



OCAsional News

PUBLISHED BY THE ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1996

Crisis, What Crisis??

This summer, two out of three camps will experience a crisis.

The Crisis Management Task Force has gained some preliminary statistics from the surveys sent out in February. The response was significant and gave the task force some pertinent information that can be used in considering the next steps in developing a Crisis Management tool. Of the 210 accredited camps, 30% returned the completed survey. Provisional members accounted for an additional 30 surveys. It is important to note that all camping sectors (day, residential, travel) were represented evenly.

The following list of trends are a sampling of preliminary findings of the survey.

□ It is assumed that the camper population has not

increased significantly over the past 10 years.

□ In the past 10 years, 516 crisis were reported in the camps that responded. These figures suggest that each year in the past ten, 2 of 3 camps in Ontario could expect to face a crisis situation.

□ Camper crises increased by 83% in the past five years. Staff crises also increased.

□ Crises that doubled in incidence in the past five years, were behaviour incidents, major fractures, anaphylactic shock and natural disasters. Abuse of all types increased 89% and transportation (bus/car) has also increased substantially. Missing campers crises stayed consistent.

□ The two reported fatalities in the past five years were water related.

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Corps d'Élite Awards: Lieutenant Governor Henry Jackman; Welland recipient Wesley Ogden, for his recreation work, established the OMRA; Jocelyn Palm, OCA; Dorothy Walter, OCA; Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, Marilyn Mushinski. See Story on Page 11

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Dear Journal

After the Toronto premier of STOMP on May 14, I heard someone call "Jorgi". I fully expected to see another member of the camping community who was there supporting the cause of AMICI and Trails Youth Initiatives for which this premier was a fund-raiser. The energetic performance by eight actor/musicians involved intricate percussion on everything from broomsticks to garbage cans. The show had everyone leaving the theatre tapping out rhythms on their programs and the backs of their friends.

As I turned, I found, not another Camp director but a camper. He was swimming in his extra large souvenir T-shirt which hung to his knees and had a big grin across his face. "I can't wait to try that at cabin clean up", he said and we went on to chat up the excitement that we both had about the coming summer.

May 14 was actually quite a busy OCA day even before OCA members put on their diggs to go to the theatre. The last Board meeting of the year took place at Camp Couchiching while a summer staff training workshop ran, a school group arrived for a spring camping trip and the Conference Committee met in the afternoon. Jeff Bradshaw must be angling to re-locate the OCA Office to Orillia.

The Board meeting set us up for the summer by giving all of our committee-driven projects the nudge and direction needed to carry us through to the fall. It is so amazing to see what this group of volunteers can do with their collective will. I don't think that there is another organization like it.

The Office staff and the OCA Executive continue to be busy with the summer business in the city. The Name Label program - an essential part of the OCA fundraising strategy is active right into mid-summer. Membership packages are already under revision in anticipation of mid-summer mailing.

There are a tremendous number of projects already in the works for next year and we must find a way to let the whole membership know what is under discussion, in progress and needing input. I hate having anyone surprised by the change and growth that the Association is undergoing. We must keep trying to get the information out to the membership. Perhaps I should list a few of them in the OCA's News. Let me see, there would be:

Committee Guidelines for Activity

The Action Plan sets a course and the Committees powers the ship. These guidelines provide some clarity on reporting and communication between the 'engine room' and 'tiller'.

Professional Code of Ethics

It has been suggested frequently in recent times, both by word and deed, that it may be timely to re-affirm our collective beliefs in relation to the business of camping.

Care and Handling of Volunteers

The OCA is working on developing a policy to build a positive relationship with volunteers which allows for realistic expectations on both sides.

Awards Program Review

Part of our volunteer program is recognition. The Human Resources Committee and the Executive is taking the next step to defining a comprehensive and meaningful strategy in this area.

Health Care Publication

This document, introduced at the Conference last January, is now ready for distribution but the project has been to develop an expandable document for future chapters and articles.

Marketing Strategies (from Consultant to Display Boards)

The Public Awareness Committee has presented a proposal to help the OCA achieve its marketing and public awareness objectives.

Things To Do

- Watch the OCA Internet website being developed by Camp Creations Inc and Dave Ward at <http://www.ontcamp.on.ca>.
- Get some staff to the OCA Skills Weekend at Camp Kilcoo.
- Plan for National Camp Day on July 10.
- Congratulate Maija Zeibots and her committee on the successful Spring Training at Seneca College King Campus.
- Congratulate Mary Casey, Pearl Bell and Carrie Crerar for their committee's leadership with the Health Care Workshop.
- Contact the Canadian Olympic Association for a complete resource/education kit for Camp Tawingo which can be used this summer during the Olympics.
- Plan for Olympics 2000 because camping and the summer Olympics is a natural connection worth cultivating. I wonder how many athletes have gone to Camp.
- Prepare for the last Executive Meeting of the season on June 6.

JOHN JORGENSON
OCA PRESIDENT

Public Awareness Committee Report

It is the pleasure of the Committee to welcome two new members to assist in the public awareness work of the OCA.

