

SEASON'S GREETINGS

OCAsional news

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Very Happy New Year to all!!!

VOLUME 9

DECEMBER 1988

EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Three cheers for Catherine Ross! This great lady has been our OCAsional News Editor for the past three years; this December newsletter marks her last issue.

Our Newsletter is the lifeline of this Association. Nine times a year we share the news, the notices, the comments, the insights and the happenings of our fine profession. Nine times each year Catherine has gathered together the material that keeps us in tune and in touch.

On behalf of the entire Membership, Catherine, may I express our thanks to you for your untiring efforts. We salute you, Editor!

I hope each of you has a joyous holiday season. Relax -- only 185 days until summer camp begins!

JANE McCUTCHEON
President

EDITORIAL

After three years, I am handing back the keys to the editor's suite at the OCA office. Might as well - I never did find the door to unlock! For me it has been a lot of fun considering that the bulk of the work has been done by two very capable

ladies - June and now Flora. A sincere thank you!

Over the years I have asked dozens of members to contribute an article to the newsletter. I was never once refused. Admittedly on rare occasions a little persuasion was needed. One director was reluctant, insisting that he found it difficult to write. Once he got started the muse must have inspired him for what he gave me a few weeks later would have made a substantial beginning to the first chapter of a book! The 100% willingness to contribute tells you a lot about the cooperative, capable people it is our pleasure to work with in camping. Many thanks!

CATHERINE ROSS
Editor

THE WONDERS OF GIVING AT CAMP OCHIGEAS -- CANADA'S FIRST CANCER CAMP

Volunteering at Camp Oochigeas as a counsellor brings the feeling of warmth, love and joy to my heart. Love, hugs and cuddles are the most precious gifts a counsellor can share with these courageous young campers. Each camper has wrestled with the pain and anguish of cancer.

My camp time at Oochigeas is so meaningful. One precious moment I had with a young lad,

Todd. During rest period, he shared with me the time when he first was told he had cancer. I could feel every moment of the trauma he had experienced. Through all of this Todd felt he had matured. Upon his return to school he had a stronger desire to do better. I reached over and gave him a big hug to let me know I cared and how proud I was of his initiative and positive attitude.

I am a clown!!! I enjoy creating happiness around me...sharing with others my costumes, wigs and make up; most of all creating an animal from a blown balloon always fascinates the campers!

I will never forget the moment I noticed Amber getting ready for the camp Halloween party last summer. She was dressing as a ballerina. Through chemotherapy she had lost her hair. I quietly approached her to see if she would like to wear one of my clown wigs which was like real hair and of the latest style. When she stood in front of the mirror her eyes sparkled! I knew I had not only completed Amber's costume but had brought "joy" to her heart. My heart danced as other campers and counsellors fussed over her. That is what a volunteer at Camp Oochigeas is all about. Giving encouragement, being there for listening and creating enthusiasm. It makes a memorable time for the camper and counsellor alike.

Enthusiasm can be contagious. It was for me when my daughter Sharon decided she would like to be a counsellor. She heard me speak of the "OOCH-SPIRIT". Sharon was selected as one of 1988's volunteers. This is one of our most memorable experiences as a mother and daughter. The wonderful memories we brought home from camp are not only admiration for the courageous campers but the love and new friendships we shared. The spirit is "giving" and the enthusiasm is "lively" during every waking hour at Camp Oochigeas.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and the best for 1989.

MARY CUNNINGHAM

Ed. Note: As well as a volunteer counsellor at Oochigeas, Mary is the mother of three young adults, a part-time employee at I.B.M., and an active church worker.

YOU MISSED IT!!!

The OCA Fall Weekend proved to be a highly successful event again this year.

The focus of the workshop revolved around "Risk Management", better described as how to prevent risk within your camp setting, whether the thrust of the camp program includes ropes and rocks or leans towards more traditional activities such as swimming, kayaking and sailing.

An interesting facet of the weekend was the whole issue of certification. Do we or don't we certify? Many participants agreed that this subject would be a topic interesting enough in itself for a Fall Weekend in the future.

The weekend was capably led by Paul Landry and Geoff Murray of the Canadian Outward Bound Wilderness School. Both leaders are highly skilled and experienced in the field of outdoor education. Moreover, the participants were encouraged to share their past experiences and future concerns.

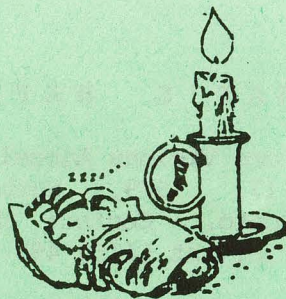
Networking, sharing new ideas, learning from each other, and participating within an exciting and inspirational presentation from Outward Bound highlight only a few of the positive aspects of the weekend. Additional highlights included residing at the Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre -- a highly scenic and comfortable setting; participating in a Murder Mystery on Saturday evening; and viewing slides of a dog sled expedition around Baffin Island. A great time was held by all!!!

In conclusion, the Education Committee would again like to extend sincere thanks to the Canadian Outward Bound Wilderness School for an extremely inspiring, exciting and educational weekend. The Committee would also like to express a concern regarding the lack of participation from a large majority of the OCA membership. Many comments were made during the course of the weekend on how invaluable the time was and how unfortunate it was that more OCA Directors didn't take the opportunity to become involved with the weekend.

We can assist each other to improve and to grow only if we spend time together communicating and sharing.

