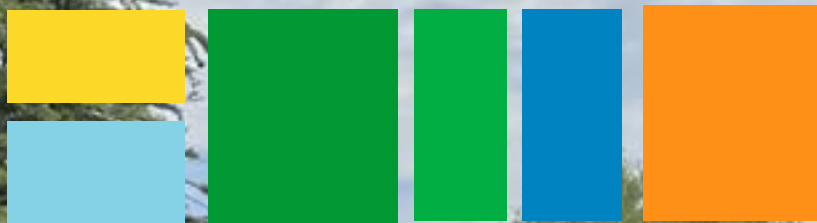


**ONTARIO CAMPS
ASSOCIATION**

Annual Report 2022-2023



Board of Directors

Dave Newnham, President,
YMCA of Southwestern Ontario

Jennifer Jupp, Vice President,
Camp Wenonah and Wenonah Outdoors

Kelly Matthews, Vice President,
OCA Individual Member

Jesse Kronick, Secretary/Treasurer,
Camp White Pine

Matthew Bernardo, Director,
Camp Wabikon

Gord Dunlop, Director,
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Dana McDade, Director,
Camp Otterdale

Rankin Middlebrook, Director,
Harbourfront Centre Camps

Eva Peringer, Director,
University of Toronto

Evan Roth, Director,
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Mike Sladden, Director,
Camp Pathfinder

Michael Waxman, Director,
Preferred Vendor

OCA Staff

Joy Levy,
Executive Director

Alexandra Houston,
Marketing & Events Manager

Rose Attard,
Membership Manager

Lea Randall,
Marketing & Events Associate

Rob Crew,
Project Specialist

Elana Davis,
Bookkeeper

Jenna Purther,
Special Events Associate

Kevin Browne,
Operations Assistant

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Photographs shared in this Annual Report were generously shared by the following camps:

Bayview Glen Camp, McMaster Camps Program, Moorelands Camp, Camp Oconto, Camp Wenonah and Wenonah Outdoors.

At OCA, we strive for accuracy, but errors can occur. If there is an error or omission, please let the office team know. We apologize in advance.

Message from the President



As we reflect on an exciting year for camping in Ontario, I hope this message finds you well. While we all continue to emerge from the profound impacts of the pandemic, we are all encouraged to think about the thousands of children and families who are looking back on their wonderful memories of day camp and overnight camp this year at our OCA Member camps.

As I enter my second year as President, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the experiences we've shared thus far.

First and foremost, a warm thank you to each one of you and our dedicated volunteers. Your passion and commitment have made our events, educational initiatives, and accreditation processes not just successful, but truly memorable. It's heartening to witness the continued impact we have as an association.

Celebrating 90 years is not just a testament to our history but a reflection of the enduring spirit and dedication within our membership. Each of you plays a vital role in shaping the legacy of the Ontario Camps Association, and I am honoured to continue this journey with such a remarkable group of individuals.

Now, let's talk about the exciting road ahead! I'm thrilled to share that, as we enter my second year, we are embarking on a strategic planning process with the invaluable guidance of sagecomm. Together, we're setting our sights on the future, and your insights and collaboration will be instrumental in steering our course.

A special note of appreciation goes out to our professional staff at the Ontario Camps Association office. Their unwavering dedication makes all the difference, and their collaboration and positive partnership with our hardworking volunteers continue to be the backbone of our organization. In particular, I want to highlight Joy Levy, our remarkable Executive Director. Joy's integrity, and caring leadership have been especially important in fostering a professional and supportive environment within our association. I eagerly anticipate the adventures that lie ahead with her continued guidance and dedication.

To every one of our OCA Members, I want to express my genuine thanks for your support and participation. Your involvement ensures that the Ontario Camps Association remains not just a network but a family—a source of strength for our industry.

As I embark on my second year as your President, I want to convey how truly honoured I am to continue serving you all. Let's build on the successes over the past nine decades, and continue to support our member camps as they create transformative experiences and enable more children and families to benefit from the joy and growth that camp brings into their lives.

Thank you for your continued commitment, and for the privilege of serving this incredible OCA community.

Warm regards,

Dave Newnham

Executive Director's Message



As I reflect on the past year, I look at it as a year of gratitude and growth with new opportunities around each corner. To be able to say that the COVID-19 Global Pandemic is behind us brings with it an opportunity to catch our breaths. Time and time again, I think about our member operations who pivoted, closed temporarily or permanently, and those whose health were impacted physically and or mentally. The OCA was a huge element of support during these unprecedented times, and we will continue to be here for our members, but now in new ways.

This past summer the team fielded an average of 24-36 inquiries per week which were directly associated with questions regarding standards and/or standards visits, concerns, and queries about general operations. We also had an opportunity to get outdoors this summer and convene our summer camp tours, witnessing the magic of camp in person. We travelled over 2000 km and visited nine Member camps extending from the downtown Toronto core to up north in the Lake Temagami region. These visits provide the team with an opportunity to bond with our Members, while having a short boots-on-the-ground experience, and bearing witness to the numerous smiling faces and happy staff and campers.

As you read through this year's Annual Report you will learn about numerous ways the OCA team is involved and supporting our committees and operations in different capacities.

