



OCAsional News

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Mother goes to camp

by Marianne Goodfellow

My house is empty. There are no noises of the children charging up and down the stairs or calling "Mum" from the third floor. No one complains that there is nothing to eat (by which they mean no junk food). The house is tidy, the telephone silent. Why? They have all gone to camp. The whirlwind of activity which preceded their departure as we name-tagged everything on the clothing list and packed the dunnage bags only underscores the stillness around me now.

I must admit that I enjoy tending to the camp clothing list for the children each year. There is an order to it, a reason behind most of the things which the camper is requested or at least advised to take, whether it be raincoats or towels. But it is much more significant than that because the camp clothing has the magical power to send me back in time to my own years as a child and teenager at camp. I can still see in my mind's eye my clothing list with the neat little boxes to check off each item. In those years, however, sunscreen was not on the list and there were no warning signs that walkmans and gameboys were not allowed. Parents were not reminded to send only environmentally friendly soap and shampoo. But I do not believe that there is much difference in the amount of clothing required then and now. Boys and girls still pack their teddy bears or dragons along with stacks of comics. Many of them still sneak as much candy into the bottom of their sleeping bags or the pockets of their knapsacks as ever before.

When I went to camp, I sewed on each name tag, but now as I brand each sock with an iron-on tag, I suddenly stop. Just who is going to camp anyway? Me or my children? I am lost once again in memories of summers up north in Algonquin Park as we paddled the old green canvas and cedar canoes through quiet lakes and stretches of lilies or carried heavy tripping packs along muddy portages. In the dining hall I sing grace before a breakfast of Red River cereal. I spend a rainy afternoon in the barn making a bracelet for my mother. I walk through the wood looking for Queen Anne's lace and red bunchberries. I wait in line to choose a chocolate bar at the tuck shop. In the chapel I sing my favourite hymn, "I feel the winds of God today," under the canopy of tall pine trees. I walk the pathways between the cabins and tents and know which tree roots could cause me to stumble in the dark.

None of this has changed. My children are reliving for me a part of my life for which I long. Yet it is because little has changed at the camps that they go to that I find such comfort in my memories and such pleasure and trust in knowing that their days at camp are still marked by the same rhythms and traditions as mine were. A young child may not appreciate until years later the significance of these traditions whose beginnings often lie in the earliest years of camps, some of which are now three quarters of a century old, founded by individuals with forethought and wisdom.

The children will come home soon enough. The clothing list will also

come back diligently, if surprisingly, checked off again in an attempt to account for everything in that trunk at the beginning of the month. But this short will have disappeared and the socks, well Mum, they just never came back from the laundry. Towels will come home wet or musty smelling and of a colour that no towel manufacturer ever dreamed of. But the children will also bring back badges for swimming and canoeing awards, more woven bracelets and fuzzy photographs of cabinmates. They will tell stories of their canoe trips and escapes, of friends both old and new which will sustain them through the winter months as we sit around the kitchen table and laugh and talk and remember. How many more months 'til camp?

Marianne Goodfellow is a former Tanamakoon camper. Her daughter now goes to Tanamakoon, and her two sons attend Ponacka.

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"Nothing we use or hear or touch can be expressed in words that equal what is given by the senses." - Hannah Arendt

'Nash'onal News

by Ellen Nash, OCA President

There are some very special people in this world, and the OCA is lucky enough to be associated with so many of them. They are so important that one week every April is set aside to recognize the difference they make in our society. They are called "volunteers".

Some of us, in our own camps, enjoy the efforts of our own dedicated volunteers. They serve on our boards and committees. They provide programming resources. In some camps, they provide the majority of the staff to work directly with the campers. Many of them put in countless hours doing both the things they love and the not-so-popular things as well. Think of all the Girl Guide leaders, the church volunteers, the concerned citizens, without whom the camps of Ontario would cease to operate.

As an organization, the OCA is blessed to have its own cadre of dedicated volunteers. You serve on committees that plan educational conferences and events. You staff booths at shows. You write articles or newsletters. You research new programs and the standards necessary to operate them safely. You visit camps each summer, offering advice and support to gain and maintain accreditation. You attend meetings, meetings, and more meetings. You give of yourselves, even in trying circumstances when conflicting demands come from every direction.

Sometimes, like me, you must ask yourselves, "Why am I doing this, when my own camp, or my own family, or my own self could benefit from some of the time I am spending on these efforts?"

You must then, like me, answer yourself that you feel gratified in some (frequently inexpressible) way, that you enjoy the interaction with like-minded people, that you hope you are making a difference.

Whatever your specific answer, I thank you. You do make a difference, and we appreciate you.



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Editor's Note

by Fiora Hawryluk

"Summer Camp Shocker: Safety mistakes that kill kids."
"We need a camp watchdog." "Who's watching out for little Johnny?" "Just some fun, sun, and a little swearing."

These have been some of the titles of articles on summer camps that have appeared recently in magazines. The tone is definitely sensational: the editors of these publications want to sell magazines, and they are willing to make parents uneasy about camps in order to do so.

