

OCAsional News

A Publication of the Ontario Camping Association

June 1995

"Progress is the activity of today and the assurance of tomorrow." - R. Waldo Emerson

OCA Open House welcomes old friends to our new home

In April, we opened our doors at 1810 Avenue Road and celebrated the end of the move. Pictured (right, from left to right:) Board member Keith Publicover, individual member Sally Moore, and Honourary members Bruno Morawetz and Dorothy Walter. Below, ready to cut the colossal cake: OCA staff member Mary Lynn Trotter and President John Jorgenson.



Crisis support for the summer

In a continuing effort to expand member services, the OCA is providing crisis management support to our member camps in time for the summer season.

We all pray that a major accident, disaster or fatality does not befall us during the busy and important summer of caring for staff and campers. When it does, a measure of our professionalism is our state of preparedness to handle the aftermath of such an accident.

The OCA Executive has drafted a "Crisis Management Strategy" that can serve as a guide for each camp to assemble the tools required to anticipate and deal with crises as they arise. This Risk Management tool can be further developed after a pilot testing this season.

As part of the member service, the Executive has assembled a Crisis Response Support Team which includes volunteer professionals in the form of a lawyer, various members of clergy, a psychologist and media advisors. These volunteers are available on short notice to assist with the aftermath of an incident deemed critical enough to warrant a call to the OCA Office from a member camp director. A 24 Hour Emergency Help Line Number is available to Camp Directors.

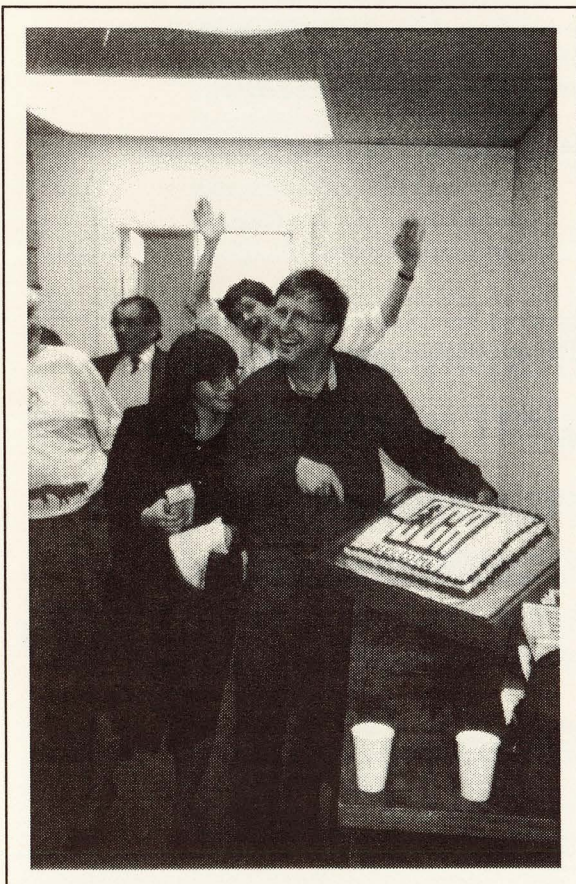
The Crisis Management Outline is being prepared for mailing this month. Camp Directors are encouraged to assemble the key information in a visible and accessible spot against the possibility that it is needed at any time this summer. From this starting point, a further set of Risk Management tools are planned for the upcoming year.

The Crisis Management Outline follows on the heels of the OCA Risk Management Seminar "Camp Maple Rock on Trial." The Staff Training transcript of the trial is now available by calling the OCA office.

We welcome any comments or suggestions as this project is refined to serve OCA members more completely.

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Jorg's Journal.....

..... a page from the workbook of the OCA President, John Jorgenson

June 1, 1995

Dear Journal:

In March of 1994, KUMBAYAH brought together a "world of outdoor experience." The more accurate lesson of KUMBAYAH appears to be that a belief in camping is even more widespread than we can imagine... and it's growing. Personal and interpersonal development under trained leadership in the outdoors are goals the world over, in cultures and countries as diverse as the campers who attend camp.

Witness my recent trip to Malaysia to participate in the inauguration of the Malaysian Summer Camps Association. Malaysian camping is like (and unlike) camping elsewhere.

