



ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

OCAsional News

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Camps in the community

OCA at the Kortright



Arts and crafts fun

by Dave Graham, Camp Kandalore

On Saturday April 29, the OCA held its first ever Public Relations event at the Kortright Centre in Woodbridge. We had an enthusiastic group of over 25 volunteers; beautiful sunny camp weather; a fantastic location; a wide variety of activities such as rock climbing, campfire cooking, and rope making; and media coverage of the day on Global News, CBC Radio and the York Region newspapers.

So what was missing? Enthusiastic public response. But we learned some valuable lessons. We have a fantastic group of people willing to give up a Saturday to help the OCA promote our member camps. We have to promote this event in unique ways such as through member mailings to new

see OCA at the Kortright, page 6

Campers clean up the Don

by Fiora Hawryluk

Picking up garbage can be fun! On a bright sunny Sunday in early May, a group of enthusiastic campers, camp staff and friends of camping gathered together at Todmorden Mills in Toronto with a clear goal in mind: to help clean up the pathway lining the Don River.

The cause is terrific: less than three years ago, a grassroots organization by the name of Festive Earth was formed in order to bring together communities so that we can celebrate and show respect for our environment. Festive Earth acts as the catalyst for various organizations to band together. May 7th marked their second Annual Spring Fair at Riverside Park.

The day began at 9:30 a.m., when dozens of camping folk and friends of nature met at Todmorden Mills to start the trek. Jocelyn Palm, of Glen Bernard Camp, was the coordinator of the clean-up crew. Armed with garbage

bags and gloves, and dressed in comfortable clothing, we combed the grassy areas along the walking path. By the time we arrived triumphantly at Riverside Park, over 40 bags of rubbish had been collected: everything from pop cans to bottles, from paper refuse to automobile scrap. Campers were especially enthusiastic and thoroughly scoured all areas.

Our group was outfitted in brilliant red baseball caps, courtesy of long-time OCA Commercial Member Scadco Designs. Those caps came in handy throughout the entire day for spotting fellow campers at great distances!

Upon our arrival at Riverside Park, we got to eat homemade pancakes and drink freshly squeezed fruit juice. Restored, our camp group was invited to the stage for a rousing set of traditional camp songs to entertain the fair's

see *Cleaning up the Don*, page 7



A clean-up team and their haul

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"When you make the finding yourself - even if you're the last person on Earth to see the light - you'll never forget it." Carl Sagan

'Nash'onal News

by Ellen Nash, OCA President

I don't know about you, but, every so often, I like to clean out the old to make room for the new. "Spring cleaning," it is usually called, but for me it occurs whenever I can't find a place for something I've just acquired.

So it was that I found myself trying to make room for some new books on a bookshelf crammed with volumes from the past. Some I've read many times, while others I have left for that rare occasion when I have time to dip into them.

Surely, the one entitled "National Camp Directors Guide, Annual Edition 1961" (a book left on the shelf by my predecessor at least 15 years ago) contained nothing currently relevant and could be discarded? But, true to form, I decided that I had better glance through it before I did so.

Certainly, some of the articles as well as the book itself had a dated quality. The typeface, the glossy paper, the black and white pictures, the prices of the advertised camp supplies, all suggested that this volume was disposable.

Then I came upon this paragraph titled, THE UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE: *Children bring many of their homegrown insecurities to camp. Whether they come from city apartments, slum areas, or quiet suburban streets, many of them will have moved from one community to another at least once in their lives. All children are more or less affected by the uncertain factors in daily living and by the seeming discontinuity of history. Worse yet, they are infected by the insecurities of parents and other adults on whom they depend. All these factors increase the camp director's responsibility to make their camp experience a stabilizing one. Even children from the most emotionally secure homes can greatly benefit from the back-to-nature aspects of camping where contact with essential values is a powerful antidote to disruptive forces.... There is no more favorable environment in which to help a child toward a sense of values than the microcosmic community of a camp. Here he can find himself as an individual and as a citizen among his peers.*

This is relevant stuff, and becoming even more important to us as camp directors when we factor in the dislocation brought about by modern family life. I guess the book isn't as dated as it first appears and I'll just have to build another bookshelf somewhere.

