



OCAsional News

PUBLISHED BY THE ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1997

THE MUSINGS OF A SUMMER CAMP DIRECTOR IN WINTER

As winter and spring months move along, many of us begin to think about the warmer season to come. Of course, many of us are busily preparing for our day and resident camps this summer.

Child development experts such as Dr. Fraser Mustard have been telling us that the first few years of life are crucial to healthy child development. Mustard would tell us that after this point, it is often very difficult to compensate for the lack of nurturing and stimulating during the early years of life.

Recently, I was getting ready for work when I heard a very interesting interview on CBC with Dr. Dan Offord, an expert in child development and (coincidentally) a camp director of Christie Lake Camp.

Dr. Offord spoke of this research concerning the importance of the early years. He gave a refreshing piece of hope to all of us who work with children in camps, recreation programs, and child care centres. The influence of an adult figure who gives a child some feelings of success can in fact greatly enhance the child's development.

Dr. Offord gave an example of a boy who has a chance to take swimming lessons. The child's instructor is caring, takes time to learn about the child, and goes well beyond the simple role of teaching the child to swim. This boy is encouraged when he experiences success and has opportunities to pass his skills onto other beginner swimmers. Through a continuing spiral of success, caring leadership, and encouragement, the child eventually becomes a swim instructor. Best of all, this person feels valued by someone and can pass on those same relationships to others.

When it comes down to it, all children have something at which they can be successful. Finding that something and encouraging its growth is one of the most incredible things we can do. Think of your role with children now or this summer. We have countless opportunities to "catch" children doing something right. Beyond fostering success, our camps, have much to teach beyond the "program". Psychologist Daniel Goleman describes the "competencies"

that camps can give children. He says that camp can give children the competencies to learn to wait, learn to work with others, learn to compromise, learn to tolerate a greater level of frustration, learn to persevere, ask for help, have a more reasonable sense of self, learn to recognize one's own feelings, recognize the emotional reactions of others, positively express feelings, delay gratification, balance individual needs against the group's, and assess risk."

Developing these things in children is a fantastic opportunity for all of us!

BOB DEMARE

DIRECTOR, CAMP PINECREST

Sources: Radio Interview with Dr. Offord. Goleman, D. (1995). *Emotional Intelligence*. Bantam Books. Ditter, B. (1996). *Camping Magazine*. "The New Opportunity for Camp - A Deeper Commitment to People."

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NATURE FITS ALL HER CHILDREN WITH SOMETHING TO DO - JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

Tend Your Roses Well

From Barb's Laptop

Despite the slow arrival of warmer weather this year, campers and staff across the country, indeed around the world, are preparing for their time at camp. The cooler weather encourages gardeners to provide special care for tiny, emerging shoots and even hardy perennials. At camp we have an responsibility to care for all the unique individuals who call our camp "home" during the summer.

Accepting, suspending judgement, nurturing, tending, caring - regardless of our camp setting (or weather), we have the opportunity to ensure that everyone feels valued and receives that special care.

When we plant a rose seed in the earth, we notice that it is small, but we do not criticize it as "rootless and stemless". We treat it as a seed giving it water and nourishment required of a seed. When it first shoots up out of the earth, we don't condemn it as immature and underdeveloped; nor do we criticize the buds for not being open when they appear. We stand in wonderment at the process taking place and give the plant the care it needs at each stage of its development. The rose is a rose from the time it is a seed to the time it dies. Within it, at all times, it contains its whole potential. It seems to be constantly in the process of change; yet at each state, at each moment, it is perfectly all right as it is.