At this first meeting of the Association, over 120 people gathered at the KL (Kuala Lumpur) Hilton to listen to the federal minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism. He spoke of the willingness of the government to encourage and support the development of the Summer Camps Association as an important aspect of domestic tourism. The government of Malaysia has recently embarked upon a program of "Nation Building" in which youth development, cultural understanding, leisure education, environmental protection and economic growth all play an important part. These objectives, he acknowledged, were reflected in the future work of a Summer Camps Association.

There were over a dozen reporters in attendance at this meeting (it was the morning after the minister had been appointed to his post) but four of these reporters monitored the entire Camp Management Seminar (four days in West Malaysia, two days in Borneo\East Malaysia). The seminar began with constitutional discussions and descriptions of existing programs at the hotel to conclude with practical sessions in a jungle camp setting.

In Malaysia, summer camps have not emerged as a separate and distinct profession nor have they developed primarily out of the education community by teachers who have moved into camping as a way to enhance and enrich the learning process. Summer camps in Malaysia appear to be more a point of logical growth and evolution in a much broader industry of experiential learning and life style. The participants at the seminars included inbound tour operators, corporate recreation supervisors, human resource coordinators, ex-army personnel, corporate trainers, resort recreation directors, Scout leaders, Girl Guide leaders, lawyers, eco-tourism directors and adventure guides.

All of these participants came to acknowledge the value and values of the summer camp experience. I thought about this as we shared songs around a campfire over a Borneo Beach watching the sunset on the China Sea. These new friends are doing what we do in Canada but in a uniquely Malaysian way. I got a glimpse of the magic and importance of what we do in the field of camping.

Camping appears to be less about clear definitions and definable skills than it is about caring relationships and formative experiences. These may be KUMBAYAH's and camping's greatest legacies.

Jorg's To Do List

- Write a ton of Thank You Notes to Malaysia.
- Renew the OCA commitment to keep our own programs vital and current through links with the international camping movement.
- Publish our OCA Crisis Response Strategy and the 24 Hour Summer Hot Line Number.
- Plant seeds amongst the membership for the September renewal of OCA volunteer commitments and opportunities.
- Thank Ellen for her support in the OCA office and wish her a great summer back at Camp Robin Hood.
- Thank Bobsie and Mary Lynn for their work in the OCA Office throughout the year, the 'move' and the summer ahead.
- Welcome Cheryl back as summer support in the Office.
- Welcome new provisional camp members: Bimini, Space Camp Canada and Twin Valleys.

PRFO becomes PRO

For more than 10 years, the OCA has been one of 13 major recreational organizations which made up the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario. (PRFO). This strong alliance allowed PRFO to advocate on behalf of recreation and the population we serve. In fact, PRFO was able to forge a direct liaison with M.C.T.R. Most recently, due to the strong leadership of the Ontario Camping Association, the OCA has seen this alliance, working with M.C.T.R. and M.C.S., develop a policy regarding the Day Nursery Act and the recognition that OCA accredited camps were quality providers of recreational services and are thus exempt from the provisions of this Act.

As government is changing, and recreational organizations are evolving, the need for a more concerted voice for recreation and a more efficient approach to reach those involved in delivery of services was noted. A task force led by Doug Ferguson of the Royal Life Saving Society was forged to develop a concept and the steps required to establish a new organization.

In April of this year, after a vote of all of the member organizations, PRFO officially changed its name to Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) in anticipation of acceptance of a new concept and format. For OCA and for

recreation in Ontario, this is more than simply a name change.

The New Organization:

PRO will be an organization made up primarily of individuals who have an interest in and working relationship to the field of recreation. Each individual will have a single vote in the affairs and the policies of PRO. Recognizing that not all of the original 13 organizations are made up of individuals, some are made up of institutions (i.e. camps in our organization), PRO has created a category of corporate members who will have a single vote but will take an active role in the organization and its affairs and policies.

Each individual member will pay a \$50 membership fee to cover core services and educational opportunities. Within PRO, individual members will have the opportunity to form Special Interest Branches (SIB). For example, those individuals who formerly belonged to the Association of Aquatic Personnel of Ontario (A.A.P.O.) will join PRO as individual members and can opt to be part of the SIB "Aquatic Personnel". The SIB will continue to provide educational opportunities and respond to aquatic issues and will also have the support and voice of PRO. Those wishing to join this SIB will be asked to

pay an additional fee (as they did as members of AAPO) to support the activities of the SIB "Aquatic Personnel." As well, individuals may also join a Regional Branch (R.B.) which will represent the interests in seven regions of the province. There will be an associated cost for membership in a regional branch.