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Remember: if your camp is being visited this summer, contact your Visitor immediately if you have not already done so to set up the date for your Visit. Please ensure you mail or fax back this information to the OCA office.

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Editor's Note

by Fiora Hawryluk

Almost 100 OCA camps will undertake a Standards Visit this summer. For some, it will be their regular Visit that occurs every four years as part of the ongoing accreditation process. For others just beginning the two-year path towards full accreditation, it will be their first visit. Whatever the reason, the OCA's Standards program is the most concrete evidence that self-regulation is a viable alternative to total government control.

In last month's Editor's Note, I quoted the titles of several sensational articles that had recently appeared in periodicals and magazines. One, called "Summer Camp Shocker: Safety mistakes that kill kids", resulted in the most comments. Where did that come from, I was asked more than once. Well, it was from a well-known magazine, *Good Housekeeping*, and the article - in the May issue - was billed as a special GH investigation.

As the magazine is American, the content of the article focused on American camps and the American Camping Association. Subtitled "A Loss of Innocence", the article examined in detail several cases at camps, all of which make for disturbing reading. You may wish to pick up a copy of the magazine (if you can't find it on newsstands any more, call me and I'll send you a photocopy) and discuss the various cases as part of pre-camp training.

As part of their research, the reporters interviewed offi-

cers of the American Camping Association. The ACA Standards Director was quoted as saying that three children died at camps in 1999. However, the reporters, by searching news databases, came up with a higher figure of seven. The reporters do not specify if those seven died at ACA camps; in any case, even one death is one too many. The point is that accurate statistics are vital to any organization's well-being; we at the OCA need to know the facts and figures of our industry so that we can give precise information to back up our position.

Data such as numbers of children who go to summer camp; numbers of staff employed by camps; expenditures; impact on local communities; full-time versus seasonal staff figures... We need all this information to present an accurate picture of who we are to the public.

A recent article in *The Toronto Star*, giving coverage to the Million Mom March in Washington, made me think. It stated that America is a country "that loses more children to gunfire - 12 each day - than Canada and 28 other major nations combined." Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had the statistics to prove that OCA camps are safe, and that they enrich the lives of hundreds of thousands of children every summer? Wouldn't it be great if we could show that camps provide fulfilling jobs for thousands of young people every summer?

Have a safe summer!

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Southwestern Ontario (London):
TBA

Camping makes the world go around

by Jeff Bradshaw
Canadian Representative, ICF

As we finalize plans for summer camp 2000 and begin the countdown to another busy camping season, please don't forget that the Fifth International Camping Congress (October 2-5, 2000) is just a few months away!

The Congress organizers have set June 30, 2000 as the final deadline for all registrations. Registration with VISA or MasterCard is being accepted online at the Congress website: <http://tour.tokyu.com/icc/index.html>.

So far, a very strong international contingent will be joining our Japanese hosts in October. Registrations received to date include delegates from Russia (69 Camp Directors!), the United States, Venezuela, Malaysia, Mexico, China, Finland, Belarus, Thailand, Korea, Columbia and over 30 delegates from Canada!

Post-Congress tours have now been finalized. Eleven tour packages are available in the days that follow the Congress and include such opportunities as the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Kobe YMCA, visiting the Peace Museum in Hiroshima, participating in an adventure program with Outward Bound of Japan and many others that celebrate the history, culture and beauty of Japan.

Looking forward to seeing YOU in Japan!



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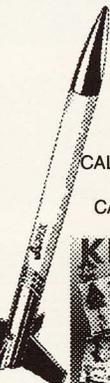
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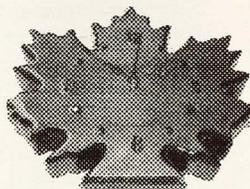
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Camp Awakening overcomes the "impossible"

By Janet Adamson
Camp Gay Venture

Camping professionals in Ontario share a strong and positive commitment to campers with special needs.

There are many campers at OCA camps with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, ADD, autism, visual impairment, cognitive delay and medical fragility.

