



Bulletin No. 106

JUNE

1980

EDITOR: EANSWYTHE FLYNN

MAY DAYS

May Days have been a May Daze. The comparative calm of late April erupted in May into a crowded schedule of events, to take advantage of the presence of Provincial Presidents and Representatives, in Toronto for the Canadian Camping Association Board Meeting, Annual Meeting and O.C.A. Counsellor Conference, The Society of Camp Directors postponed its Annual Meeting in order to include the visitors. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Phil Lowes, the Society's new President. Thank you to Brian Blackstock, Sam Hambly, Jeff Reading, Fred and Gloria Okada, Doug Booz, John Boysen, Bruce Harris and June and Cliff Labbett, who hosted Ontario's guests from across Canada. C.C.A. Executive Director Marj Booth deserves a medal for coping graciously with the details; delayed responses, changes in personnel, conflicting commitments and inoperative equipment complicated preparations. Through it all Marj herself remained a smiling hostess.

O.C.A.'s gratitude has been expressed to Bruno Morawetz and Al Jackson and Chris Lobb and through Al and Chris to Hugh Shaw, Randy Attwood, Heather Yule, Glenn Yates, Andy Turner, John Marsden plus a dozen more Ponacka staff who produced a most successful Counsellor Conference - not forgetting Jacques Roy's talented mime. Good Show Well Done! Hats off to Jean McIlwrick and Nora Robinson as well, the unsung heroines of the administrative chores that allow a Counsellor Conference, of more than 1,000 delegates, to run smoothly. They pre-registered more than 800 of the 1,000.

The most gifted of song leaders, Jack Pearse, cannot be at every camp making sing songs, the best that they can be, but he has written two books, "Sing with Jack Pearse" and "Campfire Programs with Jack Pearse", that are designed to increase the resource of successful camp songs. These two promise to be of worthwhile aid in the growth and development of singing and programming for camps and campers.

Helen Stewart's ever growing Archives Committee gathered for a Spring luncheon meeting at Bruno Morawetz's Ponacka Farm, Peterborough. The healthy state of Archives can be learned from Helen. We were blessed with ideal weather, allowing an inspection of horses, cattle and chickens. Each guest was given permission to select a fresh laid egg from the nest. Rhubarb was cut for all who wished.

Bruce Harris, Co-chairman of Standards, moderated the Standards Open Forum very capably To all who attended -- "Thank you". Next step - an Open Forum in the Fall, when the Standards Committee has had an opportunity to take viewpoints aired this Spring and present a revised document!

Seventy years of Guiding in Ontario was celebrated -- Happy Birthday was extended to the Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council from O.C.A. It was a pleasure to attend the Open House with Mrs. Norma Sims, Provincial Camp Commissioner as my escort through an informative complete tour of 50 Merton Street.

THE CALL TO CAMP

Do you know our northern highlands?
Ah, no land could be more fair!
When the year comes round to June
My thoughts go wandering there.
Lakes there are, like shining sapphires,
Islands strewn like bits of jade,
Countless streams of crystal clearness,
Forest tapestries of shade.

Have you seen the mists at sunrise
Veil the lakes and hills in grey,
Have you heard the thrush awake the dawn,
The White-throat greet the day?
Then you know the joy of living
As you breathe God's morning air,
And in your heart there comes a song,
Or a glad, unspoken prayer.

Do you know life in the open
'Neath a canopy of sky,
With the sunshine and the showers
And the warm winds sweeping by?
Have you paddled up the sunset
When the west is all aglow,
And wished upon the first bright star
And watched the moon swing low?

Have you gathered 'round the camp fire
In the council ring at night,
And watched the embers glowing
And the tree tops catch the light?
Have you joined in song and story
Or drawn closer to a friend?
Then you know the day's best moment
Is discovered at the end.

Have you seen town-weary mortals
Lose their langour in a day,
As they wander back to childhood
Through the happy lanes of Play?
If you have, you do not wonder
That in dreams all campers long
To follow down the trail again
To the land of sun and song.

