



OCAsional news

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EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

CHILDREN NEED THE CARE OF ADULTS IF THEY ARE TO SURVIVE.
ADULTS NEED THE CARE OF CHILDREN IF THEY ARE TO GROW.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Plenty of sun, lots of warm weather and energetic campers add up to a successful summer of camping in 1987. I hope your summer was fun! Is there anything you would do differently? Have you started a list? I sure have. Every summer brings growth to leaders as well as campers - isn't it amazing how we continue to develop new ideas, decide on new techniques in our leadership styles, find new ways of communicating, and try out new programs - one thing for sure - Camp is never dull!!

As I drove south today from Huntsville to the OCA Office, I noticed that the trees are already changing colour. With change come new hopes, new directions and new plans. We can change our pace a little too - some rest and relaxation are due to every camp leader - but we can also look to the next 10 months as a time to prepare ourselves and our camps for next summer - to keep changing for the better.

The OCA is changing too! The last membership survey of our operational review is now being prepared - when you receive yours, please take time to fill it out. This final step in the operational review process is very important to the future of the OCA.

The OCA has a lot to think about in the next ten months - conferences and events, our lottery, our CCA financial commitment, our Committee Work - the list goes on.

There is a place for you in OCA. Please consider volunteering your time to serve on a committee or help plan a training event - you will be glad you did. It is the people and the fun we have together that you will remember. Satisfaction guaranteed!

JANE McCUTCHEON,
President.

EDITORIAL

Rattlesnakes don't rattle - they buzz, not unlike an electric bell. Some of you with camps on Georgian Bay know this and are very cool, calm and collected when rattlesnakes make regular appearances on your property. However, when you live inland from the Bay and haven't seen a rattlesnake since they blasted for Highway 69 twenty years ago, you have to make an effort to be controlled and rational. Over a period of two weeks in July, three adult rattlesnakes were discovered on our island in approximately the same location only a few yards from a staff cabin and four camper tents. The resulting behavior of the staff and campers would have provided enough material for a psychology student to write a paper on fear.

After the first sighting, we did some reading and research and in a very matter-of-fact manner presented a plan to the campers: always wear shoes (which you are supposed to do anyway!), watch where you are stepping and if you see a rattlesnake, report it immediately to a

counsellor. The campers were as blase as could be. Not one suggested moving out of the "Snake Pit" as the staff annoyingly renamed the area. If anything, more went barefoot than before - or was I just more aware of it.

The staff on the other hand were more of a challenge. One refused to go anywhere near the area; those living in the cabin enquired as to the possibility of relocation, and one young man reporting the third sighting had his heart racing to unknown heights!

When all was said and done, no one was injured, the snakes were removed, and we are all a little better informed about this rare species. Still, I wish they would all slither back to the Bay!

CATHERINE ROSS,
Editor.

HELEN E. STEWART

In early June, camping lost one of its most ardent, tireless and loyal workers, Helen Stewart, founder and former director of Camp Wahcahmie.

Helen had spent most of her life living in and around the Etobicoke area. She was a graduate of Victoria College, U of T and the Ontario College of Education. She taught High School in Kenora, followed by several years at Etobicoke Collegiate.

Helen received an appointment as Director of Women's Athletics at the University of Guelph and held that post until sometime in the mid 1960's, when she retired to devote full time to the operation of Camp Wahcahmie.

I first met Helen in 1955, when I was president of O.C.A. and she was struggling to get her new camp going.

I suggested to Helen that she become involved in O.C.A., serve on a committee or committees in which we needed help of dedicated people and by so doing her camp would become better known and in the end we both would benefit.

This she did and up until her illness some 3 years ago, Helen was an indefatigable worker on several of our committees, including Conference, Membership, Standards, Directory, Archives (which she eventually chaired), and latterly took on the Chairmanship of the committee that was

compiling the material for our famous publication "Blue Lake and Rocky Shore". I feel that this wonderful book will always be a living monument to Helen.

In the early 1970's, Helen felt camping was lacking a good cook book, for both in-camp meals and meals while on trips. She collected recipes from other camp directors and supplemented these with many of her own. From these, was born her own book "Cookery for Camps Kids and Kicks". This publication has been of great help to many directors, both old and new. It is still available at a very nominal cost, through the O.C.A. office.

Helen Stewart - 1923 - 1987. We have all been enriched by her all too short stay on earth. She will be sadly missed. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

BERT DANSON.

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Space does not permit us to print in full a letter of tribute to Helen Stewart received from Charles W. Tisdall. Mr. Tisdall's wife and daughters Marilee & Martha were long time friends of Helen. Those of us who knew Helen would agree with his description of her as "a gifted teacher, camp director and a quiet mentor who combined in her being dignity and an infectious sense of humour".

P.A.R.C. UPDATE

The Physical Activity Responsibility Centre of the Canadian Camping Association has been a busy place all summer as numerous projects have begun. I was pleased to meet with the OCA Board in late May to introduce myself and the P.A.R.C. mandate.

During the summer I was able to visit a variety of camps in Ontario, and some of the western provinces, to observe and talk to camp staff about existing physical activity programs. Many camp leaders also provided valuable feedback on draft copies of the national survey which was finally mailed out to camp directors in August. An assessment of the current status of physical activities at the camps and the needs and concerns of camping people in this regard are essential before the other projects (such as the "how-to" pamphlet series) can be fully developed. I would like to thank all of you for your prompt return of the survey. If by chance you were away and missed the deadline it is still not too late to send it in.

