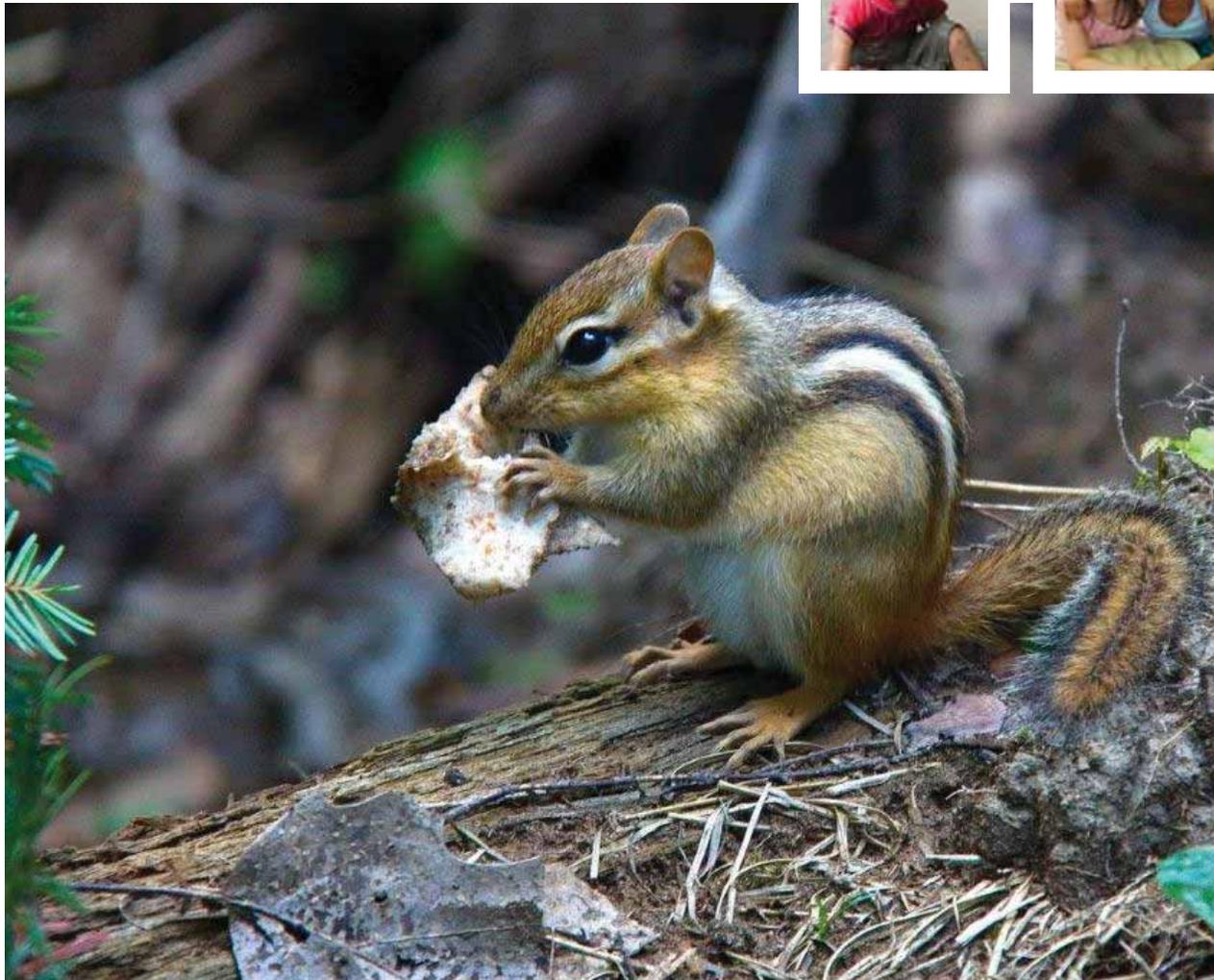




# Ontario Camps Association 2010-11 ANNUAL REPORT





# Ontario Camps Association

## STAMP OF A GREAT CAMP

OCA LOGO: The OCA logo identifies to campers, their families and staff that we meet industry standards – only accredited camps are able to use the OCA logo on literature and on their signs.



**SUPPORT, MENTORING AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT:** The Ontario Camps Association Board and Members provide support and mentoring for start-up camps, for human resource management, purchasing power, and most importantly when issues arise there is literally 100's of years of experience, collectively, amongst OCA Members, who are willing to provide their knowledge and expertise.

**INSURANCE:** Membership in the OCA means lower insurance rates for camps. Why? Over 350 OCA Camps follow the Standards Guidelines that are provincially recognized and have proven in the latest research that camps that follow the guidelines have 34% fewer accidents and incidents. OCA membership allows access to the Canadian Camping Association's insurance program.

**OCA STANDARDS:** The Province of Ontario knows that Camps that are part of the OCA are visited every four years. Following the visits camps are notified of any concerns or issues regarding the Standards and are given opportunities to make the required changes before the next summer. Every OCA Camp follows this system to ensure quality in all areas of operations, programing, safety and health, and employment.

### GOVERNMENT LOBBYING:

1. The OCA lobbied the Ontario government for counsellors to be hired at a lower rate than the increasing Minimum Wage Regulation.
2. OCA Lobbied the Canadian government regarding canoe and kayak licensing with the result that these two pleasure crafts do not have to be licensed by camps every year or as they are changed.
3. OCA works with Service Canada to assist foreign workers and campers to come to Canada under all types of Circumstances.

**WEBSITE:** OCA Camps presently have their information posted on the Website for parents, campers, staff and the general public to have easy access to your information. In the near future the website will be upgraded to offer many more valuable benefits to camps across Ontario. Many camps report that the OCA web site is high on their referral list and on an organic search for summer camps Ontario the OCA site is repeatedly #1.

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:** provides the community a province-wide voice; it also provides a venue for new and important information or changes in government regulations, vendors' news and members' news.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS:** OCA provides educational workshops throughout the year. Topics such as: administration, site and facilities, legal, child development environment, social networking, health care, risk management, training, leadership, skills and special needs include current and relevant information.

**ACCESS TO THE CRISIS HOTLINE:** Throughout the summer months the OCA has a crisis hotline that members can access for assistance with questions and support through a crisis.

**NETWORKING:** OCA provide a forum for networking with other camps that can assist you with all initiatives and or issues that may arise.

**PURCHASING POWER:** OCA Commercial Members offer a variety of quality services and equipment to OCA Members at a discount.

**RESEARCH:** Access to research, completed by the Canadian Camping Association and the American Camps Association, is important to the camps industry. Knowing new trends and having data that is supportive of new initiatives will help you with your planning.

