



DECEMBER 1990

EDITOR: JANET ADAMSON

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Very Happy New Year to all!!!

COLE'S NOTE

IT'S YOUR CONFERENCE

"WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE" is the theme of this year's OCA Conference at the Sheraton Centre from Thursday, January 24th until Saturday January 26th. Each of you has by now received full information on the program.

The OCA Conference for Directors and Senior Staff is the showcase event that your Association puts on for all of you on an annual basis. The amount of work and hours that go into the preparation, all by volunteers, is absolutely staggering; and planning has already begun for 1992.

In the past few years, although the Conference has been well attended, it has been noticed that many OCA members do not attend. In fact, a large number of people who attend our Conference are not even members of OCA. There are probably many reasons for

this and the Conference Committee last year did a survey to determine why more of you were not in attendance. The reasons: bad timing; too costly for out-of-towners; wrong time of the year; should be held later since many camps have not yet hired their directors and senior staff. The Conference Committee has taken all of the suggestions to heart and is grappling with whether the Conference dates should be changed, as well as other topics relating to our Conference.

No other annual event exists where so many camping people can get together to have fun, share and gain new ideas, and just enjoy the comradeship of being with camping professionals for a few days. If you have not attended an OCA Conference lately, this is the year to reconsider. It doesn't matter whether you are new in camping, or have been a camp director your whole life. There is much to gain, in so many

ways, from your presence. The more people we have, the more sharing we can do and the stronger our Association becomes. If there are issues you think should be raised, then it is important for you to let us know.

The theme of the Conference, "WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE", has different layers of meaning. To all of us it signifies that we can make a difference in our dealings with kids and staff at camp, but by your support of OCA and the Conference, you can make a difference to their entire camping movement. The more we are the better we are; the more we share the more we can all learn; the more we ask questions the more we can come up with the right answers. In many ways, camping will change over the next decade, what with rising costs, more government legislation, people being more careful with how they are going to spend their money. This will affect all of us, to

one extent or another. So come out to the Conference, renew acquaintances, attend a few sessions, and have a lot of fun with all of us in the camping community who care deeply about its future.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Conference in January. Happy Holiday Season!

TED COLE
President

O C A O F F I C E N E W S

Long-time members of OCA will be surprised and not a little saddened to hear that Jean McIlwrick, our super-efficient administrative secretary, will be retiring in the summer of 1991. Jean has been with OCA for thirteen years and has worked under seven different presidents of the Association. Won't you join us at the Annual General Meeting on January 24, 1991, at the Sheraton Centre, to pay tribute to this wonderful lady? A presentation will be held in Jean's honour, and it would be terrific if all her friends from OCA could be there.

The Executive is also hoping to find someone to fill Jean's shoes. If you know of someone, or perhaps are yourself interested in working at the Association's "Headquarters", send a resume to Ted Cole, c/o the OCA Office. Ted may also be reached at Camp Walden, (416) 635-0049.

L E T ' S I N T E G R A T E T O G E T H E R !

Last autumn in the Globe and Mail, Michael Valpy writing of William A. Dimma, deputy chairman of Royal LePage Ltd., quotes, "Ten or fifteen years ago, corporate ethics was a 'MEGO' topic - 'My Eyes Glaze Over', but not today, and not likely ever again." Valpy continues, "To illustrate, Mr. Dimma said that, only a generation ago, conventional wisdom was that the only responsibility of management was to maximize value to the shareholder. That view today, he said, is nearly obsolete."

Similarly, we can write that until recently, the subject of integration of children with disabilities into mainstream camps has been a 'MEGO' topic, but not today, and not likely ever again. Credit is owed to the efforts of the OCA Integration Sub-Committee, and the editors of the OCAsional News who have kept this issue in front of the OCA reader.

Integration is becoming the norm and more camps are accepting the responsibility of children with disabilities. I can speak first-hand about Camps Ekon, Glen Mhor, Iona, John Island, Kakeka, Mini-Yo-We and Robin Hood. Here, campers with disabilities are accepted as persons first; they sleep with their peers, not apart from them; they go canoe out-tripping together, etc. Children are exposed to appropriate behaviours and interactions; able children learn that they do not have

to be perfect to be accepted. It is this kind of leadership which families of children with disabilities have been looking for. Write the parents of a nine-year-old daughter:

"This was (her) first experience in socializing outside of school. For the first time she was independent of her family and she participated in activities that she usually only observed. It was her first experience with the outdoors... I think the experience made her feel like 'one of the kids'... The week of not having to worry about how to keep her busy was relaxing. My husband and I had a second honeymoon. Our son appreciated being the only child, although he missed her terribly. Thank you. And we thought no one cared and that we would have to keep (her) alone."

