



O.C.A.sional news

VOLUME 2

FEBRUARY 1987

EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

"IT IS NOT THE LOFTY SAILS, BUT THE UNSEEN WIND THAT MOVES THE SHIP." - W. MacNEILL DIXON

FROM THE PRESIDENT

One concern that seems to reappear at our board meetings is the question of O.C.A.'s image. Its perception by the public or lack of perception. An apparent value of membership is to be affiliated with a group that is well known to our public. There is effort being made to increase the public's awareness of what we are and what we represent. Each time we address the public the message should be loud and clear.

As I read through the many ads that are put forward by various camps you begin to notice that very few display our logo. Perhaps there is some dissatisfaction with the artistic merits of the logo or perhaps you feel that displaying the logo is not important. We are in the process of looking into a new logo so that this may answer the first question. The more we are able to visually be represented to the public the more aware the consumer will become. They may begin to question the meaning of the statement "Accredited Member of the Ontario Camping Association". It seems most effective when the logo is present along with the above statement.

You, as members of O.C.A., must assume your share of the responsibility for educating the public. If you are asked to speak on camping, when talking to parent groups or in your advertising keep in mind the promotion of your Association.

FRED OKADA,
President.

EDITORIAL

At our recent conference, Jocelyn Palm (with the help of the other half of that dynamic duo, John Latimer) concluded a session on the problems that bombard a camp director each day by recalling a camper's question, "Just what is it you do around here all day anyway?" That reminded me of a statement made by our daughter a couple of years ago. "When I grow up, I am going to be a camp director. All you do is walk around all day long taking pictures." Rather than responding with a list of one hundred things I calmed myself and my injured ego by thinking:- I must at least be doing well, some of the things they tell us at conferences: share the spotlight, provide leadership opportunities for younger staff, encourage campers to make decisions and participate in implementing programmes. And who knows? Maybe someday Cheryl will be a camp director. Chuckle! Chuckle!

N.B. Well done Diane Blair and her hard-working conference committee. Learned a little and enjoyed a lot over the three days!

CATHERINE ROSS,
EDITOR.

ONTARIO RECREATIONAL CANOEING ASSOCIATION

Instructor Clinic - Saturday, May 9, 1987,
Seneca College, King Campus.

For more information phone 495-4180.

ROLE OF THE FEDERATION

The Federation serves the needs of the Member Organizations by playing three distinct roles.

1. Represent, speak and lobby on behalf of Member Organizations to the Provincial Government, as requested by Members.
To date over 20 specific pieces of legislation have been addressed, e.g., Regulation 200-517, Wintario program, Parkland Conveyance Act, Health Act, Provincial Recreation Policy, Parks Assistance Act, Bill 38.
2. Deal with issues of Provincial concern affecting recreation, as requested by the Board of Directors. For example:
 - a) child abuse prevention and the role the recreation profession can play in identification and prevention
 - b) TV Ontario regarding recreation programming potential for this medium
 - c) economic and social impact of recreation in communities of Ontario
3. Develop programs and services for Member Organizations and individuals involved in recreation. For example:
 - a) Job Mart
 - b) Certification program for recreation practitioners—first of its kind in Canada

- c) Administrative Services—to strengthen Member Organizations' ability to deliver programs and services to their members

Except for Job Mart and Certification, The Federation has limited contact with individuals and indeed is structured to limit communication to individuals since that is the role of Member Organizations.

The result of this is that especially with roles (1) and (2), individuals have:

- a) little knowledge of Federation activities
- b) difficulty translating the benefits of Federation into any personal gain
- c) no feeling of "family" or belonging to The Federation

If this is to change, the responsibility for detailing the value of The Federation must be assumed by the executive of each Member Organization.

Member Organizations are served well by federating with allied recreational groups that have common aims and issues. The individuals that make up each Member Organization deserve regular communication on the activities of their Federation—communication put in terms of "what is the benefit of this activity to me, the individual member".

PARKS AND RECREATION FEDERATION OF ONTARIO



1220 Sheppard Avenue East, North York, Ontario M2K 2X1
Telephone (416) 495-4088

O. C. A. became a member of P.R.F.O. in October 1986.

THE WALDEN OUTPOST - A GREAT NEW PROGRAM

During the summer of 1985, I purchased a 115 acre parcel of land with about 2000' of shoreline, most of which is sand beach, on Fraser Lake. This site, now known as our OUTPOST, is about a 25 minute bus ride from camp. The site also has a large barn complex, a 2 storey farm house and several out-buildings.

