



OCAsional News

Published by the Ontario Camping Association

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Kids Who Really Need Camp

There are many reasons why parents send their children to camp. For some, it is the desire that their children learn new skills, make new friends, and have fun. For others, camp is merely a solution to working parents' struggle with finding good childcare. Other parents seek to relive through their children their own youth, or continue the family tradition of going to "their" camp.

Then there are the families that do not have the luxury of choice. For them, camp is an unknown experience. They may never have gone to camp as children. Their current financial situations may not permit the cost of sending their children to camp. Emotional problems, poverty or other factors in the family situation may occupy all their time and efforts. Some children are "in care" and do not live with their families but rather with foster families or at group homes.

Since 1891, the Children's Aid Society has served children and families. It is responsible for the protection of children under the age of 16 within the mandate of the Child and Family Services Act. The Society provides out-of-home care for children and has developed child abuse and neglect prevention programs. A registered charity and foundation, the Children's Aid Foundation was established in 1979 to raise, grant and manage funds in support of the programs of the Society. These programs include summer camp experiences for children.

The Foundation, which does not receive government funding, relies on private and corporation donations. However, administrative expenses are covered separately, permitting 100 percent of donations to go directly to programs. As an inclusive foundation, participation by many agencies, such as the Catholic

Children's Aid Society and the Jewish Child and Family Services, are welcomed.

Leigh MacDonald, of the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto, undertakes to find suitable camp experiences for 700 children every summer. Her guidelines for locating a good summer camp are simple: the camp must be a fully accredited member of the Ontario Camping Association, and be prepared to deal with children who sometimes exhibit either emotional or behavioural difficulties.

For Ms MacDonald, price is of course an issue. However, she does not immediately seek out the least expensive camp. As funds are limited, she negotiates with interested camps a price that is feasible for both parties. If the camp in question can take more than one CAS child, the fee will be the same for each and every child at that camp.

It is Ms MacDonald's goal that each and every camp experience benefit the child. For instance, a child may be keenly interested in a sport and has demonstrated enthusiasm by joining a club in the community in order to practice. She will then consider sending him/her to a specialty camp, even though such camps may be more expensive than a traditional camp.

Disclosure of all details is mandatory. In order to avoid an unpleasant camp experience—for both the campers and the staff—Ms MacDonald insists that social workers make the camps fully aware of all of the background information. Visits with camp staff before the summer begins are encouraged. Families who may never have had a camp experience may need assistance in understanding camp regulations. An explanation of the items on the the packing list may be necessary. Some

parents or guardians, when faced with the notion of bringing a PFD to camp (often a mandatory item at many residential camps) may react with panic at the unexpected expense.

Tuck and transportation charges, if incurred, are the parents'/guardians' responsibility. If they cannot pay, this is determined in advance and CAS will provide financial assistance. Volunteer drivers may be called upon to transport children to camp if the camp bus is too expensive.

The length of stay for each child varies depending on whether or not they are in care, or in the community. For a child in care, a two-week maximum stay at either a day or residential camp is allowed. If the child is living with his/her family, their day camp stay may be up to two weeks; for a residential camp, the stay is one week or one session.

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**"Even if you're on the right track,
you'll get run over if you just sit there." — Will Rogers**

"Nash"onal News

On Giving and Receiving Advice

At the 1999 Conference Banquet, I said, "I am a student of history." Although I was talking at that time about the role our Honorary Life Members have played in our Association's history, and the contributions they have made to our chosen profession, I believe that being a student of history is more than even the justly deserved reverence of the past.

True history is not backwards thinking; it is lessons for the future. The future does not bother with the trivia or the minutiae of history. I do not care to know the exact date of the Battle of Hastings, or how many soldiers fell on the Plains of Abraham. It is not important to me why the colonists in Boston chose to dress up as native Americans in order to dump tea into Boston Harbour. What is important to me is why they felt they needed to make their statement in such a public and extreme way. They felt that they were not being consulted about the things that mattered to them, such as taxes on the necessities of life. Their views were not being represented in the far-away Parliament, and frustration gave way to extreme actions.

All too frequently, however, we take the lazy course. We don't give advice where it counts; we don't receive the advice of others to help round out our own views. Instead, we complain about what others are not doing, instead of asking ourselves what we should be doing. Instead of passionate action, we leave it to others and then are frustrated that they don't represent our views. History then looks backwards, instead of pointing us towards the future.

What is the future of camping in Ontario? Right now, we are faced with some very important threats and challenges. One which the OCA is currently studying is the need for protocols relating to sexual and physical abuse. Will parents continue to send their children to our camps if they are worried about the care their children will receive? What standards do we need to put in place for our Member Camps? What issues do we need to lobby the government about if the children are to be protected? How can the Association help our Member Camps if allegations are made?

Be passionate about this issue—it concerns all of us. Join our task force (call the OCA office and leave your name for Jill Dundas). If your camp or agency or someone you know has workable protocols in place, send them in to us so we can work more quickly on this problem. Your advice is greatly appreciated.

Ellen Nash
OCA President



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Camps on the internet..

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Editor's Note

Lands for Life Update

Good news with regards to the Lands for Life process: Minister of Natural Resources John Snobolen will be continuing the consultation process with all stakeholders in order to augment the amount of natural regions to be protected. Momentum is increasing to ensure that a minimum of 12 percent of Ontario lands will be preserved in a real sense, without mining, logging or other exploitative industry ventures.

The original Round Table proposals called for a very limited amount of protected natural space. Thanks to the commitment of the Partnership for Public Lands, talks with the Ontario government

and leading members of the forestry industry have concluded that more area does need to be protected. This can be done in such a way that it will benefit all of Ontario, and does not need to result in a loss of jobs.

