



# OCAsional News

Published by the Ontario Camping Association

June 1998

1810 Avenue Road, Suite 302, Toronto, Ontario M5M 3Z2  
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## Lands For Life: Last Call

Thanks to the relentless activity of several OCA members, the Lands for Life process did not go entirely unnoticed. This venture of our provincial government to reassess the use of public and crown lands in Ontario is drawing to an uncertain conclusion when, in October, final recommendations will be made to the Ministry of Natural Resources. (Draft recommendations will be presented to MNR by the end of June.)

As members of the OCA will recall, Lands for Life is Ontarians' last chance to create new parks in our province. Lands that are unprotected may be open to industrial and commercial usage, such as mining, logging and uncontrolled and extensive hunting and fishing. The parks system, as it will be decided, will be frozen for generations. Currently, 6.5% of Ontario is protected; environmental coalitions such as the Partnership for Public Lands assert that at least 15% to 20% of the territory must be protected in order to preserve delicate ecosystems and the rapidly vanishing wilderness. It will do our children and grandchildren no good to have tiny isolated pockets of wilderness preserved; large areas with links to each other must be protected so that animals are free to travel in ageless patterns.

Three Round Tables, one for each zone (Great Lakes-St. Lawrence, Boreal East and Boreal West), have been collecting submissions, reports and comments from the public over recent months. Going to a Round Table meeting is an interesting and worthwhile event. At one such meeting for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence zone, I listened to many dedicated and earnest individuals express their views on everything from conservation to mining techniques.

A fifth-generation logger from Huntsville spoke eloquently on how one of his ancestors was responsible for the drastic reduction of Northern Ontario's great pine forests. The young man asserted his rights to log selectively in provincial parks and other protected areas, and stated that loggers like him should be allowed free access to crown lands in order to make a living.

Other individuals who took a few minutes to express their views represented user groups as diverse as snowmobilers, prospectors, and trappers. A visitor from Columbia articulately implored the Round Table members to save the forests "before it's too late." A miner defended his industry. A young woman who, due to her residence in the Far North and her eco-activism, told of how she can see both sides of the story. Many speakers either identified themselves as having a link to Northern Ontario, or if they didn't, seemed almost apologetic, as if non-residence in the area disqualified them from having a meaningful comment to make.

This Round Table "hall meeting" was an eye-opening experience for me, as I realized that the Lands for Life process has resulted in effectively pitting economic interests versus conservation. The great divide—Northern vs. Southern Ontario—has been reinforced, perhaps deliberately, in that jobs and financial concerns are presented as the all-important requirement in certain areas. Yet the government's own findings show that 91% of Northern Ontario residents support protection of public lands. Furthermore, ecotourism has been largely unexplored as an option; parks generate revenue, too.

At the Round Table I attended, two representatives from the camping

community stood to express their views on the Lands for Life process. Although late in hearing about Lands for Life, OCA camps have rallied encouragingly and made their opinions known. This was evident at a recent rally held in Toronto, at Royal St. George's College, where Gordon Rogers, from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Round Table, and Monty Humel, of the World Wildlife Fund, spoke to an audience of camping folk. Camp staff, directors, camp owners and OCA Board members were present to hear how the Lands for Life process began and to try to influence its conclusion. The four draft scenarios that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Round Table have come up with vary widely in terms of protected areas and new park creation. Scenario Four is the option that most closely fits with the recommendations from the Partnership for Public Lands.

It is difficult to have confidence in a government who, on the one hand, preaches its commitment to conservation and on the other hand, grants permits to companies to remove millions of litres of water from the Great Lakes.

See *It's Not Too Late*, page 3

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**"Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure." — William Saroyan**

# From Barb's Laptop

## A Camper Remembers

As thousands of campers prepare to go to camp for all or part of the summer, I find myself thinking back to the many years that I packed my trunk and dunnage bag in eager anticipation of a month at camp. Immediately, I can feel the excitement, the anticipation and just a little nervousness. (I also recall the depression I displayed on returning home—as do my parents to this day.)