The models of special needs camping differ: some integrate special needs campers into their mainstream program, some camps exist solely for a special needs population, some have specialized counsellors for one-on-one care, and some offer parallel camping within a mainstream setting.

In all cases, the camps are pushing the threshold to reach a wider and wider population of children, to offer the unique and wonderful experience of a summer at camp.

This article is about Camp Awakening, a canoe tripping camp for children with physical disabilities. The two camps, one for boys and one for girls, offer parallel programs within two mainstream camps.

The criteria for campers at Camp Awakening are children age 10 to 18 with a primary physical disability, who do not need one-on-one care. They are comfortable with swimming and boating, and are reasonably independent in terms of dressing and mobility.

Camp Awakening has its own cabin on each site with adaptations made for accessibility and washrooms. Seven campers and four specialized staff are at each camp for two-week periods.

Camp Awakening specializes in canoe tripping, and the campers spend at least half of their camp period on a canoe trip in Temagami, Algonquin

Park, on the French River, or in the Haliburton area.

While in camp, they participate in the host camp's activities and programs, integrated into the day-to-day life of the camp. Their program runs parallel to the host camp's program while offering the benefit of a time for the campers with disabilities to live together and share common experiences.

Canoe tripping for children with physical disabilities is very challenging. Safety standards must be rigidly maintained. Staff training must be rigorous, and methods of adaptation must be explored. The canoe trips are successful because of the flexible and dedicated attitude of the campers and staff.

This model of parallel camping with a mainstream camp is significant and very rewarding for the campers involved. The campers are able to try everything without the pressure of keeping up with their able-bodied peers. They can share the experience of what it means to have a disability, and can stop worrying or thinking about the disability — they are like everyone else.

As in all camping for special needs populations, the whole child is developed in a supportive, dedicated environment. Campers have the time of their lives, and develop their potential by meeting challenges that can change their lives forever. We have found that nothing is impossible with a sense of humour, a commitment to make it work, and an attitude of "we can do it" on the part of all involved.

Camp Awakening has enriched the lives of hundreds of children with physical disabilities, and of all those who have been involved in its sphere.

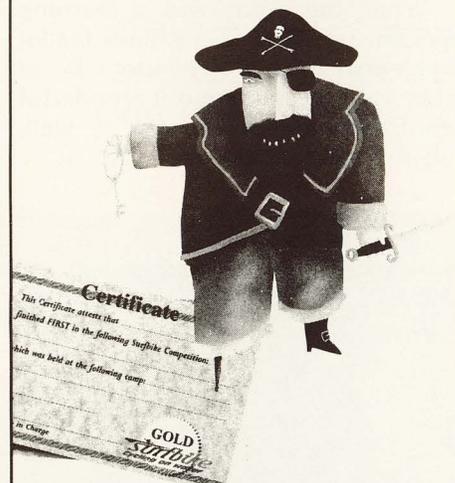
Campers have the time of their lives



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OCA Camps in the Community

*OCA at the Kortright,
continued from page 1*

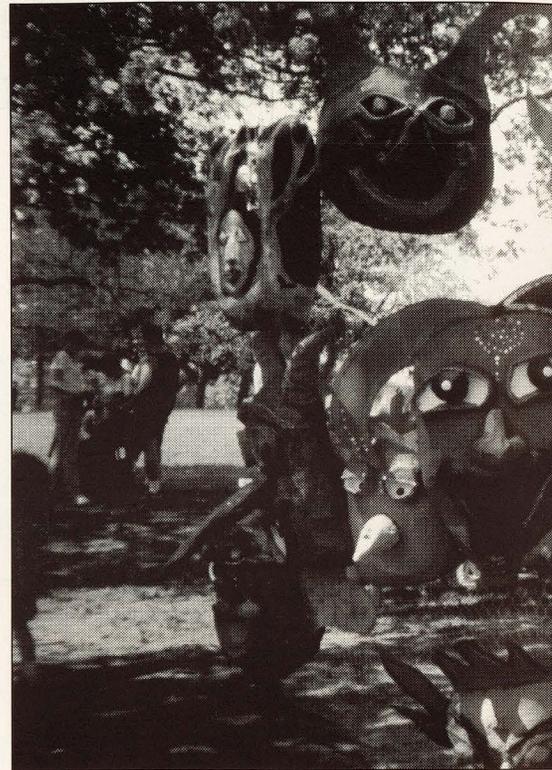
camper families or other methods. This event was an opportunity to raise awareness of the OCA to the general public. We should pair up with an event at the Kortright Centre that naturally attracts visitors to the centre. For example, their Kite Demonstration Day draws in over 3000 families.

