



OCAasional news

VOLUME I

JANUARY 1986

EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

TO BE EFFICIENT IS TO DO THE THING RIGHT - TO BE EFFECTIVE IS TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time you receive this newsletter, hopefully, all the rushing and excitement of the holiday season will have settled to a dull roar. We can now sit up with our feet stretched out pondering the new adventures of the coming summer season.

Of course with our hands on experience of entertaining our kids during the holidays will help us in being better able to identify with the camp counsellor, section heads and program staff. My own two kids, 13 and 10 seemed unreal in their demands and now I can imagine what our staff must go through with three times as many suggestions. But, the answer is to be prepared. Planning the events of the day with the children sure eliminates many of the problems. At any rate it's good to be in touch with kids so that our perspective remains real in today's world.

If preparation is the key here's just another reminder of the upcoming Directors' and Senior Staff Conference to be held at the Inn on the Park, Toronto beginning Thursday, February 20 to Saturday, February 22, 1986. Isn't it exciting to look over the program preview with all its interesting sessions. Thursday seems to be an exciting opening for the annual event. The only problem is in selecting the options. Don't be disappointed, register early.

In closing may we extend to all of you the very best in 1986. See you at the Conference.

FRED OKADA,
President.

EDITORIAL

Dear Martin:

Thanks for your contribution to the O.C.A. over the past three years as editor of our newsletter. You have tackled the job with zest, enthusiasm and humour just as you approach most things, I suspect.

I particularly recall one of your "off the wall" sessions a few years back at the Inn on the Park. We were your cabin group in that 1/2 hour before bedtime. You led us on a secretive night hike, prowling through the hallways of the Inn, warning us that on your signal we must freeze, assume the pose of a tree or hide behind the plants or furniture. Needless to say, the hotel guests, lacking the true campers' vivid imagination that easily converts a hotel hallway in broad daylight into a pine forest at twilight, looked at us strangely and concluded, I'm sure, that we were all on the verge of commitment. Then quickly back to the session room for juice, cookies and a bedtime story, Zany but fun!

All of us in camping would do well to emulate your "Spirit of Kidhood"!

Take care,
CATHERINE ROSS,
EDITOR.

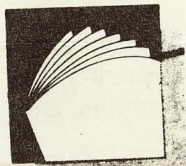
P.S. Where did you hide the key to the editor's suite of rooms?

PROGRAMME IDEAS

Just about every holiday theme can be adapted for a special event at your camp! With Christmas a recent memory it seemed quite appropriate to pass on a program idea related to this theme which we have found most successful at our camp. Most camps have tried the traditional Christmas program with Christmas games. Toytown, tree decorating, secret Santas and other assorted activities related to a child's view of Christmas. Why not try a new twist? Our Pioneer Christmas has been thoroughly enjoyed by children of all ages. The campers and staff are told several days before the event so that secret Santas can make their gifts and staff can prepare stockings. Christmas Eve is spent in the traditional way. Trees are decorated, stockings are stuffed, the young children visit Santa in Toytown and everywhere one can hear the singing of Christmas carols.

Each camper also signs up on Christmas Eve for four Pioneer Activities for the next day. Some of the many activities offered include the making of: ice cream, candles (many different types), quilted pot holders, bread, butter, candy, cookies, decorations, cards and ornaments. Christmas Day starts with a "sleep in" and a Christmas Brunch. Activities run all day and the program ends with a traditional Christmas dinner. It is great fun and it's educational at the same time. A totally natural Christmas will give your campers the most beautiful gift of all - a memory which they will never forget!

PATTI THOM,
Tanamakoon.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Ever heard of Bop Bop? That's just one of the new games available in Alan R. Davies - Co-operative Games for People Who Love to Play. It's an absolute boom to counsellors and teachers who are hard pressed to think up yet another game to play.

The book separates the games into four convenient categories, "Archive Games", "Drama Games", "Low Activity Games", and "Small Group Games". The final section features educational adaptations of games for the classroom.

