



OCAsional news

OCTOBER - 1983

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here it is early October...and the OCA remains alive and well. Summer 1983 has become memory; a part of history. It was a good Summer with camps reporting creative staff involvement and happy campers. Certainly the weather was co-operative.

I spent time travelling to a number of OCA Camps - and thoroughly enjoyed myself. My trip to Temagami was particularly interesting and the hospitality exceptional. The variety of camps in the Association and the skills of Camp Directors is very much evident. We really do need to heighten our visibility in the Province; let's keep telling "our" story.

Do you like the new Masthead and format of this Newsletter? The Executive and Board of OCA are very pleased and we fully support Martin Hunt and his efforts as Editor. Watch for further changes as we move into 1984.

The OCA Office is running well - thanks to the continued efforts of Jean McIlwrick and the addition of June Bonvivero. June joined the staff a short time ago as our new Secretary. She's doing a great job and comes to us with a wealth of office expertise. Jean & June make a great team. The Association is well served by these two dedicated individuals.

The first Fall meeting of the OCA Executive was well attended and we are into a number of important on-going concerns. The Association needs the efforts of all of us and I invite your participation.

QUOTE: "The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart" - MENCIUS.

EDITORIAL

Hello again. I am putting this issue together up at camp - family camp that is; lots of little kids and lots of big, big kids recapturing some of the magic of childhood days.

It's Fall now. The falling leaves fluttering down seem to wave goodbye as another camping season comes to a close. We've had a month or so as a break from camp. Now that the harried pace of clean-up is behind us, we can once again

sit back and reflect on our summer. Autumn is a pleasant time for nostalgia.

For many of us Fall is a down time; a needed sojourn to savour the memories of the recent camping season. It is a time when some are unnecessarily distracted by the anticipation of Winter. And yet, Winter is an up time as we begin to gear up for a new Summer.

And to help lead us on through these new seasons we have as you can see a new OCAsional News with a fresher, crisper look! Many thanks to Colleen Harrigan who designed and presented our new Masthead to the "News".

We can even present pictures and cartoons now! How much more will it cost? I'll tell you in the next (November) issue - probably much less than you're thinking!

For those of you who were frantically searching for your September issue, relax there wasn't one. We needed the time to set up the new production. What do you think of the new look?

I would also like to welcome June and thank her in advance for deciphering my writing. For those who don't already know, June has a Ph.D. from the University of Northern-Southern Ontario in Hieroglyphics which apparently is now a requirement for the job.

I'll have to go now. It's time to bring the last of our docs in. The wind in the pines signals that it will be a cool job. Sit back now and take time to think over your Summer. You may end up calling a fellow staff member or even making a kid's day by writing them.

CHAPEL TALK

This year I will try to have a different contributor for each month, to help give us a broader perspective on theological topics; related to camping. Thanks to Marni Nancekivell, (Christian Education Director, Sparrow Lake Camp) for her column.

"GOD IS DEAD!" - Remember the Controversy of the Sixties?

Well, God may often appear to be dead (or at least in an extended period of hiberna-

tion). Everywhere we look we find pain and conflict: unemployment, broken relationships, earthquakes, the threat of nuclear war. It is easy to be overwhelmed by despair. Sometimes, it feels like there is little hope.

Yet there is a word of hope. In the Gospel of John we read: "The light shines on in the dark, and the darkness has never mastered it". (John 1:5 NEB) The healing presence of that Light is easy to sense in our work with campers. Working with kids, we're aware of their spontaneity and intensity. Better than adults, children really know the magic of living-in-the-moment with energy and curiosity.

Is God dead? I don't think so. At least, not as long as there are adults who are able to risk being child-like. We need to be free to dance; to celebrate the Mysteries of life. For it is then that we experience the wonder and timeless presence of God in our world.

Marni Nancekivell
Sparrow Lake Camp

ECLECTIC CAMPING

This is a new column, which will serve as Pot Pourrie of ideas, philosophy, business, and other issues related to the world of camping. A number of members have already offered and I will be in touch with them shortly. If you have something for us let me know. Don't be shy! In this First column I thought that it would be appropriate to let everyone know where we came from, especially with 31 new members in the Association. Thanks to Eanswythe Flynn, former Editor of OCAsional News, for the article.