From: "Wood-Fire and Candle-Light"

By: Mary S. Edgar

HAVE A HAPPY, SAFE SUMMER - SEE YOU IN THE FALL - BARBARA GILCHRIST

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COMMENTS FROM YE EDITOR:

CONGRATULATIONS

.....to Barbara, our President, for her page...always her own...the first page of our Newsletter. Perhaps it is not generally known that many readers have praised her for its bright approach, but also for the encouragement and the appreciation she always gives so freely and graciously, and which all of us like to hear. Keep it up, Barb! It's a note of optimism we need to share from time to time!

My own thanks, too, for all the positive help for OCA'sional News that comes through Executive and Board Meetings, as well as from the membership at large. The support of Camping Clues has been phenominal both outside and inside the Association. It is a non-profit publication, as all members know, kept under Copyright for both the Canadian and Ontario Camping Association use; produced originally to assist parents, but also to insure that any publicity on the subject will be presented to the public from our own Camping Standards viewpoint rather than from reporters who seem a bit hazy, at time, in their knowledge of camps and camping values. It will be printed in a new format, in ample time for early distribution in 1981.

NOBLE WORK! The office phone rings constantly, but only too, too often the questions come: "We couldn't be at the meeting. Our notice didn't arrive until three days afterwards."

Noble Work cont'd

"We live outside Toronto. Our Counsellor Placement List never reaches us until all counsellors have been signed up".

!...but we have paid our fees. We sent them in two weeks ago".

And so it goes on. But we must remember that this is a Canadian situation. The whole business and professional world suffers, and bears the added injury of First Class mail rates. The only response from the Post Office is: "We simply cannot understand how this can happen". PERIOD.

All I'm asking is that we don't blame our office. Nora and Jean work beyond the call of duty, and enjoy a delightful rapport with the local Post Office next door. Every piece of mail leaves the office in ample time for every event...and this goes for hundreds of pieces at a time, personally given to the Postmaster.

Let's give them a cheer, and a hand, in the hope that the season's-end and summer mailings will see an improvement after the recent Union settlement.

EANSWYTHE FLYNN

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AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

THIS IS A REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION THAT THE NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR COMMENCES OCTOBER 1st, 1980. THOSE CAMPS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR FEES BY OCTOBER 31st WILL NOT BE LISTED IN THE 1981 DIRECTORY.

WALTER TOSE - Chairman Membership Committee

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FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Education Fall Weekend at Bolton Outdoor Centre - November 7,8,9, 1980. This year the program has been set into two streams. Stream I is for Camp Directors only. This is the one time in the year when Camp Directors can meet in a relaxed setting and share their mutual concerns.

Stream II is for those in charge of the leader-in-training, counsellor-in-training groups, or section/unit heads - this does not include those in charge of activities at camp. During the weekend Stream II will be involved in the development of positive staff leadership (motivation, staff relationships...)

There will be time for all delegates to socialize during the weekend! Further information and registration form will be sent out during the summer. Registration will be limited for each stream.

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ATTENTION:- CAMP ADMINISTRATORS

There are many products and firms that provide excellent service to your operation that other camps have yet to discover. One of the purposes of the Annual O.C.A. Conference is to provide this contact at the Exhibitor's show. We need your help to expand this service by providing us with the name of the contact person and address. On receipt of this information we will invite them to exhibit their goods at the Conference. Please forward all information to the attention of: -

DAVE SANDS, c/o The O.C.A. Office

Thank you for your support in providing this service.

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A SHARED EXPERIENCE

I feel the need to share with everyone an exciting experience which occurred on May 22, 1980 at the Ontario Society for Crippled Children Centre. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss the proposed revised Mandatory Standards. Needless to say the discussion was stimulating and most important, educational for all those in attendance.

