

OCAsional News

Published by the Ontario Camping Association

October 1997

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Why Can't School Be Like Camp?

For the vast majority of tens of thousands of young people who attend summer camp each year the experience is gratifying, memorable and uplifting. They learn to be self-reliant, cooperative, understanding and sensitive. As part of a relatively small group they make friendships and establish bonds that will last a lifetime. The trust that is established between the group members and their counsellors allows them to take risks, to experiment, to challenge themselves and to learn from these trials. Day to day they face a multitude of real life situations for which they find their own solutions or work closely with others to resolve them. They are better able to make choices for themselves that meet their needs and the needs of others. They have a better understanding of themselves and of their environment. They become part of a community as they get caught up in the middle of enthusiastic displays of spirit and singing which make it distinctive. Moreover, they develop skills that relate directly to academic subjects such as geography, meteorology, biology, natural sciences and religion. Their ability to communicate verbally with their peers and their leaders is enhanced. They learn to accept and appreciate individual differences and are willing to reach out and assist others. With varying abilities, most have the opportunity to take on a leadership role in the area that they have the most skill. Through challenging and creative activities they develop skills that will be useful as they cope with everyday life. From each experience they become more self-confident and this increased selfesteem allows them to continue to reach out and look for more. All this makes for a fun-filled environment.

How is all of this accomplished in a recreational/educational setting that is

overseen by a few camping professionals, but is administered for the most part by high school and university students? The answer is complex; however, the key to the success of camp is that all efforts are focused on the individual and not on the program.

It is not unusual to watch a young person who does poorly academically and is labeled as a behavioral problem flourish in the camp setting. Camp is a place where strengths are reinforced, where people recognize and accept that all of us have varying abilities and talents and in doing so can applaud the efforts of that young person. Feeling the support of others allows that young person to attempt more complex and challenging activities without the fear of failure.

On the other hand, the traditional educational environment focuses on the curriculum and establishes strategies for the students that will allow them to achieve specific goals in a specific time. Those with attention deficits or those who have a difficulty with auditory processing, for example, do not find the classroom environment motivating.

Why can't school be like camp? Those teachers who have the theoretical training from our faculties of education and who have experienced the joys and rewards of the practical application of the theory in the camp setting know that it is possible for schools to offer the best of both worlds. It does, however, require a shift in process and the development of creative and funfilled approaches that are geared to the individual. A trusting relationship and a sensitive and consistent atmosphere must be established. In that way the student will know that it is permissible not to have the correct answer, but rather will know that

an attempt will be made by the teacher and the classmates.

A key element of the process is FUN. Fun should not be reserved for recess or breaks. It needs to be part of the learning process. In a camp environment our morning meetings, flagpole or opening activities are full of spirit created by skits, singsongs, recognition of birthdays and accomplishments, and announcements. The creative juices of those responsible make the event enjoyable. Although it may appear to the onlooker that the event has little real value we know that it accomplishes many goals: we capture attention immediately; the campers learn to listen and follow commands via verbal or visual communication: campers step forward to perform or talk to groups of their peers; campers learn to concentrate and learn words and/or actions to complex songs; campers learn to respect others as they share opportunities to participate; campers are recognized and praised in front of their peers and leaders; campers can take on specific leadership roles; and campers are able to identify with a stable community of which they are an important part.

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"Wisdom comes not from experience, but from meditating on experience and assimilating it."

From Barb's Laptop

Closing campfires, farewell banquets, camp staff jackets spotted at the airport, and calls of "see you next year" echo in my memory as the camping season rolls to a close. By all accounts it appears to have been a most successful summer for thousands of campers and staff. Very few cries or complaints have come to our attention (the bear mauling incident in Algonquin Park being a most unusual and unfortunate exception).

OCA is busy in the summer too. As part of our accreditation program, 75 OCA members visited 65 camps. This program is the backbone of our Association and we depend on these visitors to help keep our Association strong. We know from comments on the visitor evaluation forms that many visitors consider that doing a Standards visit is an important component of their professional development.