Over the next several years we plan to repair the buildings and more fully utilize the wide-range of program possibilities open to us. We do not plan to put up any structures, but to use the space as it is.

The first thing I did after buying the site was to contact the Ministry of Natural Resources and arrange for tree planting. Over the space of 4 days last spring, 15,000 trees - 5,000 spruce and 10,000 red pine were planted. This will effectively close in the property as the trees get bigger. Incidentally - if you have clear space on your land and would like trees planted, see your local Natural Resources office and ask about the "Woodland Agreement Act." It is inexpensive and you'll be doing something to help reforestation.

This past summer we started using the site for programming on a daily basis. Activities at the site include wind-surfing, sailing, water-skiing and paddle-boats. We take about three cabins per day plus specialty staff, a total of about 40 people. The groups take lunch with them. Over the course of the day, every camper gets to have intensive instruction and recreation in the program areas previously mentioned. As well, they get a chance to relax at a setting outside our normal camp site.

Since it was our first year with the program, we limited it to campers between the ages of 12- 16 on a regular basis. The younger campers 7 - 11 visited the outpost only once each - some of them for overnight.

Most of Walden's campers, especially the teens, are with us for the entire summer so the outpost program was almost like a day off for them. The enthusiasm of both campers and staff was overwhelming and we plan to build on the success over the next few years.

TED COLE,
CAMP WALDEN.

**DOROTHY WALTER
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

During the banquet at our 1987 annual conference, Fred Okada, our President, announced the establishment of an O.C.A. award which will be known as the Dorothy Walter Award of Excellence and will be given "In recognition of outstanding service dedicated to the advancement of the Ontario Camping Association". He proceeded to describe the personal contributions and service which the Association recognized as the basis for its choice of the first recipient.

I am the person so honoured by having an award established which carries my name and also being its first recipient. Can you begin to imagine the range of emotions I experienced while Fred talked and then as I walked to the stage to receive the recognition? You would be correct if you guessed disbelief to total joy.

In the capacity of consultant from the provincial government to the O.C.A. Board, my contribution may have been: a reputation for cajoling the Board to dream up innovative projects for funding and meeting deadlines for spending grants; attending more Board meetings than any Board member; interrupting many meandering discussions; pressing to make a decision; suggesting the Board should "retreat". As a volunteer, the opportunity to help others, be it chairing the Education Committee or being a member of conference and workshop committees provincially, nationally and internationally during approximately 20 years has also benefitted me, personally to develop my skills. For that opportunity, I thank the O.C.A.

I believe this award gives flexibility to honor the volunteers who are actively working NOW to retain the high regard in which the Association is held; and to serve our membership.

My thanks are sincere and my gratitude for this honour is without bounds.

DOROTHY WALTER.

* * * * *

HELP WANTED: CAMP SIMPRESCA requires a director for the 1987 season.

Job Description on file in O.C.A. office. Interested applicants are invited to send a resume to: Betty Crawford, 31 Grove St. East, Barrie, Ont., L4M 2N8

**M.N.R. PRIMARY ACCESS ROAD
EXTENSION - TEMAGAMI DISTRICT**

3.

An environmental assessment was carried out on a proposed extension of the "Red Squirrel" logging road located near Temagami, Ontario. This road was proposed in order to provide access to timber resources in the southwestern portion of the Latchford Crown Forest Management Unit. "These roads are needed so that local timber operators may have access to a wood supply for their mills" (M.N.R., 1986). Specifically, this proposed road would cross the "Diamond Lake - Wakimika Lake canoe route area and the Wakimika River.

The impact of this road would be as follows:

- "For the Red Squirrel alignment a road would provide at least one new vehicular access point to Diamond Lake and from four to eight access points (within 100 m) to unnamed lakes with no previous access".
- Previously inaccessible 'wilderness' areas would now become subject to pressure from motorized vehicle campers and motor boating bring a very different set of aesthetic values to the area" (M.N.R., 1986).

