

# OCAsional News

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Monthly Publication of the Ontario Camping Association

JANUARY 1994

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## Bell Tones

If your holiday season was anything like ours, you have by now embarked upon some type of exercise or diet regime. Perhaps as we took part in the festive events, we were just preparing ourselves for the very busy months ahead. I hope you plan to make OCA events and committees part of your schedule.

The plans for our AGM on January 27, 1994 are well underway. We are looking forward to a large turnout. The meeting itself will give us an opportunity to review the past year (it has been a full one), elect new Board members, conduct some important new business related to our Standards and recognize our volunteers. During the evening, besides a wonderful motivational presentation by Olympic Gold Medal winner Robert Marland, we will hear about all of the upcoming winter and spring educational events and have an evening of fun and comradeship! Please plan to attend.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the four people whose term of office comes to a close at this AGM - Adam Kronick (treasurer) and directors Jim Blake, Patti Thom and Jack Goodman. All have given unselfishly of their time and efforts to help improve our Association. They have had a direct impact on those of us at the table and those they work with on committees and at OCA events. I hope that each

will decide to remain an active part of the Association.

During the past month we have tried to meet a number of priorities, based upon a membership survey conducted last February. Public Awareness was number one. In that regard, the PA committee was busy, designing a new format for our directory. As well, they have assisted with an opportunity offered by *City Parent Magazine* - a new commercial member. The committee has helped with the editorial content and the development of the OCA section in which accredited camps have been gathered together under one masthead. We look forward to more of this type of advertising to strengthen the image and to increase the public's knowledge of the OCA.

Although the members identified legislation as an area of concern, no one turned up to a meeting called in December to present issues and help

form a committee. In a volunteer organization such as ours, we can only respond to issues if there are concerned members willing to offer their time.

In the area of improved membership services, the meetings of affiliated camps and members of camps run by committees or boards were attended by only a few. However, those who did attend found those meetings and exchanges worthwhile.

At this time, we are looking forward to your involvement in the upcoming Breakfast meetings held at the OCA office, beginning January 12. We hope you will find a topic that interests or concerns you and will then join your hosts.

I know you will join me in offering our sincere condolences and best wishes to the families of Liz

(cont'd page 2)

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## **Bell Tones cont'd**

Greenway and Bob Smith. Mrs. Alberta Greenway and Mrs. Kay Smith both passed away in December.

In closing, I want to tell you that this has been an exciting and full year for me. "Camp people" are a special breed. They come from all walks of life. They are open and willing to share. In particular, those on the Board are hard working, dedicated and supportive. Together, I hope we have made a difference. Of course, much of what the Board initiates could not be completed if it weren't for a very capable and pleasant office staff of Bobsie Ebbs, Mary Lynn Trotter and Shelly Bacher.

See you on the 27th.

*Larry*

## **Let us know**

Would you like the OCA office to help promote your CIT/LIT program? We get many requests for young people's training programs. Call, fax or write us with the details (ages, fees etc.).

As well, could OCA camps please let the office know if you plan to participate in this year's Name Label program. We'd like to know how many label forms you will need and when is the best time to send them to you.

Thanks!

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## **Current Events**

Last month, the membership committee, in conjunction with the standards committee, hosted the first information night for camps directed by boards and committees. Although the turnout on this stormy night was small, the sharing of questions, experience and answers was very beneficial to every person, whether they were a director or a board/committee member.

Discussion ranged from standards to general benefits of membership, to issues that had an impact on organized camping. Andrew Vernon-Betts from Dale Intermediaries also joined us to discuss the benefits of the CCA insurance plan and how often organization-driven camps are not covered sufficiently with respect to camp life. This left everyone with food for thought and clamouring to the nearest phone to call our own insurance agents. Overall, this evening was a great success, and indicates that we should hold it again next year. Thanks to all those involved.

### **Coffee...Cookies...Conference '95**


Did you mark Tuesday January 11, 7 p.m. on your calendar? Did you RSVP? Don't delay - do it today! Bring your appetite and two themes or ideas for Conference 95 to 13 Maple Ave. on the 11th. Look forward to seeing you .

*Barb Gilbert*

### **Pass on your comments, please!**

For those who couldn't attend the December Legislation meeting, feel free to contact Jim Blake at the OCA with your concerns.

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## Skills Weekends 1994: On the Road Again!

Each spring, many of the OCA's finest instructors and camp leaders gather to lend their expertise to an annual event known as OCA Skills Weekend.

In 1993, we were pleased to be able to present two distinct Skills Weekend programs. The first was held at Camp Tawingo in May and the second at Camp Northland B'Nai Brith in June. To Jack, Jorgi, Jane, Carol and the Spring Staff at Tawingo, and to Ellen, Stephen and the Summer Staff at Northland, our sincere thanks once again for two excellent weekends. Both were well attended with close to 200 camp staff participating in nine program streams, led by 42 volunteer staff instructors and facilitators representing 28 camps. Whew!

