



OCAsional News

The newsletter of the Ontario Camping Association

October 2002

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2003 Annual Conference update

By Bruce Emmerton, Chair, OCA 2003 Annual Conference

The conference steering committee is hard at work preparing for the upcoming Annual Conference for Directors and Senior Staff. Look for regular updates in the upcoming issues of *OCAsional News*, but in the meantime, here's a sneak peak:

- Dates: Thursday, February 27 - Saturday, March 1.
- A later start time on Thursday for easier arrival and registration in late morning.
- Location: We will be returning to the Sheraton Parkway Hotel in Richmond Hill (Hwys. 7 and 404). This location offers two hotels-in-one (Sheraton Towers and Best Western), free parking, a Tim Horton's on site, and easy access to TTC routes (for your senior staff, bus service is available from the Yonge subway route).
- Friday's education program will again be devoted to the OCA kindred groups, with great opportunities to share strategies and ideas with fellow camp professionals.
- Saturday's education program will appeal to the many "senior staff" involved in all our camps, whether they work with campers, supervise

staff, or direct camp programs.

- Visit and speak to the Commercial Members and see the latest in products and services in the Exhibit Hall.
- Saturday's closing banquet will bring together camping professionals from past, present, and future to celebrate the heritage of the OCA.

Are you thinking of a new camp stream? Do you need new ideas for an existing program? What strategies do you need to help with training and development of staff? The Education Program sub-committee invites you to submit proposals for speakers and sessions for the conference (see enclosed flyer). This is a conference for all of us – an association – so your input and ideas are extremely important.

Mark February 27th, 28th & March 1st in your calendar now for this important OCA event. The entire conference steering committee looks forward to seeing you in Richmond Hill! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the conference, please feel free to contact me at bemmerton@trentu.ca or 705-748-1670.

The View from Here



Brian Blackstock,
OCA President

Here's a question for you – one I was asked this summer. "If the entire human population of Earth were tidily arranged standing shoulder to shoulder, how much space would they take up?"

A quarter of a million campers seems like a lot, but when compared to the whole population of the planet, it isn't much. However, as we have seen over and over again, it does not take many (sometimes only one) to effect a difference for good or ill. This summer, at our OCA and other camps, that's what we did for the most part, effect a difference for good and because of those efforts our country and in some instances our world will be a better place in which to live. But, what's past is prologue, prologue for next summer, which is what many of us are already beginning to focus on. The Board and the OCA office staff have already determined some of our priorities for the coming year (like many teachers and camp people I always feel that the NEW YEAR begins in September). Here are several of them:

- to determine the specific revisions our Standards Review Task Force is to complete this year, so that our members may consider and comment.

**Deadline:
October
21st, 2002**

Attention OCA Member Camps!

The deadline for receipt of your membership renewal and *Camping Guide* revision in the OCA office is October 21st, 2002. We will be going to press with the *Camping Guide* earlier than usual this year, so that we will have *Guides* available for camp fairs planned for November. If you have not sent in your renewal information, please do so as soon as possible.

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- to have the *Camping Guide* ready so that those having Camp Fairs in November will have *Guides* available.
- to receive and determine action on Jill Dundas' Education Events Task Force report.
- to be prepared to help member camps interpret and implement the report from the O'Connor Commission regarding water purification in Ontario.
- to provide support and assistance to those running our important educational functions:
 - Bruce Emmerton - The Annual Conference
 - Michael Bakker - Spring Training Conference
 - The Skills Weekend - chair to be announced
 - Pearl Bell and the Healthcare Committee - The Camp Health Care Workshop
- to continue to make the public better aware of the value of having their children attend OCA camps.
- to make even more of our camps able to include chil-

dren with special needs.

- to support and assist Bruce Hodgins and the Archives Committee with their special research project this year, headed up by Peter Gilbert.
- to encourage non-member camps to consider joining the OCA because membership really does have its benefits.
- just to be there to help you, other OCA camps and the public as we are needed.

So . . . what is the answer to the question asked at the start of this column? Well, the whole population of the Earth would just fit into Lake Windermere in England's Lake District – about 27 square kilometres.

We in camping in Ontario might not take up much of that space but we can create some ripples – we can teach our campers some values – create environments where kids can catch a vision of what could be – simply pass on the basics of how we can get along with one another. And, as Robert F. Kennedy once said while visiting a university in Africa, “those tiny ripples of hope crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring can build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

So . . . good luck to you in your “New Year.” Just remember, we may not be able to control the way of the wind but we certainly are quite capable of adjusting the set of our sails.