**FURTHER DISCOUNTS:** OCA Members are able to obtain discounts to American Camps Association's conferences, book store, etc. New discounts are on the horizon for OCA Members with OCA Commercial Members

**DONATIONS:** The general public calls on a regular basis with donations for camps, especially for charitable or not-for-profit camps. For example, St. Vincent de Paul, YMCA – Fanshaw and RKY, Camp McGovern, and Camp EKON received 5 PFD's this fall at no cost and with a value

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## 2010-2011 OCA Board of Directors

HOWIE GROSSINGER  
President

ELLEN NASH  
Past President

ERIC SHENDELMAN  
Vice President

LEON MUSZYNSKI  
Vice President

MARJORY BOOTH  
Secretary/Treasurer

BRIAN BLACKSTOCK  
Member-at-Large

DAVE GRAHAM  
Director Private Camps

SARI GROSSINGER  
Director, Special Needs

JEREMY LAVERTY  
Director, Day Camps

JOHN MALCOLMSON  
Member-at-Large

SARA PETKER  
Director, Religiously  
Affiliated Camps

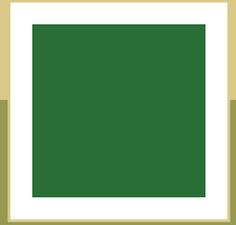
ALEX ROBERTSON  
Agency Camps

## OCA Staff

HEATHER HEAGLE  
Executive Director

LYDIA COY  
Membership /Bookkeeper  
Coordinator

ROBIN PERLMUTTER  
Administrative Assistance



## President's Message

ONTARIO CAMPS  
ASSOCIATION

Where 2009-2010 could be defined as a year of overcoming challenges, 2010-2011 can best be described as one of restored organizational stability.

The OCA office has had a successful year in its commitment to the membership. Our Executive Director Heather Heagle has brought a dedicated and professional approach to the Associations daily work. She has assembled a capable team which supports the membership and its volunteers, as well as enhancing our office protocols and systems. Upgraded hardware and software has our office working efficiently which has improved our record-keeping and communication.

The introduction of our motto, *The Stamp of a Great Camp*, served as a platform for renewed energy in marketing the benefits of attending OCA camps to the public, and our ability to garner interest from new members. An enhanced online presence, with an emphasis on greater public appeal of our website, was further developed culminating with Board approval to launch a new OCA website in 2012. Our website will also have an associated database management system that will interact effectively and professionally to serve the membership better. These enhancements are positive steps in raising the profile of the OCA and meeting the needs of member camps.

The Board is proud of the gains made in restoring the financial integrity of the association. The combined efforts of our Executive Director, Treasurer and Finance Committee have provided the Board with a solid framework for consistent, accurate and responsible financial reporting which will serve us well moving forward. The Board's commitments to the Legacy Fund have been demonstrated through a significant contribution to this important reserve.

This year brought the opportunity for the OCA to have a voice in legislative change. Many thanks to OCA members who voiced their concerns on the controversial Canoe/Kayak registration issue which received a lot of media attention last March. Due to our communication efforts with Transport Canada federal representatives, the OCA played a significant role in re-consideration of this legislation. This resulted in the OCA and the camping industry being credited publicly, by then Transport Canada Minister Chuck Strahl, as instrumental in this important change.

A wonderful professional staff and a dedicated Board of Directors are only part of the story at the OCA. The tradition of volunteerism is entrenched in our history and continues to be at the heart of making the OCA strong and relevant. Our educational events and committees rely on the continued dedication of volunteers, new and veteran alike. The re-establishment of the Counsellor Conference, the work of our Standards committee, our monthly newsletter, the Archives committee's publication, *Look to this Day*, and the dedication of our Annual Conference Committee, are but a few examples of the commitment volunteers make to the OCA. On behalf of the Board, I extend gratitude to all of our volunteers for their support and encourage all OCA members to get involved in some capacity.

Thank you to a wonderful Board of Directors who have been impressively engaged and committed to the OCA. The quality of our discussions is a testament to their desire to move our Association forward. I am optimistic that the new Board will continue the positive work of the past year and be ready to meet any new challenges that are before us.

Respectfully submitted by:

HOWIE GROSSINGER

President

Executive Director Annual Report



## President's Message

CANADIAN CAMPING  
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DES  
CAMPS DU CANADA



Canadian Camping Association  
Association des camps du Canada

Ontario Camps Association  
301-250 Merton Street  
Toronto, ON M4S 1B1

Greetings;

For more than eighty years people in the camping profession in Ontario have been gathering on a regular basis to share, learn and grow together. Meeting together remains one of the most powerful and effective vehicles we have to share, learn and develop our skills as camping professionals and these many years later, you who are privileged to be among those participating in the 2012 OCA Annual Conference will yet discover new and exciting ideas to take back to your respective camps.

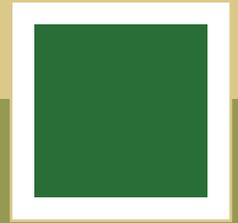
As you learn together in the coming days you will contribute in many ways to our profession as a whole, even in a national sense. The issues discussed and skills learned in your time together will work to ensure that camping retains the important developmental and recreational place in the minds of Canadians that we know it deserves. The OCA has long been a leader in the process of peer and professional development for those working in our profession and by your personal investment in time and experience you actively contribute to the association's ongoing health and relevance and the respect and goodwill it deservedly enjoys.

Of course, an organization is only as strong as its weakest link. Therefore it is incumbent on each of us as members of our respective Provincial associations to encourage active and regular participation by our professional peers in such events. I am confident that you will take what you learn here and will make it your own for the benefit of your own camp or association, but I ask that you also return with a message for those not with you today in Richmond Hill, that this is a "can't miss" event for next year.

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedules to invest in yourself and those around you. I trust that you will be encouraged as you learn, teach and interact with like-minded people and return to your respective camps, refreshed and energized to tackle another exciting year.

Respectfully,

HARRY E. EDWARDS  
President



## Executive Directors Message

ONTARIO CAMPS  
ASSOCIATION

This year, the first of my new term as Executive Director, has been one of substantive progress for our organization. We have completed work on improving the financial reporting, thanks to the support of Marjory Booth, Secretary Treasurer, Marina Seliverstova, Senior Accountant and Lydia Coy, Membership/Bookkeeping Coordinator. The change was not a small feat. It allowed OCA's new Auditor, Sam Marinucci to have a clear picture of the organization and provide Audited Financial Statements for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

In addition, the office has contacted and collected pertinent information for the new Membership Database being developed and implemented in the early part of 2012. With our technical support from Jeff Sax and Travis Allison, OCA is well-positioned to address any technical issues that may face us.

