. Friends and colleagues helped Catherine proof-read, striving for excellence in the final product. The combined efforts of all these individuals created our key promotional and informational piece for the year.

When not proof reading, photo gathering and co-ordinating, Catherine works full-time with REACH for the Rainbow as a Program Co-ordinator.

Keep up the great work Catherine!

S. KATE MOORE BOARD MEMBER

One of the goals of the OCAsional News is to keep our membership informed of the activities of our Association at all levels: Individual, Committee, Advisory Council, Board and Executive. Here's your chance and space to highlight what's going on. Submissions are welcome.

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"MAN CANNOT DISCOVER NEW OCEANS UNLESS HE HAS THE COURAGE TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE SHORE" - UNKNOWN

- ✓ Offer to be a Standards visitor or junior visitor
- ✓ Support the Name Label Program at your camp
- ✓ Write an article for the OCAsional News
- ✓ Get one of your suppliers to join as a commercial member
- ✓ Encourage your staff to join as individual/student members
- ✓ Use the approved OCA logo on all your print material
- ✓ Ask other members why they don't use the logo
- ✓ Send your staff to Healthcare, Counsellor Conference, Skills Weekend (and come yourself)
- ✓ Mark February 19 22, 1998 on your calendar now
- ✓ Volunteer for one of our committees
- ✓ Encourage your senior staff to volunteer for a committee
- ✓ Attend a Human Resources Breakfast or Evening meeting
- ✓ Call an OCA volunteer and thank them for their work
- ✓ Review the Crisis Response Plan for your camp and suggest modifications that will benefit others
- ✓ Attend the AGM
- ✓ Run for the Board
- Mention OCA accreditation in your promotion pieces
- ✓ Talk to non-member camps about OCA (and give Bill Stevens the name for follow-up)
- ✓ Tell us what the association means to you
- ✓ Suggest a deserving person for an OCA award
- ✓ Use the Staff Referral Service (or tell us not to send it to you we save time and money)
- ✓ Call us with your ideas about OCA
- ✓ Read the newsletter
- ✓ Use your Guidelines for Accreditation as an educational tool every year
- ✓ Volunteer as a mentor for new provisional camps
- ✓ If you have a concern call us
- ✓ Suggest a speaker or topic for the Annual Conference
- ✓ Call a member of the Ethics Task Force (or me) with your ideas on how to handle complaints
- ✓ Suggest a Public Awareness initiative
- ✓ Contribute copies of your camp materials to the Archives at Trent University
- ✓ Recognise that if we each do a little, together we will accomplish a lot.

Things to do this month

- Look for members interested in legislative issues
- Thank Marj Booth and the Personnel Policies and Procedures Task Force members for their hard work
- Continue implementation of this task force report
- Say goodbye to Toronto and hello to Brighton
- Thank the Human Resources Committee for organizing 3 breakfast and 1 evening meeting this spring
- Ponder the concept that my laptop is more important than my desk

Barb Gilbert President



To get you and your staff prepared, join the Human Resources Committee at one or all of these *free educational events*:

April 10th - 8:00 a.m. at the OCA Office Breakfast Club Meeting

Topic: How to Maximize Resources for Campers with Special Needs

Join us for a networking session on how your camp can find out and take advantage of the many programs suitable for campers with special needs. We'll discuss financial assistance, foundations, mediation systems and how to set up a referral network that works! Members of the Integration Committee will be present to answer your questions. A light breakfast will be provided.

April 15th - 7:00 p.m. at Janet Adamson's House (87 Inglewood Drive, Toronto) Information Evening

Topic: Emotional Baggage

What are kids bringing to camp these days (besides their underwear)? Join us for a lively evening to discuss and determine how to train our staff to deal sensitively with issues such as divorce in the family, single parenting due to a spouse's death and other concerns. Coffee, tea and dessert will be provided.

Please RSVP for any of these events to the OCA Office, 416-781-0525. (We need to know numbers for bagels and other goodies!)