My first trip to camp was memorable. Union Station was packed with campers and parents as we made our way through the crowd to our camp banner. Amid hugs, tears, camp songs and an overwhelming sense of excitement, we were paraded onto the train. The water cooler was empty by the time we reached Barrie; my carefully packed lunch by Orillia. We learned songs, played games and heard stories about camp. After the long train ride, we "juniors" were a dirty and tired group. Excitement mounted again as we bounced along the camp road in a battered old school bus. When the bus doors finally opened, there was Miss Edgar greeting everyone. I was overwhelmed when this magical storyteller called me by name and took my hand to lead me over to my counsellor. At that moment I knew that everything was going to be wonderful at camp, just as she had promised.

During my years as a camper, I must have participated in hundreds of carefully planned programs and activities. I'm sure that I enjoyed them. But, to be honest, I can't remember most of them. But I do remember acts of kindness and caring and a gentle sense of humour that came from Miss Edgar and her staff. These people made camp special.

### Things to Do

- Thank Mary Casey and the Healthcare Committee for the Healthcare Workshop
- Thank Dave Graham and his committee for the Counsellor Conference
- Get ready for Skills Weekend
- Prepare to do a Standards Visit this summer
- Thank Rob Savage and his committee for all their work on the Lands for Life issue

Barb Gilbert  
President

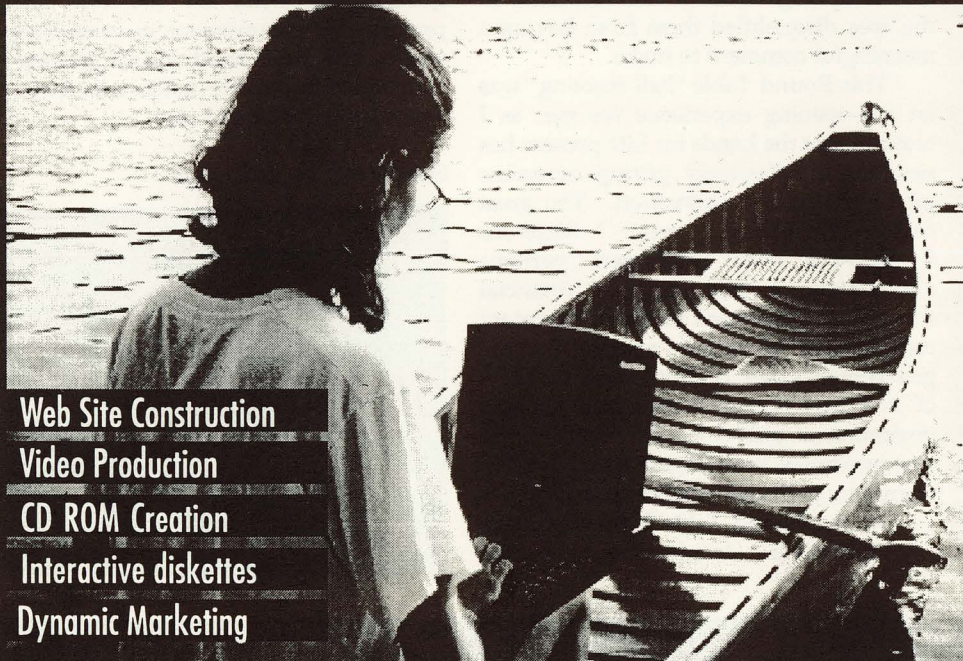
## Commercial Member Update

The following is an update to the OCA's commercial membership list published in the 1998 *Camping Guide* and in last month's *OCA'sional News*.

### Human Heights

Contact: Ryan Moore and Genevieve Gilbert  
308 Ridge Dr., Milton, ON L9T 1X3  
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## It's Not Too Late

continued from page 1

It is also difficult to make sense of a process that has a class-action lawsuit against it; the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association has filed this legal action because it "fears that use of crown lands will be changed 'without any input from the people who have been on the land for a long time'" (as reported in the *Toronto Star*, May 8, 1998).

