



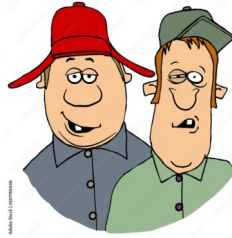
OPAction Newsletter

FALL 2024



Bubba's Redneck Campout Fall OPA

Twenty-four RVs rolled into the Brigden Fairgrounds by August 30, 2024 for the final campout of the season. Campers enjoyed Redneck games, Bubba's Bingo, Washer Toss, Ice Cream Sundaes, Bubba's Sunday Meetin', a Road kill Cafe BBQ lunch, ending in a Corn Boil and campfire. Photos and more details found on pages 3-7 and page 10.



OPA Voting Delegates Meeting Highlights

Attention! Pages 8 and 9 contain reports from our OPA Treasurer, our Membership Director, our Pull Tab Chairman, the "Five Year Plan" committee and our Campout Coordinator. See who our newly installed executive members are and who was recently awarded their 55 year membership awards. Some major changes were made at the meeting, so read all about it and stay informed.

When Chapters Go Camping.....

Check out pages 2 and 11 to see where our chapters have been camping and what they've been doing.



Blue Water Mixer "Send in the Clowns"

Nine Canadian families made the journey to Imlay City at the eastern Michigan fairgrounds for the annual Blue Water campout. There was lots of "clowning around" and laughter. See page 12 for more details and photos.



2025 International Events

It's not too early to start planning for FCRV's major events in 2025. The FCRV Retiree Rally will be held in Dothan, Alabama on March 24-30, 2025. Campvention 2025 will be held in Lebanon, Tennessee on July 20-26, 2025. Details can be found on page 13.

Inside this issue:

Chapter Campouts	2 & 11
Bubba's Redneck Campout	3-7 10
Highlights from OPA Voting Del.	8-9
Sicard's Promotion	11
Blue Water Mixer	12
FCRV Retiree Rally 2025	13
2025 Campvention	13



Promotional Efforts

See page 11 to find out who has been spreading the word about OPA and FCRV.





Attawandaron Scout Reserve

In early August, members of the Sarnia 4 T's and the Tri-County Travellers gathered once again at the Attawandaron Scout Reserve to undertake the dismantling of the wooden enclosure surrounding the garbage/recycle bins. All re-usable materials were stacked and sorted for later use.

As always, there was time for meals together and laughter and stories around the campfire.



Thunder in the Valley Concert Weekend

Eight couples from the Tri-County Travellers attended a weekend of “dry camping” and live music at the Pleasant Valley Trout Farm near Sparta on August 24th & 25th. This was a charity event with all profits going to local charities. Large campsites were available for \$50 for the weekend. An additional \$50 per person paid for 2 days of live music from 10 different bands. Complimentary firewood and fire pits were provided around the campsites as well as shuttles from the campsites down to the entertainment area. Tables & chairs were set up under large tents to shield attendees from the sun. A cash bar, food trucks and washrooms were provided at the entertainment area.

Below left: Members pose around and inside of an embellished golf cart, decorated to look like redneck “Mater” from the animated movie “Cars”. Below right: members enjoy the music under the tent.





Bubba's Redneck Campout

Sunny skies and lovely weather welcomed 24 RVs and 44 people to the 2024 Fall OPA campout in Brigden, Ont.

Friday August 30, 2024

Opening Ceremonies were held at 7 pm in the Ploughman's Diner, which was decorated in redneck style with red solo cup twinkle lights and long-johns and overalls hanging on the line. Many of the campers got into the spirit and dressed in their best redneck fashions. Following introductions by "Bubba Dale" Cull, several hands of Bubba's Card Bingo were played. Thanks to the generous donations of prizes, everyone went home with at least one prize. A tasty redneck treat of corn muffins with slices of wieners inside, cookies and Mountain Dew were served to end the evening.