How does this affect OCA?

At this time, OCA fits into the category of corporate member. As a corporate member, OCA will have a limited but very important voice. We will have the opportunity to nominate our members to the Board of PRO and we will have an input into PRO policies and governmental activities which will affect camping. We can increase the strength of our voice if individuals, camps and camping organizations choose to become individual members of PRO. Upon joining, these individuals, camps and camping organizations gain voting privileges and an opportunity to play an active role in the shaping of recreational policies in the province.

The Future:

If, as expected, the June vote to create the new organization is positive and the changes outlined (briefly) above are accepted, OCA will become a corporate member. We encourage all members of OCA (individual/camps) to join PRO as individuals. In this next year, your Board will monitor the effectiveness of this new organization. If it evolves as the strong organization we expect, the Board may recommend an approach to merge our membership fees with those of PRO or include the opportunity to join along with our membership forms. This will give every individual member and camp representative of OCA camps the opportunity to become members of PRO and would give camping a stronger presence and voice. We'll keep you informed.

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Larry Bell
OCA Past President

New travel allowances approved for Conference '96

The OCA Board of Directors has just approved a new travel allowance fund to assist delegates to attend Conference '96 "Circles of Light", at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre, Jan. 25 to 27, 1996.

For the first time ever, travel allowances will be available to all full-time delegates who register with the hotel package, and whose residence is at least 100 kms. from the hotel.

Yes, you read that correctly! All delegates, not just first-timers! And travel allowances are applicable from the delegate's place of residence, not the site of either the camp or the camp office.

This travel allowance will be easy to calculate. A map is being prepared with circles spreading from the hotel at the centre and covering the whole province. Each circle on this map will represent a specified travel allowance, so you don't have to do any calculations.

And this travel allowance will be easy to claim. All full-time delegates will be given an expense claim form to be completed at the conference. If all paperwork is in order, reimbursement will be available before you leave the Delta Meadowvale.

And this travel allowance will be guaranteed to all Early-Bird registrants. Late applicants will be paid from the remaining funds on a first-come,

"Circles of Light" **January 25-27, 1996**

first-served basis, if there is money available after all Early-Birds are paid.

It couldn't be easier. And you'll have a great time.

So, get a car pool together, and the driver can claim the expense allowance. Register early, for both the best conference rate and a guaranteed travel allowance.

Ellen Nash
Conference '96 Promotions

We're here to help!

Attention all OCA Camps: please see the enclosed flyer mailed to you with this newsletter from the OCA office.

In order to serve you better throughout the summer, would you please return the flyer to us as needed, indicating whether we can help you fill camper vacancies or staff positions.

Of course, you can always call us with your request at 416 781-0525 or fax us at 416 781-7875. The office staff will be on hand throughout the summer to assist you in any way.

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Celebrating our Youth

I hold the utmost respect for anyone who seeks and finds employment - from the counter of a coffee shop to a summer position in a research laboratory.

It's almost summer and this brings to mind the job of camp counsellors. It could be said these individuals are just performing a job. But I like to look at it as much more. Perhaps we should give these young people the title of professionals. They are the ones who are going to instruct and care for so many young lives this summer.

Granted, we are expecting a great deal from these special people who give up their summer for the well-being of others.

Personally, I am looking forward to this summer and getting to know and work with some of these remarkable and dedicated people. Throughout the summer, we should all remember how important these individuals are to us and to our campers. We should be proud that they are a part of our operations.

Have a great summer!

*John Bergman
Camp Wabanaki*

Volunteers make it work!

On behalf of the Spring Training Committee, I would like to extend my thanks to our volunteers for all of their hard work, to our commercial members for their generous support, and to Camp Robin Hood and its staff for providing an ideal venue and the warmest of welcomes. Spring Training 1995 "For the Camper in You" was a fabulous success! We welcome any and all feedback from both our delegates and directors, and look forward to bringing you another fun-filled, exciting day of Spring Training in 1996!

