

OPAction Newsletter

May 2024



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Spring OPA Campout

Back to Basics

May 17—20, 2024

Harriston Community Centre

OPA's Independent members, led by Michael & Ruth Taziar welcomed 32 units to the Harriston Community Centre for a simplified, —back to basics campout. See pages 3-5 and page 8 for more details and photos.



Fall OPA 2024

Aug. 30—Sept. 2, 2024

Bubba's Redneck Campout

The Tri-County Travellers are preparing some redneck fun for the Fall long weekend at Bridgen Fairgrounds.

See details on page 9.



Highlights from Voting Delegates Meeting

Check out pages 6-7 for important information pertaining to OPA, including our slate of officers for 2025-2026., membership numbers, financial report, pull tabs & Five Year Plan survey results.



Retiree Rally

June 10—14, 2024

Norwich Community Centre



The clocks a tickin' but there's still time to get registered for this year's Retiree Rally. This is one of our best campouts of the year, with 3 meals per person, games, live entertainment, guest speaker, and hands-free sewer pump outs. See page 10 for details.



Campvention 2024

Herkimer, New York

June 23—29, 2024

A dozen families from Ontario are planning to drive the short distance to New York State for the 2024 Campvention. See details on page 11. There's still time to register.



Conservation & Recruitment

Our members continue to make an effort to support local conservation and wildlife projects. See page 2 for details. Also, efforts continue to attract new members to our chapters and provincial association. Page 2 has more info and photos.





Conservation Efforts

Springwater Conservation Area

Members of the Tri-County Travellers assisted the Springwater Conservation Area by selling Day Passes for the annual Trout Fishing Derby. They also replaced broken boards in picnic tables. Shown below are Brian & Karen Chatfield. Also in attendance during the Opening weekend were Lew & Lynn Acre, Robert & Karen Chamberlain, Ben & Linda Vandevyvere, Tim Small, Dave & Connie Skillings, John & Shelley Scott.



Attawandaron Scout Camp

Members of the Sarnia 4T's with help from Tri-County Travellers raised money last year by collecting \$5/unit/day for camping plus they split & stacked wood which was sold to raise funds. Those funds plus the camping fees were used to replace windows, siding and doors to the Beaver Lodge (shown), and upgrades to the interior of the chapel.



Recruitment Efforts



Lew & Lynn Acre (standing) and John Scott (sitting) attended the Outdoor Sportsman Show at Straffordville on April 20, 2024 to promote OPA & FCRV and recruit new members.





SPRING OPA CAMPOUT BACK TO THE BASICS

KEEP
IT
SIMPLE



Registration was handled by Michael & Ruth Taziar, the chairmen for Spring OPA campout. Above: Michael Taziar registers Lynn Sampson (and Jim too!). Thirty-two units were onsite. The campout was hosted by OPA's Independent members.



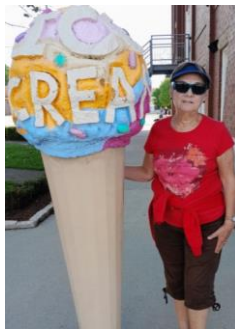
Opening Ceremonies took place on Friday evening which included greetings from OPA/FCRV dignitaries. Shown above seated from left to right; OPA President Jack Smye, Ontario Provincial Directors Lew & Lynn Acre, Region #7 Directors Faye & Terry Swanburg and standing are OPA Vice Presidents Michael & Ruth Taziar who were also the campout chairpersons.



Friday's evening entertainment was a funny movie, — Waking Ned Devine, shown on a big screen TV mounted on the wall. The movie experience was complete with sweet and salty snacks provided by Ruth Taziar.



A delicious assortment of fruit loaves were provided by the Meandering Mohawks at the end of the movie. Shown above are (left to right) are Jim & Lynn Sampson, Marion & Dave Warrington and Jack Smye.



Saturday Morning C.A.M.P. Campers Actively Moving Program

Saturday morning brought 6 campers out for a brisk morning walk around the streets of Harriston. This year they enjoyed seeing various decorated promotional ice cream cones placed around the town.





