



WINTER

2021

Winter Educational Workshop – January 27

Sponsored by H & H Purchasing

Summer 2021 lies ahead of us as a wild adventure with hopes for what it can be, uncertainties about how to make it happen, and concerns about how we will build and maintain excellent staff teams to embark on this journey. Join MSC at the January 27th workshop with the cohosts of the Camp Code podcast—Beth Allison, Gabrielle Raill and Ruby Compton—as they load up your brains with ideas on how to find the right people for this unique summer, how to keep your staffers' gas tanks fueled up, and how to reignite your drive as a camp leader. This year's virtual workshop promises to reconnect you with your camp friends, jump start your progress on your 2021 staffing goals, and offer concrete tools and ideas you can take home and unpack right away.

We are planning opportunities for members to connect with each other, gain fresh and actionable ideas about staffing camp during COVID, and feel confident approaching this challenge. – Anna Hopkins, Chair

Your whole camp team will want to join us this year because participants will also enjoy one hour of elective breakout sessions where you can choose the session most applicable to you. Breakout options include:

Leveraging Legacy to Motivate Staff to Perform Their Best

Simple Graphic Design Hacks for More Engaging Visuals and Social Media Posts; and

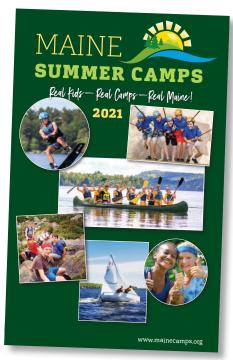
Top Five Must-Teach Skills for 2021 to Prepare for Another Pandemic Summer

"The Education Committee is hoping that MSC members walk away from our January workshop feeling more empowered to tackle their specific staffing challenges for 2021," Chair Anna Hopkins says. "We are planning opportunities for members to connect with each other, gain fresh and actionable ideas about staffing camp during COVID, and feel more confident

approaching this challenge. We have loved connecting with Ruby, Gabz, and Beth, and they are planning specific and relevant content for our entire membership!"

Anna Hopkins and the Education Committee invite MSC members to approach the workshop with a similar mindset to our typical in-person workshops. "Carve out the whole morning and join us from a deep dive into the topic of staffing. We'll have opportunities to connect with our speakers and their great ideas, and other MSC members."

Watch your mailbox for the 2021 Maine Summer Camps directory coming your way soon.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WINTER 2021

As I reflect on the year 2020 and all the life lessons it presented, such as resilience, adaptability and being open to possibilities, I feel that I have never been so challenged. I thought I was okay with change, however the ongoing uncertainty and last-minute decisions proved to be an area I needed to personally work on.



Once again, I have relied on my deep gratitude and appreciation to help me through the past year and all the uncertainties.

One of the things I am most grateful for is being a part of such an incredible organization as Maine Summer Camps. It is the continual and collaborative effort of so many members that makes our group stand above the rest.

As Lisa Tripler shared in our January 5 "Office Hours" series: "I think it's great that we have so many camp directors, so many camp people, so many colleagues here in the beautiful great state of Maine who are a part of our association and who support each other by sharing, being present at workshops and meetings."

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to Ron, Jack, and Susan for their ongoing commitment in serving all Maine Camps.

I also want to recognize all the MYCA board members who continue to meet biweekly, advocating and working for all Maine Camps. The hours and dedication to Maine Camps is honorable and inspiring.

Thank you too all the members on the MSC board for their ongoing support and ideas.

Thank you to our newly renamed Community Connection Group (formerly the Outreach Committee), which is organizing and planning new and innovative ways to continue to socialize, network and connect with all members.

A special thank you to all the Education Committee members, who continue to meet multiple times every month to plan our webinars, workshops, and future sessions. They have also been integral in bringing awareness and action to Black Lives Matter in camping and organized the first Indigenous culture webinar. This committee also planned and organized the very successful "Office Hours," a series of virtual meetings and gatherings which has continued high attendance and reveals the true value in authentic sharing and learning from each other.

Now, as we enter 2021, there is no doubt that we will need the skills of resilience and adaptability. However, my hope is that with the advocacy of MYCA, sharing lessons learned from 2020, and having more time to plan and prepare, all Maine Camps will have the confidence, resources and see the possibility to open in the upcoming 2021 camp season.