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The instructions for each game are laid out in short easy to understand paragraphs outlining the rules and giving suggestions as to how the game may be run most effectively. The author, Alan R. Davies, has included nineteen of his own new games that are unavailable in any other book.

Watch for Alan at the O.C.A. Annual Conference where he will be demonstrating some of his games and signing copies of his book.

Great games at your fingertips!

Published in Canada by Alan R. Davies, 75 p.p., 1985. Cost:- \$9.95 (members); \$11.95 (non-members).

Books listed in "BETWEEN THE COVERS" are available from the Canadian Camping Association Bookstore. To order, contact the C.C.A. office by mail or telephone: Canadian Camping Association, Suite 2, 1806 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ontario, M5M 3Z1, (416) 781-4717.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - C.C.A.

CHAPEL TALK

The scene is Pearson International Airport late on a Friday afternoon. The majority of the travellers are business men anxious to get home after a busy week's work. Their faces are tired and their shoulders are stooped as they wait impatiently for their luggage, jostle through the crowds to taxi stands or hurry to make connections. No one is paying any attention to an elderly lady being pushed in a wheelchair by a flight attendant. Suddenly she shouts in a loud voice "Well done, God!" and begins applauding enthusiastically. There is a sudden hushed silence. The passengers stop and turn in the direction of this eccentric outburst. Seeing a radiant smile on the woman's face they follow her gaze to the end of the corridor. There they see the cause of her exhilaration - a magnificent sunset viewed through the plate glass window brilliant in red and gold. The hint of a smile appears on the faces of the weary travellers and their shoulders straighten slightly. As they resume their previous purpose, there is a lighter spring in their step.

In the rush of daily living, to renew the spirit, we need to take a few moments to pause, ponder and wonder.

CATHERINE ROSS,
Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da.

Today gives us a chance to love,
to work, to play,
And to look up at the stars.

Henry VanDyke.

FROM OUR PAST

I.Y.Y. Camping Day of July 24, 1985 has come and gone. The Archives Committee is anxious to collect pictures, material and stories of your camp's participation, large or small. Please contact the O.C.A. office if you can make a contribution.

JOHN JORGENSON,
Archives Committee.

HELP WANTED

Sacred Heart Child and Family Centre is looking to fill two senior summer positions to operate our day-to-day functions at our residential Camp Chetwynd located near Burk's Falls. This is a special needs camp for children between the ages of six to twelve who have emotional and behavioural problems. Our camp has the capacity to have 45 children per session.

Please send resume to:-

Raffi Fulton, Sacred Heart Child & Family Centre, 3275 St. Clair Ave. East, Scarborough, Ont., M1L 1W2 or telephone (416) 752-2234.

Christian camp seeks full-time director for program operating near Bancroft, Ontario. Position open immediately.

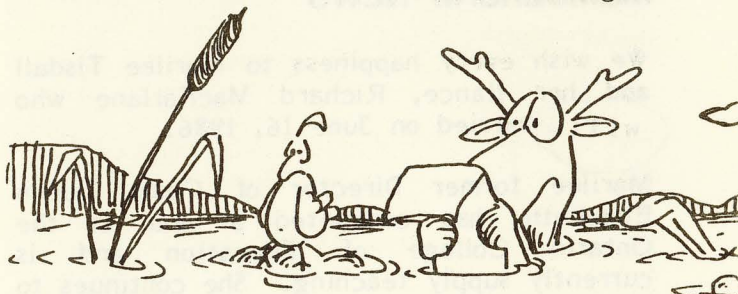
For more information contact:-

Fraser Lake Camp, 40 Shawford Crescent, Scarborough, Ont., M1G 1V8, (416) 439-3104.

THIS & THAT

WE'VE GOT WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

Four years in the making: A 3-ring binder stuffed with 400 pages of all-Canadian activities specially developed for camps. Science Is . . . is about science and the outdoors. Camps which have tested the book say "Science Is . . . fun!" The book is for camp staff, the activities for campers aged 7 to 14. Clearly written text contains activities for those few spare minutes or for an entire program. \$12.75/book. Available: March, 1986. Watch for it at your next camping conference. Or, write to Canadian Youth Science Foundation, 151 Slater Street, 8th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H3 (please enclose \$4.00/book shipping and handling.)