"In the beginning there was....." Looking Back.....Camping for Children

Camping for children has been with us in Canada since the 1800's when YM and YWCA's, CGIT, Girl Guide and Boy Scout groups as well as Churches and other organizations set up their own summer outdoor programmes in many parts of our primitive backwoods. These were short-term outdoor groups mostly, but there was one venturesome soul, the late Mr.

A. L. Cochrane, who came from England in 1900, bringing with him the permission of the Royal Life Saving Society to open and develop their courses in Canada.

He thought a northern woodland setting would be ideal for teaching, and opened his Camp Tenagami in the summer of 1903 as the first private camp in Canada...for boys only. This was followed in 1905 by the intrepid Miss Fanny Case who came from Rochester, N.Y., to Algonquin Park to build her camp with the help of campers and staff..all female. Miss Hamilton with Tanamakoon, the Statten with Wapomeo and, of course, Miss Mary Edgar's Glen Bernard were new in that same era. Authoress of many poems dear to the hearts of young and old alike, Miss Edgar was a leading light during camping's growing years always pointing to the need for understanding, co-operation and fair play offered in the name of friendship and faith.

Other private camps, for boys and for girls, gradually appeared; short-term, non-profit camps increased in number, from then until the Twenties when professional outdoorspeople were joining in the conferences and activities of the American Camping Association. To this Association in 1941, the late Mr. Taylor Statten was elected as President for the year, the only Canadian to have been so honoured.

Soon the directors of camps in Canada were urging the formation of our own Association, generally to handle affairs, develop our own leadership and set our own standards. So it was that in 1947 the Canadian Camping Association was formed, again with Taylor Statten, the man of experience, as President. The official government Charter came through in 1948, and it was during that Annual Meeting at Allison Farms, Morrisburg, Ontario, that a Globe and Mail reporter noted: "The Ontario Government has been in the forefront of the children's camping movement in Canada. Ontario's provincial administrations assist in the provision of camping experiences for children, especially for those from homes of moderate means. Provincial Governments are becoming more active in camping, and in Ontario, the Physical and Health Education Branch of the Department of Education has named a Supervisor of Camping, thus formally recognizing the value of the work." That Supervisor happened to be our own Lewis Smith.

By this time, Ontario camp directors had been meeting, first informally, then on a regular monthly basis, to form the Ontario Camping Association whose first president was, again, the late Mr. Taylor Statten. The first office space, in the old Packard Building, 50 Bloor Street East, where The Bay now stands, was small; not long afterwards, a move to the second floor of a house at 64 Avenue Road, and eventually to more pretentious buildings.

It was in the Fifties that Ontario took the lead in Canada, when a hundred new camps took membership during a very short period. Most were private camps (boys only and girls only in those days), but Church and Organizational camps expanded their facilities, varied their programmes and developed leadership as the OCA was

able to offer a yearly Conference, Annual Directory, Counsellor Placement Bureau, as well as monthly meetings, seminars and discussion groups with workshops for the benefit of its members to meet the challenge of their new undertakings.

As President, Mr. Statten was followed by Miss Mary Edgar's holding the position for two years, then Messrs. E. A. Chapman, H. A. Ward, C. Plewman, Irwin Haladner, W. E. Yard, and Dr. John Hoyle who took the reins for three crucial years. These were founders who set the pace, always looking ahead to the future when a camping experience would be the right of every child in the province. Standards and a code of ethics were formed. Leadership training stood beside them. Minimum requirements became standards in sanitation, equipment, buildings, site, programme and maturity (with minimum age limits) for staff and directors. This was quickly followed by the Visitation and Accreditation programme to provide criteria on which the public could form judgment and make decisions for the summer care and education of their children. And so the OCA has expanded, gives leadership and will continue to do so.

Eanswythe Flynn.

* * * * *

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Another exciting and successful ECO-Skills Workshop took place this past June in the Hockley Valley. Judy Paul, the very able Workshop chairperson assembled an auspicious group of leaders. Topics included environmental issues, eco-activities, conservation ethics and all with a practical approach for "turning us on" to the out-of-doors. Here are a couple of poems produced in one of the ECO-LECTIC Circus sessions:-

water
babble, rush
quietly streaming down
sunlight sparkling upon ripples,
cool, friendly
Paradise.

The rising sun reflects
Moods of joy and peace,
Dawn renews that joyful time.

M.G.H.