Washer Toss Tournament

(Top Left): Ruth Taziar keeps track of the 32 campers who registered for the washer toss tournament.

(Above & top right): The final round was a heated match between those older and very experienced against those younger and newer to the game.



Ruth congratulates the first place winners— Don Blenkinsop & Shirley Lawrence.



Second place winners of the washer toss tournament were Adam Sirrs and Angela Cull.



Pull Tab Collection

Wayne & Marilyn Rosenberger (left) set up their collection table and scales on Saturday morning. They collected 99.5 pounds of tabs & crushed cans. Bonnie Mather and Michael Taziar (right) brought along their contributions.



Penny Sale

The Field Directors' Penny sale was a big hit on Saturday afternoon. Three tables were covered with a variety of gently used & new items. The sale raised \$135 for the Field Director's Expense fund.



Scholarship & Chapter Fund Raisers

Maureen Blenkinsop, Scholarship chairman, sold 50/50 tickets. The winner, Bonnie Blenkinsop, won \$23.

Barb Cronmiller and Don Blenkinsop sold 50/50 tickets for the Brantford Sundowners. The winner, Robert Chamberlain, won \$84.



Harriston United Church Beef Supper

Once again the wonderful cooks from the Harriston United Church provided a delicious supper on Saturday night complete with roast beef, horseradish, mashed potatoes & gravy, salad, cauliflower/broccoli casserole, pickles, rolls, juice and a variety of homemade pie for dessert. Second helpings were available for those who wanted more and nobody left hungry.



Card Bingo



Ben Vandevyvre, (left) of the Tri-County Travellers, volunteered to —call the Bingo on Saturday night.

Several tables were filled with hopeful campers, all trying to win a small wrapped prize.

The final game ended with people scrambling about, snatching up prizes from others. It was all in good fun and nobody got hurt.

The evening ended with a tasty cookie treat provided by the Sarnia 41's.

Shown below are sisters Barbara Skipper and Mabel Douglas of the 41's



Camper's Own Church Service

Tim & Lynn Rosenberger (shown left) led the church service at 10 am on Sunday morning. Using the onsite media, they shared a short video , some hymns and choruses from youtube and a thought-provoking sermon. A collection was received for the Harrison Food Bank which raised \$288.



Poor Person Lunch

The smell of frying onions greeted hungry campers as they gathered at noon for the Poor Person Lunch fundraiser. Hamburgers, hotdogs and cold pop was sold. \$145 was raised for the Harriston Food Bank.

Shown left; Dave Skillings mans the grill as Robert Chamberlain supervises.



Ice Cream Sundaes

Dave & Connie Skillings (shown left) were busy at 3:30 pm dishing up bowls of ice cream which were sold to campers. \$90 was raised for the Harriston Food Bank.

Shown left are Karen Chamberlain, Helen Finkbeiner, Gloria White & Adele Waite who all helped add toppings to the ice cream.





FAMILY CAMPERS AND RIVERS

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION



Highlights from the Voting Delegates Meeting



Membership

As of May 17, 2024

FCRV International.....	1673
FCRV Region # 7	102
Ontario.....	88
Nova Scotia.....	11
New Brunswick.....	1
Quebec.....	1
Yukon.....	1
OPA paid Members.....	55
OPA Chapters.....	5
OPA Independent Members.....	8

Treasurer's Report

As of May 12, 2024

Bank Balance.....	\$ 20,837.30
Spring OPA Registrations.....	- \$ 2,308.00
Pull Tab Collection Fund.....	- \$ 837.50
Teen Assoc. Funds in trust	- \$ 1,820.44
Actual OPA Balance.....	\$ 15,913.36
GIC's in TD Bank	+ \$ 15,825.94
TOTAL OPA ASSETS.....	\$ 31,747.30

Nominating Committee Report

Having no new names to submit as nominees for the September election of OPA officers, Chairman Mabel Douglas called for —Nominations From the Floor for the positions of President and Recording Secretary.