The office staff has changed over the past year. Kimberly Nash has moved on and is now working in her field of expertise. Charlie Mills has a contract with the Toronto Board of Education working in a downtown school. Lydia Coy was hired in June of this year as the Membership/Bookkeeper Coordinator and Robin Perlmutter joined us in October as Administrative Assistant. I would like to thank all of the staff for their support and hard work, it is really appreciated.

OCA policies regarding finances, In Camera meetings, privacy, and customer service for people with disabilities have been developed and approved by the OCA Board of Directors. New policies will be initiated or policies that need up-dating will be revised to ensure accountability and transparency for organizational operations.

Volunteers, members and the public audiences that OCA serves will remain our most important strength as we move forward and make critical decisions. Attracting new members is important to the safety and well-being of campers around the province. Just as significant is serving and maintaining our current members; keeping them apprised of new government regulations or changes, OCA initiatives and goals, ensuring members voices are heard at Board meetings by representation or reports, providing educational opportunities outside of the main educational events, and bringing value to the community as a whole.

I would like to thank to Howie Grossinger, President, and the OCA Board of Directors for their support over the past year. I look forward, with relish, to working with such a progressive, forward-thinking Board. In addition, I would to express my appreciation to Ellen Nash, Past President, for her leadership and veteran counsel during her term as an officer and a member of our governing body. Ellen works tirelessly to keep us focused on the practical and enduring mission of building the Ontario Camps Association by attending to the interests and needs of our core constituencies.

Respectfully submitted by:

HEATHER HEAGLE  
Executive Director



## Treasurer's Report

ONTARIO CAMPS  
ASSOCIATION

Ontario Camps Association  
301-250 Merton Street  
Toronto, ON M4S 1B1

HST Registration #R122423106

### 2011 Annual Report

Fiscal 2011 was another good year. At the 2010 AGM I reported that:

- The 2010-2011 operating budget is intended to generate a small surplus.
- The budget is based on generating revenue from several conferences and educational events.
- The plan also incorporates a fund-raising and fun-raising Golf Tournament, planned for fall 2011.

These three goals were achieved and I thank those members who participated in the educational events for their support. None of this would have been possible without the excellent leadership by several OCA volunteers and committee chairs who organized and operated the events and services. You will see from the audited financial statements that we achieved a surplus of \$1,010. Our cash position has increased by \$117,762 this year.

We should also celebrate the fact that we were in a position to invest in the Legacy Fund. The Board transferred \$24,924 from the unrestricted capital reserve to the Legacy Fund, raising the balance in this fund to \$55,000.

The major achievement however, was the transfer of all financial accounting to an updated software program during the fiscal year. Heather Heagle, Executive Director, worked with a senior accountant and her staff to complete this work. The reports have been comprehensive and accurate, making the work for the Treasurer and the Board much easier.

After a careful selection process, Heather and I selected Sam Marinucci from *Marinucci & Company Chartered Accountants*, to conduct the audit this year. *Marinucci & Company* specializes in working with not-for-profit organizations. The audit process was very satisfactory, thanks to the excellent preparation work done by OCA staff.

I want to thank the members of the Finance Committee, who willingly shared their time and expertise throughout the year: Jane McCutcheon, Leon Muszynski, Ellen Nash, and George Ross, Howie Grossinger and Heather Heagle.

This is my final report to you and I thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer for the past two years. We have managed to put OCA on a stronger financial footing and I believe that the incoming Treasurer will continue to remind the Board of its fiduciary duty as they make decisions for the next two years.

Respectfully submitted by:

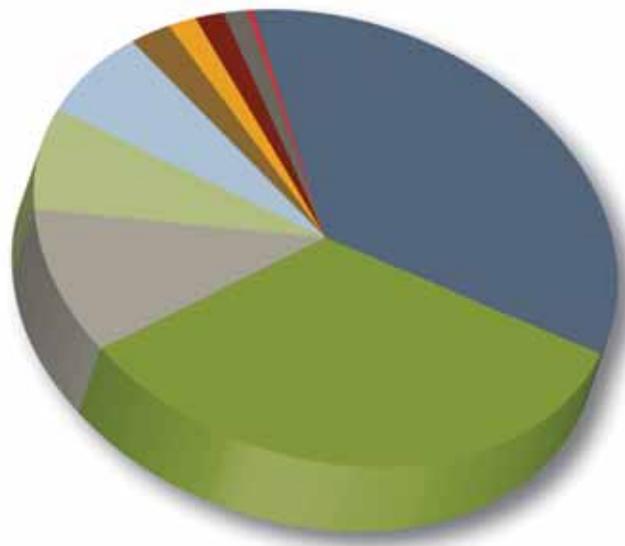
MARJORIE BOOTH  
Treasurer



# 2010-2011 Expenditures & Revenues

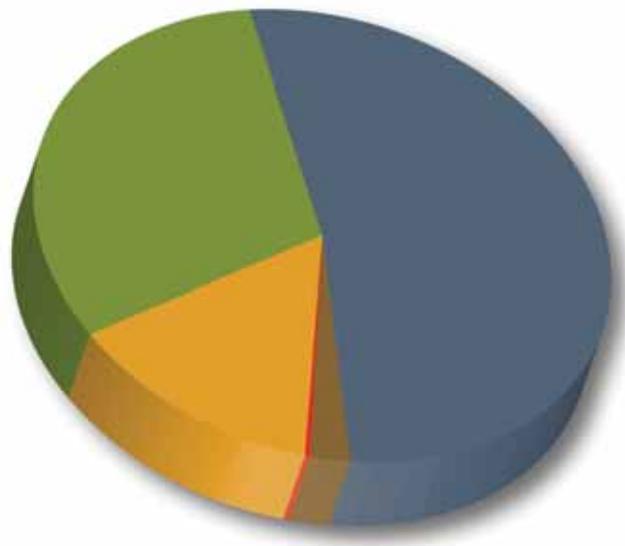
ONTARIO CAMPS  
ASSOCIATION

## EXPENDITURES:

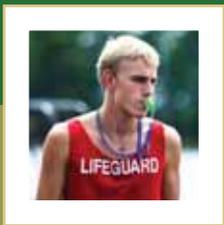


- Legal Fees, 34.48%
- Depreciation, 33.85%
- Audit, 1.60%
- CCA Membership, 1.83%
- Insurance, 2.49%
- Occupancy, 6.92%
- Publication and Education, 7.61%
- Office and General, 9.76%
- Program, 33.85%
- Staffing, 34.48%

## REVENUES:



- Events, 31.07% (\$159,931)
- Sales, 13.89% (\$71,522)
- Sponsorship and Donation, 0.25% (\$1,275)
- Other, 2.27% (\$11,709)
- Memberships, 52.51% (\$270,309)



## Archives Committee

Janet Adamson, Chair

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Brian Blackstock  
Bruce Hodgins  
Marilee MacFarlane

### COMMITTEE MANDATE

To promote the importance and value of Archives in the camping community and to encourage and facilitate camps and camping groups in Ontario.

