



NOVEMBER 1990

EDITOR: JANET ADAMSON

Actually, I'm enough of an academic to believe that ideas are even more powerful than nuclear weapons. -- John Polanyi

COLE'S NOTE

I would like to share with you excerpts from a book, "Salute Your Shorts", a humorous look at summer camp, with slight changes by yours truly. I have no idea where you can obtain this book; it was sent to me by a friend in the United States.

Swimming

The most terrifying and despised activity at camp is instructional swim. It is exhausting and tedious and many of the skills are utterly pointless, but more than anything else, the lake is cold: you jump in and your eyes bulge, your lungs contract and your skin screams. Do the counsellors appreciate the problem of dodging ice chunks in the water? No, in fact they insist on accentuating the chill by making the campers get in and out of the water all lesson long. Though seemingly a respite from

the competitive nature of most camp activities, in fact, degradation is acute in swimming. A readily identifiable caste system is devised, and some may go where others may not. However, unlike the Indian hierarchy, these divisions are based on ability rather than birthright. They also have unbelievable names.

Guppies, Minnows and Sea Slugs

The children in these pre-beginner groups do not belong in camp. Nonetheless, here they are and often enough, no amount of coaxing and cajoling can get these kids to pierce the surface. The counsellors show them how to blow bubbles, splash and play with them hoping to shame them into going into the water. They will even say, "There's money on the bottom". These kids are allowed in the shallow area only where the water doesn't come above their waists. That's far enough.

Don't drink from this area.

Perch, Turtles and Flounders

Beginner classes are rife with every conceivable type of swim aid: rubber clamps on the nose, sponges in the ears, a pair of goggles for watching underwater, personal flotation devices, flutter boards, water wings, bubbles... All of these are painted day-glow orange so that advanced swimmers can more easily tease the beginners and also so that the ski boats can spot these kids when they float out of the swimming area.

Trout, Swordfish and Anchovies

Also known as advanced beginners. This group is exactly the same as the beginners but they get much better looking patches at the end of the summer and their parents get an illusion of progress.

Flying Fish, Sting Rays and Whales

The Intermediates learn the true pleasure of swimming, floating on their backs. It's not easy but once mastered it allows you to float along blissfully and without effort, plus keeping your face out of the water. You can use the stomach as a handy place to rest a plate of french fries.

Dolphins, Porpoises and Tuna

The advanced swimmers have learned everything that is necessary to survive and have fun in the water, but no-one gets out of instructional swim. To ensure that every camper dips daily into the frosty water, the instructor now takes up such strokes as the butterfly, reverse crawl and inverted breast strokes. The butterfly is the most futile form of transportation invented since the pogo stick. It is an exhausting method of staying in one place, achieved by swinging both arms in arching circles, bucking the hips and breathing when and if your head will pop out of the water. It got its name from the fact that when butterflies land in the water the powder comes off their wings and drown.

Sharks, Barracudas and Piranhas

Fittingly, the most advanced group takes their name from one of the seas' deadly predators. These classes are devoted to methods of water safety and life saving. Among the

techniques learned are how to inflate long pants, a shirt and a pair of work boots to keep afloat and how to throw an empty clorox bottle to a drowning swimmer. If you fall into the water wearing a suit, or witness a drowning while you are working in the camp's laundry, that's great; otherwise, you might as well be swimming the butterfly stroke.

Do these descriptions bring back memories of all the swim classes that we went through? "Salute Your Shorts" is a terrific funny book, and I will try to find out where we can get a number of copies of it to sell at the OCA Conference.

See you next month,

TED COLE
President

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

The following is a letter sent in by a youngster who attended Camp Awakening this past summer.

"I stared open-mouthed at Ritchie Falls. SWIM IN THIS! It wasn't in disbelief, but in excited anticipation. Surprisingly enough, I felt no fear. This small fact in itself was such a contrast from the way I'd greeted the prospect of spending two weeks away from home that I almost laughed aloud. New friends, continuous thrills, and various pleasant discoveries about myself had quickly erased any qualms I'd had about Camp Awakening. Perhaps

this was the reason for my unusual confidence that day.

"The roaring waterfall was a wild white stallion rearing and plunging. It declared eternal freedom. Its hooves flailed, kicking up foam and eddies. A clump of rocks stood before the beast, frozen in awe. Beside them a few rapids ran, and behind these the black waters abruptly calmed to a pool.

"The other six girls in my group from Camp Awakening were somewhat faster in movement than I (I use a wheelchair). They all reached the water before me. Normally, this wouldn't have bothered me; but today I was impatient. I stripped down to my bathing suit and left my shoes on, as instructed. The counsellors helped me yank on a lifejacket, diaper fashion, my legs through the armholes. Both these things were safety precautions to avoid getting seriously scraped on any sharp rocks. Finally, I was in the river and swimming with the rest of them towards the falls.

"Once in the foaming current we all started screaming and laughing. To be so close to such natural power is a thrilling experience and I guess we were all feeling elated! The counsellors showed us how to ride the rapids and we also learned how to creep up on the falls from the side. We could hold on to a long ledge, a fingers-length away from the spirited white water. When I left into the falls, I heard a loud roar all around me and

I surfaced, exhilarated. Again and again my brain tapped out one message: "This is amazing!" I wished my family could see me now!