So, cheers to a new year, where we continue to support, listen, learn, and share together. Remember: "Happiness is to be found along the way, not at the end of the road, for then the journey is over and it is too late. Today, this hour, this minute, is the day, the hour, the minute for each of us to sense the fact that life is good, with all of its trials and troubles, and perhaps more interesting because of them." (Robert R. Updegraff)

So often I am planning for the summer, which is months away, and I regularly refer to the quote above as a reminder to be thankful for the present moment and appreciate all that is good.

Warmly, Beigette

Office Hours—

An Opportunity to Share and Learn from Summer 2020 Experiences

s camp directors continue to plan for 2021, camps that opened in 2020 have provided valuable resources—and a chance for connection—in ongoing **Office Hours** via Zoom and facilitated by MSC Education Committee members.

Camp Wawenock Director Catriona Sangster credits the camp's Assistant Director Kristy Andrews with the initial idea. "One day Kristy said, 'maybe we should have office hours' to share information," Catriona said. "I took it and ran with it."

The result has been near-weekly Zoom gatherings, each featuring directors of two camps that opened this summer. All told, directors from 14 different camps will have shared their insights and answered questions from MSC members who joined in the conversations. The final office hours will take place on Wednesday, January 13 and will feature Camp CenterStage and Camp Susan Curtis.

Sangster says she initially reached out to camps that opened to gauge their interest.

"A lot of camps participated, very happily so," she said. "It's a good reminder that MSC is a very collaborative group."

Participation in sessions has ranged from about 35 to almost 60 camps joining the conversation, Sangster said, adding that the messages from camps that opened have been consistent. "You can do this. We can all do this. It's not that hard. It's complicated but not that hard."

While serving as a pep talk, the sessions have also highlighted the fact that "there is no right or wrong," in how camps follow public health protocols, she said. "It's not a 'one size fits all' answer."

Indeed, camps do not want "hard and fast rules" governing adherence to COVID protocols, Sangster said. "We want guidelines so we can tailor them to fit each of our camps."

The conversations, spanning from November to January, have had a "community aspect" to them, she said, highlighting collegiality and collaboration. They have also provided an opportunity for participation by camps who haven't been as involved with MSC programming, she said.

And the MSC membership has been grateful. "It means a lot, especially to people who feel like they're still surmounting this big obstacle" of opening for the 2021 season, Sangster said.

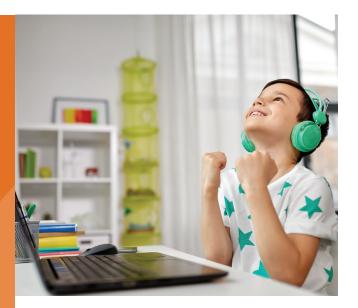
So We Adapted, Too

From virtual camps to new hygiene protocols, you had to change how you work fast. So we did the same. Between April to July, The Redwoods Group - in collaboration with Chalmers here in the Northeast - have supported camps and other youth-serving organizations with:

- 37 COVID-specific webinars
- 2953 virtual check-ins, Zoom calls and other customer engagements
- More than \$2 million in returned insurance premiums (with more to come)

When you adapt to a crisis, we adapt to meet your needs. Get in touch to discuss your insurance options.

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Purchasing for Summer 2021: Flexibility is the Key

amp directors planning for the upcoming camp season all must confront new demands and a changing landscape posed by COVID-19. When it comes to ordering food and related supplies, the pandemic's impact will, above all, require flexibility, says Josh Cohen, president of H & H Purchasing.

As a "concierge GPO" (group purchasing organization), H & H Purchasing serves about 200 camps with their purchasing, "especially in the world of food." That purchasing may have a different look for the upcoming camp season, Cohen said.

One factor relates to the supply chain, he said, which "is coming back, but definitely not where it was." For example, manufacturers may have limited production of products to maximize profits, he said. Similarly, distributors' challenges may also play a role, he said.

"We are telling all our clients that everyone needs to be flexible," Cohen said.

