



OCAsional news

VOLUME 5

JUNE 1984

EDITOR: MARTIN HUNT

SUMMER BREEZES MAKE ME FEEL FINE!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

June is here - cool and reliant but here nevertheless. With June comes the last phase of planning for the Summer. Forms are being returned; staff are meeting; supplies purchased. Campers are eagerly awaiting the first day at camp.

The O.C.A., too, is preparing for Summer. Some camp visits will be made and a number of us will be travelling throughout the Province. The new Board is now in place. The Association, at its Annual Meeting held in early May, thanked those persons who were retiring, Doug Booz, Fred Okada, Catherine Ross, Helen Stewart, Marilee Tisdall. We offer our appreciation for their time and talent. My hope is that all of you will continue to have an active role in the Association. And we welcome Robert Christensen, Wayne Hussey, Eleanor Kay, Jane McCutcheon, Ceciley Parker to the Board. I look forward to working with each of you.

To know and be known by someone; to love and be loved by someone, to experience the support, nurture and care that are part of summer camp experiences, is what we are preparing for. And we do it not alone.

K. GRANT KERR,
President.

EDITORIAL

The Counsellor Conference was a SENSATION! Thanks Wanakita! And with that summer is here!

Here Comes
Here comes summer,
Here comes summer,
Chirping robin, budding rose.
Here comes summer,
Here comes summer,
Gentle showers, summer clothes.
Here comes summer,
Here comes summer,
Whoosh-shiver-there it goes.

- Shel Silverstein.

SO savour every moment of it! I'll be on assignment in Scotland this summer - my I'm going to miss you! HAVE FUN! See you next in the October News!

MARTIN HUNT,
Editor.

BOOK REVIEW

"More Campfire Programmes"
- Jack Pearse, Jane McCutcheon and
John Jorgenson.

You know we could probably get away with much of the same material at our campfires each

year. There is the change over of campers and, of course, the inevitable question "Aren't you going to do that skit with Al and Marilee this year?" However, in our drive to keep our campfires rich and to some extent, maintain our own sanity, we constantly search out new material and ways to make the evening special.

Well Jack, Jane and John have brought us an anthology; "More Campfire Programs", to help us with some new ideas. There are not that many devastatingly original songs, stories, games, etc. However, one of the book's strengths is the groupings of the items into sample campfire programs. Certainly these examples are not the only way to run a campfire, but there is a coherence in each of the sample programs that offers a finely tuned flow of events to keep the most agitated of campers riveted to their logs.

Each program consists of a unique crowd catching opener eg. "Boy are we enthusiastic" captures the audience with active participation right off the mark. A good technique for turning standard jokes into good skits, offers some revitalization to those potentially dreary skit nights eg. "Waiter there's a fly in my Soup!" - He's just a small one he won't eat much". An appealing feature of the book is the collection of good stories for the campfire, particularly one legend by Michael Pearse.

And just in case you didn't get enough ideas out of the sample programs there is an appendix of more openings and closings, songs, games and relays, stunts, skits and stories.

"More Campfire Programmes" is available with the C.C.A. bookstore.

MARTIN G. HUNT.

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READ 'EM AND WEEP - 1898

"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".

HELP!

HELP!

HELP!

Every O.C.A. member has an opportunity to become a Director of Public Relations, or a Promotion Manager this summer. Though salary is zero, think of the prestige! and it all has to do with our "Blue Lake & Rocky Shore". It must be promoted. It must be advertized through the personal backing of every director, staff person and camper. We cannot do it all.

So.....buy as many copies as you can accommodate at camp; these for sale naturally, to help the O.C.A. budget. Then get busy: tell the whole camp about it. Stress its importance as a history now and in years to come. Keep talking about it. Ask for it in all local book stores. See that it is stocked. See that parents know about it and encourage purchase through the camp tuck shop. Include it at prize winning banquets, and introduce it to local news editors..... along with the name of your camp for publicity!

We are doing well in our own efforts but we can't cover every waterfront. We were very fortunate in being asked for reviews to appear in two Ontario Government publications. Tourism News and Recreation News.

All O.C.A. members have now joined our Editorial staff welcome! and keep the news alive.

EANSWYTHE FLYNN.

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THIS & THAT

The Federation of Ontario Naturalist has just completed a new resource for youth groups and camps, entitled "Wild Life and Habitat Conservation Kit". The kit includes conservation activities, games, experiments and resources. For more information contact F.O.N., 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 3W8.

