

OPAction Newsletter

May 2023



Spring Conservation Projects



OPA members open the annual Trout Fishing Derby at Springwater Conservation Authority. Details on pages 2 & 3.



OPA members work at Attawandaron Scout Camp during a spring clean up event. Details on page 4

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Spring OPA Campout

MEMORIES & MAKING THEM



Forty-two sites were occupied at the Harriston Community Centre grounds on the Victoria Day weekend for the 2023 Spring OPA Campout. See details on pages 6 - 17.





Annual Trout Fishing Derby Opens April 22, 2023 At Springwater Conservation Authority



Members of the Tri-County Travellers & the Sarnia 4Ts assisted on the opening weekend of the annual Trout Fishing Derby held May 22 & 23 at the Springwater Conservation Park west of Aylmer, Ontario.

Pictured above from left to right: Dave Skillings, John Scott, John Waite, Adele Waite, Robert Chamberlain, Karen Chamberlain, Karen Chatfield, Connie Skillings, Brian Chatfield, Lynn Acre, Lew Acre. Missing are Rudy & Sharon Sandau.



Each member worked at least two, 2-3 hour shifts each day. Their job was to collect \$10 from each person over the age of 14 who came to enter the derby. Pictured above on left: John Scott works a shift at the north entrance to the Park while pictured right, Brian & Karen Chatfield work a shift on the south side of the pond.



Free camping and free firewood was the only compensation for these hardy campers.





Despite the wet and chilly April weather, many ardent fisher-folk braved the elements to cast their lines into the waters of the Springwater Pond.



This father-son duo went home with fresh trout for supper.



When not working a shift selling day passes, some campers kept warm by picking up garbage and fallen branches within the Park. Pictured above Dave Skillings gathers up wet garbage.

Attawandaron Scout Camp

Spring Cleanup



Thirteen folks from the Tri-County Travellers and the Sarnia 4T's gathered at the Attawandaron Scout Camp in April to clean up deadwood in the forest, cut it into chunks, split it into pieces and then stack it in a shed to be sold later by the Scout Camp as a means of revenue. Pictured above left: Dave Skillings (kneeling) and Lew Acre split large pieces. Centre: Rudy Sandau & Lew Acre split smaller pieces. Right: Proof of their efforts.



It wasn't all hard labour though. The group found time to sit around the constantly burning campfire and to share potluck meals inside the Beaver Lodge.

Pictured above, around the table from left to right: Sharon Sandau, Lew Acre, Karen Chatfield, Connie Skillings, Faye Swanburg, MJ Ryan, Terry Swanburg, Don Johnson, Dave Skillings, Brian Chatfield, Rudy Sandau. (Not shown is Lynn Acre because she was taking the photo & Mabel Douglas.) Centre photo: Sharon and Mabel's dog "Cooper" enjoy a campfire.

Right photo: MJ flees from the smoke as Lew & Connie watch.

A Living Memorial to Lorne Douglas

Barbara Skipper and her son Jacob delivered a 14-foot tulip tree to the Attawandaron Scout Camp during the Spring Cleanup. Everyone pitched in to dig the hole, unwrap the tree, plant and water the tree, add mulch and then protect the tree with plastic fencing. Lorne Douglas was a big supporter of the Scout Camp and he especially liked the rare tulip trees found there.



Right: Sharon found herself on the wrong side of the fence once it was erected. But don't worry....she was able to crawl out the bottom.



Spring OPA Campout

At Harriston, Ontario

May 19 –22,2023

Chairpersons Lynn & Herb Lochbihler welcomed campers as they arrived to the 2023 Memories & Making Them Spring OPA campout. About a dozen units showed up for the early bird day. Inside the Hall, tables were soon filled with all sorts of memorabilia from days gone by. Items included scrapbooks filled with photos & write-ups, vests covered in decals, wall hangings covered with decals, plaques, flags, buttons, records of past campouts, Campvention booklets and old OPAction Newsletters. Friday night's Opening Ceremony included a powerpoint presentation by Jack Smye which listed past Teen Royalty, past Provincial Directors, past award winners and many photos from the website's archives & photo gallery.



*The best thing about
Memories
is making them*



Friday Night Entertainment
Popcorn and a movie were enjoyed after Opening Ceremonies on Friday night. Campers giggled and gasped at the antics throughout the movie "RV" starring Robin Williams.



Spring Camper Cook Contest



Early Saturday morning, hopeful bakers showed up with their entries for the Spring Camper Cook contest. There were 20 entries in all. Judges from the local United Church helped to determine the winners. Shown above left: Shelley Scott submits her entry while Ruth Tazair looks on. Above right: Mary Brown and her daughter Karin Reily organized the contest. Extra cookies donated from the contest were served for “Hospitality” later that day.