Things To Do

- ◆ Thank Mary Casey and the Healthcare Committee for the Healthcare Workshop
- ◆ Thank Maija Zeibots and her committee for the Counsellor Conference
- ◆ Get ready for Skills Weekend
- ◆ Prepare to do a Standards Visits this summer
- ◆ Buy a summer dress-up outfit for my niece's wedding
- ◆ Activate the Crisis Response Line for the summer - and hope that it is not needed
- ◆ Tend your roses well and enjoy an happy and safe summer

BARB GILBERT
PRESIDENT

Source: Gallwey, W. Timothy, (1974) The Inner Game of Tennis, New York: Random House, p. 29

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CHANGING STRATEGIES OF THE OCA INTEGRATION COMMITTEE

The Integration Committee of the Ontario Camping Association has adopted a policy of sub committees to better the focus of our mission.

Integration as it pertains to the Ontario Camping Association is the act of including children of different physical and physiological levels into our summer camps.

We have decided upon five sub committees which will play a major role in the overall operation of the primary committee. These sub committees are as follows: Education which will promote integration issues within other camping areas and committees. Other areas will include ensuring that the Camping Guide is user friendly and information is updated and current. This subcommittee will also be responsible for information columns in the OCAsional News. Networking will be responsible for such things as the Campfire of Inclusions, Breakfast Meetings, Camp Fairs, and exploring the feasibility of an integrated Directors Day. Inclusion will create themes for issues, set submission deadlines, get submissions through different means, use office resources and distribute Inclusions in conjunction with the OCAsional

News. Accessibility will provide education around barrier free and maintain open line of communication with political organizations which influence integration issues. Lastly, the Resource sub committee will develop "Yellow Pages" training ideas which resources are relevant to the camping community and explore avenues of funding and staffing required to meet the needs of our diverse population.

Our intention is to better serve the camping community by delegating different projects to different members and in turn have those projects be involved with the overall operation of the Ontario Camping Association.

If you would like to join the new OCA Integration Committee, please contact Sari Grossinger at Camp Robin Hood or Sarah Oosterhuis at Integra.

Our next integration meeting is June 9 which will be a pot luck Integration lunch. Please contact Sari or Sarah for details.

C. SMART
INTEGRATION COMMITTEE

OCA BOARD MEMBERS

President: Barb Gilbert, R.R.#4, Brighton, Ont. K0K 1H0 H: 613-475-1689 Fax: 613-475-2938

Vice President: Bob Smith, 142 Hillhurst Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M5N 1N8 H: 416-483-8346 Fax: 416-483-2113 Email: bobsmith@pathcom.com *Portfolio:* Regional Reps

Past President: John Jorgenson, Tawingo, RR#1 Huntsville, Ont. POA 1K0 H: 705-789-8701 B: 705-789-5612 Fax: 705-789-6624 Email: tawingo@vianet.on.ca *Portfolio:* Human Resources

Treasurer: Marj Booth, Rosedale-Moore Park Association, 146 Crescent Rd., Toronto, Ont. M4W 1V2 416-922-3714 Fax: 416-922-4523 *Portfolio:* Fundraising, Finance Committee

Director: Jeff Bradshaw, Camp Wenonah, 1477 Reynolds Ave., Burlington, Ont. L7M 3B8 H: 905-319-0163 E-mail: campwenonah@sympatico.ca *Portfolio:* Archives, Integration

Director: David Latimer, Kilcoo Camp, 150 Eglinton Ave. E., #204, Toronto, Ont. M4P 1E8 416-486-5264 Fax: 416-486-3854 *Portfolio:* Fundraising, Public Awareness

Director: Kate Moore, Camp Allsaw, 36 Evelyn Ave. Toronto, Ont. M6P 2Y9 416-766-4204 Fax: 416-766-4204 Email: allsaw@interlog.com *Portfolio:* Diversity, Membership

Director Keith Publicover, Tim Horton Children's Foundation, R.R. #1, Campbellville, Ont. L0P 1B0 905-854-1999 Fax: 905-854-1990 Email: kdp@globalserve.net *Portfolio:* Healthcare, Standards

Director: Andy Rodford, Onondaga, 12 Bruce Park Ave. #101, Toronto M4P 2S3 416-482-0782 Fax: 416-482-6237 Email: onondagacamp@sympatico.ca *Portfolio:* Editorial, Counsellor Conference, Legislation