David Bale (Camp Tamakwa) brings a background in radio and media along with his history as a camp owner and operator. He will be working on the development of the media kits to be circulated, province wide in January, 1997.

Sheila Allen (YMCA-YWCA of London) brings her agency experience and energy to help accomplish the goals identified in our strategic plan. She will be working on the supports to the regional representatives and the development of promotional display units to assist in creating a greater OCA presence province wide.

Special thanks goes out to John Riddell (YMCA-YWCA Camp Queen Elizabeth) and Jason Brown (Camp Y-on-the-Ottawa) for their past service to the committee. They will continue to work on promotional plans for the OCA along with our newest members.

Throughout the summer the

Tips for the Top Dog

Here are some business tips too simple not to know taken from Never Confuse a Memo with Reality, by Richard A. Moran, 1994 that can help you on your camp 'promotional' trail.

1. Don't promise what you can't deliver.
2. Always have documents proofread. Never send a document with a typo.
3. Always carry your business cards with you and give them out freely.
4. Return calls within twenty-four hours. Never leave them unanswered.
5. Write ideas down - they get lost like good pens.
6. Don't eat garlic for lunch.

These thoughts brought to you by your Public Awareness Committee.

KEITH PUBLICCOVER
PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE

committee members are committed to continuing their work to prepare for the fall kick off of the promotional initiatives. Some of the projects for the summer, in addition to the above mentioned are: development of membership promotional materials; banners for advertisement supplements, support to the other OCA committees as it relates to promotion; support to the OCA office staff to polish the quality of print material leaving the office; and developing initiatives to increase the OCA's profile in the province.

Much of the work is being carried out to set the stage for a new promotional cycle for the fall and winter of 1996.

If you or one of your camp staff share an interest in becoming involved in the Public Awareness Committee this coming fall, please contact Jen Palacios (Camp Oconto).

This report is submitted by Keith Publicover (OCA Director) on behalf of the Public Awareness Committee.

President: John Jorgenson, Tawingo, RR#1 Huntsville, Ont. P0A 1K0 H: 705-789-8701. B: 705-789-5612. Fax: 705-789-6624. E-Mail: tawingo@vianet.on.ca

Vice President: Barb Gilbert, 13 Maple Ave. Toronto, Ont. M4W 2T5 H: 416-921-7384. **Portfolio:** Regional Representatives.

Past President: Larry Bell, Robin Hood, 158 Limestone Cres. Downsview, Ont. M3J 2S4. 416-736-4443. Fax: 416-736-9971. **Portfolio:** Nominations, PRO, Human Resources.

Treasurer: Marj Booth, Rosedale-Moore Park Association, 146 Crescent Rd., Toronto, Ont. M4W 1V2. 416-922-3714. Fax 416-922-4523. **Portfolio:** Fundraising.

Director: Jeff Bradshaw, Couchiching. 4 Ripley Ave. Toronto, Ont. M6P 2Y9. 705-325-3428. **Portfolio:** Professional Development (Annual Conference, Skills, Spring Training).

Director: John Malcolmson, Brébeuf, R.R. #1, Rockwood, Ont. N0B 2K0. 519-856-4671. Fax 519-856-9674. **Portfolio:** Integration.

Director: Kate Moore, Camp Allsaw, 36 Evelyn Ave. Toronto, Ont. M6P 2Y9. 705-457-1738 Tel. **Portfolio:** Professional Development (OCA'sal News, The Camping Guide).

Director: Ellen Nash, Northland B'nai Brith, 3995 Bathurst St. #200, North York, Ont. M3H 5V3. 705-754-2374. Fax: 705-754-2030. **Portfolio:** Standards, Health Care.

Director: Keith Publicover, Tim Horton Children's Foundation, RR #1, Campbellville, Ont. L0P 1B0. 905-854-1999. Fax 905-854-1990. **Portfolio:** Public Awareness.

Director: Andy Rodford, Onondaga, 12 Bruce Park Ave. #101, Toronto, Ont. M4P 2S3. 705-286-1030. Fax 705-286-6098. **Portfolio:** Membership, Legislation, Advocacy.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Eastern Ontario (Ottawa): Deirdre Billes, Omagaki Wilderness Centre, Box 4, Pembroke, Ont. K8A 6W5. 613-732-0780.

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

Northwestern Ontario (Thunder Bay) Elaine Kalnbach, Dorion Bible Camp, Dorion, Ont. P0T 1K0. 807-857-2331.

Southwestern Ontario (London). Jim Janzen, YMCA-YWCA Camping, George White Outdoor Centre, RR #5, Clarke Sideroad, London, Ont. N6A 4B9. 519-667-3300. Fax 519-455-2519.

**THE SOCIETY OF CAMP DIRECTORS PRESENTS
THE 1997 SCD PHOTO CONTEST**

At the Annual OCA Conference, January 23 to 26, Sheraton Parkway, Toronto North

Now is the time to stock up on film, and promise yourself this summer to:

- Grab your camera, load the film and start shooting,
- Organize a staff photo contest and a camper photo contest,
- Choose the ones you want to show the world and your colleagues in camping.