Mary Brown (above left) announced the winners on Saturday night.
Fifth place: Emily Brown
Fourth place Karin Brown Reily.
Third Place: Shelley Scott (shown above middle).
Second place: Karen Chatfield (shown above right)



First Prize Winner

Connie Skillings won first prize for her cookie entry. She received a lovely gift basket and her name will be added to the official plaque.



Washer Toss Tournament



Paul & Linda Levesque (shown top left) signed up about a dozen players for the washer toss tournament on a misty, cool Saturday morning.



After 5 games, the winners were Lynn Acre and Jerry Finkbeiner(shown left)



Ice Cream Sundaes

Saturday afternoon Ice Cream sundaes were sold to raise funds for the Harriston Food Bank.



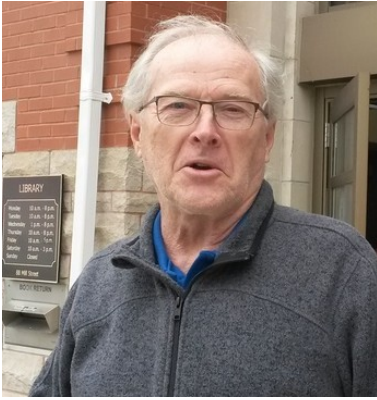
Shown left, Dave Skillings slices up the ice cream while Connie Skillings collects the money.

Shown right, Adele Waite, Gloria White & Helen Finkbeiner stand ready to add tasty toppings to the ice cream.



Historical Walking Tour of Harriston

On Saturday afternoon at 1 pm, a group of campers met with historian Mark MacKenzie, in front of the Harriston library. Mark took the group on a walking tour along the main street pointing out the historical significance of many buildings. Pictured below are some of the notable sites; a colourful mural on the wall of the cinema, a memorial for those who served in WWI & WWII, the library and the original town hall.





Pop Tab Collection

Tim, Marilyn & Wayne Rosenberger (shown left) were on hand on Saturday afternoon to receive & weigh pop tabs from the membership. A total of 56 pounds of tabs plus some crushed cans were received. Wayne has already given OPA Treasurer \$361.50 from previously collected cans/tabs/cash. Collection of tabs/cans will continue until 2025 when they will be given to Ronald MacDonald House Charities.



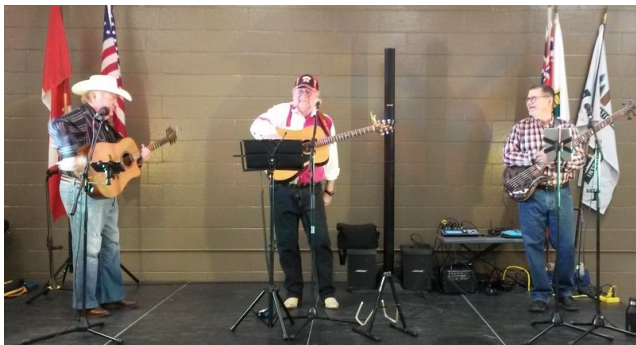
Welcome First Timers!!



Karin Reily brought her friend Betty Anne Clift (shown above left) and Helen Kowal brought along her friend Hilary Wrathall. (Shown above right) Both ladies enjoyed the campout and participated in several events.

Saturday Night Entertainment

Jim Beach and His Band brought back fond memories for the campers as they played & sang Country and Pop songs from days gone by.



Campers Own Church Service



Father Mark Curtis, “The Singing Priest”, poured blessings onto the campers through his music and his message. Father Mark reminded us that life is a balance and we all need time to work, time to play and time to pray. Camping is a blessing because we become refreshed. This will change our attitude, which will change our actions, which eventually can change the world. Father Mark reminded us that we are Christ’s “business cards”. We might be the only “bible” others will ever read. So ...smile, be kind, be positive. “When you complain, you remain. When you praise— you raise. Pain is a given—misery is optional.” Anyone wishing to receive Father Mark’s free online “Minute Meditation” can do so by emailing him at father.mark.curtis@gmail.com



Total Donation to the Harriston Food Bank

Church Collection.....	\$ 391.35
Ice Cream sales.....	\$ 75.00
Poor Boy Lunch.....	\$ <u>180.00</u>
Total	\$ 646.35



Robert Chamberlain & Dave Skillings do the cooking.

Poor Boy Lunch

The Tri-County Travellers chapter raised money for the Harriston Food Bank by providing a “Poor Boy” BBQ’d lunch. Proceeds from the Lunch = \$ 180.00



Shelley & John Scott take the money.