From parents such as these, the theme of increased self confidence and independence is recurrent. Yet is this any different from the developmental needs of all children? Parents write that children with disabilities should not only be involved in typical activities, but also in typical environments. My own son had his first camping experience at John Island in July. Never before did he eat more enthusiastically, dress more promptly or play more vigorously. But I recognized that Tristan is valued and respected by others: all parents deserve as much.

Rewards are also available to the whole camp body: "Children from R.E.A.C.H.

(for the Rainbow) enriched the experience of Iona for both staff and campers". "Ekon exists to help leaders to further develop leadership skills and a sense of responsibility - R.E.A.C.H. and the challenges of some campers help us to achieve this goal"... "Demonstrates for Kakeka staff, campers and others the compassion and care individuals can have for others. Very positive. A good experience!" Of a camper with autism at Robin Hood, his counsellor notes that "the members of the group think (he's) a 'radical dude'. He is a super kid!"

Leadership has been assumed not only by religiously affiliated camps, but also by private, agency and municipal camps. I hope that the reader's eyes have NOT glazed over; and that more camp owners and directors regard integration as a responsibility and an opportunity.

DAVID NEAL
R.E.A.C.H. For the Rainbow

NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS :

If you joined OCA as an individual member after January 1990, this is a message for you.

If you, as an individual member, require a copy of the Guidelines for Accreditation (residential camps), please contact the OCA office.

STANDARDS NEWS

Do You Know Where Your Standards Binder Is?

All member camps received a green or blue binder to hold the revised Guidelines for Accreditation that were ratified by the membership at our Annual General Meeting last January. These Guidelines contain all the questions that must be answered as part of your accreditation visit. The Guidelines also contain valuable information that should be of assistance to all camp directors every year. Keep your binder close at hand for easy reference and be sure to take it to camp for the summer.

Standards Visits and Ontario Regulation 242/84

Every year there are a few questions in the Guidelines for Accreditation that come to the attention of the Standards Committee when we review the Answer Sheets. This year, there are two questions that we would like to comment on.

CS24 (page 2.4) Is there a written fire emergency procedure posted and/or available to all staff and campers?

P3 (page 4.3) Does the camp have written instructions for emergency and operational procedures that shall be used in the event of a waterfront emergency?

In each case, Ontario Regulation 242/84 (s. 11 and s. 36) is quite specific that written procedures are required by law. They are also required for your pro-

tection and to assist you and your staff in providing a safe camping experience for all campers.

The Standards Committee encourages all directors to review their written emergency procedures every year and to ensure that all staff and campers are familiar with these procedures.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Annual Camp Fairs:

New Central Public School, Oakville; on Tuesday, January 29, 1991; at 7:30 p.m.; participation fee, \$60. Contact Patti Hnatiw at (416) 842-0806.

Georgina Public Library, Keswick Branch; Saturday, March 9, 1991; 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; contact Mrs. Green at (416) 476-5762.

FOR SALE

Two stainless steel pots, 30 litre size. Brand new, perfect condition. Buy one or two! Call Bruce or Lisa Wilson, (416) 470-2030.

Used tents:

- 36 Quicksilver VIII tents (8 person)
- 14 Quicksilver VI tents (6 person).

Will sell for less than half retail price. Call Fran, (416) 667-1288, or Stan, (514) 488-8920.

FREE

The Safety Resource Centre (Ministry of Tourism & Rec'n) provides info on all aspects of sports safety, from drug abuse to shoes suitable for aerobics. Call 1-800-668-7744.

O O P S !

Due to a mix-up, not all camp, individual and student members received an application for travel allowance in the recent mailing of Conference information. Please contact the OCA Office if you would like a form and if you:

- * are a first-time delegate to the Conference;
- * plan on registering as a full-time delegate (with hotel);
- * have to travel more than 330 km (200 mi) to get to Toronto;
- * plan on sharing with your region the knowledge you will gain while at the Conference.

