



OCAsional News

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Creating Joy

Gentle Reader, the "truth" about pain and suffering is clearly a matter of perspective. More than one "truth" exists at the same time. Abused children's experience has shown them that they have little or nothing to laugh about—they cannot escape their lives. They do not know how to find joy or safety in the world. They have no sense of belonging, and do not know how to learn to trust themselves or others. They do not know how to be themselves alone or in groups. They need compassionate, enthusiastic camp counsellors who are sensitized to the complexities of the issues they face on a daily basis. Camp can be a refuge: a place where they want to return. Abused or traumatized children may be really nervous in groups, and need lots of elbow room because they feel trapped. They may want to sit close to the door, and leave the door open. Be approachable.

It is hard work for abused or traumatized children to open up this way to their new counsellors; some may not be able to prevent themselves from crying. Listen calmly, Gentle Reader, with your open heart. Remind the child to breathe. Exhale yourself, slowly. The child will see your shoulders settle. Inhale. The child will see your chest expanding. The child glimpses that you are a human being with a body. When children are being abused, they are not being allowed to be human. If you tell them to relax, chances are they will not understand what you mean; they have learned from experience that to relax was dangerous, perhaps life-threatening. They may be afraid of counsellors and others in positions of authority, and they may always speak up when you ask questions, trying to protect the other children in the group. Suggest he/she watch and listen to how his/her peers create the environment too, rather than be responsible for them. Invite these children into activities, respecting their right to say no. Get excited about what excites the child. The more you actively listen and encourage them to

explore what they are curious about, the more they learn. As they open up and take in more of the healthy world, their world of trauma recedes. Your positive comments reflect back to them that indeed they have learned something and what they have learned was as valuable to you as it was to them. Slowly, they feel something move inside their bodies—a little chunk of fear inside their guts breaks away. Slowly, they come to feel that they aren't stupid. When they know they are being heard, they breathe easier; they learn that they do not have to try so hard, so often, to be heard. They feel respected. They feel more like a human being, less like an alien at camp. They feel happy.

Education and healing are synonymous. Good counsellors create space for the teller, the tale, the telling and the told. They create spaces safe enough for children to voice the stories of their wounds. They recognize that survivors' voicing of their stories is integral to their education-in-community. This enables and empowers survivors to create within themselves a healing, listening space. Whatever form their stories take, they must be told, for the telling brings the teller to compassion for him/herself. Survivors of abuse, trauma and violence are experts in survival. They need space and time to learn and grow. They need freedom. Survival stories are both personal and practical. Through dialogue, both the survivor's meaning and the listener's meaning may change, as they share their different perspectives. The healing process involves the survivor gaining distance from the violent events, and opening to more perspectives. Counselling without love is tyranny. My definition of love here means the counsellor allowing the child to learn how to actively embrace the freedom and responsibility of being a co-creator of his or her own life-with-others. In practice, nurture them gently, firmly, and consistently. Encourage them to actively

cultivate a liberating imagination and develop a unique sense of personal identity. Violence has taught them to dread the suffering of pain and/or death on a moment-by-moment basis. Loving counsellors offer hope, and abused or traumatized children gain the opportunity to cultivate an internal capacity for relief from suffering as well as a wholesome sense of humour with which to celebrate life and to enjoy a healthy, peaceful sense of personal history. Although this process takes a lifetime of learning, compassionate counsellors can affirm—through word and deed—that this is the healing moment.

Through empathetic listening, counsellors help these children build trust in self as well as learn how to feel safer inside their own skins. Good counsellors who work closely with children are neither threatened nor afraid of the real lives of their campers. They do not lie, do not punish, do not deliberately cause children pain. They stand by their words and actions in the privacy of their offices and in the public forum of the bonfire.

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**"If it weren't for the last minute,
nothing would get done." — Anonymous**

'Nash'onal News

I recently had the opportunity to watch two features about camp on a New York City television station's 11:00 p.m. newscast. The pieces were entitled, "How Safe is Your Child's Camp?", and the initial report centered on two camp tragedies in the Tri-State area, the first an instance of severe brain damage and the second a death. One was a day camp, the other a residential camp; but the similarities were greater than the differences. Both involved water activities. Both involved boys about 12 or 13 years of age. Both campers were typically active youngsters who played sports, enjoyed their respective previous camp experiences, and were happy about the program they were involved in. Both campers could swim. Both camps had long histories, and were well-respected in their communities. But investigations showed that neither camp had anticipated the potential dangers of the particular situations they placed the boys in on the day of the respective accidents, and neither camp had trained their staff in proper rescue procedures.

