



JANUARY 1990

EDITOR: JANET ADAMSON

Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than in the one where they sprang up. -- Oliver Wendell Holmes

COLE'S NOTE

TIDYING UP BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS

Special Thanks

At this time of year I would like to extend my special thank you to the people in O.C.A. who give freely of their time on a volunteer basis to make our organization run. Many of these people put in literally hundreds of hours over the course of the year depending on their roles, in order that all of us in camping have our fraternity of camping people to share with. And so, to the members of the Executive, the Board, the Advisory Committee and to all the volunteers who serve on the various committees, a special thanks from your President to each of you for your commitment to organized camping. Without all of you, it would not be possible. Special thanks also to the two fabulous staff in the O.C.A. office, Jean McIlwrick and Fiora Hawryluk, who ensure that the day-to-day operations

of our Association keep running smoothly.

Get Active

If you are one of those people who sit back, read the newsletter, take part in O.C.A. functions, and sometimes think that you should get active, now is the time. We have a wide variety of committees so that anyone who is interested can get involved. Should you want further information about committee work or whom to contact, please call the O.C.A. office. The more people that get involved, the stronger O.C.A. will be.

Come to the Annual General Meeting

On Thursday evening, January 25th, at 7:30 p.m. at the O.C.A. Conference we will be having our Annual General Meeting. Everyone is invited to take part in the AGM and to enjoy the social festivities afterwards. It's a good opportunity for you to hear in detail what has been going on in the past year in O.C.A.

Come to Our Annual Conference

You are invited to attend our Annual Conference, at the Inn on the Park, from Thursday, January 25th until Saturday, January 27th. This is the one time of year when all of us can get together to listen, learn, have fun and share what camping means to all of us. No other conference anywhere offers as much as our Association's! So mark those days on your calendar and come to "Camp - For The Time Of Your Life!"

Have a Happy Holiday

By the time you get this Newsletter, my family and I will be wandering around Disney World enjoying a vacation. No matter what you do this holiday season, whether it's celebrating Christmas or Hanukkah, let's make sure our goodwill doesn't end at the finish of the holidays. Enjoy your holidays, and I look forward to seeing everyone in January.

TED COLE
President

LETTER TO THE
EDITOR

Dear Janet,

The reason that I am writing, is regarding the OCAsional News... all power to you in taking on the editorship, and I certainly welcome the newsletter. BUT (!!!) - I find it unsettling that we are using shiny, unrecyclable paper. It looks great - but as a camping organization, we should be moving to recyclable paper, not the opposite. Is there an economical way to make the change - or even to move back to "ordinary" paper?

Yours in camping,

Madelene Allen
Camp Ouareau

RECYCLING...
YOU CAN
CONTINUE TO
HELP BY:

- * rejecting disposable products such as diapers, plastic razors, paper towels, foam plastic cups and microwave containers.
- * taking your own reusable bags back to the store when shopping.
- * avoiding single service packages (i.e., coffee creamers) and individually wrapped fruits, vegetables and meats.
- * composting your household organic wastes - they account for fully 1/3 of the waste stream.
- * starting a recycling program at work.
- * objecting to examples of wasteful behaviour.

(Acknowledgements to:
Recycling Council of Ontario)

LET'S
INTEGRATE
TOGETHER

In May of 1989 I conducted a survey of all OCA camps regarding their integration of special needs campers. To refresh your memory, the questions were: 1) Camp Name, 2) Residential or Day, 3) Which OCA Kindred Group do you associate with, 4) Whether you integrate, partially integrate, or do not integrate, 5) Cost, and 6) Do you offer a subsidy.

Forty-two Residential Camps and ten Day Camps responded as follows:

Question 4

- 18 integrate;
- 19 partially integrate;
- 10 do not integrate;

4 are camps for special needs campers only;
1 did not answer.

Question 6

- 22 offer subsidies;
- 24 do not offer subsidies;
- 6 did not answer.

As the results came to my office at Glenbrook, some thoughts came to mind. "What a lousy time to do a survey!" "I should have given more explanations to my questions". "I should have defined 'integration'". Possibly because of these errors, only 25% of the forms were returned.

It is difficult to draw conclusions from these statistics because of the low return, but some of my attitudes towards OCA camps were reinforced, none the less.