Photos clockwise from top left: M.C. Bubba Dale Cull, Bubba John Scott, Lynette Acre, Decorations in the Ploughman's Diner, Sharonella Sandau, Bubba Dave Webster, Redneck Hospitality of corn muffins & Mountain Dew, Bubba's Card Bingo Prize Table, and T.C.T President Bubba Ben & Linda-lee Vandevyvere.



Saturday August 31, 2024

At 10 am on a beautiful Saturday morning, campers gathered under the trees for Bubba's Redneck games.



Jack Smye tosses one of three toilet seats towards the toilet plunger target while Don Blenkinsop watches.



Left: Don Johnson, of the Sarnia 4Ts, gets ready to chuck the chock. Above: Terry Swanburg keeps score as Diane Harris chucks a chock through the hoop. Rocky Lumley, (Aqua Jets) watches.



Rolling Pin Pitch: Sharon Sandau, of the Sarnia 4Ts, keeps score as campers throw wooden rolling pins onto a mat, attempting to land them inside the circle.



Don Lumley, of the Aqua Jets of Michigan, extended the redneck fun by leading the group in an impromptu sing-along accompanied by his banjo.



Pass The Plunger Game
Firmly squeezing a toilet plunger between their legs, participants had to hurry towards their partners and then pass them the plunger without using their hands. Some chose to meet the challenge head on, while others opted for a different approach. Above Bubba Dale Cull and his wife Angela get the job done. Couples were timed and the fastest pass won the relay.

And the Winners Are.....



Toilet Seat Toss: 29 Participants. Connie Skillings won with 6 points. She won RV toilet paper.

Chuck the Chocks: 27 participants. Lew Acre won a bottle of Mountain Dew. He had 6 points.

Rolling Pin Pitch: 26 participated. Adele Waite won a bottle of Mountain Dew. She had 5 points.

Pass the Plunger Relay: 22 participants. Second prize with 18 seconds was Dave & Connie Skillings and first prize with 14 seconds was Lew & Lynn Acre. Both won a box of Twinkies.

Washer Toss



On Saturday afternoon a Washer Toss Tournament was run by Lew Acre.

Twenty-eight people participated.

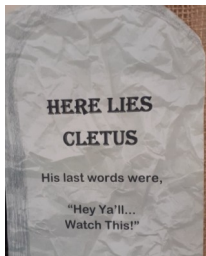
First place winners were Robert Chamberlain and John Waite, (shown below left) who each won a redneck wine glass.

Second place runners up were Terry Swanburg & Diane Harris (shown below right) who each won a roll of Duct Tape.



Ice Cream Sundaes

Saturday's fun continued at 3 pm with the sale of ice cream sundaes. Dave & Connie Skillings and helpers served up delicious ice cream sundaes which raised \$45 for the local food bank.



Entertainment

Left: Joan Spalding, from Wyoming, Ontario played her guitar and sang some original and some well-known songs to entertain the campers.



Right: Lew & Lynn Acre dance to "Crystal Chandeliers"



Left: Lynn shakes her fist at Bubba Dale when he cuts in on her dance partner. Right: Adele Waite helps to serve up some juicy sweet watermelon for another redneck treat.





Bubba's Sunday Meetin'

September 1, 2024

1. *Ain't but one God.*
2. *Honer yer Ma and Pa.*
3. *No tellin' tales or gossipin'.*
4. *Git your hide to Sunday meetin'.*
5. *Aint' nutin' come before the Lord.*
6. *No foolin' with another feller's gal.*
7. *No killin', 'sept for critters.*
8. *Quit yer foul mouthin'.*
9. *No swipin' yer kin folk's stuff.*
10. *Don't be hankerin' for it neither.*

About 40 campers congregated in the Diner for Bubba's Redneck Sunday Meetin'. Lynn Acre presented the Redneck 10 Commandments and spoke about their relevance for today's world.

Don Lumley played his guitar and led the singing of two hymns.

A collection was taken for the local food bank, which totaled \$202.

Bubba's Roadkill Cafe BBQ Lunch "You Kill it....We Grill it"



After church, the Redneck crew rustled up some tasty grub for the hungry crowd. Although they may have been expecting possum potpie and raccoon kabobs, they were happy to gobble down hamburgers and hotdogs with fried onions and a cold drink. The profits from the sale of the lunch totaled \$80 which was raised for the local food bank.