To encourage OCA and member camps to contribute archival materials, and to facilitate their transfer to the Camping Archives at Trent University; and

To actively create archival materials through Oral History Interviews and other projects.

### 2010 - 2011

A committee member recorded two audio tapes for the Trent Archives at the Annual Conference. Two long established directors were interviewed at two sessions. These sessions did not attract large crowds, but promoted good discussions among those in attendance.

The committee rewrote, reprinted 500 copies and distributed, *Look To This Day A Guide for Keeping Archives*. This Booklet was updated from the 1992 version to cover digital information in the twenty-

first century. Heather at the OCA was a tremendous help in this process and we thank her for her support.

### 2011 - 2012 FUTURE PLANS

- Continue Brown Bag Plan: Providing brown bags to camps each summer at Standard Visits to forward to Trent Archives.
- Continue Audio Interviews of significant camping professionals to forward to Trent University
- Meet the new Director of Trent Archives to coordinate committee support.
- Disc-drive request that camps as they convert slides to DVD send a copy to OCA office for Trent Archives.
- Research future for audio tapes regarding storage and technology.

Respectfully submitted by:

JANET ADAMSON  
Chair, Awards Committee

## Awards Committee

Eric Shendelman  
Chair, Board Liaison:

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Marjorie Booth  
Liz Greenway  
John Jorgenson  
Patti Thom

### COMMITTEE MANDATE:

OCTOBER 2011: The Awards Chair distributes a notice for nominations for the awards that have been listed (Commercial Recognition Award, Volunteer Recognition Award, International Development Award, Ron and Mickey Johnstone Youth Leadership Awards, Dorothy Walter Award of Excellence, Honorary Life Member)

The OCA office is to receive nominations for awards on or before November 15, 2011

To develop a consistent process in choosing presenters for each award.

To confirm dates and times with Conference Chair(s) to present awards at the Annual and General Meeting and/or the Annual Conference.

The Committee is to develop a new award called *The OCA Camp Milestone Award* to recognize individuals, camps and commercial members who have reached a 'milestone year' (i.e. 25, 30, 40 years, etc.) in the camping profession.

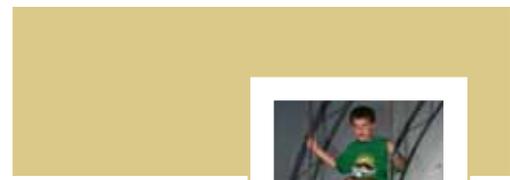
### GOALS AND ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED IN 2011:

Nominations were received on or before November 15, 2011 for a variety of OCA Awards (Commercial Member Recognition, Volunteer Recognition, International Development, Ron and Mickey Johnstone Youth Leadership, Dorothy Walter Award of Excellence, OCA Camp Milestone Award)

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER: No nominations were submitted for this award category

The Awards Committee developed a policy to allow for consistent presenters for each award from year to year as follows:

- COMMERCIAL RECOGNITION AWARD: presented by the current OCA President
- VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD: presented by the Human Resources Committee
- INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD: presented by the CCA President



## awards committee | *continued*

- **RON AND MICKEY JOHNSTONE YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD:** presented by Mickey Johnstone or a family member and welcomed by an Honorary Life Member.
- **DOROTHY WALTER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:** presented by the previous year's recipient
- **HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:** presented by an Honorary Life Member
- **OCA MILESTONE AWARD:** A letter to be sent to the camp by the current OCA President and to be presented by individual camps at their own locations. Camps can submit their requests direct to the OCA office. The Awards Chair will review submissions on a monthly basis.
- Awards Chair confirmed dates and times for presentations with the Conference Chair(s).

### 2011 AWARD INFORMATION:

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD:** Presented to Stephen Fine (Hollows Camp) by Jeff Bradshaw (Camp Wenonah) at the Annual and General Meeting on Wednesday January 25, 2012.

**COMMERCIAL MEMBER RECOGNITION AWARD:** Presented to Sigma Promotions at the Annual Conference lunch on January 26, 2012. The award will be presented by Howie Grossinger, OCA President.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD:** Presented by the Human Resources Committee at lunch on Friday, January 27, 2012 (at the Annual Conference), by the Human Resources Committee.

Presented to:

1. Jen Anderson (Town of Richmond Hill)
2. Jen Cockburn (Town of Richmond Hill)
3. Mark Diamond (Camp Manitou)
4. Jen Dundas (Girl Guides of Canada)
5. Kevin French (Seneca College, King Day Camp)
6. Rick Howard (Camp Tamarack)
7. Paul Lucianni (Tim Horton Memorial Camp)
8. Andrew MacDonald (Camp Tawingo)
9. Colleen McLean (Tim Horton Memorial Camp)
10. Tracy Morley (Camp Awakening)

**RON AND MICKEY JOHNSTONE YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD:** Presented to Meghan Irvine (Camp Tawingo) at the Annual Conference

lunch, Friday January 27, 2012. The award will be presented by Mickey Johnstone and welcomed by John Jorgenson (Honorary Life Member)

**DOROTHY WALTER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:** Presented to Barb Weeden at the Annual Conference Banquet Friday, January 27, 2012. The Award will be presented by Sari Grossinger (2010 Recipient).

At a November Committee meeting, John Jorgenson and Tom Knowlton proposed a *Kirk Wipper Wilderness Award* for consideration by the committee. The committee concluded that such an award would be considered for 2013. The family will be contacted for discussion and permission purposes.

### FUTURE GOALS 2012:

- To continue to develop meaningful ways to recognize 'excellence' within the Ontario Camps Association
- To include 'recognition pieces' in the OCA Newsletter called *Milestone Moments*.
- To include a submission form for the *OCA Camp Milestone Award* on the website.
- To receive and accept submissions for the OCA Camp Milestone Award and send out letters of recognition.

If the Wipper family accepts the award plans in Kirk's honor, the committee will work on its implementation at a February or March meeting. The Board of Directors will be kept up-to-date on this award proposal.

- To begin the nominations process planning in September 2012 for the 2013 Annual Conference.

