



OCA's occasional news

VOLUME 2

FEBRUARY 1988

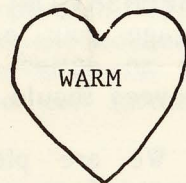
EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

SUPREME HAPPINESS IN LIFE IS THE CONVICTION THAT WE ARE LOVED. - Victor Hugo.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

You never know when something you say or do will influence the actions of others! Here is a February Valentine story that illustrates this point.

In 1985, members of our Camp staff were invited to give leadership at a Conference in Ohio. As part of our session, we gave examples of some of our summer camp theme badges and ideas, and of how we use the theme to help build the Camp spirit amongst staff. In March of 1987, at the Banquet of the International Camping Congress in Washington, D.C., a couple from Ohio came running to our table to give us this bright red badge:



In the summer of 1986, their camp had set a theme and designed a badge. A warm heart you say...a great theme to help staff provide great leadership. But look again - the actual theme was We Are Role Models. Take that idea, and live it to its fullest, and you will find that warm-hearted role models make wonderful Camp leaders.

On behalf of the entire OCA membership, may I give our warm-hearted thanks to Diane Blair and her 1987 Conference Committee. We were treated to a warm, friendly, educational fun event last month, and those of us in attendance are grateful to enjoy fellowship with OCA friends.

NO doubt we are all engulfed and absorbed in our own camp's plans for the summer of 1988. If you can surface for even a minute to volunteer for OCA, please let me know. We need you!!

JANE McCUTCHEON,
President.

EDITORIAL

Good advice often comes from the most unexpected sources. Recently on holiday I was eating at the counter of a crowded Waffle House. I became aware of an elderly lady standing at my elbow waiting to pay her bill. In the few minutes that it took the waitress to arrive, she engaged me in conversation and gave me a quick summary of her recent life history. After the family Christmas celebration, her son had driven her from New Jersey across the Florida border. He then flew home leaving her, a widow of six years, to drive alone down the coast visiting various friends with whom she and her late husband had spent past winters. Before leaving the restaurant, she looked at me, nodded to my husband sitting beside me and spoke seriously, "Now dear, you treat him well. You're nothing without him you know!"

I have several feminist friends who would have exploded with uncontrolled laughter or vehement outrage at such a comment. But I sensed the advice was coming from a very sincere and lonely lady. Given that how we treat people is usually reciprocated in kind, her simple advice, extended to all our

relationships couldn't help but enhance our quality of life.

CATHERINE ROSS,
Editor.

STANDARDS

The Ontario Camping Association has been responsible for the continuing improvements in the field of camping. As a volunteer organization our members have openly shared ideas, lobbied for changes in our laws and have helped provide better and safer environments for learning and living. Not the least of our accomplishments is that we have developed Camping Standards to which all Member Camps subscribe.

These Standards were drawn up by representatives who were part of the Standards Committee and were approved by the Membership. These are not obligatory Standards as set out by the law, but rather they are recommended in order to establish a "minimum standard of care" as agreed upon by our Members. The Standards' Visitation Program which leads to Accreditation was set up to; allow member camps to regulate themselves; give Camp Directors and their staff the opportunity to critically view their own camps to make certain their standard of care is acceptable; and allow for the sharing of ideas through the visitation program.

Even though we are judged by ourselves and others to be successful, each year's experiences cause us to re-evaluate and clarify the Standards and the Visitation Program. To that end we would like to make the following comments:

1) Answering "NO" to a Standard does not mean that you have failed or that you do not belong. You might have a reasonable and responsible "qualifier". You will have an opportunity to discuss your explanation with the visitor and record it. The Committee made up of fellow members discusses each of these explanations and in many cases is prepared to recommend acceptance. If the explanation is unreasonable or one is not submitted, then if you are willing to adapt, the visitor and/or the committee are prepared to assist. Even if you feel that the Standard is unreasonable, you still have recourse by addressing the Standards Committee in writing.

Your Standards Committee has no desire to be a legislative body. Membership is voluntary and those sitting on the committee are only interested in maintaining and upgrading the quality of care camps offer to children and adults.

2) A number of camps are concerned with the standards relating to Health and in particular Food. Please note that the Standards do not require you to hire a dietitian or nutritionist. It asks you to have your menus checked by either to see that your menus indicate a balanced, nutritional diet for your campers. If you require assistance in locating a dietitian or nutritionist you can call your local Health Department for assistance (often the service they recommend is free of charge).

3) Often the OCA Standard is more demanding than the Health Regulation. An example of this is the recommended square footage per camper in cabins or tents. The Health Regulation was established to meet many needs and thus is a minimum and at the same time a generalization. Those approving our Standards recognized that living space is important to the well being of people and thus recommended a better Standard. If you meet or surpass the Health Regulations, but don't meet our Standard, you have not failed, but rather we suggest that in future you strive to reach for the better Standard to help improve your environment.

4) You should know that your Camp is not required to have **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**; however, without that coverage your employee has the right to bring an action against the camp and its employees should there be cause.

5) We are pleased to have had many requests from our members to become Visitors, but at the present time we do not have a program to train and certify visitors. Thus as an interim step the Committee will attempt to pair first time visitors or those who so request with an experienced visitor (both will do the visit). In this way our consistency will improve and many more people will be part of this valuable exchange.

