

# OCAsional news

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EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

TACT IS GETTING YOUR POINT ACROSS WITHOUT STABBING SOMEONE WITH IT.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a wonderful experience for all of us who attended the Director's Weekend at Bolton. There were many of us who left all fired up for the coming summer. The energy level on that last day was exciting as we said our good-byes and looked ahead to our next encounter as a group.

Bruce Harris provided a fun filled informative look at how we might begin our pre-camp training. Many practical ideas were shared and experienced.

Saturday was spent looking at how we might motivate our staff for the upcoming summer. Jim Flack from the Peel Board of Education provided us with many tremendous ideas regarding staff training, motivation and team building.

My only thought as the weekend concluded was that more people were not involved. You missed a great Weekend. Many thanks to Ceciley Parker and her education committee.

There are a number of events coming up that should already be marked in your calendars. Our Annual Conference for Directors' and Senior Staff is on February 20 to 22, 1986 at the Inn on the Park in Toronto. Now here's a new date that's not yet marked down. The Ontario Camping Association's Counsellor Conference will be held on Saturday, May 10, 1986 at Centennial College's Progress Campus. This

year our efforts are being assisted through the co-operation of Centennial College. Our hope is that this partnership will develop into a worthwhile and long lasting relationship.

Wow!! There's so much to do and a mere 150 days until pre-camp. I look forward to seeing many of you at these upcoming events.

FRED OKADA,  
PRESIDENT.

## EDITORIAL

At Christmas I was fortunate to receive several special gifts made by the giver - hence very personal and unique. One such treasure was a picture dictionary compiled by my programme director, Nancy Thornton, of words and phrases popular at camp last summer & illustrated by camp photographs. By the time I reached the last entry, my sides ached with laughter.

In most cases, you "had to be there" to appreciate the humour, but Nancy's first entry has general appeal.

## CAMP COUNSELLOR

We are those individuals who are dedicated to being children all our lives. We work twenty-five hours a day, but never let on we are tired. Our tattered clothes (exposing skin bitten by mosquitoes) look as if they came from the rag bag. When

parents come to visit their children, they tell us how marvellous we are. We smile at them and wish they would hurry up and leave so we can get on with some serious playing. We become friends and when it is time for us all to leave, we hug the kids and send them home, hoping that all we've taught them won't be lost on parents who think they know it all!

Written with the confidence of youth by one of those fine young people who make up our staffs! Where would we be without them?

CATHERINE ROSS,  
EDITOR.

### STAFF TRAINING-CAMPER EXPECTATIONS

One of the most difficult things to teach young staff is camper expectations.

Whenever a counsellor approaches me with the look of or the statement "either he goes or I go", I know that the root of the problem probably lies in camper expectations. All of us, and certainly young staff, become frustrated and exasperated by the behaviour of their campers and their inability to function at the level we would all like them to.

I usually respond to the staff by saying, "If I said to you that your campers were really dumb because they could not answer my questions about algebra", you would probably respond that it was a silly statement since your campers were only 8, 9 or 10 year olds.

Exactly, and yet, 17 to 20 year old staff find nothing silly or strange in expecting the algebraic level of social behaviour from those same campers. Their level of expectation for their campers is set too high. The campers cannot achieve the level the counsellor expects and, thus, both campers and staff are frustrated and unhappy. Such a situation is bound to explode. It is only a matter of when.

Eight year olds cannot make a bed that pennies will bounce off. They need help and praise for a bed with wrinkles in it, a bed that would not be acceptable from a 12 or 14 year old.

Don't tell an 8 year old who has fallen, "not to cry, big boys don't cry". He fell, he hurts and it's O.K. to cry. When he is 12 or 14, he will probably make a face and let a four letter oath slip from his mouth.

2.  
Young campers will be selfish and self-centered. Learning to share, to be aware of and considerate of others is a sophisticated level of behaviour, which even many adults never learn. Be patient. Teach them by your example. They watch you, they don't listen to you.

The world will not end because a young camper lies to you. Caught at something, his reflex answer will probably be "I didn't do it". Catch your breath, sit down with him and help him to tell you what really happened rather than reacting with "you lied to me", and then compounding that error by punishing him for lying.

The illustrations are as endless as the incidents which will arise each day. As a counsellor, try to remember yourself at the age of your campers. How would you have felt or reacted if that happened to you? The degree to which you can remember that stage of your life will determine to a large extent your success in dealing with any age group.

Directors and section heads spend time in pre-camp discussing and sharing with counsellors what they can properly expect in behaviour from each age group. Only by knowing reasonable levels of expectations can you avoid frustrations and enjoy your campers at their present level. You may even learn to chuckle at some of the behaviour that used to have you grinding your teeth.

Accept the campers where they are, not where you would like them to be. Hopefully, over their stay at camp you may be able to move them along their path of development, a millimetre or two.

Whenever you have a problem with a camper or the whole group this summer, pause and ask yourself whether or not your level of expectation for this is too high. If you are not sure, ask your section head or director. Follow this route and you will be surprised how much more enjoyable your campers will be to you.

BARRY LOWES,  
CAMP TIMBERLANE.

REMEMBER YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE  
CONFERENCE PHOTO CONTEST!!

## PROGRAMME IDEAS

### GETTING CAMPERS INVOLVED: THE "SPECIAL" EVENT

The all-camp special theme program plays an important role at Timberlane. The excitement of the theme, the fire and light of a night-time opening, the strange voice on the P.A., all lead to a sense of magic and anticipation. This is followed by large-scale swim and landsports meets. However, in the excitement of putting together the camp-wide program, staff can get caught up in the "glamour" stuff, such as the opening, and the large meets. We then, to quote the saying, often lose sight of the forest for the trees.