It makes for an interesting mix: a negative article surrounded by advertisements for summer camps, many of which proudly display the OCA logo or the words, "Accredited member of the OCA."

What's an organization to do?

Respond to all such articles, as OCA President Ellen Nash recently did when she took on the editor of a community paper called The Town Crier. At least this paper had the decency to print her rebuttal to the two negative articles that appeared in its March 2000 issue.

Sometimes it's not easy or possible to do damage control. We can do camping a favour by doing other things.

At this time, camps are reporting a surge in registrations. Campers are signing up earlier than ever and some camps are already packed. All indications point to a strong economy with low unemployment rates. This has benefited camping.

We can take advantage of this momentum and find ways to spotlight camping and its benefits. We can show people that we are a vital and caring part of the community. At the end of April, thanks to an energetic group of volunteers headed by Dave Graham, the OCA participated in a joint venture with Kortright Outdoor Centre. On May 7th, teams of camps co-ordinated by Jocelyn Palm of Glen Bernard Camp, will join in community efforts to clean up the Don River. And next March, as part of the Annual Conference, the OCA will launch an exciting showcase of camps and camping and welcome the public. Watch for more details in future issues of the *OCA'sional News!*

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Southwestern Ontario (London):

TBA

Hunting in provincial parks - rebuttal from the Ministry of Natural Resources

The following are excerpts from correspondence dated April 7, 2000:

Hunting is not new to provincial parks, and is allowed in certain classes of parks and zones, subject to park management planning direction. Currently, a total of 67 of Ontario's 272 provincial parks are regulated for some form of hunting.

In July 1999, the Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy was released. The Strategy states that, "Where there is demonstrated public support for hunting in existing wilderness parks, this will be addressed as part of planning for individual parks." The change in approach to hunting applies to four wilderness parks in the Strategy area: Woodland Caribou, Wabakimi, Quetico and Killarney. The wilderness parks in areas where the Strategy does not apply - Opasquia, Polar Bear, Kesagami and Lady Evelyn Smoothwater - are not affected by the new approach. The Strategy also provides for hunting to be permitted in new parks and additions.

Enhancing hunting and angling opportunities was one of the four original objectives of the Strategy development process. Other objectives were to complete Ontario's parks and protected areas system, recognize the land use needs of the resource-based tourism industry and provide resource industries with greater land and resource certainty.

If there is demonstrated local support for hunting to be considered, this will be done on a park-to-park basis through park management planning. Six principles will guide any consideration of hunting:

- The hunting experience will be consistent with the wilderness character of these parks;
- There will be no new roads or trails to support hunting;
- Existing park policies relating to motorized access will continue to apply;
- Hunting will not impede or curtail other recreational activities - safety will be paramount;

- First Nations', Aboriginal and treaty rights will be respected;
- The ecological sustainability of park ecosystems will be maintained.

Park management planning is a formal process that provides opportunities for public consultation. The details of park management planning for the four wilderness parks have not been determined. However, those who wish to become involved in public consultation will have their names put on the appropriate contact lists. You may have your name put on contact lists by notifying the following:

Killarney Provincial Park
Chuck Miller, Park Superintendent
Killarney, ON P0M 2A0

Quetico Provincial Park
Jay Leather, Park Superintendent
Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park
Scott Ellery, Park Superintendent
P.O. Box 5003
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0

Wabakimi Provincial Park
John McGrath, Park Superintendent
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I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Hon. John C. Snobelen
Minister, Natural Resources

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CAMP SUMMIT, Geoff Park, Director; Whistler, BC

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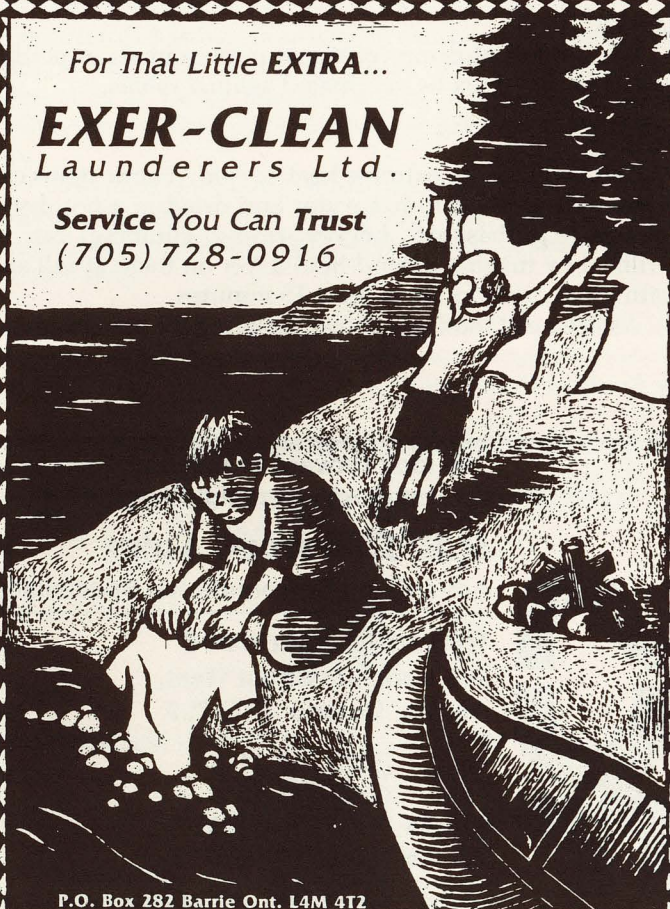
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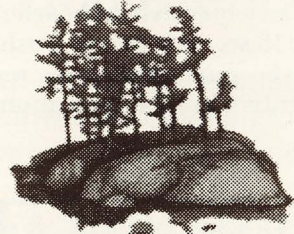
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Breakfast Club discusses health care issues