Seven camps participated in a pilot test of the "Drug and Alcohol Policy Guide" being developed in partnership with the Addiction Research Foundation. Bev Jahnke familiarized herself with our Association and, with assistance from Bob Smith, hired Jeremy Stacey and Michele Gillingwater to fill the office contract positions. Dorothy Walter is compiling information on year-round schooling and letters have been sent to Queen's Park as a result of the Minister of Education's comments last June.

Now the feel of fall is in the air and even as one season closes, we begin preparations for the next. OCA committees are already gearing up for activities and education events that comprise our fall, winter and spring seasons.

As we prepare for the summer of 1998, please consider these questions:

- What can my Association do to help me?
- What can I do to help my peers in OCA?

Things to Do

- Write and thank the camps who tested the "Drug and Alcohol Policy Guide"
- Thank Bruno Morawetz and Steve Heming for their contributions to the video portion of the "Guide"
- Thank Bob Smith and Marj Booth for taking responsibility for the crisis pager
- Paint (the inside of our house that is)
- Learn about Nevsky Forum from those who travelled to Russia
- Compile all of the answers to the two previous questions, thank those who responded and start things moving

Barb Gilbert President

Thanks for the Help!

The Ontario Camping Association office thanks Jen Dundas, Rod Way and Cory Nelson from Camp Couchiching and Sue Crosthwait for their volunteer assistance in September.

The Association also thanks and acknowledges Dorothy Walter for her continued support and assistance including helping with reception and mailings in August.



Editor's Note

This past August, an article in the Toronto Star entitled "Raising a red flag on kids' camps" came to my attention. Written by columnist Ellie Tesher, it detailed several instances observed by the author of abuse towards campers by staff. At first, the article raised my hackles. How dare this person attack the institution of organized camping? However, on more careful reflection, I was forced to agree with Tesher's premise: that "camp is not always good for your child" especially when staff are "shamefully neglectful."

Camp can be, as we all know, a wonderfully enriching time for most children. It can also be a young person's first chance at a responsible job. And it's also an intense all-captivating experience that may overwhelm campers and staff alike, if preparation, training and support are inadequate. Burnout? That's a familiar feeling for many people in the camping industry at various times of the year, but especially during the summer months.

Where am I getting with all of this? Well, it's my firm belief that strong support systems, along with committed personnel, are essential to the continuance of organized camping as a worthwhile and renowned industry. Thank goodness for the Ontario Camping Association. Yet an association does not "live" to its fullest without the contributions of many dedicated volunteers, who truly believe that

improvement is always possible, that criticism can be constructive, and that respect for fellow human beings is above all.

I will now get off my soap box, and know that you will all join me in thanking Mary Lynn Trotter, whose contributions as Editor of the *OCAsional News* for the past two years have proven invaluable. Mary Lynn is immersed in studies, as well as work, but will stay in touch as an individual OCA member. I am truly grateful to Mary Lynn for her assistance in co-editing this edition of the newsletter.

Keeping abreast of the needs of the OCA membership will be, as always, a priority for the Editorial Committee. It is my hope that a series of regular contributors to the newsletter will allow up-to-date and relevant information to be disseminated and to encourage discussion. Legislation, program ideas, staffing concerns and the resolution of delicate issues are some of the topics I hope to touch on in upcoming newsletters.

If you would like to join the Editorial Committee, please get in touch! I can be reached at 416-481-2788 or by e-mail at hawryluk@stn.net. Alternatively, a message may be left with the OCA office and all calls will be returned.

Thank you!