Respectfully submitted by:

ERIC SHENDELMAN  
Chair, Awards Committee



## Educational Committees & Workshops



### awards committee | *continued*

## Annual Conference Committee

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Colleen McLean, Barb Weeden, Co-chairs

Ellen Nash, Board Liaison

Members: Jen Anderson, Jen Cockburn, Kevin French, Janice Greensheilds, Paul Grossinger, Robyn Hochglaube, Kevin Lindner, Andrew MacDonald, Mike Stewart, and Mike Pearse

### COMMITTEE MANDATE

The OCA Conference Committee was established to organize and execute the *2012 Annual OCA Conference* at the Sheraton Parkway, January 25-27. The expectation is the Conference would operate with an approved budget and contributing \$30,000 to the OCA.

In reviewing the 2011 Conference the co-chairs, with support and approval of the Board, made two significant program changes.

### EXHIBIT HALL

**2011 Conference:** Exhibit Hall opened Thursday evening (unopposed 5:00-8:00pm); dinner was served in Exhibit Hall; Exhibit Hall opened Friday morning (opposed by program sessions 8:00-11:00am); breakfast was served in Exhibit Hall

**2011 Feedback:** Consistent that Commercial Members did not appreciate sessions running while the Exhibit Hall was open. They spoke positively of the evening's dinner being offered at stations throughout the Exhibit Hall, and liked the opportunity to socialize with Delegates at the Presidential Suite social

**2012 Conference Decision:** Exhibit Hall would only be open for unopposed time Thursday evening 4:30-9:00pm with dinner

### CONFERENCE LENGTH

**2011 Conference:** Thursday keynote speaker break-outs; Friday and Saturday 75 minute sessions. Final conference registration numbers showed an additional 17 people registered for Saturday.

**2012 Conference Decision:** Committee needs to focus on program quality over quantity and full-conference registrations (versus one day tickets). Conference length was changed to two days.

### 2011 GOALS AND ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED

In accordance with its mandate, the 2012 OCA Conference Committee achieved the following:

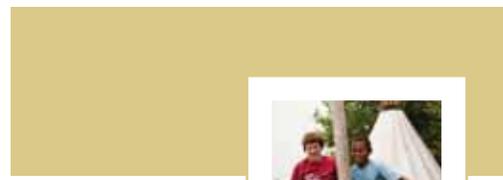
- Creation of conference theme *Grow Into Tomorrow* and conference logo
- Established advertising strategy and created e-postcards for delegate emails
- Reviewed 2011 budget to establish working 2012 budget
- Developed ten focus-streams for Friday's schedule (Administration, Child Development, Environmental, Health Card, Leadership, Legal, Risk Management, Site/Facility, Social Networking and Training)
- Confirmed four high-profile keynote speakers: Michael Brandwein, Dr. Michael Ungar, Jill Hewlett, and Dr. Nick Bontis
- Confirmed speakers for 40 focus-stream sessions
- Pre-conference communication with new delegates (Camp OCA) to enhance their experience
- Secured Conference sponsorship with Commercial Members
- Portage Promotionals (delegate bags, committee and volunteer clothing)
- Sigma Promotions (speaker gifts)
- AdventureWorks! Inc (bookstore)
- Booked entertainment for the HLM reception and banquet
- Worked with the HR committee for HLM communication and support with HR room at Conference
- Worked with Awards committee to arrange presentation times throughout the Conference
- Worked with OCA office to finalize Conference program information

### FUTURE GOALS 2012

Co-chairs have prepared a binder containing meeting agendas, minutes, hotel contract information, etc. for the Board to provide to next year's co-chairs

Respectfully submitted by:

BARB WEEDEN and Colleen McLean,  
Co-chairs, Annual Conference



## educational conferences & workshops | *continued*

### Counsellors Conference

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rick Howard, Chair; Howie Grossinger, Sari Grossinger, and Robin Perlmutter

After a hiatus, the OCA Board had the goal to reintroduce and revitalize what had for a long period of time been a successful and popular annual *Counsellor Conference*. The Board requested that Rick Howard chair a committee to plan and run the *Counsellor Conference* in Spring 2011. The planning process primarily involved a committee of Rick Howard, Sari Grossinger and Heather Heagle, OCA Executive Director.

The event was held on Saturday, May 28, 2011 and was generously hosted by *Camp Robin Hood* at its Markham, Ontario campsite. Being that the event had not been held in recent years, it was unknown how it would be received, what quality of speakers we would attract, how many attendees we would have and whether the event would be financially viable.

The committee worked hard, with the excellent work and cooperation of the OCA office, to plan an interesting and diverse program, which included topics that both counsellors and senior camp officials would find relevant and informative. In particular, the committee was proud to have Paul Rosen, a gold-medal winning Canadian Paralympic athlete and motivational speaker and Mike Pearse, a song leader and excellent speaker as our keynotes, sandwiching other amazing sessions conducted by various camp and other professionals, including a successful and well-attended Directors' Round Table facilitated by OCA President, Howie Grossinger.

The committee was also appreciative of the support and donations of goods and services by various companies and individuals, including *Camp Robin Hood*, *Score* (food services), (*insert name First Student?*) (bus company), (*insert name Elmer's?*) (glue company, as well as presenters, which included many OCA commercial, camp and individual members.

The spring 2011 *Counsellor Conference* was a resounding success, not only based on positive feedback received during and after the event on an informal basis, but through the more targeted evaluations that attendees were requested to complete, all of which will guide and help make successful future conferences. The event ended up attracting over 200 attendees and, despite charging a minimal fee, including a very reasonable group rate, created a profit of \$2,660.44 for the OCA. Even more importantly, the committee believes that the foundation has been established for the continued and growing success of the annual spring *Counsellor Conference* in Summer 2012 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by:

RICK HOWARD  
Counsellor Conference Chair



## educational conferences & workshops | *continued*

### Maintenance & Facilities Conference

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: John Malcolmson, Shannon Benner, Conference Co-Chairs

The 2011 OCA Camp Facilities conference was held March 22 to March 24 at the *Tim Horton Memorial Camp* in Parry Sound.

The Conference had 31 delegates from over 20 camps taking part in workshops in food service and maintenance. Topics included:

- Managing forests, water issues, workplace hazard assessment tools, dealing with volunteers, electrical safety standards, developing a GREEN plan for your camp.
- Out tripping meals, organic meals, dealing with allergies, workplace hazard assessment tools, Customer Service, Inventory Control and waste management

The Conference also had two outstanding guest Speakers:

- Michelle Preyde (Director of Human Resources Tim Horton Children's Foundation) talked about the 'best practices dealing with staff'.

- Peg Smith (CEO American Camps Association) discussed the 'importance of support staff to provide quality camp experience for children'

Of course the highlight of the competition was the annual *Trivia Night and Maintenance Olympics* which was enjoyed by all the staff. OCA would like to thank John and Shannon for their continued support. The Maintenance and Facilities Conference contributed \$3,850.38 to the OCA operational budget.