as reported by Fiora Hawryluk

Several recent well-publicized outbreaks of disease at public schools have caused camp leaders to wonder what can be done to minimize the risk of similar situations. On April 18, the Breakfast Club met to discuss these and other issues. Sharon Thompson and Anne Alexander of the Haliburton/Kawartha Health Unit were the featured speakers, and Linda Enright and Martha Williams of the OCA's Health Care Committee were on hand to field questions. Thanks also to Camp Onondaga for allowing the meeting to be held at its Toronto office.

Thompson and Alexander were comprehensive and informative in their overview of communicable diseases. Together they have over 60 years' experience in the health field. Some highlights of their presentation:

- Health units want camps to report outbreaks of disease as quickly as possible so that an accurate diagnosis can be made. Specimens taken at the beginning of illness are more useful to a laboratory than specimens taken after the body has shed itself of the offending organisms. It is to the camps' advantage to quickly determine the cause, fix the problem, and give accurate information to parents.
- Airborne infections are rare, compared to infections spread through contaminated food and water.
- Campers with suppressed immunosystems or those who are medically fragile are extremely vulnerable; therefore special care must be taken for them (e.g., if necessary, provide them with bottled water, etc.)
- People can become immune if antibiotics are overprescribed and doctors are becoming more wary about prescribing them. Relapses may occur well after the initial symptoms of diarrhea pass.
- It is possible for a camp to experience several varieties of infection at one time.

HOW CAN WE PREVENT OUTBREAKS?

- Wash your hands! Emphasize regular handwashing after bathroom use and before eating. An inexpensive soap is just as good as an expensive anti-bacterial soap. The key is to lather up for 15 seconds and to wash frequently.
- Food should be purchased from reputable suppliers and handled according to food regulations.

- It is recommended that food handlers should be vaccinated against Hepatitis A.
- Ensure an uncontaminated water supply.
- Use every means to reduce the number of flies at camp. Following these steps will cut down on the risk of having an outbreak of disease.

WATER PURIFICATION:

- Ultra-violet systems kill organisms but are dependent on the volume required and may not be practical.
- An absolute micron system is the best system, but it is very expensive, fragile and slow. Errors may occur if the system is not installed properly. Check with the Ministry of the Environment for tips on proper installation.
- Water from drilled wells is great, but not every camp has access to an underground aquifer.
- Boiling water at a full rolling boil for 15 minutes may kill organisms, but is impractical because of the volume required.
- Iodine tablets are not sufficient on their own; they can be used in conjunction with a filtration system.

FOOD HANDLING AND STORAGE:

- Camps should have contingency plans in place in case of a power failure that will affect their dishwashers or freezers. The three-sink method can still be used as an alternative. A fully stocked freezer as long as it's not opened will keep food safe for 48 hours; a half-full freezer only keeps food safe for 24 hours.

OTHER:

- All animals at camp (personal pets, animals in petting zoos or farms) must be vaccinated against rabies.

LICE:

- Can be killed by extreme heat or cold. Fabric items can be machine-washed in hot water and dried in a hot dryer. Helmets (e.g., baseball, hockey, riding, climbing) can be sterilized by turning a hand-held dryer on them at full and heating the interiors for at least 15 minutes.
- As lice need food to survive, isolating the contaminated

See Breakfast Club, page 8

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The legacy of summer camp

By S. Kate Moore

Jim Penner once said, "If camp is like Christmas, then the Ontario Camp Leadership Workshop is Christmas Eve." For the 45th year in a row, camp staff from non-profit, private, religiously affiliated, special needs and day camps will gather for four days of training that will fire them up for camp and leave them counting the days until the campers arrive. Delegates can choose from two streams: Main Stream and Adventure Stream. The Main Stream consists of 24 sessions including "Risk Management" (Rudy Massimo of Outward Bound), "Games on the Fly" (Greg Hupponen of Seneca College), "Marketing Mania" (Jennifer Hartley, Cottage Life), "Creating a Safe Space at Camp: Issues of Sexual Orientation" (Michelle Hamilton and James Murray), "Everyday is a Special Event" (Keith Storey) and other innovative and idea-filled sessions. In addition, there's a half day "Facilitator's Exchange" offered where the pros can swap ideas and find solutions to their pressing, just-before-camp issues.