1) Camp Directors are busy people.

2) We are friendly and supportive folks, as noted by the kind words to me which were written on the returned forms.

3) Many camps are afraid to be labelled as the ones accepting children with special needs, because they don't want to be overwhelmed by requests from parents and agencies.

4) Directors need more education on the value of, and need for, accepting campers with special needs.

Starting with small numbers and increasing to a level that feels right seems to be a logical progression. If you are interested in this process, or would like to share your ideas, you have a chance at the OCA

Conference for Directors and Senior Staff on Saturday, January 27th. The session will be at the same time as some other dynamite sessions at 3:45 p.m. If it's not convenient to attend the workshop, give me a call and we could arrange a time to visit.

Children with special needs should have more choices when selecting a camp this summer.

JOHN HARDER

Director-Glenbrook Day Camp
(Also: Chairperson, Day
Camping Committee)



CONFERENCE PARCners

What a privilege to have celebrated 100 years of organized camping in Canada during the CCA Conference. No less was the privilege representing camping in Ontario during the PARC National Advisory Committee for the three days preceding the conference. To the many Ontario delegates (and others) whom I had the pleasure of sharing PARC with - Thank you! Over 40 delegates attended one of the two PARC sessions. These helped clarify PARC's purpose and potential role in Canadian camping today. Through inventory assessment and interactive exercises, participants were encouraged to examine their own camp environment, share ideas and contemplate future considerations regarding "wellness" as more than physiological fitness. During the conference's

'energy-breaks' there were many giggles, laughs, and as much singing as there was perspiration. What fun!

Need a unique program idea next summer? Imagine the entire camp scurrying about searching for the "whole-some grail" (apologies to Monty Python), putting together the puzzle-pieces of a total wellness picture, being entertained and enlightened by exaggerated cartoon-like characters and more! Yes - THE FIRST NATIONAL PARC THEME DAY IS COMING THIS SUMMER! Learn more through the PARC bulletins, the OCA'sional News and the conference.

PARC will have an active role at the OCA Conference. There will be an information booth available and two PARC sessions: F11 on Friday, January 26 at 1:30 p.m. and S20 on Saturday, January 27 at 2:15 p.m. (this second session will focus on the national wellness theme day).

Lastly, I would like to see Ontario establish its own provincial PARC committee. PARC needs more representation at a "grass roots" level. Much of the communication could be informal. Please contact me if you'd like more information or are interested in participating.

Jack Windeler
Ontario PARC Rep
P.O. Box 421
Apsley, Ont. K0L 1A0
(705) 656-4631

THE GREEN SCENE

Welcome to **The Green Scene**, a new column of the OCA'sional News! In the coming months we hope to give you some unique environmental programming ideas, some updates on environmental issues facing camps, and advance notice of events happening throughout Ontario concerning the environment. Our first installment deals with one of many issues of waste management, Composting.

DID YOU KNOW? According to Environment Canada, our nation generates the most waste per capita in the world! I wonder if that's because we have so much wilderness land that we somehow feel that there's lots of room out there for landfill? Well, there's lots we can do as role-models at camp to help the situation. One thing is to compost some of our food waste from the camp kitchen.

HOW? It's surprisingly easy! First, discuss the idea with your kitchen staff - they'll have to begin sorting their food scraps which would normally have gone in the garbage. Good scraps to start setting aside are eggshells, coffee grinds, fruit and vegetable peelings or leftovers. These won't attract critters to your compost bin, and will reduce your production of kitchen garbage by an impressive amount! Also, don't forget about raked leaves and grass, which are also excellent composting material.

Next, after discussing the idea with the rest of your staff, go ahead and build a bin. Since if you're careful your compost should not smell, find an open spot near the dining hall where kids and kitchen staff alike can get to easily, and where it's away from the lake or river. There are many bin designs from which to choose, and they're all very easy and inexpensive to make.

When you start to use the bin, put a layer of organic material in the bottom. Add a layer of earth and moisten. Then, keep on layering kitchen waste, yard waste and earth until the bin is full. Keep it moist if it's one of those dry summers that we've been having, and leave the full pile for about a month while you work on filling the next one!