Director: Dave Ward, YMCA John Island Camp, YMCA, 185 Lloyd St., Sudbury, Ont. P3B 1N1 1-800-465-9622 Fax: 705-688-0751 Email: ymcajic@vianet.on.ca *Portfolio:* Camping Guide, Members' Directory, Skills

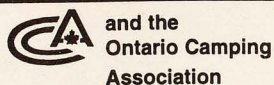
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Eastern Ontario (Ottawa): Deirdre Billes, Omagaki Wilderness Centre, Box 4, Pembroke, Ont. K8A 6W5 613-732-0780 Email: omagaki@fox.nsyn.ca

Northeastern Ontario (Sudbury): Dave Ward, John Island, 185 Lloyd St. Sudbury Ont. P3B 1N1 705-674-8315 Fax: 705-674-3236 Email: ymcajic@vianet.on.ca

Northwestern Ontario (Thunder Bay): Elaine Kalnbach, Dorion Bible Camp, Dorion, Ont. P0T 1K0 807-857-2331

Southwestern Ontario (London): Jim Janzen, YMCA-YWCA Camping, c/o George White Outdoor Centre, 1795 Clarke Road, London, Ont. N5X 3Z6 519-667-3300 Fax: 519-455-2519



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I AM A PERSON, I AM A SUMMER CAMP PERSON

I am one of those fortunate people who just happens to work in the summer camp circle. My name is John Bergman and I have cerebral palsy.

From Bark Lake to Camp Scugog to Camp Wabanaki, I have a good career in children's camping, and I am proud of it.

Looking back at my public school and summer camp experiences, I'd just as soon forget them.

But, to give you the full effect of what I do now, I will explain. In a phrase it was awful. To be in an environment solely with people who were disabled made me seem inferior to others in society. Many things became competitions, which never should have been allowed. If you could use your arms, you were allowed to play basketball, and if you did not have a speech problem, you could take part in plays. I was in a segregated environment which was segregated within itself. It was hard for me to put down in words what working at summer camps is really like, because the experience is rather mind-blowing. I wish I could choose the right words to

describe the effects of it.

I guess the best way to explain it is by people and the way they treat other people in an environment of nature. When people work and have fun with other people you tend to remember it. When you are away from that environment, you tend to miss it a heck of a lot.

Right now I'm sitting at my desk recapping my summer at good old camp Wabanaki and good old Camp Scugog and now I know why I call them good old camps. It is because they are old camps but great camps.

Looking back at the summers I spent at these camps, it was worth every darn minute I was there. I fell out of kayaks and fell on rocks, but I was at camp. No one ever said you are going to get out of camp without a few scratches it is not possible.

And you ask what makes it great? Again, I come back and tell you people - you see at Camp Wabanaki and Camp Scugog, I am a person. Of course people realize I have a disability, but at camp I am accepted as a member of the camp. I

teach drama games and run part of the evening program.

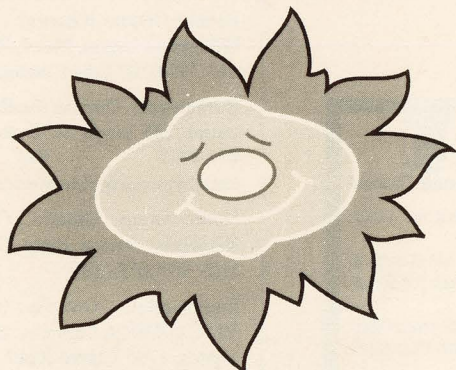
At summer camp there is no competition, which is great. I don't have to feel I can't do something because I just do it. Mind you, it may not work out as exactly as I have planned.

Summer Camp is now part of my life, and I am going to keep it this way for a while. Being disabled does not have a lot to do with my involvement in the industry, I just like it.

