



APRIL 1991

EDITOR: JANET ADAMSON

"If you meet someone without a smile, give him one of yours."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the weather begins to warm up, those of us in camping begin to mentally shift gears and I become more and more restless. I want to get on with it - on with the more practical parts of my job.

In the life of the OCA we see a shift there as well as we gear up for the training of staff.

The portfolio of seminars encompasses three areas with very tangible events - the Counsellor Conference, the Nurses' Workshop and the Skills Weekend.

The Nurses' Committee, in this new organizational structure, continues under Mary Casey's leadership, to offer a unique training event: the Nurses' Workshop. It acknowledges that the on-going education of camp nurses is a vital part of staff training and essential to the health of our camps.

The Counsellor Conference, always a very popular and productive event, is in the planning stages under John Harder's chairmanship, and information on it will be available by April 1st.

The Skills Weekend Committee is being co-chaired by Amanda Newnham and John Jorgenson. Five streams have been selected; information on the event is included in this newsletter, and application forms may be obtained from the OCA office.

As the Director with the portfolio of "Seminars", John Jorgenson is responsible for liaising with these three committees - responding to their questions and concerns, providing the committee chairs with a reporting route to the Board, and co-ordinating among the three committees where appropriate. The committee chairs can, of course, request to be on the Board agenda and attend in person.

At the March Board meeting, the Board of Directors will be looking at several issues; we will let you know of the outcome in the next OCA'sional News:

- 1) Possibilities for government grant submissions for the upcoming year;
- 2) We will be hearing from two representatives of the Durham Board of Education on the proposal to do pilot projects extending the school year. Durham is only one of several boards studying this issue.
- 3) CCA: our relationship to it and our fund-raising efforts on its behalf.

We are always eager to hear from the members and will ensure that you are kept up to date. Have a happy spring!

LIZ GREENWAY
President



BOARD NEWS

Based on a proposal from the Archives Committee, the OCA has agreed to enter into a research incentive program in co-operation with Trent University Archives and the Society of Camp Directors, with up to \$500.00 allocated for that purpose.

We are presently investigating government grants for the coming year.

We are researching the minimum wage issue. Skip Connett has agreed to collect information from other provinces regarding their experiences in dealing with this issue.

LET'S INTEGRATE TOGETHER!

Summer Camp: A Fun Recreational Challenge For All

As we approach the summer months, many of us are thinking about our children and what they would enjoy. We also ponder what types of learning experiences our children could achieve and what is the best choice for them. For most parents, these decisions are difficult. For those parents with a disabled child in their family, it is all the more difficult to decide where he/she would be best placed to have fun and participate in a learning environment. It is true that they could place their children in a segregated recreational summer program where they could play and grow with other disabled children, but this may only

reinforce thoughts that they are disabled. Or, the parent could try to locate a summer camp for non-disabled children and see if the camp director would be willing to accept the child in the program. Playing with other children is one of the most valuable experiences he or she will ever take part in. The disabled child will learn how to react and interact with the majority of non-disabled children, and thus be socially ready to participate in the real world.

As a person with cerebral palsy, I know what it was like to be taught in an elementary school for the disabled, and then go to a summer camp for the disabled. I came out of both institutions being fairly immature. This was because I was not exposed to children who were not disabled and I did not know how non-disabled children were supposed to act. I only began learning social skills when I attended an integrated high school and summer camp where I could see how to behave.

Children, be they physically or mentally challenged, have a great opportunity in enrolling in a regular camping program. Don't worry about the child being accepted by others. Campers enjoy campers, and they, in most cases, are willing to help.

JOHN A. BERGMAN

REVISIONS TO DAY CAMP STANDARDS

As you know, the Day Camp Standards are being revised. The format and some of the questions are the same as our recently revised Guidelines For Accreditation for residential camps. There are, however, some additions and changes that are necessary due to differences in the day camp situation.

At this stage in the revision process, the Standards Committee is planning to send a copy of the Draft Revisions to all day camp members so that these members can revise the proposed standards during the summer.

All members will receive a copy of the final draft in the fall and an invitation to participate in an Open Meeting to discuss the standards before the revised Guidelines for Accreditation for day camps is put to the entire membership for approval at our Annual General Meeting in January, 1992.

However, any member who is interested in receiving a copy of the revisions this spring is welcome to call, write, or fax the OCA office and a copy will be sent to them. Comments and suggestions from all members are welcomed at any time.

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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

HERITAGE 1993

Ontario will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its extensive and admirable system of parks and nature reserves in 1993. To mark this important occasion the Wildlands League -a chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society- has undertaken a major educational and publishing project.

A high quality book is being produced which will include written pieces from naturalists, educators, artists, natives, and students. The photographs are from a team of the finest landscape and wild-life photographers in Canada.

A 50-minute audiovisual program featuring images and ideas from the book will encourage classroom and public discussion of the recreational and ecological values of parks and wilderness.