While the second TV report featured the laws in New York State and the inspections governmental agencies carry out there, I could not help but think that laws alone, or even laws coupled with inspections, cannot guarantee that there will never be an accident at camp. Even the most experienced camp directors cannot guarantee this.

But we can guarantee to look at every program we offer with a critical eye. We can ask ourselves, "What can go wrong here?" We can develop plans for specific as well as general emergency situations. We can look at every activity in terms of safety, as well as in terms of fun and costs. Most of all, we can train our staff and regularly practice the procedures we develop. Perhaps, in this way, an accident will not turn into a tragedy.

I know that the first item of business at my camp's training sessions this year will be a review of safety procedures, and a plan for practicing them often throughout the summer. I hope that you will be doing the same at your camp. I wish you all a fun-filled, happy and SAFE summer.

Ellen Nash
OCA President

Commercial Member Update

The following is an update to the Commercial Member's list published in the 1999 *Camping Guide* and in April's *OCA'sional News*.

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905-781-4167

e-mail: jpowell@idirect.com

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Editor's Note

Everyone loves a mystery. As a child, I adored reading myths, fairy tales and stories of the unexpected and the unexplained. One favourite true story was that of the *Marie Celeste*, the brigantine that was found floundering at sea in 1872, its crew no longer on board. Everything seemed orderly, yet there were bloodstains on the deck, and the half-eaten remains of meals were left on the tables. My friends and I would endlessly discuss the circumstances and speculate: what had happened to the crew members? What would have caused them to abandon ship, despite a rich cargo of crude alcohol, plenty of food and munitions, and under apparently smooth sailing conditions? This exercise never failed to satisfy our need for intrigue.

I still remember vividly the day when I shared the story of the *Marie Celeste* with an acquaintance. "Oh," she said blithely, "they discovered what happened on that ship!" She then proceeded to tell me what the authorities had discovered and how they had managed to prove the reasons for the abandonment of the ship. I felt an overwhelming sense of disappointment. This was not because not one of the theories my little friends and I had concocted was the "true" one; it was rather than I felt the loss of the mystery itself. The

Marie Celeste was just another ship, discovered under unusual but totally explainable circumstances. I mourned the loss of the ghostly *Marie Celeste*. Cold hard facts had put an end to that.

At camp, there are many opportunities to share a sense of wonder with children. Gazing up into a night sky, we can tell them about the constellations and how the names evolved from early civilizations' mythologies. We can tell them that the starlight shining down on us originated many, many thousands of years ago and is only now reaching us. We can "wow" campers with a spectacular candlelighting. We can thrill them with traditional ghost tales. We can show them that not everything in nature can, or should be, explained. Sometimes we need a *Marie Celeste* to keep us wondering.

Fiora Hawryluk
Editor

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Making Up The Difference

This is dedicated to all those who insist one person can't make a difference.

On composting: Red wigglers in a vermicomposter eat their weight in food each day and yield compost in one quarter of the time it takes a backyard composter to produce compost. (Source: RCO)

On recycling: The energy saved by recycling one aluminum can is enough energy to power the average Canadian television set for 108 minutes. (Source: Alcan)

On recycled paper: Making one tonne of recycled paper uses only about 60% of the energy needed to make a tonne of virgin paper. (Source: Recycler's Handbook)

On water conservation: The amount of water saved by rinsing a toothbrush in a tumbler of water instead of running the tap is 4,000 litres. (Source: New Environment)

My advice is, if you're a conservationist, definitely keep that as your day job. Keep informed, keep promoting, keep teaching: the only wealth in knowledge is in knowledge shared.

Mina MacRae
Camp Allsaw

Bolton Camp To Close

After an intensive review of its many counselling and community service programs, Toronto's largest social service agency, the Family Service Association of Toronto, has announced the closing of its Bolton Camp and Conference Centre Facility in Bolton, Ontario. Driven by the changing needs of its clients—low income families and vulnerable communities—the Family Service Association of Toronto plans to put the Camp and Conference Centre facility up for sale later this year. While the camp has been providing recreational programs to children from low-income families for more than 75 years, the agency no longer felt that it was meeting the emerging needs of the many families and new immigrant communities that turn to the agency for help each year.