Brian & Karen Chatfield hand out the food.

Hillary Wrathall, Helen Kowal & Connie Skillings wrap the burgers/hotdogs.



Highlights from OPA Voting Delegates Meeting

Sunday May 21, 2023



Roll Call

The following voting delegates were in attendance;

Chapter Delegates.....6

Executive Delegates..... 9

Committee Delegates..... 10

There was a healthy quorum present.

Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance (as of May 18, 2023)\$20,103.36

Spring OPA 2023 registrations.....—\$ 3,400.00

OPA funds..... \$16, 703.36

This amount includes;

Pop Tab funds held in trust.....\$ 251.00

Teen Assoc. Funds held in trust.....\$ 1,820.44

Other Assets:

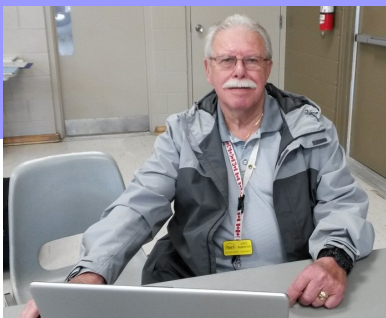
Two GICs valued at \$15,477.56

TOTAL ASSETS\$32,181.02

Webmaster's Report

Registration Forms are now available in both electronic and printable forms. To access the printable forms, click on "Camping Today+ Printable Registration Forms". You'll see listed the most recent registration forms as well as issues of Camping Today. Click on "Read Newsletter" that aligns with the registration form you need, and it will pop up. From there, just click on the printer icon at the top right hand corner of the screen and you can print the form.

Another new feature on the website is "Photo Gallery", which contains more recent photos than those in the Photo Archives. Please send photos of your chapter's events to opafcrv@gmail.com to add them to the Gallery.



Webmaster Dave Warrington

Membership Report

As of May 17, 2023

International1785

Provincial.....109

OPA.....83

Campout Coordinator's Report

Congratulations were bestowed upon the Meandering Mohawks for their wonderful campout of Memories & Making Them. The Sarnia 4Ts & the Tri-County Travellers have partnered together and are excited to present Corny Country Camping at Brigden for Fall OPA campout.

No bids yet for 2024 Spring OPA If no chapter steps forward to host, there will be NO CAMPOUT, only a voting delegates meeting.

Amendments to the Campout Guidelines

Copies of the proposed amendments had previously been emailed to every member of OPA for discussion prior to the Voting Delegates' Meeting. Two additional amendments were brought forward during the discussion. The first was to "shelf" all youth, teen & royalty activities from the campout "program outline". This amendment was approved. The second was to change the Host Chapter Compensation to a guaranteed \$1,000 . This amendment was defeated. All of the other proposed amendments as circulated were approved by a vote of 22 in favour, 2 against.

Membership Awards

50 Years

Pamela Ellis
Donna Longley

45 Years

Earl Swan
Richard & Marlyn
Stobbart

40 Years

Darlene Wiltsie
Bryan & Claudette
Sabourin

35 Years

Sylvia Powers

25 Years

Lynne & Tim Rosenberger
James & Elaine Wilsack
Dave & Sheila Turner



Pictured on right: Tim & Lynne Rosenberger, Darlene Wiltsie, Sheila & Dave Turner & Membership Director Rudy Sandau.



Scholarship Report

Donations received September 5, 2022—May 20, 2023

Memorials received from Chapters.....	\$ 90.00
Memorials received from Individuals.....	\$ 375.00
Non-memorials: Fall OPA 2022 Ice Cream sales.....	\$108.50
Fall OPA 2022 Poor Person lunch.....	\$114.00
Fall OPA donation as per budget.....	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total	<u>\$787.50</u>





In Loving Memory



Date	Name	Chapter	City
Jan.2022	Robert Reily	Independent	Mount Bridges
Mar.2022	Betty Kila	Oxford Rovers, former Prov. Dir.	Woodstock
Mar.2022	Lorne Douglas	Sarnia 4Ts, FCRV trustee, OPA Past President	Petrolia
Apr.2022	Barry Stinson	former Bruce County Camper	Wingham
May 2022	Lorne Longley	Sarnia 4 Ts	Sarnia
2022	Bill Daly	Brantford Sundowners	Port Rowan
2022	Joanne Dymock	former Wallaceburg Pull Kats	Wallaceburg
2022	Jim Hoover	former Norfolk Drifters	Simcoe
June 2022	Diane Record	former Kings of the Road & Ontario DASAT Director	Cambridge
June 2022	Peter Flemming	former Happy Gang	Guelph
June 2022	Ken Reavely	former London Bobbies	London
2022	Clint Wilson	former Ausable River Nomads	Exeter
2022	Bill Yule	former Ausable River Nomads	Lucan
Oct.2022	Ruth Eckhardt	former Independent	Simcoe
Nov.2022	Bob Hughes	former Provincial Director	Hamilton
2023	Donald Wood		
Mar.2023	Betty Willock	former Sarnia 4Ts	Sarnia
Mar.2023	Bill Henderson	former Ont. Teen Director & Retirees Field Director	London
April 2023	Roy Kemsley	former Ontario Fireflies	
July 2022	Brenda Kemsley	former Ontario Fireflies	
May 2023	Brenda Almond	Tri-County Travellers	Alberta
May 2023	Ken Sparling		
May 2023	Elaine Lecot	former Windsor Hobos	



