



OPAction Newsletter



SPRING 2025



Spring OPA Campout
Seventeen member families and two potential member families attended the campout at Cedar Rail Family Campground in Chesley, Ontario Monday May 26—Friday May 30. Details are on pages 6 to 10.



2025 Retiree Rally
Organizers are hard at work putting together another fun-filled week at Norwich on Monday June 9-Friday June 13. See details on page 4



Highlights From Voting Delegates Meeting

Check out page 5 to see OPA updates concerning membership, finances, and important news regarding the future of our Ontario Provincial Association.



Up-Coming Events

Spring is here, and with it comes camping season. See page 11 for a list of upcoming scheduled events.



Inside this issue:

Recruitment Efforts	2
London RV Show	
Conservation Efforts	2 & 4
In Memoriam	3
Membership Awards	6
Spring OPA Campout	6 – 10
International News	11
Up-coming Events	11

International News

Check out page 11 for important messages from our Trustees.



Recruitment Efforts



February 14—17, 2025

Special thanks to the following members who “braved the storm”
and took a shift at our promotional booth;

John & Shelley Scott

Jack Smye

Mabel Douglas & Barb Skipper

Jim & Lynn Sampson



Although terrible winter weather discouraged attendance at this annual event, some names were collected via a free raffle. The prize offered was a free campout at the Retiree Rally in June.

The winners are Ken McLarty from Ridgetown
and Larry Kemp from Ilderton.

We look forward to meeting each of these winners in June!



Catfish Creek
Conservation Authority

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Five families from the Tri-County Travellers plus two prospective families camped at Springwater Conservation Authority from Friday April 25 till Monday April 28. They received free camping & firewood in exchange for running the opening weekend of the annual Trout Fishing Derby as well as repairing broken picnic tables.





MEMORIAL

We fondly remember the following members who died in 2024 & 2025

April 2024	Bill Matier	former Kingston Roadrunner	Amherstview
June 2024	Karen Edwards	former Golden Wanderer	Port Dover
July 2024	Barry Baxter	former Ruff 'N' Ready	Chatham
July 2024	Bryan Billings	former Happy Gang & Golden Wanderer	Guelph
Dec. 2024	Judi Stokes	Sarnia 4 T's	Sarnia
Dec. 2024	Walter Robson	former Ausable River Nomads	Ilderton
Feb. 2025	Ralph Deline	former Ruff 'N' Ready former President of OPA	Chatham
March 2025	Terry Swanburg	Tri-County Travellers Regional Director former Prov. Dir. former President of OPA	Cambridge
May 2025	Pat Richardson	Meandering Mohawks	York



Terry Swanburg



Pat Richardson



Attawandaron Scout Campout

Prior to the Spring OPA Campout in May, 3 members from the Sarnia 4 T's and 10 members from the Tri-County Travellers gathered at the Attawandaron Scout Reserve to conduct some additional spring clean-up. While there, they also enjoyed some group meals, campfires and games nights.



2025 Retiree Rally



When: Monday June 9 noon until Friday June 13 noon.

Where: Norwich Community Centre, 53 Stover Street South, Norwich. Ont.

Price: \$150/couple + optional meal plan of \$10/person

What's Planned: Euchre, Washer Toss, Bocce Ball, Retiree Olympics, nightly Hospitalities, two Lunches, one Dinner, Norwich firefighter's BBQ, one night of Live Entertainment, Golf Tournament, Ice Cream Social, Card Making, Guest Speaker from Harvard Airplane Association, Devotional Service & Annual Business Meeting. See OPA website for registration details. opafrv.ca



Highlights from March 2 & May 27, 2025 OPAVD meetings

Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance as of March 1, 2025	\$16,009..88
Investments (2 GIC)	<u>\$15,825.94</u>
Total Assets	\$31,835.82

Bank Balance as of May 25 2025	\$15,664.67
Investments	<u>\$15,825.94</u>
Total Assets	\$31,490.61

* Our bank balance includes the following monies being held "In Trust" :

Ontario Teen Association \$1,820.44



Webmaster Report

Archive & Current Photos

Webmaster Dave Warrington asked that members send him digital photos of chapter campouts for the OPA website. The address is opafcrv.oa
Online Registrations need to be complete. If you fail to include anything with an asterisk*, then the submission will fail. If it doesn't say "Your registration has been successfully received", then you'll know that you need to do it again.