Many of the ideas for these events come from you, the membership. If you have an idea for a future Breakfast Club Meeting or Information Evening, let the Human Resources Committee know! Leave a message for Patti Thom (Chair, HR) at the OCA Office or call her directly at 905-338-9464. Thank you.



OCA BOARD MEMBERS

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Director: Dave Ward, YMCA John Island Camp, YMCA, 185 Lloyd St., Sudbury, Ont. P3B 1N1 1-800-465-9622 Fax: 705-688-0751 Email: ymcajic@vianet.on.ca

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Eastern Ontario (Ottawa): Deirdre Billes, Ornagaki Wilderness Centre, Box 4, Pembroke, Ont. K8A 6W5 613-732-0780 Email: ornagaki@fox.nsyn.ca

Northeastern Ontario (Sudbury): Dave Ward, John Island, 185 Lloyd St. Sudbury Ont. P3B 1N1 705-674-8315 Fax 705-674-3236 Email:ymcajic@vianet.on.ca

Northwestern Ontario (Thunder Bay): Elaine Kalnbach, Dorion Bible Camp, Dorion, Ont. POT 1K0 807-857-2331

Southwestern Ontario (London): Jim Janzen, YMCA-YWCA Camping, c/o George White Outdoor Centre, 1795 Clarke Road, London, Ont. N5X 3Z6 519-667-3300 Fax: 519-455-2519

CAMP HURONTARIO CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

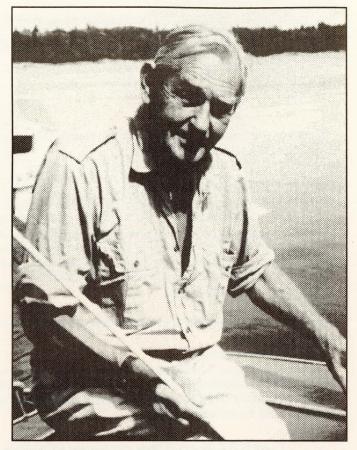
"Celebrating the vision, the philosophy and the life of Birnie Hodgetts, founder of Camp Hurontario in 1947"

On May 10, 1947, the Hurontario 50th Reunion Dinner will be held at the Inn On The Park in Toronto. Activities being planned include an art auction with contributions from famous Canadian artists who painted at Hurontario. Ed Bartram, David Blackwood and John Hartman are three wellknow artists who have each generously contributed a work. Proceeds from this auction will be contributed to the Birnie Hodgetts Memorial Fund, an Alumni fund to send children to camp. Further, there will be a retrospective video, a camp sing along, a re-enactment of famous campfire skits and best of all, a chance to see many friends from the past and present!

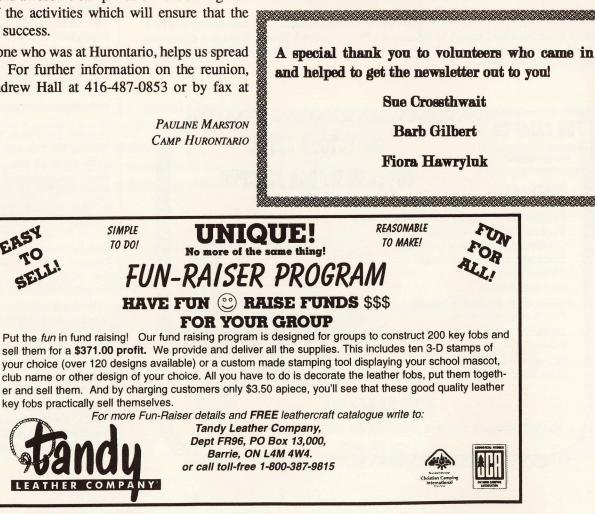
During the summer months, two days are planned for parents and younger children to visit at the camp. Tours conducted by campers of the history of Hurontario; plays to reveal interesting aspects and the lore of Hurontario's past plus a scrumptious buffet (in the sun, we hope)!