Yet the most encouraging aspect of the meeting, to me, was that everyone there really cared about the Ontario Camping Association. The room was filled with many people who are the pioneers of camping in Ontario. There were others who are just beginning to make their mark in the field of camping. Within this broad spectrum of camping people the prominent tone was a real concern for the O.C.A.

It was in knowing the O.C.A. is such an important part of their lives and that they had made a special effort to be at this meeting that was overwhelming. With this kind of support our Association is and will be vibrant and meaningful to everyone involved in camping. I was proud to be but a small part of such a group.

FRED OKADA - Standards Committee Member

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MANDATORY? ACCREDITED? OR ENFORCEMENT?

This, surely, will be one of the most memorable of O.C.A. meetings, one in which a mature feeling of warm concern was coupled with the earnest desire to share, educate, bring all camps into the fold. But, in gathering as we did at the Ontario Society of Crippled Children on May 22nd, 1980, history repeated itself. I sat with the wierd feeling of being "transposed" to Central YMCA in February 1954, taking minutes as Executive Secretary, Major John Hoyle in the chair, as the first draft of Minimum Requirements for Children's Camps were presented in anything but general accord.

David Palter, Bert Danson and Irv Haladner wanted a stamp of approval; Ted Yard urged education in a spirit of good will without excluding some camps; Bernie Hodgetts wouldn't have any Association telling him to "Standardize"; from Lloyd Perry, our legal adviser at the time, came the same warning sounded so recently by Al Goodman... "once Accreditation is Mandatory, the O.C.A. could be liable in case of accident or death"; C.T. Sharpe: "let's have the spirit of good will, the duty of care rather than policing", Bill Chapman: "education to bring in new camps without exclusion"; A.L. Cochirane: "Cannot have honest Mandatory Accreditation without policing".

Words so familiar through the intervening years...but at a meeting in 1980 members were striving for the greatest benefit to all camps...co-operation, education, improvement, programme training, open discussion, commitment, maturity, sophistication, high qualifications, sound judgement...and the feeling today that O.C.A. members are no longer the chief users of canoe tripping. A need for the O.R.C.A. programme at all levels is necessary, it was said; and that a unanimous decision on standards cannot be made by mail. A call for another Open Meeting next season, means that standards will remain in force, as they are, for the summer of 1980.

EANSWYTHE FLYNN

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"ACCREDITATION" - - - BOON OR BUG-A-BOO?

An old friend recently purchased a new house. Several weeks after moving in, an inspector called to check the wiring. Days later, another electrical inspector came along, and then one day the householder received a framed certificate and a "gold" sticker...hers was a "gold medallion home"! Perhaps this unique recognition was important to her, but when she affixed the sticker to an obscure fuse box in the base-

"Accreditation"---Boon or Bug-A Boo cont'd.

ment, and used the certificate frame for a charming picture of her young son and his dog...we wondered...how valid were these criteria in recognizing a good "home"?

For many years camping people in the United States and Canada have wrestled with the problems of "raising standards". Much progress has been made, but how much more might have been achieved had we avoided confusing "Accreditation" with "Raising of Standards". At times the zealous advocates of "recognition symbols" have waged an all out struggle for the acceptance of the "inspection, accreditation, recognition" pattern for camping association work in this field.

Let us get ourselves into perspective! No one (as yet) has to belong to the camping association. It is still a voluntary association of people and organizations who come together ostensibly for the improvement of camping practices. Does the growing pressure of this voluntary body to become a legislative organization reflect the tendency of one segment of the membership to refute the original concept in favour of a sort of modern day "craft guild"? Some members have likened the development they see ahead for the camping association to the development of an organization such as the medical association. To this writer the analogy does not seem a good one, particularly in view of the original purposes of our association and its unusually heterogeneous consistency.