A. GOWER

The RLSS Leadership Training '86 schedule is available at the O.C.A. office. The schedule includes 151 courses being offered at 24 facilities throughout the province. Call the O.C.A. office for information on specific courses - refer to your December '85 issue of the Lifeliner.

Volunteers needed for the Directors' Conference at the Inn on the Park, February 20-22. Please call Joanne Dwhyte office 961-8100 or home 233-2492.

CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION NEWS

Greetings! I would like to tell you about a new service offered by CCA/ACC to all Canadian camps. A new pamphlet has been developed (through funding from Fitness Canada) to be available in January to all provincial associations. This colourful pamphlet promotes Camping as a recreational option for Canadian children.

It highlights many of the activities offered in Canadian camps, gives a consumer guide to parents and includes a coupon for mailing in for a provincial directory. This will be distributed via provincial associations, through their member camps, to libraries, shopping plazas, schools, and whatever other places ingenious directors think of. Keep your eye open for this pamphlet - it should help to fill every camp in Canada that belongs to a provincial association. In the Spring, it will be followed up by a P.S.A. again distributed nationally to select radio stations.

Happy Camping.

JANET ADAMSON,
President, C.C.A.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We wish every happiness to Marilee Tisdall and her fiance, Richard MacFarlane who will be married on June 16, 1986.

Marilee former Director of Camp Queen Elizabeth, has completed a year at the Ontario College of Education and is currently supply teaching. She continues to be involved in camping on the Steering Committee for the 1986 O.C.A. Directors' Conference and as First Vice on the Ontario Camp Directors Workshop Committee planning the May Workshop at Bark Lake. Richard, a graduate of Brock and Western, is a Masters in Geography with experience in the research and urban planning field.

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DON'T BE BASHFUL

PLEASE share with us your news (births, marriages, achievements, promotions, awards, exotic travels, etc.) within your camping career and in your "other life". If you have a humble friend too shy to tell us of their successes - inform on them! Call June at the O.C.A. office (416) 781-0525.

CATHERINE ROSS,
Editor.

Saturday, January 25 at 10:30 a.m. on CKCO TV Hamilton. The pilot show of a new childrens series "Camp Cariboo". Filmed in summer '85 on site at Wanakita and Tawingo by Tom Knowlton & Mark Baldwin former Tawingo staff.

I ask those who knew Nora Robinson to pause and give thanks for life. She would not have considered herself great, yet she was just that to everyone who met her.

Nora died suddenly on November 30, just a few days after surgery on her hip.

In 1975, OCA needed a secretary. This new person would work with Nodja Read, our Office Administrator. My role as a Vice-President at that time, included responsibility for liaising in office matters. There were six candidates interviewed, but I remember Nora best. She was bright and smiling and full of enthusiasm. We talked of her previous experiences as a secretary in the office of a downtown Church. Some of the people Nora had dealt with on a daily basis posed interesting problems. As we talked during the interview, it was clear she was the top candidate. Nora's comments indicated her care and concern about people, but she also had the ability to put things in perspective. She helped where she could, and was philosophical about the balance.

Nora came to OCA and made her specially wonderful contribution. She helped us to be better volunteers and members, cheered us through the OCA office move from Eglinton Avenue to 1806 Avenue Road and found a good friend in Jean McIlwrick our current Office Administrator.

Two and a half years ago, Nora was honoured at the OCA Annual Meeting. She had decided to retire. In her response, Nora gave us all the credit...how she had loved working with us and what super people we were. This was Nora's hallmark, she made everyone feel important.

Nora was frequently in the OCA office after her 'official' retirement. She would come in to assist, or just drop in to say hi. Always a touch of cheer.

So it is with a tear and a smile that we remember Nora. Nora loved life. We are again reminded how fragile life is now that she is suddenly gone.

This is a difficult time for Nora's husband Fred, whom she dearly loved, and for her sons and their families too. I hope they will find some comfort in the memories of a great person.

JOCELYN PALM,
Glen Bernard Camp.