However, continued communication with government officials is necessary to ensure that 12 percent, or indeed more, of Ontario lands are protected. Please contact John Snobolen and/or Premier Mike Harris to indicate your support of this venture. The latest news on Lands for Life may be viewed on the web at www.web.net/wild/latest.htm.

Fiora Hawryluk

Camp Benefits Everyone

continued from page 1

Ages of the children vary from zero (some camps accept moms and infants) to 18 years of age, if the youth is in care. It is expected that once a child is established at a certain camp, he/she will continue year after year, to allow summer buddy friendships to flourish.

Children from less-privileged backgrounds, or those who are undergoing emotional turmoil, can benefit so much from a camp experience, as indeed any child can. The Children's Aid Foundation believes that by educating and training people to become productive members of society, emotional trauma and other obstacles can be overcome. A happy and fulfilling camp experience goes a long way towards increasing self-esteem.

Leigh MacDonald welcomes calls from interested camps. She is also available to give half-day workshops on the topic of child abuse, and may be reached at 416-924-4646 ext. 3712; fax: 416-324-2556; e-mail: lmacdonald@casmt.on.ca.

*Fiora Hawryluk
Glen Bernard Camp*

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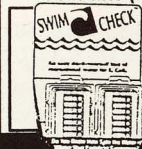
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Curling Up With Camp

The better part of my fourth year in university was spent in the OCA Archives in the bowels of the Trent University library, researching the history of how camps have marketed themselves in Ontario. More specifically, I was trying to figure out why parents send their kids to camp. I came up with an adequately academic essay, part of which was printed in a recent edition of the *OCA'sional News*. But there was something missing from that paper, some fundamental part of the question that was left unaddressed. I only realized what was missing this summer, when I was surrounded by the answer: the campers. It is fairly easy to map historical trends from artifacts to determine why parents send their children to camp. What is more difficult to analyze is why the kids keep coming back year after year. In tackling this question I finally asked myself, "Why do I keep going back to camp?" In the end it came down to safety.

Safety at camp is a pretty big issue, and understandably so. Standards must be met, rules must be followed, and qualifications must be current. If a first aid kit is not packed on a trip, the trip doesn't go out. We check swim levels and meds and allergies on the very first day. Safety at camp is not negotiable. There's a reason for this, far beyond liability and insurance. According to Maslow's hierarchy, based on the theory that children are seeking individual identity and must meet needs in a certain order, there are six basic human needs. Safety is second, only after the basic physiological needs that sustain life. Only after the need for safety is met can we fulfill other needs that camp offers, like the need to be loved, the need to belong, the need to know, the need for beauty and order, and the need to achieve competence. When we talk about safety, the focus is mainly on the physical. But campers not only need to be safe, they need to *feel* safe too.

In reflecting on why I continue to return to camp each summer, I keep coming back to one thought: camp is my safe place, my security blanket. You don't have to be afraid of letting loose and being yourself at camp because you know that you are going to be supported by staff and maybe even campers. Campers can try new things and push the boundaries of their safety zones because the risk is controlled. Confidence and self-esteem are promoted, fostered, and encouraged. Campers allow themselves to be vulnerable and, if you have good staff, the kids will walk away stronger because they were not let down. At all the camps I have been at, the staff have consistently offered comfort and warmth—much like a blanket. The most tender gesture that I can imagine is to be covered with a blanket while you are sleeping. It is an act of kindness bestowed on you when you are the most vulnerable, by someone who stands to gain nothing from it. This is the ultimate symbol of camp: a person lets his/her guard down, and rather than exploiting her, the staff treats her with kindness and love, leaving her open to grow, develop, and nurture the self and others. It doesn't matter what needs our campers come with, whether they are seeking acceptance, attention, self-esteem, confidence, encouragement, challenge, strength, or respect, the only way those needs can be met is if the camper feels safe. This kind of security just isn't found in other places, and I think that is ultimately the reason kids return to camp. As for myself, I'll be curling up in my blanket again this summer.

Barb Janicek
OCA Individual Member

Commercial Member Update

The following is an update to the Commercial Members' list published in the 1999 *Camping Guide* and last month's *OCA'sional News*.

Barrett Marketing Group (formerly EZ Group)

Contact: Raines Koby
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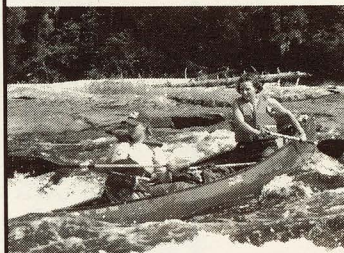
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Call David Woollven to register,
(519) 667-3300.

CAMP SAILING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

Ontario Sailing Association presents Ontario's only certification course specifically for camp staff. Graduates receive White or Bronze Sail CYA certificates and OSA Camp Sailing Instructor Certification.

At CQE, May 22-24. \$260 (member)
\$310 (non-member). Fees include all taxes.
Call OSA to register,
(905) 572-7245, ext. 222.



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Standard Time

A Bulletin of the Ontario Camping Association Standards Committee

It's April and camp is here for many of you or just around the corner for others. Though our camps are all special and unique, they share a common goal—to have a safe and healthy summer. The OCA Standards are set up with this goal in mind. All risks cannot be eliminated (unless of course you sit the kids in a padded room) but any accidents that can be prevented should be prevented.

Over 80 Camps will be receiving a Standards Visit this summer as part of the OCA's (re)accreditation process. Your Camp may be one of them.

If so, and if you are a bit nervous....don't be!!!! Before you read on, sing this to calm yourself down.