As 1993 came to a close, a large number of OCA camps participated in the tendering process to host the 1994 OCA Skills Weekends. To all

who tendered, a since "thank you" for your interest in the Skills program and your support of the OCA's work in training and development.

I'm pleased at this point to confirm our plans for OCA Skills 1994:

**OCA Skills #1**  
**May 13-15, 1994 at Camp Oconto**  
(in Tichborne)

**Program Potpourri** (storytelling, campfire games, theme days, mass camp activities, cabin and group programming)

**Eco Skills** (environmental programming)

**CIT/LIT Leadership** (everything you need to know to run an effective camp leadership development program)

**Outdoor Living Skills** (camp craft skills, tripping basics, safety and risk management considerations)

**OCA Skills #2**  
**June 10-12 at Camp Queen Elizabeth** (on Beausoleil Island)

**Canoeing** (the "how to's" of running a camp canoeing program)

**Supervisory Leadership Skills** (strengthen your camp leadership...ideal for first time directors, section directors, heads of staff etc...)

**Arts and Crafts** ("ideas, ideas, ideas" that will make your craft area THE place to be in your camp)

*(please turn to page eight)*



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**Foam & Plastic Industries Limited.** 264 Newkirk Road, Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 3G7. (416) 798-4821. Fax (905) 884-5060. Manufacturers of a complete range of sewn and foam cushioning products. Foam mattresses or replacement covers (standard or custom sizes.)

**Jay Miller Storyteller/Mime.** P.O. Box 678 Station P Toronto, Ont. M5S 2Y4. (416) 654-8737. Performances, workshops and counsellor training in Theatre Arts, Mask, Improv and storytelling.

**Wizard Fireworks.** 481 Oakwood Dr. Pickering, Ont. L1W 2M8. (905) 509-0537. Fax same. Retail/wholesale imported and domestic. The best of family and display fireworks.



## KUMBAYAH 1994

### Hosts to the World

The OCA is the host association for KUMBAYAH 1994. As hosts we have assumed a great deal of responsibility, hard work, and fun! But the OCA benefits financially as well, by receiving a percentage of net revenue based on committed number of Ontario delegates. We have committed 700 Canadian delegates to KUMBAYAH. As of early December, we have reached 40

per cent of committed Canadian delegates, but need your help to reach the target number. Have you registered? Do you know friends and colleagues who should be registering? This event is for seasonal staff, board members, directors and owners. Let's show the world our Ontario pride - register now!

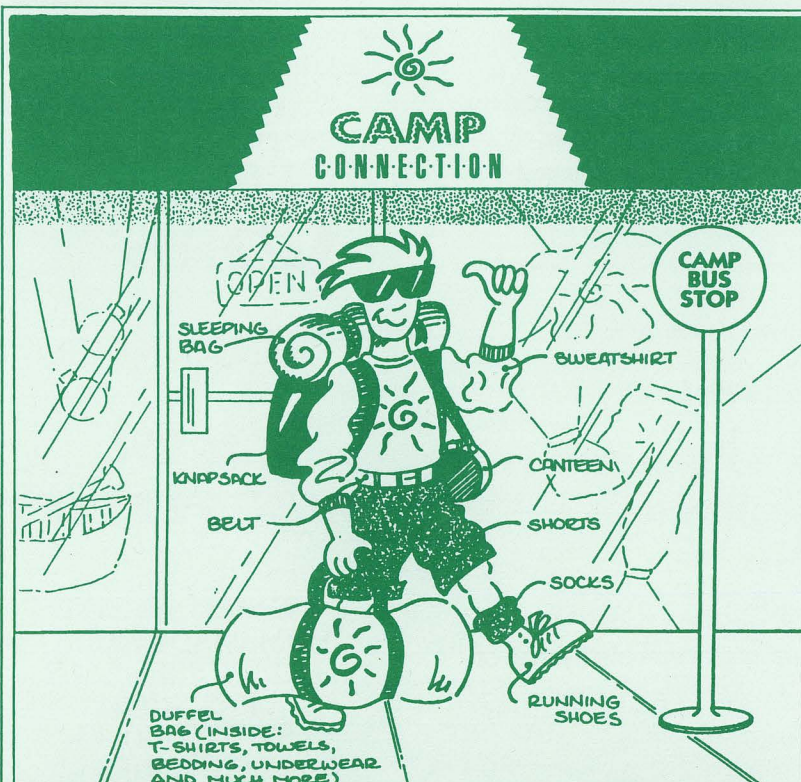
### Your camp can be a part of KUMBAYAH 1994

As the Third International Camping Congress nears in March, plans are being finalized for two of the Congress programs and we would like to ask you to help us host the world.

