

O.C.A. sional news

VOLUME 3

MARCH 1988

EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

CAMPERS ARE WATCHING YOUR LIFE NOT LISTENING TO YOUR COUNSEL. - Edie Klein

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Are you tired of questionnaires? Have you had your fill of endless fill in the blanks, choose the most appropriate answer from 1 to 5 with 1 being the least desirable and 5 being most desirable, write a few words & tell us what you think type questionnaires? Well, after our operational review surveys, I should think you have had enough.

It has come to our attention that there are several student research questionnaires circulating among O.C.A. members. Your Board of Directors feels it is important you are aware that none of these projects has been endorsed by the O.C.A.!

We feel it is important that students are aware of the process involved prior to their using our Directory as a mailing list. We ask them to write a letter explaining the purpose of their research and if it is deemed worthwhile by the O.C.A. Board of Directors we then assist them by supplying names and addresses from our member list.

Here are your options if you receive a survey: (1) Answer the questionnaire if you so desire. (2) Phone or write the O.C.A. to see if the project has been endorsed by your Board - if yes - answer if you desire; if no - return the questionnaire unanswered and let the student know you will not complete it because the Association is unaware of the project and encourage them to write and request permission.

This message is in response to several comments and concerns expressed to me by you - the members. I hope this helps clarify your questions.

Happy March Break and remember - the campers are coming!

JANE McCUTCHEON,
President.

EDITORIAL

Years ago, a session leader at an O.C.A. Conference told his audience, "If you gather three good ideas over the course of any conference, you are doing well". Thanks to Diane Blair and her excellent committee committed to "Sharing The Spirit", I did more than well. From Tawingo, I learned a super new wide game; Ray Kettlewell shared a useful, hint for avoiding rattlesnakes (on a portage trail, never step over a log but rather step on it then well clear of it in case a snake is hidden from view curled up against the log) and Michael Brandwein provided a clever gimmick to motivate campers and staff by placing post-it notes all over camp - under pillows, on dining room chairs, in equipment boxes - with notes of recognition, praise and encouragement. The list could go on.

All of these ideas will be valuable in the summer, but a more immediate pressing need was met as my camp nurse and I participated in our annual Aurora-Scarborough Science Fair Project idea exchange after the banquet. If there are any desperate parents out there with impending science fair project deadlines - give me a call!

CATHERINE ROSS,
Editor.

THREE STEPS IN DESIGNING THE SPECIAL PROGRAM

The all camp theme program can be perceived as an intimidating challenge. Yet there is no doubt that the change of pace brought about by such a program, the spirit, and the interaction of all the campers and staff for a shared purpose make the challenge a worthwhile goal.

Setting up your program is not that difficult. The first step is to identify your objectives. What does the Program hope to accomplish? How many campers and staff do you have and what facilities are available for your use? How many teams do you want? In determining the number of teams, I have a rule of thumb which states that in any given meet, (ie. track, field, waterfront) each camper should be in at least 3 events over a ninety minute period. Conversely any meet which is drawn up, should be able to use all the campers in at least 3 events in a 90 minute timeslot and be completed in that time period.

The second step is to plan your activities. Now that you have identified your objectives, assess your needs. How old are your campers? Design activities whereby campers compete against their own age bracket in events where results are obtainable. The idea is to have fun. Competition is inherent in the Program. What facilities are at your disposal? It is a good idea to intersperse individual and small group events. These latter activities give everyone a chance to compete in a more informal setting and they fill in the gaps between the major events. In an earlier article, (February 1986) I specifically made reference to these "special events" and how to design and run them.

People are often surprised to discover that my final step in the program design is the theme. The theme is very important. It is the icing on the cake of a well planned program. However, while designing your theme, you should already be well advanced in determining your objectives and in planning your activities. Remember that teams emulate and cheer what they represent. A theme can represent values or have a goal strategy as its objective. The theme must have "something for everyone" and be sufficiently fertile to allow all ages to get something out of the theme as well as having the depth for costumes, mess hall decorations, floats and cheers and skits.