Finally, design a program that gets the campers involved. Taking the material to the bin, turning and munching it with shovels is a great learning experience, and it's fun!

There are some great resources available to help your camp get started on composting. Write to:

Recycling Council of Ontario,
P.O. Box 310, Station P,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2S8; and

Ontario Recycling
Information Service,
Ryerson Energy Centre,
350 Victoria St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5B 2K3.

Remember, when you start composting, you will be reducing the amount of

garbage you throw away by 25%!!!

Coming Attractions:

"Time for Action - A Forum to Address Environmental Issues in a Cross-Cultural Context"

Given By: Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Date: Wed., Jan. 24, 1990

Place: Westbury Hotel, Toronto

Contact: Barbara Malcolm, (416) 323-5077

"Healthy Places - Healthy People; Healthy People - Healthy Places - A Provincial Conference"

Given By: City of Sudbury

Date: Jan. 18-20, 1990

Place: Sheraton Caswell Inn, Sudbury

Contact: (705) 671-2231

DAVE NEWNHAM

Chair,

Environmental Concerns
Committee

AN UPDATE ON OUR REVISED GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITATION

Many thanks to our members who took the time to write, phone or attend an Open Forum in order to give us feedback on the Draft Proposal of the Guidelines for Accreditation. The Standards Committee took all comments and ideas into account in rewriting the final draft. We have incorporated as many of the suggestions as possible and believe that the document represents the feelings of the membership.

The Final Draft received unanimous approval of the Board of Directors at their

meeting on December 12, 1989.

These Guidelines will be printed and distributed to the membership in January. At the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, January 25, 1990, we will move that the Guidelines For Accreditation as dated January 1990 be approved.

It is our hope that these Guidelines will be a useful educational resource for all camps. Your input has been greatly appreciated - thanks again.

BARB CILBERT

Chair,

Standards Committee

P.S. - It's not too late to return your Standards Volunteer Form!

DIRECTORS' REVIVAL

On the evening of November 28, 1989, at the home of Catherine Ross, a group of some 24 camp directors gathered for a 'revival' of the discussion evenings. These had been held in the past in order to provide an informal forum for the exchange of ideas, to meet old friends on a casual basis, and to encourage those new to OCA to come out and see what a fun group we are!

The evening started with an excellent introduction by Bruno Morawetz, which encouraged camp leaders to look out at the world and see that strength and success, historically, has fallen to those groups upholding high standards. We then began an evening of

discussion of the varying staff policies each camp has in place to assist in forming the strongest team. In an unstructured format, we all comfortably discussed our individual camp's policies as they relate to such key issues as drinking, drugs, smoking, days off, and inter-staff relationships. The diversity of policies and the stories which emerged kept the discussion active until it was time to break for coffee and far-too-delicious homemade goodies, thanks to our hostess Catherine.

Overheard several times while we continued to chat with coffee in hand, was how worthwhile such casual exchanges of ideas can be. All camps were shown to be different and successful in their own way, but I am sure that each of us present that evening will reflect on our current individual camp policies and perhaps even make some changes based on what was discussed.

From this evening we hope to be able to assist not only those who were able to attend, but also those who would like to have been present. We hope to have set up in the OCA office a file with copies of camps' policies in order that directors of all camps can draw upon the experience of others. There is no sense in "reinventing the wheel". If there are any camps who are interested in assisting setting up such a file, please mail a copy of your policy to the office. Thank you!

A big thanks to Catherine Ross for hosting the evening in such a gracious manner; another big thanks to Bruno Morawetz for so philosophically starting off the evening and again thanks to the Education Committee for all their assistance. We are planning on having another such evening in the new year. If you have a topic which you would like to see discussed, please give me a call.

It was a good 'Revival'!

POLLY MARSTON
Chairperson,
Education Committee

CAMP FAIR IN OAKVILLE

There will be a Camp Fair in Oakville at New Central Public School on the evening of Tuesday, January 30. If you are interested in participating, please contact PATTY HNATIW, at 842-0806 (home) or 844-3081 (school).

WANTED

A location for an overnight outtrip this summer for the Challenge Plus section of Etobicoke Day Camps. Our groups consists of twenty-four 11-13 year olds who are looking forward to a new and exciting summer experience. The group would be accompanied by a minimum of four qualified staff. If anyone is interested in assisting us in this venture, please contact: Louise Dickout, Etobicoke Parks & Recreation, (416) 394-8533.