The OCA would not be who we are today if we did not have a dedicated Board Of Directors. I wanted to extend my gratitude to the entire OCA Board who have contributed countless hours to our association. Serving on a Board is a huge commitment and comes with its own challenges, and I am grateful for your time and energy. Additionally, it has been a pleasure to work with Dave Newnham, OCA President. Dave has taken on this role with such dedication, grace and integrity, and simply said it has been a wonderful experience. Thank you!

I have said this before and I will say it again, the OCA Team are some of the unsung heroes. The extent of care, professionalism, and grit each one of them exudes is to be admired. They go to numerous extents to support our members, volunteers and working committees which is simply remarkable. They are a results-oriented team, that works towards a common vision, and on behalf of the OCA, I am grateful! Rose, Rob, Lea, Elana, Jenna, Kevin and Alex, please know how proud I am that you are a member of the OCA team and without question, our members and all stakeholders would extend similar sentiments!

"Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it" (Jack Canfield). As we embark on a strategic plan, and many new endeavours in the year ahead, I am looking forward to the future, while grateful for the past.

Yours in camping,

Joy Levy

The OCA has continued to work hard to support our Members. Here are some key metrics from 2022-2023!

OCA is always looking to informational and insightful professional developmet opportunities. We hosted several professional developement events, on topics such as:

Risk Emergency and Crisis; Consent at Camp; Family Camp; Preferred Vendors; Mental Health First Aid; Young(ish) & Emerging Professionals; and Safe Medication Administration.



The summer of 2023, the OCA Team travelled across the province for a total of 2000 km to visit NINE different camps!





Treasurer's Message

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jesse Kronick, Secretary/Treasurer,
Camp White Pine

Rob Carmichael, CampBrain

Brandon McClounie, YMCA Cedar Glen
Outdoor Education Centre

Leon Muszynski, HLM, Camp Arowhon

The finance committee is always committed to supporting the OCA in its decisions and ensuring it is in a good financial place. Over the past few years, there have been many events that have thrown curve balls into the ongoing financial cycle for the organization. The finance committee has worked together to provide the best advice to the Board throughout those challenges and we are proud that the organization is in a great place today.

This year was very strong financially. Camps are mostly back to regular business, and we had a profitable conference as we finally got back to an in-person event. The main focuses for our committee going forward are monitoring investing strategies, creating long-term sustainability in the budget, and reviewing our financial policies and structures to always improve and do what's best for our Members.

Rob, Leon and Brandon come with a wealth of knowledge and diverse backgrounds. They have given so much to the OCA and always have the best interest of the organization in mind. I feel very lucky to work with them.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jesse Kronick



Annual Conference Committee

Our reimagined vision for OCA [Re] Connects, endorsed by the OCA Board of Directors in 2019, was put on hold in 2021 and 2022 until we were finally able to return to an in-person event in 2023.

The OCA Annual Conference was held March 30 and 31, 2023 at Mississauga's Living Arts Centre. OCA Conference days are always very busy and full of tremendous opportunities for learning and engagement. The 2023 Conference was no exception.

Overall Conference attendance was the highest in 23 years; clearly demonstrating the desire of the OCA camping community to come together once again in-person following the pandemic.

OCA [Re] Connects saw an overall count of 2,261 delegates attending the Opening Plenary, 3 Mini Keynotes, 61 workshops and 5 Friday Forums (dedicated to specific topics and kindred groups).

In 2023, we celebrated OCA's 90th Anniversary with a number of terrific initiatives, including a video series of vignettes, led by a stellar committee of OCA Honorary Life Members.

We were especially pleased to welcome back our Preferred Vendors to an in-person Exhibitor Show and to celebrate the huge contributions of several outstanding OCA leaders at our annual OCA Awards Evening.

Very special thanks to the entire 2023 OCA [Re] Connects Team:

Co-Chairs: Jeff Bradshaw (Camp Wenonah) & Joy Levy (OCA)

Operations/Logistics: Alex Houston (OCA), Rob Crew (OCA) & Rose Attard (OCA)

Stream Chairs:

- The Business Of Camp - Josh Bradshaw (CampBrain)
- The Camper - Jordanna Grossinger (Camp Robin Hood)
- Equity & Diversity - Emma Roberts (Camp Kawartha)
- Industry Sustainability - Jen Dundas (Camp Couchiching)
- Mental Health - Jennifer Prendergast (The Expert Talk)
- OCA - Eva Peringer (University Of Toronto)
- Outdoor Education Centres & Providers - Marissa Straatsma (YMCA Cedar Glen)
- Program - Kevin Lindner (University Of Guelph)
- Staff Engagement - Beth & Travis Allison (Go Camp Pro)
- Support - Erin Sunstrum (Camp Wanapitei)
- Trending Topics - Thomas Appleyard (Camp Safety Network)

90th Anniversary Committee: John Jorgenson (HLM), Diane Blair (HLM), Patti Thom (Camp Tanamakoon), Catherine Ross (HLM) and Jane McCutcheon (HLM)

Opening Plenary: Sol Birenbaum (Camp Walden)

OCA Awards Evening: Howie Grossinger (Camp Robin Hood) and Eric Shendelman (Shendy's Swim School)

We look forward to the continued evolution of the OCA Connects conference model in February 2024 at a new venue (BMO IFL) and with a new generation of Conference Chairs leading the way (Jordanna Grossinger, Rachel Kent and Fraser "Tito" McQuat).