Special theme programs should be an integral part of your summer calendar, and time spent now in determining your objectives, activities and themes will pay you rich rewards for both campers and staff in the summer ahead.

GOOD LUCK!

MEL RASKIN,
Camp Timberlane.

A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET GOVAN

I first met Margaret Govan when I was invited to join the Board of the O.C.A. Margaret had recently taken over as owner/director of Camp Onawaw, that had been started by another pioneer lady of camping in Ontario.

Hither-to-fore, Onawaw had just been a small girls camp, but after Margaret assumed directorship, it flourished and grew in size and reputation, to rank amongst the top private girls' camps in the province. In the early years, I always remember Marg sitting and knitting during the many long and tedious Board meetings. She never wasted time on anything. Another fond memory of Marg was after a lengthy Executive meeting at her home on Lonsdale Road when she politely asked me to never again, in her home, smoke those awful, smelley cigars which I was addicted to in those days.

Margaret was born in Scotland, emigrating to Canada with her family, as a very young girl. Her Scottish heritage stood her in very good stead, as far as I personally was concerned. One Christmas, after she had succeeded me as President of O.C.A., and I suppose, in appreciation of assistance I had given her in the myriad of problems that always faced a president, she presented me with a lovely tin of homemade Scotch Shortbread. What a treat!

Marg was always a very active participant in O.C.A., serving, I am sure, on almost every committee imaginable. She would frequently call me to discuss items or activities pertaining to our Association that were troubling her. Together, our voices were heard and changes were frequently made. But credit was always due to Margaret's diligence.

Margaret was our camp's first 'visitor' when the O.C.A. Standards Visitation Program was instituted. I, in turn, visited Onawaw for O.C.A. and had the opportunity to observe this lovely Camp in operation.

It has been many years since our first private camps were started. And now, the years are taking their toll. Marg, like so many other of our pioneer directors, will be sadly missed. Regretably, there now remains, but a handful of these great pioneers of Camping in Ontario. We are blessed, indeed, for the examples they set for us.

BERT DANSON.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

If you know anyone who loves to splash and tromp in puddles, track down winged and creeping creatures and who will swing on anything that hangs, flip through this book for hundreds of things to make and do with nature's treasures.

Puddles and Wings and Grapevine Swings will take you on wonderful adventures and fill your day with creative projects in the great outdoors. There are billions of ideas PACKED into each of the colour sections...

Hurrah for Sticks & Stones!
 Hurrah for Open Spaces!
 Hurrah for Things that Grow!
 Hurrah for Daytime & Nighttime Skies!
 Hurrah for Things that Creep & Crawl
 & Swim & Fly!
 Hurrah for Seasons!
 Hurrah for Outdoor Folks!
 Hurrah for Wind & Water & Weather!
 Hurrah for City Sidewalks!

For all of the crafts and activities, the supply is minimal and the instructions are easy to follow. You can even bring the outdoors inside. No wonder this book was one of our top sellers at the Ontario Camping Association Conference in January.

For kids and their grown-up friends, discover the zillions of terrific ways to learn how to enjoy, appreciate and care for our environment!

Puddles and Wings and Grapevine Swings, Incentive Publications, 304 p., 1982.

Cost: \$24.95 (member) - \$29.95 (non-member).

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 C.C.A. office by mail or phone:

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

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - C.C.A.

THIS & THAT

LOTTERY WINNERS

- Ted Cole - Walden - \$5,000
- Addy Fine - \$2,000
- Parent Relief Inc. - \$1,000
- Murray Malcho - Ponacka - \$1,000
- Jarrold Goldin - \$500
- Jim McHardy - Kinark Haliburton - \$500

* * * * *

At the O.C.A. Annual Conference Larry Bell of Camp Robin Hood was named the second recipient of the Dorothy Walter Award of Excellence. In presenting the award, Dorothy referred to Larry's tireless assistance in the computerizing of the O.C.A. office and his current commitment as chairman of the Operational Review Task Force.

* * * * *

Bert Fine of Forest Valley Day Camp became the latest Honourary Life Member of O.C.A.