Nevertheless, government representatives have stressed, time and time again, that commitment to public participation is strong. The final decision, of course, will be the government's. We can do our best to ensure that this final decision will be the best one for all Ontarians and not just selected interests: it is not too late to send in your comments, either directly to John Snobolen, Natural Resources Minister, or to Premier Mike Harris, or to the Round Table most closely representative of your area. It is vital that you do so, before it is too late.

Fiora Hawryluk  
Editor

*Editor's Note: For computer users, here are e-mail addresses and a web site you can access:*

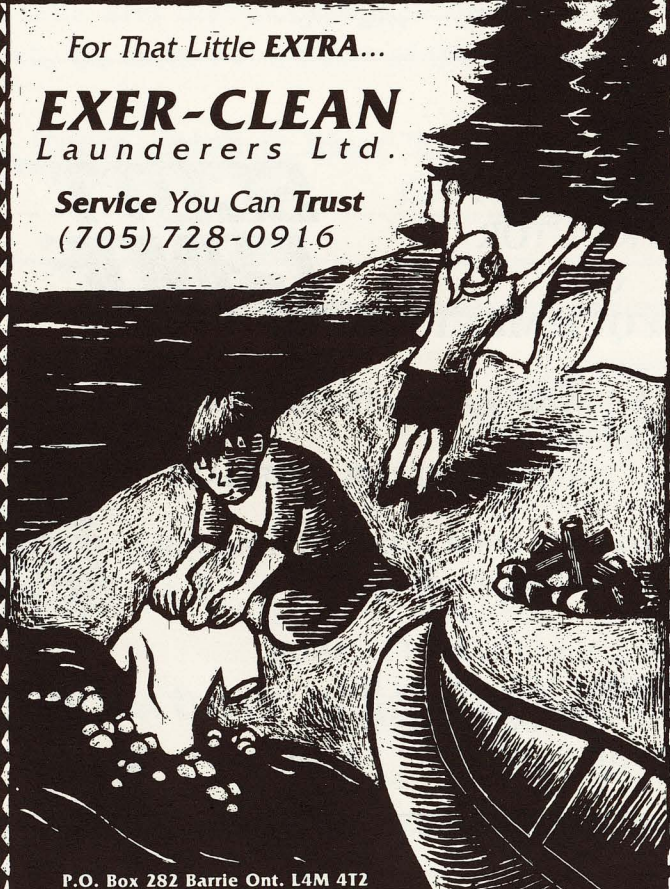
Mike Harris: [mike\\_harris\\_mpp@ontla.ola.org](mailto:mike_harris_mpp@ontla.ola.org)  
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(Chair Bob Gray): [glrt@webmail.gov.on.ca](mailto:glrt@webmail.gov.on.ca)  
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Boreal East  
(Chair Bettyanne Thib-Jelly): [bert@webmail.mnr.gov.on.ca](mailto:bert@webmail.mnr.gov.on.ca)  
Lands for Life web site: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/lfl/index.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/lfl/index.html)

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*Portfolio:* Health Care, Special Needs Resource, Skills

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*Portfolio:* Legislation, Standards

**Director:** Maija Zeibots  
890 Broadview Ave., Lower, Toronto, ON M4K 2R2  
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*Portfolio:* Counsellor Conference, Environmental

## Regional Representatives

**Eastern Ontario (Ottawa):** Ian Richardson  
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B: 1-800-465-9622 Fax: 705-674-3236  
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Dorion Bible Camp  
408 South Marks Street  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1M5  
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**Southwestern Ontario (London):** Jim Janzen  
YMCA-YWCA Camping, c/o George White Outdoor  
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e-mail: [ymcajjanzen@odyssey.on.ca](mailto:ymcajjanzen@odyssey.on.ca)

# Camping Makes the World Go Round

The 1998 International Camping Fellowship Steering Committee meetings in Venezuela were a resounding success! For five very busy days in early May, ICF Steering Committee members from around the world met in Caracas for three days of meetings, a day touring camps and a day participating in the annual Venezuelan Camping Association Conference (with over 800 vocal, enthusiastic camping leaders!!). Jack Pearse (ICF President), John Jorgenson (Secretary/Newsletter), Eoin Wood (ICF member) and I represented Canada.

