



OCAsional news

VOLUME 8

NOVEMBER 1987

EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

"YOU CANNOT DIRECT THE WIND BUT YOU CAN ADJUST THE SAILS."

FROM THE PRESIDENT

"IF YOU ADD A LITTLE TO A LITTLE AND DO THIS OFTEN, SOON THAT LITTLE WILL BECOME GREAT". - HESOD.

Here are some little things that we can all do for OCA.

1) Help us sell the balance of unsold lottery tickets. If every individual member took just one or two books of six tickets to sell, we would realize our goal of selling every printed ticket. Phone our office and arrange to pick up yours today.

2) Write down this date in your calendar: MAY 28, 1988. Now, plan to attend our 1988 Counsellor Conference on this date. This year it is being held at Havergal College in Toronto. Watch for more details.

3) (This one is actually sort of 'big!') Plan to support our 1988 Conference for Directors and Senior Staff. How, you ask? Well, do these little things:

a) Send a Conference Preview to your key staff people. (Wasn't that a great preview!)

b) Include our event in your budget plans for 1988.

c) Realize that this year's Conference has several bonus events - the Annual Meeting, superb Keynote and General Session Speakers, the Lottery Draw, and the best fellowship you could ever find.

4) Smile! Remember, happiness is an inside job.

JANE McCUTCHEON,
President.

EDITORIAL

As vice-principal of a secondary school in northern Ontario, my brother received a directive this September to instruct all staff to don rubber gloves before touching any student who was bleeding. It had been discovered that several students as a result of blood transfusions carried the AIDS virus. Tom pondered what would have happened to the student he rushed to the hospital last spring with severe arterial bleeding if he had stopped to find his rubber gloves before applying direct pressure.

It is only a matter of time before AIDS will be an issue on our camp doorstep if it hasn't arrived already. The topic came under heated discussion in pre-camp when our sole American counsellor informed us that a blood test for AIDS was included in her medical to enter Canada for employment as a camp counsellor. It is alarming when these young people state with all the confidence of invincible youth "It couldn't happen to me!"

CATHERINE ROSS,
Editor.

IMPRESSIONS OF A FIRST TIME CAMP DIRECTOR.

I have been involved in organized camping for twenty-three years as a camper and staff. For the past ten years my professional full time job has been in the camping field as Program Director, Site Manager and Assistant Director. However, I have never been the "CAMP DIRECTOR"! So, now that I'm finally there, and have finished a whole year, what's the big deal?? Are things that much different?!? **YOU BET THEY ARE!!!** - Not that the other positions are less challenging or that Directing is harder or easier. The job is different - the stresses are different. You now know where the buck stops!

The major change from other camp positions was the amount of administrative hubbub: budgets, food service, purchasing, maintenance and facility, camper registration, hiring, marketing, public relations, etc. Even with the help of secretarial and other administrative staff, this Director still had to become involved in time-consuming administrative areas.

Another major time consumer, and almost an obsession, was staffing. The staff are your right and left hands. The quantity and quality of staff, and their training and ultimate performance, make or break a successful summer season. So, they were always on my mind (ins't that a song??). I've read and heard many times that it's great to have a beautiful facility, but without the quality and consistent leadership, campers will go somewhere else.

In addition, I was concerned with providing the best food possible and offering a top notch program in a safe and sound facility. These were things I had "managed" before; therefore, my confidence level was high. However, I did find that my perspectives changed from time to time for reasons I'm still trying to understand.

Blending all of these responsibilities together with regular day activities, and a family life, proved to be a great challenge. Then, those unexpected "OTHER" things popped into the picture and I found that there were not enough hours in a day to do everything. All these responsibilities can eventually (and did at times) bring me down, BUT, only for a MOMENT. The key to success was to deal with everything without effecting camp spirit. If the Director is down, it can effect the staff, and ultimately ruin the experience of the campers. I tried to keep myself in check

by being visible, showing confidence, and by having a 'natural' smile. This became easier when I thought more about Camp Directing and how exciting, invigorating, and euphoric it can be. Always dynamic, never static, the position of Camp Director creates a never ending challenge that keeps the mind and body healthy and alive. 2

Events in my first experience as Director have made lasting impressions:-

-The first day of camp and the electricity in the air.