Fiora Hawryluk Editor

Camping Makes the World Go Around

The world is gathering in St. Petersburg and I write this article two days before we depart for Russia! Over the summer, I registered 180 delegates from several countries who are making the trek to Nevsky Forum 1997, The Fourth International Camping Congress. We have folks from Australia, Columbia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Switzerland, Turkey, Taiwan, the United States, Venezuela and CANADA!! I am proud to say that Canada is the only country to surpass the expected number of delegates—those attending will stand proudly to represent our wonderful country. In addition to these countries, camp directors from all of the Commonwealth of Independent States will be there—the guess was between 500 and 1,000 delegates!! So, from September 16-20, the world comes together one more time to celebrate this fabulous profession we call camping. One week from tonight, we will be attending a performance of *Swan Lake* by the Kirov Ballet!

I am proud to say that the membership of The International Camping Fellowship has climbed significantly this year. We truly have a worldwide network that "Brings Together A World of Outdoor Experience" and we will live it and breathe it for six days in Russia. If I can, I'll get Mikhail Gorbachev's and Vladislav Tretiak's autographs for our archives - I never believed in my lifetime I would meet such heroes.

I know all the Canadian delegates will look forward to returning home to share with you their experience of Nevsky Forum 1997. We'll give highlights next month!

Jane McCutcheon

OCA Board Members

President: Barb Gilbert R.R.#4, Brighton, ON K0K 1H0 H: 613-475-1689 Fax: 613-475-2938

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> Director: Kate Moore, Camp Allsaw 36 Evelyn Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 2Y9 B: 416-766-4204 Fax: 416-766-4204 e-mail: allsaw@interlog.com Portfolio: Diversity, Membership

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Director: Dave Ward, YMCA John Island Camp 185 Lloyd St., Sudbury, ON P3B 1N1 B: 1-800-465-9622 Fax: 705-688-0751 e-mail: ymcajic@vianet.on.ca Portfolio: Camping Guide, Members' Directory, Skills

Regional Representatives

Eastern Ontario (Ottawa): Ian Richardson Arrowhead Camp, 115 Larkin Drive, Nepean, ON K2J 1C2 B/Fax: 613-825-4426

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YMCA-YWCA Camping, c/o George White Outdoor
Centre 1795 Clarke Road, London, ON N5X 3Z6
B: 519-667-3300 Fax: 519-455-2519
e-mail: ymcajjanzen@odyssey.on.ca



Assistant Director Onondaga Camp

Established 1918

Onondaga Camp invites applications for the full time position of Assistant Director to commence November 1, 1997.

Onondaga Camp is a leading independent co-educational camp with an enrollment of approximately 240 campers at any one time throughout the summer.

Onondaga Camp seeks a dynamic individual with administrative, promotional and camping experience and a philosophy that supports the development of young people in a camp setting.

Applicants are requested to submit a curriculum vitae with references before October 15, 1997 to: Mr. lan Watt, Director, 12 Bruce Park Avenue, Suite 101 Toronto, Ontario M4P 2S3 Fax: (416) 482-6237

11730 Keele Street Maple, Ontario L6A 1S1 (905) 832-4787 fax (905) 832-6951 e-mail: challengesunlimited@.compuserve.com



thank you to our o.c.a. clients who invested this summer in adventure programs filled with learning, fun & safety

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REACH For The Rainbow would like to thank the following 29 participating Camps across Ontario for another great summer!

	Residential	Tapawingo	
	Camps:	Wanakita	
-	Allsaw	Y on-the-Ottawa	
١	Canterbury Hills	Day Camps:	
١	Couchiching	Magic Forest	
١	Doe Lake Girl	U of T Erindale	
	Guide Camp	Sports Camp	
	Ganadaoweh	Oakville YMCA	
١	Glen Mhor	YMCA of	
I	Huron Church	Greater Toronto	
ı	Camp	Brampton	
	Pearce Williams	Central Tech	
ı	Ryerson	Credit Valley	
ı	Silver Lake	Etobicoke C.I.	
	YW/YMCA	High Park Jr.	
	Camps	Kelso	
	John Island	Mississauga	
	Kitchikewana	Toronto Island	
١	Pinecrest		
	Davern		

REACH for the Rainbow is an MCSS funded, non-profit agency and OCA affiliated member which has actively integrated children & youth into mainstream camping and recreation programs since 1987. New partnership inquires from OCA member residential and day camps are invited. Please contact David Neal or Catherine Bogle for a detailed information package and camp video: 416-503-0088.