OCA ROAD AND BUILDING SIGNS

The OCA has available for purchase by **Accredited Members** of the Association special Road and Building signs made on strong and durable white plastic. The sign may be placed on your camp's front gates, on camp road signs, or on buildings, to advertise your accreditation in OCA.

COST PER SIGN: \$40.00
(includes tax and cost of mailing)

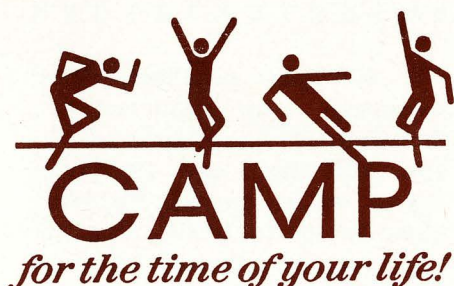
Please call Jean or Fiora at the OCA Office - (416) 781-0525.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Counsellor required for a six-week residential vacation program for older adults at Bolton, Ontario, operated by Family Service Association.

Responsibilities include working in group setting in the general program with emphasis on outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing. Salary: \$1,600 for 6-week contract from January 14 to February 23, 1990, plus one pre-session training day. Room and board provided.

Contact: Dick Moore,
Director of Senior
Services,
22 Wellesley St. E.,
Toronto, Ont. M4Y 1G3
Tel.: (416) 922-3126.



Get ready to experience
**CAMP - FOR THE TIME OF YOUR
LIFE!**

For three days, January 25-27, you have a great opportunity. Be sure to take full advantage of the chance to meet our fine speakers, seminar leaders and workshop presenters. Most of them are highly respected professionals, well-known in our field. All are aware of the special contribution camps make to growing healthier and happier children. Together, our speakers and delegates make an unbeatable combination to move our camps into the 90's!

The Conference is a blend of many important ingredients - a packed Exhibit Hall, a daily Newspaper worth framing, a Hospitality Program full of fun, a great CCA Bookstore with the latest resources, a gourmet menu for conference meals, an exciting CCA Cabaret Benefit and Auction, and of course a tremendous line-up of sessions! You must make time to participate in all the activities.

This annual event is also an important focal point for the Ontario Camping Association. Our Annual General Meeting, the Camp Standards Gathering, and the special OCA Booth in

the Centennial Ballroom Foyer will provide you with essential information you will need this year. Congratulations on your commitment to your own excellence as a camping professional.

On your mark - get set - go!

MARJORIE BOOTH
Chair,
Conference Committee

NOTICE OF G. S. T. MEETING

OPEN MEETING GOODS & SERVICES TAX

All members are invited to the Inn on the Park, Oak Room, Wednesday, January 24, 1990 at 7:30 p.m. to hear Brian C. Pel, tax lawyer with McCarthy and McCarthy on the subject of the proposed Goods and Services Tax. If this legislation is passed and in place as scheduled on January 1, 1991, ALL camps will be affected in one way or another.

CHANGE ROOMS AVAILABLE

For your convenience, two rooms will be available on Saturday, January 27, 1990, following the afternoon sessions, for conference delegates wishing to change attire prior to the banquet and the evening programme.

WITH SORROW WE ANNOUNCE...

Long-time members of OCA will be saddened to hear that Mrs. Laura Belle Hodgins passed away on December 7, 1989. Mrs. Hodgins was an Honourary Life Member of the Association, and together with her husband Stanley, was owner and director of Camp Wanapitei from 1952 to the early 1980's. Mr. and Mrs. Hodgins joined the Association in 1944, and were well noted for attending the OCA Conference every year for many years.

William Shackleton passed away on December 4, 1989. He retired from active participation in the operation of Rainbow Valley Ranch in 1983, but continued to be interested in the camp. Our condolences to his daughter Rosemary Gauvin, the present director.

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OCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

G.S.T. Talk.....
.....Jan. 24, 1990

OCA Conference for
Directors & Senior Staff...
.....Jan. 25-27, 1990

OCA Skills Weekend.....
.....June 8-11, 1990