



JUNE 1991

EDITOR: JANET ADAMSON

"One disadvantage of having nothing to do is that you can't stop and rest."

- Franklin P. Jones

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This newsletter is the last until the fall. By now we all have a work list that stretches right around the dining hall and the optimism that it will be all complete before the kids arrive. Have a summer of laughter, adventure and caring. What a great business to be in!

This column is a chance to salute a very special person. As most of you are aware, Jean McIlwrick is retiring as the OCA Administrative Secretary after 13 years in that position. Jean has managed the OCA office with a special combination of talents - an insistence on producing an incredible volume of work in short order, the ability to juggle sometimes conflicting demands, the tolerance for the often erratic life of a volunteer association and the caring

for the details that the rest of us have missed.

She has survived 7 presidents, 37 conferences, workshops and seminars, been part of the computerization of the OCA, worked her way through 3 photocopiers and millions of packages of paper.

Jean's retirement officially begins in July and she and her husband Eric are moving to Burlington. We wish you all the best, Jean, for a very happy retirement and we thank you. You're quite a lady!

LIZ GREENWAY  
President

#### WELCOME

Wendy Campa has been hired as the new Administrative Secretary for the OCA, effective June 17th. Wendy brings a great deal of

experience and enthusiasm to the position as well as expertise as mother to campers. This will allow her to see both sides of camping.

Wendy will be working with Jean in June and July to ensure a smooth transition in the office. For many of us who are already up at camp, official introductions will need to wait till the fall, but please introduce yourselves on the phone!

#### OFFICE NEWS

Office Hours: During the months of July and August, our hours will be 10 to 3, Monday to Friday.

Camper Vacancy Program: Starting June 10th, please let us know of your camper vacancies. For more information, see the enclosed flyer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Janet,

I was recently reminded of the impact camping has on people's lives... especially mine. This reminder came not from a special activity or event from my camper days, but rather with identification with a certain person who made a difference to me. As I reflect on this I also realize there were many important people from my camping experiences who created similar impressions.

Pine Cresters from the late 40's, 50's and early 60's may share my impressions of a golden era dominated by colourful personalities. They provided experiences and memories that will last as long as stories and tales of camping are told.

Pine Cresters... who among you will forget Sass Peepre loving nature, sharing it with you and making you feel confident in what was for many a strange environment compared to the city. Or Ralph Lovel whose stories made him a legend in his own time. There were many others of course, though most are gone now. Each brings forth their own vivid images of a time past. Recently, Sid Reynolds passed away and it hit me more than ever how he and others like him were what made camping so great. My most valued memories are not of the fantastic site, the great activities or magical events; it was people like Sid chomping on his ever present cigar, puffing smoke at you if you

were slow to rise at the wake-up bell; playing ring toss for hours with a constant chatter that made you feel good about everything including losing the game to him; or watching in awe as he gave a shrill whistle and a big black bird would swoop down and perch on his shoulder. Joey the Crow would reach for the ever-present peanuts in Sid's front pocket and then on cue fly off to some nearby tree to seemingly watch over his benefactor.

If there is any question about the value found in camping, we Pine Cresters from this period know the answer is as close as our memories of the many years spent with these unforgettable characters who made it such a rich place.

I am deeply saddened by Sid's passing, but he and others like him live forever with us and those we share our experiences with. Oh yes - Sid, if you are listening, you will hear our entire camp give your famous cheer to the youngsters who become swimmers for the first time...  
BRRRRRRRRRAVO!

TED YARD  
Camp Hollyburn

FAX FACTS

The OCA Office now has a FAX machine. If non-OCA business is conducted via the fax machine, the charge will be 50¢ per page (local calls only). No long distance will be permitted. The charge must be paid in cash when the message is picked up.

OCA ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council is comprised of the Board of Directors, Committee and Task Forces Chairpersons and Regional Representatives, and as a group it meets three times a year. Our April meeting focused on the year's goals for committees and identified any conflicts, overlaps or co-operative possibilities. We also discussed potential submissions for government grants.

In the morning, the regional representatives held a meeting to update and identify concerns. By all reports, it was a productive day!

At the Board Meeting on the same day, the Board made a commitment to the 1992 Directors' Conference budget with **NO FEE INCREASE FROM 1991**. Brit Lowes, our Treasurer, will be presenting the OCA budget for approval at the May 27th Board Meeting.

WAY TO GO!

At a recent "green tie" affair, Camp Allsaw Owner and OCA Honourary Life Member, Sam Hambly, rubbed elbows with our Environment Minister, Ruth Grier. Sam was the recipient of the Ontario Recycling Council Award for Waste Minimization in recognition of his lifetime commitment to creating a new generation of composters. Congratulations, Sam!

## S. A. B. L. E.

The Senior Adult Bark Lake Experience has organized since 1985 a fun and learning extended weekend camp for seniors. The event is held at the Ontario Camp Leadership Centre in the Haliburton Highlands, and is run by seniors for seniors. The aim of the organization is to provide participants with leadership skills, which can then be applied in other programs and clubs.

SABLE actively encourages and assists other seniors to form their own camp programs.

For more information please contact:

Program Supervisor  
404/Rotary Adult Centre  
510 Dutton Drive  
Waterloo, Ont. N2L 4C6  
(519) 888-6356

## FOR SALE

Two large stainless steel pots. Never been used. Please call Lisa or Bruce Wilson at Camp Oconto, (416) 470-2030.

## NEW AFFILIATED MEMBER

A warm welcome to:  
TOWN OF SIMCOE, COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## NEW BRUNSWICK NEWS

We welcome Dana Welner, New Brunswick Camping Association President. He may be reached at: NBCA, Regent Station, 4-403 Regent St., Fredericton, N.B., E3B 3X6, (506) 459-1929.