The draft report on this E.A. process states that the Red Squirrel road will be extended to link it to the existing Liskeard Lumber Road which travels south through the Lady Evelyn - Smoothwater Provincial Park. This decision is not in the best interest of canoeists (including camps), tourist operators, wilderness enthusiasts and cottage owners. Briefs were submitted by these special interest groups (including the Environmental Concerns Committee). The following paragraph is an excerpt from the draft E.A. report. It is the response given by the M.N.R. to backcountry recreationists:

"Restricted public access should contain any significant increase in angling and hunting pressures in the area, minimizing the direct competition with the clients served by the area's lodges and camps. Canoeists and campers seeking backcountry "wilderness" experience may shift their activities to other parts of the region, elsewhere in Ontario or outside the province, which provide these amenities" (M.N.R., 1986).

Strong opposition to this road extension has caused the Ministry of Natural Resources to proceed with caution on this issue and there is a good chance that their decision will be delayed due to the number and

strengths of the protests. It is important, therefore, that we continue to voice our opinions about this proposal that will affect canoe tripping opportunities in Temagami.

If you would like to comment on this issue, please write directly to the Minister of Natural Resources - Vince Kerrio. The decision whether or not to put the road through lies with the Minister. Write to the following address:

Minister of Natural Resources
The Honourable Vince Kerrio
Whitney Block, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

References:

Ministry of Natural Resources,
Environmental Assessment for Primary
Access Roads in the Latchford Crown
Forest Management Unit (Draft), 1986.
(Red Squirrel Road Extension/Pinetorch
Corridor)

Available in the O.C.A. library.

JUDY PAUL,
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS CHAIRMAN.

WANTED

A co-ordinator for ECO-Skills '87. This workshop is part of the O.C.A. Skills Weekend which will be held June 12-15, 1987. The position of co-ordinator is an excellent opportunity to gain or improve your skills in planning, organization, training, and workshop implementation. Previous ECO-Skills involvement (either as staff or as a delegate) an asset, but not necessary. Call Judy Paul (416) 833-3333 ext. 5057 or 833-0660 for more information.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Cat's Cradle, Owl's Eyes: A Book of String Games and Many Stars & More String Games. These books will drive you knots! Ac-cord-ing to N. Tangle, string figures are a snap. All you need is two meters of string or cord, either of these books, and you can string your campers along for hours. Just imagine the enter-twine-ment you could have in your back pocket ready for those idle moments. Once you have the string figures mastered, put stories to them, pass on legends or perform magic.

4. Camilla Gryski has pulled together these two well illustrated books with step by step instructions to each string figure. Learn a sequence of figures from the original Cat's Cradle or how to do these yourself. Try The Camp Bed as a warm-up. I'm sure your fingers will quickly get the hang of it or at least get into shape.

Both books have a quick introduction to string terminology, names of strings and the basic position. From there, each book has different string figures you can create starting with the simpler ones. Cat's Cradle, Owl's Eyes: A Book of String Games was the first book written and is a good introduction to the art of string figures.

Once you have rolled out the dough for either of these books (or both), all you have to do is practise! You've got enough time now to become a pro before the first campers roll off the buses. They're easy to learn and easy to teach.

And remember: always carry a string in your pocket!

Cat's Cradle, Owl's Eyes: A Book of String Games, Kids Can Press, 80 p., 1983.
Cost: \$9.95 (members) - \$11.95 (non-members)

Many Stars & More String Games, Kids Can Press, 80 p., 1985. Cost: \$9.95 (members) - \$11.95 (non-members)

Books listed in "Between the Covers" are available from the Canadian Camping Association Bookstore.

Orders that are \$20.00 or less must be prepaid with \$2.00 added for shipping. Contact the C.C.A. office by mail or phone: Canadian Camping Association, 1806 Avenue Road, Suite 2, Toronto, Ont., M5M 3Z1 - (416) 781-4717.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - C.C.A.

ONTARIO SAILING ASSOCIATION

Instructor Programmes designed for Camp Staff.

Location: Camp Mini-Yo-We, Port Sydney, Ont.

Boardsailing - June 19 - 21, 1987.

Sailing - June 22 - 26, 1987

For more information and applications contact O.C.A. office (416) 781-0525.