It is most important at the outset, to identify the objectives of the Program. Paramount among these, must be the happiness of the children. Activities must be structured so that they never lose sight of what the aim of the Program is. Although children love feedback, competition should never be such that any child is afraid of competing and losing badly to his peer group.

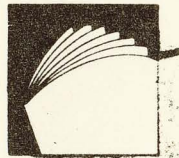
Every child has some area where they are special; where they and they alone excel. The astute counsellor is one who can identify this and structure activities so that everyone can shine. While the all-camp program does not offer such a luxury, nevertheless this thought must always be kept in mind when planning an activity.

It is here that individual, or small group events, away from the mainstream of the Program can be used to advantage. In these activities, you can ensure that campers only compete against their own age group. Activities can be quieter, and away from the pressure of performing for the team. Initiative tasks and cooperative games should not be overlooked. But activities can be designed that require no athletic skill, wherein the child will find whatever degree of competition he/she seeks from the Program itself. For example, "Dress up and Imitate Your Director" is not only great fun, but allows you to get a first-hand look of how you're perceived. Kids will find competition inherent in "competitive showering" which is also a useful way to ensure a camper is clean. Checkers, Chess, card games, small hunts, egg toss, team craft, dress-up, paper bag dramatics, can all be related to theme.

More importantly, they enable you to ensure that each child is involved in an activity where they can win, and feel the contribution they've made to their team. You can slot the camper who needs reinforcement, or who can shine away from the public glare.

The major meets attract the publicity and staff interest. But leaving time in your schedule for the "special events" should be an integral part of your programming schedule. They deserve the same importance as the big events. The kids love them, and they remember their individual achievements. And really, isn't that what a good Program is all about?

MEL RASKIN,  
CAMP TIMBERLANE.



### BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Magic Ring - A Collection of Verse for Children is a selection of well over 300 poems and verses especially chosen for reading aloud.

This book is comprised mainly of works written by great poets from the past and present. We are pleasantly surprised to find that the editors' goal is not only to offer an opportunity to read and appreciate such prized poetry but to encourage children to write for themselves. To this end, the editors have included a charming section entitled "Poems from the Sandalwood Box". All of the poetry in this chapter has been written by counsellors and campers who submitted their own poems.

The Magic Ring takes an interesting and highly worthwhile approach to memorable poetry, making available a huge treasury of poems with the hope that children will be inspired to write on their own.

American Camping Association, 182 p.p., 1985

Cost: \$19.25 (members), \$23.10 (non members)

Available from the Canadian Camping Association Bookstore., 1806 Avenue Rd., Ste. 2, Toronto, Ont., M5M 3Z1.  
Telephone (416) 781-4717.

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Canadian Parks/Recreation Association recently awarded Jack Pearse, Director of Camp Tawingo, the C.P.R.A. Citation of Outstanding Achievement for his exemplary contribution in the field of recreation.

This award, presented at the closing banquet of the 1985 CP/RA Conference, August 15th, in Edmonton, recognized Jack's involvement and many accomplishments in the camping movement over the past 35 years. Congratulations, Jack!

## "WHAT'S HAPPENING!"

*You have received your Nominations mailing. Please take an active part in ensuring a strong O.C.A. Executive.*

*Deadline for nominations March 14/86.*

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## CAMP DIRECTORS' WORKSHOP

May 29 - June 1, 1986 at Bark Lake.

Theme: Site Development & Management.

Sessions will be of interest to directors, senior staff, maintenance staff, committee/board members.

Fee: \$65.00.

If you want to receive publicity write to:-

Ted Yard, P.O. Box 99, Camp Hollyburn, Rosseau, Ontario, P0C 1J0

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If you are interested in information on the Belgian Exchange Visit for this summer, contact Grant Kerr, Chairman of the Belgian Exchange Committee, at his office (416) 967-1880. United Church of Canada, 85 St. Clair Ave. East, Room 321, Toronto, Ont., M4T 1L8.

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## 16th Annual-SAULT AREA CAMPFERENCE

March 21 - 22, 1986.

Theme - "Sharpening Skills"

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ontario.

The Campference brings together individuals interested in children's and or youth camps. The purpose is to transfer ideas, to inspire, to try to answer some queries as well as to promote Christian Camping interest.

Registration forms from Mr. Peter Luxton, 24 Charlotte Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., P6B 5S7.

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ANNUAL MEETING - Tuesday, April 22, 1986, Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto.

Time: 5:30 Meeting - 7:15 Dinner

Speaker - Dr. John Novack

"Inviting Camp Success" Invitational Camping

Mark your Calendar; Plan to join us!!

# THE TORONTO SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

**EXHIBITION PLACE  
TORONTO**

*MARCH 15 - MARCH 24, 1985*

*Come on down and see us!*

A CANADIAN NATIONAL

SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

A non-profit Corporation dedicated to Canada's outdoor heritage

## HELP WANTED

THIS IS IT! YOUR LAST CHANCE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE 1986 DIRECTORS CONFERENCE AT THE INN ON THE PARK - FEBRUARY 20, 21 and 22, 1986. VOLUNTEER FOR ONE FULL DAY OR ONE-HALF DAY. INTERESTED? PLEASE CALL: JOANNE DWHYTIE AT 961-8100 (BUS.) OR 233-2492 (RES.)