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Audio Cassettes recorded live at Conference "1984" are available in the O.C.A. Library.

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DEFUNCT CAMPS

Continuing with fact finding, following are the names of seven additional camps for which the Archives Committee would like to file a completed questionnaire.

PICNIC - RO-BRUIIN - ROCKLAND - ROCKY MOUNT
SILVER PEAK - ST. BASIL'S DAY CAMP -
SPRING VALLEY RANCH -

Can you help, please, by providing the name of a person to whom the form should be sent.

The facts of camping in Ontario for future generations is the purpose. Information on the COMPLETE history of camping in Ontario is the goal. Thank you.

Contact:- Barbara Gilchrist
10 Wychwood Park
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 2V5
Phone: 565-3403.

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PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a flyer "Announcing the O.C.A. Photo Contest".

Please see that this is posted at Camp.

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LEGISLATION INFORMATION

RE- WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Many thanks to CLIFF LABBETT, who on behalf of O.C.A. has successfully negotiated classification and standardization of summer camps in the Workmen's Compensation Board. It is now optional whether you subscribe to Workmen's Compensation, and all camps that do elect to subscribe will be in the same classification. Everyone should have received a form from the W.C.B. asking that if you are going to continue with Workmen's Compensation, to return the form to them within a specified period of time (20 days) or else you will automatically be removed from the roles. You have a third option also.

To carry Employers Liability Insurance from a private insurance company. One can also add a Voluntary Compensation Endorsement to this coverage. Consult your insurance agent.

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**THE OCA WELCOMES
THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS**

Individual

Mary McCaffrey
Tom Reed
Sonya Scott
Jean See
Kornel Strzalkowski
Martha Strzalkowski

Commercial

Sails Barr Ltd (Ulmer-Kilius Sails)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

BOLTON WEEKEND WORKSHOP for Directors and Senior Staff - November 9, 10 and 11, 1984. "Children in Camping - A Kaleidoscope". See enclosed flyer. Application forms available in September.

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CBC Television presents:-

ERNEST THOMPSON SETON: KEEPER OF THE WILDS,
Sunday, June 10 at 9:00 P.M. EDT (9:30 NDT).

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* SUMMER OFFICE HOURS - PLEASE MAKE A *
* NOTE THAT THE O.C.A. OFFICE WILL BE *
* OPEN ONLY FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.*
* DURING JULY AND AUGUST. *
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ECLECTIC CAMPING

THE IMPORTANCE OF JOB DESCRIPTIONS IN YOUR CAMP.

By: Carson Herrick.

Why should I bother to write job descriptions? That's what some of you are asking yourself -- right? I mean, YOU know what your staff roles are and how to judge their performance so why should you write it down? You cover it all in your pre-camp staff training session and you've done it well. Besides, you've never had any problems by not having written them out. In addition, all your staff are volunteers and in camp for only a few weeks, so this doesn't really apply to you. It's a lot of work for what?

Any of this sound familiar? If so, then what follows applies to you!

Did you know that the best qualified prospective staff members might not consider your camp without having a job description because it might appear to him/her that your camp is not efficiently administered. Having a written description gives status to positions, shows concern for staff, and builds staff towards responsibilities.

All staff, including the Director, want to understand clearly what their job entails; where to turn for help and guidance; how they fit into the overall picture; to whom they are responsible; with whom they work and how they inter-relate. A good job description will not only accomplish this, but will also aid your staff by providing a reminder of their job responsibilities. Misunderstandings resulting from verbal directions will be reduced because staff will have a better overall grasp of what is expected of them and thereby be in a better situation to understand your directions.

All of this is very important to your staff and encompass some of the very basic needs that all of us share. Your staff will be happier and more capable to do the job you expect of them. They will learn more, be more effective and be more likely to return

the following year.

But what's in it for YOU? Well, if the above is not enough a job description will help you to advertise and recruit prospective staff. They can also provide you with a very objective basis for staff appraisal or in a problem situation involving a dismissal be your friend if a legal battle should arise. The preparation of your job descriptions will also help you by ensuring that all important responsibilities are covered by someone and that nothing goes unattended.

All of this will assist you in achieving your goals and overall camp objectives.

As a clear but brief reference you will probably find the publication entitled "Camp Staff Job Descriptions" published by the American Camping Association and available through the Canadian Camping Association Book Store for \$1.25 very helpful. It was invaluable in the preparation of this article.

CARSON HERRICK,
Assistant Supervisor,
Alberta Forestry Youth Programs.

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