*Caryl Colton
Spring Training Chair '95*

Welcome New Commercial Members

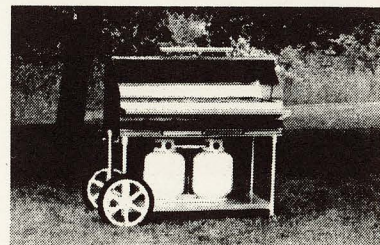
Canada Games Company Limited. 75 Lest Drive. Bramalea, Ont. L6T 2J6. (905) 457-7111. Fax (905) 457-6554. Toy company. Non electronic board and play mat games, yo-yo tops, POG milk caps, box jigsaw puzzles.

Restaurant Equipment Depot Ltd. 59 Bartel Dr. North York, Ont. M3N 1C8. (905) 738-9081. Fax (905) 738-9081. Buy and sell new and used restaurant kitchen equipment.



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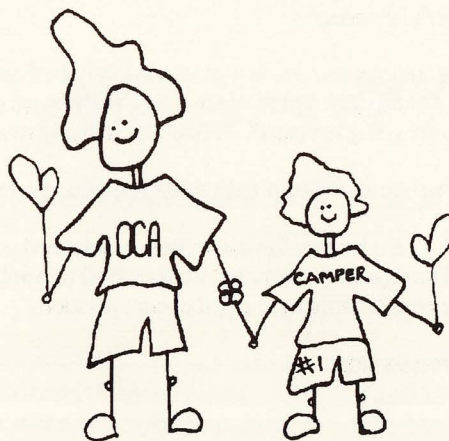
1-800-267-2740



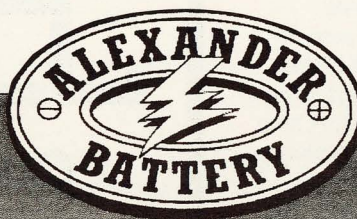
Seize the Moment!

What an absolutely marvellous day!
Thanks to all of our delegates, directors
and speakers for their spirit and
unwavering energy.

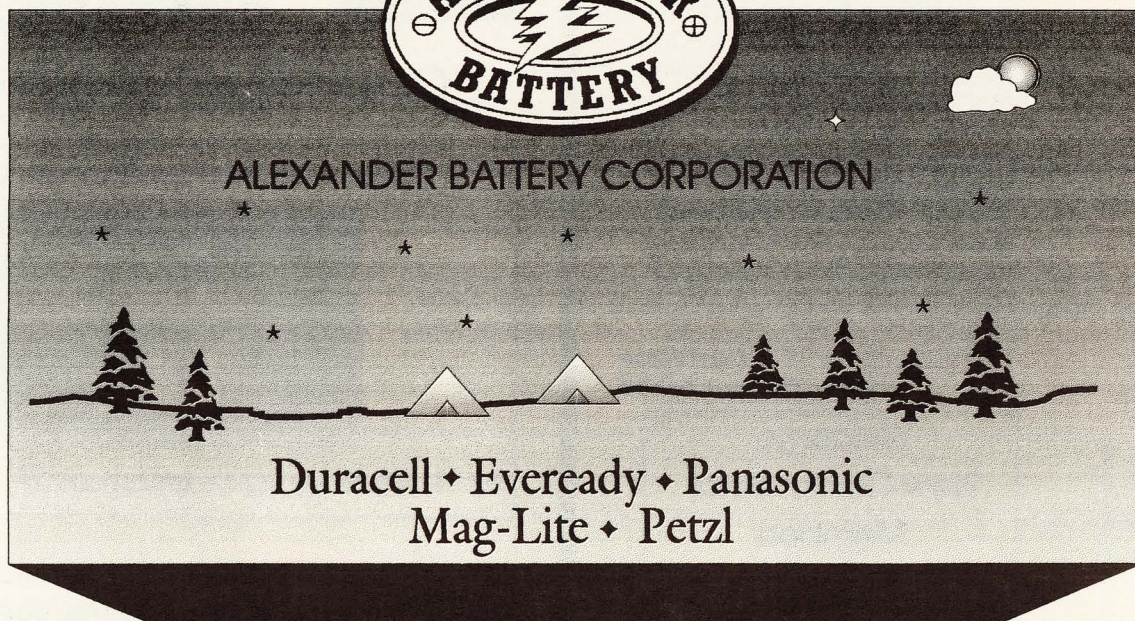
Tons of you took the opportunity to pick
up a Spring Training T-shirt at the
Conference, and will undoubtedly
remember the smiles and laughter every
time you put it on. For those of you who
missed the shirts on the day, there are
still a few remaining. Don't miss your
chance to make one a part of your
collection - secure yours today. \$15 (tax
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Training
1995



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Good touch - a basic camp value

We have a subtle and fundamental camping value, shared by thousands of professional camping colleagues; we call this value "good touch" and it is taught openly at Camp Cody. The value of good touch is part of our basic camaraderie between campers and our group of nature staff member.