"Increased urbanization of the area surrounding the property continues to negatively impact the quality of our camping programs," says Bolton Camp and Conference Centre Director, Bob Christensen. "We are also seeing an increasing need to make our services more accessible by providing programs to our clients within their own communities, which will also make it possible for us to impact a greater number of families in need across Toronto. In addition, our most recent experiences have shown us that we can make a more dramatic impact in our clients' lives by shifting from a residential model like Bolton, to a more prevention-based model which works with families at the early stages of their child's development." Increasing capital costs of both maintaining and

investing in the facility was another factor that influenced the decision to close the camp.

To celebrate Bolton Camp's last summer in operation and honour the camp's rich history, the Family Service Association of Toronto will be hosting a series of events throughout the summer. These celebration activities will be aimed at giving past and present campers, staff and volunteers an opportunity to remember the camp, tour the grounds and re-connect with old friends. The events will also be open to the surrounding Bolton community.

The Bolton Camp staff will also be working with its many partner agencies and clients to ensure that all of its current campers are put in touch with other quality summer residential programs for next summer.

C. Robert Christensen
Director, Residential Programs
Bolton Camp and Conference Centre

Camping Makes the World Go Round

This is a reminder about two important dates in the months ahead.

July 31/99: This is the first registration deadline for the Fifth International Camping Congress to be held in Tokyo, Japan in the Fall of 2000. A registration form and other notes about the Congress were mailed with the May 1999 *OCA'sional News*. Please visit the official Congress website at: <http://tour.tokyu.com/icc/index.html>.

Payments via VISA and MasterCard are accepted online. We encourage Canadian delegates to register directly with the Congress Committee AND to call me (905-631-2849) or e-mail me (campwenonah@sympatico.ca) to be added to our Canadian delegation list, so that we can provide further details about the Congress.

Please also note the 1999 ICF Steering Committee Meetings are being held in Japan in late September. On the agenda is a full orientation to the program and facilities that will be used for Congress 2000. I'll be providing a full report upon my return in a future issue of the *OCA'sional News*.

August 1/99: Since 1995, ICF Member Camps have been celebrating the International World of Camping on August 1st each year. This day gives us one moment when many children are gathered in camping programs and when all of us can celebrate the great world of outdoor experience we have created.

We hope that you'll pause for a moment on August 1st and help us to bring together our world of outdoor experience!

Finally, beginning in the Fall, this space will be used on a rotating basis to bring OCA members news of both ICF and the Canadian Camping Association. John "Jorgi" Jorgenson (CCA President-Elect) will be a regular contributor and will bring us news about camping from every corner of Canada.

Jeff Bradshaw
Canadian Representative
International Camping Fellowship

Yours For The Asking

This marks the start of a break for **Yours For The Asking**. After two years, and countless questions asked and answers given, the Editorial Committee felt it was time to give our panel a well-deserved vacation. Many thanks to Elaine and Ted Cole, of Camp Walden, and Tracy Shand, of Naorca Camp, for so thoughtfully sharing their knowledge with our readers.

Question: What do you consider the top things to keep in mind to keep a day camp's transportation systems running smoothly? Do you organize activities on your buses? Do your bus counsellors (if that is the term you use at your camp) receive any special training, or require any additional certifications?

Tracy Shand responds: The key things to keep in mind include: exceptional organization, well-trained head bus counsellors, and ongoing communication with bus drivers and the bus service provider. We must have accurate records of who is getting on and off each bus at each stop. Bus attendance is taken every morning and evening as campers board buses. Bus attendance forms are kept in the office so that our office clerk can assist via walkie-talkies with any questions while we board buses. Younger campers are walked right to their bus at the end of each day. We ask that parents notify us in advance of any changes.

Our head bus counsellors receive additional training regarding their role and responsibilities during pre-camp, and they actually practice taking bus attendance. All staff are evenly distributed throughout the buses for safety, camper supervision, and bus programming. All staff sign up and program on the buses each morning (e.g., game shows, skits, safety rules, bus cheers, etc.). Staff are asked to be at their assigned bus stops prior to the arrival of the bus to welcome parents and campers. In the event of a bus delay, staff are trained to call the camp for information.

In the evening, campers are tired and staff are not asked to program but they do supervise all campers and wait with them at bus stops until the parents pick up the campers. This way, buses can continue on with scheduled routes.