Capture the feeling beautifully, with high artistic quality and a skillful photographic technique in any or all of these three great entry categories:

- NATURE CLOSE-UPS** (the wonders at our fingertips or through a telephoto lens)
- GOOD TIMES AT CAMP** (catch the moment or tell a story)
- WHAT CAMP MEANS TO ME** (this is close to the heart)

Here are the entry requirements:

- Your prints must be 4" x 6" or larger
- Mount, matt or frame them at 8" x 10" or larger
- Titles are nice, but don't even hint at the camp or photographer
- A group of photos mounted together can tell a story

At the Conference:

- All entries will be displayed
- All camper entries will receive a certificate of participation
- Grand price (best in the show)
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prices in each category
- And honourable mentions for special appeal

Look for more details and entry labels in your summer conference mailing

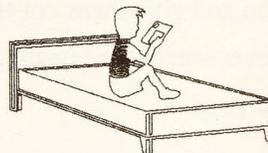
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FOR THE SOCIETY OF CAMP DIRECTORS

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THANK YOU

for helping with last month's mailing, from the Office Staff to Maija Zeibots, GayVenture and Nicolina Gleasure (Fiora's mom).

Room And Board Exemption - Do We Qualify?

In recent years, some OCA residential camps have been claiming an exemption from declaring room and board as a taxable benefit. Other camps have been declaring room and board as a taxable benefit. The question has arisen whether residential camps qualify to claim this exemption.

Customs, Excise and Taxation offers exemptions from claiming room and board in two specific situations.

1. Employment At Special Work Site: Form TD-4

According to government information, the allowance you pay to an employee who works at a special work site is not taxable if the employee works away from home under all of these conditions:

- The duties at the work site are of a temporary nature and the work site is far enough away from the employee's principal place of residence that the employee could not be expected to return home each day.

- The employee maintains a "self-contained domestic establishment" at another location during the period of employment. This establishment has to remain available for occupancy by the employee, and cannot be rented to any other person in the period.

- The allowance for board, lodging, and transportation was for a period when the employee was away from the place he or she usually lives for at least 36 hours.

2. Employment At Remote Locations

You may not have to deduct income tax from certain allowances that you give to employees who work in remote locations. There are two types of allowances that may be exempt from income tax:

- a) board and lodging allowances, and
- b) transportation allowances.

Board and lodging allowances are exempt from income tax as long as the following conditions are met:

- the employee must be located where he or she could not be reasonably expected to set up and maintain a self-contained domestic establishment because of remoteness of the location, and the distance from any established community;

- the allowances have to be for a period of at least 36 hours when:

- the employee's duties require the employee to be away from the principal place of residence; or
- the employee has to be at the remote location.

When you provide board, lodging and transportation under the above conditions, you do not have to report the equivalent value or any GST component as remuneration to the employee on the T-4 Supplementary. In addition, Form TD-4 is not required when there is an exemption for allowances you pay to employees who work at a remote location. If you need help to determine whether a location qualifies as remote, please contact your income tax office.

After reading the above information provided by the government, it is unclear whether residential camps qualify to declare an exemption from claiming room and board as a taxable benefit. It could be interpreted that some or all of the staff located at residential summer camps could qualify for the exemption. As I mentioned earlier, some camps have been claiming this exemption, and some have not. I would recommend that you speak to an accountant and to your local tax office to determine if you qualify for the exemption.

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S. KATE MOORE
OCA BOARD MEMBER & AVID READER

Camping Makes The World Go Round

Summer is just around the corner . . . no . . . wait . . . summer has just ended . . . in Australia. School will be out soon . . . no . . . wait . . . school isn't out until mid-July . . . in Venezuela. University has wrapped up for most students . . . no . . . wait . . . a new university semester has just begun . . . in Japan.

The world is made up of fascinating people, with fascinating cultural and societal differences. Often, as we grow older, some of us believe that "our way" is the right way - we teach our children the "right

way"...we teach our campers the "right way".

It is not the "right way" - it is just a "different way". If we begin to examine how other continents, other cultures, other countries teach their children, we will discover there are many "different ways" - none is right or wrong - simply different.

Children tolerate differences far better than adults. Their inquisitive minds seek explanations to the differences, and they learn acceptance with ease. They learn strategies for

copied with differences and often respect those differences with far more grace than many adults.

In many of our camps this summer we will welcome children, and staff, from many countries, with varied cultural backgrounds. Let us recognize those differences . . . let us celebrate those differences . . . let us learn . . . let us understand . . . let us seek tolerance . . . let us learn from our children.

JANE MCCUTCHEON
ICF TREASURER AND CANADIAN
REPRESENTATIVE

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS

Watch your July mail for a special flyer on

The Great OCA Happening and The SCD Photo Contest.

Please post prominently for the benefit of all your staff.