"Hakunamatatta, what a wonderful phrase. Hakunamatatta ain't no passing phase.... It means no worries for the rest of your days.... It's our problem free philosophy.... Hakunamatatta!"

Staff Training Idea

Now that you are ready, let's continue. The following is a game called "200 Eyes Are Better Than Two." Its purpose is to get staff involved in risk management while doing an annual camp Standards audit. (Even if you are not preparing for a Visit, you should plan this activity.) Divide the staff into teams (have them dress up as their super heroes) and give each team a section of the OCA Standards "Guidelines." Then have them visit an area of camp to inspect it and return to you with their evaluations and recommendations.

Preparing for the Visit

We are all on the same team so if you have any questions or concerns or anything out of the ordinary happens, we suggest you:

- 1) call Bev at the OCA office;
- 2) call a camp director whom you know has gone through the process; or
- 3) call your visitor—working together equals a great visit.

Remember, we are not inspectors and this is not school.

You will be mailed a package of Standards Visit materials in a few weeks. As soon as it arrives, make sure the appropriate Answer Sheet (day or residential) is included. Next, review the checklist. It outlines how you can prepare for your Visit.

The Standards "Guidelines" include the questions you must be familiar with in order to properly complete your Answer Sheet. If you answer "no" or "not applicable" to a Standard question, make sure you have a good explanation.

Contact your Visitor to arrange a mutually convenient day for the Visit (preferably in July) and determine a back-up date.

The Visit

Here are some reminders that will help make the whole experience flow very easily.

- Try to plan the Visit on a "normal" day of camp so the Visitor can see the different activity areas. Nothing special needs to be done for the Visitor.

- Arrange for an opportunity for your Visitor to meet the entire camp at a meal or an all-camp activity.

- When the Visitor arrives, plan the agenda for the day together (e.g., tour the camp and then review the Answer Sheet, or vice-versa).

- A typical visit takes a minimum of 3 to 4 hours (including lunch).

- The camp director or co-director should handle the visit if at all possible (if unavailable, you may use senior staff).

- If an alternative date has to be arranged, give the Visitor or Visitee as much advance warning as possible. Call the OCA office if there are any serious challenges in getting together.

- Prepare your archives material for delivery or mailing to the OCA office in time to go over the materials with your Visitor.

- At the end of the Visit, decide which one of you will mail the office copy of the Answer Sheet to the OCA. **DO IT IMMEDIATELY!** The Visitor keeps one copy and the Camp keeps one. **PLEASE, DO NOT POSTPONE SENDING IN THE FORMS UNTIL THE END OF THE SUMMER!!!**

Brainteaser

What do you do if you're a Visitor and see a staff member at the camp who broke a contract with you at your Camp, saying he had to go to summer school? The answer to this question and many others will be answered at the Standards Meeting Workshop on April 28. **PLAN TO BE THERE!!!!**

April Young

OCA Standards Committee Member

Marjorie and Aubrey Rhamey and their son Paul wish to inform the camping community that Big Doe Camp, after 53 years of operation, closed its doors as of December 31, 1998.

The family has no immediate plans for the camp, and will enjoy it this summer as a family retreat.

**THE HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE
WOULD LIKE TO REMIND EVERYONE
OF THE UPCOMING HEALTH CARE
WORKSHOP BEING HELD
MAY 29, 1999 AT THE SENECA
COLLEGE - KING CAMPUS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK
OUT THE ENCLOSED HEALTH CARE
WORKSHOP BROCHURE.**

Camping and Outdoor Bookstore

The Camping and Outdoor Bookstore is busy gearing up for the 1999 Summer Camp season!

The 1999 Bookstore catalogue, with many new titles, will be mailed across Canada beginning in mid-May. Once again, in cooperation with the Canadian Camping Association, all OCA Member Camps can look forward to significant discounts on all Bookstore purchases.

Look for the Bookstore at Spring 1999 training events!

Jeff Bradshaw
Director, Camp Wenonah

The Camp Collage

Don't forget to set aside May 29, 1999 for the annual OCA Counsellor Conference. Please tell your staff, their staff and so on and so on. It's going to be another great event—one you won't want to miss!

Seneca College in King City will be hosting the event. It's a perfect setting for experiential outdoor programming, hard and soft skills, environmental awareness, first aid, integration and dynamic keynote speakers.

Fun, education and exciting new sessions for new staff, returning, senior staff and camp directors...plus socializing with hundreds of camp people! A registration package is included in this month's *OCA'sional News*. If you did not receive a package or would like more information, please call Barb Weeden at 905-833-3333 ext. 5029.

Barb Weeden
Chair, OCA Counsellor Conference Committee

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Membership and Standards Update

At a recent meeting of the Membership and Standards Task Force, it was agreed to begin the process of creating accompanying resources for all day and residential camp standards. This will be a project that will carry us through the end of the calendar year with resources available for new OCA Member Camps in the year 2000.

The Task Force is now gathering data and looking for more members to assist us! Please call Jeff Bradshaw at 905-631-2849 to offer your input. We're looking forward to consultation and support from the many sectors of OCA membership.

Many thanks to Task Force Members Howard Oretsky and Craig Hartley for their initial commitment to this vital project.

Jeff Bradshaw
Chair, OCA Membership and Standards Task Force

Public Awareness News

Thanks to everyone who contributed their advice and insights to the design and development plan for the OCA website, www.ontcamp.on.ca.

We are setting our sights on a five-year plan. We are looking to increase traffic to our site by 100 percent in the first six months and look to developing a completely interactive webpage including current events and on-line conference and event registration for the year 2000.

We encourage you to participate on-line at www.ontcamp.on.ca. If you have any questions about the website or have a brilliant design or concept idea, contact the OCA office at 416-781-0525.