In the Adventure Stream, delegates will learn how to build groups through adventure programming with gifted facilitator Sue Shikaze. Each delegate will leave with a "bag of new tricks" of games and initiatives as well as a personal action plan and a support network of other camp and outdoor centre staff.

Just to make it more fun, a professional clown has been hired as the keynote speaker! When not clowning around, Joe Richards has been working in camping for twelve years and is currently the Director of Public Relations and Personnel at Taylor Statten Camps. His keynote address will centre on the legacy of summer camp in making leaders.

Take all this and drop it into the camp setting of YMCA Camp Pinecrest and you have the Ontario Camp Leadership Workshop 2000. Get excited because it's only weeks away!

Ontario Camp Leadership Workshop



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Health Care Committee update

Q.

Can I hire a nursing school graduate to work as a camp nurse this summer?

A.

Yes, but only if the graduate obtains Temporary Registration from the College of Nurses of Ontario, and works under the supervision of a health professional, such as a registered nurse.

source:
The College
of Nurses
of Ontario

(Note: a graduating nurse can be hired as part of the Health Care Team at camp, but cannot use the title *nurse*.)

The 11th Annual Project Rainbow Conference

A day aimed at providing camp staff with practical skills and current information for a successful summer of inclusive camping.

June 8, 2000 Humber College

Jeremiah experiences physical & developmental disabilities. He communicates without words. His mother Barbara Ostroff, keynote speaker, will share stories from 7 summers of adventure & belonging at Camp Couchiching & HarbourKids Circus Camp, highlighting engaged peer campers and Jeremiah's own camping spirit.

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items for at least 24 hours is an effective lice-buster.

- Follow the directions precisely on treatment shampoos. Check ingredients: some contain extracts of chrysanthemum and if a camper is allergic it will cause a problem.

- Lice are not a health problem, but it's a major headache for most camps because of the reaction by parents.

SCABIES:

- Scabies is not usually a major health problem, but secondary infections can occur if scratches become infected. It's very contagious and the mites can live in woodland environments.

Prevention is the best defense against infection! We can reduce, but not totally eliminate the risk.

Note: Meeting handouts available at the OCA Office.

Media Watch

Massive airline shuffle at Pearson International: A massive relocation of airlines between the three terminals at Pearson International Airport in Toronto is being planned for June 2 and 3, 2000. Canadian Airlines will relocate to Terminals 1 and 2. Other airlines will also change. The moves are made necessary by Air Canada's takeover of Canadian Airlines. Eventually, Air Canada and Canadian will offer their international flights out of Terminal 1 and their domestic and transborder services out of Terminal 2. (As reported in The Globe and Mail, April 5, 2000. For more information on airlines, please see the article in this issue.)

Water levels on lakes lowest since 1965: Property owners, boaters and fishermen are facing drastically low water levels this summer all over the Great Lakes. Environment Canada says that the levels are at their lowest since 1965, about 45 cm below the average level last year in Lake Huron and its tributaries. Economic and recreational problems could be huge, ranging from hazardous boating conditions to affected water quality. (As reported in The National Post, April 4, 2000.)

Have you recently read or heard a news item that would be of interest to the camping community? Share it with OCAsional News readers! Fax (416-485-0422) or email (oca@ontcamp.on.ca) items with publication date and name.

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Standards Review Task Force update

The Task Force is up and running, and we need your help. We are in search of "best practices" to publish in the appendix section of the new document. We are looking for practices that exceed the minimum standards and that you would like to share with your colleagues in camping.

We are also looking for your comments on areas that need to be worked on in the Standards manual. Our first draft will be ready soon, and we need your input right now.

It is our intention to meld the day and resident standards into one document. To do this, we need your input about how best to make this happen. Please contact the co-chairs by phone or email with your opinions as soon as possible.

Craig Hartley, 416-766-7124, director@centauri.on.ca
Howard Oretsky, 905-731-7030,
howardo@interlog.com

Congratulations, Jill!

Ontario Camping Association Vice-President Jill Dundas was honoured last month as one of six outstanding mentors of Canadian women. The Canadian Women's Mentoring Award, created and sponsored by Trimark Investments, celebrates and promotes the mentoring of women. Its mandate is to advance the lives of women – personally and professionally – by helping to facilitate a supportive network and culture of mentoring in Canada.

Joanne Garneau, who nominated Jill for the award, said: "Jill has encouraged me to step out of my "comfort zone" and achieve more. Because of Jill's belief in me, I came to realize my own potential: I am now living out what I always assumed was a dream – I am studying to become a nursery school teacher . . . Jill helped me to realize that I could achieve what I thought was an impossible dream by learning to believe in myself. For the first time in my life, I feel that I can really achieve what I want."