We strive for good and ongoing communication with the bus drivers and the bus service. If we know of potential problems in advance, (e.g., a late or lost bus) we can work together to solve them in advance. A healthy relationship with the bus drivers/service (meeting with them prior to camp, etc.) helps us to have shared goals and values with respect of the quality of the bus service we provide to campers and their parents.

Question: The summer is quickly approaching —yeah! But one issue I dread facing yet again this year is how to advise my staff on how they could best use their time off. I don't want to come off sounding preachy, but when I see them heading for what I know will be some serious partying, I can't help but think that they're not going to be in tiptop shape when they return. (We do mention in our staff manual that they must "not be under the influence" at any time, so that includes hangover, etc.). Do you have any suggestions or should I just resign myself and hope, as they get older, they'll use their time off more wisely?

Elaine and Ted Cole respond: Resign yourself to the fact that staff are going to party on days off. What is not acceptable is if they come into

camp "under the influence" or "hung over." In our camp staff manual, which all staff receive with their contract, our camp policy on this issue is reviewed. Also, during pre-camp, I review it again, along with the consequences.

As a director and mother, I do reach the staff by reading a certain article I once cut out from the paper about a 17-year-old boy who was killed in a car accident. I speak from the heart, that no one is invincible or immortal —to make sure seat belts are done up and that everyone has one; to watch and protect one another; and reinforce that they are equally responsible for their friend's fate as they are for their own.

Unfortunately, we can't wait until they get older —the time is now —to speak up, act on if needed, listen to their needs, and most of all, as they pull out of the camp gate, remind them to have fun but be careful!

Check Out
The OCA Website

www.ontcamp.on.ca



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*July 23, 24, & 25

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Powerful Healing

continued from page 1

They honour their positions of power by empowering children. They deeply appreciate the struggle of each child; they struggle together. As caring counsellors, they also do not try to rescue the child but encourage them to say "no" in the course of guiding them to their own "yes." Good counsellors pose questions of their own, out in the open. They take time, choose questions with care, and questions, not answers, keep the exploration alive. They take risks, being fellow explorers, learners, and laughers.

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones. Proverbs 17:22

Wholesome, spontaneous laughter provides powerful healing for the bodymind. The physiology of laughter, including its generation, properties, routes, and influences within the bodymind, connect us joyfully, eternally, to the humanity of our selves, and to others. Sharing our humour with others, laughing with them, also enhances their immune systems. We immediately recognize that we have achieved a spontaneous, inarticulate, yet "voiced" something. The stress of our "work" suddenly evaporates, as we feel our bodily nervousness and tightness loosen. When we are in a stressful situation, we tend to narrowly focus our energy on coping with that stress, inhibiting ourselves from enjoying the panorama of life.

Abused or traumatized children experience stress as mounting pressure inside the body, requiring more and more energy to keep it restrained. They try to hold themselves together by holding their breath in their bodies. They feel afraid and alone, that they're being watched. They forget that they are free. Despite their attempts to hide their stress, their hands may shake visibly, they may weep. Whereas in yoga and meditation one seeks to immerse oneself in inner quiet despite the loudness and busyness of the exterior world, in laughter we experience internal release precisely by engaging and celebrating life in the external world with others. Because we exhale more than we inhale during laughter, we compensate by "gulping" air between the hee's and the haw's. This sweeps out the residual air that lingers about in the lungs during normal breathing, taking excess carbon dioxide and water vapour with it. Thus, the red blood cells can pick up more oxygen. This is called pulmonary ventilation. Furthermore, although laughing significantly increases both systolic (moment of heart contraction) and diastolic (moment between heart contractions) blood pressure, after laughter has subsided, blood pressure drops below the pre-laughter level before returning gradually to baseline. During laughter, increased heart rate and blood pressure enhance circulation, boosting transport of blood nutrients throughout the body.

Let camp be the opposite of the abused or traumatized child's fearful experience. Let there be peace. Literally, wholehearted gusts of healthy laughter sweep through body chambers, dramatically changing body chemistry, behaviour, and sense of well-being, mobilizing the body's innate healing energies.

The unforgettable laughing moment is, in itself, a whole story, a wholesome story of the body, a story of bodily wholeness. We create laughing moments within self, self-with-other, and within other. Opening our selves to those in distress, embracing them with our laughter, is a nurturing act of love. Laughing moments enrich our lives with pleasure each time they are remembered, inspiring us to create more such moments. We need to cherish the medicinal properties of laughter, as well as the freedom, joy, and peace it brings. We need to cultivate a hearty sense of humour in our selves, and share it generously. When we laugh, we are defenceless, and our bodies are healing. For the abused or traumatized child being defenceless in laughter is highly educational in a bodily sense. S/he does not know how, and cannot learn how to let go of fears that helped saved his/her life.