Reminiscing?

The Public Awareness Committee would like to hear from you. We are developing a new brochure and an information piece for parents. This will encourage them to recognize the growth campers and camp staff experience through their participation in the camp community.

We are looking for personal testimonials on the *Value of Camping* from you. What has camp inspired in your life? What camp skills have you relied on most in your everyday life? Who made the greatest impact on you at camp?

We know you love camp, now we want to know why. Please forward your deep thoughts to the OCA office, c/o Public Awareness Committee. All submissions will be gathered in confidence. Please include your name and telephone number.

Caryl Colton
Chair, OCA Public Awareness Committee

Smile and Say Cheese

The 1999 Society of Camp Directors Photo Contest was a huge success this year as 24 high quality photos by some very good photographers were on display in February at the 1999 OCA Annual Conference for Directors and Senior Staff. In addition to Ontario, there were also entries from Quebec and Alberta.

Our two judges were Peter Robertson, publisher of *Our Kids Go To Camp*, and Andrew Stawicki, photo editor of *Our Kids Go To Camp*. They were looking for high levels of creativity, originality and skillful technique.

The awards were given out by Michael Moore, the President of the Society of Camp Directors.

Grand Prize for Best in Show: Christine Persaud, Camp Pinecrest
First Prize for Funny Moments: Elaine Brodie, Seneca College - King Day Camp

First Prize for Nature: Heidi Johnson-Hermeyer,
Camp HoHeHa, Alberta

First Prize for Reflection: David Latimer, Kilcoo Camp

First Prize for Sunrise/Sunset: Dave Latimer and
Christine Persaud

Honourable Mentions: Gina Welch, Camp Davern (Sunset)
Jaylenn Bosley, Camp Kawartha (Sunset)
David Latimer, Kilcoo Camp (Funny Moments)
Elaine Brodie, Seneca College - King Day Camp (Nature)

We thank all who entered, and congratulate our winners.

Peter Gilbert

Co-ordinator, Society of Camp Directors

And the Winner is...

The Ontario Camping Association would like to congratulate the following award recipients who were honoured at our recent Annual Conference for Directors and Senior Staff:

- ◆ The Dorothy Walter Award of Excellence: Bob Smith
- ◆ The Ron Johnstone Leadership Award: Jeff Ruby
- ◆ The Honorary Life Membership Award: Ted Cole
Catherine Ross
George Ross
- ◆ The Volunteer Recognition Award: Brian Blackstock
Sari Bell Grossinger
Sarah Oosterhuis
- ◆ The Outstanding Contribution Award -
Commercial Member: G.B. Catering Ltd.
- ◆ The Canadian Camping Association
Certificate of Appreciation: Mary Casey

O'SIEM 2000
THE 67th ANNUAL LEADERSHIP
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March 1 - 4, 2000
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The Conference 2000 program includes:

- ◆ Five Kindred Mini-Conferences (kindred groups include Day, Agency, Christian Affiliated, Special Populations and Private Camps)
- ◆ An Exhibit Hall and Camp "Share" with displays and interactive programs
- ◆ Current Issues Day
- ◆ Educational Forum for Senior Staff
- ◆ Basic Camp Management Course
- ◆ Director Crackerbarrel sessions
- ◆ OCA Homecoming Banquet: A Celebration of our Camping Heritage!

PLUS:

Major Plenary Sessions; corporate sponsorship; nightly hospitality suites; tours of Toronto; Photo Contest; children's groups; OCA business day; Japan 2000 Congress presentation; government ministry participation; mealtime programs; Internet Café; pre- and post-Conference programs for international and out of province delegates; singing and music and much more!!

Watch for detailed information beginning in the May issue of the *OCA'sional News* and in our Spring Preview Package.
(delivery begins in early June)

Camping Makes the World Go Round

As we begin the countdown to the Fifth International Camping Congress (scheduled for October 2-5, 2000 in Tokyo, Japan) we'll be using this space to provide information and updates. Please note that all registration for Canadians travelling to Japan in October, 2000 will be handled through the Camp Wenonah office in Burlington, Ontario. Please call 905-631-2849 to indicate your interest in participating in the Congress—we'll include you in regular Congress correspondence.

I'm pleased to share excerpts from the main Congress flyer that has recently been distributed at both the OCA Conference and the American Camping Association Conference. Here is an overview of the philosophy of the Fifth International Camping Congress, submitted by the Congress Organizing Committee:

"Our world is changing. Information now flashes around the globe in seconds. In many countries, the population is growing a little grayer each year.

At the same time, we face a multitude of global problems. The earth's environment is threatened and crises are affecting societies, economies, welfare systems and food provision. International cooperation and understanding are vital if we are to solve these issues. At the same time, there is poverty caused by ethnic and national conflict, while dramatic climate changes are causing food shortages. In developed countries, crime is on the increase and more and more children are committing crimes.

In these uncertain times, we believe that we play a part in tackling those problems. Our philosophy of "camping for all" encourages people everywhere to enjoy the experience of living together with nature. And, by using the flexibility and freedom afforded by camping, against a background of differing cultures and historical perspectives, we can create a new culture of camping to show the youth of the next century a better way forward.

Camping provides the ideal opportunity for people involved in outdoor and youth activities all over the world to come together and talk, to exchange information and ideas, and to learn from each other.

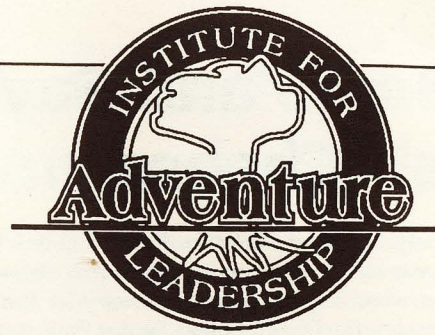
We sincerely hope and believe that the Fifth International Camping Congress in the year 2000 will provide a forum for people involved in outdoor and youth activities throughout the world to meet their counterparts, promote networking, and create the right form for camping in the 21st Century.