* * * * *

FROM OUR PAST

CAMP KITCHIKEWANA

In the year 1919 some young men with great vision represented the Midland Y.M.C.A. in negotiations with the Beausoleil Bank of Indians. The outcome of these deliberations was an agreement to lease 156 acres on the east coast of Beausoleil Island to the Midland Y.M.C.A. to establish Camp Kitchikewana.

1983 will be the 64th year of continuous operation on that site, however, the camps present landlord is now Parks Canada since Beausoleil Island was acquired as the major Island of the Georgian Bay Islands National Park.

The original Camp Director was Ernie Thurlow

who was succeeded in 1927 by J. W. Smith. Win "Smitty" Smith provided a continuity of outstanding leadership for 40 years. He was succeeded on his retirement in 1966 by Austin Matthews who, in 1983 is entering his 18th year of service as Director.

Kitchikewana continues to operate the traditional format of boys camps in July and girls camps in August. In 1967 Kitchikewana developed one of Ontario's first outdoor education program operated at a resident camp.

This program now serves some twelve hundred school children from about 15 schools during the months of May, June and September.

Also introduced to the camp's schedule in 1967 was a week long Family Camp which has proved very popular. This season Kitchi is introducing a Ladies Fitness Retreat which will provide registrants with camp fun and activities with a special focus on exercise and physical fitness.

At capacity, Camp Kitchikewana will accommodate 170 campers and 50 staff. While all traditional camp programs are operated the emphasis is put on water-front skills and activities utilizing kayaks, canoes, rowboats, windsurfers and sailboats as well as an outstanding swimming area with sandy beach.

It is estimated that Kitchikewana has had more than 30,000 different boys and girls register over these past 6½ decades each of whom have had the chance to learn skills, make new friends, develop healthy attitudes, and put into practice these familiar words contained in the camp hymn - ".....we pledge ourselves forever, to be the best that we can ever be".

H.S.

* * * * *

Editor's Note:

Contributions for our column are urgently needed. If you have such to share with our readers, kindly forward to me at your earliest convenience.

Helen E. Stewart

* * * * *

ARCHIVES ANNOUNCEMENT BY HELEN STEWART

We are pleased to announce the recent appointment of Mrs. Bernadine Dodge as Archivist responsible for our collection at Trent University.

Bernadine served the O.C.A. faithfully during the past year as acting Archivist during the sabbatical leave of the former Archivist, Ken Johnson.

To Ken, we extend our thanks for his involvement during recent years. Good luck in your future endeavours.

To Bernadine - Welcome aboard. We look forward to seeing you in action at the archives display at the O.C.A.

1984 Conference.

* * * * *

"WHAT'S HAPPENING!"

OCT. 14 - OCT. 16, 1983.

Basic Acclimatization Workshop.

This workshop is designed for the purpose of preparing interpreters, educators and outdoor leaders to utilize the acclimatization program within their own programs.

WHEN: Friday, October 14 to Sunday, October 16, 1983.

WHERE: "Circle R Ranch" Delaware, Ont. (5 miles west of London) (519-471-3799)

* * * * *

NOV. 4 - NOV. 6, 1983.

New Curriculum to be Launched at Director's Bolton Weekend November 4-6, 1983.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an application form for the November Director and Senior Staff Weekend at Bolton, November 4-6, 1983. Dr. Mary Keyes, Director of the School of Physical Education and Athletes, MacMaster University, will present the topic "Leadership for the Next Decade". Using videotapes and a recent survey on leadership styles, Mary will focus on the leadership of the director and developing leadership skills among the staff and senior campers.

This promises to be a relevant and worthwhile weekend. We will learn together during the day and socialize during the evenings. On Saturday night we are planning an evening of games and trivia! Get your application in now!

* * * * *

THIS & THAT

* * * *CAMP DIRECTOR WANTED* * * *

Orillia-based, Christian children's summer camp requires a Business Manager/Camp Director for the 1984 camping season. Tenure involves part-time year-long, and the position could be permanent. (Married couples will also be considered).

Mature applicants with administrative and leadership aptitudes, (over 25 years of age) should have 3 years minimum experience at senior levels, in a similar environment...as well as post-secondary training (preferably in Business Administration) an asset and effective children and people skills.

Please submit a resume by October 15, 1983 (with appropriate position-related references) to:-

W. C. Mansell, Chairman
Diocese of Toronto Camps
2920 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M8X 1B6

Interviews will be conducted in October in OF INTEREST
Toronto.