The visit of one camp director to another, preceded by a "self-evaluation" at the visited camp is a sound educational procedure. Some years ago the Ontario Camping Association required that, as a demonstration of their espousment of the association purposes, new members must agree to participate in a program of "self evaluation". This seems commendable and constructive, but does it provide a basis for giving special recognition to any camp or group of camps? The visit itself may involve a tour or five hour attempt to learn something about a camp which is spread over hundreds of acres, involves hundreds of campers and employs dozens of staff. The garbage pit may be well covered, the windows may be well screened, the medical arrangements may be satisfactory, but how can a visitor assess the really vital factors of "leadership motivation" and "character development potential" about which every parent is concerned.

"Hold on", say the accreditation folks, "we don't recommend anybody - we just put the names of certain camps in bold type in our directory or list them in a special way" ...isn't this really splitting hairs?

"They accredit camps in the States" is another frequent argument...but surely, in this field above all others we in Canada do not have to follow someone else's lead. For our organization in our country we might have the courage to believe that voluntary, non-coercive, educative procedures will achieve the greatest results.

Our organized camping movement has sometimes been described as one of the few really new developments in the field of education in the last half century. Within the association itself the voluntary participation of interested members is consistent with this educational approach...and yet some would embark upon a program which, is not unlike giving a "general proficiency award" to those whose penmanship is good. We aren't equipped to test in other fields but somehow we rationalize that this award is so important to some that it must be granted and then we must take all possible steps to try to assure the public that by giving this recognition we do not really intend to convey the impression of overall commendation which we recognize they will assume.

Accreditation and recognition, no matter how subtle, will tend to discourage many who feel they are being carried along quite a different stream from that down which they first began to paddle when they joined a camping association. Rather than that voluntary association of people and organizations, they find themselves in one list or

"Accreditation" --, Boon or Bug-A-Boo? cont'd.

another - in bold type or plain. One is reminded of Edwin Markham's short poem,

*"He drew a circle and left me out
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout
But love and I had the wit to win
We drew a circle but took him in."*

drawing circles to bring people in, and then, through positive educative procedures, to help them achieve a higher standard of camping practices.

Let us recognize that the symbols of recognition and approval have been and always will be very important to some individuals in the camping field. One doubts however, whether it is appropriate to reshape an association to meet the needs of a small segment. If we are being pushed in the direction of becoming a legislative organization and there are those who feel we are, we must recognize the fact that the legislative and educative functions may not be mutually supportive - nor even complimentary!

Regardless of how many forms we may fill out or how often we may plod around a campsite looking at physical facilities, the most important criteria of any camp is the philosophy and motivation of the person who directs it. The function of a camping association may well be to deepen the understandings, improve the skills and enrich the philosophy of camp directors.

Perhaps one day camp directors will be "accredited". If and when they are, some "professional society of directors" should play an important role. The emergence of such a society as a result of study and discussions within the membership of the Camping Association seems a distinctly possible and wholly appropriate development ... but once it develops let us not confuse it with the Camping Association...Let it be a separate entity! The old concept of voluntary participation is one to be guarded jealously - our function is not to draw circles that leave people out!

TED YARD

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NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THESE COMMENTS, WE'LL TELL YOU THAT THE ARTICLE APPEARED IN CANADIAN CAMPING MAGAZINE, ISSUE OF FEBRUARY, 1965.

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From: DR. MARY NORTHWAY, O.C.A. LIFE MEMBER

You see, I do read the OCAsional News. I was very interested in Ron Johnstone's letter (News #105).

I agree with Ron in hoping that the government will not take over more and more of camping practices under a formal act. However, I do not agree with him on Mandatory Standards, nor with his opinion that people have over-reacted to recent drownings, and his statement that not one of the recent drownings would have been reversed if standards had been in effect. Can one over-react to a drowning? Are we to accept such casually? And for goodness sake how can drownings be reversed? A strange phrase indeed.

