



OCAsional news

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EDITOR: MARTIN HUNT

WHAT IS THIS LIFE...BUT FULL OF CARE, WE HAVE NO TIME TO STAND AND STARE.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shortly the Ontario Camping Association will hold its Annual Meeting - not a spectacular occasion, but a moment when decisions are made and directions set. This year the Annual Report contains the comments and reflections of Committees, Task Groups and measures the financial health of the organization. By all counts, we remain alive and well.

However, as we enter Summer 1984, much remains to be done. How are we doing in the organized camping field in Ontario? What are the on-going issues that affect us all? Where are the growing edges of the Association's life? As I read Blue Lake and Rocky Shore, I am reminded of our past and how it deeply affects the present. The camping field has within its bounds a marvellous group of individuals, highly skilled and dedicated to the best of 'camp experience'. My desire is to continue to discover this pool of lively resources and find ways to channel the energy and insight for the benefit of us all. This entails working with the OCA Board as it continues to re-define its role. It entails working with the Executive as it dreams of ways to effectively deal with the day to day operation of the Association. It entails supporting the Office Staff, helping them to act collegially on our behalf. It entails listening to you - and finding realistic ways of responding to your requests, suggestions and needs.

So your presence and contribution to the Annual Meeting is anticipated. If possible come and join with us. If you can't be there, why not take time to write to me at the Office and let the Association know how we are doing; and what might be done differently. Who knows what might happen!

K. GRANT KERR,
President.

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EDITORIAL

Ten years ago I attended my first conference on camping, at Mohawk College in Hamilton, hosted by Camp Wanakita. I didn't know a soul so it felt great to be welcomed by an old Scugog mate, Bob Thaler, who had joined the Wanakita staff, (I was not yet acquainted with the dynamic duo - the Heming brothers). The day began with a wonderful tape-slide presentation which winged our hearts north to camp. A keynoter then added that special inspiration which made us feel so good about our work. The day of informative workshops - was crowned for me by one on special events led by Clare Magee which continues to influence my programming work to this day. It was a day of spark and magic which I will always remember. Think back to your first camping conference - was it special too? You know for those of us on senior staffs and committees, it is sometimes easy to trick ourselves

into thinking that we have "arrived" in the camping world. Such an attitude could make us a little 'blah' about another conference. On May 12th there will be 1,000 young people meeting at Seneca College for the annual Counsellor Conference - many of whom will be attending their first camping conference. They will not be expecting aloof cliques, or signs of petty politics, rather, they will be looking for friendly leadership and that warm welcome we expected at our first conference.

And for those of us who are not new to the conference scene, along with welcoming our future camping leaders it will be super to be reunited with old camping friends once again, as well! Wanakita is back, again, to bring us this year's conference. They have promised a "Sensation", so dust off your spark, bring yourself and droves of staff with you! See ya' there!

MARTIN HUNT,
Editor.

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ECLECTIC CAMPING

LAUDITS AND PLAUDITS

We could take up precious space in this OCA Monthly, listing a number of Very Nice Things directors and staff members have phoned or written about Blue Lake and Rocky Shore. Instead, we have selected one letter.

"Thank you very much for letting me have two autographed copies of "Blue Lake and Rocky Shore, hot off the press. I read it and thoroughly enjoyed it. It is very interesting to learn what went on behind scenes while we were happily counselling and making wonderful lifetime friendships. The dedication of OCA members to the very best for our youth in health, happiness and challenge stands out on every page. Surely no work can be more satisfying than guiding young people into leading worthwhile lives; and seems to be the perfect place to do it. Congratulations on your huge achievement.... and you seem to have had fun doing it, too."

As it is in so many cases, our book seemed to arrive, actually, at an opportune moment, and for the 50th Anniversary. But

parents still do not realize the large part O.C.A. plays in the health, safety and education of their children at camp. We doubt if some counsellors and staff members have the full picture of O.C.A.'s responsibilities and remarkable accomplishments.

So the book, to give it credence, had first to pay full tribute to its Founders' one of whom, Dr. Mary L. Northway, was a member of our committee, and could provide delightful touches to her opening chapter, as well as add a wealth of background detail when other articles came in. As a University of Toronto Associate Professor of Psychology, the Institute of Child Study, and for many years O.C.A.'s Committee Chairman of Research and Education, she with the History Committee and many other O.C.A. members have been able to cover the wide spectrum of our development.