J.D. Smith



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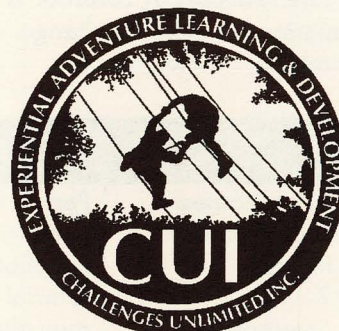
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Airlines and unaccompanied minors

compiled by Fiora Hawryluk

Many camps appreciate the advantages of welcoming campers from other countries during the summer. If these campers are under a certain age and travelling alone, they are referred to as "unaccompanied minors," or UMs. For safety and liability reasons, all airlines have strict policies regarding UMs. There may be additional fees for this service.

The following chart gives the details regarding UMs travelling with several of the major carriers operating through Pearson International Airport in Toronto. If you have any questions, contact the airline directly or a reputable travel agent. All information is subject to change. For details on Pearson International Airport in Toronto, you may wish to check out their website: www.gtaa.com.

Airline	Age range for UM	Paperwork	Fee	Terminal(s) at Pearson
Air Canada	5-11 (domestic /transborder flights) 7-11 (international flights)	Person making reservation for child will need to supply details (name, address, telephone) for escorts to and from airports. Official photo IDs will be checked. Airline <u>may</u> allow you to give alternate information in case principal escort does not/ cannot show up to pick up child from airport.	CAN\$40 + GST per direction	Terminal 2 (domestic and transborder flights) Terminal 1 (international flights) (as of June 3)
Air France	5-11	Person making reservation for child will need to supply details (name, address, telephone) for escorts to and from airports. Official photo IDs will be checked.	no fee	Terminal 3
American Airlines	5-7 (non-stop flights) 8-11 (on other flights)	Person making reservation for child will need to supply details (name, address, telephone) for escorts to and from airports. Official photo IDs will be checked.	US\$30 for non stop flights; US\$60 for other flights/ costs are per direction	Terminal 3
British Airways	5-12	Person making reservation for child will need to supply details (name, address, telephone) for escorts to and from airports. Official photo IDs will be checked.	no fee	Terminal 3
Canadian Airlines	5-11 (if CA all the way) 8-11 (if other carriers involved during journey)	Person making reservation for child will need to supply details (name, address, telephone) for escorts to and from airports. Official photo IDs will be checked. Airline <u>may</u> allow you to give alternate information in case principal escort does not/ cannot show up to pick up child from airport.	CAN\$40 + GST per direction	Terminals 1 and 2 (after June 3)
Delta Airlines	5-12 (older upon request) Note: ages 5-7 can take direct flights only	Person making reservation for child will need to supply details (name, address, telephone) for escorts to and from airports. Official photo IDs will be checked. Airline <u>may</u> allow you to give alternate information in case principal escort does not/ cannot show up to pick up child from airport.	US\$30 for non stop flights; US\$60 for other flights/ costs are per direction	Terminal 3

Airline	Age range for UM	Paperwork	Fee	Terminal(s) at Pearson
Lufthansa German Airlines	5-12	Person making reservation for child will need to supply details (name, address, telephone, relationship to child) for escorts to and from airports. Official photo IDs will be checked. Airline <u>may</u> allow you to give alternate information (if there is room on the forms). If a person who is not prenamed shows up at the airport to escort child, child will not be released and will be sent back to point of origin.	100 DM for a return flight (approx. CAN\$72)	Terminal 1 (after June 3)
Mexicana	5-18 (mandatory)	Notarized letter from parents and signed by both parents, authorizing travel outside of Mexico, specifying date of departure and return and all details. Passport should specify both names of parents to match letter. Letter to specify: child's information including age, name of person escorting child to airport in Mexico, and their address and telephone, who is going to meet child in Canada, their address and tel. Photo ID required for escort picking up child.	no fee	Terminal 2
United Airlines	5-12	Person making reservation for child will need to supply details (name, address, telephone, relationship to child) for escorts to and from airports. Official photo IDs will be checked.	US \$30 per direction	Terminal 2

How to meet campers at the airport

The following letter, addressed to the OCA, is from Customs Border Services, Pearson International Airport.

Dear Sirs,

As you may know, the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (formerly Revenue Canada) is one of four partners in the "Our Missing Children" program. "Our Missing Children" is an international program supported by over 100 countries worldwide endeavouring to stop the illegal movement of children across borders and to re-unite abducted children with their legal guardians. The organization handles over 22,000 cases worldwide per year.

In 1999, several cases were noted at Pearson International Airport in which an individual would show up at the Canada Customs Information Counter with no prior arrangements having been made and request access to the Customs hall to meet and pick up groups of campers. In view of our involvement in "Our Missing Children," we request that in the future, the following procedures be followed when a recognized member of the Ontario Camping Association wishes to access the Customs hall to meet campers:

1) Fax in advance to the terminal in which the campers are arriving. Include the names, citizenship, country of residence of each camper and the airline, flight number, and date of arrival.

2) Included in the fax should be the names (maximum

of two per greeting) of the persons coming to greet the campers. The fax should be signed by the camp director or other authorized agent.

3) The greeter should present themselves at the Customs Information Counter in the appropriate terminal with a copy of the fax and photo identification for our verification.