Conference'97

January 23 - 26, 1997

Northwestern Ontario News

Exciting things are happening in the north (other than the fact that it is May 1 and we are yet again buried in snow, we may start a new trend in camping - snow camps in June!!)

We now have a number of camps that have applied to the OCA for membership and we would like to encourage them in this and as they participate in their mentorship year.

The camps are: Polly Lake Girl Guides
Akwachink Leadership School
Aurora Lutheran Bible Camp.

Happy Camping,

ELAINE KALNBACH
NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL REP.

If there are any camps or individuals needing information about the OCA please give me a call at 1-807-857-2331.

Crisis Management At Camp

As the camp season rapidly approaches, owners and directors look forward to weeks of learning, activity and friendships for their campers, staff and themselves. But it is also a time of preparation, a time to put into place measures and plans to cover any and all contingencies. OCA members have been well-prepared to meet these needs thanks to the ongoing work of the Association's Crisis Management Task Force. This group has prepared a tool for planning crisis response, which will be distributed to all members for use this season.

As part of this desire to help our members better prepare themselves, we are grateful for the assistance of Dr. Bruce Muchnick, who has helped the OCA prepare our own crisis management protocol. Dr. Muchnick recently offered a workshop to members of the Society of Camp Directors on crisis management. Here are some of his thoughts which may be useful to you as you prepare your camp's crisis response.

**ATTENTION
ALL CAMP DIRECTORS !!!**

DON'T MISS OUT ...

**WATERSKI
INSTRUCTORS
COURSE**

June 19 to June 22, 1996

at Manitou-wabing Sports & Arts Centre, Parry Sound

A waterski instructors course geared specifically to instructors and boat drivers at camp waterski programs. The 4 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.

Participation is open to all waterski staff holding a 1996 contract at an O.C.A. camp.

Cost: \$325.00*per person

*Includes accommodation and 3 meals daily, full course fees & training manual.

For more information call Manitou's office at (416) 922 - 2447.

Planning:

Preparation requires determining who's in charge at your camp in the event of a crisis, and what happens if that person is incapacitated? What happens if you can't reach someone you need, such as your lawyer? Putting plans in place helps to counteract the effects of anxiety which are natural in an emergency.

Fact-gathering:

What do you need to find out fast? The condition of your campers, staff - both those involved in the crisis and others.

Decision-making:

Who's going to do what? The director or owner will likely feel a huge sense of responsibility and pressure during a crisis. Establish a crisis response team in your own camp.

Stabilize the camp:

While it's a natural inclination to marshal all forces toward the emergency situation, instead aim for balance. It's also important to do as much as possible to keep camp

moving. You might consider calling in a nearby camp director to give you a hand.

Contacting family:

Probably the most difficult task is contacting the family or guardian of those involved in a crisis. Aim to treat people the same way you do all year long - in a reasonable, humane way.

Managing the media:

Specify one spokesperson for the press, to deliver a consistent message. Prepare a news release. Invite local media to your camp before the season even begins - develop relationships and build alliances before you need them.

Most importantly, use the Crisis Response Protocol developed by the OCA Task Force, and these ideas as tools to add to your own personalized camp plans. Remember: planning will allow you to decrease the amount of thinking time in a crisis, and increase your response time.

MARY LYNN TROTTER
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Learning from Difficult Experiences

Wendell White, author of the best-seller *Prickly Pickles* and facilitator *extraordinaire*, spoke on May 1st to a gathering of camp professionals about the “sticky issues” facing us in the course of our work. Over 20 people came to share their experiences and find out ways of making the best of a bad situation!

Getting the whole picture about special needs

- avoids surprises after the child arrives at camp
- use a behaviour identification form (accompanies the registration form); collate the information and use it in pre-camp training; destroy the forms after the session to protect the camper's privacy
- act professionally, not emotionally, with the information received
- withdrawal vs. holding techniques - depends on the camp philosophy, the child's needs, and staff training
- don't try to be all things to all people!
- at all times, do what is **reasonable** (for you and for the child)

Abuse

- let staff know the camp's expectations; staff have to be knowledgeable about these situations, but don't let them forget that camp is and can be fun
- to catch skin rashes, infections, etc. rather than relying on counsellors to do body checks, use your camp health staff
- some camps institute a four-part health check (upon arrival to camp, before outtrip, after outtrip, and prior to departure)
- this impresses parents with the camp's commitment to health standards
- keep an open mind: sometimes staff just exercise poor judgement but do not intend abuse

Bullying

- let kids know that the staff are approachable and that victims won't be punished
- have campers sign a commitment sheet that emphasizes a “no violence” policy