So now we wait and prepare for next year!

Thanks to the individuals who helped a lot in organizing the event. Thank you, John Jorgensen, Jill Dundas, Duncan Robertson, Michael Bakker, Travis Allison, John Malcomson, Allan Foster and the Kortright Centre staff as well as everyone else who pitched in to establish what will be a fantastic event for the OCA in future years!

While the event was a learning experience on some levels, there is a lot of potential in it to generate a lot of public awareness about our wonderful organization and next year . . . well, wait and see!

OCA at the Kortright



You've heard of rock climbing, rappelling, wall climbing . . . How about tree climbing?

Parachute games have long been a favourite activity at camp.





Part of the celebrations of Festive Earth included a parade of performers, artists and artisans. The display featured spectacular papier-mâché masks.

We began our day with a nature walk and clean-up of the Don River, beginning at Todmorden Mills.

Cleaning up the Don Valley

Cleaning up the Don, continued from page 1

visitors. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase in a meaningful, constructive way Ontario camps.

This year's Spring Fair attracted almost 10,000 visitors from all kinds of backgrounds. It was great to see people get together, enjoy the music, food, crafts, dance, children's activities and the outdoors.

We hope next year to have an even greater number of camps turn out for this celebration. Let's spread the good word about summer camps and our commitment to the environment and to our communities!



Camp Director Wanted

Sparrow Lake Camp, a residential summer camp in Huronia, seeks a Camp Director for summer 2001 and beyond.

The successful candidate should:

- have leadership and teamwork skills and experience in outdoor recreation and camping
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- be available to live at camp from late June to late August
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Standard Time

by April Young, Standards Committee

It's June and camp is here for many of you and just around the corner for others. Though our camps are all special and unique they share a main common goal: to have a safe and healthy summer. This is also the goal of the OCA Standards program. Though all risk cannot be eliminated, accidents can be prevented.

If your camp is being visited this summer as part of the accreditation program, here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Go over the Answer Sheet at the very beginning of camp. If you find you have answered "no" to any questions, try to remedy the situation before your visitor arrives.
- Get your staff involved: have them check their areas before the tour.
- If you don't know the answer and need some direction, call the OCA office, or ask a fellow camp director.

As for the package that your letter carrier delivered: this is what it is and what to do with it:

- Check to make sure you have the correct Answer Sheet for your camp (day camp vs. residential camp)
 - The Checklist outlines the steps necessary for a successful Visit
 - You should have on hand a current copy of the OCA "Guidelines for Accreditation": these are the standards to follow
 - It's acceptable to answer "not applicable" to a standard if it's not relevant to your camp operation, whereas "no" answers require written explanations
 - Complete the Answer Sheet in advance of the visit
- Review the entire package at least one week prior to your Visit.

The Visit:

- If you do not hear from your Visitor by mid-June you should call him/her and arrange a mutually agreeable date
- Try to plan the Visit on a "normal" day of camp
- When your Visitor arrives, plan the agenda for the day together

see *Standard Time*, page 11

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Camping in Ontario offers a look at the evolution of Ontario's children's camps, from their origins up to the present day. Drawn from the OCA archives and the collections of numerous camps, the images in this video offer a wealth of information about the activities, living conditions, dress and costumes, and organization of Ontario's first camps.

Camping in Ontario will bring back many memories, and may become an indispensable component of annual staff training. *Camping in Ontario* will also help new staff and campers, and even parents, to understand their place in the rich tradition of organized children's camping in Ontario.