## BETWEEN THE COVERS



Acclimatization - by Steve Van Matre

This is a classic in its field and is internationally recognized as a unique method of nature education. This program began the movement away from field identification toward an emphasis on helping individuals understand and become a part of our natural world. Used since its inception as the basic concept in outdoor education, its thrust has been followed by many organizations and agencies in the field. It details an original six-day program utilizing a combined sensory and conceptual approach applicable to youth camps, nature centres, and school outdoor education programs. Methodology and special groups techniques are fully described.

Tenth printing; softbound; 132 pages.

Cost: \$14.00 (includes shipping and GST).

Books reviewed in "Between the Covers" are available from the Canadian Camping Association. Single copies must be prepaid by cheque or VISA (please show account number, full name on the card and expiry date). To order or for information on large orders, please write or phone:

CCA Bookstore  
1806 Avenue Road, Suite 2  
Toronto, Ont. M5M 3Z1  
(416) 781-4717

## ROPES COURSE SAFETY

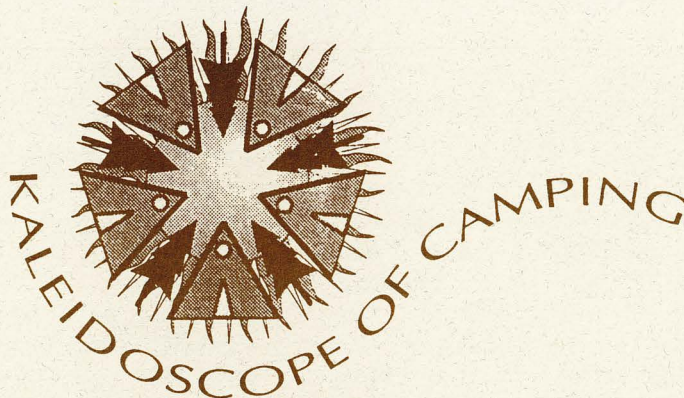
**Editor's Note:** the following article was submitted by one of OCA's two Commercial Members specializing in ropes course training. Camp Directors may also wish to contact the Canadian Ropes Course Co. Inc., P.O. Box 693, St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 6Y3, (416) 984-8797.

\* \* \*

In recent months I have received many calls and letters from organized camps regarding ropes course safety, construction techniques, equipment and materials, standards, etc. I feel that with the rapid growth of ropes course applications in camping that I should respond through the Ontario Camping Association newsletter.

As I'm sure you are aware, a rapidly growing number of Canadian camps have built "ropes courses". Through both the on-going efforts of Alan Hale's National Safety Network and the Project Adventure 15-Year Safety Study we know that ropes courses can be operated with enviable safety records. However, we are also aware that safety issues such as "home-built" components, out-of-date construction techniques, lack of comprehension instructor training, and unauthorized access have all resulted in a number of very serious injuries.

Project Adventure Canada (PAC) was recently established as a non-profit educational organization.



**1992 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
FOR DIRECTORS, OWNERS AND SENIOR STAFF**

JANUARY 23-25, 1992  
The Sheraton Centre, Toronto

It has developed internationally recognized construction and training standards and textbooks which dramatically reduce the risk of ropes course operations to levels comparable to a physical education class or camp recreational games program. In addition, Ziplines, a quarterly publication, provides an international network (Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, Singapore and U.S.A.) for the exchange of ideas by organizations and individuals who utilize the Challenge Ropes Course in educational, recreational or therapeutic settings.

I believe that the entire adventure learning industry will benefit by collective efforts to ensure that camp directors receive the latest and safest in adventure programs. Best wishes in the upcoming camping season.

MIKE LAURENCE  
Project Adventure Canada  
4½ Clark St.  
St. Catharines, Ont.  
L2R 5G2; (416) 682-2657

**O C A C A L E N D A R  
O F E V E N T S**

**Skills Weekend.....**  
.....June 7-10, 1991

**Annual Conference 1992.....**  
.....January 23-25, 1992

Ontario Camping Association  
1806 Avenue Road, Suite 2  
Toronto, Ont. M5M 3Z1  
(416) 781-0525  
Fax (416) 781-7875

Planning for our 1992 OCA Annual Conference is well on its way!

Fantastic workshops and seminars will provide sessions that will interest everyone - from experienced directors to first year senior staff to support staff.

Thursday seminar streams are: Future Trends  
Staff Development  
The Campers  
Legislative Issues  
Innovative Programs

Friday and Saturday WORKSHOP STREAMS will include:  
Program  
Staff Training  
Senior Management  
Sticky Situations  
Current Issues  
Day Camping  
Director's ABCs  
Cultural Awareness

Special keynote speaker on Saturday morning will be ROSALIE WYSOCKI - noted Canadian motivational speaker - who will also present a full day seminar (special ticket required).

Buskers - songs - magic - friendship - exhibits - even a CAMPFIRE!

Sessions and fun for everyone - so mark the date on your calendar now and watch for your summer flyer.

\* \* \*

With appreciation of our monthly Conference '92 meetings, warmly hosted by Catherine Ross, the committee enjoyed Kaleidoscopic Magic with the vibrant delivery of Jeff Bradshaw's magnificent array of workshop speakers. Join with me in appreciation of the following who have contributed to this initial speaker organization for January '92: Barb McDonald - co-chair

Don Haag  
Jill Dundas  
Jeff Hemstreet  
David Neal  
Janie Romoff  
Bruce Hodgins  
Catherine Ross

Barb Gilbert  
Marjorie Booth  
Rona Satov  
Jane Ballantyne  
Renata Hosek  
Tina Gauvin

MARGARET BERNARDO,  
Wabikon

