



OPAction Newsletter

March
2023



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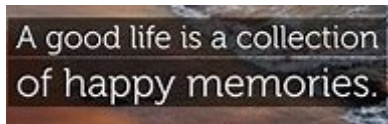
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**Registrations
Are Open For 2023 Camping Season!**
Register online now for Spring OPA Campout,
Campvention and Fall OPA.

**Memories & Making Them
Spring OPA**

The Meandering Mohawks have been hard at work to provide campers with a memorable weekend on May 19-22.

Details on pages 2 & 3.



**Corny Country Camping
Fall OPA**

The Sarnia 4Ts and the Tri-County Travellers are preparing a fun weekend at the Bridgen Fairgrounds September 1-4.

Details on page 7



Campvention 2023

“A Rose by Any Other Name is FCRV”

July 9-14, 2023

Richmond, Indiana

Details on page 8

OPA Voting Delegates Meeting Highlights

Amendments to the OPA Constitution & By-laws Receive Approval.
Details on page 4.



Amendments to Campout Guidelines to be voted on at Next OPA Voting Delegates Meeting May 21, 2023.
Details on page 9



Message From FCRV President Gerry Pfirsich.
See page 4.





SPRING OPA CAMPOUT

“Memories & Making Them”

Hosted by Meandering Mohawks



A Trip Down Memory Lane

Tables will be set up for chapters to display memorabilia from past campouts. If you have any decals, pins, photographs, programs etc from past campouts please bring them along for a display. Another “blast from the past” will be the resurrection of the *Spring Camper Cook* contest. See below for details.

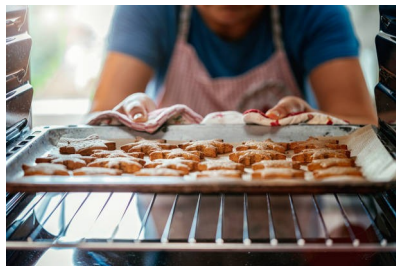


Making New Memories

The Meandering Mohawks are hard at work finding ways to make this campout truly memorable. They are setting up an optional *“Poker Run”* to encourage campers to hop in their cars/trucks and drive around the area to visit the local museums, shops and other attractions. Each participating attraction will distribute playing cards. At the end of the day, the camper with the best “poker hand” based on the cards collected, will win a prize. How fun is that?!



Spring Camper Cook Contest



Rules: Campers are encouraged to bake up their “favourite childhood cookie recipe” and submit 3 cookies per recipe for a contest. Three judges will be recruited from the community to establish the tastiest cookies. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.



Extra cookies will be gratefully received for evening Hospitalitys.



Not Registered Yet?

When: May 19-22, 2023. Early bird May 18

Where: Harriston Recreational Centre,
111 George Street South, Harriston, Ontario
N0G 1Z0

Price: \$120

Early Bird day \$25

Registration: Online opafcrv.ca. Click on
“Events”. Choose “Spring OPA”. Fill in the
registration form. Pay online using your credit
card.

Door Prizes

Donations of Door Prizes are appreciated by
the Meandering Mohawks.



Campers Own Church Service

On Sunday morning, campers will once again be
inspired and entertained by “The Singing Priest”,
Father Mark Curtis. An offering will be taken
for the local food bank.



Dump-Assist on Monday Morning

Members of the Meandering Mohawks will be on
hand Monday morning to empty your black & grey
water tanks so you can be on your way.



Campfire Sing-along

Nothing says “camping” like the sounds of the crackling fire
and the voices of campers joined in singing some age-old
songs. Memories are sure to be stirred up as the Meandering
Mohawks bring us an old fashioned campfire sing-along.



LET'S EAT

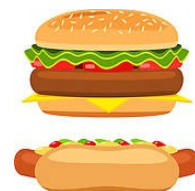
Campers love to eat, and Spring OPA 2023 will not disappoint.

Saturday Church Supper: For those folks
who have tickets to the Harriston United
Church supper, a short walk or drive to the
church will satisfy the hungriest camper.
Tickets are \$25/person. Order your tickets
online along with your registration form.