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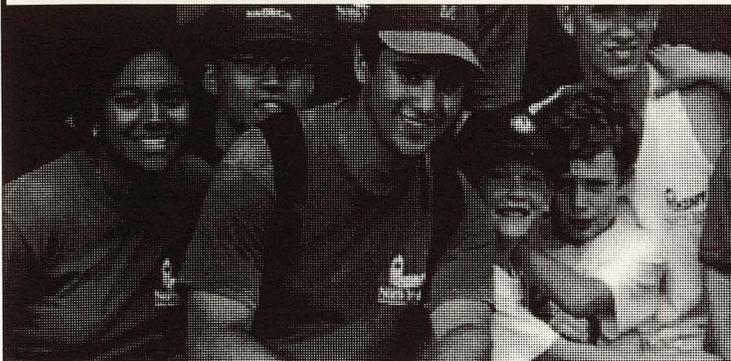
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Media Watch

Air Canada/Canadian Airlines announce changes at Toronto airport

Prior to June 3, 2000:

- Air Canada operated flights depart/arrive at Terminal 2
- Canadian Airlines operated flights depart/arrive at Terminal 3

Canadian Airlines will cease operation at Terminal 3 as of June 3rd and will join Air Canada in Terminals 1 and 2.

For travel after June 3, 2000:

- International flights for Air Canada, Canadian Airlines, Lufthansa and Mexicana will arrive/depart at Terminal 1
- Flights within Canada for Air Ontario and Air Alliance will arrive/depart at Terminal 1
- Flights within Canada for Air Canada, Canadian Airlines and Canadian Regional will arrive/depart at Terminal 2
- U.S. flights for Air Canada, Canadian Airlines, Canadian Regional, Air Ontario, Air Alliance and United Airlines will arrive/depart at Terminal 2

Please note the following exception:

- Flights to Hawaii will operate from Terminal 1

During the summer, there will still be some construction at Pearson Airport.

Make sure to ask which of the two airlines is operating your departing and returning flights. It's not enough just to look at your flight number. You need to know which airline is operating your flight in order to know where to check in. If you would like more details, please visit: <http://www.aircanada.ca/promo/important/index.html>

Have you recently read or heard a news item that would be of interest to the camping community? Share it with OCA's National News readers! Please fax (416-485-0422) or email (oca@ont-camp.on.ca) items, stating the publication date and name.

TFO Highlights and News

by Lisa Wilson and Jill Vandal

The OCA continues to be represented by Lisa Wilson and Jill Vandal at the Tourism Federation of Ontario (TFO). This is a not-for-profit umbrella group, made up of 30 associations with direct and indirect links to tourism. Some highlights of ongoing issues that may be of interest to OCA camps are outlined below.

TODS Signage - Tourist Oriented Destination Signs (TODS) are the blue signs that you now see in many parts of the province. This signage program is administered by the Ministry of Tourism. Tourism businesses must meet a minimum set of criteria in order to qualify for these signs, including number of months open, minimum visitation levels, etc. The location and number of signs is also restricted. These are not simply road signs that are available to anyone and because of the criteria, this particular signage program is generally not available to OCA camps.

continued on next page

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- Crestwood Valley Day Camp

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Standard Time, continued from page 8

- A typical Visit takes about 3 to 4 hours (including lunch)
- The Camp Director should handle the Visit if this is possible
- If an alternative date has to be arranged give advance warning; call the OCA office if it looks like the Visit cannot take place
- Don't forget to collect archival materials in the envelope provided
- At the end of the Visit mail the office copy of the Answer Sheet to the OCA office. The Visitor keeps one copy and the camp keeps another. Send the copy immediately after the Visit, along with the Director's Summation Form and your archives envelope.

Have a successful visit!

TFO Highlights continued from previous page

TFO continues to look for ways to access suitable road signage for those operations that cannot take advantage of the TODS program.

Regarding Tax Treatment of Vacant Business Property and Seasonal Property - TFO continues to lobby for fair and equal taxing of vacant businesses and seasonal properties.