Respectfully submitted by:

Joy Levy and Jeff Bradshaw

Archives Committee



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Diane Blair, Chair, HLM

Margaret Bernardo, HLM

Liz Greenway, HLM, Past President,
Tapawingo: YWCA (retired)

Marilee MacFarlane, HLM

Catherine Ross, HLM

Patti Thom, HLM, Camp Tanamakoon

I would like to thank the Archives Committee, Trent University and OCA Members for their continued support of OCA Archives as an invaluable resource of our rich history.

For the past few years, the Archives Committee has focused on four priorities (celebrating, donating, creating and accessing OCA Archives at Trent) with the common goals of enhancing awareness and broadening the involvement of the OCA community in our history and archives collection. In 2023, as opportunities further opened after COVID-19, the Archives Committee was able to resume some of its regular activities. However, recognizing the ongoing financial burden of the pandemic, our objective was also to multi-task and focus on a few projects that helped promote our priorities, all at once, with limited or no funds. In that spirit, these projects included:

- Combining efforts of OCA 90th sub-committee with Archives and Community Engagement for a special OCA 90th Anniversary Hub room at OCA ReConnects. The Hub theme, 90 years of Strength & Resilience, celebrated nine decades of OCA camps, leaders and their challenges and achievements through displays selected from a wealth of OCA archive material, a special 90th video, and capturing current stories and reflections from delegates about the past three years of COVID-19. A special thanks to Trent Archivist, Karen Suurtamm, the Archives Committee and 90th sub-committee and many delegates who contributed to The Hub, video creation, and COVID stories, all of which were donated to Trent Archives. The COVID stories will also be the basis for an Archives project to capture and create digital archives for Trent in 2024.
- Archives Committee OCA 'storeroom' records donation and visit to Trent – thank you to the Archives Committee for the hours of sorting through old boxes of OCA office and donated records held at the OCA office, which we 'hand delivered' to Trent, followed by an insightful day of research and learning about OCA's archive collection and expanding digital repository opportunities at Trent.

Highlights of our 2024 activities and how YOU can take part!

- Celebrating our history – visit The Hub at OCA Connects 2024 and explore 'Wisdom and Innovation Across Generations' through displays provided by OCA camps celebrating a special milestone this year, as well as the OCA's archives collection at Trent. Also, don't miss this opportunity to chat 1:1 with some of OCA's own HLMs and with Trent's Head Archivist.



Archives Committee

- Donating Archives – whether you're celebrating a milestone or not, you're invited to bring your camp memorabilia to The Hub to share and donate them to Trent during or after the conference. Also, need help capturing your camp's history? Ask about our 'Quick Guides' for tips on camp archiving and how to make use of the archive collection at Trent for your special anniversary (...and how to donate or share your records with Trent).
- Creating Archives – be part of our 'Covid & Camp' digital album project by sharing your reflections in a video snapshot or a recorded chat with a committee volunteer in The Hub, or contact us to set up an interview. The Committee is also resuming digital audio archive interviewing of all HLMs. If you've not been interviewed and would like to set up a time, please contact Diane. Discover over 35 years and 400 hours of OCA leaders' insights available in the OCA Archives at Trent!
- Archive Access – in addition to The Hub, discover more about OCA's history on a new online platform! The Archives Committee is working with Trent to help make selected OCA community and member camp digital records and publications available online through Trent's Digital Repository. Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted by:

Diane Blair



Awards Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Newnham, Chair, HLM, YMCA of Southwestern Ontario

Patti Thom, HLM, Tanamakoon

Liz Greenway, HLM, Past President, Tapawingo: YWCA

The OCA Awards are an important tradition at OCA, and help us share the volunteer spirit and the tremendous contributions that our members bring to our Association. Recognizing the outstanding contributions of our Members is a genuine celebration of our OCA community, and our committee is dedicated to continuing to express our respect and appreciation to those who have made such important contributions.

ONLINE RECOGNITION IN 2023

This year, we're delighted to announce that we've added detailed descriptions of awards and recipients on [our website](#). We invite you to take a moment to read about the exceptional individuals who have made a difference in the camping community.

NOMINATIONS UPDATE

We're grateful for the nominations we received in 2023. Your nominations are the heart and soul of the Awards program and make it all possible.

SAVE THE DATE

Excitement is building as we approach the Conference Banquet on February 14, 2024. Join us as we look forward to celebrating and appreciating the achievements of our deserving Awards recipients this year!

JOIN THE TEAM

The Ontario Camps Association Awards Committee is on the lookout for new members. If you have a passion for camping and would like to contribute to this important work, we welcome you to join our team as a volunteer. Your involvement will help us continue to shine a light on the exceptional contributions within our community.

Thank you and congratulations to every Award recipient – past and present!

Respectfully submitted by:

Dave Newnham

Community Engagement Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patti Thom, Chair, HLM, Camp Tanamakoon

Michael Bakker, Kids in Camp

Matthew Bernardo, Camp Wabikon

Margaret Bernardo, HLM, Camp Wabikon

Sam Butcher, Onondaga Camp

Veronica Fine, The Hollows Camp

Jessica Green, Tanamakoon

Jay Haddad, HLM, Camp Nokomis

John Jorgenson, HLM, Camp Tawingo

Ellen Nash, HLM

Mike Stewart, Camp Wenonah and Wenonah Outdoors

Jen White, Camp Manitou

The Committee has had a quiet few years. However our HLMs have remained an integral focus for our efforts through COVID-19. Some of the highlights of the committee's work included:

- OCA Conference Hub, Awards Dinner and Hosting at Events
 - The Committee worked alongside the Archives Committee to provide an amazing Hub at the Conference. The 90th Anniversary was an opportunity to showcase the 90 year history of OCA. The involvement and support from Trent Archives was incredible. Community Engagement and Archives hosted two very busy days at the Conference where we interacted with lots of interested delegates. The two Committees along with Trent Archives also hosted a workshop on how to celebrate and record your history at camp.
- Spring Tea for HLMs
 - A spring tea was organized by several HLMs and hosted at the home of Jocelyn Palm. Over 30 attendees came and reminisced their camping stories. The house was filled with old friends, laughter, photos and singing! We were very fortunate to have Henri Audet attend with his guitar and incredible voice. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all!
- Community Engagement Committee Tree
 - Each member of our committee was assigned to keep in touch with specific HLMs. One of the main goals of our outreach is to help HLMs keep in touch with OCA and with each other. Committee members contact HLMs three times per year.
- 2024 Plans are underway! We continue to be in touch with our HLMs on a regular basis. They do appreciate the phone calls and direct contact.
- Community Engagement and Archives will once again join efforts for the upcoming Conference.

The perseverance and creativity of this committee continues! 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. Under our mandate we believe that the future of OCA engagement and community will be sustainable and can thrive.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patti Thom



Educational Research Report

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stephen Fine, Chair, The Hollows Camp

RESEARCH PRESENTATION AT OCA [RE] CONNECTS 2023

In March of 2023, myself (Stephen Fine), along with Victoria Povilaitis, Ph.D., Director of Program Innovation for Tim Hortons Foundation Camps, and Mandi Baker, Ph.D., Brock University, gave a presentation at the OCA [Re] Connects conference. The presentation outlined various ways to approach camp related research and included: logistical support for students, paid support for research assistantships, community engagement agreements, and OCA independent research. The session was well attended, and a lively discussion ensued. A listing of current camp research along with associated briefing papers can be accessed through the updated CCA website [here](#).

The community members of the OCA Educational Research network are committed to advancement and assistance in the pursuit of camp related research. Camp directors should canvas their staff who are currently active as students at the university level to consider the submission of grant proposals or departmental approval in the interest of further research into the variety of options existing within the camp experience and camp settings.

CCA UPDATE AND RESEARCH WRITING AWARD

As of late September 2023, the CCA continues with its Reorganization and Strategic Planning process. A three-day CCA gathering of PCAs, and Committee Chairs took place in Montreal during this time to collect face-to-face feedback after a year of scheduled Zoom calls. A great deal of alignment both in terms of direction-setting and in dealing with complex issues was achieved. Members of the Research Committee currently remain intact, however, there were no submissions for the CCA/Trent University Research Prize for 2023.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephen Fine



Elections Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jeff Bradshaw, Chair, HLM, Camp Wenonah and Wenonah Outdoors

Joy Levy, OCA Executive Director

Howie Grossinger, Camp Robin Hood

Eric Shendelman, Shendy's Swim School

The 2022 Elections Committee oversaw the election of seven members to the OCA Board to serve during the 2023/2024 term:

President

Dave Newnham (HLM, YMCA Southwestern Ontario)

Vice President

Kelly Matthews (OCA Individual Member)

Treasurer

Jesse Kronick (Camp White Pine)

Directors

Matthew Bernardo (Camp Wabikon)

Gord Dunlop (YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka)

Rankin Middlebrook (Harbourfront Centre Camps)

Michael Waxman (Preferred Vendor)

OCA Board members who will finish their terms of office in 2023 include: Jennifer "JJ" Jupp (Camp Wenonah), Dana McDade (Camp Otterdale), Eva Peringer (University of Toronto), Evan Roth (Crestwood Valley Day Camp) and Mike Sladden (Camp Pathfinder).

Many thanks to all the Members who voted in the 2023/2024 OCA Board election cycle. We were pleased with the enthusiasm and engagement that our membership once again demonstrated.

Thanks especially to all those who let their names

stand this year as Board candidates. We are constantly amazed at the depth of talent, skills, and experiences of each annual slate of potential Board members.

And a special acknowledgement, as always, to our OCA Office team for their support of the annual OCA Board Election process (led by Rose Attard, who was tremendous in administering the online election).

Finally, deep appreciation to the members of the OCA Elections Committee (OCA Past Presidents Howie Grossinger and Eric Shendelman and OCA Executive Director Joy Levy) for their ongoing leadership.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jeff Bradshaw



Government Advocacy Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Diamond, Co-Chair, HLM, Camp Manitou

Jonathan Nyquist, Co-Chair, Camp Canada Inc.

The Government Advocacy Committee has been busy with a number of important topics that have a direct impact on our industry. We have continued to focus our efforts on securing an affordable and easy-to-navigate immigration process for support workers from outside of Canada who are interested in working at overnight camps. This would include, but not be limited to, individuals who want to work as maintenance, kitchen, dining hall and cleaning staff at camp. We met with the Director of the Temporary Foreign Worker program on this matter at the end of August and provided him with some additional requested information. We are waiting to hear back on this matter and we will communicate any significant developments to the membership.

We are also connecting with the Ontario Ministry of Labour's office to see if international staffing agencies that operate in the camping industry in Ontario can be exempt from having to secure a recruiter license. This exemption is in place in Quebec and Manitoba and we will be requesting an exemption on similar grounds.