"Good touch" involves physical contact. It is found in a piggyback ride, or ruffling a tousled head of hair. It is found in a counsellor walking with an arm around a camper, or by a little guy holding the hand of a bigger guy. We see it in campers spontaneously sitting on a staff member's lap or getting a big "abrazo" in congratulations. Good touch is vastly different from a theatrical "give me five" in TV's hand-slap! Good touch is in the fun splashing at swim, a friendly dunk or pillow fight. It is a buddy's pat on the back, or a counsellor sitting on a camper's bed while telling a story or chatting about the day ending.

Good touch is part of sharing camp life in working together, at meals, at activities, in the cabins, on a trip. Good touch is in horseplay. The fellowship and the wrestling on the grass. It is the youngster who falls asleep at the campfire or movie, whose counsellor carries him carefully back to bed. Good touch is the big handshake and the arms over the shoulders as we sway to the melody of taps. Good touch is a hug and kiss on the cheek at birthdays or when giving banquet awards. Good touch is

part of the first name camaraderie that makes camp so different from classrooms. In good touch we want staff to greet new campers on arrival with a handshake, and an arm for T.L.C. needed in friendliness and caring. And it is hugs and tears of warm emotions that are seen so vividly as campers and staff say, "So long, see you next summer!" Good touch at our camp is that same good natured fun contact we expect from most families in casual moments at home. At camp good touch from staff offers the substitute from the absent big brother, mom and dad. It is normal, natural and very human.

Good touch is fundamental to camping relationships, seen in countless camp photos, movies and videos. Beyond the

activity, play and even skill developments of lifetimes, good touch helps to develop youngsters' first trusting and caring relationships away from home. We submit this is best developed at summer camp. Good touch is a basic camp value. It shall remain so.

*Alan Stoltz
Camp Cody
New Hampshire, U.S.A.*

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a Little Sunshine)*

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The Pepsi Taste Patrol is back in action between May 18 and August 31, 1995.

At the Taste Patrol, side-by-side taste tests are conducted to determine which cola is preferred by consumers. Everyone wins a prize instantly, regardless of their choice. They are also given their own Pepsi Pop Life™ Card which they can use to take advantage of great offers, including a special deal at Famous Players theatres.

To date, of the 4.2 million people who have taken the taste test, over 61% have chosen the great taste of Pepsi.

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Allow us to "Let your taste decide"

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"Camp Song" video wins award

"Camp Song," a video sponsored by members of the Ontario Camping Association and the Canadian Camping Association, has won third prize in an international film competition.

The video, made by OCA Commercial member Steve Allen, was originally presented to delegates of the International Camping Conference (KUMBAYAH) on the Jumbotron at Toronto's SkyDome. The video was awarded a certificate for creative excellence in the U.S. International Film and Video Festival. Judges placed it third above 1500 entries from 27 countries in the world's largest competition honouring professionals in the film and television industry. The video won in the category of photography and camerawork.

Steve extends his thanks to the owners and directors of those camps who made his project possible: Ponacka, Wahanowin, Kandalore, Glen Bernard, National Music Camp, Oureau, Otterdale, Doe Lake Girl Guide Camp, Lakefield Camp International, Onondaga, Canadian Adventure Camp, Tawingo and Nominique.

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Newsorthy Notes

Camp Tawingo celebrates 35 years of camping! A reunion is scheduled for July 22 and 23 with invitations going to more than 1,000 alumni members. Singing, fun and games...for all who are able to share this momentous occasion.

The insurance firm of Johnson & Higgins celebrated its 150th birthday world-wide on May 11, 1995. In celebration, the employees closed the offices for the day and turned their efforts to serving their smallest clients - children! Across Canada, Johnson & Higgins staff volunteered their time to partner with the YMCA in local communities to provide service to children. Two hundred employees from the Toronto office gathered at YMCA **Camp PineCrest** (Muskoka) to trim trails, paint buildings, restore paddles, renovate buildings, and improve the site; all in preparation for the arrival of eager campers. In total, J&H employees donated more than 1000 hours of volunteer service to YMCA Camp PineCrest!