-Sending Christmas cards with cabin picture and registration forms enclosed. Sneaky but effective!

-The food show - where I tested scrumptious shrimp and flaky light pastry (none of which made it on the camp menu) But...mmmm.

-The appendicitis attack where the camper made it to the hospital with time to spare. A great call by the camp nurse!

-The firing of eight staff over the course of the summer. Not fun, but everything happened without a hitch, causing little effect on staff morale.

-The Counsellor Conference (controversial speaker), Washington (nice town), Bark Lake Workshop (great participation).

-Staff Hiring - Phone calls, interviews, letters, contracts - A tremendous amount of time and effort.

-Our Strawberry Social and Open House which occurs the first Sunday of Pre-Camp. A record 600 people were toured and fed between 12:00 & 6:00 - staff were great tour guides, waiters and waitresses.

-The long weekend in May - 40 strong to help get the camp facility ready. A great staff builder.

-Filling the camp by mid April.

-Christmas at camp with Family.

-Two Japanese exchange students who after a month of sharing their culture, sang a duet to a hushed, teary eyed, camper and staff filled dining hall just before their departure.

-Our maintenance man retiring after 14 years of dedicated service.

-1st Prize as Best Theme Float in the local Rotary Parade.

-The invasion of the "Blue" Smarties.

-The question of staff males wearing earrings came up - I said NO! Although, a vote would have registered 70 - 1 for the earrings. Directors Democracy.

-Last Day of Camp - 3 buses were ordered - 2 arrived - the third driver slept in! Forty one campers spent another delightful 4-1/2 hours at camp.

-After camp, things have settled, and you start to receive the evaluations you sent out to campers and parents. Most of them are great, but then you get the ones that tell you what really went on! It's what you've been waiting for - constructive criticism - so you can make the camp a better place next year. Take it like a Camp Director should.

And finally that very special phone call from the Alumnus who wrote our present camp song in 1955. Thirty-seven years later he reads a fourth verse over the phone that he would like to add to his song. It reads:-

"What goes round comes round they say
Generations lost. No way.
Wanakita tried and true
Now's our turn to grow from you".

I have grown and hopefully will continue to develop, with the incredible day to day challenges in the job of Camp Directing. "There's no life like it" (haven't I heard that somewhere before?)

STEVE HEMING,
Camp Director - YMCA CAMP WANAKITA.

THIS & THAT

OCA AQUATICS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Anyone interested in volunteering some of their time to the O.C.A.? The Aquatics Committee needs you! If you have 1 evening a month to help the Association develop a working committee, please call the O.C.A. office - 781-0525.

There is a lot the Aquatics Committee can do for the Association but we need your help!

JOANNE DWHYTIE,
Aquatics Chairman.

If you have not done so please return 3
"Happiness Is Ask the Campers"
questionnaire to Janet Fine, Hollows Camp,
R.R. #3, Cookstown, Ontario, L0L 1L0.

* * * * *

Don't forget to enter the O.C.A. Photo and Scrapbook Contest. The deadline for entries is January 15, 1988.

"WHAT'S HAPPENING!"



PSST ONTARIO
CAMPING
ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

1988 DIRECTORS' & SENIOR STAFF
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEATURING:

OVER 50 WORKSHOPS
LEADERSHIP TRAINING
SITE MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM IDEAS

ALSO:

FULL DAY EXHIBIT HALL &
DEMONSTRATIONS

JANUARY 28-30, 1988 AT THE INN ON THE PARK
TORONTO

ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION SUITE 2 1806 AVENUE ROAD TORONTO, ONT. M6M 1Z1 781-0525



ANNUAL OCA CONFERENCE - JANUARY
28 - 30, 1988 - "SHARING THE SPIRIT".