Our goal for 2024 is to secure an easy-to-navigate and affordable immigration process in place for international support workers working at overnight camps.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Diamond and Jonathan Nyquist



Health Care Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michelle Colomvakos, Chair,
Camp Robin Hood

Kathleen Bochsler, Tim Hortons
Foundation Camp

Heather Chambers, Easter Seals
Canada

Morgan Chidley, Easter Seals Camps

Dr. Sebastian Diebel, Camp Manitou,
Bay of Islands

Autumn Elzinga, Camp Pathfinder

Cassidy Gilmore, Camp Walden

Chanie Mandelbaum, Camp Ramah

Dr. Phyllis McCord, Camp Wenonah and
Wenonah Outdoors

Suzanne Piche, Camp Arowhon

Nancy Vandenberg, Camp Wenonah
and Wenonah Outdoors

The OCA Health Care Committee (HCC) worked diligently to enhance the safety and well-being of campers and staff. Notable accomplishments include a successful partnership with Concussion 360, resulting in the development of camp-specific concussion guidelines for both day and overnight camp settings. Additionally, the committee engaged with the camp community through coffee chats, hosted a Lunch and Learn session on Medication Management at Camp, conducted health center staff online check-ins during the summer, and successfully recruited new members, broadening the expertise and perspectives within the committee.

As we transition into the new year, the OCA Health Care Committee has outlined ambitious goals to further elevate health standards within the camp community. The committee aims to provide enhanced mental health resources, including the evaluation of existing resources, surveying camp staff to determine needs, and expanding resources based on the identified gaps. A Trauma Informed Care Webinar will be hosted to educate camp staff on recognizing and responding to trauma. This event aims to enhance our understanding of how to provide optimal support to both campers and staff during challenging times, especially when they have experienced adversity. The committee will also assess mental health intake processes, working towards the creation of a comprehensive Mental Health Emergency Action Plan. Additionally,

efforts will be directed towards the transition to online camp documentation, involving the use of virtual platforms and electronic documentation. Collaboration with CampBrain and CampMinder will be sought to explore logistics for remote camps gaining online access, and staff will be trained on the benefits and safety highlights of utilizing an electronic documentation system for the Health Center.

This year, we also bid farewell to longstanding and dedicated committee members: Bev Unger, Pearl Pell, and Cheryl Bernknopf. Their invaluable contributions throughout many years of volunteering their time, knowledge, and expertise on the OCA Health Committee have significantly shaped our pursuits. We look forward to honouring their longstanding commitment in the near future and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. The OCA Health Care Committee remains grateful for their lasting impact and contributions to the camp community.

The OCA Health Care Committee looks forward to a year of continued progress, collaboration, and innovation within the OCA.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle Colomvakos



Health Conference Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michelle Colomvakos, Chair, Camp Robin Hood

Cheryl Bernknopf, HLM, Camp Ramah in Canada

Bev Unger, HLM, Camp Robin Hood

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2022-2023

The 2023 Health Conference organized by the Health Conference Committee was a resounding success, with approximately 70 attendees, taking place on May 7 at the Living Arts Center in Mississauga. The conference featured a diverse range of sessions, each designed to address critical aspects of health management within the camp environment. Attendees benefited from expert insights and interactive discussions on various topics, including Mental Health Management at Camp, The State of Inclusion in Camps, Health Care Providers and Employers partnership dynamics, Concussion Management with insights from Concussion 360, Managing Musculoskeletal Injuries, Sun Awareness by Melanoma Canada, Self-Care for Health Care Practitioners, Safety, Flexibility, and Inclusivity for Campers with Type 1 Diabetes by Charles Best Diabetes Center, Anaphylaxis in the Camp Setting, Cardiac Emergencies with Eric "Shendy" Shendelman, and an insightful session on addressing the Opioid Crisis at camps with Naloxone availability. Dr. Laura Waltman covered Common Illnesses and Injuries at Camp, providing a comprehensive overview.

GOALS 2023 -2024

Moving into the 2024 Health Conference, our goal is to continue providing valuable resources on trending and hot topics within the camp health world. We are actively seeking a facility that fosters a more intimate setting, allowing for enhanced networking and community building. The focus for the upcoming conference is to bring together camp professionals in director roles and health center staff to collaborate, educate, and build a stronger network within the camp community. We aspire to create an environment that encourages open dialogue, shared expertise, and collective growth, ensuring that the Health Conference remains a cornerstone event for advancing health standards in the camp industry. We look forward to another year of enriching discussions and collaborative efforts in the pursuit of excellence in camp health and safety.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle Colomvakos



Ongoing Member Education Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Erin Sunstrum, Chair, Individual Member

Gord Dunlop, YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Rob Crew, HLM, OCA Staff

David Borsook, YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Kevin Linder, University of Guelph Gryphons
Summer Camp

Joy Levy, OCA Executive Director

Ali Nagthall, The Ivy

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2022- 2023

With a lot of support from the OCA office team, OMEC was able to put out a request for proposal in support of mental health first aid training early in the new year. In the spring, we welcomed Suzanne Ross (Camp Safety Network) as a facilitator for a Mental Health First Aid course. We had over 25 people attend over the two day course.