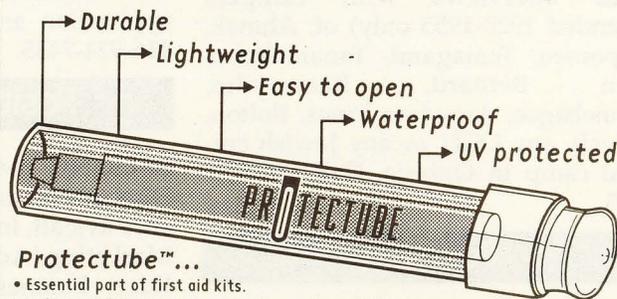
TFO continues to monitor the impact of decisions around Ontario's Living Legacy/Lands for Life initiative, standardized summer vacation, access to equity and debt capital and fees and costs (highway signage, dumping/tipping fees, and private sewage and water fees).

Whoops!

The photographs of the Annual Conference award winners in the April issue of the *OCA'sional News* were not credited. They were taken by Jake Benbihy of Bratt Photographic Designs.

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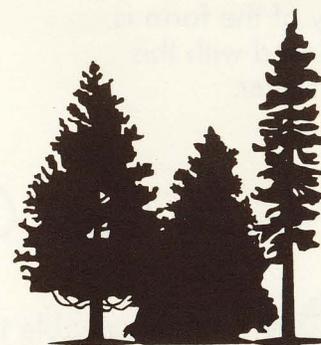
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Classifieds

Looking to purchase/lease/partner, children's residential camp property. Within 3-4 hours travel from Guelph, Ontario. Site has capacity for 120-200 campers with waterfront. Contact Bruce Bailey at YMCA-YWCA of Guelph, 130 Woodland Glen Dr., Guelph, ON N1G 4M3. 519-824-5150, fax 519-824-4729.

Calling Camp Alumni! Ph.D. student seeks interviews with campers (attended 1920-1955 only) of: Ahmek, Wapomeo, Temagami, Tanamakoon, Glen Bernard, Keewaydin, Winnebago, Arowhon Pines, Bolton, Naivelt, any CGIT or any Jewish cultural camp in Ontario. Call 416-537-9635.

For Sale

16 FT GLASTRON with Johnson 140 H.P. Outboard Motor - ideal for water-skiing. Tripod and boat cover included. Asking \$7,000. Call Peter at 416-630-5530.

If you need staff, or are looking for campers, over the summer . . .

use the OCA *How May We Help?* form to help you find staff, or fill camper vacancies during the summer season. A copy of the form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Position Available

CAMP TAMAKWA is a co-ed camp in Algonquin Park for 220 children ages 7 to 16. Camp Tamakwa welcomes you to explore the following summer job opportunities: Clay/Pottery, Director, Counselors, Canoe Trippers, Piano Player, Boat/Tractor Driver, Janitor. Visit Staff Info at www.tamakwa.com to download an application and contact Jeff Ruby at 416-924-7433.

Position Wanted

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT as Camp Director/Manager. Ten years experience as staff, four as Assistant Director; Marketing/Administration/HR/Facilities. Business background. Strong OCA ties. Bilingual. 905-989-0349

OCA Summer Crisis Hotline

The OCA office has set up the OCA Summer Crisis Hotline for the summer. Look for the Crisis Hotline Flyer enclosed with this newsletter.

Health Care Committee Update

Q: What valuable tools should you have in your health care centre this summer?

A: A Guide to Camp Health Issues & Concerns (available through the OCA office for \$14.00 including GST), and Camp Health Care, by Mary Casey, available through the Camping & Outdoor Bookstore (call 905-631-8622 or toll free 1-877-820-2267).

OCA's *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 September 15th for the October 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.

⊛ Classified ads are sold to OCA members at a rate of \$20 for the first 25 words, with additional increments of 25 words available at \$15 each. For non-members, rates are \$35 for the first 25 words, with 25 word increments available for \$30.

⊛ Paid advertising content will not exceed editorial space.

⊛ The *OCA's* *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.
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The views expressed by the authors in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Camping Association.



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