Vacant Positions

Campout Co-Coordinator

John & Shelley Scott officially resigned at the Voting Delegates Meeting.

Scholarship Director

Maureen Blenkinsop officially resigned at the Voting Delegates Meeting and surrendered all of the banking documents to the OPA Treasurer.

Regional Director

Faye officially resigned in early March upon Terry's cancer diagnosis.

Membership Update

As of March 2, 2025

OPA Members.....	42
Ontario FCRV members.....	76
Region 7 members.....	87
FCRV International.....	1586

As of May 27, 2025

OPA members.....	42
Ontario FCRV members.....	74
Region 7 members.....	85
FCRV International.....	1584

ROLL CALL

March 2, 2025

Executive Board Delegates	7/9
Committee Chair Delegates.....	7/11
Chapter Delegates.....	3/5

May 2025

Executive Board Delegates.....	7/9
Committee Chair Delegates.....	9/11
Chapter Delegates.....	4/5.

Recruitment/Retention Efforts

OPA DUES SUSPENDED FOR 2 YEARS

During the May Voting Delegates Meeting, it was unanimously decided to suspend the \$20 annual membership dues for the years 2026 & 2027 as a temporary membership retention and recruitment effort.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

60 Years

Keith & Norma
Copeland

55 Years

Bonnie MacDonald
Ron Young

50 Years

Robert & Susannah
Lewis

45 Years

Jack Smye*
Don & Joan Adamson
*(*shown below)*

35 Years

Camy Hicks
(shown below)

30 Years

Don Johnson
(shown below)

Membership Director
Rudy Sandau presented
Membership Awards to
those in attendance, (see
photos). The remainder
will be mailed to the
recipients.



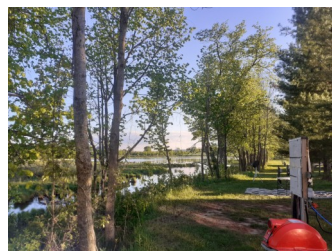
Shown right: Provincial Director Lynn
Acre presents the Sarnia 4T's Chapter with
their 50th Anniversary Certificate .
Sharon & Rudy Sandau accept the award.



SPRING OPA CAMPOUT 2025

At Cedar Rail Campground near Chesley, Ontario

Eighteen RVs housing 17 member families and 3 guest families attended the Spring 2025 OPA Campout from Monday May 26 until Friday May 30. Under the new format, each member made their own camping reservations and paid the fees. There was no activity fee collected. Monday's welcoming meeting was held in the Riverside Hall, where campout chairman Dave Skillings announced the campout's planned activities. Then campers enjoyed some light snacks as they visited with each other.





Tuesday Morning Hospitality
Sponsored by
Karen & Brian Chatfield
 Many early morning campers visited the Chatfield's campsite for free coffee, muffins & zucchini bread.



Tuesday Afternoon OPA Voting Delegates Meeting

At 1 pm, the voting delegates and some guests, gathered in the Riverside Hall for the Spring meeting. Highlights of the meeting are on page 5. Shown below (seated from left to right) are Recording Secretary Jack Smye, President Lew Acre & Treasurer Dave Skillings. Shown standing is Webmaster Dave Warrington.



Potluck Supper

At 6 pm, the hungry campers assembled for a delicious meal of roasted pork tenderloin and an assortment of salads, side dishes and desserts.



Left: Karen Chatfield and Bonnie Mathers celebrated their birthdays with their camping friends.



"Two Guys With Guitars" entertained the campers with a variety of songs which got the crowd up dancing.



Golf Day

On Wednesday morning, 13 campers drove to the nearby Walkerton Golf & Curling Club for 18 holes of golf.



Evening Campfires

Despite the chilly weather, the sight & sounds of a crackling campfire drew the campers together again at the end of each day.

