



OCAsional news

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EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

*If you are planning for a year, plant rice .
If you are planning for a decade, plant trees.
If you are planning for a lifetime, educate children.* CHINESE PROVERB.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I've just received more information regarding the **Second International Camping Congress**. It's going to be an exciting time in Washington, D.C. I'm sure that many of you have already made plans to attend and are waiting with great anticipation for the Congress to begin. My hope is that there will be many delegates from Ontario there to take part in the Second International Congress.

But a word of caution to those who are beginning to plan for 1987 and deciding on events that you may choose to participate. Our own **Annual Director's and Senior Staff Conference** will be taking place at the **Inn on the Park** on **January 15 - 17, 1987**. The income generated from this event plays a very important part in our yearly budget. Our membership income almost pays for our office and its work while other income generating events offset the cost of services provided by your Association. If you are only able to attend one event next year please give some serious consideration to your choice. The health of your Association is dependant on the success of our various income producing events.

Just so you know the events designated to generate income here's a list. Please consider supporting these events in the future.

1. Annual Director's and Senior Staff Conference.
2. Counsellor's Conference.
3. Director's Fall Weekend.
4. Annual Meeting.
5. Nurse's Conference.
6. Skills Weekend.
7. Directory.

FRED OKADA,
President.

EDITORIAL

One of the fringe benefits of owning a camp, at least in our case, is that our four children frequently experience the satisfaction of physical labour. I think that it is important for children to learn to work effectively and willingly. In small ways we try to teach this to our campers. The understanding on canoe trips is: if you choose to go on a trip you are committing yourself to sharing the work load. As Joe Solomon puts it "In the wilderness, there is no room for spectators. Each must do his share."

I have at least two acquaintances who would disagree with me. Joan, a part-time teacher and mother of three, declares that it is a mother's responsibility to cook, clean, launder, make beds, etc., etc., for her children. Childhood, she argues, is a brief respite and should be thoroughly enjoyable prior to growing up and the reality of working for a living. I suspect in their case the reality will be preceded by a very rude awakening.

Relaxing outdoors on a Saturday afternoon, Jane a librarian and mother of two, was disturbed by the hammering and sawing from the adjacent property as her carpenter - neighbour was building a deck. When her five year old son enthusiastically commented on the construction project, Jane replied, "Well dear. That man works with his hands. Your daddy works with his brain". Her tone of voice left no doubt as to whose work, in her opinion, was more important.

Well for once in eight years our kids did not spend Thanksgiving weekend at camp helping with the closing chores. However, if you had driven past our city property, you would have seen four children helping Mom and Dad rake leaves, mow the lawn, trim bushes and paint the garage door.

CATHERINE ROSS,
Editor.

THE OCONTO DINING HALL FIRE

"Lisa and Bruce! The Dining Hall is burning! I'm not kidding!" Slam went the door.

That was our wake up call three mornings before our campers arrived. We ran out the door, looked up, and saw the most enormous roaring, ball of fire imaginable.

Obviously the fire was out of control and far too hot to get close to. All we could do was try to contain it. It was about 5:45 A.M. perfectly still, and drizzling rain - the weather was on our side! Thankfully, the building had fields on two sides, the third had a road behind it and then a utility building - it didn't burn, the fourth side had a small bush - therefore our main worry. Our staff, at camp for Pre-Camp training were fantastic despite a flu bug that was making its rounds. All fire fighting equipment in camp was gathered and organized in a couple of minutes. An assembly line for water buckets from the lake up a long hill to the Dining Hall was formed - about 200 yards long. Buildings close by were sprayed from hand pumps, and the bush area was similarly covered. The volunteer fire departments of both Oso and Hichinbrooke Townships were at camp within a short 12 minutes. Their efforts and concern were tremendous. However, the Dining Hall was completely destroyed but no other buildings, or activity sites. The Hall prepared and fed meals for over 300. It was beautiful, the nicest building in camp, 20 years old. Gone. Absolutely nothing left but three stone fireplaces!

Once the fire was under control the enormity started to hit! Three hundred bodies to feed in 3 days; no food and no place to feed them. But no one was hurt! A lot of camp memorabilia - gone. All equipment and food gone. I can remember saying to myself several times - you're lucky no one was hurt! So, what do we do now?

1) You need breakfast for 80 staff - call the friendly local grocery store man - tell him the problem, send up a truck and two people. Voila! Breakfast of fresh oranges, peanut butter and jam on bread (no toasters) and coffee. Everyone bring your own dish - meant for cookouts and canoe trips, 12 people boil your own kettle in your own cabin and bring it to each meal - can't blow any fuses!

2) Phone people let them know everyone is okay but, we have a problem. Start getting peoples' minds going. We found everyone to be extremely helpful and willing to do whatever possible.

3) The Army was great, they were able to supply stoves, tables and chairs for three hundred. They were most willing to help but they first had to be sure that all civilian resources had been exhausted. We, therefore, had to pay a fee - but it was minimal compared to "Chairman Mills".

4) Phone A.T.C.O. a company that provides mobile kitchen and dining units for people like Mining and Oil Companies. We were able to get a six tractor - trailer unit, three kitchen and three dining for camp - each unit 10' x 52'. Due to the long weekend, the distance it had to travel (from Thunder Bay) and problems with hook ups and equipment it took two weeks to put in place. For the rest of the summer we ate in two places but at the same time.

a) The "Chicken" our fond nickname for the A.T.C.O. trailers.

b) "Chimo" one of the lodges.

Prior to this, we ate in two shifts in the Senior Section Lodge with three domestic stoves, three domestic refrigerators and one freezer. The power supply to the lodge was at its limit. Our biggest problem was refrigeration. But, we managed. Emergency water supply was connected from a nearby shower house.