The Congress will be a place where we can exchange ideas on the creation of a unique camping culture and on the development of young people who are brought up in that culture.

Many people will work together to make the Fifth International Camping Congress happen; we hope that many more people will make it all worthwhile by taking part."

Until next time.

Jeff Bradshaw
Canadian Representative
International Camping Fellowship



Ropes Course Instructor Certification

- Assistant High Ropes Instructor (LEVEL 1)
- High Ropes Course Instructor (LEVEL 2)
- Recertification/Skills Update (Level 1 & 2)
- Climbing Wall Instructor (Indoor/Outdoor)

Professional Development Workshops

- Making Adventure Accessible
- Advanced Adventure Facilitation
- Adventure for Educators
- Let's Play: Games Workshop

Program Resources & Services

- Ropes Course & Climbing Wall Construction
- Safety Inspections
- Design & Consulting Services
- Specialty Ropes Course & Climbing Gear
- Adventure Education Books & Resources

For more information regarding prices, availability or to receive our 1999 Spring Workshop Calendar please contact our office:

34 Plaza Dr. Dundas, Ontario. L9H 4H0
p 905 304 5683 f 905 304 0386
blisson@netaccess.on.ca

adventureworks!
associates inc.



Surfing for Camp Ideas

A couple of weeks ago, something occurred to me—I had somewhat of a nervous breakdown. But don't worry, because now I feel terrific.

Sometimes it is a pain to wake up every morning and continue in my attempts to create a program manual for camp. As I sat on my couch trying to think up new and innovative program ideas, I asked myself: "Can I go on?"

I discovered a while ago that I am not Thomas Edison. With the amount of resources I would like camp staff to have at their disposal, and the time it takes me all winter long to continuously create new programs, I am bound to get myself into one heck of a crisis.

God bless every fibre in the workings of the Internet. It is my new life preserver that will save me from future breakdowns. If you understand how powerful the Internet is, you will acknowledge the vast amounts of information which can be retrieved from it.



Rather than coming up with 30 new program ideas for camp, I now have well over 200 ideas in all areas of summer camp programming from a wide range of resources and perspectives—ideas which I could never come up with on my own.

One of the important functions of summer camp programming is to have a large bank of ideas ready by the start of summer and have those resources available throughout the camping season.

The hardest part about locating this type of information is where to search. After logging on to the Internet, I usually go to one of the popular search engines and type in "children's outdoor activities" or a comparable heading. I then proceed down the list to see what types of programs the camp can use.

Using the Internet to find camp programs is fun, but at the same time, it may be slow. I have learned to be patient in the pursuit of finding these programs. As you know, the Internet possesses an infinity of information and one has to be prepared to spend many hours to find the vast amount of information that will give campers satisfaction and adventure at camp.

Nevertheless, I am now in a better frame of mind after I discovered the Internet as I now have a great collection of activities which I can use at camp.

*John Bergman
OCA Individual Member*

Was This You Last Summer??



Always be in contact with your staff!!

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Sudbury
848 Notre Dame Ave
705-524-6292

Windsor
475 Tecumseh Rd East
519-256-2355



Yours For The Asking

Yours for the Asking is a regular feature of the *OCA*sional News. Readers are invited to send in their questions to the OCA office, attn: **Yours for the Asking**. Our panel will be delighted to respond in an upcoming issue. We are fortunate to have on the team Ted and Elaine Cole of Camp Walden, and Tracy Shand of Camp Naorca. Ted and Elaine bring a residential camp perspective, while Tracy offers the day camp view!

Question: A parent recently told me that she would never sign a waiver form, since she considers it an abdication of responsibility on the part of the camp. She said that when her child goes on school trips, if the school sends a waiver form home to be signed, she declines to sign it and her child is still allowed to go. Many camps use waiver forms on their applications; how would you respond to this parent's concerns regarding liability and responsibility?

Elaine and Ted Cole respond: I can not imagine any camp not having some type of waiver form. A waiver form tends to absolve negligent claims on behalf of the camp. Generally, they are not effective because they are not specific enough, for example, in gross negligence (e.g., if a staff member driving a ski boat hits a sailboat and injuries occur).

In most cases, if the waiver is drafted by a lawyer and is a legal document, it will protect the camp against a lawsuit. Also, your insurance company will probably insist on some kind of signed document, not only for your protection but to reduce premiums.

I would insist on parents signing a waiver, especially when we have the child for such long periods of time. By insisting on signing a waiver, it gives the camp the opportunity, in writing, to make parents aware of camp policies.

Editor's Note: Tracy Shand is on vacation but will return next month for another edition of Yours for the Asking.

Boating Safety Regulations

Is your camp aware of the new boating safety regulations, some of which have just come into effect? Here is just a sample of the new regulations but for more information, visit the Canadian Coast Guard website at www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca.

New Age Horsepower Restrictions

- under 12 years of age: maximum power of motor: 7.5 kw (10hp)
- at least 12 years of age but under 16 years of age: maximum power of motor: 30 kw (40hp)
- under age 16: prohibited from operating a personal watercraft

New Recreational Boat Operator Competency

- September 15, 1999: youth, born after April 1, 1983, will require proof of competency on board to operate a boat fitted with a motor.
- September 15, 2002: any person operating a boat fitted with a motor and less than 4 metres (including personal watercraft) will require proof of competency on board.
- September 15, 2009: all operators will require proof of competency on board.