CONGRATULATIONS

Milestone Wedding Anniversaries



Mary & Ron Brown
60 Years
Married November 3



Sheila & Dave Turner
60 Years
Married December 1



Pat & Ivan Richardson
56 Years
Married May 20



Rudy & Sharon Sandau
55 Years
Married April 20



Church Supper

Seventy-two campers attended a full course roast beef supper at the Harriston United Church on Sunday evening. Pictured right are four of the church ladies who prepared and served the meal.



Poker Run Game: Campers gathered playing cards from local participating businesses. Using the cards collected, they made the best Poker hand they could and submitted it on Sunday afternoon for a chance for a prize.



There were 27 “hands” submitted for the contest.

First Place: (5 Kings) Pat & Bob Dixon. (Shown above left)

Second Place: (5 Queens) Robert Chamberlain (shown above centre)

Third Place: (Royal Flush) Lew Acre (shown above right)



Two tables were filled with generous door prizes that were collected by the Meandering Mohawks from various businesses and individuals.

The End of a great Campout

Free coffee & donuts were provided on Monday morning in the Hall, giving campers another chance to say “farewell” until the next campout.



Members of the Meandering Mohawks provided a “hands-free” dumping service as campers lined up to depart on Monday morning.

For those already missing our great times together.....see page 18 for more opportunities to camp together.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Retiree Rally:

Monday June 12—16, 2023,

Norwich Arena, 53 Stover Street, S , Norwich, Ont.

Cost: \$160/unit includes meal package

Printable registration forms available at opafercv.ca.



63rd Campvention:

Sunday July 9—Friday July 14 (6 nights)

\$335 US/unit

Early Bird July 7 & 8 \$30 US/unit/night

861 Salisbury Road, Richmond, Indiana, 47374

Register online at fcrv.org



Fall OPA Campout:

Friday September 1—4, 2023 Early Bird Aug. 31

at Brigden Fairgrounds, 2435 Courtright Line, Brigden, Ont.

Cost: \$125/unit. Early bird \$25

Register online at opafercv.ca



Spooky Wooky:

Friday Sept. 29—Sunday Oct. 1, 2023

at 699 Norfolk County Road 28, Fairground, Ontario

Cost: \$60/unit.

Includes 15 amp power, flat grass sites,

use of building with washrooms. (no showers)

Registration forms soon to be posted at opafercv.ca



Wildlife/Conservation Announcement

After 50 years, Ontario removes bald eagles from its at-risk list.



The eagle has landed itself off the list of endangered species.

After five decades, the province has declared the bird of prey “not at risk” from its most recent status of “special concern,” said Environment Minister David Piccini.

“This is thanks to things put in place, such as banning DDTs (insecticides) which caused their eggs to be incredibly fragile ... and collective efforts we’ve made to build a more sustainable environment here,” he said Wednesday afternoon on the front lawn of Queen’s Park, where he stood with an animal handler and an 11-year-old eagle named Finigan.

“We’re delisting it ... and it’s a big win for Ontario’s bald eagles,” Piccini added. “You talk to anyone now and they’re starting to see them again.”

Experts on the independent Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario recently made the determination “and they’ve said that’s thanks to the collective efforts of the Ontario government to protect species, and so many others who have given their time and effort to create habitat to protect the species,” Piccini said.

Under successive governments, “we’ve created a safe home for the species in the province of Ontario,” he added. “It’s been decades of hard work to get where we are today.”

About 2,600 nests were documented in 2022, after reports from the 1990s of about 20 to 25.

The bald eagle — which is actually not bald, but has a white-feathered head — is found across Ontario, and nests in trees typically near larger bodies of water such as the Great Lakes, and especially in northwestern Ontario around Thunder Bay.



The OPA Corresponding Secretary has been directed to send “Congratulations” to Environment Minister David Piccini on behalf of OPA.