Pictured above left to right: Dave Skillings fries up onions while Don Lumley supervises from afar; Connie Skillings, Adele Waite & Karen Chamberlain assemble the burgers & hotdogs; Ben Vandevyvere handles the cash; Karen Chatfield & Camy Hicks hand out the wrapped food; and finally two hungry campers—Sharon Sandau & Don Johnson add condiments to their burgers before chowing down.



Highlights of OPA Voting Delegates Meeting

Sunday September 1, 2024

1:00 pm



Membership

FCRV International.....	1690
Region 7.....	95
Ontario.....	83
OPA members.....	55

Quorum was achieved with 4/5 chapter delegates + 8/10 executive delegates + 11 committee chairman delegates present.

Treasurer's Report

As of Aug. 28, 2024

Bank Balance.....	\$21, 303.70
Minus following held in trust;	
Income Fall OPA 2024.....	\$2,350.00
Pull Tab collection.....	\$1,280.90
Teen Association.....	\$1,820.44
Actual OPA Balance.....	\$15,852.80
GICs.....	+ \$ 15,825.94
OPA Total Assets.....	\$ 31,678.74

Pull Tab Report

From May 14 till Aug. 26, 2024 Wayne Rosenberger collected 146 lb tabs/cans + 562 beer cans = \$206.95. This brings Wayne's total to \$1,544.35 which is held in trust by OPA.

At the Treasurer's suggestion, the voting delegates decided to donate an additional \$ 2,455.65 from our current bank balance, making a grand total of \$4,000 which will be sent immediately to Ronald McDonald House.

Based on the dwindling participation of our shrinking membership, it was also decided to discontinue the official OPA collection of cans/tabs. Wayne will continue in an unofficial capacity with no formal reports but will still accept donations at any time.

Website Report

Webmaster Dave Warrington noted that the OPA Webpage includes direct links to FCRV's Camping Today magazine. It also has Archive photos and back issues of OPAction Newsletters. It has information on upcoming campouts along with registration forms that can either be printed out or completed online.

Future Campout Changes

Campout Coordinator Shelley Scott triggered a lively discussion regarding the future of our OPA campouts based on our current membership and lifestyles. It was decided that we will hold future OPA campouts during the week, either before or after the Victoria Day week-end and the Labour Day weekend. Regular campgrounds with better services will be considered if they have enough open sites.

Five Year Plan Committee

Opinions previously gathered from the membership through an online survey revealed that more money should be spent to finance retention & recruitment strategies. To that end, it was duly moved and seconded that we allocate \$5,000 from our current bank balance to be used for retaining existing members and recruiting new members.

Installation of Officers September 2024– September 2026



The 2024-2026 OPA Executive Officers shown left to right above are;

Jack Smye: Recording Secretary

Lew Acre: President

Dave Skillings: Treasurer

Mike & Ruth Taziar: Vice President

* Although absent, Darlene Wiltsie remains as Corresponding Secretary for the next term.

Membership Awards

Membership Director Rudy Sandau, assisted by Provincial Director Lynn Acre, presented 55 year, 50 year, 45 year and 25 year Membership Awards.

55 Years

David & Marie Wilkes
Dave Webster
Donna Kennett
Lyn Sparling

50 Years

Marg Henderson

45 Years

Rolland & Lise
Boisvenue

25 Years

Randy & Katherine
Stoner



Rudy Sandau and Lynn Acre present Certificates for 55 Years of Membership to Dave Webster (left) and Dave Wilkes (right)



Bubba's Cornboil & Campfire



Many hands make light work, as campout organizers shuck 7 dozen cobs of corn. The corn was placed inside 2 insulated coolers. Then boiling water was added, the lid closed for 30 minutes and the result was perfectly cooked corn.



Below left, Bubba Lew butters up his 5th cob of corn, Bubba Dale attempts to eat corn with missing teeth and Bubba J tries not to drip butter on his white shirt.