CATHERINE SMART

OCA Education Committee



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Sharing Nature With Children is a nature-awareness guidebook. Through its 142 games for children and adults, nature speaks to us as the teacher. We experience learning situations as activities take on a scientific slant, artistic look or a mystic adventure.

The content of the book is divided up into a number of activity sections: Close-up With Nature, How Much Can You See?, Nature's Balance, Learning is Fun, Play and Discovery, Spotting and Attracting Animals, Adventures.

A guide to good teaching is included and a quick-reference chart for each game identifies: basic mood (calm, active, energetic), concepts being taught, when and where to play, number of players needed, best age range and special materials needed.

To directly touch, smell, taste, see and hear nature, the world around us comes alive!

Note: This book is relevant to the Program Section of Curriculum for Camp Directors pg. 53.

Sharing Nature With Children, Dawn Publications, 142 p., 1979.

Cost: \$9.25 (members)
\$11.10 (non-members)

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL - 10% off ALL BOOKS!

On any order made before Dec. 25/88, just ask for the Christmas Special Discount.

GIFT CERTIFICATES to the CCA Bookstore -- Looking for a Christmas gift idea, or a simple way to express thanks to a session speaker? Contact the CCA office with the number of certificates you need, their purchase value and expiry date. You will then be invoiced for the total purchase value on each certificate ordered.

Books listed in "Between The Covers" are available from the CCA Bookstore.

Orders that are \$20.00 or less must be prepaid with \$2.00 added for shipping. Contact the CCA office by mail or phone:

Canadian Camping Association
1806 Avenue Rd., Suite 2
Toronto, Ont. M5M 3Z1
(416) 781-4717

THIS 'N' THAT

RETAIL SALES TAX - 3%

There has been some concern that with the increase in the Ontario Sales Tax to 8% last spring, our collection tax on camp fees would wise from the 3% level, which most us have been collecting.

There was some mention in the tax bulletin of last spring of an increase to 5%.

The Retail Sales Tax Branch has now given us a ruling that the tax remains at the 3% level.

TED COLE
Vice President

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ENJOY FEEDING THE BIRDS

Identifying birds can be fun with a colourful pocket-size guide produced under the auspices of the Kortright Centre. Called BIRDS AT YOUR FEEDER, it can be purchased at Kortright or by sending \$3.00 to DOORS TO NATURE, P.O. Box 1097, Station Q, Toronto, M4T 2P1.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to **Jack Pearse** of Camp Tawingo! Jack received the prestigious Provincial Corps D'Elite Award for volunteer recognition. The presentation was made by His Honour, Lincoln Alexander, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, at a formal ceremony at Queen's Park on October 12, 1988.

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Austin Matthews, Director of Camp Kitchewana, is retiring! The OCA wishes Austin well. We are proud of his many contributions to our Profession of Camping!

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Our hats are off to **Margaret Bernardo** of Camp Wabikon for her courageous efforts that saved the life of an accident victim this summer on Lake Temagami. An attending physician wrote the OCA to tell of Margaret's dedication and unselfishness through-out this critical situation. Congratulations, Margaret!

HELP WANTED

Easter Seal Society - Camp Directors wanted for residential camps in London and Perth for physically disabled children aged 7-19. Details re: qualifications, benefits and time requirements are at the OCA office.

Department Registrar also needed. Knowledge and work experience on Computer Data Management Systems required. To establish and maintain a Camper Registration Database for the Camping & Recreation Department. Qualifications and Job Description on file at OCA Office.

Respond with resume to:

Mr. Mark Sack
Supervisor of Camping & Recreation
The Easter Seal Society of Ontario
24 Ferrand Drive, Don Mills, Ont. M3C 3N2
(416) 421-8377
or toll free 1-800-268-8377.

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Camp Manager Wanted:

For a long-established OCA accredited co-ed camp in Haliburton. Responsibilities will include overall management of the camp operation including program direction and administration. Camp has an experienced returning staff and solid camper enrollment. If interested, please write, outlining qualifications, to Bill McClean, 45 Sutherland Drive, Toronto, M4G 1H4, or phone (416) 421-6255.

WITH SADNESS WE ANNOUNCE...

Ginny Farmery of Stronco Show Services, who has worked on our Exhibit area at the Conference for some years, passed away very suddenly on October 10, 1988.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Future Visions Annual Conference - February 15-17, 1989, Harbour Castle Weston, Toronto. Contact the Ontario Recreation Society at (416) 495-4101.

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1989 CONFERENCE FOR DIRECTORS AND SENIOR STAFF

CAMP DIRECTORS! A SPECIAL DAY FOR YOUR OFFICE STAFF!

A terrific way to say "thank you" and to give them a sense of professional involvement.

Friday, January 27 - Inn on the Park - a whole day of new and rewarding experiences for those usually left behind. The Conference Committee has selected topics suitable for camp office personnel:

Coffee and Muffins - with comedy entertainment by David Merry

"Office Automation" with Britt Lowes

Exhibit Hall - meet 'face to face' with all those persistent salespeople and see their wares!

Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

Seminars: "The Invisible People: Secretaries, Office and Business Managers" and "The Camp Office: A Paperwork Jungle - How To Make Sense of It All" with Bobsie Ebbs and, to top it all off...

The CCA Benefit Evening



ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR DIRECTORS & SENIOR STAFF

**TOGETHER
TOWARDS
TOMORROW**

**Thursday, January 26 to Saturday, January 28, 1989
INN ON THE PARK TORONTO, ONTARIO**