H E L P W A N T E D

Etobicoke Parks & Recreation is looking for a full-time **Recreation Assistant** to be responsible for the overall operation of the summer day camps and some work in the adapted program. Resume to Lorene Bodiam, Etobicoke P & R Department, 399 The West Mall, Etobicoke, Ont. M9C 2Y2. Tel.: (416) 394-8533; fax (416) 394-8935.

Camp Kwasind seeks a **Managing Director**. Qualifications: Christian camping experience, administrative ability, youth leadership experience, commitment to Christian camping. This position requires an adult to attend all committee meetings and do some committee work. On site from middle of May to Labour Day weekend. Salary commensurate with experience. Resume to Valerie Crouse, 18 Central Park Ave., Dundas, Ont. L9H 2M6.

H E L P W A N T E D

The Midland YMCA is looking for a **Director of Camping & Outdoor Education**. Full-time position managing a summer camp for 168 campers and running extended season programs. Camp Kitchekewana is located on Beausoleil Island and outdoor education programs are offered on the island and in the Midland-Penetanguishene area. Candidates should have a university degree with outdoor ed specialization and a minimum of 2 yrs camp experience at the administrative/management level. Resumes to: The Midland YMCA, P.O. Box 488, Midland, Ont. L4R 4L3; Attn: Susan MacDonald.

W E L C O M E N E W M E M B E R S !

New Commercial Members:

OUELLET CATERING
Box 70, Cardiff, Ont.
KOL 1M0
(613) 339-2969
Food catering for camps.

SPECIALTY HOUSE
P.O. Box 2501, Station B,
49 Scott St., St. Catharines, Ont. L2M 7M8
(416) 682-9155
Custom made & crested quality sportswear.

CAMP CONNECTION INC.
526 Lawrence Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 1A1
(416) 789-1944
Everything a camper needs for summer camp!

CUSTOMWEAR BY JAY
700 Lawrence Ave. W., North York, Ont. M6A 3B4
(416) 256-1489
Customized T's, sweats, caps, etc. Minimum order: One.

FOGH MARINE LTD.

2242 Lakeshore Blvd. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M8V 1A5
(416) 251-0384
Laser, Laser II, Byte, Sunfish; hardware, rope & safety gear.

HIKERS HAVEN LTD.

549 Bronte Rd., Oakville, Ont. L6J 4Z3
(416) 827-6361
Perception, R-5, R-7, Old Town, Eureka, Camptrails, North Face, MSR.

GRANT EMBLEMS LTD.

134 Park Lawn Rd., Toronto, Ont. M8Y 3H9
(416) 255-3421
Fine quality embroidery, sportswear, baseball caps.

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

Conference for Directors and Senior Staff.....
.....January 24-26, 1991

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

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



SHARE-A-TON NEWS

NEWS THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

HOTEL TRANSPORTATION: A SMORGASBORD OF CHOICE

CAR A recent report indicated that all roads lead to the Sheraton Centre - unfortunately many other people know that as well - and often use them. Parking (and plenty of it) is available below City Hall (across the street). If you must drive, then you must park and the City Hall Parking Lot is the place to do it downtown.

A driving/parking alternative exists at the Yorkdale Shopping Centre (Allen Rd and HWY 401) where, before 9:30 AM, you may enter their lot and park all day for \$3.00. A subway ride brings you right to the Hotel (see University Line/Subway). For those parking at Yorkdale after 9:30 AM, the parking is free for the day.

SUBWAY

University Line - to Osgoode Station

walk east on Queen Street to the Hotel

Yonge Line - to Queen St Station

walk west on Queen Street to the Hotel

GO TRAIN

Take the GO Train to Union Station. From there walk above ground or in the comfort of underground tunnels to the Hotel (7 min walk). Shopping along the way is permitted but don't be late for sessions!

SKATING/SWIMMING

Neither of these transportation methods is recommended for arrival/departure at the Hotel but the City Hall rink is right across the street and an indoor/outdoor pool (heated) is located inside/outside the Hotel. Skates and suits are therefore recommended (not both at the same time!).

LUGGAGE STORAGE

This free Hotel service may be of interest to those guests adding other plans to their Conference time visit to Toronto.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In pre-camp last summer, two incidents dramatically reinforced for me some of the harsh realities of life in our modern society. In an icebreaker game, a group of four staff was asked to chat and discover one unique and unusual fact common to the group. One group's answer was, "unbelievably the first marriage of all our parents is still intact!" Later, in a brainstorming exercise, the staff was asked to create a list of uses for a coat hanger. An immediate response by a first year counsellor was "to perform an abortion".