A weekend reunion is scheduled for September 6-7th. Former Hurontarions are reserving their cabin group with cabin mates from former days. Cookouts, a camp relay, cliff jumps at Whanee and awesome camp meals in the dining hall are only a few of the activities which will ensure that the weekend will be a success.

If you know someone who was at Hurontario, helps us spread the word, please. For further information on the reunion, please contact Andrew Hall at 416-487-0853 or by fax at 416-487-4687.



Birnie Hodgetts, Founder of Camp Hurontario



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"PREPARE! STAY SAFE! SURVIVE!": THE NEW RED CROSS AQUAQUEST PROGRAM

On Monday February 24th, the Human Resources Committee hosted an evening of aquatic education. Ruth Campbell, Regional Water Safety Coordinator for the Canadian Red Cross came and spoke about the new AquaQuest Program which must be in place in all facilities by June 1997. The new program is divided into three parts to accommodate all types of facilities: AquaTots, AquaQuest & AquaAdults. There is also a leadership segment titled AquaLeaders which is perfect for a CIT program. The program has gone away from the colour system and now focuses on a 12 level progression. To ease with the transition from the colour to the level system, the Red Cross has included a conversion chart.

The new program has incorporated new ideas and skills with the strength of the old program to create a diverse and well-rounded package. One example of a new addition is the increase in the endurance swim in Level 12. The swim is now 500m which is an increase of 100m. The question was raised of why the increase and Ruth very gladly

gave us a logical and sound reason. She informed us that most accidents happen 50m from safety. In a panic situation, a victim is working with only 10% of capabilities. The addition of the swim ensures that the swimmer is starting with the skill of completing such a distance of 500m and hence, if they were left with only 10% capabilities, they could swim the 10% (50m). This is just one example of the benefits of the new Red Cross AquaQuest program.

Please contact your Water Safety Regional Coordinator to find out more details or call the Ontario Zone directly at 905-890-1000. In April 1997, a Water Safety Information number will be in effect. This number is 1-888-890-1997.

The Human Resources Committee would like to thank Ruth Campbell for coming and speaking to us and also to Janet Adamson for hosting the event at her house.

By maija zeibots and jen palacios on behalf of the human resourse committee

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pearl Bell of Camp Robin Hood has been elected to the board of The Association of Camp Nurses. Pearl began her affiliation with this American organization in 1992 and has been The Canadian Regional Facilitator. Congratulations Pearl!



Register Early for OCA Spring Events

You can get in on Early Registration fees even if you do not know which staff you are going to send. We can add names later.

Healthcare Workshop Saturday May 24, 1997

An all day program for Camp Health Care Staff and Directors.

At Seneca College, King Campus

Cost: \$43 (\$46 non-OCA) or \$55 at the door.

Counsellors' Conference Saturday May 24, 1997

Specially designed for the first year counsellor and LIT. Also sessions for Senior Staff and the Directors.

At Seneca College, King Campus

Cost: \$23 (\$28 non-OCA); Groups of 10 or more \$21 (\$26 non-OCA);

After May 9, \$26 (\$30 non-OCA)

Skills Weekend June 6 - 8, 1997

For camp staff who will be involved in programming for a specific skill.

At YMCA Wanakita, Haliburton

Cost: \$150.00 (\$170.00 non-OCA); Groups of 5 or more from an OCA camp \$135.00;

After May 23 \$175.00 (\$195.00 non-OCA)

I've been home now for eight years. Home is Arowhon. It always was. I can't imagine any job that could be more fun than being a middle-aged woman living smack dab in the middle of a community of kids and young adults. Living in Algonquin Park is a major bonus. How many people are privileged enough to fall asleep every night to the call of a loon, or to greet every morning with a dip in water so clean you can drink it? Or to have a meeting sitting on a dock overlooking Tepee Lake? But it isn't Algonquin that keeps me coming back.