JOHN BERGMAN
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

John's most recent accomplishments include organizational support to the OCA Counsellor Conference, his Drama session for that day and a workshop concerning employment opportunities for persons with disabilities at the Ontario Camp Leadership workshop. John is looking forward to another full (in every sense of the word!) summer of leadership at YMCA Camp Wabanaki!

He was a representative at The YMCAs Spring Training, held at Camp Wanakita in May. John reports very positively on the high level of associated inclusionary goals and practises evident that weekend. As many of you know, John has been involved in camping for over 15 years; this article was originally printed in INCLUSIONS by Vince Murphy, Director, Camp Towhee (1993).



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and **ENJOYABLE**
summer!

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A letter to the President:

April 30, 1997

Barb Gilbert,
President
Ontario Camping Association
1810 Avenue Road, Suite 302
Toronto, ON
M5M 3Z2

Dear Barb,

Time waits for no man as the poet aptly put it.

How wonderful it would be to relive the vibrant, good times enjoyed by Trailfinders over the past 35 summers.

But, there is solace knowing that, despite the lifting of one's finger from the pulse of things, the fond memories of countless, wonderful experiences of operating a children's camp are etched in the heart forever.

Whether it's earned or learned, establishing a quality rapport with children in their formative years is indeed a challenge. How fascinating and rewarding is that ear to ear smile or coy grin generously given in return for tender loving care.

Whenever or wherever parts or parcel of the camping fraternity meet a veritable flood of exciting memories commence to flow. This ongoing aftermath of happiness and learning bodes well for the continuing success of children's camping in Ontario, particularly where it applies to the sterling input of the Ontario Camping Association. Toil on brave hearts.

Camp Trailfinder Inc. will cease to operate as an accredited children's camp with the O.C.A. after the close of the 1997 season.

No regrets, just fond memories to cherish.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Rushton
Director

P.S. In due course the writer will have an assortment of goodies dispatched to the Archives Committee.

NEW COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

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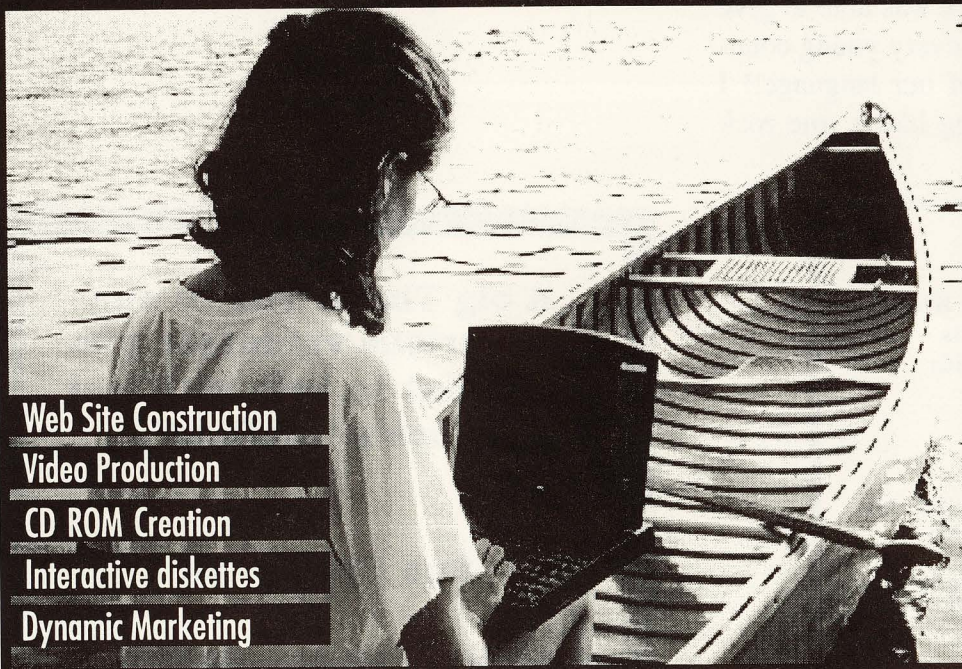
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CAMPING MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

As I write this final ICF article for the OCAsional News, I am very pleased to let you know that so far 17 Canadians have registered to attend NEVSKY FORUM 1997 - this means they have actually sent in their registration form and deposit!! I know there are many more folks who plan to attend, many more who have called to say their form is on the way, and many, many more who are still considering the trip of a lifetime.