Ask us about **Project Rainbow Teaching Camp** for LITs & **Rainbow Annual Conference** designed for summer camp staff and directors!

1998 Conference For Directors and Senior Staff

February 19-22, 1998 Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill

Is this just for Directors and Senior Staff? - Don't let the name fool you! This year's conference will accommodate not only your senior staff, but will provide one full day to students, program directors, specialty staff, area heads, and just about anyone who is looking for hands-on experience in making their facility hop with action and excitement. Participants have a choice of the incredible conference seminars or the heart stopping, foot pounding, hands-on learning. Bring out your staff and fuel their need for knowledge and ideas!

Is there only one key to success? - Absolutely not, there will be keynote speakers each day covering a wide variety of topics. We promise to make this the most dynamic and in-depth OCA conference yet, so whether your specialty is Day, Residential, Private or Agency camping, come out and find the keys to success.

How do I register for the conference? - It's as easy as following the *OCAsional News*. As we approach mid-fall, there will be a number of announcements and updates. Stay tuned for further details.

Your 1998 OCA Conference Steering Committee

Be Like Camp

continued from page 1

What appears to be just fun is much more than that. Most important in this focus is the understanding that each individual has different potentials for learning different skills and learns at different rates. With this in mind, the externally generated curriculum, aimed at the median, can be reorganized into its various components. Each accomplishment helps the student develop more self-confidence which in turn allows for a continued effort. This type of positive reinforcement is in itself motivating and the process builds on itself.

In these times of restriction and more external controls placed on education it is even more important to make school more like camp. When children are respected as individuals and feel good about themselves and their accomplishments, they are happy and willing to put forth the efforts that are required to develop skills and become contributing members of their communities.

Larry Bell Director of Camp Robin Hood

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OCA Bulletin Board

People on the Move

Ian Watt is the new Director at Onondaga Camp. Don Haag assumes the role of Associate Director. Both Ian and Don have been with Onondaga for the past two summers and have extensive camp backgrounds.

Congratulations, Andy!

Andy Rodford, former Director of Onondaga Camp and OCA Board member, has taken an exciting job as Director of Advancement, Albert College. In this new position he is responsible for admissions, development, marketing, alumni and fund raising initiatives. This new job and the move to Belleville have prompted his resignation from the Board.

Andy's energy, enthusiasm and expertise are matched by his care and compassion for people. These qualities are appreciated by all of us who have enjoyed the privilege of working with him or participated in one of the numerous workshops that he has presented at our conferences. His leadership of the Membership Committee and Counsellor Conference and his varied contributions to the success of our Annual Conference have helped our Association grow and develop. Recently he has brought these same qualities to his role as OCA Director.

Thanks, Andy, for all your enthusiastic support of OCA and camping people. Albert College is indeed fortunate. We wish you all the best.

Kate Moore is leaving Camp Allsaw after seven fulfilling years as Director to take on new challenges. She will be the Project Director for Youth Challenges International (YCI) in Costa Rica. Kate will oversee teams of international staff working with participants doing projects ranging from blazing trails in national parks to assisting with sight-restoring cataract eye surgery. Kate hopes some camp people will be among the participants and staff-for more information, contact YCI at 416-971-9846.

Admin Associate required by REACH for the Rainbow. Camping background essential. Résumé to: REACH for the Rainbow, Attention: David Neal, 24 Torlake Cr., Etobicoke, ON M8Z 1B3. Phone 416-503-0088, fax 416-503-0485.