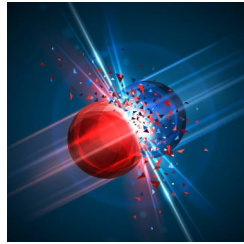
Thursday's Tour of Bruce Nuclear Power

Twenty-seven campers carpooled to the Welcome Centre of Bruce Nuclear Power on Thursday morning. Government-issued I.D. was checked by onsite Security prior to allowing the visitors to board the bus for the guided tour of the compound. Campers were allowed see, from the bus, the Nuclear Reactor Building, the Nuclear Waste Storage facilities, and many other buildings and structures.

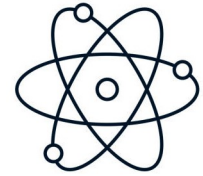




Campers were welcomed to the facility by signage both inside and outside of the Welcome Centre.



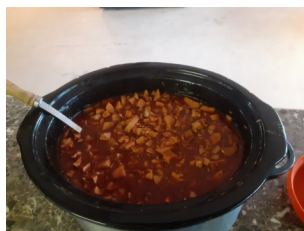
Once everyone passed the security check, they assembled in the theatre for a comprehensive video which gave the history of the organization as well as an explanation of how nuclear power works and how the waste is managed & regulated.



After the bus tour, everyone was invited to take the self-guided tour of the onsite museum .



Cleaning Up The Leftovers: When Connie Skillings realized how much roast pork was left over from Tuesday's potluck, she rallied the troops and organized another potluck of leftovers. The pork was chopped up and mixed with a variety of sauces which was put onto hamburger buns. Everyone checked their fridges for left-over salads & desserts. The result was another tasty meal together .



Impromptu Card Party: Although not officially planned, after supper various card games sprang up throughout the tables of campers. Then everyone said their good-byes before going back to their RVs or to the nearest campfire.



**WHAT'S
NEXT?**

What's In Store for Fall OPA 2025 Campout?

In the absence of a Campout Coordinator, it was decided to aim for another mid-week, off-season campout at a full-service campground sometime in September. Once the fall campout is finished, the executive will determine whether this new format will work for our current membership going forward or if we need to resume to long weekends.



International News



1. All future **Membership Renewal** notices will be via email. Three notices will be sent. It is important that the International office has your correct email.
2. All chapters have been directed by the Trustees to **conduct a review** of their **Constitution & By-laws** by Oct.1, 2025. Any changes must be approved by the Prov. Dir. and then sent to the VP of Operations.
3. Only events submitted through the FCRV portal on the website will be eligible for Certificates of Insurance.
4. **International Elections** were held in April. Results are as follows;
V.P. Of planning & Development—Daniel Tinter
Comptroller—Sandi Wingert
V.P. Of Operations—Linda English
5. Due to budget constraints, one part time staff will be eliminated July 1, 2025. Therefore, there will be no assistance from International office to follow-up with any dropped or new members.
6. **FCRV Waiver of Liability:** Beginning with CV 2025, one person/membership will be required to sign a Waiver of Liability. This annual requirement will soon be found on the website.
7. **Campvention 2025** in Lebanon, Tennessee: Trustees have extended a discount to all Canadians due to the difference in the exchange rate. Canadians can pay \$250 U.S. (instead of \$350 US). Any Canadian who has already paid the \$350 US will be given free "early bird" days instead.
8. **Campvention 2026** will be held in South Dakota.
9. **New Member Booklet:** A detailed online booklet is available for new members which outlines the history, programs & scheduled events.



Upcoming Events



June 9-13 Retiree Rally at Norwich Community Centre. Registration details can be found on the OPA website.

July 26: "Pickin' In the Park" at Shelburne fairgrounds

July 20-26: Campvention, Lebanon, Tennessee. See FCRV website to register.

Aug. 22-25 "Thunder In The Valley", dry camping concert weekend, near Sparta, Ont.

Sept. 26-28 "Spooky Wooky" Halloween campout in Fairground, Ont.

Registration details will be posted on the OPA Website.