Lew Acre was nominated for President.

Jack Smye was nominated for Recording Secretary.

Both men accepted their respective nominations.

As there were no further nominations from the floor, the entire slate of officers will be acclaimed and will be installed during the Fall OPA 2024 Voting Delegates Meeting.

Officers Elect for the 2024-2026 Term are as follows;

President: Lew Acre

Vice President: Michael and Ruth Taziar

Recording Secretary: Jack Smye

Corresponding Secretary: Darlene Wiltsie

Treasurer: Dave Skillings

"A big Thank You to all of the above nominees for volunteering !"



Pull Tabs Report

Aluminum collected from Sept. 2023—May 14, 2024

Tabs.....	76 pounds
+ Crushed cans.....	318 pounds
+ Beer cans.....	694 cans
The above aluminum resulted in	\$444.40

Aluminum collected at Spring OPA 2024

Tabs & crushed cans.....99.5 pounds
We will continue to collect tabs/crushed cans for one more year, and then the three year total will be sent to Ronald McDonald House in Hamilton, Ontario.



YOUR CHAIR AWAITS

- International Camping Club
- Non-Profit Member Owned
- National & Local Events
- Wildlife & Conservation
- Scholarship Programs
- Youth, Teen, Adult and Retiree Programs

WWW.FCRV.ORG

In Memoriam			
Date	Name	Chapter	City
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	Alberta
May 2023	Brenda Almond	Tri-County Travellers	
May 2023	Ken Sparling		
May 2023	Elaine Lecot	former Windsor Hobos	Harrow
July 2023	Ernie Gillespie	former Windsor Hobos	Windsor
Nov. 2023	Aggie Boden	former Oxford Rovers	Woodstock
April 2024	Bill Matier	former Kingston Roadrunner	Amherstview



Five Year Plan Committee Report

27 responses from a membership of 56 which is 48.2 %

How many years have you been camping with the OPA as a FCRV member?

- 1-5 (15% of those responding agreed)
- 6-10 (21%)
- 11-15 (26%)
- 15-20 (3%)
- 21+ (30%)

What do you feel is a priority for the OPA to move forward successfully? Select as many as appropriate.

- Address our membership issues immediately (85% of those responding)
- Use existing funds to make improvements in our program (56%)
- Camp in locations that hydro supply, water and sewer availability. (30%)
- Make changes to the social program specifically the day program. (41%)
- Leave things as they are. (11%)

What is your age bracket?

- 36 to 45 (4% of those responding)
- 46 to 55 (0%)
- 56 to 55 (7%)
- 66 to 75 (67%)
- 76 plus (26%)



Do you anticipate replacing your existing camping unit somewhere down the road?

- No (82% of those responding)
- Within the next 5 years (15%)
- Within the next 10 years (4%)

How often do you log into the OPA Website?

- Frequently (7% of those responding)
- Once in a while (89%)
- Never (4%)

Social media has become a major influence in our society. Do you think we should be using this form of communication to encourage membership in the OPA? This approach could require a financial commitment.

- Yes we should use social media to promote the OPA (70% of those responding)
- Yes we should use existing funds to promote the OPA (44%)
- Yes we should use social media to promote the OPA but not use existing funds to do so (11%)