For the new safety equipment requirements, please see accompanying table.

*Patti Thom
Camp Tanamakoon*

EQUIPMENT	BOAT LENGTH		
	Motorized pleasure craft up to 6 m	Non-motorized pleasure craft up to 6 m	Pleasure Craft 6m to 8m
Personal floatation device or lifejacket that fits each occupant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Buoyant heaving line (15 m)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manual propelling device or an anchor (15 m of cable, rope chain)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bailer or manual water pump (with hose)	Yes	Yes	Yes
1 fire extinguisher Class 5BC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Watertight flashlight	Yes		Yes
Reboarding device (freeboard > 0.5 m)			Yes
Flares	Yes		Yes
Sound Signalling equipment	Yes		Yes
Navigation lights (Collision regulations)	Yes		Yes

Calendar of Events

April

Public Awareness
Committee Meeting
OCA Board Room

Monday, April 12
6:00 p.m.

Health Care
Committee Meeting
OCA Board Room

Tuesday, April 20
7:00 p.m.

Special Needs Resource
Committee Meeting
Camp Kirk Office

Wednesday, April 21
7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
OCA Board Room

Thursday, April 22
2:00 p.m.

Special Needs Resource
Committee Meeting
OCA Board Room

Wednesday, May 26
10:00 a.m.

Board Meeting
OCA Board Room

Thursday, May 27
5:00 p.m.

Counsellor Conference
Seneca College - King Campus

Saturday, May 29
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Health Care Workshop
Seneca College - King Campus

Saturday, May 29
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

May

Health Care
Committee Meeting
OCA Board Room

Monday, May 17
7:00 p.m.

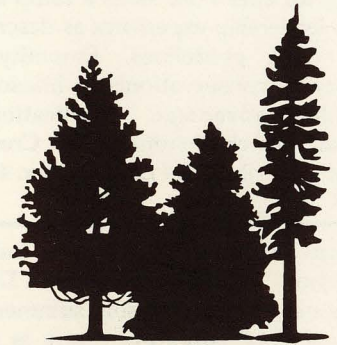
June

OCA Skills Weekend
Glen Bernard Camp

Friday, June 11 to
Sunday, June 13



WATERLOO
BEDDING



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Classifieds

For Sale/Rent

Campsite: Private, exclusive, for 15 or more. Wilderness trails (ski, hike or bike), beach, spectacular view, canoes, kayaks, volleyball. Available this fall or 1999. Call 705-657-8432.

Secluded camp/retreat, fully equipped. Available this fall and 1999. Spectacular shoreline, beach, wilderness trails (hike, bike, ski, or snowmobile), tripping, cabins with washrooms. Call 705-657-8432.

Positions Available

Bolton Camp staff/volunteer positions. Various staff and volunteer positions for overnight residential camp located in Bolton, Ontario. Counsellors, specialty staff, van driving, nursing and other support. We have four 10-day sessions and one 5-day family camp. June 29 - August 27. Call 905-857-3993 or fax résumé to 905-857-9106 in care of camp director.

Camp Allsaw, a co-ed residential summer camp for ages 7-16, seeks a camp director with leadership experience as described in the OCA guidelines. Empathy with Allsaw's conservationist philosophy a decided advantage. Applications to: Allsaw Search Committee, 96 Crestwood Road, Thornhill, ON L4J 1A6. Fax: 416-221-8893.

Camp Wenonah requires a full-time Outdoor Education Centre Director. Wenonah, a three-season summer camp and outdoor education centre is located just east of Bracebridge and provides a wide range of programs and services for children, schools, community groups and families. Our website (www.campwenonah.com) provides further information. The successful candidate will be directly responsible for all onsite programming during May, June, September and October while supporting the summer camp operation during July and August. Off-season work will take place at the Burlington winter office. Accommodations will be provided onsite from May-October. Duties include all contact with schools and groups attending the Outdoor Centre; marketing for the Outdoor Centre and summer camp; program development; overseeing the opening and closing of the site/facility; staff hiring, training and supervision; strategic planning and general management and administrative respon-

sibilities. Salary range is \$25,000-32,000 annually. Application deadline is June 30, 1999 with interviews scheduled in July. The position begins August 16, 1999. All qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. Please forward résumés to Jeff Bradshaw, Director, Camp Wenonah, 3584 Commerce Court, Burlington, ON L7N 3L7.

Camp Trillium, a super fun summer camp for children with cancer and their families is looking for registered nurses (short- and long-term contracts available; day and overnight camps) and an experienced headcook and cook (overnight camp/full summer only: May 26-August 31). Please call Jen for the nursing position and April for the cooks' position at 1-888-999-CAMP.

Head of ropes and trippers needed for residential Muskoka camp for boys and girls ages 8-13. Please call Camp Shalom at 416-783-6744.

Miscellaneous

Enjoy professional riding instruction for all levels, live in a teepee, experience the outdoors in the scenic Blue Mountains. Enjoy other activities such as sailing, swimming, rock climbing (all with certified instruction), art workshops and bonfires. For a brochure, call Dr. L. Kiraly, 416-485-9882.

Announcements

Dawn Alexander-Wiggins (director of Canterbury Hills Camp) and her husband Aidan Shortt are happy to announce the birth of Kieran on Thursday, March 4. Keinan weighed in at 7 lbs 14 ounces.

We need your recipes! The Human Resources Committee is still collecting your favorite off-season recipes for its cookbook. Please submit them in one of the following ways: by e-mail to hawryluk@stn.net; by fax to 416-781-7875; or by regular mail to the OCA office, attention Cookbook Recipes.