The Russians are so excited about their event - they continue to work hard to make this Fourth International Camping Congress memorable, cultural, exciting, and most of all, educational.

Jack Pearse and I returned at the beginning of May from a whirlwind trip to Caracas, Venezuela - we travelled to meet with the Executives of the new Colombian and the new Mexican Camping Associations, and also to attend a one day Counsellors' Conference, hosted by The Venezuelan Camping Association. This was the sixth event in the history of their camping association, which was created in 1989, and they had over 40 camps represented, with over 600 counsellors in attendance. Talk about Latin American enthusiasm!! A famous songwriter and performer by the name of Simon Diaz was SUPPOSED to be the morning presenter....and guess what.....he had a last minute emergency that took him out of Venezuela..... and we were asked at the 11th hour to take his place. There we were, at Simon Bolivar University, singing, playing games, and doing skits. Jack was able to give all of his introductions in English - every young counsellor had a working knowledge of our language!! I was at a stand-up keyboard, feeling like a true rock

star, and we convinced the President of the Colombian Camping Association to be "Black Bart" in a skit with us!! Quite a memorable morning!!

We also had a very unexpected and very interesting meeting with a future candidate for the 1998 presidential election for Venezuela (that is... president of the country, not the camping association!) His platform talks about the importance of education, outdoor education and camping. He believes the future of Venezuela lies with the children, and with 114% inflation, he knows something must be done. We were humbled by the task ahead of this incredible man, and we were honoured to know that he considers camping to be important to the success of his country.

Well, muy druk..... (my friends, in Russian), it is time to say adios for a couple of months. I wish you a summer of happiness, and hope that one or two nationalities come together at your camp this summer to share the joy of cultural exchange.

Last call for the plane to Russia.....See you there on September 16, 1997.

JANE McCUTCHEON
INTERNATIONAL CAMPING FELLOWSHIP
CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE

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industrious volunteer who
came out to help with last
month's "stuffing".**

Sue Crosthwait

ATTENTION ALL NEWS HOUNDS

Due to the well-deserved retirement of a number of our editorial committee members, the OCA needs your help for the 1997-98 OCAsional News. Have you always wanted to wax poetic? See your name in print? Impress your friends and family? Then, this is the committee for you.

If you are interested in helping write short and snappy articles, take fabulous photos, or help with issue design, graphic concepts or story assignment, please contact me before you leave for camp this spring. As well, we need someone to take on the role of editor beginning in mid October.

As an editorial committee member, you can contribute a little or a lot. We promise to make it worth your time and effort. We operate as a collective, hold bi-annual meetings (one is held early in the fall over two days at a member camp), and have a mission statement which includes "having fun."

If this sounds like a group you'd want to be a part of, don't delay, call us today!

MARY LYNN TROTTER
CHAIR
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

(416) 761-9135



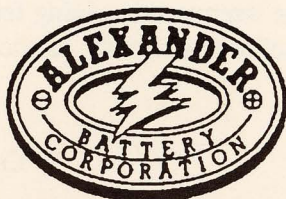
1998 OCA CONFERENCE FOR DIRECTORS AND SENIOR STAFF

THE DATES HAVE BEEN SET FOR FEBRUARY 19 - 22
AT THE SHERATON PARKWAY HOTEL,
RICHMOND HILL (SAME GREAT LOCATION AS LAST YEAR!)

MARK THIS DOWN ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PREPARE FOR YOUR MOST DYNAMIC AND INDEPTH OCA CONFERENCE YET. WHETHER YOUR SPECIALTY IS DAY CAMP, RESIDENTIAL CAMP, PRIVATE OR AGENCY CAMP, WE HAVE A STREAM FOR YOU, THIS WILL BE ONE CONFERENCE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS! FOLLOW THE OCASIONAL NEWS FOR MORE DETAILS.