This issue of the OCAsional News marks the end of my role as Editor and the beginning of the change-over to some fresh faces. I am thrilled to turn over the reins to Fiora Hawryluk, and I know I am leaving these duties in very capable hands. Ironically it was Fiora who handed the reins over to me a few years back as I assumed her staff position in the OCA office when she moved on to help out the CCA. Back then, it was the staff who prepared the newsletter; it has only been in recent years that we pulled together a great team of volunteers from the Association to support the office staff in preparing what has become a large monthly project.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my "Lois Lane" duties, and wish to take this opportunity to thank my committee members for all of their hard work pulling together each issue. Best wishes to those who have moved on to new challenges with the Association, and thanks in advance to those members who will stay on and help Fiora make this publication even stronger and more enjoyable for you, the readers. Special thanks to Kate Moore and John Jorgenson for their mentoring skills over the years.

I will be moving on to the exciting world of graduate studies in social work, and thus must curtail my involvement with the OCA for the time being. However, as I have already learned in my studies, the worlds of camping and social work are deeply intertwined.

I'm sure our paths will cross again. Mary Lynn Trotter

Birth Announcements

David and Anne Graham are happy to announce the arrival of Sara Madeline Graham at 11:20 pm on August 28, 1997. She joins her brothers Christopher and Aidan for a life full of wonderful camp experiences.

Jeremy "Boomer" Stacey (Camp Naorca) and Tamara Wood (formerly of Onondaga and Naorca) are happy to announce the birth of Scott Kelly Modder Stacey on Thursday, September 11 at 9:30 am. Scott is the first "baby boomer" on the scene and is happy to have the spotlight to himself.

Announcements

Volunteers are needed to help proof the 1998 Camping Guide copy. Individuals are needed for the end of October/beginning of November. Photographs are also needed for the cover of the Guide. Call the OCA office at 416-781-0525 for details.

The Counsellor Conference Committee is welcoming any and all interested members. Call Dave Graham at 1-800-461-3391 ext.31 for information. The first meeting will be in mid-October.

Noteworthy

Congratulations to Madelene Allen, Camp Ouareau, whose second book Wake of the Invercauld--Shipwrecked in the Sub-Antarctic: A Great Granddaughter's Pilgrimage was published this summer and has been nominated for a Governor General's Award.

Congratulations and good luck to Jack Pearse, John Jorgenson, Jane McCutcheon and Camp Tawingo. They were recently nominated for an Ontario Entrepreneur of the Year Award, in the category of "socially responsible entrepreneur". The Camp has already made the list of finalists, and if successful will be eligible for the national Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Winners of the award will be announced in October.

New Commercial Members

Simply Yummy 785 Westney Road South, Unit 30 Ajax, ON L1S 7G1

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Cycle on the water. Borrow their promotional video from the OCA office.

Calendar of Events

October

Health Care Committee Meeting OCA Board Room Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 pm

Conference Committee Meeting Thursday, October 16

Board Meeting OCA Board Room Tuesday, October 21

Advisory Council Meeting T.B.A. Monday, October 27

New Members Supper T.B.A. Monday, October 27 at 5:30 pm

Integration Committee Meeting OCA Board Room Tuesday, October 28 at 4:00 pm

November

Conference Committee Meeting Friday, November 6

Board Meeting OCA Board Room Wednesday, November 19

Health Care Committee Meeting OCA Board Room Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 pm

December

Conference Committee Meeting Friday, December 4

Board Meeting London, Ontario Friday, December 11

Annual General Meeting (AGM) London, Ontario Friday, December 11

Jenuary

Board Meeting OCA Board Room Wednesday, January 14

Conference Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 14

Health Care Committee Meeting OCA Board Room Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 pm

Integration Committee Meeting OCA Board Room Monday, January 19

February

Conference Committee Meeting Thursday, February 5

Integration Committee Meeting OCA Board Room Monday, February 9

Board Meeting OCA Board Room Wednesday, February 11

Health Care Committee Meeting OCA Board Room Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 pm

Directors and Senior Staff Conference 1998 Sheraton Parkway Hotel Thursday, February 19 to Sunday, February 22

Richmond Hill

Classifieds

For Sale/Rent

For sale by owner, corporation holding. Very private, very beautiful, 700+ acres. Alternative energy lodge with cabins by private lake at north end (including water craft, camp sites with tent-cabins and all furnishings). Lindal cedar home by another small lake at south end. Manageable wood lot throughout. Tax benefits for corporations. Perfect for retreat centre/resort/camp, private cottage. Close to eastern point of Algonquin Park, Ontario. Serious inquires only. Call Deirdre Billes at 613-735-7351.