Take chicken nuggets, for example. With schools closed, Tyson has reduced its number of chicken nugget versions, he said. This summer, camps "might not get the one you've had the last five years, but there will be a chicken nugget available."

In addition, without a buying history from last summer, distributors may face challenges. "Buyers may have been let go or furloughed," Cohen said. "And the buyer issue is a challenge on a good year."

Camps' specific needs this summer also pose "a huge unknown," Cohen said. For example, if camps are required to feed campers only individual, single-serving cereal, vendors will likely be unable to manage storage demands. In addition, manufacturers may face production concerns, he said.

Although this concern may be allayed by the possibility of individual camper cohorts sharing a typical, multi-serving box of cereal, Cohen said, it points out the importance of flexibility generally.

"The food will be there," he said. It was there last summer, as well, although Cohen said, "thank God only the camps that did open this summer, did open."

Cohen suggests that camps order early, "stay ahead of your orders," and consider rethinking menus based on what is available. In addition, camps should be mindful of how many kitchen staff they have when considering the components of each meal.

H & H Purchasing also recommends that camps evaluate whether they can bring in nonperishables, disposables and program supplies by the end of March rather than later in the spring.

"For food, dry goods things that we would say 'load up on," Cohen recommends ordering in the April-May window. "Fresh and frozen can wait a little longer," he said.

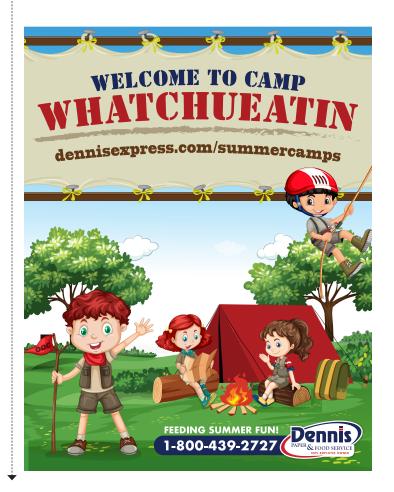
Residential camps "know how to flip a menu," and make last-minute changes easier if a food delivery requires it, Cohen said. Day camps, which tend to have more rigid menus, may be at a lesser advantage.

Camps are "100 percent" committed to opening this summer, he said, adding that H & H Purchasing is also available to help camps consider meals for staff members, who "chances are, aren't going anywhere."

Cohen and his wife ran Camp Cobbossee for seven years, then a Massachusetts camp for a decade prior to buying H & H Purchasing. "We think like camp directors," he said. "We knew food from the camp side and now we are food experts. We know the industry." he said.

Cohen said he is on board to conduct a webinar for MSC members on the state of ordering and purchasing for the upcoming season. "As we get into January, it will play out even more," he said.

As it did in 2020, H & H Purchasing is also sponsoring the upcoming Winter Education Workshop. ■





Catching up with the MSC Book Club

n Wednesday, October 28, one of the largest gatherings of the MSC Book Club met on Zoom for a discussion of *How To Be An AntiRacist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

The conversation was not just a review of the tenets of the book; it was a proactive discussion about the perceptions and realities of existing policies, environments, and trainings within camping.

Drawing on Kendi's challenge to go beyond acknowledging racism to actively working toward and supporting antiracist policy, the discussion moved quickly to what can be done within the camping community to boost diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The dialogue was open, inspiring, and forthright and, as the time frame for the discussion was ending, a proposal was made to continue the conversation and focus first on DEI as it impacts staff hiring and staff training.

The MSC Education Committee is currently considering plans for a two-part series discussing each of those topics. ■



Congratulations!

Kamp Kohut's Anthony Pyatt Receives ACA, New England Award

amp Kohut Assistant Director **Anthony Pyatt** received a 2020 ACA, New England Leadership and Service Award in recognition of his role coordinating formation of the ACA New England EPIC (Emerging Professionals in Camping) organization, along with his many other significant contributions to youth camping.

Pyatt began his camping career as a counselor at Camp Vega in 2005. An aspiring high school teacher, that summer after his first year of college led to a total of 14, the last five of which as a year-round employee. "I fell into the camp world, and haven't left since," he said. Pyatt joined Kamp Kohut in September 2018, bringing a wealth of experience and an ongoing commitment to EPIC work. Initially involved with EPIC in ACA, New York & New Jersey, Pyatt was peer-selected as the EPIC New England chair.