Plan to attend the 1999 Ontario Tourism Forum being held April 19-21 at the Regal Constellation Hotel. If you would like to attend or receive more information regarding this first-ever industry run tourism conference, call 1-800-267-3399.

OCA's *Occasional News* offers you a variety of ways to promote products and services within organized camping. The Ontario Camping Association welcomes articles and photo submissions. The next deadline is April 15th for the May publication.

☉ Display ads are sold on a single or multiple insertion rate, with a \$50.00 non-members fee. Please contact the OCA office for rates. Camera-ready art is required.

☉ We also offer professional and business directory ads of business card size. OCA member fee: \$50 per insert (up to three issues) or \$35 per issue (minimum four to maximum nine issues).

☉ Classified ads are sold with a maximum size of 25 words for a fee of \$15 for members and \$30 for non-members. Additional space sold in 25 word increments.

☉ Paid advertising content will not exceed editorial space.

☉ The *OCA's Occasional News* is published nine 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 inquires to the Editorial Committee, care of the office.

☉ Fiora Hawryluk, Editor. 416-481-2788. e-mail: hawryluk@stn.net

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



1810 Avenue Road, Suite 302
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416-781-0525
Fax: 416-781-7875

e-mail: oca@ontcamp.on.ca
Website: www.ontcamp.on.ca

OCA Office Staff:
Bev Jahnke, Office Administrator
Michele Gillingwater, Membership Secretary
Paul Grossinger, Production Secretary

Payment Information

Full payment must be received before this application can be processed. Faxed forms must have credit card information and signature. The OCA accepts VISA only.

Fee(s) Enclosed: _____
for fee schedule see application form on reverse

I prefer to pay my conference fees by:

Cheque VISA

VISA # _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

All fees include: Bus Transportation from Yorkdale Shopping Centre or Scarborough Town Centre, Lunch, Delegate Package, GST (GST Reg. # R122423106)

Before May 10: Refund less \$10 Cancellation Fee. After May 10: NO REFUNDS

Send form to: OCA Counsellor Conference
1810 Avenue Road, Suite 302, Toronto, ON
M5M 3Z2 Ph. (416) 781-0525

If paying by VISA, application can be faxed to: (416) 781-7875

The Details

What: The '99 OCA Counsellor Conference
The Camp Collage
"Blending good times with Great People"

When: Saturday May 29th, 1999

Registration starts at 8am

Keynote Speaker Begins at 9am

First Session Begins 10am

Keynote Closure 4pm

Conference Finishes 5pm

Where: Seneca College, King Campus
13990 Dufferin Street (North of the King
Sideroad near the village of King City)

Bussing: Buses are available to and from the conference and will be departing from Yorkdale Shopping Centre and Scarborough Town Centre. Bus schedule is included in conference fee. Advance registration required.

Car Parking: (\$1.75/car) at Seneca College is not included in conference fee.

What to bring:

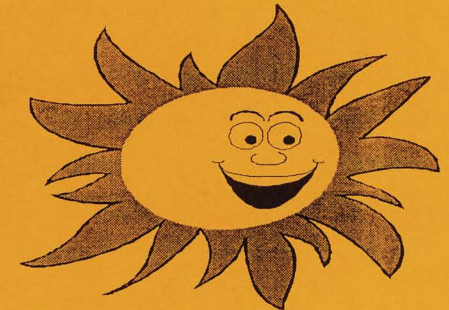
* Change of cloths for waterfront skills

* Musical instruments for coffee house & lunch time jamboree

1999 OCA Counsellor Conference

The Camp Collage

"Blending good times with Great people"



Saturday May 29th, 1999

8am - 5pm

Seneca College, King Campus

King City, ON

1999 OCA Counsellor's Conference

The Ontario Camping Associations Annual Counsellor Conference is the premiere event for exposing your counsellors to the wealth of information available from dozens of other camps and associated organizations within the OCA.

The Counselor Conference takes great pride in helping with the development and education of over 400 young people a year who are preparing themselves to be role models to your campers or are experienced veterans in for tune ups.

In essence, we are helping to give your staff the tools they need to make themselves the best that they can possibly be. This spring, you and your staff are invited to the OCA's Counselor Conference 1999 - "The Camp Collage".

The Camp Collage

Each session offered will have a symbol representing the recommended target audience i.e. new staff, instructors, or returning staff.

Senior Staff will be offered two, two hour sessions that will be facilitated by "outside" professionals.

In the morning Directors will have a chance to pre-register for the Seneca Ropes course or New Swing initiative. An afternoon coffee house will be featured for in-formal director chat.

Two EXCEPTIONAL keynote speakers will open and close the day. A sure way to inspire us all.

Lunch hour will feature skits & songs, open mike jamboree, and the OCA bookstore.

Plus, NEW this year an exhibitor hall for counsellors.

If you have ANY questions/ suggestions/ ideas etc. please contact:

Barb Weeden - Chair

Ph. (905)833-3333 ext. 5029

Fax (905)833-0421

Email: barb.weeden@senecac.on.ca

Registration

1999 Counselor Conference

"Blending Good Times with Great People"
~The Camp Collage~

Individual & Group Registration

Date: Saturday May 29th, 1999

Time: Starts at 9am Sharp to 5pm

~ Registration opens at 8am~

Name: _____

Camp Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home(_____)_____

Work (_____)_____

Fax (_____)_____

OCA Member: Yes ___ No ___

of delegates you are registering _____

of delegates requiring transportation _____

From: Yorkdale Shopping Centre

Scarborough Town Centre

As the Director, I _____ (your name) will be attending the '99 Counsellor Conference as a guest at no charge.