None of the work has been hurry-and-scurry; and we owe a debt of gratitude to the Publisher, Printer and Typesetter for their co-operation in having the book ready for the appointed date.

As our Association has the honour of presenting a First in an area of Ontario's educational expansion, we can see many ways this can be done in the way of support to O.C.A.:

If each director took at least six copies to be displayed at camp and sold for promotion to parents, local citizens and visitors, re-orders would soon be necessary;

If the book were presented for awards, prizes and gifts at camp, and to local Government officials (with due ceremony for good Camp P.R.!) it would be treasured as a source of historical reference;

If it were for sale at the Counsellors' Conference and at the Annual Meeting, it would be available for Autographing.

We can think of many other uses. As a Christmas gift....as an any-time gift to students as a book of reference, to relatives and friends here or overseas; in England books on the Canadian Outdoors are indeed rare.

So how about getting behind us, folks. Remember it's a Committee publication, and a rare honour to the O.C.A.'s achievement.

EANSWYTHE FLYNN.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

BOOK REVIEW

'Mountains Without Handrails: Reflections on the National Parks'; by Joseph L. Sax.

University of Michigan Press, 155 pp. \$7.95 (approx.) Soft cover.

At a time when conservationists in Ontario have successfully lobbied for more northern wilderness parks, Mountains Without Handrails: Reflections on the National Parks, emerges as a book worth reading. Although it is an American book dealing specifically with national parks, the book has relevance to Canadians concerned about the preservation of wilderness and wilderness values. It offers insight into the preservationist's view of park use and management. The explosion in outdoor recreational activities that has occurred over the last 30 years has intensified the use/preservation conflict. The preservationist's interest in parks is symbolic and spiritual i.e., parks are a symbol of nature's pace and power. They are enclaves of natural heritage that present a message about the relationship between man and nature and between man and industrial society. The conflict arises when users view parks as a commodity solely for recreational use. Sax argues that certain forms of use i.e., those uses that consume resources, debase the significance of parks. It is not so much the physical act of consumptive recreational activities that is objected to, but rather it is the symbolic act.

Preservationists encourage people to immerse themselves in natural settings and to engage in recreational activities that are the least consumptive of resources.

Sax describes how the preservationists must lobby support for their view focusing on all levels of the political system. His background knowledge is extensive and he presents his argument in a concise manner.

Many of the campers attending O.C.A. camps will continue to pursue outdoor activities on into their adult lives. One of the primary sources of recreational opportunity will be public land in the form of parks. By instructing campers in outdoor pursuits that consume the least amount of resources

we can help to ensure the preservation of some wilderness areas.

If you are a preservationist and do not really know why or you are without an opinion read Sax's Mountains Without Handrails. His analysis speaks to the management of all public lands for outdoor recreation.

JUDY PAUL.

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A NOTE FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

The STANDARDS COMMITTEE is very pleased with the large number of people who took the time to respond to their questionnaire and wish to thank those who have volunteered to be visitors for the upcoming 1984 season. Replies to the questionnaire indicate a strong, positive feeling for a Standards Workshop. The regional representatives have asked for the regional workshops to be held in the Fall which is when they will be done. Meanwhile, there is to be a Standards Workshop for everyone on MONDAY, JUNE 4TH from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Forest Valley Day Camp in North York. Please mark JUNE 4TH on your calendar and call the O.C.A. office to let us know that you will be attending the meeting. A special mailing will be sent to those who plan to attend.

BRUCE HARRIS,
Chairman, Standards Committee.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Recently, I attended a camp staff workshop in Meaford, Ontario run by members of the Church of Christ Camps. Thirty-five dedicated camp staff from Strawberry Point Christian Camp, Camp Ca-Nu and Camp Ameh attended sessions 'Developing a Camp Philosophy', 'Programming for Spirituality', 'Emergency First Aid', and 'Programming to Suit the Camp Philosophy'. As a visitor and speaker for this group I felt most welcome in this community and felt that their purposes for the weekend were certainly achieved.

During my visit I was given a one hour time slot to speak on the benefits of our camping association membership. The information was well received and we can welcome many new members as a result.