Respectfully submitted by:

JOHN MALCOLMSON

Co-chair, Maintenance and Facility Conference

### Skills Weekend

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Tim French, Chair

Tim French and committee members organize the *2011 Skills Weekend* held, June 3 to 5, at *Northland-B'nai Brith*. Thirty-five people registered for canoeing, kayaking, sailing and windsurfing. There were not enough registrants for High Ropes Certification.

Thanks to the YMCA, who were offering a course in High Ropes - the four people registered for this program were accommodated at YMCA's *Camp Wanakita*.

Registrants came from Sprucedale, Holland Landing, Kettleby, Hamilton, St. Donat, Orillia, Toronto, Peterborough, Goderich, Grafton, Dundas, Consecon, Baysville, Hillsburgh, Port Sydney, Jackson's Point, Thornhill, Oakville and Ottawa.

Tim and his teaching team of professionals provided a robust training and certification program.



# Health Care Committee

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Pearl Bell
- Cheryl Bernknopf
- Mary Casey
- Nancy Cohen
- Marc Cooper
- Barb Gray
- Pam Lamont
- Wendy Mackenzie
- Matthuschka Sheedy
- Bev Unger
- Martha Williams
- Jennifer Wolfenden

### COMMITTEE MANDATE:

To promote and develop the highest standards of camp health care and to educate and support camp health professionals.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011

Our number one highlight has to be our yearly education event, the *Health Care Workshop*, May 7, 2011. We had 100 attendees (our largest group ever), wonderful presentations, great sponsors and displays. We thank, once again, Nancy Cohen who was able to obtain the location of Bayview Glen that works so well for this event. We have great camp health care experts within our committee and we continue to utilize that expertise for presentations at the workshop along with other professionals in the health care industry. We have continued to support the OCA membership on an ongoing basis by answering emails and telephone questions, mostly from camp RNs with the majority during the camp off season.

### HEALTH CARE WORKSHOP FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue:

1. Registration:	\$6,070.00
2. Donation:	\$500.00
Total To Date:	<b><u>\$6,570.00</u></b>

Expenses:

1. Food:	\$1,500.00
2. Speaker Gifts:	\$150.00
3. Speaker donation:	\$200.00
4. Miscellaneous:	\$364.14
Total To Date:	<u>\$2,214.14</u>
<b>Net Revenue:</b>	<b><u>\$4,355.86</u></b>

### MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and develop the highest standards of camp health care and to educate and support camp health professionals.

### OBJECTIVES

- To raise the standards of camp health care.
- To raise awareness of camp managers, health care workers and families regarding pertinent camp healthcare concerns.
- To encourage health care professionals to work in the camping field.

- To encourage camp directors to employ appropriate professional health care staff.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Resources
  - recommended educational material
  - build a resource base
2. Education
  - be present at the annual OCA Directors Conference
  - present a spring health care workshop
  - be available to individual camps as a resource
3. Information
  - prepare pertinent material about health care concerns

#### STANDARDS

1. Develop standards for professional camp health care staff at camp.
2. Encourage the utilization of professional health care staff at camp.
3. Carry out research and studies as required.
4. Recommend standards to OCA Standards Committee.

#### ADVOCACY

1. Linkages
  - CNO, M/HEALTH, OPHA, MED/NURSING ASSOCIATIONS (i.e. RNAO)
  - develop a Canadian camp nurse network, send informative mailings
  - maintain membership in *Association of Camp Nurses*
2. Legislation health
  - be proactive in developing and/or responding to legislation or regulatory issues affecting health service in the camp setting

### GOALS FOR 2012

- Representation on the OCA Board of Directors.
- Meeting with the kindred groups of the OCA to determine the needs of each groups health staff.
- Revamp the camp health care issues based on the found needs.
- Develop a set of teaching tools (outlines of health education sessions such as anaphylaxis, hand washing, sun safety, choking, etc) that can



## health care committee | *continued*

be used by camp nurses across the province, so all nurses are not having to recreate a teaching plan every year.

- Work with the OCA office to ensure all camp nurses have access to teaching tools and other health related info online.
- Assist the CCA in the new endeavors with Anaphylaxis Canada on protocols for camps.
- Engage in recruiting new committee members to help in areas where our current members are not able to fill these tasks.

- Have ED of OCA join us at our following meetings to discuss how we can work with the OCA to help create the process we need to implement the vision our committee comes up with.

Respectfully submitted by:

CHERYL BERNKNOPF,  
Chair, Health Care Committee

## Human Resources Committee

Patti Thom, Chair

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Sam Butcher  
 Dave Graham  
 Ellen Nash  
 Jen Murdock  
 John Jorgenson  
 Markus Fehr  
 Matt Bernardo  
 Megan Snape  
 Michael Bakker  
 Mike Stewart  
 Russell Marston  
 Jessica Green  
 Kate Horton  
 Kate Dineen  
 Carol Rhynas

### COMMITTEE MANDATE

To recruit, place and follow up with volunteers in the OCA committees

To create and implement educational exchanges and social gatherings to encourage networking between members.

To provide support in recruiting new volunteers for various committees

To encourage and promote volunteerism within the OCA.

The Human Resources Committee has had a successful year! Some of the highlights of their work included:

- Annual Placement of new volunteers
- Creative presentation of *Volunteer Recognition Awards* at the *Annual Conference*
- Active display in HR Hospitality Room at the *2011 Annual Directors Conference*

- Active hospitality at the *Directors Conference*
- Representation on the awards and nomination selection committees
- Survey of attendees at the *Annual Conference* regarding volunteer recruitment
- Planning for two spring events-one social and one educational in 2012

The energy and enthusiasm of committee members continues to be amazing! They are to be commended for their ability and drive to come up with new innovative ways for our membership to become involved with each other and the work of the Association!

Respectfully submitted by:

PATTI THOM  
Chair, Human Resources



## Membership Committee

Lisa Wilson, Chair

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Brian Blackstock  
Ellen Nash

## Research Committee

CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION (CCA)  
ASSOCIATION DES CAMPS DU CANADA (ACC)

Stephen Fine, Chair

### COMMITTEE MANDATE:

1. Recruit and mentor new members from around the province
2. Report to the Board in February new applications for approval and for the OCA office to schedule Standards Visits;
3. Review of application forms for each level of membership with the OCA office staff to apply new information or make changes as required;
4. Provide reports to the OCA Board of any membership issues or initiatives

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS:

1. Membership letters and forms were reviewed and revised for all members including: all levels of Accredited Members, Commercial Members, Provisional 1 and 2 camps and for individual members. Membership renewals were mailed

CANADIAN SUMMER CAMP RESEARCH PROJECT  
We now have documented proof of a belief that camp directors have held since organized camping started in Canada over a hundred years ago – camp does have a positive influence in the growth and development of young people.