O.C.A. PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

"CAMPER" - EMOTION

1. Hamilton Jewish Community Centre
2. Jenny Gilbert - Camp Ouareau

"CAMPER" - NATURE

1. Jackie Wilgar - Camp Tawingo
2. Jake Pottier - K-W YMCA
3. Jackie Wilgar - Camp Tawingo

"STAFF" - ACTIVITY

1. Shaun Gilday - Kilcoo Camp
2. Catherine Ross - Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da
3. Greg Guatto - Kilcoo Camp

"STAFF" - EMOTION

1. Jack Windler - Camp Ke-Mon-Oya
 2. Mike Scotton - Boy Scouts of Canada
 3. David Latimer - Kilcoo Camp
- H.M. Catherine Ross - Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da

"STAFF" - HUMOUR

1. Mike Sherwood - Kilcoo Camp
2. Nancy Thorton - Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da
3. Jack Windler - Camp Ke-Mon-Oya

"STAFF" - NATURE

1. Nancy Thornton - Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da
2. John Jorgenson - Camp Tawingo
3. Patti Thom - Camp Tanamakoon

SCRAPBOOK CONTEST

- 1st - Mi-A-Kon-Da
 2nd - Tawingo
 3rd - Toronto Parks & Recreation

* * * * *

CAMPERS OF THE FUTURE

Bronwyn, born on November 11, 1987. Daughter of Bruce & Lisa Wilson and grandchild of Cliff & June Labbett of Camp Oconto. At a tender age Bronwyn can boast attendance at her 1st Annual Conference.

* * * * *

Announcing the arrival of Kerry Heming on December 15, 1987 now living with Steve and Ginny at Camp Wanakita.

* * * * *

Grandparents Bruno and Gwen Morawetz and parents Anne & Don Bocking of Camp Ponacka are delighted with Laura Anne Morawetz Bocking born on February 2, 1988.

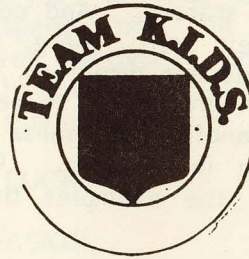
WHAT'S HAPPENING

Maple Syrup Days at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation.

March 7 - April 3 - 1988.

- hosted by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- pre-booked one-hour tours through the Maple Syrup Demonstration
- south of Highway #90 on Concession 8, Essa Township
- Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia - N.V.C.A. (705) 424-1479.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW



Sign up for the Hottest OCA Game Around:

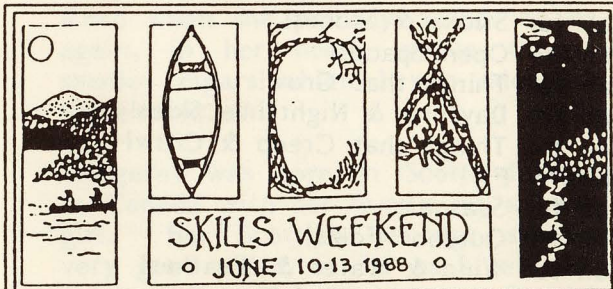
The TEAM K.I.D.S. COUNSELLOR CONFERENCE

is in Town at Havergal College, Toronto on May 28, 1988

**Be a Part of the Excitement!
Be in on the Action!
Join the TEAM!**

**Be Great in '88;
Sign Up Now, Don't Be Late**

**Registration Forms at the OCA Ticket Office
(416-781 0525)**



The OCA Skills Week-end is designed to serve all OCA Camps in the on-going development of their Staff and of their Program. Participants are usually returning Camp Staff who, in their own Camps, are expected to be in a supervisory role in specific Program Areas. This year the Skill Streams are:

- Canoeing** (with or without ORCA Certification)
- Eco-Skills** (Nature and Environmental Programs)
- Arts/Crafts** (formal and informal Craft Programs)

The week-end of exchange has generated significant contributions in many participating Camps. For More Information, Contact the OCA Office at (416-781 0525)