



OCAsional news

VOLUME 6

JUNE 1986

EDITOR: CATHERINE ROSS

"I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU KNOW UNTIL I KNOW THAT YOU CARE." - JOHN NOVAK.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a day we had for the Counsellor Conference! Upwards of 1000 participants enjoyed the beautiful day, entertaining opening, informative sessions and inspiring closing. If you weren't there make plans to attend next year. You could feel the excitement and energy of all the young people there as they shared in anticipation the coming summer. Our thanks to the many session leaders, camp staff and committee members who were responsible for this most successful event.

I would like to take this time to identify some issues that your board has been dealing with over the last year. You will be receiving a survey questionnaire during the summer which I hope you will use as a tool to respond to these issues and others that you may want to identify.

One issue is, "how can we get more of our membership involved in the running of the association". The executive will be starting an operational review to see if a change in structure might encourage more of you to be involved. Do we have too many committees or not enough? How too, can we best serve you, our members? What services can we provide? What suggestions do you have regarding the structure of the association? We can surely use your help and suggestions.

Another issue is our directory. Is it an "in house" listing of member camps or should it be a "parent's guide" to member camps. Should it be more attractive, like a magazine with color covers, with a wider distribution? Every camp will continue to be listed but should we allow camps to

advertise by allowing camps who wish, to purchase a quarter page ad in addition to their listing. Is this fair to camps who choose not to purchase an ad for whatever reason. What about your comments regarding camp ads and the need for a new style directory.

We need your feedback on these issues and others that are in the forefront for you. Please use the survey or simply write in your comments. We appreciate the effort it takes but this is your opportunity to have input.

Have a great summer. May it be filled with the sounds of happy campers enjoying the out of doors in a safe and healthy environment. I look forward to the Fall when we can share our experiences.

FRED OKADA,
PRESIDENT.

EDITORIAL

When I was a little girl I wanted to be a movie actress - a dream which I was convinced was synonymous with immortality! On May 6 at an O.C.A. Board Meeting at Trent University I discovered, in middle age, a surer and simpler route, **CONTRIBUTE TO THE O.C.A. ARCHIVES!** Our meeting was hosted by Archivist, Bernadine Dodge and the O.C.A. Archives Committee. We browsed through the collection and viewed snatches of a recent addition, four videotapes of directors Don Marsden of Hurontario, Madelene Allen of Ouareau, Liz Greenway of Tapawingo and Bruce Hodgins of Wanapitei.

Several students have already used the collection for research. As the years go by, more research will be done, but the depth and success of that research depends on us, now! Our job is to ensure that the collection is complete. Bernadine has a few specific suggestions. Camp Directors: Please send to the archives your current brochure and staff training manual. Committee Chairpersons: Please add the archives to your mailing list so that copies of your minutes go to Trent.

Bata Library
Trent University
Archivist - Bernadine Dodge
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 7B8

Today's pictures and printed material are tomorrow's history. Thanks for your help.
THINK ARCHIVES!

CATHERINE ROSS,
EDITOR.

CHAPEL TALK

I felt the powerful presence of God, and the spirit took me and set me down in a valley where the ground was covered with bones. God led me all around the valley, and I could see that there were very many bones and that they were very dry. God said to me: "You, can these bones come back to life?" I replied: "Sovereign Lord, only you can answer that!"
(Ezekiel 37-Old Testament)

Dry bones indeed! Remember the first time you strolled around your camp site this Spring. Recall the sights; remember the sounds; rejoice in your initial feelings. Often camp sites have a 'dry bone' look in the early Spring. New growth is still unnoticed; new life is still unseen. Yet, changes do occur over a short period of time. Life is restored. Our souls soar with anticipated enthusiasm.

The Counsellor Conference was held recently and what a great event it was! The staff who led workshops, the camp counsellors who participated, the life-giving openness that was so evident - all put flesh on the dry bones of early Spring. I was very much impressed and lifted by the insight, skill and willingness of so many to serve throughout the summer. It was a most encouraging day.

And when campers arrive on our sites shortly..no more dry bones! The prophesy is fulfilled. Yes there's life. Yes, there's hope. Yes, there'll be a future. Yes, we are one in Spirit.