My association with camping standards is much longer than Ron's. In about 1937 I was sent with the late Taylor Statten to a three day meeting sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation, and held at one of their camps near Battlecreek, Michigan, (incidentally this was the first time I had seen cereals in individual packages - most impressive!) Hedley Dimock was the chairman. We were divided into four work groups. Hedley was chairman of ours and it was here I met Kit Hammett and began a life-long friendship with her and the Girl Scouts of America.

From: Dr. Mary Northway cont'd.

The report under the title Minimum Standards and Desirable Practices came out, and was studied very carefully by the Toronto group. With all this over forty years ago, have we really moved forward?

The title, Minimum standards and desirable Practices is an excellent one. I am a very unbureaucratic person but I believe if safety and society are to function, we must have standards and that there must be effective ways to enforce them. We cannot have any campers of any camps overloading boats/or not putting fires out. Education is basic, of course. But as we teach drivers to stop at stop lights until the human race is ideal, we must have ways and means of seeing they do. Can the Camping Association itself be the enforcement agency - or must all such be turned into law and policemen? On the other hand "desirable practices" should be suggested but left as wide open as possible. All camps should have minimum standards, but heaven help us if camps become standardized.

To conclude, I realize as Ron does that even with effective standards accidents will happen. Without standards more will occur. And we, the camping people must all share the blame.

MARY L. NORTHWAY - O.C.A. Life Member

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The Environmental Concerns Committee of the City of North York, and the Environmental Concerns Committee of the O.C.A. are concerned about the health hazards of the Don River and its' tributaries. We would like to bring to your attention that reports submitted to the E.C.C. of North York conclusively indicate the pollution of the Don to be serious. The medical Officer of Health has requested sampling studies and analysis which indicate the following data : "There are locations on each of the Rivers which could be considered health hazards if the water was used for any recreational activity requiring immersion of the user. In general, it would be acceptable to say that the pollution of the Rivers is serious enough to prohibit its use for any body contact recreation. It is definitely safe to say that the water must not be used for human consumption without proper treatment...Some of the samples were tested for Salmonella organisms; about 48% of those tested were positive. Salmonella were found in all four Rivers and the percentage of positives was higher than expected..." According to the Metropolitan Toronto Works Dept. according to a 1978 water sampling survey, the Coliform Bacterial count ranged from 100 to 510,000 M.F. counts per 100 M.L. A safe content would be around 10,000.

We are concerned about children playing in and around the riverways who may fall in, or swallow inadvertently some water. Annual studies made through the University of Toronto have begun to relate different diseases (including ear infections) to the polluted water. Many children's groups make use of supervised activities at the riverways without understanding the dangers that go hand in hand with their recreation. We would like to request camp directors to inform staff that the Don River is unsafe and hazardous to one's health. We would request that staff members seek different locations for watersport activities. We would suggest that the Don River can make a beautiful setting for nature studies, at distance from the waters. And, perhaps the camp staff can use this information to help their campers begin to relate to Man in His Environment vis-a-vis our polluting our last hopes of Nature within the confines of our city. There is copious statistical reporting available on the Don River that can be obtained through the E.C.C. of North York, and through the Ministry of the Environment.

Environmental Concerns cont'd.

We would also like to bring to the attention of camp directors in North York that By-Law Number 11038 prohibits the bathing or washing (...which means the immersion of any part of the human body in water for hygenic purposes or for pleasure and shall include swimming or wading) in any of the tributaries of the Don River, and that a breach of any of the provisions of this By-Law shall pay at the discretion of the convicting Magistrate a penalty not exceeding (exclusive of costs the sum of \$50.00 for each offence.

The Environmental Concerns Committee of North York has authorized signs to be made and placed along the Don River and its most utilized tributaries forewarning the users thereof about the health dangers that are associated with activities in the waterways. This program is being totally funded by the Committee in itself.