6) Some Standards indicate minimum ages for staff i.e. Counsellors, Swim Head, Camp Directors. We all know that age isn't the only or the most important criteria; however, age is important. Age is not only

an indicator of maturity, but from a camp's point of view, it may be important to make sure the camp is not asking too much of a capable youngster or young adult. If a camp recognizes the Standard and strives for it, but has good reason not to meet the Standard, an explanation will help the Standards Committee understand your situation. If you don't agree with the Standard(s) at all, please be responsible and let your committee know.

We will attempt to keep you abreast of the work of the Standards Committee through the OCAssional News or you can join us. - We hope you will!

LARRY BELL,
Standards Committee.

FIRE SAFETY

We have become aware that many camp directors feel that the new government requirements for fire protection are unnecessary. Having recently experienced a major fire (Newsletter Nov. 1986) we strongly oppose this position. Extinguishers, smoke detectors, sprinklers and hoses could be essential to ensure personal safety and to control or extinguish a fire.

Ask yourself, how accessible is your fire department? Most of us depend on volunteer firemen who are dedicated and effective but during regular working hours not immediately accessible. We prefer to be independent and have stored at our main swim dock a portable gas-operated Wajax pump with sufficient pressure and adequate hose to pump a large volume of water up our steepest, longest hill to our furthest building.

Fires can start so easily in so many ways. Smoke detectors will alert you to a smoldering pic coil or a cigarette or a frayed wire gnawed by an animal. If polled, parents would undoubtedly prefer that we budget \$300 to install a smoke detector in every cabin rather than recanvas a leaky canoe. ABC fire extinguishers are unquestionably more expensive than a bucket of water but necessary in the event of an electrical fire. Although sirens are not a government requirement, we feel they are necessary. We have ambulance sirens hooked up to car batteries (in the event of a power cut) on the roofs of two camp buildings.

Planning and preparation are essential. We suggest that you prepare two plans for assembling and evacuation. Weather, time of day or night, location, and the extent of the fire will dictate which plan to implement. Decide who will give directions, who to report to and how to account for everybody. Keep directions short and simple.

Equipment for fire detection and control is expensive but the amount is small in comparison to legal fees, cost of lawsuits and rebuilding. Yes safety costs but what value do you place on a human life?

LISA & BRUCE WILSON,
Camp Oconto.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

CREATIVE CRAFTS For camps, schools and groups - a new and extensive guide to crafts. Specifically written from experience with crafts in an outdoor setting. An ideal reference for any arts and crafts program, with an extensive index that makes finding information about a specific topic or project easy.

SPECIFIC CRAFTS

"Information concerning each individual craft is complete in a step-by-step format. Individual projects are fully documented with materials and equipment needed and with instructions which are easy to follow. More than 185 drawings by Carol Horrocks provide meticulous illustrations of specific projects and suggestions of other possibilities to spark individual creativity".

Major headings include:

braiding & knotting; basketry; ceramics; leatherwork; metalwork; printing & stenciling; sketching & painting; weaving; whittling, woodcarving and woodworking.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

"A unique aspect of the book is the section which ties specific craft skills to other activities common to many organizations. A section on bulletins, exhibits signs and

newspapers provides unusual opportunities for creative handicrafts. Another shows specific crafts projects related to camping out, dramatics, music and nature. The section on favors and decorations adds a new dimension to banquet and party favors. The chapters on making games and sports equipment and equipment for outdoor activities provide specifications and details not found elsewhere. Chapters on map making and Indian and pioneer crafts are an added attraction."

CREATIVE CRAFTS, American Camping Association, 196 p., 1987.

COST: \$23.85 (members) \$28.65 (non-members).

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.

HELP WANTED

QUALIFIED MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR & QUALIFIED ASSISTANT COOK at John Island Camp and Outdoor Education Centre from May to August.

Interested persons should send resumes' to:

The Sudbury Family YMCA
185 Elm St. E.
Sudbury, Ontario, P3B 1N1
Attn: Camp Director
(705) 674-8315.

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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH ETOBICOKE DAY CAMPS.

CHALLENGE PLUS DIRECTOR

INTEGRATION SPECIALIST

WESTERN RIDING CAMP DIRECTOR

To apply send letter with resume to:- 4

Day Camp Supervisor
Parks & Recreation Services
Etobicoke City Hall
399 The West Mall
Etobicoke, Ontario, M9C 2Y2.
(416) 394-8533

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YWCA - GYPSY GLEN DAY CAMPS

DIRECTOR - Senior Day Camp for children 6-10.

DIRECTOR - Junior Day Camp for children 3-5.

Please submit all applications and resumes to:

YWCA - North Program Centre
2352 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario, M4P 2H7
Attn: Jenny Brunt.

* * * * *

AVAILABLE

A senior full-time position in the Camping & Recreation Department of the Easter Seal Society.

For information contact:

Anne Kane, Director of Personnel (416) 421-8377.

"WHAT'S HAPPENING!"

The Annual Sault "Campference" is scheduled for March 25 & 26, 1988. This is a super event attended by many O.C.A. folks in the North. This year, O.C.A. member Martin Hunt has been invited to give leadership. Our thanks go out to Howard McLeod of Galilean Bible Camp, principal organizer of the Conference and O.C.A. Regional Rep for Sault Ste. Marie.