LOOKING FORWARD

OMEC's largest challenge has been committee involvement. Three members made the decision to either step away or step back from leadership roles on the committee heading into next year. This includes current chair, Erin Sunstrum, who finished her two-year term at the end of October. With the Strategic Plan now underway, the committee is hitting pause and will regroup in the coming months. In the interim ongoing education will continue to be supported via the office operations.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erin Sunstrum

Outdoor Education Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Scott Creed, Co-Chair, Camp Muskoka

John Hannat, Co-Chair, Camp Tamarack

Andre Amiro, Camp Arowhon

Bonnie Anderson, Simcoe County District School Board

Joe Cebulski, YMCA of Southwestern Ontario

Kevin Churchill, Elite Camps Outdoor Leadership Centre

Kyle Clarke, Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario

Jen Cockburn, City of Richmond Hill

Rob Crew, HLM, OCA Staff

Jen Dundas, Camp Couchiching

Alain Faucon, OPHEA

Daniel Ficca, Flaghouse Physical Education & Special Needs Equipment

Joe Fortin, Bark Lake Leadership and Conference Centre

Emma Gibson-Bray, Individual Member

Stephane Giroux, OPHEA

Darryl Gray, Toronto Region Conservation Authority

Jasmine Green, Toronto Region Conservation Authority

Josh Harney, Trails Youth

Nicole Hamley, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

David Hawker-Budlovsky, Toronto District School Board

Ryan Howard, ALIVE Outdoors

Gavin Hull, Onondaga Camp

Jane Ibister, Outward Bound Canada

Mark Johnson, Tim Hortons® Foundation Camps

Jeff Johnstone, Hockey Opportunity Camp

Paul Luciani, Campfire Circle - Rainbow Lake

Brandon McClounie, YMCA Cedar Glen Outdoor Education Centre

Mac MacIntosh, Camp Tawingo

Tanya Murray, York Region District School Board

Michael Naumoff, Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology

Adrian O'Driscoll, Toronto Region Conservation Authority

Maria Paterson, Bark Lake Leadership and Conference Centre

Maria Paterson, OBC

Shannon M. Pole, Individual Member

Jackie Pye, Camp Kandalore

Michelle Roberts, Cairn Family of Camps: Glen Mhor & Iona

Robin Squires, BLG LLP

Marissa Straatsma, YMCA Cedar Glen Outdoor Education Centre

Laura Swan, Lambton Centre

Jimmy Vincent, Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology

Robert Wallis, Outward Bound Canada

Diana Wilson, Toronto Region Conservation Authority

Mike Zynkie, Camp Muskoka



Outdoor Education Committee

Over the last year, the Outdoor Education Committee has made an effort to bring in the perspectives of school boards and other relevant organizations. Through our meetings, the Committee has facilitated discussions between representatives from outdoor centres and these groups. We are particularly grateful to our representatives from OPHEA, TDSB, SCDSB, and YRDSB, who have joined/remained on the committee and continue to offer helpful insights and contribute to great conversation. Through these conversations in our meetings, we have been able to offer varied perspectives to committee members who are facing challenges but also been able to pinpoint particular industry-wide challenges and opportunities to address them.

Moving forward we wish to continue building these connections, fostering conversation and working to further our work in the initiatives set out in our Terms of Reference:

Obtaining a greater understanding of Outdoor Education providers within OCAs membership, and outside OCAs membership, to better advocate and promote on their behalf. One of the ways the committee will do this is to circulate a baseline survey to go to OCA Membership, to create an Outdoor Education Kindred Group and establish a resource database and network specific to Outdoor Education.

Enhance existing standards as they pertain to Outdoor Education and establish new standards in conjunction with the Standards Committee and Standards Review Committee. This will not only begin to address the unique facets like Risk Management for our sector but also better align with other industry guidelines and best practices making it easier for schools and other organizations to choose OCA-accredited Outdoor Education Centres.

Develop rich outdoor education professional development content for the annual conference and share outdoor education-specific training opportunities happening across the membership.

We would like to thank all stakeholders for continuing to support and provide their expertise in all aspects of Outdoor Education, within and outside of this committee. If anyone else would like to join the committee, please reach out.

Respectfully submitted by:

Scott Creed and John Hannant-Minchel

Preferred Vendors Committee



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Craig McPhail, Co-Chair,
Just Direct Promotions

Bruce Phillips, Co-Chair, Dialcom
Communications Limited

Thank you to the OCA team for your continued support of the OCA Preferred Vendors. There is no other Association that is as invested in the success of its Vendor Partners. This year saw a change of venue for the Annual Conference and yet another successful event. I would like to thank Bruce Phillips, Chair of the Committee for his leadership and support of myself and all the Preferred OCA Vendors.

This coming year we look forward to another great conference in February at the new venue at BMO IFL. We look forward to continuing to help make this event the best it can be by hosting our annual vendor training/ Q&A session before the show to assist vendors in making the best of the conference. If there are vendors that have not participated in the vendor part of the conference before, please do not hesitate to reach out. Bruce or I would be more than happy to explain the amazing benefits of participation.

Respectfully submitted by:

Bruce Phillips and Craig McPhail



Standards Accreditation Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Heather Davidson, Co-Chair, City of Hamilton

Mark (Cricket) Johnson, Co-Chair, Tim Hortons® Foundation Camps

Rose Attard, OCA Staff

Christina Bossart, Hidden Lake Leadership Camp

Matthew Bernardo, Camp Wabikon

Rob Crew, HLM, OCA Staff

Jen Dundas, Camp Couchiching

Julie Gallie, City of Toronto

Rankin Middlebrook, Harbourfront Centre Day Camps

Katie Moncrieffe, C.Y.O. Camp Brebeuf

Michelle Roberts, Cairn Family of Camps

Evan Roth, Crestwood Valley Day Camp

Mike Sladden, Camp Pathfinder

Simon Wolle, Camp Northland-B'nai Brith

HIGHLIGHTS of 2022-2023

Of the 88 Accreditation visits that were scheduled to take place this year, 84 were completed and four were deferred to 2024. The four deferments were for reasons of internal camp operations.

