

OPAction Newsletter

November 2025



What's Been Happening Since Fall OPA?



September Campout

Members from the Tri-County Travellers and the Sarnia 4Ts assembled at Rondeau Provincial Park for a week of fun in the sun. Check out page 3 for more details.



Spooky Wooky Halloween Campout

An action-packed weekend of Spooky Wooky fun was hosted by the Tri-County Travellers on September 26-28, 2025. Twelve families attended. See pages 4 & 5 for photos and details.

Hosting a chapter campout or event? Need FCRV insurance? Check out page 8 to see the new requirements for liability insurance coverage.



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Thanksgiving Campout & Conservation Efforts at Attawandaron Scout Reserve

Check out pages 6-7 to see who was camping in October, how much they ate, and what they did for fun.



FAMILY CAMPERS AND RVERS
ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION

OPA Voting Delegates Meeting

The Voting Delegates met virtually through ZOOM to conduct the business of the Provincial Chapter on Sunday Nov. 2, 2025. Check out pages 8 & 9 to see membership updates, the Treasurer's Report, the Scholarship Report, the Webmaster's Report, the decision regarding the 2027 Campvention, and the plans for the 2026 Spring OPA Campout. See International News regarding the financial crisis and a new focus for Campvention 2026 including a one year campaign & partnership.





Membership Award

Provincial Director Lynn Acre (shown kneeling on right) presents the Ontario FCRV Membership Award to Don & Joan Adamson, of the Tri-County Travellers to commemorate their 45 years of membership.



Tri-County Travellers install new executive for 2025-2026.

Above left, District Director Dave Skillings installed the new slate of officers. From left to right of Dave; Vice Presidents John & Shelley Scott, President Robert Chamberlain, Secretary Adele Waite and Treasurer Dale Cull.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



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Note From the Editor

It appeared to me, as I proof-read this newsletter, that it seems like it's only showcasing the events of the Tri-County Travellers and Sarnia 4T's . I know that they're not the only chapters that have casual campouts. I would love to include your activities too. Please snap a few photos of your members having fun together, and email them to me, along with a brief description and I'll include them in the next edition. My email is lynnacre1957@gmail.com.

September Camping at Rondeau Provincial Park

Beautiful summer-like weather welcomed eleven FCRV families to the spacious sites at Rondeau Provincial Park on the north shore of Lake Erie on September 14—19, 2025. Each family secured their own campsite and gathered together daily for planned events and impromptu activities.



Daily “Happy Hour” visits popped up, where many stories were shared, laughter was heard and friendships were strengthened.



Several of the gals kept busy making loom hats or crocheting lap blankets while enjoying the sunshine. Above right Lynn Acre gives Karen Chatfield a crochet tutorial.



Connie Skillings and Adele Waite stir the chili for the group meal. Everyone contributed to the meal.



Hot chili, fresh rolls & butter, salads and desserts were enjoyed by all. Everything tastes better outdoors!



Ben Vandevyvere blows out the candles on his birthday cake. What a birthday celebration!



Dave & Connie Skillings and Adele & John Waite biked the many smooth trails in the park



Lew & Lynn Acre and Adele & John Waite walked along the sandy beach of Lake Erie.



Twelve campers participated in a mini golf tournament at Willow Ridge Golf Course.



Robert Chamberlain, John Waite, Dave Skillings (on top), John Scott & Lew Acre pitch in to replace John Scott’s old awning.



A “Cheese & Wine” party provided enough finger-food and refreshments to satisfy everyone.

Nightly campfires in a vacant campsite drew everyone together again at the end of each day.. A huge “chimney log” (right) burned for several hours before breaking apart.



Spooky Wooky Halloween Campout

Friday September 26—Sunday September 28, 2025

Twelve RVs & 1 tent surrounded the field at the Houghton Agricultural Society's fairground. Shelley Scott greeted the campers at Registration and the area quickly became festive as spooky decorations filled the Hall and the campsites. The action-packed weekend began with popcorn & a spooky movie on Friday night.



Shelley Scott hands a program to a young camper.



Saturday morning the Hall was filled with campers, young & old, to decorate or carve out a spooky jack-o'-lantern. Several prizes were awarded during the **Pumpkin Carving Contest**.