In today's world we can easily list the problems facing the camping professional: families in crisis, children who are unhappy and unfit, a fragile environment and budgetary restraints in a recessive economy - just to mention a few. We are challenged to provide exciting programmes that will motivate campers to participate actively and enthusiastically when their most strenuous winter activity is pressing the keys on a computer or the remote control on the T.V. We are challenged to unplug walkmans and tune young people into their peers and the natural environment. We are challenged to be a role model for sound environmental practices. All this and coping with the G.S.T. as well!

We have endeavoured in planning the 1991 O.C.A. Conference for Directors, Owners and Senior Staff to address today's issues and provide some answers and solutions. We encourage you to attend and benefit from chatting with your colleagues, listening to the speakers and visiting the exhibitors.

The challenges are great but the rewards are worthwhile as we continue to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the lives of the campers, staff and parents depending on us!

Catherine Ross Co-Chair

THURSDAY SEMINARS DESIGNED FOR MAXIMUM BENEFIT

These Titles and Descriptions are excerpted from the Fall Preview of 'We Can Make A Difference'
Consult the Preview for More Detail

T1 UNDERSTANDING AND ENCOURAGING THE CAMPER - Stanley Shapiro, Family Counsellor

"....the seminar is designed to help staff help campers toward becoming co-operative and harmonious during their camp experience."

T2 OPEN UP THE WINDOWS OF YOUR MIND - Jane McCutcheon, Camp Tawingo

"Come and explore some of the ways in which we motivate ourselves and others to do our very best.....!"

T3 STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR CAMPS - Bob Kobiellush, Executive Director, CCI/USA

"Most camps have deceived themselves into thinking that a site plan is a strategic plan...this won't make it in the 1990's....."

T4 WHO HAS FINANCIAL CONTROL OF YOUR CAMP? - George Ross, C.A., Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da

"In this half day seminar we will look at the preparation and use of budgets, the characteristics of costs and revenues and day to day procedures and controls....."

T5 "YOUR CAMP AND THE ENVIRONMENT ...role modelling for the year 2000 - CAMP GREEN" - Dave Newnham, YMCA Camp Wanakita - Jim Hopkins, Haliburton County Bd of Ed

"The earth is in trouble.....This session will focus on a variety of ideas and initiatives which can be used in your camp's office, maintenance department, kitchen or in your future site planning."

T6 MANAGING YOUR TIME

- Mary Keyes, McMaster University

"We thought we would have more time as we approached the 21st century but we were mistaken.... Examples from the camping scene will be explored..... as we develop strategies to manage our time more effectively in the 90's"

T7 "YOUR CAMP AND THE ENVIRONMENT ...role modelling for the year 2000 - THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM ISN'T ONLY AT THE NATURE LODGE"

- Dave Newnham, YMCA Camp Wanakita
- Jim Hopkins, Haliburton County Bd of Ed

".... This afternoon we will present a variety of ideas which can be used to create a comprehensive, varied and exciting camp environment program, both at the nature lodge and throughout the entire camp."

SPECIAL NOTE WHEN YOU REGISTER

The Conference Fall Preview which described the Thursday Seminars did not include the Seminar Codes for the Registration Form which accompanied it. Please note these Seminar Codes here and use them when you register, if you have not already done so.

THURSDAY

MORNING

AFTERNOON

T1 - Understanding and Encouraging the Camper

T2 - Open Up the Windows of Your Mind

T3 - Strategic Planning for Camps

T4- Financial Control

T6 - Time Management

T5 - Camp Green

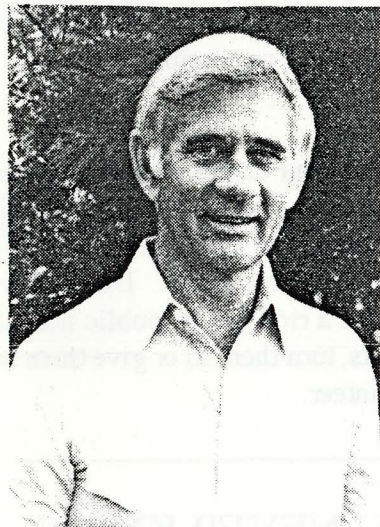
T7 - Environment Program

General Session of the Month

Spotlight on

JACK PEARSE

"We Can Make A Difference"