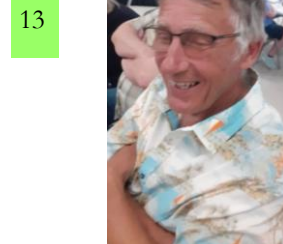
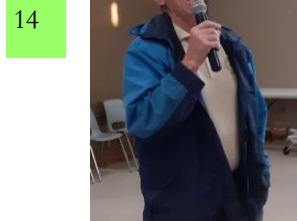
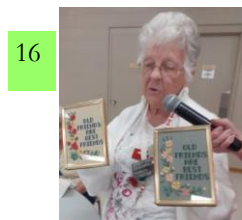
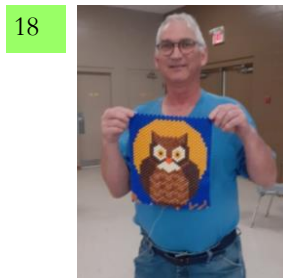
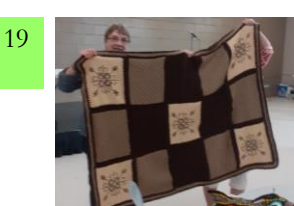
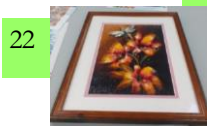
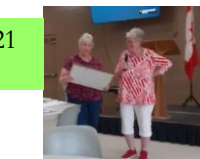
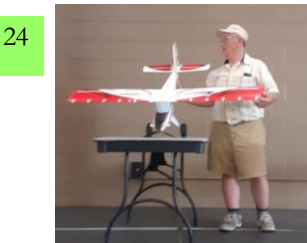
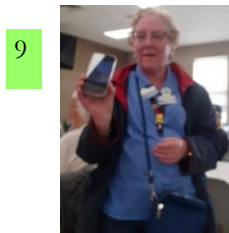
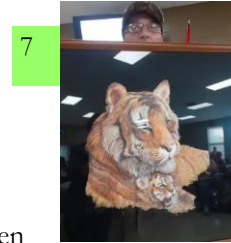
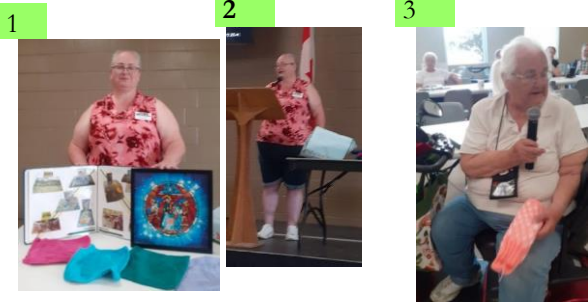
No we should not use social media in the promotion of the OPA (15%)

Are you willing to consider additional cost to upgrade services such as improved power supply when planning future campouts?

- Yes (70% of those responding)
- No. (30%)

Do you feel the cost of the OPA Campouts (Spring & Fall OPA) to be reasonable?

- Yes (100%)



Life's Pleasures

A "Show & Tell" Talent

Sixteen people participated in Sunday evening's entertainment of sharing their personal hobbies.

1 & 2 Karin Brown Reilly displayed examples of crochet, diamond dot, scrapbooking, jigsaw puzzles and even singing.

3 & 4 Mary Brown displayed knitted mittens, and a crocheted shawl & scrapbooking.

5,6,7 & 8 Sharon Sandau displayed 2 Swedish Weaving blankets and two framed paper toile masterpieces.

9. Darlene Wiltsie showed photos on her phone of various paint-by-number pictures;

10. Marilyn Rosenberger showed examples of hand-crafted greeting cards

11. Angela Cull showed a hand-quilted Christmas blanket

12. Faye Swanburg spoke about sewing projects, e-books and camping;

13. John Waite told a few humorous stories

14. Jack Smye spoke about singing with the Barber Shop Choir and then sang —Oh Danny Boyl.

15. Barb Cronmiller displayed some counted-cross stitch creations

16. & 17. Maureen Blenkinsop displayed some counted cross stitch cards and pictures

18. Dale Cull displayed a —pony bead bannerl

19 & 20. Lynn Acre displayed some crocheted blankets;

21, 22, & 23 Mabel Douglas showed some diamond dot pictures

24. Michael Taziar showed some model airplanes and drones

25. Ruth Taziar spoke about her woodworking and sewing projects.

(Left) Faye Swanburg & Karen Chamberlain of the Tri-County Travellers helped serve a variety of cookies and squares for Sunday's hospitality.