The twenty-page scientific study, *The Canadian Summer Camp Research Project*, was released this fall by Dr. Troy Glover and his research team from the University of Waterloo in Ontario. The five-year study identified five areas of camper development: social integration/citizenship, environmental awareness, attitude for physical activity, emotional intelligence, and self-confidence/personal development. Statistically significant positive growth was observed in all five areas.

We now have documented proof to support our conversations with parents about the benefits of camp experience. We can educate our staff about the significant influence they have on the campers in their care. We can provide justification to our boards about the importance of the work we do. We can appeal to our funders with proof of the importance of making the camp experience available to as many young people as possible.

The CCA/ACC has provided funding for a further year of study during 2012 to survey parents in order

the last week of July. By September 30, 90% of camps had renewed.

2. Membership Committee members have been meeting, throughout the year, with camps who are interested in becoming members. These meetings are designed to provide information and insight to the Standards and membership process.
3. Future plans include providing training workshops on how to use the new OCA website, due to be launched January 25, 2012, and to provide individual seminars on issues important to the camping community.

Respectfully submitted by:

LISA WILSON  
Chair, Membership Committee

to determine the longer term effects of camp on campers. The comprehensive five year report is available from the CCA/ACC online at: [www.ccamping.org](http://www.ccamping.org) in the English language site under, *Camping Research*. A summary of the significant findings are available on the French language site in the new *Research* section as well as the *For Parents* section. A summary of the significant findings are also posted on the English language site in the *For Parents* section.

### AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION (ACA), CCA/ACC HEALTHY CAMPS STUDY

The *Healthy Camps Study* was an endeavour of the American Camp Association sponsored by *Markel Insurance*. It spanned a five year period and was open to Canadian camps.

For 2010, the final year of the study, the research committee through *Constant Contact*, promotion at PCA conferences, and direct communication with the PCAs encouraged greater participation of Canadian camps. Findings indicated that camps are safe places with fewer injuries recorded for high energy activities than related organized sports settings. Study paper is available online at: [www.ccamping.org](http://www.ccamping.org) on the English language site under *Camping Research*. A summary of the significant findings are posted on both the English and French language sites in the *For Parents* section.



## research committee | *continued*

### INTERNATIONAL CAMPING CONGRESS (ICC) HONG KONG 2011 RESEARCH FORUMS: SUMMARY FINDINGS

The *Research Forums* of the *International Camping Congress* were again co-chaired by Doctors Deb Bialeschki and Stephen Fine for 2011. The forums included camp research from Canada, the USA, Australia, Turkey, Russia, Hong Kong, Mongolia, and Columbia.

Study topics included: injury prevention; citizenship; collaboration between schools and camps; benefits of outdoor curriculum; youth development; and camp industry trends.

Summary findings from these international forums are available at: [www.ccamping.org](http://www.ccamping.org) and are posted on both the English and French language sites in the *For Parents* and *Camping Research* sections.

### ICF INTERNATIONAL STUDY: SUMMER CAMP AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

In November, 2011, Doctors Deb Bialeschki and Stephen Fine presented the preliminary findings of *Summer Camp and the Advancement of Global Citizenship*, at the ICC in Hong Kong. Using modules developed by the ACA, the project explored how camp experience impacts on skill sets such as: problem solving, exploration and teamwork. These capacities have been identified by many educators as the “new basic skills” for work, learning and citizenship in the 21st century. Eleven camps from six countries, Russia, Canada, the U.S., Mongolia, Turkey and Colombia participated in the project. Approximately 1500 campers were surveyed.

Early findings suggest that global citizenship skills transcend national boundaries as they were learned and retained at all participating camps. The study will be undertaken again in 2012. Additional instruments will add to the domains of global citizenship, examine cultural differences within camp experience, along with an increase in participating countries.

### ACQ UQTR QUEBEC MINISTRY OF SPORT: FISCAL HEALTH CAMP STUDY

Dr. Andre Thibault of the University of Quebec Trois-Rivieres, Francois Cloutier, Secretariat to leisure and sport for the Quebec government, along with Tanya Desrochers and Eric Beauchemin of the CQ are collaborating on a province-wide camp study in 2012.

Dr. Thibault has developed a measurement instrument for determining the overall “health” of not-for-profit camps. The instrument evaluates an individual camp’s “health” in the areas of program, infrastructure, staff training, staffing in general, administration, etc., on a scale of green, yellow and red like a traffic light. The data set is drawn from a comprehensive audit of each participating camp and the resulting scale determines a camp’s specific needs as to government assistance in an effort to stem the wave of camps closing down and the sale of camp properties. Dr. Thibault, who is Director General of the *Quebec Observatory of Leisure* and also Vice-Chair of the *Board of World Leisure*, is interested in research collaborations with the CCA/ACC and potentially the ICF. A meeting is scheduled early in the New Year to discuss a variety of initiatives at provincial, national and international levels.

### CCA/ACC NATIONAL BUSINESS SURVEY

The results of the *2011 National Business Survey* (2010 season data) should prove to be of great interest and value to camps across the country.

Results of the 2011 study are posted in the members section of the CCA/ACC website on both the English and French language sites. The *2012 National Business Survey* will commence in January 2012. PCAs are encouraged to remind members to take this short, anonymous and very important survey so that we may identify and track industry trends. Constant Contact messages will be forthcoming.

### CANADIAN CAMP COUNSELLOR STUDY - GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA

Mandi Baker is working at transcribing, coding and analysis of her Canadian data. and hopes to complete her dissertation by early 2013. She claims “*each new finding presents another twist or turn in the road to better understanding what it’s like to work at summer camp. Each story opens up another way to consider how to manage, get and give the best to the enthusiastic young people who come to work in these unique recreational settings.*”

Respectfully submitted by:

STEPHEN FINE  
Chair, Research Committee



## Special Needs Resource Committee

The Special Need Resource Committee (SNRC) is a standing committee required by the OCA bylaws.