Many camp leaders have echoed the concerns of Ken Willis (Canadian Camping Magazine, Summer 1987, p. 10) about the direction the physical activity emphasis will take. I appreciate the concerns related to some of the negative by-products of competitive sport and recognize that programs of this nature are not in line with the philosophy of most camps in Ontario. Others have expressed a need for program ideas for special populations, particularly physically disabled youth. Be assured that these, and other concerns, will be addressed by the P.A.R.C. Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from each region and from the various types of camps (i.e., private, agency, religious, day, special needs). The first meeting is scheduled for the end of October at which time the results of the survey will be discussed and both short and long-term plans will be made regarding future P.A.R.C. initiatives. Feel free to contact the Advisory Committee Chairperson, Diane Blair, your regional Vice-President, Sally Moore, or myself, if you have any questions or ideas. I will communicate with the provinces regularly through the provincial newsletters and the Canadian Camping Magazine as resources and ideas are developed to make quality physical activities an integral part of Canadian camps.

ANIKO VARPALOTAI,
P.A.R.C. Coordinator,
Canadian Camping Association.

CAMP HISTORY

Congratulations to Easter Seal Blue Mountain Camp which celebrated, on July 26, 1987, fifty years of providing a camping experience to physically disabled children. Blue Mountain is the first of five Easter Seal Camps which are dedicated to providing an enriching, challenging environment where children, despite their disability, may become involved, acquire a degree of independence, enjoy a sense of achievement and have fun!

The concept of a camp specifically designed for physically disabled children in Ontario originated in the mid-thirties with the late Gordon Leitch. He asked the Ontario Society for Crippled Children (now The

Easter Seal Society) to undertake responsibility for such a camp. The Society agreed. The property proposed for the camp site consisted of six acres of lakefront running back from a fine sandy beach on Georgian Bay six miles west of Collingwood.

There was some hesitation about approving the site for several reasons: it was a little more than 100 miles from Toronto from which most of the campers would have to be transported and there was not a good paved road all the way; there was no electricity, no well, and the whole property was generously covered with poison ivy. Beyond all this, the Society had no money to build, equip and maintain a camp.

That was the beginning! With hard work & perseverance all obstacles were overcome and now the Society can look back on fifty proud years of special camping.

EDITOR.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

THE NATURE SPECIALIST is a comprehensive, fully explained program of nature activities developed by Lenore Hendier Miller, an experienced teacher and camp naturalist.

An Activities Guide Chart is the heart of the book and lists more than seventy activities providing a wealth of information and reference material to enhance a beginning program or to add a new dimension to an existing program.

American Camping Association 170 p., 1986.

Cost: \$41.65 (members) \$49.95 (non members).

Books listed in "Between the Covers" are available from the Canadian Camping Association Bookstore.

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

Canadian Camping Association
Ste. 2, 1806 Avenue Road
Toronto, Ontario, M5M 3Z1
Tel: (416) 781-4717.

ANNUAL OCA CONFERENCE - JANUARY
28-30, 1988.

THURSDAY - Welcome Reception.

The Edgar James Company is a professional singing group with roots in Camping for many years. With plenty of versions of songs by people such as Simon and Garfunkel, the Dobbie Brothers, and Harry Chapin, along with many of their own pieces, they will provide a very pleasant and uplifting 'kick-off' to the conference. We know you'll enjoy this exciting group.

FRIDAY - Magic and Muffins.

Tony Molesworth, with a background in camping, is a professional juggler, puppeteer, magician, ventriloquist and comic all rolled into one colourful entertainer. He has appeared on T.V., played in many comedy clubs and has headlined at venues such as Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. His resume is extensive and he will provide a bright start to your day. A real 'treat'.

SATURDAY - Coffee/General Session

To begin our day at breakfast, we welcome the internationally acclaimed leadership trainer Michael Brandwein. Michael Brandwein is a most dynamic speaker. He has a long history in camping and his breakfast 'chat' will be pleasurable, entertaining and beneficial to our work with children. He is a sincere, passionate man, who will give us inspiration for the summer ahead.

Sharing the Spirit - Final Banquet.

This final banquet program will tie together all that has been done during the conference.

Using staff, campers and some surprises, it is hoped that it will leave each of you with your own hopes and memories of summers past and yet to come.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Recycling Week in Ontario.

November 9 - 12 is Ontario's third annual Recycling Week. The theme this year is "Education". For further information in regards to planned activities for that week please contact:- Recycling Council of Ontario 593-1756 or 1-800-387-5479 (toll free).

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Members interested in Ministry of Natural Resources revised planning policies re Bronte Creek Provincial Park and Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park should contact Jim Hopkins through the OCA office.

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A big thank you to all the Camp Directors that helped out in the Ontario/Michigan Environmental Agency questionnaire.

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If you want to:

- write an article about 'Acid Rain and the Summer Camp'.
- review some nature games and write them up for the Newsletter.
- follow up on some summer camp/environmental issues and keep the O.C.A. members informed.
- do a book review.
- do a session on some aspect of environment and the summer camp at the O.C.A. Camp Directors conference, Counsellor Conference, Eco-Skills.

Why not help out with the Environmental Concerns Committee?! Contact the O.C.A. office if interested.

THINK GLOBAL - ACT LOCAL

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Winter camps who would like to get involved in the "Ski For Life" programme as part of National Ski Week January 23-31, 1988 should contact.

Ski For Life
Canadian Ski Council
1220 Sheppard Avenue East
Willowdale, Ontario
M2K 2X1

"Ski For Life" is a pre-packaged participation programme that supplies you with event ideas and step by step instructions encouraging everyone to be part of a social and recreational ski extravaganza.

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