

OCAsional News

Monthly Publication of the Ontario Camping Association

June 1994

Bell Tones

It's mid May and I'm beginning to be concerned about the weather conditions we may be facing this summer. On second thought, I know that no matter what type of weather we experience, we are going to have a great summer!

It isn't the weather that dictates the quality of "camping", it's the campers and the staff. The OCA is doing its share - the Counsellor Conference "Spring Training", the Skills Weekends, the Directors' Day, the breakfast meetings and the Health Care workshops have all provided our staff with improved tools and have motivated us to do the best we can.

From my vantage point, I can tell you that our member camps continue to provide pre-camp training that is envied in Canada, and abroad.

If KUMBAYAH did nothing else for the OCA, it allowed us to appreciate the fact that although we have much to learn, we are among the best at what we do!

The summer of '92 was none too pleasant. It was cold and damp; yet every report indicated that our

campers had a wonderful time. They may have lost out on some traditional activities and those in and around the water. They did, however, gain from the sharing and cooperating that became an important part of the summer.

We have appreciated the following good wishes sent by Honourary Life Member, Eanswythe Flynn: "Good weather, good health, lots of campers, lots of fun, enjoy your summer!"

As you might be aware, even though we are busy at camp, Bobsie and Mary Lynn will be fully occupied in the OCA office.

Hours will be shortened and our two favourite staff will be alternating holidays. However, should you need help, don't hesitate to call at any time during the summer months. We will be pleased to help you fill last minute staff positions or camper vacancies. As well, please remember to respond to their request to send in your information to be used in the 1994-95 directory so we can get a head start on it this summer..

May I extend my best wishes for a safe and happy summer!

Larry

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Let's welcome Girl Guide camps to OCA !

Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council operate 41 camps throughout the province. Four of our camps have been accredited with the Ontario Camping Association for some time and nine more are in the immediate process of coming on board for the accreditation process. Our goal is to have all of our remaining camps approved for the accreditation process by October, 1994.

Our camps range in size from a 3/4 acre site to 1,000 acres and

most are utilized throughout the entire year. Not all camps run full summer programs but all offer at least weekend programs. We feel everyone in our organization will benefit from our association with the OCA. Being accredited as members of the OCA, Girl Guides will have access to the resources which are offered such as workshops and manuals. The availability of information and contact with like-sized camps is most beneficial. This will definitely help give a much wider perspective for all our camps.

Alternatively, Girl Guides have excellent Camp instructors, many of whom would be delighted to provide sessions for other OCA members at workshops or wherever needed. Our skills and ideas are there to be utilized!

We look forward to a long and fruitful association with OCA and thank everyone who has taken time out of their very busy

schedules to meet with us and help us establish the paper trail toward full accreditation of all our camps!

Anne Linney
**Chair, Provincial Camp
Committee**
*Girl Guides of Canada
Ontario Council*

New Members

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Hats off, crew!

Congratulations to the Spring Training steering committee and to everyone who helped make this year's Counsellor Conference a huge success! A special thank you to Marj Booth for coordinating another great event and to all of our speakers who volunteered both their time and expertise to building the future of leadership. Once again, through the strength of our members, and the dedication of our directors and staff, Ontario camps will be providing quality leadership for our young people. We welcome any comments or suggestions regarding the conference and its content. Please contact the OCA office (416) 781-0525 - *Caryl Colton*



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New Label Program an outstanding success!

Thanks to each and every one of our camps who have helped promote the OCA Name Label program within their camp families. In our second season, we are looking forward to a very successful effort. We appreciate the mailings of the label forms done by many of our camps with their spring registration packages. This has helped us get a great head start on the summer orders!

Please help us continue to make this OCA fundraising effort strong by passing the word along that we now provide durable, easy iron-on name labels for camp and other uses. We would be pleased to send label order forms to any individual or organization with a need to clearly mark items of clothing. If you have any ideas about expanding our reach, please let the office know! And feel free to circulate a copy of the name label form to anyone who requests them.

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Get ready now for *Camping in Motion*

It's not too early to start getting your materials and your staff ready for *Camping in Motion*, scheduled for Jan.26-28, 1995 at the Sheraton Centre, Toronto. The OCA's Annual Conference for Directors and Senior Staff will feature a number of new and exciting opportunities to share.

Take plenty of pictures this summer and submit the best to the annual photo contest sponsored by the Society of Camp Directors. Pictures can be of the magnificent scenery which surrounds us all, or can show the activities our camps promote. They can show the shy camper, or the gregarious showoff. So get your cameras ready and loaded with film now or you'll miss the award-winning shot.

Do you have a video camera? Try to capture one of those bloopers we all laugh at in retrospect. Great TV shows, from "Candid Camera" to "This Week in Baseball" have showcased funny moments for years, and the OCA wants to do the same at *Camping in Motion*.

Another new sharing opportunity will be our "Media Marketing" displays. Camp brochures, contracts, Arts & Crafts project descriptions, your best game this summer, anything goes!

Now is the time to assign one staff member to each project.