The kick for me is threefold: connection, community and empowerment. **Connection** is about the fun I have assisting people to keep their relationships in good working order. I know that friendships are pretty close to the top of kids' lists when you ask them what they love about camp, and I also know from experience (both sweet and bitter) that a cabin can be the closest group in the world, or home to cruelty and conflict.

When I was young at camp there were two solutions to cabin conflict: it was either ignored, or the "guilty" party was instructed to be nice. Which usually drove the mean behaviour underground, but rarely stopped it. As camp director, I get a kick out of helping kids talk to each other honestly about their difficulties with one another, and then figure out together how to solve them. It seems so simple, it works so well, and it delights me. Kids are so frank (when given the chance). They're so much more efficient than grownups at solving their conflicts. Which makes my job more fun.

My second kick is **community**. Where else in the world can you walk down the path and share a smile, a hello, and oftentimes a hug with everyone you meet? Where else in the world can you leave your doors unlocked and your possessions unguarded, and know they'll be alright? Where else in the world can you get to know so many people's hopes and dreams, and share in them coming true?

My third kick is **empowerment**. There is something magical and intoxicating about participating in the process of another human being finding the best in themselves. There is a special moment when a camper (or a counsellor) takes on a tough challenge and finds success. Their eyes light up in that special way that says: "I found something new and wonderful inside myself, and I'm proud". If I had even the smallest part in that great leap, I own a share of the magic. And then I know that all's right with my world because today I helped make a difference in somebody's life.

> JOANNE KATES DIRECTOR, CAMP AROWHON

Friendly Reminder:

Calling All Accredited Camps!

If you do not require the Staff Referral Bulletin, please call the OCA office so we may take you off the list. You can renew at anytime! Thanks for your help!

416-781-0525





ERRATUM

Content for the article entitled "Society of Camp Directors Annual Photo Contest 1997" in the March 1997 issue was supplied by Peter Gilbert.

Come Join <u>Bruce Muchnick</u> to discuss the role of camp healthcare in crisis response management at the annual OCA Healthcare Workshop - Saturday May 24, 1997 at Seneca College, King Campus.

To register, call the OCA at 416-781-0525 to obtain your registration application.

991 King St. W., P.O. Box 89102, Hamilton, Ontario. L8S 4R5 Phone (905) 522-0542 Fax (905) 522-8621 e-mail blisson@netaccess.on.ca Director: Brian Lisson

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CAMP=NATURE?

OCA Environmental Concerns Committee, OCA Support of Pollution Probe camp visits, the OCA Green Guide Project: all of these are examples of past initiatives of the OCA which had a definite environmental agenda. In fact historically, the OCA even had a written objective which was "to develop an awareness of and an appreciation for our natural environment, and to encourage activities which are harmonious with it". No more.

I believe the disappearance of an OCA environmental agenda has gradually and unintentionally occurred. Perhaps it's evolution, perhaps it's an accident. No matter what, the reality is that our current Action Plan contains no environmental aspects. I was struck by this realization because of the synchronisity of two events. The first event was Sam Hambly recently stepping down as the OCA representative at the Conservation Council of Ontario after serving in this capacity for over 10 years and the subsequent OCA investigation into how the CCO membership can benefit the OCA before deciding whether to appoint another representative. The second event was receiving a questionnaire from a University of Toronto student studying how a camp experience affects a child's perception and relationship to the environment. Take a moment to reflect on that. A camper seeing the sun rise for the first time in her life. A loon call. A tree planting project. A ...

There is the truism: "you'll end up where you're headed". I think it's critical to periodically look where we have come from and where we are going to ensure that it is the right path.