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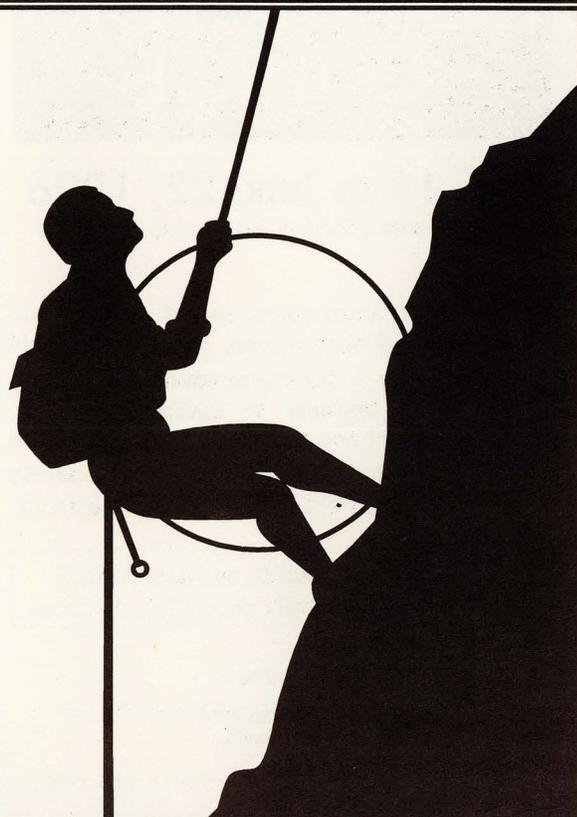
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Learning From Difficult Experiences

Continued from Page 8

- if you have to send a camper home prematurely, have the counsellor (backed up by the director) speak to the parents; counsellors are on the front line and they know exactly what went on
- conversely, if the counsellor has erred, they are the ones who have to 'face the music' (again, the director is present to back them up)
- add a section in your parent handbook, stating no drugs, alcohol or physical abuse will be tolerated
- be aware that if you add this section, you demonstrate your awareness of the problem and have the responsibility to adequately train your staff
- you need to contact parents and explain why you can't have a particular camper back; be prepared to suggest alternatives

Rejecting children because of health issues (e.g. Hepatitis B)

- depends on: the nature of the camp activities, the degree of contagiousness, the camp's closeness to emergency facilities, etc.
- it's reasonable for the camp to refuse a child if they are not equipped to deal with her/his requirements
- check with other health professionals **first** (e.g. doctors, public health unit) to get support for your position before making a decision

Natural Disasters

- contact these groups for information:
 - search and rescue units
 - fire department
 - police
 - Ministry of the Environment
 - Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Provincial and National Parks
 - school boards
- contact these professionals to help with pre-camp training, developing an emergency plan, crisis response teams
- have a map of the camp (outlining power, water, buildings, natural gas lines) kept in a weather-proof canister at the entrance of the camp so firefighters can access it upon entry
- introduce yourself to your local emergency professionals; don't wait until there is an emergency to meet them
- on your emergency list of numbers, have the tele-

Conference '97

The Great OCA Happening ***an absolutely-not-to-be-missed event***

Watch for Full Details in the Fall

January 23-26, 1997

- phone number of the closest OCA director; it's good support for you
- post a lifeguard on your waterfront on visitor's day even if it's closed (a visiting child may wander in)

References/Police Checks

- Metro Police charges \$40 for staff, nil for volunteers; costs elsewhere depends on the police department
- a young offender's record may be obtained if the individual okays it
- check first with the applicant as to why they have not listed a past employer as a reference (sometimes there is a legitimate reason!) - respect their privacy

Hiring Ethics

- remind staff of the importance of their reputation, especially in such a close-knit community as camping; this gives you an opportunity to discuss the question of professionalism
- be fair to your staff too - don't keep them hanging, don't assume they'll return (keep in touch); don't use the term "contract" as a threat
- keep in mind the Employment Standards Act applies to your staff, even if there is no contract present

Thank you, Wendell, for your insights. And thank you Janet Adamson, for opening your home to this informal gathering.

FIORA HAWRYLUK
OCA HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The OCA Human Resources Committee organizes educational evenings and breakfast club meetings to discuss topics that concern camp professionals. Read your OCA's News for information on upcoming events (starting again in the fall). In the meantime, have a safe and happy summer!

The Society of Camp Directors

1996 Writing Awards

Camping in Canada

- Field Research Results - Camping Archives Study - Camping Practices and Critical Issues

These writing awards are sponsored by the Society of Camp Directors with support from the Ontario Camping Association and Trent University Archives (Peterborough).

Open to those who have worked, are working or are studying in the camping (or related) fields. Articles must be analytical and/or educational in nature and submitted as one of:

Essays On Current Camping Practices And Issues

Topical issues/practical articles (e.g. Administration, program, camper issues, health, environmental concerns, facility, food service, recruitment, finance, staffing).

Field And Quantitative Research

Finds and applications as a result of original research conducted in Canadian camping and/or Canadian based camping.

Archives-based Research

Articles which are based wholly or in part upon research conducted with camping material housed in currently recognized archives.

In addition to a cash award of \$200.00, recipients gain recognition within both the camping field and the academic community. Your article becomes a valued addition to the collected body of camping knowledge.

As many as three cash awards may be presented at the forthcoming meeting of the Society of Camp Directors. In addition, award recipients may be invited to present their paper, or a summary of the same.