* * * *CAMP DIRECTOR WANTED* * * *

* * * * *

"HELP WANTED"

Director/Administrator

- small camp
- full enrolment
- owners available as consultants
- option to rent or lease

Apply:- Camp Allsaw,
9 Calais Avenue,
Downsview, Ontario
M3M 1N3.

* * * * *

THE O.C.A. WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

PROVISIONAL

- Earlscourt Child and Family Centre (Day Camp)
- The Hollows Camp (private, riding)
- Missanabie Woods Academy (New Horizons Youth Ministries)
- Dorothy Lake Church Camp (Presbyterian)
- Lorien Wilderness Camp (private)
- Camp Edgewood (Lutheran Church)

COMMERCIAL

- Creighton & Co. Ltd.
- G. B. Catering Service Limited
- Hiker's Haven Ltd.
- Romic Service Merchandising

INDIVIDUAL

- Razia Ali
- Lilly Amerinc
- Hugh Babcock
- Paul Burns
- David Cole
- Tricia Cosman
- Yvan Dubois
- Juri Eglitis
- David Feinstein
- Pamela Flaherty
- Loretta Fleming
- Don Eric Greenwood
- John (Jack) Hanna
- Joan Jacobson
- William McCarty
- Don McLean
- Anne McNeill
- Jane Olson
- John Pepper
- Susan Patricia Peters
- Tom Quinn
- Gilbert Allan Scharf
- Glenys Smith
- Helena Maria Steltenpool
- Connie M. Sykes
- Rev. Dr. George W. Walker, III
- Isobel Zimmer

* * * * *

REQUEST FROM O.C.A. OFFICE

Would Camps please forward up-to-date brochures for our files. Thank you.

* * * * *

This Summer Russ Dennison made Accreditation Visits to five O.C.A. camps in the northern section of our Province. The following is an account of his trip. He made two separate sorties one to the east and the other to the west.

"WEST"

Left at 7:00 a.m. July 12, 1983 via Hwy. 17 for Thunder Bay regions. Went with food, two cover-over plastic cloth screens for the front car doors, air mattress, sleeping bag, and other equipment for car use in camping out. As well took along my project on Leaf Identity for available spare time. Did analyze five plants during the whole time.

Did pick up singly two hitch-hikers going to work short distances enroute in the Sault Area. A third had been laid off at the Ford Plant in Windsor. Friends had promised help in obtaining work if he came to them in Calgary. He had also been a truck driver. His services in driving were much appreciated.

Wednesday spent most of the day at the Chippewa Day Camp.

Was going to go to Ouimet Provincial Park to sleep, but noticed that the sign said "No Camping". Went to Dorion Bible Camp and stayed till very early Friday morning. After the visitation was ended, took on a session dealing with nature lore - local plants edible, and some birds who serenaded us. Also judged a "twin" contest.

Friday, visited the Outward Bound Wilderness School. This was just a social visit to show that O.C.A. was interested in them. Had paid an accreditation visit to them two years ago.

Only one hitch hiker on the way back home. He seemed to be somewhat depressed. Took him into a provincial park with which parks he was not knowledgeable. He had a shower and a hair wash. After the best of a 100 miles let him off in a town. He was much more cheerful and seemed to show that he realized that there was care in these poor economic times.

Saturday evening after having supper in Obatanga Provincial Park headed for home. Upon arriving alongside three large animal trailer trucks heading the opposite way, the left rear tire of my car blew itself. Three truck drivers aided in changing the rear tire with the spare. Their advice was to put the two front almost new tires on the back wheels and buy two new front ones.

Driving farther along, read a sign which showed that I was heading the wrong way. Turned around and then slept at Lake Superior Provincial Park. Arrived home Sunday morning while my wife, Margaret, was at church. Summer service begins at 10 A.M.

"EAST"

Three (3) camps were assigned.

Wabikon, Canadian Adventure, Langskib.

Initial contact was made with Wabikon by telephone.

Canadian Adventure on its Information Sheet gave a Thornhill phone number and a note "Radio phone not in yet - check with Toronto office". There was a recording device on the phone. Information was given as per its instructions, but was never received or forwarded to Canadian Adventure.

A letter was written to Langskib. Then my wife was contacted while I was in the Thunder Bay area. The camp directress, Karen Knudson, said she would phone again the following Wednesday when she went to town for supplies. Arriving home, I gave my wife the phone number of Wabikon for Karen so she could contact me on the Wednesday.