S. KATE MOORE CAMP ALLSAW

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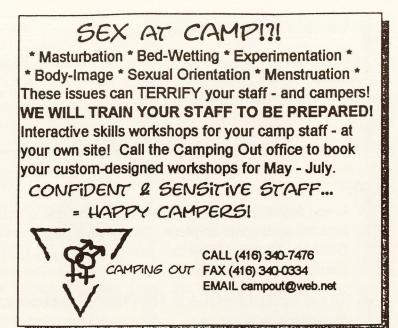
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CAMPING MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

We recently returned from the American Camping Association Conference in New Orleans (Yes, we did manage to catch some fantastic jazz at Preservation Hall!), where our good friend Robert Lebby was honoured with the ACA Special Recognition Award for his volunteer work with KUMBAYAH 1994. Nine countries were represented at this most recent ACA event - there is no doubt that ACA's participation in the Third International Camping Congress has caused their national conference to become more global. Many of our Russian friends were there promoting the Fourth International Congress, and on a riverboat dinner cruise, Svetlana Shorina and John Jorgenson danced and danced and DANCED!

This is my second-last article before the deadline for registrations for Nevsky Forum 1997. I tried to think before I went to New Orleans - what else can I say to encourage people to come to this fantastic event? Well, I got my answer in New Orleans, because the Russian delegation brought with them more details of the program. They have created seven streams of program with topics ranging from the Child to the Business of Camping to Camping as an Education to Ecology to Program . . . the list goes on. They have many wonderful Russian speakers lined up, ready to go. BUT WAIT ... there is more. In a beautiful colour flyer, the Russians have named some special guests who shall appear at various times during the Congress: NIKITA MIKHALKOV, Oscar-winning film director and actor, ALEXEY LEONOV, astronaut and hero of the Soviet Union, VLADISLAV TRETYAK, multiple world and Olympic champion goal-keeper, ANIKOUSHIN, sculptor, MIKHAIL MIKHAIL PIOTROVSKY, Professor and Director of the Hermitage . . . and . . . last but least . . . MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, ex-President of the USSR and Nobel Prize Winner. Now stop and re-read that - Mikhail Gorbachev - the man who changed history - will be at one of the sessions of Nevsky Forum. Wouldn't you like to meet him and shake his hand? That alone is worth the price of admission!! WOW!! When I was in Russia in December, Tamara asked me if there were any famous Russians they should consider bringing to the Congress, and I said . . . "Mr Gorbachev would be neat." And, lo and behold, he is coming. You know, in 1991, I told Robert Lebby that Peter, Paul and Mary would be great for our Congress, and he said, "No problem". Perhaps we in camping have more influence than we know !! Maybe I should ask Mr. Chretien for a tax break!! See you in St. Petersburg!!

> JANE MCCUTCHEON INTERNATIONAL CAMPING FELLOWSHIP CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE





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ATTENTION ALL CAMP DIRECTORS... DON'T MISS OUT!!!

June 20 to June 23, 1997 Maniton-waking Sports and Arts Centre, ParrySound

5th ANNUAL WATERSKI INSTRUCTORS' COURSE

A waterski instructors course geared specifically to Instructors and boat drivers at camp waterski programs. The four day course covers skill teaching techniques for beginner to advanced students, including barefoot and trick skiing instruction. The emphasis of the course is on boat driving, safety and risk management at the camp waterfront.

4th ANNUAL TENNIS INSTRUCTORS' COURSE

An intensive on and off court training program for tennis instructors. Group lesson instruction for beginners to advanced players, lectures and demos on stroke production fundamentals, result-producing drills, proper lesson planning, evaluation techniques, important strategy sessions for singles and doubles, tournament organization, fitness and rainy day programming are part of the curriculum.

Participation is open to all waterski and tennis staff holding a 1997 contract at an O.C.A. camp.

Cost: \$325.00* per person (plus applicable taxes) * includes accomodation and 3 meals daily, full course fees and training manual.

For more information call Manitou's office at: (416) 245-0605.