Other YMCA camps across Canada benefited from their local J&H offices volunteer efforts - Big Cove Camp (Halifax), Camp Y (Ottawa), Camp Chief Hector (Calgary), Camp Wakaw (Saskatoon), and Camp Howdy (Vancouver).

Camp Robin Hood is celebrating its 50th! CRH is looking forward to welcoming all of its former staff back to the campsite in Markham Sunday, Aug. 13. Returning staff will be grouped according to the decade that they worked at camp. Alumni staff will be able to take part in all of the specialty areas, flagpole gatherings and trade memories of their years at CRH. In addition to the special events planned during the day, we will also be having a barbecue and dance, hosted by Roger Ashby of 104.5 CHUM FM. This day is sure to be an incredible start to the 50th anniversary year! In honour of this anniversary, the Camp Robin Hood Charitable Foundation has been founded. The funds donated to the foundation will help children who might otherwise not have the opportunity to go to camp attend special needs camps of the OCA.

Larry Bell
Camp Robin Hood
158 Limestone Cres.
Downsview, Ont.
M3J 2S4
(416) 736-4443

Jim Blake
General Delivery
Haliburton, Ont.
K0M 1S0
(705) 457-5278

Jeff Bradshaw
Camp Couchiching
Longford Mills, Ont.
(705) 325-3428

Barb Gilbert
215 Chemin Du Lac Papineau
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please note no fax available

John Jorgenson
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Kate Moore
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Ellen Nash
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Regional Reps

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K8A 6W5
(613) 732-0780

Dave Ward
John Island Camp
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Spanish, Ont. P0P 2A0

Elaine Kalnbach
Dorion Bible Camp
Dorion, Ont.
P0T 1K0
(807) 857-2331

Rick Romman
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N0L 1E0
(519) 471-3799

OCA Vegetarian Cookbook - Volume 1

Contributors to our OCA Vegetarian Cookbook - Volume 1 have received a complimentary copy. This unique cookbook contains 18 camp-tested recipes guaranteed to win praise from all campers. A few copies are for sale at \$2 (GST included.) Contact the OCA office.

Hi Mum,
No food fights at
this camp, everyone
likes the chow way
too much!
Having a great time.
Can I come back
next year?
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Hiring ethics reflect fundamental values

One sign of spring for camp directors is the final placement and organization of their staff teams. One frustration some camp directors face is the loss of staff who have chosen to ignore their commitments. When those staff seek summer alternative employment at another camp, the OCA Code of Professional and Business Ethics provides a valuable character referencing tool.

"We shall ask all applicants if they have been employed by another camp. If so, the Director will, in the spirit of good will, contact the previous Director for references and general clearance."

The bottom line: the Code of Ethics exists as a common statement by professionals in a values-based industry that there are some fundamental measures of leadership in camping. Some of these measures are honesty, dependability and responsibility for actions. These characteristics are ones we hope to instill in our campers, ones we demand of ourselves and ones we expect to find in our staff.

When we ask an applicant if they have been employed by another camp, we are really asking two questions: "Do you have experience in the field of camping?" and "Have you cleared yourself of other commitments in order to make yourself available to my camp." The fact is that some directors do not want a staff member "at any cost." For some, the cost is too high. There are some OCA directors who refuse to hire staff if they have turned their back on any job or obligation they have already

agreed to undertake - whether it is another camp, school or the local fast food restaurant.

What are we saying to a staff member when we accept them after we become aware that they have not been "straight" with us or others? What can we expect them to pass on to our campers?

When we ask a previous director for references and clearance, we are confirming and enhancing information which we have sought and received in our interview with the applicant. References refer to job performance. Clearance refers to the status of the applicant's commitments.

We are not looking for permission to hire, we are looking for insight into the character of the person we are looking to hire. The term "clearance" refers to distance from the previous employee, not permission.

If we learn that the applicant is under obligation to another employer, it remains with us to decide what to do with that information. The other director, too, must decide what to do with the new information about this employee. There are clear cases in which neither director has hired an employee/applicant who was not forthright or honest.

