

ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

O C c A s i o n a l      N E W S

June 1965

Dear Member:

The road traversed by the Ontario Camping Association and by the American Camping Association to reach the destination of an acceptable Study of Sound Camping Practices has been rough. It has been a road of convolutions, potholes, sidetracks and blind endings.

The first faltering steps that finally led to a programme for the visiting and accrediting of camps for children were taken over twenty-five years ago. At that time Ontario camp directors had formed themselves into an association affiliated with the Association of American camp directors. Directors on both sides of the border realized that their Association and the member camps needed the support of a solid foundation to attain public recognition and respect and to provide an adequate measure of security for camping children.

Camp directors are noted for their independence and do not hesitate to express their views and opinions. Early attempts to evolve a satisfactory and acceptable programme of "minimum standards" was beset by fears, discords and frustrations. Committees made little progress.

Eventually direction and incentive were given to the Camping Associations by a Kellogg Foundation grant of \$60,000 (that's right - sixty thousand dollars), for the purpose of conducting a Study on Camping Practices. The basic work was done under the supervision of the University of Indiana, and with the assistance of members of the University staff and student body.

Questionnaires were sent to camp directors; among other things, each director was asked to prepare a comprehensive list, in order of importance, of the factors he considered to be the essentials of sound camping. It took about ten years for the Study to be completed, a Standards visiting programme established, and accredited membership approved.

Before the completion of the Kellogg Foundation Study, camping in Ontario had grown so rapidly that Ontario formed an independent association, and in due time sought to implement a Standards programme. Many of the Ontario directors had worked and contributed to the Kellogg Study. This study, therefore, was used as a starting point for the Ontario Study and evolved with changes and adjustments to meet Ontario's practices and philosophies to the present Study of Camping Practices. Several parts of the Ontario Study subsequently have been incorporated into revised editions of the A.C.A. study.

The Standards Programme highway will never be free from bumps; consistently it will require repairs and intelligent engineering. We believe, however, that it runs in the direction of better camping for children.

MEMO to DIRECTORS - FROM WATER SAFETY DIVISION, CANADIAN RED CROSS

1. Have you contacted the heads of your different waterfront departments to submit their lesson plans?
2. Have you attended to the details mentioned on the accompanying check list sheets?

3. During July, you will receive a form "Aims For Level of Pupil Instructional Programme". Watch for this and give it to your swim instructors. Make sure they work on it.

LEAD-UP AWARD CARDS

The "Lead-up" Award cards, mentioned in the last O.C.A. Newsletter, are now available.

These Awards, bridge the gap between the various Red Cross Water Safety Awards, giving the child something to have, during what is to him, sometimes, a long period without anything. They also tell another instructor or the parents just exactly at what stage the child has progressed; and they are also used as supplementary awards until the child is old enough to take the next higher award or sufficiently skilled for it.

The cost of these cards is \$2.00 per hundred and may be ordered directly from:

Ontario Division  
Water Safety Services,  
Canadian Red Cross,  
460 Jarvis Street,  
Toronto 5, Ontario.

Please include a cheque or money order with your order.  
(State which Lead-up cards you want and the quantity of each.  
There are Lead-up Awards to Beginner, Junior, Intermediate & Senior)

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O.C.A. members will be saddened to learn of the passing of three of our members:

Mr. Robt. Barwick of Bayview Glen Day Camp.  
Mrs. Dorothy Douglas, Editor, Canadian Camping Magazine.  
Mr. J.B. Liddell, Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da.

Sincerest sympathy is expressed to members of their families.

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FOR SUMMER SERVICE INFORMATION  
SEE ATTACHED

ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION  
501 Yonge Street  
Suite 11  
Toronto 5  
TEL: 922-0151

S U M M E R   S E R V I C E

This year again we will give PART-TIME office service, that is, telephone requests for Directories can be filled, and certain information can be given to the public.

Requests for canoeing cards can be filled immediately and during the month of July ONLY.

If you are able to take campers for any part of the summer, please let us know by return mail, how many camper vacancies you have, for which age groups and for which periods. This information will be made available to parents who make enquiries at the office from now on.

Should you by chance find yourself in need of staff during July, we will still have the application cards of those who applied to the Counsellor Placement Bureau.

THIS PART TIME SERVICE APPLIES TO THE MONTH OF JULY ONLY.

PLEASE NOTE: THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

KEEP THIS MEMO HANDY FOR SUMMER REFERENCE.

A VERY HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL CAMPING SEASON TO YOU ALL!