Discussions were lively in Caracas with many new initiatives approved, actions taken and correspondence shared. Highlights include:

- the ICF website is up and running....to locate it, search International Camping Fellowship....in the next few months, the website will include hot links to all regional reps, translation into several languages for global communication, and an internet version of the newsletter.
- photostats of the ICF logo and text description for inclusion in brochures or other materials will be available for all ICF member camps
- the ICF is now in the final stages of incorporation
- ICF corporate memberships (including gifts in kind for not less than \$100 US) are now available through regional representatives
- the ICF archives will be housed at the camp/organization of the current president (until 2000 with Jack Pearse in Huntsville)
- an ICF ethics statement was endorsed and will be included in future membership renewals
- Chuck Ackenbom (USA/Caribbean representative) will be

working with local Haitian camp directors to create opportunities for camping development

- Juan Mario Gutierrez, President of the Columbian Camping Association, sent a letter to the ICF detailing the horrors of the current Columbian political situation (random kidnappings, murders and constant guerilla fighting) and the effect on camps (three have closed, one has relocated to Ecuador and two remain in operation in remote areas of the country)

- International delegates that attended the Fourth International Camping Congress in Russia in 1997 will soon be receiving a letter with details about purchasing a video with highlights of the event

- International Camp Day has been set for August 1 (suggestions for activities will be included in the next ICF newsletter in June)

Finally, we received an update on the planning for the Fifth International Camping Congress in Japan in the year 2000. Fumio Morooka, on behalf of the Japan 2000 Organizing Committee, brought us up-to-date on plans for the next Congress. Congress participants can look forward to:

- a full Congress agenda with workshops, exhibits, opening and closing ceremonies, cultural presentations and social gatherings, to take place from October 2-5, 2000

- accommodation, meals and program at the 1964 Olympic Village in Tokyo (recently renovated with several new conference facilities)

- the opportunity to experience a Japanese camp first-hand with three day/two night trips scheduled to camps throughout Japan from October 6-8th

Registration for the Fifth International Camping Congress begins in January 1999! Further details will be available at this time.

Have a safe and happy summer!

*Jeff Bradshaw  
Canadian Representative  
International Camping Fellowship*



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### The OCA's Annual General Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 1998

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## Call for Speakers

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Are you willing to give a session at the OCA's Annual Conference? Regular sessions, primarily for Directors, are approximately 1 1/4 hours while our Educational Forum sessions for Program, Section and Specialty Heads are 45-50 minutes in length.

Contact Larry Bell at 416-736-4443; Fax: 416-736-9971; e-mail: crh@camprh.com.

Include: Name (if suggesting a speaker, please so indicate; include phone number); Topic; Session Requirements; and Regular or Educational Forum.

The Educational Committee will review all submissions and by October 31, 1998 inform all those who took the time to submit an application or suggest a speaker.

**Deadline: September 15, 1998**



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# Yours For the Asking

**Yours for the Asking** is a regular feature of the *OCA's* *Asional News*. Readers are invited to send in their questions to the OCA office, attn: **Yours for the Asking**. Our panel will be delighted to respond in an upcoming issue! We are fortunate to have on the team Ted and Elaine Cole of Camp Walden, and Tracy Shand of Camp Naorca. Ted and Elaine bring a residential camp perspective, while Tracy offers the day camp view.

**Question:** With the summer fast approaching, can you let us know how you deal with parents when illness or behavioural/emotional concerns arise? I'd like to find out what prompts you to call, instead of writing or sending a note with the camper upon his/her return home.

**Tracy Shand responds:** Call us over-cautious but our philosophy at Camp Naorca has always been to respond to even small concerns. We feel that it is better to be proactive and to address concerns early on than to have to deal with more serious issues later on. Counsellors are expected to contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a camper prior to the beginning of camp session which gives the parent an opportunity to share any relevant camper information (social or behaviour issues) with the counsellor. We strongly encourage open communication between parents and camp staff. During a camp session, we will phone home concerning any (minor) camper issue, i.e., a sunburn, an irritated bug bite, a lost lunch bag—even a lost Tamagochi. Part of the reason that we will phone home right away is so that these minor concerns do not get out of control. If behavioural or emotional problems arise, we will phone home to make the parent aware of the situation and to find out if the parent has any suggestions on how to deal with the situation. Once a concern has been raised with a parent, we will do our best to maintain ongoing communication with this parent. We will do follow-up calls to let the parent know the status of the situation.