THANK YOU READERS

As of this issue, I'm departing from my writing portfolio for OCAsional News and CCA - Camps Canada. I have come to that point where I truly feel like I'm volunteered out - that is to say, I feel like I've become "Volunteer Vulnerable". (One day I'd love to do a workshop on the Double V Syndrome). I've been involved in OCA for a number of years starting with OCA Skills Weekend Canoe Schools which lasted for 10 wonderful years. There have been some pretty fantastic people involved in that event and still are. In every area of OCA everyone has been so dedicated, eager and motivated. In my early years, as a fresh new director I felt like I was a blotter, soaking up every piece of knowledge that I could acquire from the successful and resourceful leaders of the day. I recognized early that the only way to be good in this industry was to surround oneself with the best professionals and they could be found volunteering everywhere in the industry. So, I volunteered at the conferences, sat on committees, did the visits, CCA benefit auctions and for some years now have written for OCA & Camps Canada. Often, I have wished that I lived closer to Toronto so that I could have been more active and given back more of what I have learned.

Over the last sixteen years, I have cherished deeply the wonderful relationships that I have made and exchanges that I have shared. For me, however, the time has come to make room for someone who will bring a new and exciting flavour and vision to the writing - I know that such a person is out there. Thank you readers, you've been wonderful, challenging and fulfilling.

> In camping, Wendell White, Camp Quin-Mo-Lac

Editor's note: And thank you, Wendell, for all your inspiration.



The Ontario Camping Association is pleased to present ...

1997 OCA SKILLS WEEK-END

June 6 to 8, 1997 at YMCA Wanakita, Haliburton, Ontario

1997 Streams Include:

- Arts and Crafts
- Boardsailing
- Canoeing
- Environmental Programming
- Inclusions
- Initiatives and Low Ropes
- Kayaking
- Leadership Skills for Supervisory Staff
- Outtripping
- Program Potpourri

Our mandate at OCA Skills is to provide:

- each participant with tools for continuous program development
- a forum for exchange of information
- ► an incentive to translate philosophy into safe, effective camping practices

Camp Directors can expect to see specific benefits from sending their staff to the OCA Skills Weekend. Participants take away significant contributions for this summer's program and gain a broader perspective on programming in the specific skill stream which they join.

10 Great Streams To Choose From . . .

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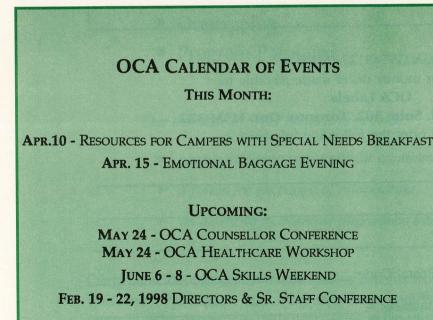
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OCA EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OCA OFFICE

CAsional News offers you a variety of ways to promote products and services within organized camping. The Ontario Camping Association welcomes articles and photo submissions. Next deadline is April 15th for May publication.

- Display ads are sold on a single or multiple insertion rate, with a \$50.00 non-members fee. Please contact the OCA office for rates. Camera-ready art required.
- We also offer professional and business directory ads of business card size (2"x1.5"). Camera-ready art required. OCA member fee: \$35 per insert (up to 3 months) or \$28 per insert (4 to 10 issues).
- Classified ads are sold with a maximum size of 25 words for a fee of \$10 for members and \$25 for non-members. Additional space sold in 25 word increments.
- Paid advertising content will not exceed editorial space.
- The OCAsional News is published 9 times a year by the Ontario Camping Association, a voluntary, non-profit association committed to excellence in Camping. We want to hear from you. Please send your thoughts and inquiries to our editorial committee:
- Janet Adamson, Inspirational Messages 416-481-7322 Fax: 416-488-1686
- Rob Heming, Events 705-754-1825 fax: 705-457-2255
- Kate Moore, Board Liaison 416-766-4204 Fax: 416-766-4204 E-mail: allsaw@interlog.com
- David Neal, Spirit of Camping 416-503-0485 Fax: 416-503-0485
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The views expressed by authors in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Camping Association.



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April 1997