HERE'S TO A HEALTHY AND HAPPY SUMMER!!!

YOUR 1998 CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

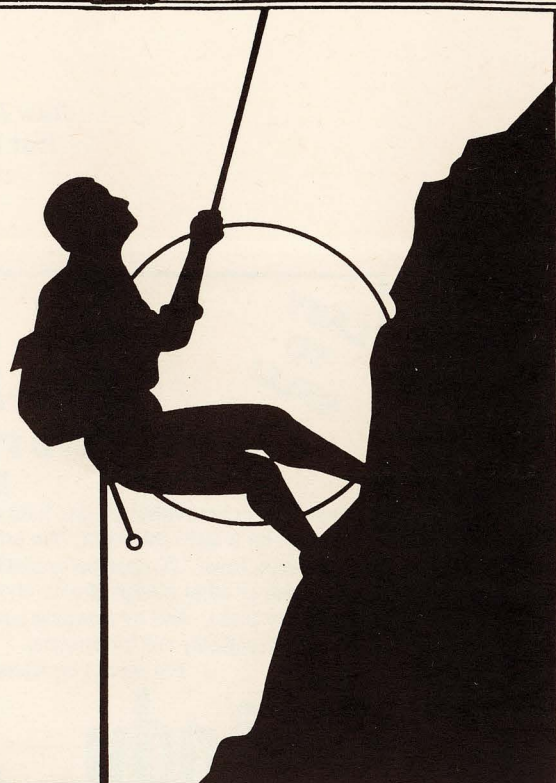


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CANADIAN CAMPING COUNTING YOUR CAMPERS - COUNTING YOUR HOT DOGS

In its continuing efforts to assemble products and services which are available and important on the national camping scene, the Canadian Camping Association has recently requested two packages of information from individual camps and directors. This material is critical to the CCA's making informed decisions in the short and long term.

1996 Statistics Form

The assembly of a complete picture of camping activity across the country allows the CCA to represent camping clearly in the media, attracts sponsors/commercial members to the national scene and permits effective strategies for future programs and services.

Food Survey Form

The purchasing power of the camping community is second only to the enormity of our campers' appetites. A very interesting group purchasing and distribution proposal has been presented in which both individual, participating camps and the CCA could benefit.

The total picture is only as significant as the volume of the return of information. If you have not taken the opportunity to return the forms in relation to the 1996 Statistics or the Food Survey, please take a moment now to fire those items in to the CCA. For additional copies of the forms, please contact the CCA Office (416-781-4717) or the OCA Office (416-781-0525).

JOHN JORGENSON
PAST PRESIDENT
CCA LIAISON

WHAT A DAY! COUNSELLOR CONFERENCE 1997

The speakers were excellent, the site was outstanding and the sessions, informative - What more could you ask for!?!

On May 24, 1997 over 400 people gathered at Seneca College, King Campus to learn new skills and information, meet new people, have fun and eat! The 1997 Counsellor Conference was a tremendous success and an incredible training event for all the counsellors, CIT's and Senior Staff who attended.

Thank you to all the many speakers and volunteers who helped at this year's conference. Also thank you to G.B. Catering and Tim Horton Children's Foundation for their food donations. A special thank you to the 1997 Committee who spent many hours planning, preparing and organizing to make this day such a success!

John Bergman	Molly Maguire
Catherine Bogle	Jen Sipos
Joel Brenner	Hilary Smith
Dave Graham	Barb Weedon
Sandra Green	Eoin Wood

Special note to: Ellen Spigelman, Carolyn Molnar and Bobsie Ebbs for all their support and effort in the office and Jeff Bradshaw and Andy Rodford, our Board Liaisons.

I would also like to announce Dave Graham, Easter Seals Society, will be chairing the 1998 Counsellor Conference. Dave has been a committee member for 2 years and will be an excellent Chair for '98!