Nothing draws together campers more than a cheerful, crackling campfire and a talented fellow strumming a guitar. The Redneck campout ended on Sunday evening around the campfire, where Don & Rocky Lumley led in a sing-along. Old familiar songs, pop songs from our youth, funny songs, silly songs, songs with musical instruments and songs with special effect sounds.

Happy sounds ending a happy campout.



Promotional Open House at Sicards in Smithville, Ontario



Left: Lew Acre & Alan Donovan each took a turn promoting FCRV and OPA at an Open House sponsored by Sicards RV in Smithville, Ontario. The Open House ran from Friday September 13 until Sunday September 15, 2024. Dave & Marion Warrington, Wayne & Marilyn Rosenberger, Jack Smye and Lynn Acre also participated in the promotion. Thanks to Dave Warrington for negotiating the free spot with Sicards.

OPA Gives Back to the Community



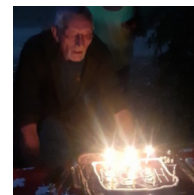
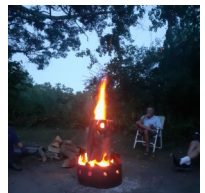
Food Bank Donation
Left: Sharon & Rudy Sandau present a cheque for \$327 to the Petrolia Food Bank. The money was raised from the ice cream & BBQ sales plus the church collection at Bubba's Redneck Campout.



OPA Donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities
Above: Wayne Rosenberger presents a \$4,000 cheque to a representative of Ronald McDonald House. These funds were raised from the collection of pop tabs & cans plus a generous top up from OPA.

Chapter Campout in Rondeau Provincial Park

Six families from the Tri-County Travellers camped at Rondeau Provincial Park from September 15—20, 2024. The unseasonably warm weather added to their enjoyment as they walked the beach, cycled the trails, shared a cheese & wine party (complete with live entertainment), celebrated a birthday with a fish fry & homemade fries and gathered around a communal campfire every night.





Blue Water Mixer
September 27—29, 2024
Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds
Imlay City, Michigan



“Send in the Clowns”



Left: Brian Fuller, President of the Michigan State Association, measures his shoe size against clown Bullwinkle.



Right: Rocky Lumley (aka “Pinky”) adds to the fun by gifting clown suits to all would-be clowns. Costumes were donated by Sheila Turner.



Above: Chief soup-maker Donna doles out generous ladles of delicious homemade chicken noodle soup.

Friday night’s activity included several games of card bingo....a real FCRV crowd favourite.

Below: Campers are all smiles as they devour the hearty lunch.



Left: Bob Mather and Right: Bonnie Mather enjoy their first Blue Water Mixer and got into the spirit by dressing up for Saturday evening’s activities. The Mathers are members of the Tri-County Travellers.



Despite the overcast skies caused by the lingering effects of Hurricane Helena, 17 RVs gathered at the eastern Michigan fairgrounds to enjoy card bingo, family games, euchre & other card games, a soup lunch, washer toss, lots of door prizes and grand prizes, and ending with a Sunday worship service provided by the Puppeteers.



Up-Coming International Events



53rd FCRV International Retiree Rally

March 24—30, 2025

Early days: March 21—23, 2025

At the

National Peanut Festival Fairground

5622 Hwy 231 South

Dothan, Alabama 36301

Cost: \$330 U.S. (2 people in unit) by March 1 deadline
Early bird days cost \$40 U.S./day– pay upon arrival
Included in fee: full hook-ups (30/50 amps), ice cream social, 2 dinners, entertainment & much more.
Registration details found in Camping Today magazine.

CAMPVENTION 2025

“Spirit of Friendship”

July 20—26, 2025

Early days: July 18—19, 2025

At James E. Ward Agricultural Center

945 E. Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon, TN

Cost: \$350.00 (1 family/unit) by May 15 deadline

Early days: \$30/night pay cash upon arrival

Limited 50 amp, most are 30 amp.

Water available. Bring extra hoses and Y connectors.

Bring extension cords.

Registration details found in Camping Today magazine.