Sunday Poor Boy Lunch

Bring along some cash and enjoy a freshly grilled
hamburger or hotdog on Sunday at noon, just
prior to the Voting Delegates Meeting. Cold
drinks will also be available to purchase.



Ice Cream Sundaes on Sunday

After the Voting Delegates meeting, ice cream
sundaes will be sold for \$2.50.each. Proceeds will
be given to the Scholarship Fund.



Greetings From FCRV President Gerry Pfrisch

President Jack Smye was pleased to welcome FCRV President Gerry Pfrisch to the OPA Voting Delegates Zoom meeting on March 5, 2023. Gerry brought greetings from the International Trustees. He reported that, just like OPA, the Trustees were busy updating their field manual. Any Director who has not yet commented upon their “job description” should do so immediately by emailing any suggested changes to Linda Hennie at GLR4FCRV@aol.com. The Trustees are also reviewing their current Alcohol & Drug Policy. Gerry encouraged OPA members to attend the 2023 Campvention this summer in Richmond, Illinois. (More details found on page 8).



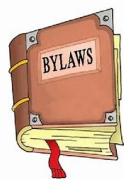
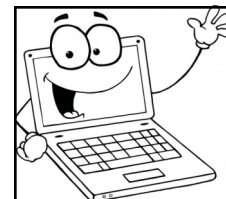
FCRV International News

Membership Database: The new FCRV membership database allows Regional, State & Provincial Directors to see the entire membership list as well as having the ability to filter out only their own respective State/Province. The numbers are seen “in real time” with no delays. Directors can make corrections in the “comment” section for the webmaster to change on the database.

Camping Today Magazine: The FCRV office will no longer print & mail paper copies of Camping Today magazine as they have done in the past for a yearly fee. Therefore, if any member requires a paper copy of this free online magazine, they can pay someone in their chapter to print it off for them instead. Or they can go to the public library and read the free online version.

Chapter Gmail Accounts: There are still some chapters who do not yet have a designated “chapter gmail” account. Personal emails are not accepted. The chapter email should be listed as the chapter name followed by gmail.com. (for example meanderingmohawks@gmail.com or tricountrytravellers@gmail.com). The following chapters still need to set up a gmail account.

Golden Wanderers, Ruf’n’Ready, Wandering Canadians, Halton Fireflies, & Brantford Sundowners.



Highlights From Voting Delegates Meeting Sunday March 5, 2023

Amendments to OPA Constitution & By-laws

As our membership declined, many aspects of our by-laws have become outdated and unnecessary. A review committee prepared a number of proposed amendments which were emailed to every member via e-blast prior to the March 5, 2023 meeting.

At the March 5, 2023 meeting, the proposed amendments were approved by a 2/3 majority as per our Constitution.

5/8 chapter delegates approved. (1 abstained, 2 absent)

10/11 executive delegates approved

8/11 committee chairs approved

Membership Update

As of March 1, 2023

FCRV International.....	1814
Ontario Membership.....	110
OPA Membership.....	83
OPA chapters.....	8

Membership Recruitment

The London RV Show took place February 17-20th at the Agriplex in London. We were fortunate to have good weather and greeted many visitors over the 4 days. Almost 300 brochures were handed out and registration forms were available at all times for OPA camping functions. We received very positive response from those who stopped at our display.

Webmaster's Report

The website continues to evolve.

The four events scheduled for this season are in a rotation on the opening page and they all include the appropriate registration pages.

I have recently figured out how to populate the printable registration forms to the website which are now located under Camping Today + Printable Registration Forms.

The preference is that our members register online so the OPA can continue to keep track of your current information. The printable forms should really only be used so as to have a copy of the event details but, we understand that some members still want to use the printable forms.

If I ever figure out how to have them attached to the online registration forms I will move them to that location but for now, they are at least on the website.

We are getting some activity on the membership information page that is encouraging.

We encourage our members to continue handing out the OPA Flyers and business cards that have been provided at the various campouts. There are more available, just ask for them.

I'm open to suggestions, if you have an appropriate idea to include on our site but please bear in mind, this is an information site not a gossip platform, in other words it's not a Facebook type of vehicle.