For anyone interested in giving feedback or helping with the '98 Counsellor Conference, please contact Dave Graham.

MAIJA ZEIBOTS
'97 COUNSELLOR CONFERENCE CHAIR

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TIM HEMING GOLF TOURNAMENT, May 29 in Haliburton County, have you registered? Have a prize to offer? Call Sally, Sunny Rock Lodge (B + B) 705-286-4922 or e-mail: sunnyroc@cancom.net

WE ARE LOOKING FOR an enthusiastic, reliable individual who enjoys working with children and possesses overnight camping experience. Prefer University students but will accept resumes from High School Students. Please fax or mail your resume before May 23rd to Kerri McGee 416-284-0407, 4679 Kingston Rd., Unit 8, Scarborough, M1E 2P8. Only applicants considered for the position will be contacted.

WE'RE BACK! Dominion Smallwares is open again! with an interesting mix of toys, novelties, film, batteries, office supplies for fair items, inflatables for special events days, light sticks, light up novelties, etc. If you can't find it, we probably CAN, AND at the right price. We're at 356 Supertest Road, North York, ON Ph: 416-665-9526 Fax: 416-665-8932.

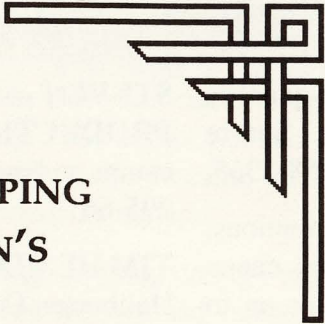
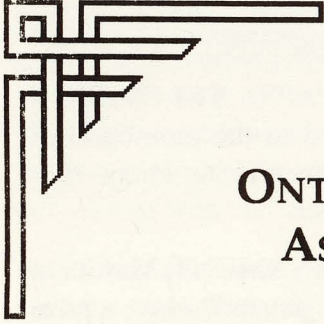
YOUTH CHALLENGE INTERNATIONAL seeks youth leaders age 26+ for overseas community projects. Application deadline for 1998 projects is August 29th/97. Call for application package: 416-971-9846



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ONTARIO CAMPING
ASSOCIATION'S

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11,
1997

IN



LONDON, ONTARIO

OCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS MONTH:

JUNE 6 - 8 - OCA SKILLS WEEKEND - YMCA WANAKITA

UPCOMING:

DEC. 11 - AGM, LONDON, ONTARIO

FEB. 19 - 22, 1998 DIRECTORS & SR. STAFF CONFERENCE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON TIME AND PLACE OF THESE AND
OTHER MEETINGS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OCA OFFICE

Ocasional News offers you a variety of ways to promote products and services within organized camping. The Ontario Camping Association welcomes articles and photo submissions. Next deadline is September 15th for 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 required.
- We also offer professional and business directory ads of business card size (2"x1.5"). Camera-ready art required. OCA member fee: \$35 per insert (up to 3 months) or \$28 per insert (4 to 10 issues).
- Classified ads are sold with a maximum size of 25 words for a fee of \$10 for members and \$25 for non-members. Additional space sold in 25 word increments.
- Paid advertising content will not exceed editorial space.
- The Ocasional News is published 9 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 our editorial committee:
- Janet Adamson, Inspirational Messages 416-481-7322 Fax: 416-488-1686
- Rob Heming, Events 705-754-1825 Fax: 705-457-2255
- David Neal, Spirit of Camping 416-503-0485 Fax: 416-503-0485
- Andy Rodford, Board Liaison 416-482-0782 Fax: 416-482-6237 Email: onondagacamp@sympatico.ca
- Patti Thom, Newsworthy Items, Births and Obituaries 905-338-9464 Fax: 905-338-3039
- Mary Lynn Trotter, Editor 416-761-9135 Fax: 416-761-9135 E-mail: mlt@inforamp.net

The views expressed by authors in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Camping Association.



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