I encourage you to join me in supporting this exciting and worthwhile project. Donations will ensure that contributors will be reimbursed and that the book will be available to the public at an affordable price.

Since the League has registered charitable status, all donations will yield a receipt for tax purposes. Please make donations to:

The Wildlands League -
Heritage '93, 517 College
St., Ste. 406, Toronto,
Ont. M6G 4A2.
Telephone: (416) 324-9760.

DAVID LANG

INFORMATION REGARDING EPILEPSY

The Epilepsy Association, Metro Toronto, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing information, support, and advocacy to people with epilepsy and their families. As part of our overall mandate to provide education, we offer educational presentations to any group that feels they need more information about epilepsy.

Over the years, it has come to our attention that children with epilepsy have a difficult time finding a residential camp that is willing to accommodate them. The popular belief is that epilepsy is dangerous, uncontrollable and frightening, and that children with epilepsy need constant supervision and special care that is impossible for the average camp counsellor to administer.

We would like to extend our educational services to you in order to better inform you and your counsellors about epilepsy and to dispell some of the myths about children with this disorder. We can provide information about the medical and social aspects of epilepsy, as well as correct first aid for seizures.

Please feel free to give us a call, and let us know how we can assist you.

MAUREEN GANS
Education Coordinator
Epilepsy Association,
Metro Toronto
(416) 964-9095

STANDARDS WORKSHOP

Visitors and Directors of Camps Being Visited: Join us for a workshop to help you prepare for visits in 1991.

When? Wednesday, April 17, 1991; 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Where? Metro Toronto School Board Office, 45 York Mills Road (east of Yonge)

Why? Talk with the visitor/camp director about the visit. Get answers to all your questions about the Standards Program!

Hope to see you on April 17th,

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Affiliated Members:

WENTWORTH REGIONAL CENTRE
(CITY OF STONEY CREEK)

BURLINGTON PARKS &
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

New Commercial Members:

EAST SIDE NOVELTY
97 Doncaster Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 1L6
(416) 889-7777
Fax (416) 889-2518
Toys, games, seasonal
goods, stationery, fire-
works

RAGZ INC.
2600 John St., Suite 124,
Markham, Ont. L3R 3W3
(416) 477-1534
Fax (416) 477-0854
Pullovers especially
designed for people into
water sports

HELP WANTED

Counsellors Required for Illahee Lodge, a residential vacation program for senior citizens. Duties include socializing with older guests, involvement in evening programs, special events and outings. Applicants will need general knowledge of working with groups of people in a social/recreational situation, knowledge of the needs of older people and good interpersonal and team skills. Additional information on requirements is available from the OCA office. Submit resumes to: Faye Frith-Program Director Seniors Residential Program Family Service Association 22 Wellesley St. E. Toronto, Ont. M4Y 1G3

Director and Synod Youth Consultant needed for Camp Kintail, effective January 1992. The person will provide supervision of all aspects of the life, program and administration of Camp Kintail, and will provide a consultant-based service to youth ministry for the congregations and committee of the Synod. The position is full-time with a competitive salary and benefits. The successful candidate will be required to reside at Camp Kintail near Goderich during the summer; the permanent office for this position is in London, Ontario. For a complete job description, contact: Nancy Lockyear Convenor of Search Committee 19 Kenwood Cres. London, Ont. N5Y 3W6 (Deadline for applications is July 31, 1991).

HELP WANTED

Well established, lively residential children's camp is ready to add an additional **Assistant Program Director** to its capable, mature staff group. The right individual must be creative, full of ideas and passionately enjoy working with boys and girls of 6 to 16 years, L.I.T.'s to 18, and staff aged 19 and over. You may have a general program interest or perhaps a special interest, such as Leader in Training. Grooming provided for future advancement. Call (416) 226-2672 in full confidence.

Please note: This is a repeat of an ad that ran in the February issue. The telephone number for this issue is the correct one.

FOR RENT

Affiliated Member Camp for rent. Please contact Gary Faulkner, Club Whitesands, 45 Wynford Heights Cres., Don Mills, Ont. M3C 1L3; (416) 449-6029.

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

Standards Workshop.....
.....April 17, 1991

Counsellor Conference.....
.....May 25, 1991

Nurses' Workshop.....
.....May 25, 1991

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

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

O C A C O U N S E L L O R C O N F E R E N C E 1 9 9 1



WE CAN MAKE A difference II

Group and Individual
Registrations Forms
Available

Contact the OCA Office
(416) 781-0525

OCA Skills Week-end

June 7-10, 1991

OCLC Bark Lake

When we combine five areas of camp skills we obtain more than the sum of the parts. Just like your own staff training, the 'magic' of the experience spills over into the summer. Get a head start on your staff's start to the summer.

CANOEING
CRAFTS
NATURE
AQUATICS
MUSIC AND PROGRAM

Contact the OCA Office
416 781 0525