Through healthy laughter with others, fears let go of the one who is afraid. Laughter is concrete proof of acceptance of our humanity. To the child who has been denied his/her humanity by being gagged by abuse or trauma, the sound of his/her own cheerful voice erupting and mixing with others is a gift of breath wrapped in gold ribbons of happiness.

Gentle Reader, you are these children's witnesses. With your help, these children bring down the lie that survivors of violence should live in fear and silence. Through your counselling, you show these children how to practice being a compassionate being. Healing counsellors are carried for a lifetime in the hearts of abused, growing children some of them will become camp counsellors. May they remember you as a creator of joy, a light in the darkness.

Dr. Matthew W.G. Stewart

Editor's Note: Dr. Matthew Stewart is a survivor-researcher-educator, artist and author who speaks about the nitty-gritty of intrafamilial trauma, survival and recovery. He begins with the premise that we "learn with our bodies" and how abused people have barriers to learning; they do not have a sense of their bodies as being whole. Dr. Stewart earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Trauma and Recovery at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. Regrettably, due to space limitations, the OCA's News was unable to print in full Dr. Stewart's article. For a complete copy you can reach him at: Tel: 705-876-0514; Website: www.learningtoheal.com; e-mail: mstewart@learningtoheal.com.

OCA New Provisional Camps

Over the past few months the following camps have been approved as Provisional Members and we at OCA would like to welcome them.

Camp Marshes and Moccasins
Laura Strachan
Midland, ON
705-526-7809

Gorton Summer Camp and Petting Farm
Ruth Anne Gorton
Brigden, ON
519-864-4132

Camp McDougall
Vivian Elsby
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
705-945-1548

Grippen Lake Camp
Ron Ferguson
Smith Falls, ON
613-283-7220

Rainbow Lake Camp
Todd Fraleigh
Hamilton, ON
905-527-1992

Harbourkids Camps
Jeremy "Boomer" Stacey
Toronto, ON
416-973-4093

Zodiac Swim & Specialty Camp
Rick & Ellen Howard
Toronto, ON
416-789-1989

Camp Kennebec
Steve Hannon
Arden, ON
613-335-2114

Okimau

On April 8th, Dr. Bruno Morawetz, or "Okimau" as those of us from Camp Ponacka knew him, gently passed away at his home in Peterborough. The spirit of Okimau lives in every person for whom he had the opportunity of providing encouragement; his story is one of both compassion and wisdom. It is said that some things have to first be believed in order to be seen; such is the case with the philosophy and guiding principles that Okimau promoted in creating his camp in 1947. Simply put, Bruno lived his life in a fashion that can only be referred to as incomparable; his impression on so many people has been truly heartfelt. Dr. Morawetz was a gentleman who lived the adage of integrity: that what one thinks matches what one says and is consistent with what one does. No detail or concern of a camper or counsellor was ever too small to be disregarded. In fact, Okimau's belief in the importance of the unimportant was perhaps the guiding principle upon which his infectious personality was of extraordinary comfort to all who were fortunate enough to be touched by his counsel, generosity and kindness.

It has been a rare honour to work for a gentleman whose life has been dedicated to ensuring that his philosophy of camps and of living is one that remains vital. The simplicity of Ponacka's mission is perhaps its greatest strength: that camp is for the campers. On the one hand, one would think that such a comment is nothing but a statement of the obvious, but to live its principle is the challenge that has allowed Ponacka to enjoy success and to

be a home in which young people have the opportunity to learn and grow in a truly nurturing environment.

A few days prior to his passing, I had the opportunity to say good-bye to Okimau. During this visit, he talked of the importance of living a meaningful death. Such a statement seems like a paradox, but upon reflection, it is perhaps the most appropriate way to continue a lifetime for which I am eternally grateful to have been exposed. The lessons Okimau has taught shall continue to be principles of warmth, sincerity and charity.