The regional committees have been working hard for the planning of their Spring Workshops. I remind all members to consult last months newsletter for the dates, places and times of these events. Each Camp, Director and Staff are encouraged to attend these very worthwhile events. Show your involvement and participate.

SALLY M. MOORE,
Regional Development Chairperson.

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"DO TELL"

TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO WHEN A CAMPER MENTIONS THE "UNMENTIONABLE".

Wild walks, nature hikes and outtrips often generate unexpected discoveries. Staff can submerge a campers natural curiosity or they can recognize an opportunity for growth and awareness. With animals as shy as they usually are, then it is the use of animal signs which links the camper to his environment.

Bits of fur, browse activity and 'scats' are all clues to an animal's recent presence in the area. If the group can get over the initial jokes, nose holding and repugnance then there is plenty to learn. Each animal produces a distinctive 'scat' and moreover, the animal's recent diet can usually be determined quite easily. Wildlife biologists use scatology as an important part of field work and data collection techniques.

In the "Eco Hutch" back at Camp one of the nature display activities might well be a collection of dry scats in various containers (baby food jars or petri dishes). On a table top display board information and pictures can be used to attract the camper and when he matches scat to animal then he can discover important relationships.

Sample scats, easy to locate and easy to prepare, include mouse, grouse, hare, porcupine, raccoon, deer.

So the next time a camper finds a scat the counsellor doesn't have to tell him to drop the subject!

DO TELL!

John Jorgenson
Editor.

By Dave Lyon.

THIS & THAT

Tom Knowlton (of the Boys Camp Band fame) will be conducting workshops throughout Ontario in the following areas; singing and song leading, native studies, games, pioneer studies.... for more information:

83 Regina Street N.
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3A7

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JEAN McMULLAN ASSUMES PRESIDENCY OF AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION.

New York -- Jean McMullan has assumed duties as national president of the American Camping Association, it was announced here. Elected to her new position in January 1983, she replaces Charles Kujawa, Senior Associate Director for the New York YMCA Management Resource Center of New York City, who has completed his two-year term of office.

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J M & V S Introduces camp promotion through video: We can video tape your many camp activities and present it on a cassette for your prospective customers.

If you would like more information, please contact:- Chris Williams

at
J M & V S
36 Brahms Avenue
Willowdale, Ontario.
499-6718 494-3440

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ONTARIO SAILING ASSOCIATION

1. Instructor Development Clinic.

OSA is offering a free service for improving and updating your sailing program. Upon request a certified Instructor Evaluator will visit your camp and familiarize the Directors and your Instructors with the latest teaching techniques and sailing innovations (including boardsailing).

2. Mobile Racing and Safety Clinic.

This clinic provides both experienced coaching for competitive sailors, and theoretical and practical instruction in sail boat safety and rescue techniques. The safety component is

a new program which will be appropriate for either your staff or your campers.

The Safety Clinic may visit your camp for six to fifteen hours; when you may choose to have any of the following topics included: safety precautions and equipment, emergency first aid, performing rescues, preparing to be rescued, and motors.

For further information, contact Christine Masson, at Ontario Sailing Association (416) 495-4240.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

May 31, June 1, 2, 3, '84.
Ontario Camp Directors' Workshop at the Ontario Camp Leadership Centre.

For application forms write:-

Ms. Kathleen Wilson, Registrar
810 Pinecrest Rd., #704
OTTAWA, Ontario, K2B 5W6.

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June 8, 9, 10.

EKO-SKILLS '84 Workshop. This is a hands on workshop for Nature Department leaders, counsellors, programmers and those who like the colours green, blue and brown.

For an application form please write to the O.C.A. Office. Cut-off date for applications is May 19th.

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WORKSHOP FOR CAMP NURSES

Bolton Outdoor Education Centre - May 25 - 26, 1984. New and experienced nurses from residential and day camps, doctors, directors and interested others are welcome. The main speaker is Dr. J. C. Fallis, long time camp doctor and Director of Emergency Medical Service at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Get a new insight into the role of the nurse and the aims of the health program. Come to share and learn.

Applications must be received by May 18th.

MARY CASEY.

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O.C.A. CANOE SCHOOL

Location: Camp Oconto, 60 km. N. of Kingston
Date: Thurs. June 7- Sunday June 10
Fees: For registrants from the same camp registering at the same time - fees will be as follows:-

1st registrant \$95.00
2nd & 3rd \$90.00
4th & Additional \$86.00

Fees include meals, accommodation, equipment, handout materials and books.

Applicants will be able to work towards:-

O.C.A. attendance card
ORCA Lake Water Level II
RLSS Boat Rescue.

Applications: Contact - Ontario Camping Assoc
1806 Avenue Rd. Ste. 2
TORONTO, Ont. M5M 3Z1
(416) 781-0525

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June 1, 2, 3, '84
Canoe '84 course offered at Camp Pinecrest.

For application form, write:-

Y.M.C.A. Camping Service
36 College Street
TORONTO, Ontario, M5G 1K8

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Friday June 8 - Sunday June 10, 1984.

A Weekend for O.C.L.C. Sponsors.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Camp Directors, C.I.T. Directors, and Agency Directors who sponsor C.I.T.s in Leadership development program at Bark Lake.

WHERE: Bark Lake, Irondale, Ontario.

FEE: \$28.00 all inclusive.

PURPOSE &

BENEFITS: This weekend workshop is designed to give you a fuller understanding of the 18 day Leadership Program attended by your C.I.T.

For application form please write:-

Camping & Outdoor Education Services
Recreation Branch
Ministry of Tourism & Recreation
8th Floor, 77 Bloor St. West
TORONTO, Ontario, M7A 2R9
Attn: O.C.L.C. Sponsor's Workshop.

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ONTARIO WILD WATER AFFILIATION will be conducting Instructor courses this Spring. Pre-requisite course - May 26, 27 at Minden and full course June 9, 10 and 23, 24 at Madawaska Kanu Kamp. Additional courses during August.

Interested individuals should contact:-

Jim Blight (613) 584-2950
Bill Blight (416) 842-5256.

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October 12 - 14, 1984.
FOURTH ANNUAL CATHY MORRIS MEMORIAL WORKSHOP.

This event originated in 1980 as a lasting tribute to Cathy Morris, an energetic, talented, wonderfully warm camp leader lost to us in her first year as an outdoor education professional. It is a workshop in outdoor leadership successfully (synergistically) blending participants from organized camping and from outdoor education. The workshop philosophy is one of belief:

- that sensitive, effective outdoor personnel work from a set of identifiable principles of outdoor leadership,
- that personal growth of the campers is central to organized camping,
- that all of us in the broad outdoor field or studying to be in the broad outdoor field have something to learn and something to offer in a leadership workshop.

The method is one of doing some engaging outdoor activities then analyzing not what was done but how and why. The what (content) is well-covered by handout resource material so that the need to learn on that level is met.

All of the group leaders of the workshop have senior camp leadership experience and all share a humanistic approach to outdoor leadership.

The setting is Albion Hills Field Centre, north of Bolton.

For an application form send to:-

Cathy Morris Memorial Workshop
c/o Outdoor Recreation Faculty
Mohawk College
135 Fennell Avenue West
HAMILTON, Ontario, L8N 3T2

THE OCA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Individual

Robert Butler
Donald Cameron
Max Craddock
Elizabeth Foster
Jerry Gardner
Patrick Kelly
Skip Kirkpatrick
Elizabeth McCarney
Beatrice McDonald
David Root
Suzanne Rosenberg
Carolyn Sheppard
Ruth Sowpel
Martha Tisdall-Smith
Stanley Synoberg

Provisional Camp Members

Ontario March of Dimes
Explora Camp

Commercial

Court Contractors Ltd.
Famous Swiss Emblems
Hickeson-Langs Supply Co.

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FOR SALE

Refrigeration unit suitable for walk-in refrigerator. Gilson "Frostmaster", c/w compressor, 1 H.P. - 7 amp, single phase 110/220 volt motor (1725 R.P.M.) and fan cooled condenser. Asking \$300.00. Contact Bill Crew, Site Supervisor, Sparrow Lake Camp. -Willowdale, Ont. (416) 494-8397 (Until June 29)
-Port Stanton, Ont. (705) 689-5031 (July & August)

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READ 'EM AND WEEP

"Family tents rented at \$8.00 per month, or \$3.00 per week. The price of a new Basswood Canoe, 16 feet long, 30 inch beam, painted and provided with two paddles, was \$25.00. Second-hand canoes were about half the price."