Other items of interest we learned from this experience;

- Keep your staff posted on what is going on, they are interested and need to know, they want to help out.

- Ensure that all aspects of your insurance policy are up to date, this includes your "extra expense" clause. This is what covers your extra expenses eg. paper service for the entire summer - sewage disposal to wash dishes was a problem for us, refrigerators and other equipment that you must buy for now but probably won't need in the new Dining Hall and many, many more expenses.

- Be extra stringent with all Health Act rules, the Health Inspector will be around frequently checking absolutely everything.

- Keep Smiling! A friend said to me, "You will find this experience 'galvanizing' for your staff". I didn't know quite what he meant - I do now!

It was fortunate that at the time June & Cliff Labbett - former directors and Lisa's parents were in Toronto. While the phone lines between camp and Toronto were kept busy it did help to have knowledgeable people located in Toronto. They were able to do a lot of local phone calls and contacts to keep things moving. Also they could pick up the items that were required quickly. The long holiday weekend and the campers' arrival was imminent and delivery of needed things was a necessity. Friends & family volunteered to deliver to camp in a few hours notice. We owe these people the world and wish to express our deepest appreciation! After much discussion it was decided to give a short written explanation to the parents as they arrived at the bus loading areas! Those who drove their children to camp saw the empty space!

Finally, put us on your telephone list of people to call if you are ever unfortunate enough to have such a tragedy. We would be happy to help you however possible!

LISA & BRUCE WILSON,
Camp Oconto.

[Mother called her son for the third time, "I don't want to camp", said the son, "the kids laugh at me and call me names" "There are two reasons why you must go to camp" said the mother, "First you are already packed, and second you are the Director"!]



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Having school groups at your camp is a big undertaking. Many aspects including programme must be considered.

The book Sunship Earth offers a five day program to help children understand how their world functions. (Geared to those students in grades four to six).

On a smaller scale, Acclimatization offers a sensory and conceptual approach to a students' ecological involvement with nature. For example, different areas of day study in bogs, forests and freshwater marshes are accompanied with such concepts as land formation, food chains and adaptation.

Acclimatizing contains a personal and reflective approach to a natural relationship with the earth. There are exercises to sharpen ones senses and to learn how to perceive things in nature as a whole.

Acclimatization: Cost \$8.25 (members); \$9.90 (non-members).

Acclimatizing: Cost \$9.65 (members); \$11.55 (non-members).

Sunship Earth: Cost \$18.60 (members); \$22.30 (non-members).

Don't forget the Christmas Special! A 10% discount on Photography of Natural Things, Magic Ring, Clouds on the Clothesline and The Earth Speaks. Offer expires November 30, 1986. See the fall issue of the Canadian Camping Magazine for details.

Orders that are \$20.00 or less must be prepaid with \$2.00 added for shipping.

Available from C.C.A. office by mail or phone:

Canadian Camping Association
1806 Avenue Road, Suite 2
Toronto, Ontario
M5M 3Z1
(416) 781-4717.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - C.C.A.

ALL O.C.A. MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

If you are aware of any camps who are not members of the Association the Membership Committee would like to hear about them.

CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION

The Publications Committee of the Canadian Camping Association needs TORONTO volunteers who would enjoy getting books together to fill book orders from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the U.S. of A. and even abroad! It's fun to see where they all go!

SPECIFIC DUTIES WOULD INCLUDE:

1 - 2 hours per week to come to the office at Suite 2, 1806 Avenue Road, Toronto, pack them, and mail them.

If you could donate a few hours a week or every two weeks, please contact Irene Knapp, at the CCA/ACC office, phone number (416) 781-4717.

WE NEED YOU!!!

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Anyone wishing to contribute articles, pictures, information, etc. to the Canadian Camping Magazine, please submit to John Jorgenson at Camp Tawingo, R.R. #1, Huntsville, Ontario, POA 1K0. (705) 789-5612.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Recently at a dinner and sing-song at the Harbour Castle Hilton, about 1,000 alumni celebrated the 65th anniversary of the Taylor Statten Camps, Ahmek and Wapomeo in Algonquin Park.

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Congratulations to Kim Lowes & Ceciley Parker of Camp Timberlane on the birth of their second daughter, Jessica, October 7th, 1986.

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**WANTED:** A Toronto delegate wishing to travel by car and share expenses to Washington, D.C. for Pre-Conference event. Please contact O.C.A. office.

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REMINDER:- Membership fees were due October 1st.
Directory listings were due October 15th.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 26th, 1986 - 7:30 P.M. O.C.A. office.

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RESIDENT CAMP FAIR

January 8, 1987 at Mooredale Community Centre. Limited space available - \$250.00/booth or \$25.00/pamphlet display only. Contact Marj Booth 922-3714 by November 20th, 1986.

HELP WANTED

For the summer of '87 for Glen Mhor Camp, Baysville, Ont. (a Presbyterian Church camp):

Reg. nurses for various camp periods - apply as soon as possible.
Programme and kitchen staff - apply by Jan. 15, 1987.
Counsellors (age 16 and up) - apply by Feb. 15, 1987.

Contact: Mrs. Ruth Millar, 419 Edgehill Dr., R.R. #2, Barrie, Ont. L4M 4S4 for further information.



ANNOUNCING 1987

OCA CONFERENCE FOR DIRECTORS & SENIOR STAFF

**JANUARY 15 - 17, 1987.
INN ON THE PARK, TORONTO**

Six in-depth seminars, over 50 interest sessions, general sessions, exhibits and entertainment.

Featuring:- Three-day Conference-Hotel Package. Plan to stay!

Conference Preview & Registration information will be available after October 22nd, 1986.