The amazing team of OCA visitors included 67 wonderful Senior Visitors and 45 fantastic Junior and Introductory Visitors. Additionally, 22 other visitors who had originally been assigned camps to visit were unable to take part in camp visits due to scheduling conflicts.

The committee would like to highlight that the high number of Junior Visitors is likely a harbinger of increased engagement in the OCA in the years to come.

Thank you to the OCA office team, the committee members, our many volunteer visitors, and our member camp representatives whose hard work and dedication to this process make it all possible.

GOALS 2023-2024

The online training videos continue to receive great feedback. The committee seeks continued improvement to Standards Visit training by grouping videos by the intended audience. Some videos are more valuable to a camp professional who is new to Standards Accreditation, and some videos may be more appropriate to a camp professional for whom this is not new. And, of course, there are Goldilocks videos that are just right for anyone.

The committee looks forward to reviewing the relationship, timelines and mutual goals shared with Standards Review and to working collectively to streamline processes moving forward to ensure an efficient and coherent standards experience for membership.

The committee strives to increase the engagement of those who are at the beginning of their camp careers in Ontario by providing opportunities for them to contribute to the success of other camps by becoming accreditation visitors.

The committee aims to streamline the visitor-camp matching process through a close examination of Ontario's summer travel geography and visitor distribution.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heather Davidson and Mark Johnson

Standards Review Committee



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rankin Middlebrook, Chair,
Harbourfront Centre Camps

Thomas Appleyard, Thomas Appleyard
Consulting & Facilitation

Steve Archibald, Medeba Summer Camp

Rose Attard, OCA Staff

David Borsook, Moorelands Camp

Janet Cottreau, Red Pine Camp

Rob Crew, HLM, OCA Staff

Heather Davidson, City of Hamilton

Jen Dundas, Camp Couchiching

Amanda Grassick, Girl Guides of Canada

John Hissink, Camp Outlook

Mike Sladden, Camp Pathfinder

Brendan Turner, Sparrow Lake Camp:
United Church

Simon Wolle, Camp Northland-B'nai Brith

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2022-2023


- Critical path is a useful tool for communication with members and the board, adhering to the schedule is proving difficult – committee member availability and follow through is a challenge.
- Successful Standards changes in 2023.
- Decreased committee members who are actively participating in the process.
- Town Halls continue to be a linchpin of this process.

GOALS 2023-2024

- Annual review proceeding apace.
- Increased transparency, communication and general membership participation (ongoing).
- Reformatted structure proposed for standards focusing on camps filling out sections that are only relevant to their type of operation: Day Camp, Overnight Camp, Outdoor Centre, and Rental Groups.
- Family Camp will be a separate segment for 2024.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rankin Middlebrook



Young(ish) & Emerging Camp Professionals

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jordanna Grossinger, Chair,
Camp Robin Hood

Earlier this year, a group of young professionals started to meet by Zoom. Together we formed an ‘emerging camp pro’ network that we affectionately call the Young(ish) & Emerging Camp Professionals Group. Our hope was and still is to create opportunities to meet other people who can relate to the joys and challenges many up-and-coming camp professionals experience in our day-to-day lives.

What do we mean by “Young(ish)”? Well, Many new and emerging camp directors will fall in the (loosely) 25-35 year old age range. So, if you are “young” or “young at heart”, consider yourself very welcome to attend our monthly meetings.

Since the group’s inception in Spring 2023, we have had four virtual meetings over Zoom. Over the course of these meetings, we’ve had over 40 attendees. Some attend regularly, others pop in for whichever meetings suit their schedule. As far as the profile of attendees, they have ranged in role/position (i.e. directors, program directors, administrators, assistant directors, head counsellors, etc...), type of program (i.e. overnight camp, day camp, outdoor education centre, etc...) and even contracted time in their position (i.e. part-time and full-time). Attendees have represented member camps as well as preferred vendors. So far in our meetings, we have discussed relevant topics related to the camp industry and our roles, shared experiences and resources, and brainstormed ideas together.

These meetings have served as a wonderful casual, professional networking space for emerging camp professionals and we hope to continue to engage with this group on a monthly basis through the continuation of virtual meetings and hopefully some in-person meet-ups. Beyond the meaningful relationships being fostered, our hope is that these conversations also motivate an eagerness for attendees to get more involved in the professional and volunteer aspects of the industry!

Respectfully submitted by:

Jordanna Grossinger



In Memoriam

Doreen Kronick

Doreen Kronick passed away on June 22, 2023. She was 91 years old. Doreen lived a beautiful, full life. She devoted her life to helping children with learning disabilities. She was a leader in the field. She started the Canadian Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, Integra Foundation, and Camp Towhee. She was a professor, author of many books and lectured around the world.

Doreen directed Camp Towhee for 8 years and spent over 60 years at Camp White Pine working with her husband Joe impacting the lives of thousands. Her love of camp life along with her passion to help those in need will stay with us forever.



