



# O.C. Asional news

VOLUME 6

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EDITOR: JANET ADAMSON

The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting  
for our wits to grow sharper. -- E. Phillips

## COLE'S NOTE

So begins organized camping's second century in Canada. From its ever so humble beginnings under the auspices of the YMCA to 1989 - where the camping movement is well entrenched right across the country. Ontario camping encompasses every conceivable type of experience for approximately 350,000 children, thousands of staff, tens of millions of dollars annually to cover capital investments and millions of dollars annually to cover our expenses. It's not a small industry anymore. We impact on a large part of the economy in many areas.

In many ways, though, all our camps are different. That's been our strength: the unique talent and skills that each of us bring to each summer in our respective camps.

Most of us look upon the bottom line - not as the final number on a balance sheet - but as something much more difficult to measure: the success that each camper has had while in our care. For most of us, this is the ultimate satisfaction and is the fuel that keeps us going from one summer to the next. Well, my engine is ready, and by the time you receive this newsletter I'll have been at camp for a couple of weeks seeing to the present and dreaming of the future.

Have a great summer, O.C.A.!

TED COLE  
President

## CIT'S - OUR SPECIAL PEOPLE

At this time of year, we spend a lot of time and energy in preparation for the summer with opening of camp and pre-camp staff training. The CIT director is thinking about how to impart what this group needs to know and how they will integrate into programs. Hopefully, we have included the CITs in "expectations" sessions. Does that mean the CITs should be all set for the arrival of our campers? Let's hope so.

Wait a minute; what does the CIT director need to think about as the summer rolls on? You have coped with emergencies, emotions and energy, but have you spent any time thinking about preparing the CITs to return home? Our CITs have had a new adventure into assuming a degree of responsibility, instructing and caring for someone else. That's a marvellous initiation for becoming a counsellor next year, but these young people have to return to their own community, their parents and their peers, and we need to prepare them for that transition.

Here are a few of the topics you might want to address in order to have your CITs make a more satisfying transfer (or re-entry) back home:

1. Communication - prepare them to articulate about what they accomplished as a CIT.
2. Parents - talk about what will help and hinder their meeting with the family.



3. Peers - the CITs have had a unique experience in which their peers have not shared. How can they bridge the gap?
4. School - the teachers may be interested in hearing about a summer camp and the CIT program. Are there ideas and resources to give?
5. Isolation - the close group of friends within the CIT circle is scattered but there must be ways to keep in touch.

These are a few topics and the start of ideas on how to approach the solutions. Elicit more from your staff and CITs. Try role playing, discussions and talks with staff who were CITs and coped with the problem.

You will be happily surprised by the results and are probably building the foundation for enthusiasm in the CITs when they return to camp as staff members.

DOROTHY WALTER

### LET'S INTEGRATE TOGETHER!

Camp Awakening is a residential camp for physically disabled teenage boys and girls. Operating out of two established camps - Kilcoo Camp and Camp Gay Venture - Awakening offers a wide range of wilderness and recreational experiences in an integrated and challenging setting. The camp was founded in 1982 with the belief that physically disabled youth require an exciting summer program, one which presents an opportunity to discover potential and self-worth. Although Awakening is officially independent from its host camps, the settings of Kilcoo and Gay Venture provide prime opportunities for the integration of disabled and able-bodied campers.

The strategy of Awakening's integration program is threefold: visibility, individual or group integration, and communication. Through the presence of individuals with special needs at Kilcoo and Gay Venture, able-bodied campers and staff gain important exposure. Furthermore, the very fact that disabled people are at "camp" has a symbolic value which cannot be understated.

The Awakening campers are involved in many facets of the Kilcoo and Gay Venture programs and enjoy the same privileges as the able-bodied campers. All the campers are

encouraged to interact with each other, but no one person is forced into an uncomfortable situation. Group integration occurs often as a result of planned programs, such as special camp games. In addition, there are many situations at camp which are conducive to natural and spontaneous interaction between disabled and able-bodied campers. Such opportunities include meals, campfires, skits, special activities, Chapel, and free time.

Finally, essential to any integration program are open channels of communication. It is imperative that inquiries from campers and staff alike about disabilities be welcomed and addressed appropriately. Occasionally, able-bodied campers - especially younger children - may not understand why the Awakening participants are at camp in the first place. Thus, there is usually a need for informal discussions with campers and staff members that are aimed at allaying fears and destroying prejudices about the capabilities of disabled persons.

Camp Awakening is looking forward to its seventh summer of operation and has expanded this year to include a program for teenage girls at Camp Gay Venture.

DEREK WILLIAMS

Director, Camp Awakening

### UPDATE ON BILL 119

Since April 1988, PRFO and its member organizations (of which OCA is one) have been actively involved in the lobby against Bill 119. This is the bill that replaced Bill 38, a bill to deregulate lottery funds allocated to recreation and culture. The lobby against Bill 38 was successful in that it was withdrawn but not cancelled. Bill 119 has passed the second reading of the three required for a bill to become law. However, through efforts of PRFO, its member organizations, AMO, Municipal Councils and opposition party support, the bill has now been referred to a committee of the legislature for review prior to third reading. The OCA plans to support PRFO at the committee level and awaits direction from the Government Relations Committee regarding our involvement. If you are interested in supporting OCA's strategy, please leave your name with Jean or Flora at the OCA office. Thanks!



## MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Picture this...only 6 weeks of the summer has passed, the heat has been unbearable, it hasn't rained for 23 days, 7 of your key staff are down with the flu, the cook needs 4 days off to attend a wedding in Alberta ...and the list goes on.

This is the time of the summer when a "secret friend" will be very important. I challenge camp directors to be a "special secret friend" to **at least one** key staff member. Membership renewal is in September. Individuals pay \$32.00, students only \$20.00. Buy some memberships and present your gifts at key times throughout the summer. It's a small price to pay...for a terrific reward!

SALLY MOORE

Membership Committee Chairperson

## THIS 'N' THAT

### Revised Regulations for Swimming Pool Operators

The Ontario Regulation 381/84 has been amended to Ontario Regulation 569/88 (Public Pools). Copies of the amended regulation are available from Publications Ontario, 5th floor, 880 Bay St., Toronto, M7A 1N8; tel. (416) 965-6015 or toll-free 1-800-268-7540. Copies are also available from Publications Ontario Bookstore, ground floor, 880 Bay St., for personal shopping. Individual copies cost \$1.00. A copy is available on file at the OCA Office.

### Office Summer Hours

The **Ontario Camping Association** office will be on its summer schedule starting July 3 until September; hours will be 10 to 3. Jean and Flora wish you all a great camping season!

The **Canadian Camping Association** office and bookstore is now on its summer schedule until the fall. Although there is no-one in the office on a regular basis, you may leave a message on their answering machine (tel. (416) 781-4717) and someone will get back to you shortly.

## FOR SALE

REZ stain, \$5 a gallon, up to 300 gallons available, various colours. Call Adam Kronick at Camp White Pine, (416) 322-6250.

## WHAT 'S HAPPENING

### A Contest for a New Masthead for the OCAsional News!

#### Specifications:

- to fit space 8½" x 3" (maximum)
- the words "OCAsional News" to be included
- design should reflect CAMPING IN ONTARIO
- entries should be tidy and camera ready

#### Who May Enter:

Staff, Directors, Campers, Board Members and friends of OCA camps.

**Deadline:** September 10, 1989.

We are trying to enhance the appearance of the OCAsional News by incorporating a new masthead, improving the paper stock, printing in two colours and using a three column format. Please do encourage members of your camp community to submit a design. Perhaps a camper will submit the winning design! The winning entry will be laminated for display for the winner.

JANET ADAMSON

Editor, OCAsional News





1990 CONFERENCE  
FOR DIRECTORS  
AND SENIOR STAFF



January 25-27, 1990  
Inn on the Park, Toronto

This summer each member camp will receive an information flyer about Conference 1990. Please take the time to talk with your staff and post the flyer in your staff lounge or office. The camping professionals of the 1990s need to receive this information and be encouraged to attend Conference 1990.

The 1989 Conference statistics indicate that a total of 417 delegates registered over the 3 days; however, only 229 were full conference delegates. 108 different member camps sent representatives to the conference which represents only 51% of the full OCA camp membership.

A dedicated Conference committee works very hard each year to bring you and your staff the best conference ever. Give this committee **YOUR 100% SUPPORT!!!**

#### CAMPER VACANCY PROGRAM

Attention Camp Directors: Starting Monday June 12, phone in your camper vacancies to the OCA office (416-781-0525). Jean and Fiora will then pass on this information to interested parents. Call regularly to keep the data up-to-date!

#### PLAN TO ATTEND...

The Conference of the Canadian Parks and Recreation, August 11-17, in Hamilton, Ont. Featured are over 70 workshops and a 90-exhibitor Trade Fair. For more information contact:

OMNI '89  
Hamilton City Hall  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ont. L8N 3T4  
Tel. (416) 526-4663



#### YOU CALLED YOUR COUNSELLORS... AND THEY CAME!

The 1989 OCA Counsellor Conference was FUN! It was NEAT! There were hundreds of excited COUNSELLORS who are going to do a SUPERB job of leading Ontario campers this summer.

Thank you for your SUPPORT of this important OCA event. Have a GREAT summer!

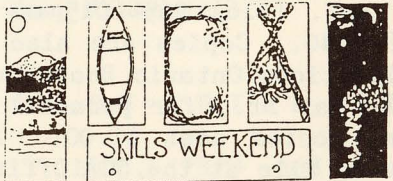
Your 1989 Counsellor  
Conference Committee

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#### FOR SALE

Working commercial Hobart dishwasher, feeds right to left. \$100.00 (negotiable). Call Jim at 705-765-3101.

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SKILLS WEEKEND

**ONTARIO CAMP LEADERSHIP CENTRE  
BARK LAKE, ONTARIO  
JUNE 9-12, 1989**

**Your last chance to register your  
key staff in one of the following  
streams**

**CANOEING SKILLS/LEADERSHIP**

**ECO-SKILLS/NATURE PROGRAMMING**

**FIRST AID/SAFETY WORKSHOP**

**ARTS/CRAFTS LEADERSHIP**

**Contact O.C.A. Office (781 0525)**