Jack Pearse is the Director of Camp Tawingo, the President of the American Camping Association's Council for Private Independent Camps, Past President of the Ontario Camping Association and the Canadian Camping Association, an International Trustee for the Future Advancement of Camping and the Canadian Representative to the International Camping Fellowship Steering Committee. He is an inspirational speaker and a renowned songleader, having provided leadership all over this continent as well as overseas. He is one person, but one person who has made and is making a difference in the World of Camping. His message at Lunch on Thursday will inspire us to see that ability in ourselves.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

A HELPFUL ADVICE COLUMN FOR THE
CAMPING CONFERENCE GOER

Dear Couns;

I am an experienced camping conference goer and a willing committee member. I hear a great deal about the Pool Club but I have had some difficulty getting information on their activities, agenda, mandate, etc. Am I all wet or am I missing something?

Signed Bob

Dear Bob

If you are not all wet then you are missing something! The Pool Club is a friendly gathering of like minded swimming/aqua lounge enthusiasts who start their conference day in the Hotel pool and hot tub poring over items in the Conference Newsletter and bracing themselves for the busy Conference Day ahead.

Steve Heming of Camp Wanakita is the Club's benevolent chairman and raises from time to time other agenda items such as bathrobe quality, hottub temperature and time of next meeting.

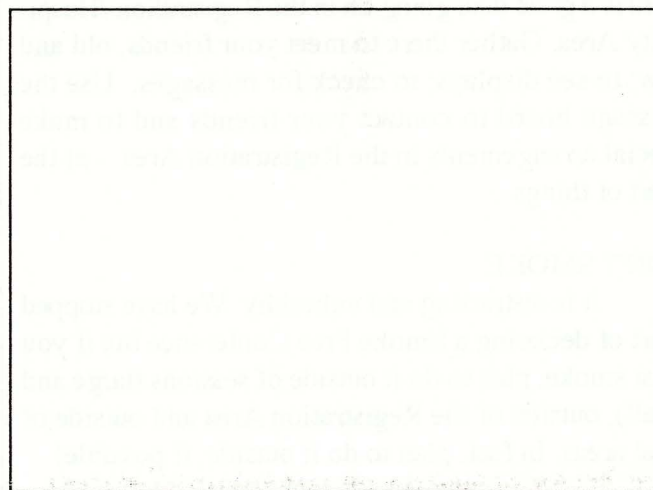
Watch for more information at Conference time and remember to bring your suit to the Sheraton. Take the plunge!

BIG BANQUET BONUS ANNOUNCED!

A change has been announced in the sign-up procedure for tables at the Saturday Night Banquet which is traditionally the closing event of the Director's Conference. In order to be as equitable as possible, the committee would like to permit everyone at the Banquet access to the various tables in the Banquet Hall. In past years, various Camps have enjoyed gathering their staff at specific tables for the final meal and program.

Camps may still reserve a table but the assignment to their particular table will be more random; by means of a special draw. In order to make individuals and small groups feel more of a part of the event several front row tables will be set aside from the draw. Honourable Life Members will also have the option of joining their associates at the front row tables.

Watch for more information concerning Banquet Sign up and Program in future issues of Share-a-Ton News and at the Conference.



The view from a tenth floor bedroom window at the Sheraton Centre of Toronto during a snowstorm last winter.

SIMPLE THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS A DELEGATE

BE A BUDDY

Seek out a buddy before or at Conference time. Whether you are a rookie or a veteran you can make a great deal of difference to your buddy and you will see the Conference through a different pair of eyes. You are the only one that gets you involved.

ATTEND SESSIONS

Getting to the Conference is only half the effort. How many times have you wished that a camper would do more than just come to Camp, simply to stand on the sidelines. Go to the sessions, ask questions, stimulate discussion and make the session pertinent to your needs.

MEET IN THE CONCOURSE LEVEL

Between every session and during informal times, there is a great deal going on in the Registration /Hospitality Area. Gather there to meet your friends, old and new; to see displays; to check for messages. Use the message board to contact your friends and to make special arrangements in the Registration Area - at the heart of things.

DON'T SMOKE

It is distracting and unhealthy. We have stopped short of declaring a Smoke Free Conference but if you must smoke, plan to do it outside of sessions (large and small), outside of the Registration Area and outside of meal areas. In fact, plan to do it outside, if possible!