The **Ghoulish Games** had 26 participants on Saturday afternoon. Shown above from left to right are "Toast the Ghost" bean bag toss, "Pin the Grin on the Jack-o'-lantern", "Witch Pitch" ring toss, "Mummy Cat Mini Putt" golf, "Monster Mash Bowling" & the "Slime Pit". Other games included "Kamikaze Bat Toss", "Flying Saucers" and "Eye ball Toss".



Later on Saturday afternoon, 20 people participated in a "**Wicked Washer Toss** Tournament. First place was won by John Waite and Thomas Wilson (shown top right) and Second place went to Connie Skillings & Caleb Scott. (shown bottom right)





The highlight of the weekend for many was getting dressed up in costumes and **trick-or-treating** among the attending RVs. (Shown left)

Shown right, Members of the Houghton Ag Society “shell out” ice cream to the costumed campers. They also sold grilled burgers, hotdogs & fries during the weekend.



Shown left, a crafty family came as characters from the Wizard of Oz, including 3 little flying monkeys, the tin man, the scarecrow, Dorothy and their family dog as the Cowardly Lion.



Following the trick-or-treating, everyone gathered inside the Hall for the **Costume Parade and Contest**. Shown above are 4 photos of the many excellent costumes.



Once the costumes were judged and the prizes awarded, everyone removed their costumes and reassembled for several games of **Graveyard Card Bingo**. Left: Prizes were piled high on the bingo table. Right: Young & old alike enjoyed this fun table game. The evening ended with a tasty snack of sweet watermelon.



Early on Sunday morning, Connie & Dave Skillings, with help from Adele & John Waite, whipped up a delicious **pancake & sausage breakfast** to send the campers on their way with full stomachs and happy memories. Above left to right: Connie stirs up a fresh batch of pancake batter, Dave fills the grill while hungry campers wait, plates are filled and refilled and Don & Maureen Blenkinsop are all smiles as they digest their breakfast.

Thanksgiving Campout At Attawandaron Scout Reserve

Ten families parked their RVs under the towering oaks, red pines and tulip trees at the Attawandaron Scout Reserve for a week in October. The campers were thankful for the plentiful food, friendships and the perpetual campfire. They enjoyed golfing, shopping at a craft sale, puzzling, splitting & stacking wood, eating group meals and playing table games.



Splatted Chicken Supper

Left: Dave Skillings carves up some chickens which were roasted over the campfire.
Right: A table full of side dishes and desserts completed the Thanksgiving Feast.



Soup Supper
Mable Douglas, with help from friends, cooked up 2 delicious pots of homemade soup for another group meal.

Right: The campers gobble up the tasty soup.



Fish Fry Supper

Above left: Dave Skillings and John Waite deep fry the pickerel that John caught this summer. Above right: Ben Vandevyvere deep fries fresh cut potatoes for French fries.



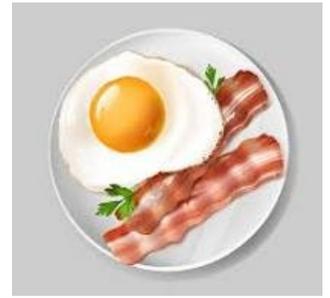
Left: Once again the side dishes and desserts were plentiful and varied for another delicious meal.
Right: The campers were thankful for the use of the Beaver Lodge to enjoy their meals in comfort and warmth.





Eating Again?????

Left: Dave Skillings, our resident “short order cook” fired up the grill and prepared bacon & eggs as well as omlettes for everyone. Lorea Boogerman waits hungrily for her omlette while Brian Jeffries watches Dave’s spatula skills.



When they were not eating, some of the men split & stacked wood for the Scouts. And some of them went golfing at a nearby course.



When they were not preparing or eating food, some of the women completed jigsaw puzzles.

Left: Karen Chamberlain works on an RV puzzle. Right: Lorna Jefferies begins another puzzle.



Table Games

After supper, card games were popular. One night teams were formed for a trivia tournament hosted by Rudy Boogerman.



Ever Burning Campfire

Perhaps the most popular activity was sitting around the perpetual campfire, chatting, laughing and sharing stories. The crackling sounds, the fragrance of the burning pine and the sight of the dancing flames were burned into the campers’ memories.