The fax numbers for the terminals are as follows:

Terminal One: 905-676-6335

Terminal Two: 905-612-5829

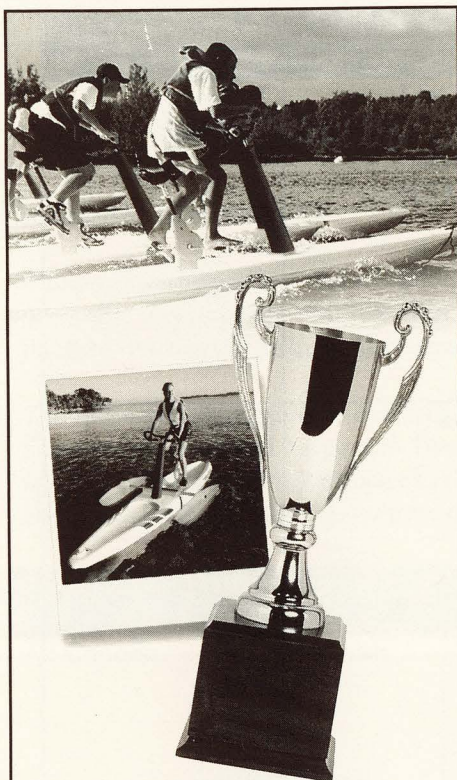
Terminal Three: 905-612-5436

It should be noted that Canadian Adventure Camp and Camp White Pine have been voluntarily following these procedures for several years to the benefit of all concerned. Your co-operation in ensuring that all members of your organization are aware of these procedures is appreciated.

If you wish to discuss any of the above or wish clarification, please contact Operations Co-ordinator Don Comrie at 905-676-5111.

Thank you for your co-operation.

N.F. (Norm) Sheridan
Director, Customs Passenger Operations
Pearson International Airport



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Special Needs: Focus on Camp Couchiching

by Martha Williams
Special Needs Resource Committee

*Couchiching is the place for fun and happy times, when we sing, you will hear us loud and long,
Couchiching with the friendship everyone displays, brotherhood surrounds us making spirits strong*

As indicated in the welcome song that has been sung for every newcomer to our camp for many years, a feeling of community is an important aspect of the camping experience at "Cooch" as it is at all summer camps.

In any grouping of people there is diversity; a camp community is no different. Children and staff come from varying backgrounds and have many different experiences and skills they bring to share during their time at camp. Many children and adults have experiences to share with others and are not able to do this in a camp setting for medical, physical or developmental reasons.

Cooch has a history of partnering with organizations to provide children with significant health concerns a safe place to go. From the early 1970s to the early 1990s Cooch partnered to provide a segregated camping experience during the month of August for children with cystic fibrosis (CF). This

was successful for 25 years until health issues arose related to the campers and staff with CF spending significant time together in close quarters. This put the CF camp on hold indefinitely. At the same time, during the July camp sessions, children with severe asthma were being integrated into the general population during a two-week session. Supplemental health staff was provided by a supporting organization.

Following the dissolution of the Cystic Fibrosis Camp, Cooch partnered with two other groups who supported children with medical issues. The current complement of four special needs groups (Epilepsy, Sickle Cell Anemia, Respiratory/Allergy issues, and Reach for the Rainbow) are fully integrated into the Cooch community. Each of the first three groups are assigned to specific camp sessions where they support approximately 20 children who are integrated fully into the camp program. Reach for the Rainbow has placements throughout the season.

The site itself is relatively small, the terrain is even, the lake is shallow and warm. Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital is 15 minutes away. It's not the wilderness, but the warmth and diversity of the Cooch experience has touched many lives for the better, including my own.

Camp Health Care Workshop



Seneca College King Campus

13990 Dufferin St. N.
King City, ON L7B 1B3

**Saturday, May 27,
2000**

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
to 9:00 a.m.

The Ontario Camping Association's Health Care Committee presents this one-day workshop for camp health care staff, camp directors, senior staff and other interested persons.

The workshop offers valuable current health information, suggestions for the management of camp health programs and an opportunity to network with experienced health care staff and to renew acquaintances.

Program Topics

- Clinical Focus
 - Dermatology
 - ENT
 - Pharmaceutical Update
- The new camp nurse
- Hot topics
- and much, much more

**Contact the OCA office for more information
at 416-485-0425 or oca@ontcamp.on.ca**

World's largest wood-canvas canoe fleets

by Brian Back

(Note: the following excerpt is from Brian's forthcoming book *The Keewaydin Way*, and is also the introduction to Brian's web site about wooden canoe fleets, www.execpc.com/~bback/canoe_fleets_list.htm)

The genesis of the wood-canvas canoe fleet list came in a letter from Hugh Stewart, the wood-canoe builder and former wilderness-trip program operator. He wrote that he believed Keewaydin had "one of the last wooden canoe fleets of any size." He went on to say that Keewaydin's "commitment to wood-canvas canoes is very, very important."