One person can take still pictures, another can take videos. One camp programmer can dream up games, another can dream up a fabulously creative project. No extra work, and much extra gain for camp, staff and conference.

Just imagine what the Sheraton will look like if every camp submits just one item for each category. We may even have to ask for more space!

For more information on any of these contests and displays, please contact Allan Nelson at the OCA office.

*Ellen Nash
Promotion*

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Conference focusses on special needs

The Project Rainbow conference is open to all OCA camps. The attendance maximum is 125, and the program is expected to attract representatives from more than 35 agencies and programs

The Mini-Conference is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 1994, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Humber

College Lakeshore Campus, 3199 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Etobicoke, Ont.

It's a training day focussing on children with special needs at camp.

Those who should attend include counsellors, directors, parents, teachers, therapists...everyone!

The cost is \$10 per person and includes a BBQ lunch. To register, call Alison at the Project Rainbow office (416) 503-0088. Enrolment is limited - priority will be given to Project Rainbow participating camps. Call the R.E.A.C.H. for the Rainbow


office for more information about the program as well. Keynote speaker is Michael Enright, co-host of CBC radio's As it Happens.

Sessions include promoting behavioural change, campers with visual impairment, communication strategies for non-verbal children: signing and total communication, campers with seizure disorders, children with physical disabilities at camp, introduction to speech and language, "How come he's like that," and links between behaviour and communication.

David Neal

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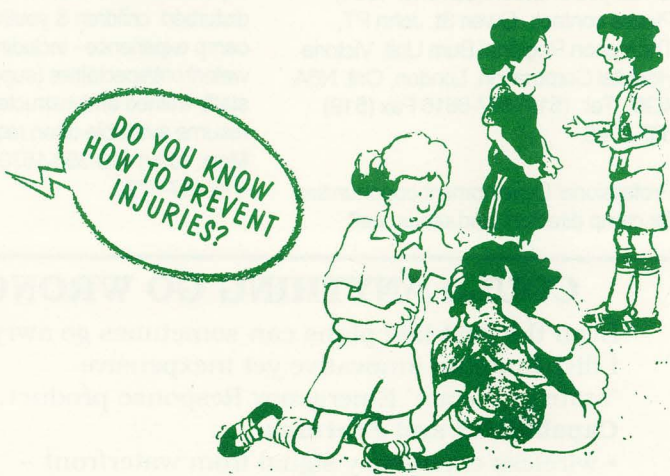
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Experienced Camp Director wants job for July and August '94. References available for camp/assistant camp director or program director. Please contact: Lorne Manett (905) 882-6645.

Wanted: A location for our Burn Camp. A first for Ontario!!! We need a week in the summer beginning in 1995, a full program run by campground personnel to provide an exciting camping experience for children who have suffered burn injuries. Note: camp location should not be limited to Southwestern Ontario as BURN CAMP will be made available to paediatric burn survivors from across the province and even beyond! Contact us ASAP if your facility is interested in becoming involved in this worthwhile project. We would like to visit you in action (summer 1994) Please contact: Gwen St. John PT, Thompson Regional Burn Unit, Victoria Hospital Corporation, London, Ont. N6A 4G5. Tel: (519) 667-6616 Fax (519) 667-6746.

Professional Development opportunities for camp directors and senior staff.

Invest in yourself and your are investing in your future." June events: Ontario Camp Leadership Workshop June 2-5, Leading Adventure Based Programs: What, Why and How? June 16-19, Adventure Based Staff Training: an experiential approach June 16-19. Leading co-operative games June 18, An introduction to low ropes experiences June 18, Leading Challenging Initiative & Problem Solving Tasks - June 19. Call Bark Lake Leadership Centre for information 1-800-668-6638.

Team Leadership courses for "youth." Give your camp a boost of energy this summer - July '94. Camp Directors - there is space available still to send a team of your staff/LIT's to an outdoor leadership course at Bark Lake this summer. Your staff/LIT's will return to you with new ideas, skills and lots of energy to give to your campers and staff. Space is still available in Enviro Adventures and Outdoor Challenges. Call Bark Lake for more information. 1-800-668-6638.

Senior Level Camp Position Desired: Mental Health worker with five years experience with disadvantaged and disturbed children & youth; 18 years camp experience - including head of waterfront/specialties (supervision of 100 staff); trained and instructed staff, resume available upon request. Contact Mark, (day) 416-393-1570; (eve) 416-487-8721.

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- ▶ OCA'sional News now offers you a variety of ways to promote products and services within the association with the choice of paid display or classified advertising. Deadlines are the 10th of the month preceding the issue of publication.
- ▶ Display ads are sold on a single or multiple insertion rate, with a 10% discount for members. Please contact the OCA office for rate information. Camera-ready art required.
- ▶ We also offer professional and business directory ads of business card size (2"x1.5"). Camera-ready art required. Ads must be purchased with a three issue minimum insertion or full year (nine issues). OCA member fee: \$35 per insert (3 months) or \$28 per insert (9 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 OCA'sional 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 address your editorial and advertising inquiries to:

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