"The next day Scott, one of our counsellors, asked me if I'd enjoyed Ritchie Falls. I thought of many descriptive words, but all that came from my mouth was an enthusiastic "YES"!

"He smiled warmly. "Alright!!!" Throwing an arm across my back he gave my shoulder a friendly squeeze. Comfortable in the knowledge that he understood, I smiled back."

ERIN

HANDS UP - FOR REACHING ACROSS OCEANS!

Here is a wonderful way for us to extend a warm hand of fellowship to camping people around the world. The Steering Committee of the International Camping Fellowship has been invited to give leadership at the OCA Conference in January. There are representatives from every continent on the ICF Steering Committee and they are vigorously promoting the 1994 International Camping Congress to be held in Toronto. They are determined to assure that the 1994 event is truly international so they are meeting in conjunction with our OCA Conference (as well as with the Steering Committee of the 1994 Congress) to plan their promotional schemes for 1994.

The ICF Committee has representation from the

following countries: Soviet Union, Belgium, Ghana, Venezuela, Australia, Great Britain, Japan, USA and Canada. Our assistance is needed to make their attendance at the OCA Conference a reality. As a start, Camp Tawingo is prepared to match, dollar for dollar, any contributions we can muster from Ontario Camps and camping folks. We figure it will cost an average of \$1500.00 per person for travel, accomodation and meals, so we would have to raise \$750.00 each for nine delegates.

The OCA is already being overly generous in many, many ways. Here is how you as an individual and/or your organization can help:

1) **BILLETS:** The ICF people will be staying at the Sheraton Hotel during the OCA Conference. However, when they meet before and after the Conference, we would like to billet them. Can you offer your homes for bed and breakfast? The potential dates for billeting are: January 21, 22, 23, 27, 28. One or more of those dates for one or more of the ICF members would be marvellous.

2) **SPONSORS:** Any dollar figure is much appreciated here. It will cost approximately \$750.00 each for 9 delegates, so you and/or your organization can contribute all, most, some or a teensy-weensy portion for one delegate.

3) **MEALS:** Perhaps you could pick up the tab for lunch/dinner/breakfast for one or more ICFers for meals not covered by the OCA Conference registration.

4) **TAXI SERVICE:** To pick up or deliver delegates arriving at or leaving from the Pearson International Airport. The probable arrival and departure dates are Monday, January 21 and Monday, January 28, 1991.

5) **GUIDED TOURS:** Taking the ICFers on a tour of Toronto to show them highlights of the host city for the 1992 World Series, the 1993 Stanley Cup Playoffs and the 1994 International Camping Congress.

At the OCA Annual Meeting, we would like to officially recognize the sponsors of this project. Meanwhile, permit me to thank you, in advance, for anything you can do to contribute to its success.

If you can help please contact Jean McIlwrick at the OCA office (416-781-0525) or Jane McCutcheon at Camp Tawingo (705-789-5612).

Yours for better worldwide understanding through the Camping movement,

JACK PEARSE
Canadian Representative to
the International Camping
Fellowship

P.S.: Jane McCutcheon, John Jorgenson and I have just returned from a 2-week tour of Japan giving workshops for leaders in camping and recreation. One

training session took place at the Tokyo YWCA's Camp Nojiri. It was sponsored by the Japanese Section of the International Camping Fellowship. Their excitement for 1994 is mounting already.

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

Affiliated Members:

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1302 Gainsborough Dr., Oak-
ville, Ont. L6H 2H6
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Environmentally safe clea-
ners, soaps, shampoos

HELP WANTED

Full-time year-round busi-
ness manager for Algonquin
Park Camp. Responsible for
all administration & main-
tenance, hiring & purchas-
ing for camp. Summers in
Algonquin Park, winters in
Toronto. Fax resume to
(416) 975-0130.

**CAMP DIRECTOR
POSITION**

Camp Big Canoe, a United
Church camp for boys and
girls at Bracebridge, re-
quires a director for the
summer of 1991. Camp &
administrative experience
required. Husband & wife

team would be considered.
Resume and references to:
Mary Casey
235 Shakespeare Dr.
Waterloo, Ont. N2L 2T5
Note: other positions
available for senior coun-
sellors.

**POSITION
WANTED**

Experienced Camp Director
(13 years) seeks summer
position at either day or
residential camp. Avail-
able during the year part-
time and full-time for
summer. Experience inclu-
des owning and operating
his own camp. Qualified in
all phases of program &
administration. 14 years
teaching experience; resume
upon request. (416) 483-
8353 (home).

**CAMP MANAGER
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Full-time, permanent, year-
round responsible indivi-
dual to oversee and develop
all aspects of Camp Minwas-
sin. Required: five or
more years in outdoor camp
settings; educational back-
ground in environmental &
wilderness studies at a
post-secondary level; keen
personal interest in a
variety of outdoor experi-
ences. Salary: \$28,000 -
\$30,000 p.a. Apply in
writing, including resume,
to:

Tim Simboli, Director of
Programs, Camp Minwassin,
412 Nepean St., Ottawa,
Ont. K1R 5G7 or fax to
(613) 230-0891.

**OCA CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

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