I'm still looking for chapter photographs from Ruff n Ready, Sarnia 4 T's, Brantford Sundowners, Golden Wanders and the Wandering Canadians. Thank you to the other chapters for sending in their photos.

Remember, when you go back to the website after a previous visit, please refresh your browser otherwise you could be viewing old information as the site is fluid, and is continually updated.

Webmaster Dave Warrington



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dave Skillings reported that as of Jan. 1, 2023 the bank balance was \$16810.64

GIC value was\$15734.98

Total Assets\$32 545.62

(This includes \$1820.44 Teen Association funds and \$251.00 "Pull-Tab" funds.)



Recording Secretary Position Still Open

Thanks to Lynn Lochbihler for volunteering to take the minutes at the March 5, 2023 Voting Delegates Meeting!!!

This Position is still open for a permanent volunteer. Contact Jack Smye or Lynn Acre if you need more details.



Next OPAVD May 21, 2023

Plan to attend the next voting delegates meeting in Harriston, Ontario when delegates will be discussing and voting on the proposed amendments to the current OPA Campout Guidelines. Copies of the proposed amendments have been emailed to all members. Things that are proposed to be deleted have been crossed out and things proposed to be added are highlighted in yellow.

See page 8 for more details.

Membership Awards

Ontario Membership Director Rudy & Sharon Sandau will be presenting Membership Awards for those FCRV members who will be reaching milestone anniversaries at the May 21, 2023 Voting Delegates Meeting.





OPA DECEASED MEMBERS IN 2022

Let us remember the following 15 members/former members of OPA



Date	Name	Chapter	City
January	Robert Reily	Independent	Mt. Bridges
March	Betty Kila	Provincial Director 1987-92 Oxford Rovers	Woodstock
March	Lorne Douglas	FCRV VP of Programs OPA Past President Sarnia 4 T's	Petrolia
April	Barry Stinson	former Bruce County Camper	Wingham
May	Lorne Longley	Sarnia 4T's	Sarnia
?	Bill Daly	Brantford Sundowners	Pt.Rowan
?	Joanne Dymack	former Wallaceburg Pull Kats	Wallaceburg
?	Jim Hoover	former Norfolk Drifters	Simcoe
June	Diane Record	former Ont. DAT Director Former King of the Road	Cambridge
June	Peter Flemming	former Happy Gang	Guelph
June	Ken Reavely	former London Bobbies	London
?	Clint Wilson	former Ausable River Nomads	Exeter
?	Bill Yule	former Ausable River Nomads	Lucan
October	Ruth Eckhardt	Independent	Simcoe
November	Bob Hughes	Provincial Director 1973-1987	Hamilton

***Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard but always near
Still loved, still missed and very dear.***





Fall OPA Campout 2023
 Hosted by Sarnia 4Ts & Tri-County Travellers



CORNY COUNTRY CAMPING

When: September 1—4, 2023
 Early Bird Day Aug. 31, 2023

What's Happening:

Where: Brigden Fairgrounds
 2435 Courtright Line,
 Brigden, Ontario
 N0N 1B0



Free Corn Boil



Campfire



Corny Card Bingo



Cost: \$125/ unit with 2 people
 Early Bird day \$25 extra



Corn hole Tournament Corny



Corny Jokes



Live Entertainment



Ice Cream Social

Registration: Online at opafrv.ca. Click on "Events", then click on "Fall OPA". Fill in the registration form.. Pay online with your credit card by going to opafinancial@gmail.com.



Free Dump Station:
 There is a onsite dump station at Brigden fairgrounds.



Come join us
 for some
 down-home
 Corny Country
 Camping!





When: Sunday July 9—Friday July 14, 2023
Early bird days: Friday July 7 & Saturday July 8

Where: Wayne County Fairgrounds & Expo Center
 861 Salisbury Road,
 Richmond, Indiana,
 47374

Registration: Register online. PDF forms are available for printing.

Price: \$335/one family in unit July 9-14 \$150/extra family in unit July 9-14
 \$175/week pass for “drive-in” July 9-14 \$ 30/person/day “walk-in” pass
 All prices are in U.S. Funds June 1, 2023 is the deadline for Pre-registration
 Register online at fcrv.org. PDF forms available for those wishing to print them off. Pay online with credit/debit/paypal or by check with U.S. Bank account.