Bubba's Redneck Campout

Fall OPA 2024

Hosted by the Tri-County ~~Leads~~
August 30–September 2, 2024



COST for campout: \$125*
*Payable in full when registering
Aug. 29 Early Bird Camping + \$25

ACTIVITIES

Bubba's Redneck Games
(Toilet Seat Toss, Chuck the Chock, Pass the Plunger),
Bubba's Bingo,
Bubba's Road-Kill Cafe BBQ,
Ice Cream Sundaes,
Hill Billy Corn Roast,
Campers Own Church service,
Voting Delegates' Meeting,
Live Entertainment
Daily Hospitality.



What to Bring: Extension cords to reach electrical outlets, Redneck Attire,
Laidback attitudes.

Fresh Water and Dump site available. 30 & 15amp services available.

There will be NO PENNY SALE this year so don't be bringin' yer stuff ta donate.

Register online at opafcrv and pay \$125 by e-transfer opafinancial@gmail.com or print and mail form below to Shelley Scott, 9348 Richmond Road, Aylmer, Ont. N5H 2R1 with a cheque made payable to Fall OPA 2024. Full refunds will be made to anyone who is unable to attend.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Adults: _____ Teens: _____ Youth: _____

Early Bird Day: Yes _____ NO _____ Handicapped Parking? _____



2024 Retiree Rally



WHEN?

Monday June 10, 2024 at noon
Until
Friday June 14, 2024 at noon

No Sunday arrivals allowed

WHERE?

Norwich Community Centre
53 1/2 Stover Street,
Norwich, Ontario
N0J 1P0



\$150 per unit (2 adults)

Meal Plan = \$10 per person

Total cost with meals \$170

Mail cheque to Marilyn Rosenberger at 511-1505 Ottawa Street, N,
Kitchener, Ontario. N2A 0E8
rosenberger44@gmail.com

**WHAT'S
HAPPENING**

Live Entertainment
Bocce Ball
Washer Toss
Retiree Olympics
1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch, 1 Supper per person
Hospitalities Daily
Guest Speaker OPP on —Senior Scam
Golf Tournament
Norwich Volunteer Firefighter's BBQ
Greeting Card Making Seminar
Devotional Service
Door Prizes
Local Shopping



**» KNOW
BEFORE
YOU GO »**

Minimal Power available (lights only)
Bring extra extension cords
Showers available Tuesday—Thursday
Wifi available inside the Community Centre
Friday morning Sewer Sucker included in registration



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



Campvention 2024

When: June 23—29, 2024. *Early Bird Days* June 21 + June 22.

Gates Open June 21 at 12 noon—8 pm. And June 22 9:00 am—8 pm.

Register: online with a credit card. fcrv.org

Where: 135 Cemetery Road, Frankfort, New York, 13340

*** Attention:** Do not follow GPS directions that tell you to take exit 31 on I-90. Instead take exit 30 (Herkimer-Mohawk) and let your GPS recalculate. This will take you directly to the fairgrounds.

Who is Planning to Attend? Acre, Smye, Cull, Skillings, Browns, Reily, Rosenberger, Waite, Swanburg, Lawrence, Warrington, Portier

Golf: Sign up for golf when you arrive. Scheduled for Tuesday June 25. \$39 for 18 holes with a cart.

Reusable Shopping Bags: New York charges 5 cents/bag so bring your own reusable ones.

Canadian Hospitality: Region #7 is hosting a hospitality on Monday evening right after the entertainment. We will be serving our traditional maple leaf cookies and Canada Dry ginger ale.

Raffle Basket: We have been challenged by New York State to see which of us could prepare the best raffle basket of items from our region. The proceeds from the raffle will go into the FCRV general account. Dale Cull is organizing the collection of items for this basket. Please contact him at corinther@gmail.com if you have something to donate.

Parade: This year's theme is FCRV's 75th anniversary. —Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Future



Blue Water Mixer
East Michigan Fairgrounds
195 Midway,
Imlay City, Michigan
September 27 –29, 2024



Campvention 2025
The FCRV Trustees
will be hosting next year's
Campvention
in Lebanon, Tennessee