Of course, there are times when we will send a note home with a camper rather than call the parent(s) directly. If, by the end of the day, we have been unable to contact a parent, we will send a note home with the camper and then do our best to contact the parent directly the following day (or even that evening at home if appropriate). We will also send notes

home with campers reminding parents of camp-wide or section-wide special events where a particular costume is required or to inform parents of any camp-wide medical concerns such as an outbreak of chicken pox. All notes sent home remind the parents of the camp phone number in case they need to contact us. Generally, we will not send a note home with a camper containing specific information about the child. We prefer to contact the parent directly in those cases. All in all, proactive communication with parents has, time and time again, proven to be in the best interest of all: staff, parents and, most importantly, the campers.

Final thoughts: Call them before they call you! I wish everyone a safe and rewarding summer.

**Ted and Elaine Cole respond:** Communication is the key to parents feeling comfortable when entrusting their children in our care. We strive very hard to have no surprises upon the kids' return home.

In dealing with emotional/behavioural problems it often takes up to five days into camp to realize that there is a problem.

I immediately call families asking if they have seen this behaviour at home or in a school situation. This often opens up a wealth of information and hopefully we will be able to counsel and work with the child.

I do not send written reports on behaviour, unless requested by the parent. When I do, these are only observations we have witnessed, not any suggestions on helping the child because I am not trained in this area.

Medically we do call parents if a child goes on antibiotics, is taken to the hospital, or spends the night in the wellness centre. A letter from the camp doctor is sent home with the camper.

The most difficult cases always come when the child tries to hide the illness until he/she gets home, and doesn't go to the camp health centre (i.e., rash or impetigo in the buttock areas). Ongoing preventative training with counsellors to keep an eye open for rashes and cuts is critical.

A healthy and safe summer to all!

## Humber College

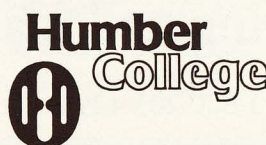
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# Calendar of Events

## June

Skills Weekend  
YMCA Wanakita

Friday, June 5 to  
Sunday, June 7

Special Needs Resource  
Committee Meeting  
OCA Board Room

Monday, June 8  
1:00 p.m.

## July/August

Happy Camping!!

## September

Board Meeting  
OCA Board Room

Thursday, September 24  
4:00 p.m.

## October

Board Meeting  
OCA Board Room

Thursday, October 15  
2:00 p.m.

## December

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, December 10



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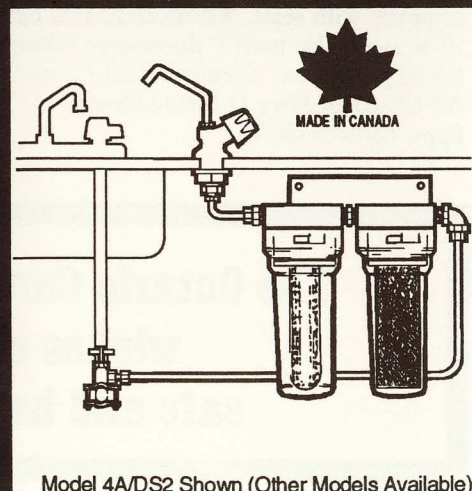
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**Adventure Program Coordinator**, New Brunswick - adventure based, vulnerable youth intervention program runs year-round with camps each summer. **RESP:** co-ordinate logistics and periodic facilitation for school-based program and foster youth program. Assist in the running of an eight-week summer camp. Co-facilitate training and other professional workshops. **QUAL:** background working with at-risk youth and foster youth, strong organizational skills, confident adventure facilitator for youth and adults, outdoor skills and experience with summer camps. **SALARY:** \$26-\$32,000 plus benefits. **AVAIL:** August 1998. **APPLY:** send résumé: Kathy Cassidy, Partners For Youth, 575 George St., Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3B 1K2. Phone: 506-457-7066. Deadline July 15, 1998.