WEAR YOUR NAMETAG

We are adopting a different style of nametag this year. It will be large, legible and necklace style attached to a neck cord for easy transfer when you change clothes but it must be worn to make a difference.

STAY IN THE HOTEL

A great deal of the Conference 'difference' comes outside of sessions and regular Conference events. Stick around in the Hotel with your friends and associates and make the three days of Conference association truly effective.

BE A GOOD BUYER

O.C.A. exhibitors are here to serve your needs during Conference time. Do a little homework and take advantage of equipment displays, face-to-face contacts and special Conference prices. Plan to make Friday as effective an exhibit day as possible.

THINK GREEN

Care about your Camp all year round and care about the earth as well. Plan to take or make copies only when you can't remember it, you can't write it down or you can't share someone else's. Don't drive to the Conference, share a ride or use public transit. Don't waste meal tickets, turn them in or give them away to a Conference volunteer.

YOU NEVER KNOW

You never know when someone
May catch a dream from you,
You never know when a little word
Or something you may do
May open up the windows
Of a mind that seeks the light,
The way you live may not matter at all
But you never know --- it might.

And just in case it could be
That another's life, through you,
Might possibly change for the better
With a broader and brighter view,
It seems it might be worth a try
At pointing the way to what's right,
Of course, it may not matter at all,
But then again --- it might.

.....WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PHINE FOTOS PHREQUENTLY PHINISH PHIRST IN CONPHERENCE FOTO-PHEST

This is a "phinal" reminder to dig up all those photos taken last summer by your campers and staff and to enter them into the contest. Photos will be judged in 4 categories: Scenic, Humour, Activity and Emotion. Plan to come and see the all the entries on Friday and Saturday at the Conference.



ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

SUITE 2, 1806 AVENUE RD., TORONTO, ONT. M5M 3Z1 (416) 781-0525

December 1, 1990

Dear O.C.A. Member:

MAKE THIS YOUR SUMMER TO DO A STANDARDS VISIT!

There will be approximately 65 camps due to receive a Standards Visit in the summer of 1991. Many of the camps will be on their regular four-year Accreditation Visit and some will be Provisional Members receiving their first visit. These camps are located throughout Ontario.

The response to our request for visitors has always been terrific and the Committee receives many positive comments from visitors and camp directors who enjoy the constructive exchange of ideas and the opportunity to discuss common concerns.

Please return the attached form by December 30th so that we can match visitors and camps. At the O.C.A. Directors' Conference - "Chat Wit The Chairs", you will have an opportunity to meet other visitors and directors of camps being visited, and ask any questions. A Standards Workshop for visitors and directors will be held later in the spring.

If you would like to be a visitor, but have not had much experience in visiting camps, please circle the appropriate section on the Visitor Volunteer Form and we will try to partner you with an experienced visitor. The Standards Committee is happy to provide any assistance you may need.

Return your form today. You'll be glad you did!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Barb Gilbert

Barb Gilbert
Chairperson,
Standards Committee

BG/fh
Attach.

VISITOR VOLUNTEER FORM

RETURN TO: O.C.A. Office
1806 Avenue Rd., Suite 2
Toronto, Ont. M5M 3Z1

NAME: _____

Winter Address: _____
Street City Postal Code

Winter Telephone No.: () _____

Summer Address: _____
Street City Postal Code

Summer Telephone No.: () _____

Camp Affiliation At Present: _____ Position: _____

Resident or Day Camp? _____ No. of Campers? _____

The date you will be going to your summer address: _____

Number of years at present camp: _____

Total number of years of camping experience: _____

Is this your first time as a Visitor? YES NO (Circle one)

Would you prefer to accompany an experienced Visitor if possible? YES NO

Have you volunteered previously, but not been assigned a camp? YES NO

Please name some of the camps you have been a Standards Visitor in the past:

Would you be willing to have a "first-time" Visitor accompany you? YES NO

Do you remember who was the last Standards Visitor who visited your camp?

YES NO (Circle one) If "YES", who? _____

Please circle the camping area(s) which you would be able to travel to and would enjoy doing a visitation in:

North Western Ontario	Windsor/Sarnia	Haliburton
Temagami/North Bay	Eastern Ontario	Muskoka
Huntsville	Midland/Owen Sound	Kitchener/London
Thunder Bay/Sault Ste. Marie Hamilton/St. Catharines		
Toronto (north to Lake Simcoe)		