Yes, I would like to pre-register for the:

Ropes Course Swing

Conference Fees:

(Early Registration before May 11)

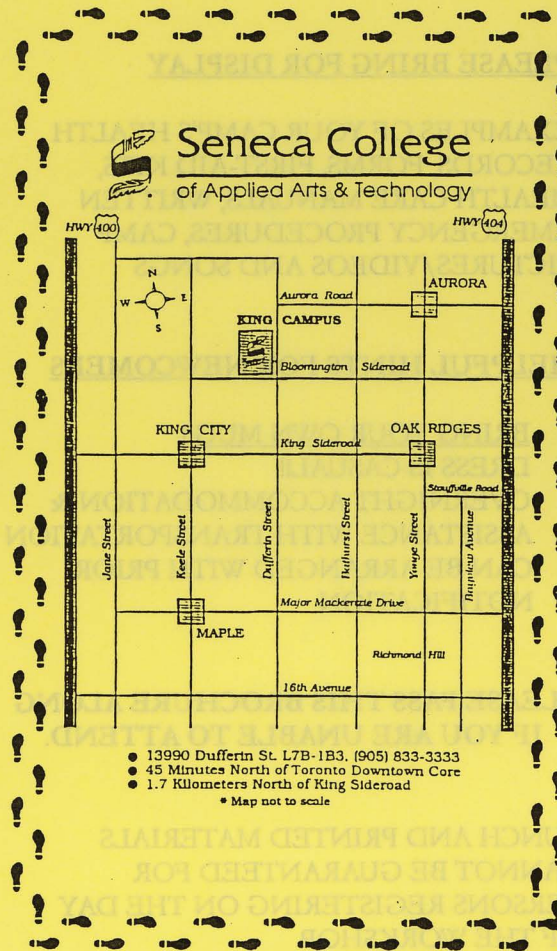
OCA Member - \$23 Non-Member - \$25

Group 10+ \$21

After May 10 add \$4/person



MAP TO SENECA COLLEGE KING CAMPUS



THE ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION'S HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE CAME INTO EXISTENCE IN 1981 TO PLAN THE ANNUAL SPRING WORKSHOP FOR CAMP NURSES AND OTHER INTERESTED CAMP STAFF. THIS COMMITTEE IS NOW A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE OCA.

THE COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVES ARE TO RAISE THE AWARENESS OF CAMP MANAGERS, HEALTH CARE STAFF AND CAMP FAMILIES REGARDING PERTINENT CAMP HEALTH CARE CONCERNS. THE COMMITTEE IS COMPRISED OF ENTHUSIASTIC AND EXPERIENCED CAMP NURSES.

THERE WILL BE A PARKING CHARGE OF \$1.75 PER CAR AT SENECA COLLEGE

CAMP HEALTH CARE WORKSHOP



**SATURDAY
MAY 29, 1999**

**SENECA COLLEGE
KING CAMPUS**

THE ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION'S HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE IS PRESENTING THIS ONE-DAY WORKSHOP FOR CAMP HEALTH CARE STAFF, CAMP DIRECTORS, SENIOR STAFF AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS.

THE WORKSHOP OFFERS VALUABLE CURRENT HEALTH INFORMATION, SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF CAMP HEALTH PROGRAMS AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH EXPERIENCED HEALTH CARE STAFF AND TO RENEW ACQUAINTANCES.

PLEASE BRING THIS FLYER TO HAVE IT STAMPED FOR VERIFICATION OF SIX CONTACT HOURS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION.

SENECA COLLEGE KING CAMPUS
1399 DUFFERIN STREET
NORTH SIDE OF THE KING SIDE ROAD
NEAR THE VILLAGE OF KING CITY

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1999
9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
REGISTRATION: 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.

\$45.00 - OCA MEMBER CAMPS/
INDIVIDUALS
\$50.00 - NON-MEMBER CAMPS/
INDIVIDUALS
\$60.00 - REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR

THIS FEE INCLUDES GST, LUNCH AND BEVERAGE BREAKS.

REFUNDS: BEFORE MAY 21, 1999
- \$25 CANCELLATION FEE
- **NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 21**

PROGRAM TOPICS

- THE NURSE AT PRE-CAMP
- THE NEW CAMP NURSE
- ALTERNATIVE / COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE
- ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

PLEASE BRING FOR DISPLAY

EXAMPLES OF YOUR CAMP'S HEALTH RECORDS, FORMS, FIRST-AID KITS, HEALTH CARE MANUALS, WRITTEN EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, CAMP PICTURES/VIDEOS AND SONGS

HELPFUL HINTS FOR NEWCOMERS

- BRING YOUR OWN MUG!!
- DRESS IS CASUAL!!
- OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION & ASSISTANCE WITH TRANSPORTATION CAN BE ARRANGED WITH PRIOR NOTIFICATION

PLEASE PASS THIS BROCHURE ALONG IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

LUNCH AND PRINTED MATERIALS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED FOR PERSONS REGISTERING ON THE DAY OF THE WORKSHOP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE OCA OFFICE: 416-781-0525.

ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION HEALTH CARE WORKSHOP

FULL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

CAMP AFFILIATION _____

YOUR POSITION IS:
() NURSE () DOCTOR () DIRECTOR
() OTHER

ARE YOU A CAMP NURSE? _____

APPLICATIONS **MUST** BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MAY 21, 1999.
THIS IS YOUR ONLY CORRESPONDENCE!

METHOD OF PAYMENT:
VISA _____ CHEQUE _____
PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

CARDHOLDER'S NAME _____

VISA # _____ Expiry _____

SIGNATURE _____

MAIL FORM & PAYMENT TO:
ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION
1810 AVENUE ROAD, SUITE 302
TORONTO, ON M5M 3Z2

GST REGISTRATION # R122423106