Walter Davison
Assistant Director, Camp Ponacka

CLUB WHITESANDS

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Positions Available

Camp Kawartha, co-ed residential summer camp, seeks a Director for a Leadership-in-Training Program. The successful candidate will have a least 4 years in a program staff position, experience developing and facilitating leadership programs for youth, strong organizational and interpersonal skills and

a minimum of Bronze Cross. Tripping and adventure challenge course skills an asset. Responsibilities include: management and facilitation of the L.I.T. level 2 program, supervision and evaluation of the candidates in the program. Please call 705-652-3860 for more info, or mail or fax your résumé to: Adrienne Ross, Summer Camp Director, Camp Kawartha, R.R. #4, Lakefield, Ontario K0L 2H0. Fax number: 705-652-1500.

The Scott Mission Camp is accepting applications for the year-round position of Child and Youth Worker. Duties will eventually include Program Director responsibilities at our camp and year-round coordination of our after-school programs in Toronto. Applicants may start at summer camp or in September. Forward résumé to Monica Stocks: Scott Mission Camp, 502 Spadina Ave. Toronto, ON M5S 2H1. Toronto phone: 416-923-8872. Camp phone: 905-838-2713. Fax: 416-923-1067.

Standards Visits

In 1998 the OCA visited over 100 hundred camps. This is a significant sign of commitment to our organization. As a result of the visits, 16 camps were asked to give the OCA "Letters of Undertaking" that they would bring up to standard those few areas where they were lacking in order to retain their accreditation. They were also informed that they must be prepared for a visit in 1999. All the camps involved agreed to the conditions. A similar process will be followed this year.

On April 28, 1999, under the effective leadership of Howard Oretsky, with April Young and Karen Gordon, and with substantial assistance from Bev Jahnke, of the OCA office, our annual Standards workshop was held. Over 50 camps were represented. Our new President, Ellen Nash, participated in answering many questions. One veteran Director, who missed the workshop last year but attended this year and whose camp was asked for a letter of undertaking said, "I wish I had been here last year and we could have probably avoided another visit this year."

Brian Blackstock,
OCA Board of Directors, Standards Liaison

OCA SKILLS WEEKEND

June 11-13, 1999
Glen Bernard Camp

A unique, fun and action-packed development and training event for staff in the camping and recreation field. A diversity of streams are offered during the weekend that focus on:

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Call the OCA office
for more information.

OCA's *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 September 15th for the October 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: \$50 per insert (up to three issues) or \$35 per issue (minimum four to maximum nine issues).

* Classified ads are sold with a maximum size of 25 words for a fee of \$15 for members and \$30 for non-members. Additional space sold in 25 word increments.

* Paid advertising content will not exceed editorial space.

* The *OCA's* *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 inquiries 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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June 2, 1999

To: All OCA Members

From: OCA Board

Re: Abuse Protocol Task Force

As you may be aware the OCA Board struck a task force to look into the issue of abuse protocol development & standards for camps. At the Directors Conference in February the issue was put forth to the membership on Sunday morning and it was agreed that this was a necessary process to continue. Under the leadership of Bill Stevens the task force has reviewed many existing protocols & practices utilized by member camps &/or organizations. They have also started the process of developing guidelines to be implemented as part of the accreditation process.

At the May Board meeting it was agreed, based on the recommendations of the task force, to adopt a two phase approach to this issue:

1. It is recommended that each member camp develop Abuse Protocols for their operations. These protocols should include (but would not be limited to) the Definition, Prevention, Detection and Reporting of the following:

Of Campers (children or adult):

-physical	-sexual	-emotional
-verbal	-neglect	-bullying

Of Staff/Volunteers:

-physical	-sexual	-harassment
-emotional	-verbal	-Human Rights

It is recommended that these protocols be put in place, where possible, for the 1999 camp season. At the minimum for the 1999 season, camps should evaluate their protocols & determine how they can be implemented for the 2000 camping season.

These documents are to be used as examples only and each camp must ensure their own protocols are approved to meet the needs of their operations.

Abuse Policies from various organizations are available from the OCA office at a cost of \$10.00 (copying/shipping/handling). In order to process your request we must receive payment at the time you order. You can pay by cash, cheque or VISA. We will process your VISA by phone if you wish to pay that way. If you need an invoice from us to initiate your order, we will accommodate you; however we will not process your order until payment is received.

2. During the 1999/2000 camping seasons the development of Abuse Protocol standards for accreditation be completed with input, discussion and resolution from the membership.

This task force is an evolving process and input from all camps is welcomed. If you have any suggestions, comments or other input into this process please don't hesitate to leave a message for Bill Stevens at the OCA office (416 781 0525) after September 7/99.