At Temagami, my overnight stay was at Finlayson Provincial Park. Early Wednesday morning I went to the landing on

Temagami Lake to endeavour to waylay Karen Knudson as she came in for supplies. A propane serviceman described the camp boats to me of Canadian Adventure and Langskib. Meanwhile, I interviewed the CB operator to no avail. The Clerk in the information cabin said she would keep a lookout for me.

My promise to Wabikon was to contact him Wednesday morning for transportation. At 11:30 A.M. I did. Standing at the dock suddenly the information clerk came rushing to me and pointed out the Langskib van and Karen Knudson. They were just about 75 yards from me. In conjunction with the Wabikon director who arrived at the same time it was arranged that I would join Karen at the Dock at 7 P.M.

Other than this I would have had to take a Water Taxi to Langskib at the cost of \$4.50 a mile for about 30-35 mile run.

On the way to Langskib, Karen kindly allowed me to stop at Canadian Adventure to meet the director and let him know I would arrive the following day. The following day Karen's son drove me to Canadian Adventure arriving about 3 P.M. I finished my visit at Canadian Adventure at 12:15 P.M. midnight and stayed overnight.

At noon on Friday, Canadian Adventure transported me to Wabikon. The director had invited me back to conduct a counsellor training session for interested counsellors respecting the natural environment with emphasis on edible wild plants, bird songs, and leaf identification. I left Wabikon at 10:30 A.M. Saturday.

* * * * *

DO TELL

What can I do at camp now that the summer season has ended?

The fall is a time of changes and whether you are closing camp up for the next three seasons or you are swinging into autumn programs here are a few interesting ideas for you to try.

Wildflowers and Weeds

The winter landscape will be peppered with tufts of dried plants which bear little resemblance to those that grew all summer and which are just now dying under the first killing frosts. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with these plants in transition so that you can extend your nature lore into the winter ahead.

A beautiful winter plant display can be easily made. Take a slab of white styrofoam and trim the top edge into the profile of snow drift. Samples of dried plants can be inserted into the "drift", labelled and matched to their summer picture.

Trees

At the end of the leaves and before the final frosts go deep into the ground you might think about some tree planting. You can invest in the future with a regular (annual) program of thinning, trimming and planting on your property. The great white pine at the Chapel and the twin oaks along the walk to the Dining Hall will not last forever. The cabins or tents might be cooler with a grove of poplars on the south side. You could hide the unsightly backside of staff cabins or buffer the camp from highway sounds with some judicious planting.

Transplant the entire root ball and place it in an oversized hole on a bed of fresh topsoil. Brace the tree for a season or two and pat yourself on the back for your foresight.

Photo Survey

Another project that will pay off in the long term is a photographic survey of the natural and cultural history of your camp. After assembling any old photographs of the site establish an annual routine of photographing key perspectives. A series of pictures taken over several years from exactly the same spot will provide interesting study and in a decade you can prove to your doubting staff that you did plant those trees which are so huge today, that the waterfront has changed considerably.

Pick a large tree which has recently fallen or a stump just beginning a decade of decomposition. Photograph it once every three months and you will be fascinated by the results.

Stars

With the passing of the pollen the night sky will grow progressively clearer. The change from summer to winter yields

some fascinating combinations of old and new friends. Cygnus the Swan is diving into the western sky as Taurus, Auriga and Orion climb up in the east.

Birds

Plan now for the winter guests that you want to enjoy later in the season. Feeders should be close to protective bush and set up to withstand wind, snow and marauding squirrels.

Establish a regular feeding program and the birds will respond with regular visits.

DO TELL!!!!!!!

* * * * *



START OFF THE NEW YEAR ON THE RIGHT FOOT FINANCIALLY!

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE O.C.A. INVITES YOU TO PLEASE MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND A:-

NEW DIRECTORS MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 30th, 1984.

Leader: George A. Ross, B.Comm., Chartered Accountant.
Treasurer of Canadian Camping Association.

Topic: Financial Management and Budget Control

- budgeting and cost control
- short and long range financial planning
- current tax legislation
- government subsidized youth employment opportunities

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: 38 Bowater Drive, Agincourt
(near 401 and Warden Avenue)

Phone for directions 491-3894.

"WE WELCOME BOTH YOU AND YOUR QUESTIONS"