### For Sale/Rent

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*OCA's* **Occasional News** offers you a variety of ways to promote products and services within organized camping. The Ontario Camping Association welcomes articles and photo submissions. The next deadline is September 15th for the October publication.

☛ Display ads are sold on a single or multiple insertion rate, with a \$50.00 non-members fee. Please contact the OCA office for rates. Camera-ready art is required.

☛ We also offer professional and business directory ads of business card size. OCA member fee: \$35 per insert (up to three issues) or \$28 per issue (minimum four to maximum nine issues).

☛ Classified ads are sold with a maximum size of 25 words for a fee of \$10 for members and \$25 for non-members. Additional space sold in 25 word increments.

☛ Paid advertising content will not exceed editorial space.

☛ The *OCA's Occasional News* is published nine times a year by the Ontario Camping Association, a voluntary, non-profit association committed to excellence in Camping. We want to hear from you. Please send your thoughts and inquires to the Editorial Committee, care of the office.

☛ Fiora Hawryluk, Editor. 416-481-2788.  
e-mail: [hawryluk@stn.net](mailto:hawryluk@stn.net)

*The views expressed by the authors in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Camping Association.*



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Bev Jahnke, Office Administrator  
Michele Gillingwater, Membership Secretary  
Paul Grossinger, Production Secretary

**The Ontario Camping Association  
wishes everyone a  
safe and happy summer!!**

## Provisional Member Update

The OCA extends a warm welcome to our new provisional members. With the addition of these 15 camps, we now have 30 camps working toward being an accredited member of the OCA.

### **Bark Lake Camp**

Contact: Liz Fowler  
Bark Lake  
Irondale, ON KOM 1X0  
705-447-2447

### **Canterbury Hills Day Camp**

Contact: Dawn Alexander-Wiggins  
252 James St. N.  
Hamilton, ON  
905-527-1316 ext.440

### **HTS Camps**

Contact: Anita Pettifer  
11300 Bayview Ave.  
Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1L4  
905-477-3736

### **Havergal Day Camp**

Contact: Louise Harwood-Nash  
1451 Avenue Rd.  
Toronto, ON M5N 2H9  
416-480-6529

### **CGIT Camp Kalalla**

Contact: Carol Southern  
97 Woodfield Dr.  
Nepean, ON K2G 0A1  
613-727-1809

### **Kettleby Valley Camp**

Contact: Peter Truman  
160 Limestone Cres.  
Downsview, ON M3J 2S4  
416-661-2610

### **Kingston Family YMCA Day Camp**

Contact: Bev Blakely  
100 Wright Cres.  
Kingston, ON K7L 4T9  
613-546-2647

### **Camp Manitomono**

Contact: Erin Miles  
539 Hugel Ave.  
Midland, ON L4R 1W1  
705-526-7421

### **Camp Maun-Kiki**

Contact: Kathy Huckla  
St. Catharines Recreation and Community Services Dept.  
50 Church St., P.O. Box 3012  
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7C2  
905-688-5601 ext.1556

### **Pickering College Summer Day Camp**

Contact: George Neale  
c/o Pickering College  
16945 Bayview Ave.  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X2  
905-895-1700

### **St. Vincent De Paul Children's Camp**

Contact: Brenda Kormendy  
80 King St. E.  
Chatham, ON N7M 3M8  
519-354-1885

### **Camp Shalom**

Contact: Rev. Calvin Ver Mulm  
R.R. #4  
Cambridge, ON N1R 5S5  
519-623-4860

### **Tall Ship Adventurers**

Contact: Catharine McLean  
283 Queen's Quay W.  
Toronto, ON M5V 1A2  
416-203-9949

### **Texas Longhorn Ranch**

Contact: Fred Cahill  
R.R. #3  
Strathroy, ON N7G 3H5  
519-247-3644

### **YMCA of Greater Toronto Summer Day Camps**

Contact: Matt Wood  
42 Charles St. E.  
Toronto, ON M4Y 1T4  
416-928-9622