#### Opportunity #1

Just image for a moment, 2000 camping professionals meeting for the first time. Further imagine if you will, each and every room and available space at the Sheraton Centre full of remarkable opportunities to learn, laugh, participate, enjoy, be entertained and to celebrate much of what is good about children, camping and the human experience. Finally, imagine dozens of educators, entertainers, speakers, instructors, facilitators and camping friends from around the world leading some amazing activities for three hours on the afternoon of March 2. What you are beginning to picture is just a taste of the Grand Rendezvous program, and it is with great excitement that we invite campers and staff of OCA camps to take part as Rendezvous Hosts.

Each room/space for the Rendezvous will be hosted by an OCA Camp with each Camp asked to have (ideally) two staff and two campers attached for the afternoon of March 2. The main responsibilities for Rendezvous hosts are to welcome Congress



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## KUMBAYAH 1994

delegates to the specific activity, to assist the activity leadership as necessary in providing the program and to give thanks at the end of the afternoon on behalf of the OCA to the activity leadership.

Just imagine, the Sheraton Centre on March 2 full of delegates from around the world being welcomed by the faces and warm hearts of campers and staff from our OCA camps! For more information about Rendezvous Hosting, please call Chris Selby or John Munro at YMCA Camp Wanakita (905-529-7102.)

The Grand Rendezvous will help to kick off KUMBAYAH. This event will give you the chance to learn and participate in a number of international demonstrations and displays. Here are just a few of the many stops at the Grand Rendezvous!

**Lakehead University - MacKenzie Expedition Group** will start off the Grand Rendezvous by telling you about their exploration of North America by canoe as they retraced the routes of many years ago.

**Project Adventure** will take you through some old and new games, exercises and challenges.

**The North American Indian Travelling College** will demonstrate and teach native dance.

**Michael Brandwein** will do a session on improvisation techniques to use in a camp setting.

You won't want to miss the Grand Rendezvous!

Opportunity #2: Opening for Peter, Paul and Mary...

Needed: camps, their staff and campers to take part in an underground "singsong" program at KUMBAYAH! Camps interested in displaying their spirit and enthusiasm can contact Sari Grossinger at Camp Robin Hood (416-736-4443)

### Some Reminders

Don't forget: OCA members who are full-time delegates at KUMBAYAH 1994 and who stay at the Sheraton Centre for a minimum of three (3) nights receive a \$100 refund after Congress. With so many events and activities to attend, what


could be more convenient than staying in the heart of the action?

Host an intimate dinner for international delegates on Monday Feb. 28 - the Hospitality Committee will reimburse food expenses. Call Elaine Cole at Camp Walden.

Enter the International Photo Contest. Details and an entry form were included in your November OCAsional News.

### Get involved!

We need many volunteers to host the 1500 or more delegates. There are many interesting positions available, so volunteer now! If you know someone who would like to volunteer, please pass on the message. For more information, contact the OCA office.



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## Project C.A.N.O.E. gear swap

Project C.A.N.O.E. is proud to announce its first annual gear swap. Individuals are asked to bring used outdoor gear to 730 Yonge St. (The Charles Promenade, 1 block south of Bloor) on Jan. 22 or 23 between 10-6. You decide the selling price, 20 per cent of which will go to Project C.A.N.O.E. (a non-profit charitable

organization). The sale takes place at the Ontario Fishing and Sportsmen's Show in Pickering Jan 27-30 at the Metro East Trade Centre. A number of companies will also be selling off last year's models, seconds etc. at great prices. For more information, please call (416) 782-8278.

## Classified ads

**Ontario March of Dimes** requires a Director for a camp which provides holiday opportunities to adults with a physical disability. Mail or fax resumes to Camping and Recreation Department, 60 Overlea Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M4H 1B6. 416-425-0488 fax.

**Campsite needed:** For one-week family camp July 30-Aug. 6. Site would preferably have a waterfront and would accommodate 80 individuals. Call Camp Trillium 613-393-2384.

**Director needed** for Summer '94 for Whipple Tree Recreational Camp & Riding Stable (Across from Pinery Provincial Park.). Send resume to RR#2, Grand Bend, Ont. N0M 1T0. Or call Lindsey at 519-243-1713.

**Wanted:** Manager Camping & Recreation. Pinstripe Personnel Inc. requires strong person with recruiting skills & Camp management background to oversee 5 camps for children's charity. Fax resume to 416-863-5008.

**University graduate** seeks senior-level position for '94 summer season in camping or recreation field. Experience includes supervisory positions in large residential camp, as well as teaching and coaching children and youth. Available part time immediately, full time in May. Contact Barbara at (416) 964-2102.

**Director needed** for Summer '94 for Cave Springs Camp Inc. (United Church Camp), Beamsville, Ont. Please call Linda Gibson 905-357-2677.