Until that moment I had not thought about the significance of Keewaydin's fleet beyond its own program. Upon reflection, I began to realize that fleet size reflected institutional cultures that could preserve and nurture skills, attitudes and experiences in a way that no museum could. Of course, large fleets do not have a monopoly on these aspects of canoe culture, but they represent a vital commitment to them. But surely, Keewaydin wasn't alone. So I set out to find all the wood-canvas paddling-canoe fleets of size that were still active - that is, go into the water. This would cover any institution - camp, outfitter, school, club, organization, etc. - anywhere in the world. (Boy, was I ambitious.)

It was not as easy a task as I had expected. The closest I could come to an organized wood-canvas association was the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association. Here I started with some knowledgeable members, then going after every wood-canoe builder I could find, expanding outward, asking everyone for tips or suggestions.

In the end, all the institutions are camps. The closest non-camp was a canoe renter, Jack's Boat House, in Washington, D.C., that has a fleet of 17 wood-canvas canoes, but they are mostly retired . . . and rotting. A few North American camps had 8 to 12 canoes, but most canvas

fleets were considerably smaller. A few more had 15 plus wood-canvas canoes that had been fiberglassed, like Camp Arowhon, which has one of the largest wood-fiberglass fleets, and a few camps in New England. Not surprisingly, I found nothing in Europe or anywhere else of size.

The list I have compiled is a cultural list, not a legal one. It is an attempt to capture the culture of wood-canvas canoes for the 1999 season at institutions that have a critical mass, more or less, that preserve an *esprit de corp*, an attitude and a skill-set that focuses on the travel and usage of the successor to the birchbark canoe, on the special focus and relationship that a wood-canvas canoe instills in its paddler. And it is a celebration of the wood-canvas canoe. It is more than just cedar, tacks and canvas.

Do you have any information that Brian Back might be able to use? If so, contact him at 262-238-9390 or bback@execpc.com.

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• Planning is now underway for this years conference. We are looking for your feedback and comments on how to make this years conference worthwhile for every camp in the OCA. As a member of the OCA we are looking to put together a conference which will help you and your staff. Please email comments to: counsellorconference@hotmail.com

We need enthusiastic, innovative and creative presenters with hands-on ideas. Come and pass on your knowledge to the up-coming generation of camp staff. If you are interested in leading a session or would like to recommend someone please get in touch with Joe Richards:

Phone 416-486-6959 Fax 416-486-1837 Email counsellorconference@hotmail.com

Gifted by your interest

by Lee Piepgrass, Ph.D. Erinoak "Serving young people with physical disabilities", Mississauga, Ontario. From the keynote address, 1999 Project Rainbow Conference.

It is a privilege to be speaking to you today. As much as I know of your work, I love and admire it - and want to share some of the things about you that seem to me eminently worth celebrating.

A few weeks ago, I was unexpectedly put in the position of spending a weekend with a group that included a young person who potentially required a good deal of help. He was remarkably independent, but I had a continuing awareness of the possibility that he might need assistance, and I was the point person for any issues that might arise. I thought a great deal about you people during that time. I know all of you have been in this position. I had a continuing and ongoing awareness of the possibility that he might need help from me, despite the fact that he was quite independent and in the event really required very little. In fact, he would laugh at me; "Oh Lee, you're such a Mom".

In a sense, all of our kids are needy in some way. Everyone requires vigilance and extra help. Often their families tell me they are afraid that they won't manage, physically, cognitively, or emotionally; that they'll be hurt, or lost; or that something bad will happen to them. They also talk about the sadness they feel when they wonder whether their kids will every have the normal stuff-friends, regular fun, camp...

Summer camps most recently entered my life earlier this year when, after visiting a youngster at school, I checked in with his mom and she said to me, "My son is going to an integrated camp this summer!" I said, "Really? Is he looking forward to it?"

"He thinks he is," She answered. "But I really am. He has no idea how much fun he's going to have." She continued, "I met the staff.... They stayed for a long time, and now they know as much about him as we do! They were really interested!"

Every parent whose child you assist is gifted by your interest. Do you know what your interest can mean to parents? Your genuine interest?

My mother, who is really interested in me, did not want to hear about my work for a long time after I started at Erinoak. Hearing stories of the kids - just kids - and you and I know that the young people we work with are regular kids like everybody else - made her feel too sad. Many parents have told me that they can't talk to their neighbours about their children the way other neighbours do. In fact, at a workshop a colleague and I gave recently, parents were telling us how hard it can be to get extended family members - aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents - to take an interest in their children.

You listen. You are interested. You hear. You make room inside yourselves for these kids, for their stories, their needs, their favourites, their strengths and their challenges. And this summer, that mother will hand off the responsibility for her son to one of you, and you'll carry it for a while, and when he comes home, she will be refreshed.

You often move with a certain grace.

I spoke to another youngster who went to camp with Project Rainbow last summer. She's ten. I asked her what went on - told her I was giving this talk - and she beamed. "I made lots of friends, so many!!" she said. She started naming them off one by one - name after name.

Her mom said, "You know how you did that? Your counsellor gave you your space. She was only there when you really needed her; otherwise, you were one of the kids."

"Your counsellor gave you your space. She was only there when you really needed her."



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And her daughter said, "I WAS!!!"