Hospitalities Instead of the traditional “shake a hand, grab a cookie and leave” type of hospitality, this year’s Campvention Team is encouraging hosts to make all hospitalities into an “Event” of some sort, with games or entertainment or activities to engage the attendees. So put on your “Thinking Cap” Ontario and let’s come up with something memorable.

Caravan/Travelong Jack Smye is willing to arrange a caravan trip to Richmond, Indiana. He is also willing to research and plan for some extra camping in the area before Campvention. If you are interested in this, contact Jack at slsmye@sympatico.ca

Activities

- Line dancing
- Bingo
- Bean Bag Baseball
- Card Bingo
- Euchre
- Balloon Volleyball
- Bowling
- Golf

Contests

- Wildlife Photography Contest
- Bird House Contest
- Conservation Poster Contest
- “Camping Is” Poster Contest
- Washer Toss
- Horseshoes
- Ladder Golf
- Site Decorating

Parades

The traditional State/Province parades will take place again this year. Entries can be “motorized” or simply a “walking entry”.

Pet Parade

If you have a pet, you can dress them up and enter them into the contest. See details online (theme, categories etc.)

Humanitarian Efforts

Bring laprobes to donate to local charities
 Crochet, knit, quilted or store bought
 Wheelchair size—27” X 36”
 Large size—45” X 60”
 Medium—30” X 60”
 Small—36” X 45”
 Donations of non-perishable food will be collected for the local food bank.

**Red Hat Luncheon
 Hard Hat Luncheon
 No Hat Luncheon**

Everyone likes to eat and there will be opportunity for you to meet someone new and enjoy a meal at the luncheons during Campvention. Tickets available during registration.

Teen’s TP “Insurance” Raffle

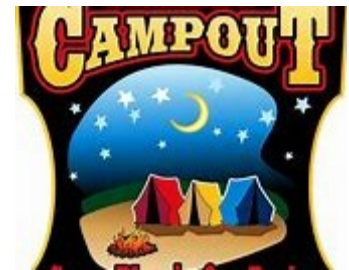
A fun way for the Teens to raise funds for their association is to sell raffle tickets on a number of donated items. These raffle tickets are also “Insurance” to protect your RV from getting TP’s during Campvention. It also gives the teens experience in handling money and gets them to mingle with the adults while selling tickets.

OPA Campout Guidelines To be Amended

The Review Committee has examined the existing OPA Campout Guidelines and have found many that are either outdated or no longer necessary. They have submitted a number of proposed amendments.

Any parts that are proposed to be deleted have been crossed out, but you can still read what was previously there so you can determine whether or not you agree with each deletion. Any parts that are proposed to be added are highlighted in yellow to make them easy to find. Many parts have been “shelved” meaning they have been moved to the end of the document and could be “dusted off and reintroduced” at a later time.

Every OPA member should have received an email copy of these proposed amendments so that they may read them over and advise their voting delegate of their opinion. Voting delegates will have the final discussion and vote on these amendments at the May 21, 2023 voting delegates meeting in Harriston. Plan to be there.



Message from the Editor

Thank you to everyone who has sent an email, made a phone call, sent a Get Well card or said a prayer on my behalf during my recent surgery and recovery.

A diagnosis of Cancer strikes fear into even the bravest of people and it's worse if you're already settled in for the winter somewhere warm and sunny.

Thanks to the prayers of many, we had a safe trip home from southern Texas in early February. A series of tests were squeezed into the remaining weeks before the surgery date of March 3rd.

After a 5 hour surgery, I was left with only half of my colon, 6 incisions in my belly and a total of 26 staples. I was hospitalized for 6 days, then sent home for a 6 week recovery.

I am happy to report that I am improving at a steady rate. My stamina is not yet back to normal and so the publication of this edition of OPAAction is later than I would have liked.

I encourage everyone to take a FIT test (fecal immunochemical test) for colon cancer. I had absolutely no symptoms and was not sick in any way. If not for the early detection of my cancerous polyp, it might not have been found until it was too late for treatment.

Lew & I look forward to seeing you all at Spring OPA in Harriston.

Lynn Acre