Articles must be original work, typed, double spaced and between 2500 and 5000 words in length. Articles are judged on their analytical and educational merit in an impartial review process by a panel selected from members of the Society and Trent University. Evaluation criteria include style, relevance to camping, appropriate research and method.

Deadline: October 1, 1996

One copy of paper to be submitted to:

Professor Bruce Hodgins,
Director, Frost Centre,
Trent University,
Peterborough, ON K9J 7B8



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Corps d'Élite Ontario Recognizes Two Camping Colleagues

The Corp d'Élite Ontario program acknowledges Ontario residents whose volunteering has had a significant impact on the development and advancement of recreation in Ontario. Recipients Jocelyn Palm and Dorothy Walter received this provincial recognition and were honoured recently at a gala ceremony and presentation in the Lieutenant Governor's suite at Queen's Park. Since inception of the award in 1984, this is the first time two nominations have been accepted from one organization.

Jocelyn Palm

Volunteer organizations dream about people who give of themselves the gift of time, energy and support. Jocelyn Palm is that kind of volunteer. It is for that reason that the Ontario Government could not have made a better choice for the prestigious Corps d'Élite Award which recognizes excellence in the field of recreation.

Joc has made an outstanding career in the field of recreation. She volunteered with the Royal Life Saving Society and served as the Executive Director of both the Ontario branch and National Society from 1968 to 1989. A camper from the age of 6, Joc has always been involved in the Camping Association serving as the president of the OCA and CCA. Currently the owner and director of Glen Bernard Camp, Joc is leading the camp into its 75th season. In the winter, Joc is on the ski slopes as owner of Raven Ski/Snowboard Club and is also a key administrator at Women's College Hospital. In her spare time she is the treasurer for Strings Across the Sky, a charitable organization which teaches music to children living in the Arctic.

Dorothy Walter

Dorothy, during her 25 years with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation as consultant for camping and outdoor recreation, provided support to a number of provincial associations: OCA, COEO, Canadian Recreation Associations, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Ontario Recreation Society and held the position of Manager of The Bark Lake Leadership Centre. Dorothy has earned an enviable reputation provincially, nationally and internationally for her depth of knowledge and resources related to camping and recreation programs for children, youth and S.A.B.L.E for older adults.

Dorothy continues volunteering with the OCA, The Friends Of The Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir, The Fifth Church Of Christ' Scientist' Toronto, and The Leslie Bell Scholarship Fund. Dorothy, as a consultant, is very busy in her retirement.

The OCA is lucky to have such dedicated individuals.
Congratulations Joc and Dorothy on these well deserved awards



<http://www.camp.ca>

The Online Magazine for Camps

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Camp Creations Incorporated

Wooden Easter Seal Camp, Memories For A Lifetime

1996 is the fiftieth anniversary of the Easter Seal Society's Wooden Camp in London, Ontario. It was developed on the family cottage site of London businessman S. Frank Wood. It was a beautiful property overlooking the Thames River: the owner's interest in horticulture resulted not only in beautiful buildings but also grounds that enhanced the natural slopes, swamps and trees, not to mention the abundance of birds and small creatures of the woods.

In 1945 the Wooden Easter Seal Camp site was donated to the Easter Seal Society by Clare Wood who had inherited the property from his father some years previously. This gave the Society a second camp location in Southern Ontario by which to serve physically disabled children, Blue Mountain Easter Seal Camp having been established in Collingwood nine years earlier. The camp opened for business in 1946.

My husband Don and I are really excited and honoured to be job sharing the role of Camp Director at Wooden Easter Seal Camp this year. We have become involved with the Easter Seal Society again over the past eight years and find the experience at these camps most rewarding as staff work hard together to meet some pretty basic goals: to provide opportunities to develop independence, to build self

esteem through achievements, to help campers socialize and make friends, to offer each a challenge to strive to limits of ability in a supportive environment, and to develop creative expression skills in an environment with a minimum of competition.

There will be several "celebrations" at Wooden Easter Seal Camp over the summer, including an anniversary celebration in early July and a reunion for former staff in early September. Might we offer an invitation to either of these to any interested in the Wooden Easter Seal Camp experience...or feel free to call either of us at 519-471-6640 and we'll try to arrange a visit. Wooden Easter Seal Camp is on Commissioners Road just at London's western city limits.

For us, another reason for being particularly pleased to be going to Wooden Easter Seal Camp this summer is personal...you see we worked as young adults at Wooden Easter Seal Camp in 1958 (hence the word "again" in paragraph three above). As well as having our life changed by the Easter Seal Camp experience, we became an "item" at camp and were married that same December! Like the camp, we're still going strong!

To compare the camps "then and now", we see many things different though most of the important things are the same. Then as now, the kids were all important to a young staff

keen and dedicated to making sure each youngster had the best possible holiday. The staff was smaller with a large contingent of volunteers and as today all worked hard within fairly rigid guidelines; lots of hard work and long hours...my salary as a "junior" camp nurse was \$125 a month! The volunteers, who came for two weeks at a time, learned quickly what was needed, picking up survival skills from program and cabin staff who acted as lead hands.