As a joint effort of the Environmental Controls Committee of the Corporation of North York, and the Environmental Concerns Committee of the O.C.A., we would like to share with you the health hazards and By-Laws associated with the Don River and its tributaries so none of our campers will have to needlessly suffer from the pollutants in our environment. This note is respectfully submitted by -

NANCY WEEKS, *Chairman of the Environmental Concerns Committee of O.C.A*
DAVIE MILGRAM, *Chairman of Education Committee of the Environmental Controls Committee for the City of North York*

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ARE THE O.C.A. CONFERENCES SERVING YOU? ARE YOU SERVING THE CONFERENCES?

The Education Committee of the O.C.A. has appointed a "Task Force" to study the various needs served by the conferences and sessions of O.C.A. For example: -

The O.C.A. Annual Conference and the Education Fall Weekend - who should it serve -- what direction should it take?

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the conferences please contact --

MR. KIM LOWES, *Camp Timberlane, 15 Wychwood Park, Toronto, M6G 2V5* *THANK YOU !!!*

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MAIL PROBLEMS - POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Counsellor Placement lists will be issued at the end of the month and mailed FIRST CLASS The Canadian Camping Newsletter will be mailed directly to our members from Ottawa shortly - the proposed date at the present time is September.

In view of the above and the mailing problems experienced this year, the office staff has suggested that we use the OCA'sional News as effectively as possible by cutting down on the individual mailings and whenever possible inserting announcements in the OCA'sional News. The OCA'sional News deadline date would be the last day of the month and the office will make every effort to see that it is printed and mailed the first week of the month FIRST CLASS MAIL.

An Association's communication with its members is expensive. Since January, 1980 the postage costs for O.C.A. have been \$3,000.00

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WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

MITCHELL BRADFORD DIANE BURROUGES

and

NEW PROVISIONAL CAMP MEMBERS

CAMP MISHEWAH - DIRECTOR - Mr. Russ Stover - Summer Location Killaloe, Ontario
CAMP SHOMRIA - DIRECTOR - Amichai Geva - Summer Location, Perth, Ontario

ATTENTION: DAY CAMP DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATORS

Once again we are pleased to announce a new development from the Day Camp Committee. At the Fall Conference at Elora and at the O.C.A. Annual Meeting in Toronto the Day Camp members of O.C.A. expressed a need to receive and share various educational materials that would help address the issues that day camp administrators face. To that end the Day Camp Committee has formed a sub-group called The Day Camp Educational Committee. For the members benefit the following information is presented.

A. Development of Committee Goals

- Goal #1. To survey the educational needs of the O.C.A. Day Camp members, in the context of their job setting.
- Goal #2. To identify sources of information and resources that will address those needs.
- Goal #3. To design formats and methodologies that will successfully communicate the information/resources to the membership.

B. Development of Sub-Goals

Goal #1. Identify Needs

- 1. To advertise in the O.C.A. Newsletter who we are, what we do, and what we can do for the membership
- 2. To send a letter of explanation and a brief survey to O.C.A. Day Camp members in order to identify their educational needs.
- 3. To send periodically to the membership provocative and stimulating information that may assist them in clarifying/identifying future areas of need/interest.
- 4. To review the present information base on Day Camping for possible gaps in information.

Goal #2. Identify resources

- 1. To review the government data base on day camping.
- 2. " " " private " " " " "
- 3. " " " public " " " " "
- 4. To generate a bibliography of the above resources.

Goal #3. Methods of Communication

- 1. To support and advise the development of the Day Camp Conference format based on the information collected by the committee.
- 2. To provide information resources to satisfy the educational needs of individual members.
- 3. To provide aggregate training sessions/workshops when aggregate needs are identified.
- 4. To further promote the work of the O.C.A. Day Camp Committee/sub-committees at various recreation/camping conferences throughout the province where possible.

Although we will be contacting all O.C.A. Day Camp members soon if you have any comments or concerns please feel free to contact the committee.

WAYNE HUSSEY - Kitchener Parks & Recreation (519)885-7286

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R E M E M B E R

THE SUMMER HOURS (July and August) FOR THE O.C.A. OFFICE IS 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY