



OCAsional News

PUBLISHED BY THE ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1995

A Fresh Start

As another great summer filled with wonderful memories draws to a close, we look toward equally busy and exciting months ahead at the OCA.

To kick off the upcoming year, we've revamped the *OCAsional News*. We've taken advantage of new computer technology in the office to bring a fresh look to the members' monthly newsletter, which will now be available September through June. In the coming months you can expect to see the regular features such as Jorg's Journal, professional development and training news, profiles on members of the association and the calendar of events. We also hope to bring new features such as this month's "People on the Move," keeping you abreast of what your colleagues are doing. We are grateful for all submissions to the newsletter; please contribute information for this new feature and other ideas of what you'd like to read in the *OCAsional News* to the Editorial Committee.

In preparation for fall and winter events, the office staff have been busy during the summer. One change you will have already noted is the earlier arrival of membership renewal information. In order to

better serve both our camps and the public, we plan to publish our *1996 Camping Guide* on December 1st. To meet this earlier deadline, we have sent camps renewal packages, including the forms needed for the Guide revisions, to the camps' summer addresses in July. We require the commitment of everyone who wishes to be in the Guide to submit this information promptly to ensure we can publish at a time that will best serve all our members' needs.

In that package we also included a survey of member views on the OCA's programs and services. We appreciate your help by completing this survey. With your feedback, we can align our goals with your needs; please feel free to comment on any and all of our activities!

This survey also includes space to let us know how you might like to contribute to the work of the Association during the upcoming year. We hope you will continue to support the enormous volunteer efforts that are annually provided by your colleagues.

The OCA is able to provide its many quality training events such as the Annual Conference, Skills Weekends, and Spring Training with your help. Get involved in these or other events such as the Health Care workshop, Director's Days, and the Parent Show.

Alternatively, help out with our many committees, such as membership, public awareness and standards. Become a standards visitor! As the association grows,

we need more senior and junior visitors willing to share their knowledge with their peers each summer.

If you would like to make a smaller, but equally important contribution, offer to help with our many short term projects, such as pitching in for a day at the OCA office. Have an eagle eye? Offer to help proof the *Camping Guide*!

There are many ways members can contribute to the work of the association, meet new people and have fun. Please contact the OCA office for further details.

MARY LYNN TROTTER

OCA STAFF

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"Be favourable

to bold beginnings"- Virgil

A summer of positive sharing

As I watched the slide show at our final Banquet before Section Fires and Cabin Good-nights, I was struck, not for the first time but still quite profoundly, by the number of things that went on this summer that I was seeing for the first time. This is probably a familiar thing for most directors - being the last person to discover some things at Camp - but I wasn't all that upset by the things I saw.

There was a camper who, I remembered, had been afraid of the water on the first day. She was in the middle of a swim relay. There was the pair of campers who had weathered a social crisis and here appeared as bosom pals. There was the staff member who had struggled with figuring out his 'place' at Camp this year and who turned in a stellar performance in the cabin project I saw on the screen. I was proud and thrilled that so much positive sharing had taken place in Camp this summer.

One of these many positive sharings involved a group of campers from another country. We participated in an international connection this summer with a Camp in Venezuela. Campin Rincon Grande is owned by Pedro Paredes, a member of the Steering Committee of the International Camping Fellowship. Ten campers and their leader came to Camp. Over the course of their stay, they shared their food, drink, songs, games, energy, enthusiasm, gifts and a love of camping that we all will long remember. Their final song and presentation at our Banquet, during which they spoke of all we had given them, left many of us wondering who had gained the most.

We rarely know the full extent of our impact.

Beyond our own Camps, as in past years, an army of volunteer Standards Visitors scheduled their time away from their own operations to support the Accreditation program of the OCA. More than ever, outside organizations, the public and the government itself have recognized the value and values of our program. The conscientious attention to the visits by busy camping personnel is an important contribution to our success.

The "Summer of Storms" left its mark, as well - in more ways than one. Many camps located in the wake of a series of big blows and twister-like storms had a quick program re-scheduling from regular activities to all-camp water hauling and brush removal. Many camps also received quick contact from other camps to offer support in the form of equipment or personnel. We can be proud of that sharing as well.

On a more personal note, Camp Ponacka experienced a close call this summer. A busload of campers making their way along Highway 11 incurred a tire blowout with a resultant rolling of the

vehicle into the ditch. Thankfully, everyone escaped from the bus. Add to that relief the timely arrival of Lance Barr from Hockey Opportunity Camp. Within a short time, the Ponacka campers and staff were safely at Hockey Opportunity Camp - fed an HOC meal, checked out by the HOC medical staff and relaxing within a caring HOC camp community. Don Bocking, the Morawetz', the campers and the staff at Camp Ponacka experienced some of the very best benefits of the greater camping community.

We often pray that the things we learn in Camp are reflected in the daily lives of our campers outside of Camp and in our own lives. The example of the Barrs and the staff & campers of Hockey Opportunity Camp makes me proud and thrilled to be associated with such fine people and such fine ideals.

In camping these kinds of things happen over and over again. I am proud and thrilled every time!

Jorg's To Do List

- Thank Cheryl Greenberg for her extended service in the OCA office. She is the happiest voice on the end of Camp phone I have ever experienced!
- Remind everyone how valuable a December 1st Camping Guide will be and how important their support of the Guide project.
- Thank all the OCA Standards Visitors for their work this summer.
- Send all of the Camp material collected this summer to the OCA Archives at Trent.
- Check out the new Quark Program on the OCA Computer to be used for newsletters, forms etc.
- Set a busy agenda (by necessity) for the September Executive Meeting.
- Encourage everyone reading this List to Volunteer for OCA projects and activities (see the next line)
- Volunteer for OCA projects and activities!!

Caring for the young

Arriving at our cottage for the May 24th weekend, we were delighted to see that a pair of birds had built a nest under our verandah eaves. The pair had picked a good spot - sheltered from Laurentian storms by our large, overhanging eaves and close to an abundant supply of insects. We watched as the two birds took turns sitting on the nest - equal opportunity in action. We envied their construction skills as the nest was perched on the narrow ledge of the screen trim, glued to the corner of the cottage wall and the roof beam and the rest cantilevered into space.

By the time we arrived at the cottage near the end of June, the eggs had hatched. With young to feed, the parents were busy catching insects and brining them to their offspring. Soon we could hear a little "cheep cheep" coming from the nest when the parents arrived with food as the young ones began to find their voices. Under the parents' direction, their days fell into a pattern of eating, chirping and resting.

As the young approached the pre-teen stage, we could see four heads sticking up out of the nest - a truly bonded group in that small space. The parents spent hours catching insects and feeding their hungry family. I decided to set up a ladder some distance away and, with the aid of our telephoto lens, try to capture the bird family on film. (Visions of the Photo Contest danced in my head.) Their Risk Management plans were in place. As long as I was on the ladder, the parents perched on the branches of the birch trees and tried to move my attention away from their nest. As soon as I descended to terra firma (and out of camera range), the feeding continued.

In a few weeks, little "cheeps" became louder and more insistent "chirps." The teens were asserting themselves. By the end of July, the parents were constantly on the move, providing for their demanding group. The young ones tested out their wings in the safe confines of the nest and chirped their impatience to join the adult world. A few days later, in the space of

less than an hour, they all flew out.

We've seen the young these past few weeks as they take their place in the adult world. I hope that those who cared for them are enjoying a well-deserved rest. Caring for the young is hard work.

The nest sits empty, waiting for next summer's group.

BARB GILBERT

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Rob Heming is joining the full-time staff of Camp Tawingo in October as Associate Director responsible for Site and Facility. Rob is also taking on the role of Executive Director of TNT, The Network Team, a new consulting firm created by Jack Pearse, John Jorgenson, and Jane McCutcheon of Camp Tawingo and Robert Leiby (North Star Camp for Boys). Rob is moving to Tawingo to contribute not only to the camp operation but also to Tawingo College, an independent day school (K-8). Rob's background includes positions with the YMCA and the Government of Ontario.

After 10 years of service and seven as camp directors, **Doug and Cathy Hitchcock** are leaving Camp Oochigeas, a residential camp for children with cancer at the end of September.

'People on the Move' is a new column designed to keep fellow OCA members connected in the camping movement. We welcome your submissions - just drop us a quick note or fax to let us know where you're headed!

President: John Jorgenson, Tawingo, RR#1 Huntsville, Ont. P0A 1K0 H: (705) 789-8701. B: (705) 789-5612. Fax: (705) 789-6624. EMail: TNTAWINGO @AOL.COM.

Vice President: Barb Gilbert, 13 Maple Ave. Toronto, Ont. M4W 2T5 H: (416) 921-7384. Fax: (416) 922-4523. Portfolio: Regional Reps.

Past President: Larry Bell, Robin Hood, 158 Limestone Cres. Downsview, Ont. M3J 2S4. (416) 736-4443. Fax: (416) 736-9971. Portfolio: Nominations, PRO.

Treasurer: Adam Kronick, White Pine, 40 Lawrence Ave. W. Toronto, Ont. M5M 1A4. (416) 322-6250. Fax: (416) 488-9313. Portfolio: Fundraising.

Director: Jim Blake, General Delivery, Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0. (705) 457-5278 Tel. and Fax. Portfolio: Legislation, Integration, PRO, MCTR & CCO liaison.

Director: Jeff Bradshaw, Couchiching. 4 Ripley Ave. Toronto, Ont. M6P 2Y9. (416) 769-2233. Fax: (416) 769-0204. Portfolio: Fundraising, Education (Conference, Skills, Spring Training.)

Director: Kate Moore, Camp Allsaw, 36 Evelyn Ave. Toronto, Ont. M6P 2Y9. (416) 766-4204 Tel. and Fax. Portfolio: Public Awareness (Camping Guide), Professional Development (Newsletter).

Director: Ellen Nash, Northland B'Nai Brith, 3995 Bathurst St. #200, North York, Ont. M3H 5V3. (416) 630-1180. Fax: (416) 630-8561. Portfolio: Health Care, Standards, Membership.

Director: Keith Publicover, YMCA Camp PineCrest, 3292 Bayview Ave. #302, North York, Ont. M2M 3R7. (416) 225-9875 x 325. Fax: (416) 229-1795. Home: (416) 480-1689. Mobile: (416) 802-3569. Portfolio: Public Awareness (Media, Camp Promotion), Archives.

Director: Patti Thom, Tanamakoon. 235 Church St., #3, Oakville, Ont. L6H 1N4. (905) 338-9464 Fax: (905) 338-3039. Portfolio: Human Resources (Volunteers, Events), Education (Director Training).

Regional Rep(Ottawa): Deirdre Billes, Omagaki Wilderness Centre, Box 4, Pembroke, Ont. K8A 6W5. (613) 732-0780.

Regional Rep (Sudbury): Dave Ward, John Island, 185 Lloyd St. Sudbury Ont. P3B 1N1. (705) 674-8315 Fax (705) 674-3236.

Regional Rep (Thunder Bay) Elaine Kalnbach, Dorion Bible Camp, Dorion, Ont. P0T 1K0. (807) 857-2331.

Recreational boating safety and its impact on camp

On June 15, 1995, a plenary meeting of the Joint Ontario/Transport Canada Working Group on Recreational Boating Safety was held. This group is investigating vessel licensing, operator proficiency and enforcement.

It has invited input from all interested parties. The report implicates the use of motorized vessels as well as sailboats, canoes, dinghies, etc. Without committing the group to formal support of the following recommendations, items under discussion for one or more categories of vessels include:

- Increased support of Safe Boating Week
- Publication of Province Wide Speed Restriction
- Improved Safety Information Dissemination
- Consideration of Mandatory Usage Regulation for PFD's
- Expansion of Coast Guard Courtesy Examination Program
- Improve Overall Co-ordination of Boating Safety Programs

The Five Options available for consideration by the Task Group are:

1. Status Quo
2. Enhanced Status Quo
3. Mandatory Education/Training for Power Vessel Operators
4. Mandatory Education Training for All Vessel Operators
5. Full Operator Licensing

These options have some very real implications for Camps, although different Camps may have varying opinions on which is most appropriate for them. Public consultation is welcome and available in the City Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates in the following cities:

London September 9

Toronto September 16

You may phone your comments from anywhere in the province or request full documentation at 1-800-465-5959.

**Thanks very much
to all
our member
camps
for their support
of the 1995
OCA
Name Label
Program**

Robin Hood celebrates 50th

What a great event and opportunity. More than 300 staff, spanning five decades, helped Robin Hood celebrate 50 seasons of camping, making it the oldest privately established day camp in Canada.

The day was filled with all types of camping programs. It soon became apparent that throughout all of the years there was a common thread and history that was part of each program. It made little difference when each staff member worked at Robin Hood, all identified with the processes and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

It was wonderful watching friends who had not seen each other for one summer or 45 meet each other. They exchanged information about themselves, established new contacts and mostly reminisced about their time at camp. A video camera at the "Speakers Corner" recorded their camp stories, memories and anecdotes.

Through all of this came the recognition that individually and collectively this fine group had helped thousands of

campers develop camping skills, greater self esteem and social skills that would not only provide them with memories that would last a lifetime, but would also make them productive members of society.

The event itself was wonderful. The planning was even more outstanding. Forty present and former camp leaders formed a steering committee and worked for two years to publicize the event in order to reach our alumni, plan the program, and actually carry it through. This group was so committed to the task and were so appreciative of the legacy camp had given them that they established The Camp Robin Hood Charitable Organization known as "Summer Dreams." They have encouraged their fellow alumni and friends to join this worthwhile group. Through annual dinners, donations, and other fund raising events, the Board of Directors of Summer Dreams intends to establish criteria to help campers with special needs and those unable to afford tuition attend an OCA accredited camp. A noble effort! LARRY BELL - CAMP ROBIN HOOD

Circles of Light



1996 Annual Conference for Directors & Senior Staff

January 25-27, 1996

at the Delta Meadowvale, Mississauga

Special Thursday program: Human Resource Management

- How to Interview Staff
- How to Train Staff
- How to Evaluate Staff
- How to Fire Staff

**Keynote
Speaker**

Michael

Brandwein

**WATCH FOR REGISTRATION
KITS IN THE MAIL**

Early bird deadline: mid-December

After 10 years of dedicated service to CAMP OCHIGEAS, seven as Camp Directors, Cathy and Doug Hitchcock have decided to move on. As a result of their decision, effective September 30th, we have an opening for the position of Camp Director(s). This is a full time position during our camping season and requires a year round commitment to the organization.

CAMP OCHIGEAS operates a residential camp which offers a wide range of activities to children with cancer. Currently we operate two, two week sessions during the month of July at Rosseau Lake College, Muskoka. Each session is staffed with on-site Pediatric Oncology staff and 60 volunteer counsellors who service the needs of 80 campers. Our campers include children who are actively being treated for cancer and those who are in remission.

CAMP OCHIGEAS is a charity dedicated to enriching the lives of children who have cancer.

For more information about the position of Camp Director of CAMP OCHIGEAS, or to apply, please contact Pat Davidson, Board Chair, at (416) 961-OCH> Application deadline is September 29th, 1995.

Bilingual, dynamic 24-year old with Biology Degree, lots of teaching experience, interested in working at camp this fall/winter as educator and more! Call Dominique (905) 713-3547.

Director required for a new children's camp in Muskoka. This is a full time permanent position and would require a very organized ambitious individual with substantial camp experience. The successful applicant will be responsible for all stages from planning to implementation for a new camp. Please send resume to Doug Waffle, R.R.#1, Dwight, Ont. POA 1H0.

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

Kids Craft. 23 Dundas St. E. Napanee, Ont. K7R 1H5. (613) 354-3049. (613) 354-1915. 1-800-668-4126. Quick shipment of Arts & Crafts, Little Tikes, Melmac dinnerware. Discounts.

Restaurant Equipment Depot Ltd. 59. Bartel Drive. North York, Ont. M3N 1C8. (905) 738-9081. (905) 738-9081. Buy and sell New and Used Restaurant Kitchen Equipment.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

OCA EXECUTIVE MEETING SEPT. 20TH - OCA OFFICE

OCA BOARD MEETING OCT. 4TH - OCA OFFICE

OCA ADVISORY COMMITTEE OCT. 25TH - TORONTO

"CIRCLES OF LIGHT" - OCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE JAN. 25-27TH

OCAsional News offers you a variety of ways to promote products and services within organized camping. Next deadline is September 10th for October publication.

- Display ads are sold on a single or multiple insertion rate, with a 10% discount for members. Please contact the OCA office for rate information. Camera-ready art required.
- We also offer professional and business directory ads of business card size (2"x1.5"). Camera-ready art required. Ads must be purchased with a three issue minimum insertion or full year (10 issues). OCA member fee: \$35 per insert (3 months) or \$28 per insert (9 issues).
- Classified ads are sold with a maximum size of 25 words for a fee of \$10 for members and \$25 for non-members. Additional space sold in 25 word increments.
- Paid advertising content will not exceed editorial space.
- The OCAsional News is published 10 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 inquiries to our editorial committee:
 - > Janet Adamson, Inspirational Messages (416) 481-7322.
 - > Henri Audet, Hot Tips (416) 443-9058
 - > Jim Blake, In-depth board issues (705) 457-5278
 - > Kate Moore, Editor (416) 766-4204
 - > Mike Moore, Photography (416) 322-9735
 - > Patti Thom, Newsworthy items and obituaries (905) 338-9464
 - > Wendell White, Profiles (613) 473-2877
 - > OCA Office, 1810 Avenue Road, Suite 302, Toronto, Ont. M5M 3Z2. (416) 781-0525. Mary Lynn ext. 15; Bobsie ext. 11. Fax: (416) 781-7875.