Thank you to Our 2023 Standards Visitors

**This summer our
incredible Standards
Visitors visited**

84

**camps and outdoor
educations centres!**

Gerry Adam, Huron
Jodie Adams, Amici Camping Charity
David Allen, R.K.Y. Camp
Katelyn Austriaco,
Matthew Bernardo, Wabikon
Don Bocking, Ponacka
David Borsook, Moorelands Camp
Christina Bossart, Hidden Bay Leadership Camp
Lauren Burke, Quality
Eugene Chong, CNIB
Paige Clark, Pathfinder
Seth Cole, Camp Walden
Karen Cornies, Silver Lake Mennonite Camp
Rob Crew, HLM, OCA Staff
Gillian Crouse, Tim Hortons Foundation
Rob Deman, Kennebec
Meg Doherty, Ekon
Joe Douglas, Stevenson Childrens Camp
Elyse Duchesne, Kennebec
Jen Dundas, Couchiching

David Finkelstein, Arrowhead Day Camp
Julie Gallie, City of Toronto
Darlee Gerrard, U of T Engineering
Justin Gerson, Canadian Adventure Camp
Anna Gerson, Canadian Adventure Camp
Sharon Gluzberg, Eden Woods Overnight Camp
Jack Goodman, New Moon
Amanda Grassick, Girl Guides of Canada
Adam Grin, Winning Techniques
Howie Grossinger, Camp Robin Hood
Sari Grossinger, Camp Robin Hood
John Hannant-Minchel, Tamarack
Harley Hayman, Timberlane/The Ivy
Rob Heming, HLM
Steve Heming, HLM
Brittany Higgins, Harbourfront Centre
Ellen Howard, Tamarack
Rick Howard, Tamarack
Gavin Hull, Onondaga Camp
Cheryl Hurst, City of Hamilton
Scotia Hutton, Rotary YMCA Camp Presqu'ile
David Jeffries, Taylor Statten Camps
Mark Johnson, Tim Hortons Foundation
Maeyken Jones, Willowgrove
JJ Jupp, Wenonah
Jeff Kahn, Tamarack
Rachel Kent, YMCA Southwestern Ontario
Victoria Kerekesch, Camp Kidaca - City of Hamilton
AJ Leeming, Ways of the Woods
Sarah Leitch, Disciples Conference Grounds
Michelle Leone, Brock University Camps
Joy Levy, OCA Staff
Kim Link, Rideau Hill Camp: United Church
Lauren Linklater, Diabetes Canada
Keith Lockhart,

Graham MacLellan, Onondaga Camp
Scott Matheson, Celtic
Brandon McClounie, YMCA Greater Toronto
Theresa McDonald-Lee, Kintail
Grant McKenna, Nominique
Kevin McLaughlin, Hockey Opportunity Camp
Fraser McQuat, Wenonah
Dana McQuade,
Rankin Middlebrook, Harbourfront Centre Camps
Katie Moncrieffe, CYO Camp Brebeuf
Anne Morawetz, Ponacka
Tracy Morley, Awakening
Brendan Morris, Olympia Sports Camp
D'Arcy Munn, RKY Camp
Ellen Nash, HLM
Bruce Nashman, Wahanowin
Mike Naumoff, Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology
Shelagh O'Neill, Kintail
Colleen Pakkidis, Adventure Camp
Darren Patterson, Pioneer Camp Ontario
Mike Pearse, Tawingo
Tia Pearse, Tawingo
Eva Peringer, University of Toronto - Engineering
Alex Perrin, Kettleby Valley Camp & Outdoor Education Centre
Clayton Paters, Menestung: United Church
Stephen Polevoy, HLM
Becca Prewitt, Northway and Wendigo
Keith Rashid, Easter Seals Canada
Joe Richards, Pearce Williams: United Church
Steve Richardson, Circle Square Ranch
Evan Roth, Crestwood Valley Day Camp
Katie Runions, YMCA John Island Camp
Kelley Ruys de Perz, Cedar Ridge Camp



Thank you to Our 2023 Standards Visitors

Kate Savage, Easter Seals Camp Merrywood

Emily Schoelzel, Keewaydin Camp

Donna Segal, Kennebec

Aaron Shaughnessy, Capital Camps

Devan Shimada, Ways of the Woods

Matt Singer, Individual Member

Mike Sladden, Pathfinder

Megan Snape, Branksome Hall

Robin Squires, Preferred Vendor

Clay Stephens, Northwaters & Langskib: Canoe Trips

Allyesa Stewart, Autism Ontario - Niagara

Sam Stovel, Quality Northwestern

Marissa Straatsma, YMCA of Greater Toronto

Lynda Tilley, Moorelands

Ryan Terpstra, Kahquah

Jennifer Turliuk, MakerKids

Brendan Turner, Sparrow Lake Camp: United Church

Allison Tyne, Medeba Summer Camp

Rodney Vis, Kwasind

Jen White, Manitou

Wendell White, HLM

Maya Willis, Wilvaken

Dave Willis, Wilvaken

Dori Wilner, Township of King

Lisa Wilson, Oconto

Jeff Wilson, Manitou

Jay Wolkoff, Richmond Hill Country Club Day Camp

Simon Wolle, Northland B'nai-Brith

Woody Eoin Wood, Wenonah

Jenny Wyatt, Appleby Camps

April Young, Maple Leaf

Jodie Zehr, U-Turn Ranch



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