### COMMITTEE MANDATE

The SNRC exists to advocate, educate and provide support on issues related to children and adults of varying backgrounds, abilities and medical needs and the member camps who serve them.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To advocate for more opportunities for children and adults, of varying backgrounds, abilities and medical needs, within a range of camps from mainstream to specialized.
2. To support the OCA in presenting information to parents, private and public partners and the general public about the camping opportunities for children and adults with varying backgrounds, abilities and medical needs.
3. To support the OCA in providing awareness education training for camps and camp staff on the processes of accessibility and techniques of working with persons with varying backgrounds, abilities and medical needs, to promote inclusion.
4. To keep the camping community informed on current accessibility issues and standards as they relate to campers who have varying backgrounds, abilities and medical needs.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Celebrates the contribution of specialized camps, agencies and organizations who share expertise, resources and experience within the camping community about children and adults with varying backgrounds, abilities and medical needs.
2. Supports advocacy for inclusion by advocating for the expansion of inclusive camping opportunities for children and adults with varying backgrounds, abilities and medical needs.
3. Promotes inclusion as a way of thinking not as a specific way of doing.
4. Promotes inclusion as a process in which each child or adult is seen and respected as an individual with strengths and abilities.
5. Promotes ways to achieve successful inclusion.
6. Recognizes the process of inclusion as an ongoing journey not a destination.

### COMPOSITION

The SNRC shall consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair who are experienced representatives from the OCA membership, as well as five to ten standing members who are either representatives from the OCA membership and/or representatives from partnering organizations or agencies.

SNRC meetings are open to all OCA individual, camp, and commercial members; plus representatives from partner organizations, agencies, affiliates, and invited friends or guests. The President and Executive Director are standing guests of the SNRC.

The year kicked off with the *Campfire of Inclusion*, an opportunity for members from all OCA *Kindred Groups* to meet and discuss issues related to administration and programming for campers with exceptionalities. The large number of attendees and discussion encouraged the Committee to strengthen our commitment to advocacy, education and outreach in 2011.

**ADVOCACY:** Provided input and suggested improvements for the special needs section of the *OCA Camp Guide*. Rallied and encouraged the Board of Directors to keep the print version of the guide as a necessary resource for families of special needs' campers.

**EDUCATION:** Provided speakers and suggested topics for the annual OCA Conference in January; plus the *Health Care Conference* and *Counsellor Conference*, both held in May. Through emails, phone calls, newsletter submissions, an information session webinar and implementation training workshop, the Committee ensured all camps are informed of their legislated compliance with Ontario's new *Accessible Customer Service Standards* by January 1, 2012.

**OUTREACH:** Worked to improve camp-to-camp networking and resource sharing with regards to camper recruitment, staff training and camp administration by maintain an "open door" policy at all SNRC meetings. Examples include a demonstration on [abilityonline.org](http://abilityonline.org); sharing dates of Inclusive Recreation fairs across the province; and a new SNRC Facebook page for resource and information sharing.

The SNRC believes *camp is for everyone* and looks forward to continuing our work in 2012 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by:

TRACY MORLEY  
Chair, Special Needs Resource Committee

Sari Grossinger, Co-Chair  
& OCA Board Liaison  
Tracy Morley, Co-Chair

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Janet Arnold  
Henri Audet  
Ann Caine  
Sarah Dougald  
Julie Gallie  
Barb Gray  
Louise Kublick  
Andy McMullan  
Jennifer Wilson  
Alfredo Zelaya-Martinez.



# Standards Committee

Brian D. Edmonds, Chair

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Michael Ankenmann
- Brian Blackstock
- Marjory Booth
- Rob Crew
- Jen Dundas
- Sarah Nelles
- Sara Petker
- Marci Shea-Perry
- Eric Shendelman

## COMMITTEE MANDATE

The Standards Committee exists to support high quality and safety at member camps in accordance with best practices developed by the membership.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To provide direction and support to the accreditation program.
2. To provide training and resources to camp directors and volunteers involved in the accreditation program.
3. To work collaboratively with the Standards Review Committee to update and revise the Guidelines for Accreditation.
4. To work collaboratively with the Membership Committee to prepare and guide provisional camps towards accreditation.
5. To work collaboratively with the Board of Directors regarding legislation and other topical issues affecting the Guidelines for Accreditation or practices at member camps.
6. To make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the status of provisional and accredited camps following visits.

## COMPOSITION:

The Standards Committee shall consist of experienced representatives from all of OCA's sub-groups, and should also include wherever possible, Honorary Life and individual members.

The Chairs of the Membership and Standards Review Committees are ex-officio members of the Standards Committee. The President is a standing guest of the Standards Committee.

The year opened with the Standards Committee under Bruce Emmerton's leadership. Preparation sessions for visitors and camps to be visited took place at the January conference and in sessions in the late spring. As the summer progressed, 102 camps were visited as part of the standards and accreditation process. This massive effort was

successful due to the donation of time and talent by 77 volunteer visitors, plus another 39 first-time visitors who accompanied them. The OCA owes a great debt of gratitude to them and their camps. In July Bruce stepped down as Chair, after many years of excellent leadership. He was generous with his time at our "hand-off" meeting. He also provided a wonderful compilation of paper and electronic precedents. He left me as prepared as he possibly could have to assume the chair, which I was honoured to do.

Substantial work has taken place this fall - before, during and after Committee meetings - to process all the paperwork that resulted from the summer's visits. The folks in the OCA office did their most amazing job ever processing that paperwork and readying it for the Committee. The efforts of visitors, office staff and Committee members resulted in a long series of recommendations by the Committee to the OCA Board of Directors concerning the camps visited. The vast majority of accredited camps were re-accredited. The vast majority of provisional camps moved forward in their accreditation process.

Work is already underway on our Standards presentation for the January 2012 conference. Agenda items for the Committee's first spring meeting are also falling into place.

The OCA's standards and accreditation process would not function without the tireless efforts of the members of the Standards Committee. They are a remarkable group of camp professionals. The OCA is greatly served by their wisdom and experience. On behalf of myself, and the OCA as a whole, I would like to thank them very much.

Respectfully submitted by:

BRIAN D. EDMONDS  
Chair, Standards Committee



## Standards Revision Committee

### COMMITTEE MANDATE

The OCA Standards Revision Committee worked closely with the Standards Committee. The committee monitors current recreation practices and government legislation to ensure that the OCA standards are current.

### SUCCESSES IN 2011

- At the OCA Annual General Meeting, the OCA membership approved a number of significant changes to the OCA Standards to bring them in line with current government regulations and practices within the camping profession.
- Changes to the Small Vessel Regulations 2010-91 have resulted in the need to change the standards for the 2012 camping season.

### GOALS FOR 2012

- Continue to seek feedback from the membership regarding the standards.
- Monitor government legislation
- Communicate with the membership about any changes in the standards through the *OCAssional News*

Respectfully submitted by:

BARB GRAY

Chair, Standards Revision Committee

Barb Gray, Chair

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mark Diamond  
Anne Morawetz  
Eric Shendelman  
Bill Stevens  
Dan Wolfenden

grow into tomorrow