A person looking for a higher level of responsibility, higher challenge or higher salary may be an excellent staff member. A person looking for those things ought to conduct that search unencumbered by commitments that would be unfulfilled in accepting a new position.

In conducting an acid test of the OCA Code of Ethics, an association-wide agreement that honesty, dependability and responsibility are central tenets of our work ought to be no less difficult to obtain today than it was for the authors of the Code when they sat down originally to define it.

The lessons and leadership in camp life don't begin on the day the campers arrive; they begin when a camp director gets up each morning.

*John Jorgenson
OCA President*

1995

OCA Skills Week-end

Friday, June 9
to
Sunday, June 11

(12:30 p.m. start Friday/3:00 p.m.
finish Sunday)

At
Bark Lake Leadership Centre

Streams

Arts and Crafts

Environmental
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Leadership Skills for
Supervisory Staff

Canoeing

Out-tripping

Integration

Program Potpourri

Kayaking

Ropes and Initiatives

Please contact the OCA office for registration information. Spots are still available in some streams.

"Camp Maple Rock on Trial"

Transcripts from the Mock Trial

Now Available

From the OCA Office

New orders welcome

Call (416) 781-0525 for details

Classified Ads

Youth Challenge International seeks volunteers 18-25 for international development projects. Application deadline for winter projects is June 9. For information and an application call (416) 971-9846.

Sailboat sales and service: New Optimists for 7-15 year olds. New Bytes for 12+ year olds. Refurbished boats or we'll refurbish yours. Pre-camp inspection, commissioning, repair. Purchase or trade your boats. OCA members since 1991. Call Sue or Harry Stark: 705-538-2266. Fax: 705-538-1122.

Attention Camp Staff: Epilepsy and seizures - Do you know what to do? A workshop on the causes, characteristics, and consequences of epilepsy and seizures in childhood. Thorough, practical training on seizure recognition and first aid. It's crucial for all camp staff to know what to do in the event of a seizure. The Epilepsy Association, Metro Toronto, offers specialized workshop to camping professionals. For more

information, please call Shanan Spencer at (416) 964-9095.

Site Needed: Organization looking for campsite for summer of 1996. Site to be within three hours distance from Toronto and able to accommodate 200 plus. Contact in writing: 205 Riviera Dr. #11, Markham, Ont. L3R 5J8.

Exclusive Marina/Trailer Park \$675,000. 56-acre site, 80 slip marina with possible expansion. Good return on investment. Call Maureen Huber, Homelife/Comerman Real Estate Ltd. (416) 690-6363.

For Sale: 20' War Canoe, seats 9. Recanvassed in 1993. Asking \$1,500. Call Kirk Freeland. (905) 686-3752.

► OCA'sional News offers you a variety of ways to promote products and services within the association. **Next deadline is September 10th for October 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). (Plus GST)
- Classified ads are sold with a maximum size of 25 words for \$10 (member-rate) and \$25 for non-members. (Plus G.S.T.). Additional space sold in 25 word increments.
- Paid advertising content will not exceed editorial space.

Successful label program continues

Thanks to all of our camps who have supported the OCA Name Label program within their camp families. We are looking forward to a very successful third season! We appreciate the mailings of the label forms done by our camps in their spring packages. This helps get a great start on summer orders.

Please help us continue to make this fund-raising effort strong by passing the word along that we provide durable, easy iron-on labels for camp and other uses. We would be pleased to send order forms to any individual or organization needing them.

OCA Calendar of Events

June 6

OCA Executive Meeting

Toronto

June 9-11

OCA Skills Weekend

Bark Lake Leadership Centre

- The OCA'sional News is published 9 times a year (Oct. - June) 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
- Henri Audet, Hot Tips (416) 443-9058
- Jim Blake, In-depth Board issues (705) 457-5278
- Kate Moore, Editor, (416) 766-4204
- Mike Moore, Photographer, (416) 322-9735
- Patti Thom, Newsworthy items and Obituaries (905) 338-9464
- Wendell White, Profiles (613) 473-2877
- OCA Office, 1810 Avenue Road, Suite 302, Toronto, Ont. M5M 3Z2 (416) 781-0525. Bobsie: ext. 11, Mary Lynn ext. 15, Ellen ext. 10.
- Fax (416) 781-7875.