Ezekiel's vision is an exciting one. Our vision of the summer adds another dimension - the giving of life to others. For many of our campers and for a significant number of our staff (to say nothing of ourselves), summer is a strengthening link in their lives. The experiences and memories provide a foundation for ongoing life. The relational opportunities provide times of discovery and assurance. The teaching moments provide a Divine intervention into our condition.

Dry bones? Absolutely not!

K. GRANT KERR,
PAST PRESIDENT O.C.A.

PROGRAMME IDEAS

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND THE OLDER CAMPER

The February Director's Conference was a great success, and it was encouraging to see several sessions devoting themselves into developing program ideas for the older campers. The campers in the 14 and 15 year age bracket pose quite a challenge! Yet they have a lot of energy, creativity, and enthusiasm, and our challenge as directors and senior staff is to see that this energy is properly channelled. The all-camp special program can provide that outlet.

Think of it. A unique program, where for the first time, the older camper transcends the narrow bounds of his cabin group to try something big. The older camper can get involved in a manner of ways.

1. Planning. You're going to have a special program. Instead of planning it FOR the oldest camper, plan it WITH the oldest camper. Get them to help plan the meets, mess hall decoration, costumes and skits and the opening. Make them feel a part of the Program. Provide them with that first chance to interact with the staff in the conceptualization. The camper will reward you with enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and an enthusiasm for a Program that he or she feels a part of. Furthermore, a unique sense of trust develops. They are planning something for someone else. They will keep the secret and watch with pride as their meet or event is run. It is important to note that these campers need a break from the normal pace of camp. This first taste of responsibility will whet their appetite for the challenge and responsibility that lies ahead.

2. Implementation. Why not go to the next step and let your oldest campers be the Captains to run the Program. It is essential that the staff, Programmer and Unit Heads provide support, but properly structured, this taste of leadership leaves an indelible mark on a youngster. They no longer think about themselves. They have group responsibility, sharing, compromise, decision making, and leadership. The younger campers look up to them. They lead cheers, organize team meetings, fill out meetsheets, set the example for others; what an amazing responsibility! Give them the challenge, and watch the older campers seize it. This provides the change of pace, the challenge, the excitement, and the sense of responsibility these campers need.

3. Evaluation. Feedback is so important. Once the Program is over, evaluate the camper. Also, feedback is important to the Program. Was it a good idea to use your 15 year old? Was there sufficient support? Were the kids sharing responsibility? Was there a natural leader? Did everyone get involved?

Properly structured, an all-camp theme Program provides a ready outlet for the energies, enthusiasm, creativity, and sense of responsibility the oldest campers have. They will appreciate the change of pace, and trust reposed in them. They enjoy the first chance to show leadership and work with the staff. Finally, they transcend the narrow confines of the cabin to think about others and put others ahead of themselves. With proper support, and feedback this can become the high-light of their summer and a valuable experience as well. And isn't that what a good Program is all about?

MEL RASKIN,
CAMP TIMBERLANE.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Are those rainy days getting you down? Do your campers demand more new and exciting games? Look no further! Camp Program Ideas is just the book you need.

Camp Program Ideas offers a wide range of activities to fill those special days that will be enjoyed and remembered for years to come. Shipwrecked, Gold Rush, Ice Cream Extravaganza are just some of the innovative programs offered within this book.

Compiled by Camp leaders from across North America, this book will appeal to camps of all kinds. Easy-to-follow instructions coupled together with informative diagrams makes Camp Program Ideas a worthwhile addition to your library.

Recreation Department, San Diego State University, 90p., 1977.

Cost: \$7.50 Members - \$9.00 (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, Ste. 2
Toronto, Ontario, M5M 3Z1
(416) 781-4717.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - C.C.A.

FROM OUR PAST

ARCHIVES

The Ebbs Archives Fund was established in 1979 as a result of a Camp Wapomeo Reunion honouring Harry and Adele Ebbs. The fund is at the disposal of the Trent Archivist to finance projects related to the O.C.A. Archives. Any donations to this fund are tax deductible. (See address in editorial).