We look forward to our summer. Our staff is pretty well in place and will be one of the best...so much talent and energy combined with that element of caring so critical to Easter Seal camps in these young adults. We also have a great resource in the support of the "Camp and Rec" Department at the Easter Seal Society Provincial Office.

One problem for us this summer...how to deal with relationships on staff!

CAROLE BATES
DIRECTOR

WOODEN EASTER SEAL CAMP

Find A Mistake?

It is our policy to include something for everyone. Since some people like to find errors, we regularly include a few in our publication to meet this need.

Summer Hours at the OCA

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

When trying to reach us and you do not get a "live" voice, please leave a detailed message - include times we can reach you.

Or, fax us with details.

Telephone: 416-781-0525 Fax: 416-781-7874
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SPRING TRAINING

Leadership Bloomed at 1996 Spring Training!

What a glorious day! What more could a person ask for at a conference: fantastic speakers, excellent leadership and a great outdoor site on a perfect spring day!

Thank you to everyone who made the 1996 Spring Training Leadership Conference such a tremendous success.

The 1996 Committee:

Caryl Colton, Camp Gay Venture, Past Chair
Joel Brenner, Camp Robin Hood
John Bergman, Camp Wabanaki
Dave Graham, Canadian Adventure Camp
Andrea Hodgins, Wanapitei
Molly Maguie, Camp Maple Leaf
Allan Nelson, Individual Member
Hilary Smith, Glen Bernard Camp
Barb Weedon, Seneca College King Day Camp

All the many volunteers who helped on the day and, of course the fabulous office team of Bobsie, Carolyn and Ellen - the wonderful OCA Board support from Barb Gilbert, Jeff Bradsahw and John Jorgenson.

Thank you to all and I hope everyone has a happy, safe and wonderful summer!

MAIJA ZEIBOTS
1996 SPRING TRAINING CHAIR

Guide To Camp Health Issues And Concerns

The OCA Healthcare Committee is pleased to introduce a collection of information papers pertaining to health and safety issues at camp. This information is the culmination of several years of addressing common health concerns of camps across the province. New information will follow as it becomes available.

Current topics include: Management of Allergies At Camp, Guidelines Concerning Blood-Borne Illnesses, Professionals at Ontario Camps: Can you afford not to hire them?, Medical Directives, Management Of Communicable Diseases At Camp, Standard Confidential Health History, Management Of Sun And Heat At Camp, Nurse Performance Appraisal.

The price of the publication is \$12.95 plus G.S.T.

Thanks to Larry and Pearl Bell for all their work in publishing.

Order from the OCA Office.

Crisis, What Crisis??

Continued from Page 1

□ Many camps have had Crisis response plans for things such as fire, missing camper, drowning, shock and fractures but fewer are prepared for abuse (56%), natural disaster (36%) and bus/auto crises (30%).

□ 94% of camps have training and most report a minimum of 5 hours/summer. Few use the camp health care team for training and the healthcare team doesn't always receive training. 50% of camps involve professional people

in giving the training.

Watch for details as the survey is more deeply scrutinized for details.

KYLE BARBER
CRISIS MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Put Some Spring in Your Camping

- ⇒ Have you ever found yourself 10 miles from nowhere with a radio full of dead batteries?
 - ⇒ As a responsible Camper do you dislike throwing away mercury filled batteries?
 - ⇒ Do you have any idea how much you spend on radio batteries in a year?
- Then this is what you've been waiting for!!

The world's first spring powered AM, FM Shortwave radio

The Baygen *FreePlay* Radio

- ⇒ It will **NEVER** need Batteries!
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For further information contact:

Spring - To - It
705-726-7822

"We'll put some spring in your life"

Missing fire buckets? broom handles? spatuals? paint cans?
saws, and even kitchen sinks?

Look in your drama area.

Perhaps they are being used creatively by your campers!

S T O M P

So, that's what all the noise was about!

The Elgin Theatre in Toronto was filled with beautiful noise and 1500 camping people and friends who raised over \$60,000 for AMICI and Trails Youth Initiatives. Congratulations to all the organizers and audience participants!

OCA on the Internet

Our Home Page is under construction and will be beautiful, thanks to Kyle and Josh of Camp Creations.

You can now e-mail us
at
oca@ontcamp.on.ca

Proud to be a new member of the OCA. **Willen Foods Inc.** Small 100% Canadian Company dedicated to our customers. Soups, sauces, dessert, less salt and sugar, dietary products. 905-624-8338; 1-800-474-8338; Bruce McCarthy, Mark Teal.

Dynamic camp marketing and communications **manager seeks winter position.** Five years experience, proven record. Directed 2 camps. Superb references. Call Chris Coggon, 416-384-5463 voice mail.