### CAMP DIRECTOR WANTED

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- . on-site attendance during the camping season  
- June 20 to August 27
- . on-going correspondence with Toronto Office via mail/telephone

If interested, please respond in confidence with resume to:

Bev Unger                                      Phone:     (416) 421-8377  
Director Camping and Recreation     or toll-free: 1-800-668-6252  
The Easter Seal Society of Ontario     Fax:        (416) 696-1035  
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**Note:** Only qualified applicants  
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***Eastern Region Report***

The Eastern Region has been hard at work this year. As in the past, the OCA camps are working together with the Ottawa Area Camps Committee (OACC) to promote camping, to provide training opportunities and to raise funds for camperships. Our new executive committee, chaired by Deborah Wearn, has exciting plans for the 1994 season. We are currently planning four camp fairs to be held in various communities, our counsellor

conference is set for May 27-29 at the Ottawa YMCA-YWCA Outdoor Centre, and our brochure will be off the presses in mid January. Our newest project this year is to organize a health care workshop in the region. Brian Edey has volunteered to coordinate this event on our behalf. Everyone is very excited and looks forward to the event, scheduled for April. For more information about these events, please give me a call.

*- Deirdre Speers*

**Calendar of Events**

**Jan. 11, 1994**

**OCA Executive Committee Meeting**

**January 18, 1994**

**OCA Board Meeting**

**Jan. 27, 1994**

**OCA Annual General Meeting**

**OCA Advisory Council Meeting**

**Toronto Lawn Tennis Club**

**March 2-5, 1994**

**KUMBAYAH**

**Sheraton Centre, Toronto**

**Skills Weekends**

**May 13-15 at Camp Oconto**

**June 10-12 at Camp Queen Elizabeth**

**In Memory**

We are saddened to report the passing of Vincent "Cobber" Craven this past November. Cobber was General Director of Ontario Pioneer Camps. As well, he served as President of Christian Camping International and established this organization in Canada.

**On the move**

I am pleased to announce that after six years of service, I will be leaving The Easter Seal Society Camping Program and am heading off to the Reena Foundation as Director of Development in January.

As many of you know, I had an opportunity to work with five residential camps serving 1,200 children with physical disabilities. The experience was wonderful. I am hanging up my camping hat, and putting on my fundraising and development hat and looking forward to new challenges. Beverly Unger, who has worked with me at Camp Naorca and at Easter Seals, will be taking over as Director of Camping and Recreation at Easter Seals. Please join with me in wishing Bev well.

I look forward to seeing my old camping friends at KUMBAYAH.

*Mark Sack*



## 1994 Skills Weekends continued

(from page three)

**Kayaking** (the secrets of running a successful flat water camp kayaking program)

**Board Sailing** (the basics and beyond of a sound camp board sailing program)

All of us associated with OCA Skills are eagerly anticipating the journey east in May to Oconto and equally excited about the journey by boat to Skills #2 in June!

For those who may not be familiar with OCA Skills, the intent is to prepare and provide camp staff members with skills and abilities that will allow them to be effective in teaching and leading a wide range of programs.

Those attending register by stream and remain within that stream for the duration of the weekend that they attend. Participants are welcome from any and all OCA and non-OCA camps and will benefit from the wide range of experiences shared by those attending from big and small, day and residential, agency and church affiliated and boys' and girls' and co-ed camps.

As always, at this time of year, we are in the process of assembling another top notch core group of staff to lead the various streams in the roles of Stream Coordinators and Stream Staff. Stream coordinators will be confirmed by the end of January for all streams and they in turn will confirm their stream staff by the end of February. If you have an interest personally (or, perhaps on behalf of a staff member within your camp setting) to offer leadership at OCA Skills, please don't hesitate to contact me through the Camp Couchiching office (416-769-2233.)

Registration and further information will be enclosed within the February OCA mailing. If you have any further questions or if you would like to request additional Skills mailings for February, please contact the OCA office.

We hope to see your camp participating in the learning and leadership that is OCA Skills!

Jeff Bradshaw  
Coordinator  
OCA Skills Weekends



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### A new service



- OCAsional News now offers you a variety of ways to promote products and services within the association with the choice of paid display or classified advertising. **Deadlines are the 10th of the month preceding the issue of publication.**
- Display ads are sold on a single or multiple insertion rate, with a 10% discount for members. Please contact the OCA office for rate information. Camera-ready art required.
- We also offer professional and business directory ads of business card size (2"x1.5"). Camera-ready art required. Ads must be purchased with a three issue minimum insertion or full year (nine issues). OCA member fee: \$35 per insert (3 months) or \$28 per insert (9 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 OCAsional 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 address your editorial and advertising inquiries to:
- Editor, Janet Adamson  
1806 Avenue Road, Suite 2  
Toronto, Ontario M5M 3Z1  
Telephone: (416) 781-0525  
Fax: (416) 781-7875

