



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How did you begin 1975? With high hopes? With apprehensions? Wondering about what will happen at Camp, with campers? Is the price of gold going up or down? what bearing will that have on the cost of food at Camp?

Let us hope for the best year ever for Ontario Camping - lots of campers, lots of learning, lots of friendships, lots of growth, lots of fun with the best qualified staff we can muster.

Our Conference Chairman KIM BALL, says, "Camping's alive in '75". You bet it is, Kim, and we're going to keep it that way!

KESWICK CONFERENCE

The first weekend in December saw a gathering of 33 Ontario Camp directors and senior personnel representing 20 different Camps. The occasion was the Annual Camp Directors' Weekend and our enthusiastic host was JOHN WILKINSON, the Director of the wonderfully-organized and equipped KESWICK YOUTH CAMP.

Our discussion topics were varied and exciting as well as our tour and orientation of the programme and facilities of Keswick Youth Camp. Some of the important items covered by the delegates were:

- Our relationship with government
- Public relations for Camping
- Meeting the needs of children
- New ideas in programme and facilities
- Extended use of Camps
- Training Camp staff
- Integration of the special Camper into "normal" camps

It was a great experience and I am preparing a summary of our discussions which will be distributed to the 33 delegates. Ontario Camping will benefit immeasurably from the deliberations at Keswick and I am extremely grateful to the delegates for a superior Conference.

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THREE CAMP DIRECTORS RETIRE

Three of Ontario's most active and able Camp Directors have announced their retirement and we offer every good wish for their happiness, health and sheer enjoyment that must surely accompany retirement.

Elizabeth Raymer, who is O.C.A.'s Chairman of the History and Research committee and her husband, Ralph, who is a past-Treasurer of the O.C.A. have turned over the reins of CAMP TANAMAKOON to Carolea and Hugh Butters. Carolea is very actively involved, already, as a member of the 1975 O.C.A. Conference Committee.

Vice-President Helen Stewart, who among many other camping responsibilities is the esteemed Editor of the Canadian Camping Magazine, has announced that Pam and Gord Maitland have come home from Rhodesia to take over CAMP WAHCAHMIE.

I sincerely hope that Helen, Elizabeth and Ralph will continue their fellowship and active participation in O.C.A. affairs and I hope you will offer the warm hand of friendship to Carolea, Hugh, Pam and Gord as they join our ranks.

ALGONQUIN PARK MASTER PLAN

The newly-completed Algonquin Park Master Plan is now available at bookstores and O.C.A. Treasurer BILL SWIFT has a committee summarizing the report so that he can pass on the details pertinent to Camping people. O.C.A. Recording Secretary KIM BALL is representing the O.C.A. on a new committee of the Ontario Government which is concerning itself with all Provincial Parks.

1975 DIRECTORY

The 1975 Directory of Camps, which will be a National Directory this year, is at the printers now and should be in our hands very shortly. Vice-President HELEN STEWART tells me that it will be 88 pages in length. What a volume!

HISTORY AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Board has decided that History and Research more properly describes the work of the Archives Committee and hence we have effected that change of Committee name.

1975 ELECTIONS

At our O.C.A. Annual Meeting in April, we will be electing a President, two Vice-Presidents and two Members-at-Large, so please prepare yourselves to nominate the people you want to be steering the affairs of the Association for the next two years.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

We would like to welcome to the Board the new Chairman of the Legislation Committee. He is JACK BOWMAN, the Co-ordinator of Recreation Leadership at Humber College and a member of the staff at CAMP KANDALORE. Jack's first assignment is to summarize for us the new legislation regarding snowmobiles.

SALUTE

My heartfelt thanks to the Executive, the Board, the Committees, our office staff and the entire O.C.A. membership for a tremendously productive 1974. It will be hard to top it, but I know we can. So let's do it!

Good Camping,

Jack Pearse.

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TIME TO GET BUSY

Take it from us.....once January takes up space on the calendar you can bet Camp Opening Day is just over the next hill. Registrations are coming in, staff applications are completed in some cases, food must be ordered as we collapse at the prices, and Conference is only weeks away with the committee working like ants in a sugar factory.

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ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN 1975
FEBRUARY 27TH, FEBRUARY 28TH, MARCH 1ST, MARCH 2ND

Come to the Annual Conference in Jorgenson Hall, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. The programme promises to be exciting, stimulating and informative.

The Committee has tried to incorporate all your suggestions from 1974 - wider topics, larger rooms, longer breaks between sessions to visit exhibits, chat in the coffee shop or in the bar.

The gala banquet will be held in the Great Hall, Hart House on Saturday, March 1st at 8.00 p.m. After an exciting banquet speaker (WHO MUST YET REMAIN THE SECRET OF THE YEAR), join us in dancing, chatting and meeting with old friends.

An urgent plea from Jack Bowman for materials for the Media Room - let others share the wealth of your experience by bringing or sending in camp materials (brochures, promotional or programme materials etc.) either through the O.C.A. office, or c/o Jack Bowman, Humber College, Applied Arts Division, Humber College Blvd., Rexdale.

Your Conference information and registration forms will be in the mail shortly - don't delay, send them right in!

Some Kindred Groups have arranged to meet immediately prior to the Conference on the afternoon of Thursday, February 27th. If your Group would like to so do, call the O.C.A. Office to reserve space at Ryerson.

REMEMBER:- CAMPING'S ALIVE IN '75!

JOIN US AT THE CONFERENCE!

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FLYING TO THE POST BOX

NOTE FROM THE OCA OFFICE

We want this information to get to members as soon as possible. We have several items of news waiting for the next Newsletter which will follow, almost on the heels of this one, after the next Executive meeting this week. Until then... Happy 1975!

Would Directors and staff of camps please refrain from telling counsellors that they can obtain a directory from the OCA office to solicit the camps individually for a job. Remember we have a Counsellor Placement Bureau.

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"There has been a growing concern among camping leaders, outdoor educators and recreation leaders for more qualified leadership. Consequently, the Woodsmanship Instructor's School is designed in response to the need for leadership development in the outdoor field. 1974 saw the first O.C.A. Woodsmanship Instructor School conducted at Camp Kandalore. Based on its success and immediate application in various camp programmes, the Ontario Camping Association has sanctioned a second woodsmanship Instructor School for 1975.

"The course, etc...."

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MATERIAL
The Environmental Concerns Committee from the Ontario Camping Association has collected by Tom Hood, Camp Wapiti, P.O. Box 1095, Peterborough, Ontario, those interested in the material should contact Tom who will forward it out. This could become a co-operative venture, if you have material which you think others might like, send it in or send for the author and title of the material and he will publish it and put others in touch with the owner.
Material to date:
The Outdoor News series of articles
Ministry of Natural Resources Message Book, Provincial Parks, Preliminary
Master Plan and Growth
Ontario Task Force on the Human
Environment
Towards an Environment Action Plan