Ropes Course Instructor (40+hrs)

October 18-21, 2002
Camp Ganadaoweh, Ayr, ON

Adventure Facilitation

November 8-10, 2002
Camp Ganadaoweh, Ayr, ON

Games & Initiatives Workshop

November 16, 2002
Canterbury Hills, Ancaster, ON

34 Plaza Dr.
Box 63012,
Dundas, ON
L9H 4H0
905-304-5683
www.adventureworks.org



**Experienced
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seeking full time position as director/ manager. Six years experience as Director/Assistant Director at day and residential camps. Involved with OCA. Respond to oca@ontcamp.on.ca quoting “October 02 Ad.”

BE INCLUDED IN OUR CAMP DIRECTORY

Submit your forms by: **OCTOBER 18, 2002**
AND ENTER A DRAW TO
WIN A 1/2-PAGE AD
valued at \$6,300

Final deadline: October 31, 2002
Distribution: January 11, 2003
Contact: Neil Persaud or Agatha Stawicki
905-272-1843, fun@ourkids.net



PHOTO CONTEST

Compete to win
a **DIGITAL CAMERA**
for your camp
and

\$10,000 in fabulous prizes!

Deadline for submissions: November 15, '02

OUR KIDS Go To Camp

www.ourkids.net

Madelene Allen, Travis Allison, Michael Ankenmann, Nicola Bangham, Kyle Barber, Jeff Bicher, Sol Birenbaum, Brian Blackstock, Beth Blake, Peter Bloom, Don Bocking, Marj Booth, Jeff Bradshaw, Maija Bradshaw, Suzanne Brocklebank, Gwen Brown, Andrea Buttars, Lyssa Caine, Dale Callender, Lynne Caffin, Carol & Wayne Campbell, Skip Connett, Marybeth Craig, Jen Dundas, Jill Dundas, Bruce Emmerton, Chris Evans, Major E. Neil Evenden, Jack Feldman, Ron Ferguson, Lynda Fishman, Shirley Ford, Todd Fraleigh, Bill Freeman, Tim French, Barb Gilbert, Barb Gray, Liz Greenway, Alf Grigg, Howie Grossinger, Sari Grossinger, Ric Gunton, Louis Gyori, Craig Hartley, Steve Heming, Barb Hnatiak, Bruce Hodgins, Ellen Howard, Rick Howard, Barb Janicek, June & Cliff

Labbett, Maya Landell, Andrew Lockie, Barry Lowes, Molly Maguire, Morley Mason, Yvonne McCallum, Tyler McDougall, Kerri McGee-Whitaker, Jim McHardy, John Jorgenson, Dennis Maister, Tim Matheson, Kim Mitchell, Robyn Mitz, Michael Moore, Anne Morawetz, Michael Murray, Ellen Nash, Bruce Nashman, Fred Okada, Howard Oretsky, Jocelyn Palm, Mike Pearse, Sara Petker, Stephen Polevoy, Keith Publicover, Dan Richards, Joe Richards, Todd Ritchie, Duncan Robertson, Nina Robitaille, Catherine Ross, John Russell, Brian Shelley, Michael Shewburg, Bernie Smith, Robin Squires, C.G. Stephens, Bill Stevens, Jill Vandal, Barb Weeden, Stan Wild, Thomas Williams, Maya & Dave Willis, Lisa Wilson

Thank You Standards Visitors of 2002!

This year you visited over 100 camps across Ontario. Your involvement is crucial to the maintenance of high standards in Ontario camps. The Standards Committee and our Association are indebted to the people listed here who have supported the "spirit" of our Standards Program. Many THANKS!

Karen Gordon
Chair,
OCA Standards Committee

Spring Training Conference: Call for Volunteers!

We want volunteers for the OCA Spring Training (Counsellor) Conference Committee. You should love camping and be dedicated to furthering the development of staff through your own experience. Meetings are approximately every three weeks, in Toronto, from the end of October until the conference in late May. If interested, contact the Conference Chair, Michael Bakker, at 905-888-5304 or mrbeanatcamp@hotmail.com.



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Classifieds

Camp Banting, a two-week co-ed residential summer camp in Eastern Ontario for children with diabetes is currently seeking a site for late July or early August 2003 and beyond. If your camp is available for lease, contact Renee Lebovitz Pelletier 613-521-1902 ex. 13 or renee.lebovitz@diabetes.ca.

For Rent: 2+2 bedroom bungalow 10 minutes from Kelowna, in the heart of BC. Fully furnished. Suit mature non-smoking couple. Close to ski resorts, hiking trails, and Lake Okanagan. Reasonable rent for the right person(s). Contact Fiorenza at 416-481-2788 (evenings).

Camp Narnia, Shawnigan Lake, BC, a private, independent camp since 1986, seeks an individual or couple with extensive camp experience who wish to relocate on Vancouver Island. Experience required in various aspects of camp operations. Work may include property maintenance, food services or camp administration. Accommodation arrangement and salary negotiable. To apply, contact: Carol Toal, camp owner/director by phone: 250-743-0448; or email campnarnia@islandnet.com; or fax résumé to 250-743-0428. For further information about Camp Narnia, view our website at www.islandnet.com/campnarnia.

