



OCA Newsletter

June 2016

President's Message

Dear OCA Members,

My favourite time of year is here! I hope that your preparations for camp are going well.



The month of May was very busy at the OCA not only with events but with the continuing government lobbying work.

The Government Lobbying Committee has been working with the Federal Government regarding Temporary Foreign Workers and the Early Years Act. The Early Years

Committee had support from the Provincial Opposition Sylvia Jones, Progressive Conservative MPP, Dufferin-Caledon, in question period ([click here](#) for more information).

Bayview Glen Lower School hosted the 2016 Health Care Conference on May 14th. This year's event was an overwhelming success. More than 120 delegates registered for the event to hear Keynote Speakers Dr. Karyn Gordon and Murray Hillier, R.N., as well as speakers providing information and education on more than sixteen topics related to health care at camp. Thanks to the Society of Camp Directors' Bruno Morawetz Speaker Sponsorship, the committee was able to present Dr. Karyn Gordon. The OCA would also like to thank Bayview Glen School for providing the facility for the conference and to the Health Care Committee for their ongoing generous support! To view this event's gallery of pictures, [click here](#).

On Saturday, May 28th the Counsellor Conference was held at Camp Robin Hood. Again the response from the camps community was overwhelmingly positive with 350 camp staff in attendance. Michael Brandwein was the Keynote Speaker and there were 18 professional Session Speakers providing a variety of topics from legal issues, to games, to health related education. So much was covered that would assist camp staff in their daily work. I think it was the hottest day this year, however, everyone managed to keep cool. Thank you to Camp Robin Hood for hosting this event and to the Counsellor Conference Committee for all of their work! To view this event's gallery of pictures, [click here](#).

The Association has had a great response from the OCA Accredited Camps Membership who have provided spaces at no-charge for new Canadians. On behalf of the Summer Refugee Committee and the OCA Board, thank you again to those camps for providing spaces to all of the children and families. Day Camp spaces were filled first. The demand was so high for day camp that we contacted Municipalities and YMCAs outside of the GTA asking if they could accommodate families in Niagara, Ottawa, London, Kitchener/Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph and North Bay.

The biggest issues this year for families were as follows:

- Transportation. Many families could not afford the bus ride to the camp bus stop or camp location and then the ticket to get to their ESL classes and then back.
- Day Camp Spaces. There is a great need for more day camp spaces.
- Funding. Money for taxi services, clothes, toiletries, backpacks, etc. are needed. At this time, we have \$400.00 in donations and boxes of toothbrushes and tooth paste. The Association would like to thank the Preferred Vendors who donated funding or products to this cause. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Mark Diamond and the whole Committee are to be applauded for their inspirational idea and the camps involved in this program are also to be commended for their generosity and kindness in opening their doors to these wonderful people who have been through

so much!!

As a gentle reminder for all Members, please note the following information:

- Standards Visits begin in July and continue through to the end of August. Please mail the white copy of the Answer Sheets, completed and signed, to the OCA office within one week of the Visit.
- Membership Renewals will be **emailed to your attention on Thursday, July 28th**. Please submit your payment and complete the information in your Wild Apricot profile before **Thursday, September 29th**. ****Please note you will receive your Membership Renewal by email only this year. Membership Renewals will no longer be mailed through Canada Post.**
- Awards information and nomination forms will be attached to your Membership Renewal email. Please complete and return the nomination forms by **Friday, October 14, 2016**.
- 2017 Election information will be sent to you in September. There are six vacant positions for the Board of Directors: President (1), Vice-President (1) and four Directors (4). Further details will be sent in the fall. Please think about joining this vibrant Board!
- Mark your calendars for both the Annual General Meeting, January 17, 2017 at 3:00 pm in the Academy of Medicine Room and the Awards Dinner, on the same day at 5:30 pm in the Main Ballroom. These events will be held in the same location, the Vaughan Estates, Sunnybrook Estates, in Toronto.
- The 2017 OCA Annual Conference will take place January 25, 26, and 27, 2017 at the Hilton Toronto - Markham Suites.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please forward your information/material by September 1st to heather@ontariocamps.ca.

Have a wonderful, safe and successful summer!!

Sincerely,



Adam Kronick

Archives Committee

The Archives Committee has been working very closely with Trent University to ensure the academic world is aware of the OCA's archived materials and also to convert materials from VCR tapes to digital format.

This year Trent University published in their newsletter some interesting materials regarding the OCA.

The newsletter is available on Trent University's Archives Web site. Click on the following link and note [Issue #55](#).

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Special Needs Resource Committee

Ontario has laws to improve accessibility for people – campers, staff and visitors – with disabilities. Accessibility laws and requirements are regularly reviewed and there HAVE BEEN CHANGES that may impact YOUR CAMP.

Please [click here](#) to review accessibility requirements for your camp.

The Ontario Government announced amendments to the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service that commence July 1, 2016. For more information, [click here](#).

OCA Summer Hotline

If you need help or support in the summer please call the office or hotline for assistance.

The office number is 416-485-0425 or toll-free 1-844-485-0425, Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The hotline number is 416-708-8131 and is available 24 hours each day.



Please welcome the following new Preferred Vendors:

- Trailhead Paddle Shack – Jason Yarrington
E: jason@trailheadpaddleshack.ca
W: trailheadpaddleshack.ca
- G&L Printing and Promotional Services - Jason Smith / Jim Haas
E: camps@spotmarketing.ca
W: spotmarketing.ca
- Easy Peasy Patches - Andrea Winarski
E: andrea@easypeasypatches.com
W: EasyPeasyPatches.com

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