Camp available-Bring your program! Spectacular semi-wilderness site two hours from Metro. Surrounded by 1/4 million acres of Crown Land forest. Trails, canoe routes, 4600' of shoreline, 350' natural sand beach. Cabin accommodation with ensuite four-piece washrooms. Classrooms for 100+, games room, equipped. Excellent kitchen. Short- or long-term rental bookings and/or offers to purchase will be considered. Call 705-657-8432 for more information and/or tour.

Camps available for rent! 93 acres of beautiful lakefront property available for rent. 50 acres available near Port Colborne and 43 acres available near Kirkland Lake. Ideal for children's summer camp, seniors' weekends, small conferences, retreats, reunions, weddings and more. All facilities are completely wheelchair accessible. Camps are available for rent from May 1-October 31, 1998. Length of rental is negotiable, from a weekend to the entire season, based on the needs of your group or organization. For more information call: Pam Tracz at 1-800-361-7697 or 905-385-5389 (Port Colborne site).

Positions Available

Onondaga Camp is looking for an administrative assistant. This person will be responsible for office duties pertaining to running a summer camp. Applicants are asked to fax résumé to 416-482-6237.

Experienced camp director for Mon-Sat eight week summer day camp program at Balfour Beach, Lake Simcoe. During the year hire staff, plan activities, assist in recruiting campers, work with camp association. Live on-site in the summer. Fax résumé, references to Camp Katonim at 416-226-0531.

Camp Oochigeas, a residential summer camp for children who have cancer, requires a full-time camp director. The camp director will work from the camp office in Toronto and from the camp site on Lake Rosseau. Please apply to: Director Search, Camp Oochigeas, 60 St. Clair Ave., East, Suite 404, Toronto, ON M4T 1N5 by October 24, 1997.

HarbourKids Camps at Harbourfront Centre-Experienced Camp Coordinator required for one-year contract position with possibility of full-time permanent status. Responsibilities include staff hiring, training, program planning, developing new programming initiatives, budgets, publicity. Must have background in cultural/recreational programming, be computer literate, have extensive supervisory experience and possess excellent communication skills as well as strong organizational skills. For more information, please call Jill James at 416-973-4093 or fax your résumé with salary expectations to 416-973-5377.

New upscale camp for the summer of 1998 on Lake Muskoka. Full-time Director needed. Above-average salary. Must have 8-10 years' experience as director. Complete résumé must be enclosed. Please enclose answers to the following questions: what makes a great camp?; what positive changes have you implemented at previous jobs?; what do you feel are some of the downfalls as a director?; what new ideas would you like to implement as a director?; what are your salary expectations and goals as a director? Please send résumé to: Camp Director Position, P.O. Box 458, Bracebridge, ON POL 1T8.

Camp Director-Camp Allsaw, a privately owned, co-ed, residential summer camp with an environmental theme is accepting applications for the full-time position of Camp Director. The successful candidate will be a visionary, environmentally conscious, self-starter with administrative, promotional and camping experience. Send résumés with references to Camp Allsaw, 9 Calais Ave., Toronto, ON M3M 1N3 or fax to 416-766-4204 by October 10, 1997.

Wanted to Buy

Wanted to purchase small/medium-sized summer camp. Please call Jackie Leech/Wendy Fletcher at 416-486-9799.



OCAsional 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 October 15th for November 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.
- We also offer professional and business directory ads of business card size. OCA member fee: \$35 per insert (up to three issues) or \$28 per issue (minimum four to maximum nine 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 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. e-mail: hawryluk@stn.net

The views expressed by the authors in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Camping Association.



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