Camp Director wanted for Sparrow Lake United Church Camp. Sparrow Lake promotes a caring, Christian community in a lovely outdoor setting north of Toronto, and offers four 12-day camping sessions in July and August. The Director is responsible for all facets of the camp's summer operations, and should: have camp or recreation leadership experience; have an understanding of, and comfort with, the values of a Christian lifestyle as well as the necessity to grow spiritually, emotionally and socially, and to foster growth in others; be a team player and a team builder; have experience in recruiting and managing teenage or university age staff; be available to work on staff recruitment and program planning on a part-time basis between December and June; be available to live on site from late June until late August. Send résumés to: Wendy Fox Harker, Chair, Human Resources Committee, Sparrow Lake Camp Board of Directors, 210 Vaughan Road, # 22, Toronto, ON M6C 2M3. Fax: 416-465-1362; email: wendy.fox@sympatico.ca. For more information, see www.ontcamp.on.ca/sparrow_lake.html.

Camp Director required for Camp Hyanto (Lyndhurst, ON) from the beginning of June to the end of August, 2003. Qualifications: faithful Christian; management experience with children's camping; completed post-secondary education; strong abilities with administration, leadership and

Annual Photo Contest



by Skip Connett,
Canadian Adventure Camp

The Society of Camp Directors and Our Kids Publications are pleased to announce that the deadline for entries into our Annual Photo Contest has been extended to November 15, 2002!

The new date gives camps additional time to include the free entry form in their Fall mailings and for them to encourage campers and staff to mail in their entries! Remember the camp with the most entries will receive a Kodak Digital Camera – something to go nuts with in the summer of 2003 and then try to win another one again next year! (If you've ever wanted to send photos to your campers or staff after the summer but were in awe over the cost of large-volume prints, the digital camera images can be emailed to them at NO COST by you! Imagine what you can do for each cabin group!)

Please call Our Kids Publications at 905-272-1843 and tell them how many of the free mailer applications you would like. The mailers are business envelope size on single light card, they slip right in to your regular envelope and are shipped out to you completely free of cost.

Urge your campers to send in any shots they have that have some interest factor in them. The categories are Friendship, Action and Scenic. Tell them not to expect to be competing against professional photographers; prizes in this contest are awarded only to bona fide campers and staff. An eight-year-old (or even younger) has an equal chance to win against a seasoned veteran! Sometimes, through the eyes of a child . . .

There are 46 great prizes PLUS the fabulous Kodak Digital Camera for the camp with the most entries! Don't let this opportunity slip by!

interpersonal relations. Please send résumé to Camp Hyanto Executive Advisor, 90 Johnson St., Kingston, ON K7L 1X7.

Program Director/Head Counsellor wanted for Central Toronto day camp with 500 campers and 150 staff. Campers aged 3.5 to 15.5 years old. Variety of sports, arts and other specialties and activities. Required from Monday to Friday in July and August. Fun, challenging, rewarding, good compensation. Work closely with camp directors. Require organized, people-oriented, creative leader with senior camp management experience. Fax résumés to 416-789-5525.



The Ontario Camping Association
2003 Annual Conference
February 27th - March 1st
Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill, Ontario

Call for Speakers

The Ontario Camping Association Conference Program Committee invites you to submit a proposal to be a presenter or recommend the name(s) of potential speakers and topics that would contribute positively to our educational sessions. We hope to create a program full of worthwhile and informative sessions in the following Educational Streams:

Working with Campers

This stream will focus on workshops geared to those topics which impact our front-line staff (i.e. counsellors and specialists) and their effectiveness with campers. Topics may include: Specialty Programming, Team Building, Behaviour Management, Bullying, and much, much more!

Supervising Staff

This stream will focus on workshops geared to those topics which impact the work of our supervisory staff. Topics may include: Staff Motivation, Staff Evaluation, Staff Training, Conflict Resolution, and much, much more!

Directors' Dialogue

This stream will focus on workshops geared to those topics which impact our Camp Directors and Owners. Topics may include: Hiring Practices, Program Development and Evaluation, Camp Marketing, Legal Issues, Facility Considerations, and much, much, more!

Getting Down to Business

This stream will provide interested Commercial Members with an opportunity to showcase their exciting products as a featured exposition during the Exhibit Hall! The goal of these sessions is to allow conference delegates to interact and dialogue with business professionals who can impact our camp programs and talk about the latest developments in a showcase format. Topics may include: Food Services, Water Management, Adventure-Based Learning, Athletic Equipment, Waterfront Programs, Computer-Based Resources, Clothing Trends, and much, much, more!

Please see over for proposal form