Promotional video production - greenhouse productions. Efficient professional video productions specializing in camp, tourism and outdoor education videos. Experience in producing promotional and broadcast videos for many camps. Linear and computerized editing including graphics, logos, maps. Award winning productions. Also home page authoring and brochures. greenhouse productions, Lynn Clark, Foresters Falls, Ontario, 613-646-7567, e-mail: greenhouse@renc.igs.net

Administrative Position: Project CANOE, a non-profit canoeing program for youth at risk, has an interim administrator's position available from Nov. 1 to Mar. 31. There is a possibility for this to become a permanent position. The candidate should have skills in bookkeeping, fundraising, general administration, as well as excellent communication and organization skills. Reporting to a Board of Directors. Mail resume to: Personnel Department, Project CANOE, P. O. Box 720, Station P, Toronto, ON M5S 2Y2. **WRITTEN APPLICATIONS ONLY. NO CALLS OR FAXES, PLEASE.**

Youth Challenge International seeks **youth leaders** age 26+ for overseas community projects. Application deadline for 1997 projects is September 4, 1996. Call for application package: 416-971-9846.

Camp rental. Adults or youths, private groups, reunions, camps, retreats, conferences, etc. Spectacular shoreline, canoe routes, gorgeous beach, trails, surrounded by hundreds of square miles of Crown Land Forest. Cabins with private washrooms. 2 hrs Toronto. 416-449-6029/705-657-8432.

Large camp property of 610 acres north of Parry Sound on 11,000 feet of shoreline on Squaw Lake. The camp features 17 buildings including a main hall, gymnasium and sleeping cabins. Year round access. Immediate closing. Please direct all serious enquiries to Estate Mortgage and Investment Limited. 416-864-2850.

For Sale: Eureka Willow Creek 12 SE, 12x12 family tent, canopy, excellent condition, used 7 weeks, lifetime guarantee, new price \$700 + tax, asking \$525. Call 905-836-8072.



LIFESAVING SOCIETY

The Lifeguarding Experts

The future is looking good. After two years of review, the Royal Life Saving Society of Canada is adopting a new visual identity. The new identity combines the core competency of the organization into a single, powerful identity. With the new logo comes a new name - Lifesaving Society replaces the old abbreviation of Royal Life, which created confusion with the life insurance and finance industry.

Dorion Bible Camp Is Celebrating!!

CELEBRATION '96 is the theme for our 50th year. We are searching for past campers and staff to come and help us with the celebration. Some special events planned are:

June 15 - Open House and BBQ

August 16 -18 - Special weekend at the camp

Please call 1-807-857-2331 if you would like more information or a brochure.

Dorian has been a member of the OCA since 1970.

We are looking forward to another 50!!!

The Camping Cradle

Arrived in time to be the newest camper at Camp Queen Elizabeth Taylor James Janzen, born Sunday, May 12, 1996, son of Heather and Jim

It's not too late to order
OCA Name Label Order Forms

for your camper and staff clothing

This is a major fund raising project which helps keep your fees low. (Last year, the Name Label Program brought in an average of \$150 per Member Camp - that's \$150 that did not get added onto your dues, or training event fees!)

Many thanks to the many camps participating this spring!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Provisional Camp Member

Trent Summer Sports Camp.

**New Commercial Members
 AEROBIOLOGY INC.**

2325 Hurontario St., Unit 5, Ste. 25
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Water purification systems for removal of sediment, chlorine, and parasite cysts.

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P.O. Box 64, Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 4X9. 905-884-9388, Fax: 905-884-3532. Water filtration products for bacteria, tcyst, taste and odour, sediment removal.

G & S DYE AND ACCESSORIES LTD. 300 Steelcase Road W. #19, Markham, ON, L3R 2W2. 905-415-8559, Fax: 905-415-8560.

Dyes, paints, marble, transfer, t-shirts, silk painting, screening, free training.

GREENHOUSE PRODUCTIONS. Box 12, Forester Falls, ON, K0J 1V0. 613-646-7567, Fax: 613-646-7567. Efficient professional video productions specializing in camp promotional, tourism and outdoor education videos.

Awarding winning productions, loads of camp video experience. E-mail: greenhouse@renc.igs.net.

SPRING-TO-IT. 15 Marwendy Drive, Barrie, ON, L4M 4E6. 705-726-7822, Fax: 705-726-7822. Distributor of the Baygen Freeplay wind-up radio and future wind-up flashlights and cassette players.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS MONTH

JUNE 6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 9:30 AT OCA OFFICE

JUNE 7 TO 9 SKILLS WEEKEND AT KILCOO CAMP, MINDEN

NEXT MONTH

CAMP BEGINS!

STANDARDS VISITS HAPPEN

OCAsional 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 August 15th for September publication.

- Display ads are sold on a single or multiple insertion rate, with a 10% discount for members. 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 10 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 705-286-1799.
- Mary Lynn Trotter, Hot Tips 416-761-9135.
- Jim Blake, Current issues 705-457-5278.
- Kate Moore, Editor 705-457-1738.
- Jake Benbihi, Photography 905-669-0767.
- Patti Thom, Newsworthy Items, Births and Obituaries 705-633-5541.
- Wendell White, Profiles 613-473-2877.

Articles and Photo submissions are always welcome.

The views expressed by authors in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Camping Association.



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