FAMILY CAMPERS AND RVERS

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION

Highlights from the Voting Delegates Meeting Sunday November 2, 2025

Membership Update

As of Nov. 1, 2025

FCRV.....	1447
(576 life + 832 paying)	
Region 7	60
Ontario.....	50
Nova Scotia.....	8
New Brunswick.....	1
Quebec.....	1
OPA	37

Treasurer's Report

As of Nov. 2, 2025



OPA Bank Account.....	\$15, 309.75
2 G.I.C's totaling.....	\$16, 731.87
Total Assets.....	\$32, 041.62

Roll Call

Chapter Delegates	4/5
Executive Delegates.....	8/9
Committee Delegates.....	6/7

QUORUM WAS ACHIEVED

FCRV Financial Crisis

The declining number of paying members coupled with the increasing cost of running the organization has reached a critical point. The Trustee requested our input on how to improve the situation. Lynn Acre compiled input from our members and shared a list of 9 options for the Trustees to consider. It is expected that some sort of dues increase will be approved by the Trustees.

Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Account is now being managed by the OPA Treasurer Dave Skillings. Unfortunately the "Charitable Status" of the account was lost due to non-filing of annual report to the government. Steps are being taken to recover the status. Currently there is \$19, 314.55 left in the GIC. It will renew itself on Dec. 15, 2025 for another 18 month term but Dave suggests reducing the term to allow access to the funds sooner. In September 2025, Grace Cammaert, granddaughter of John & Shelley Scott, received a scholarship of \$3,000.



FCRV Insurance Notice

Provincial Director Lynn Acre reminds the members that if liability (property damage only) insurance is required for any chapter campout or meeting, the event must be posted on the FCRV website. If you require insurance coverage, please send the details (dates, location, hosts) of any planned campouts or events to lynnacre1957@gmail.com and she will submit it to FCRV website.

Campvention 2027 Decision

President Lew Acre called the vote on whether or not we should attempt to host the 2027 Campvention.
Chapter Delegates.....4/4 NO
Executive Delegates7 NO & 1 Yes

A motion was made that we inform the Trustees that Region 7 will not be hosting the 2027 Campvention



Webmaster Report

Dave Warrington

The OPA website continues to be updated on a monthly basis with the latest issues of Camping Today. Despite regular requests for chapter activity submissions and photographs from scheduled campouts, the response remains minimal. This ongoing lack of content limits our ability to showcase the full scope of chapter involvement and member experiences.

Planning is underway to feature next season's spring, fall, and retirees' campouts, including the possibility of joint campouts with Ontario Great Lakers, as successfully conducted last season. These events offer valuable opportunities for enriched participation and enhanced regional engagement.

Consideration is also being given to the inclusion of a new section on the website dedicated to helpful and informative computer tools. This addition aims to provide practical resources that may be of benefit to our members.

At present, it remains uncertain how many members are actively utilizing the website. Improving member engagement and understanding usage patterns will continue to be areas of focus moving forward.

Spring OPA 2026

When: Thursday May 28, 2026—Tuesday June 2, 2026

Where: Flamboro Valley Camping Resort,
1158 Regional Road 97, Flamborough, Ont. N0B 2J0

Cost: Price per site is unknown at this time

Registration: Attendees can contact the park directly to make their reservations beginning May 4, 2026.

Phone 905-659-5053

What: Entertainment, potluck meal, Voting Delegates meeting, campfires.

Details: Sites have 30 amp power & water hook-ups, 3 dump stations available, complete shower/laundry facilities, enclosed heated pavilion available for rent. Nearby attractions; Vaughn Flea Market, Pickards Nuts, good restaurants.



FCRV Partnership with Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi

For 2026, FCRV is shaping Campvention around more than just a gathering. It is about purpose. By partnering with Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, they are turning the year into a celebration of conservation, outdoor education, and the joy of connecting families with nature. This one year campaign will adapt the slogan "Fun With Purpose". Campvention 2026 will be the capstone event, with activities that bring conservation and outdoor education to life. Why it matters? This campaign positions FCRV as more than a camping organization. It is a community that values the outdoors and invests in protecting it. By working with Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi, they align family recreation with conservation education, making Campvention 2026 a celebration of both camping and stewardship.



Up-Coming Events

- March 1, 2026.....Virtual Voting Delegates Meeting @ 1 pm
- May 28-June 2, 2026....Spring OPA Campout, Flamborough, Ont
- June 8-12, 2026.....Retiree Rally, Norwich, Ont.
- July 5-11, 2026.....Campvention, South Dakota State Fairground
- September 2026.....Fall OPA Campout. Details to be announced