Thursday Seminars

This year the Thursday seminars will provide delegates with an indepth look into a wide variety of subjects. These topics include; long-range planning, stress management, "wellness" for kids, staff development, marketing and day camping.

Delegates will have the opportunity to learn and enjoy the fascinating speakers presenting these topics. Sandy Queen, who is a dynamic and fun speaker on stress management, will be joining us from Maryland. She encourages us all to "lighten-up". As well we will be joined by Morry Stein, Dick Chamberlain, members of CCI and the Day Camp Committee. Plan on being at the Conference!

RESIDENT CAMP FAIR

January 14, 1988 at Mooredale House
Community Centre.

Limited space available.

\$250.00/Booth or \$35.00/pamphlet display
only.

Contact:- Marj Booth 922-3714 by December
1, 1987.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

"CONGRATULATIONS" to Bernie Burnett,
Director of Camp Ki-Wa-Y
(Kitchener-Waterloo YMCA) for his winning
entries in the first 'Environmental Song
Challenge' which was sponsored this summer
by the Environmental Concerns Committee.

Bernie's three songs: 'Someone made the
birds and the bees', 'It's a solo night', and
'It's a beautiful day for a duck' were well
written, well sung and they conveyed
important environmental messages. Campers
and staff joined Bernie on the tape for the
song 'Someone made the birds and the bees'
- a quiet melody about the earth and her
riches.

Thank you to Bernie for sharing his talents,
and to all you talented song writers and
singers out there who missed this
opportunity...Watch for the 'Environmental
Song Challenge' next summer. We would
love to hear from you!

JUDY PAUL.

JUMBO PIZZA

To serve 100 hungry campers.
10 French loaves, sliced in half lengthwise.
100oz. can spaghetti sauce
15lbs. ground beef, browned
7lbs. sliced mozzarella cheese, each slice
cut in half to form two triangles.

On each half of the French loaf layer
spaghetti sauce, ground beef, then five
triangles of cheese.

Bake in a 350 degree oven about 20
minutes to warm loaf and melt cheese. Cut
each half loaf into 5 servings.

Served with a fresh green salad, jumbo
pizza is one of our campers' favourite
lunches.

MARGARET WELLS
Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da.

We would be happy to print the recipe of
your campers' favourite meal.



EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

This is a dynamite new project for your
environment or nature program. The kit
includes 5 illustrated panels in full colour,
each 60 x 30 cm and a 42 page
Teacher/Leader Guide.

The illustrations are of the same camp
setting beside a lake and removed from an
urban development in the distance. The
first illustration depicts the 1940's and
1950's, the next ones are 1960, then 1970,
1980 and 1986. In each illustration, one
sees the changes over time. Each season is
represented and different times of day have
been selected.

The Teacher/Leader Guide begins with a
description of each panel and what to look
for in the panel with reference to eight
major themes:

activities	human intervention
ecology	facilities
environment	technology
economics	people

The next portion of the Guide examines
each theme. Opportunities to observe the
illustrations will give campers an immediate
understanding and appreciation of the
impact of humans on the environment as
well as the value of restorative ecology.

This learning tool utilizes a camp setting
making it ideally suited to camping and
outdoor education programs. A few
moments with the Teacher/Leader Guide
opens the possibilities for activities using
the illustrations.

Cost: \$48. per kit (Member)
\$56. per kit (Non-member).

Books listed in "Between the Covers" are
available from the Canadian Camping
Association Bookstore.

Orders that are \$20.00 or less must be
prepaid with \$2.00 added for shipping.
Contact the C.C.A. office by mail or
phone:

Canadian Camping Association
1806 Avenue Road, Suite 2
Toronto, Ontario, M5M 3Z1
(416) 781-4717.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - C.C.A.