Her mom added that her daughter's counsellor also showed great sensitivity in dealing with the fact that this youngster wore a diaper overnight. In two weeks in the same cabin with a number of other youngsters, no one guessed that she wore a diaper. And the girl said, offhand, "Oh yeah, she did." I thought that was the greatest compliment - that to the child it was no big deal - it was so normal.

That's what I call grace.

You give the gift of normal, or as normal as possible. Parents and kids have the experience of going to camp. And yet I don't want to be totally airy-fairy and idealistic about this. I know that this work comes at some expense to you. Many of these children are not easy. They have trouble getting or doing some things, and you're out on your own, and it's hot or wet. Many youngsters lack social skills, and whatever it is they need to know or do, you're doing the work to help them learn. It's hard.

Anna Freud says somewhere that, at a certain point in mid to late adolescence, young people tend to move either toward idealism, or toward the pursuit of pleasure. And I say this knowing that there are probably people in this room who would say that the two are not mutually exclusive. But we are thankful for your vision, your generosity.

You are like Hallmark - you are the gift that keeps on giving. As a matter of fact, you are entering family stories. Just as I know families of fifteen and sixteen year old clients at Erinoak who still remember and talk about the occupational therapist or physiotherapist or speech pathologist they had when their child was two or three years old, families are remembering you, and telling stories of you to their families. Your impact lasts far beyond your time with any given child. You become part of their histories.

And you are growing and receiving as well. Each of you is living your own story; each of you is starring in your own life - a journey toward your own individual destiny. You are a work in progress.

You give the gift of normal, or as normal as possible

Usually when I give a talk, I like to share the podium with someone who knows more than I do, so today I want to share a piece I found in *Becoming Human*, the text of this year's Massey Lectures. In this book, Jean Vanier quotes Nelson Mandela, reflecting on his journey from the other end of life:

"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger; for my long walk is not yet ended."¹

All of you are with Nelson Mandela on that long walk to freedom, and your long walk is still at the beginning. I wish you the joy of the journey. I wish you the freedom, the friends, the

pleasures, the anguish, the triumphs. I wish you many pauses for panoramic views.

I celebrate the strength that is growing in each of you - strength that I know you can only suspect now, but strength that will surprise you when you need it somewhere down the line, when you're at the end of your rope, and you don't know how you'll manage, and you feel utterly empty. Then, from the power that has been building in you as you emptied yourselves to contain and respond to the needs of others, will come resources that will surprise you.

I celebrate your predecessors, and those who will follow you, and I remember the words of the French mystic and paleontologist, and one of my heroes, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who might have been speaking of all of you when he said, "The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope."

¹ Nelson Mandela quoted in *Becoming Human* by Jean Vanier Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 1998.

Canadian Water Ski Instructors' Course June 2000

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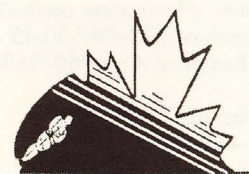
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Classifieds

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Fine Arts Graduate wanted. Sunshine Day Camp is looking for a mature person interested in a summer job in the position of fine arts co-ordinator - a great leadership opportunity. The suc-

cessful candidate must have energy, enthusiasm, and an interest in working with children, and should be educated in such areas as sculpture, pottery, watercolour, printmaking, etc. Not only is it a lot of fun to work at Sunshine Day Camp, but you will gain excellent experience working with children! If interested, please call Kerri at 416-284-6523 or fax to 416-284-0407, or mail in your résumé to 4679 Kingston Rd., Units 8 & 9, Scarborough, ON M1E 2P8.

Courses & Workshops

ONTARIO CAMP LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: Main Stream: \$175. Adventure Stream: \$230. Send five people and get \$100 off the 6th registration. June 1-4. Call 1 877 418-OCLW.

ORCA Basic Instructor Canoe Course Seneca College, evenings & weekends. For more information call Barb Weeden, 905-833-3333, ex. 5029.

2000 OCA Skills Weekend

Friday June 2 - Sunday June 4
Camp Tawingo, Huntsville, ON

OCA Skills Weekend is a development and training weekend for staff in the camping and recreation field. The mandate of our program staff is to provide:

- each participant with the tools for continuous program development
- a forum for exchange of information
- an incentive to translate philosophy into safe, effective camping practices
- An experience to remember.

For further information contact:
Tim French at 905-987-2145
Jalynn Bosley at 416-960-8639

or contact the OCA office
P: 416-485-0425
email: oca@ontcamp.on.ca
web: www.ontcamp.on.ca/skills.htm

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OCA's 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 May 15th for the June 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: \$50 per insert (up to three issues) or \$35 per issue (minimum four to maximum nine issues).

• Classified ads are sold with a maximum size of 25 words for a fee of \$15 for members and \$30 for non-members. Additional space sold in 25 word increments.

• Paid advertising content will not exceed editorial space.

• The *OCA's* 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 inquiries to the Editorial Committee, care of the office.

• Fiora Hawryluk, Editor. 416-481-2788.
e-mail: 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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