* * * * *

BLUE LAKE AND ROCKY SHORE HAS ARRIVED!

Our readers are saying...

"Never before has a tribute of such sincerity and genuine appreciation been publicly acknowledged to O.C.A. between the covers of a book, or elsewhere. Not only does it list generously names of individual leaders (many of whom are still living, fortunately) but graciously implies the work of the hundred or more who followed through with time-absorbing duties of proof reading, page layouts, corrections, re-assessing and changing copy where necessary, and without whom the book could never have come to life. Blue Lake and Rocky Shore will serve nobly until time turns for the second volume to cover the next half century".

If I were Joc Palm, I'd be saying, "Hey, you Turkeys"; but as I'm not, I'll just begin "Look, you guys 'n' dolls".....What's with everybody holding back on our book? From the list of tributes we have been receiving and hearing, there's no doubt that readers like our product. Our large committee worked like Trojans to keep dates, facts and people in their accurate places; highlighting the Founders, since the credit for our beginnings rightly belongs to them.

So our suggestion for this summer is this: Let every camp be responsible for selling at least one or two copies to the nearest local book store, news outlet or local library. Encourage campers to buy their own copies for future essay research. Remind the world that this is a First Edition of future value. So give us a helping hand, folks. There as never been a history of this particular kind; another cannot be finished for at least thirty years or so. Talk it up! Come Alive!

And don't forget to order copies for your Camp Tuck Shops.....and take them with you! Copies are also available from the O.C.A. office.

EANSWYTHE FLYNN,
ARCHIVES COMMITTEE.

THIS & THAT

All the information for the 1986 Accreditation Visits has been mailed out.

If your camp was notified that an accreditation visit would take place in the summer of 1986 and if you have not received your kit by the end of May, please notify the O.C.A. office.

If you offered to make an Accreditation visit and you have not received your kit or a letter to advise you that your services were not required, by the end of May, please contact the O.C.A. office.

Please note that the O.C.A. office will be open only from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. during July & August.

The O.C.A. office now has a Gestofax machine. It will be available to all O.C.A. members at \$3.00 per stencil. Any clearly typed copy and graphics can be reproduced.

The Dream Quest, named for the Native American rite of passage, is a programme which is part-game, part-drama, developed to provide campers with an adventurous introduction to world as the Huron and Petun saw it. It is a trek through a series of challenges, obstacles, and encounters based on the culture of the people indigenous to Georgian Bay.

In the morning of Dream Quest Day, each clan (cabin) prepares the costumes and gear its members will need for their journey. In the meantime, the Programme Staff prepare the route, laying a trail in traditional markers, and preparing the costumes and props which they will use to create the events which the campers will experience.

After lunch, the "braves" put on their costumes and make-up. Soon a moccasin (messenger) comes to call them from their longhouses. First, each clan meets the Shaman, who explains the meaning and goal of their quest, and foretells the outcome of their adventure. Then they continue on their path. They may have to compete with a rival clan in an archery contest, track a giant serpent, cross a poison river, or find a spirit stone (a talisman in the form of an oddly-shaped rock). They might encounter the cannibal giant called the Wendigo, or the Stendu, a flint-skinned sorcerer. The clan may get some help from Trickster, the semi-divine hero of the Huron, Iouskeha, the eternally young creator of the world, or one of the dwarf-wizards which Iouskeha made to help the Huron against the Stendu. At the end of the trail they arrive at the goal of their quest: a meeting with the bear spirit (a sought-after vision for the Huron), or an augury from Aataentsic, the woman who fell from the sky. To commemorate the Dream Quest, each clan receives a gift such as a lance, or a feather for each of its members to wear to Indian Council the following week.

To adapt this programme to other locations, refer to books on the culture of the people indigenous to your area. Rehearsal and preparation are the keys to making this activity work; pre-camp is a good time for this, with new staff taking on the roles of the braves. In later sessions, older campers can play important roles in, or even plan, the Dream Quest. Only the imaginations of the players and planners limit the possibilities of this programme.

PERRY KLEIN,
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR,
BLUE MOUNTAIN CAMP.