"I think we as camp professionals tend to thrive on large communities," Pyatt said. "EPIC is the community that we long for during the non-summer months. Many of us, being millennials, have a natural tendency to find our community. This is another way through ACA that we can do that." EPIC also highlights the important role of mentors, Pyatt said, by striving to "serve those just finding mentors to find the right mentors, and to guide younger, more inexperienced professionals to the route that makes sense for them."

Pyatt has also served as an ACA Visitor for five years and was a member of the ACA New England Executive Transition Task Force, which led to the hiring of Executive Director Michele Rowcliffe.



Anthony Pyatt, Kamp Kohut

In addition, he helped spearhead last winter's annual conference in its pivot to a virtual event.

Reflecting on the award, Pyatt extended a "grateful thanks to the New England camping community and the Maine camping community, for their willingness to promote an atmosphere inclusive to everyone, of all ages, experience and levels. to learn aside one another."

In presenting the award, Camp Sunshine Executive Director Mike Katz lauded Pyatt's passion and drive as a force to "inspire others and making a positive difference."

"The future of ACA looks extremely bright," Katz said.



Updates from MYCA



New MYCA President Laura Ordway

MYCA Board Transition

As recently announced in the Hall Monitor, Laura Ordway began her term as President of the MYCA board on January 1. After a six-year tenure as President, Peter Hirsch will continue as a member and Vice President. (See page 11 for colleagues' words of appreciation for Peter).

As Laura Ordway takes the helm, she says, "I'm looking forward to continuing the great work the MYCA board has accomplished under Peter's leadership. Our most significant goal, and dedication of time, is to provide information and resources for MSC member camps so they can operate safely and successfully in 2021."

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- Laura Ordway, MYCA President

Ordway has also outlined MYCA's upcoming plans. Among them, MYCA and MSC will be partnering to host information sessions from January through June 2021 to update members with the most current information regarding COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, guidelines, securing supplies, etc. Along with this priority, MYCA will continue to monitor state and federal legislation in everything from JI visas to economic relief grants. Additionally, it is anticipated that Maine licensed summer camps will receive updated guidelines from DHHS at some point in the near future (this was scheduled to occur in 2020, but the roll-out has been postponed).

"2021 looks to be a busy, exciting year for Maine summer camps!" she concludes.

MYCA Outreach – Report from Peter Hirsch Survey and Backpack Information

Thanks to MSC members' timely survey participation in August, the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the University of Southern Maine (USM) completed its report in September on the impact and implications of the pandemic on the state's youth camping industry. The findings, based on a 70 percent response rate, were provided to important stakeholders at the State and Federal level in October. The information was also included in an updated version of the Backpack, which was sent to all members of the Maine Legislature in December. Special thanks to Susan Hall for all her help with that mailing.



Click here for a link to the USM survey report

Of special note are the Executive Summary on pp. 2-4, as well as an explanation on pp. 20-21 of COVID-19's economic impact and the financial losses suffered by Maine camps. Please let Ron know if you would like a copy of the Backpack. It includes lots of great information and will be helpful with the conversations you are encouraged to have with members of your community.

Plans for 2021

Thanks to all who completed the second survey sent last month focusing on grant money received by camps from both the Maine and federal governments. There is still time to complete it if you have not yet had a chance to do so.

This information will help us gain a better understanding of how much financial relief camps have received *and* will help us educate government officials about camps' specific needs in our efforts to receive future additional support.

MYCA has also recently established two new committees to review the Maine's 2020 COVID-19 guidelines for camps, and to consider suggestions for 2021 in preparation for meetings with the Mills administration later in the year. In addition to Ron and Jack Erler, who will sit on both committees, thanks to the following members who have volunteered to participate.

Day Camps

Tom Doherty - *Chair* (Ketcha) Molly Cyr (Wolfe's Neck) Matt Cornish (Beech Cliff) Chris Thurston (Center Day Camp) Meg Helming (YMCA Alliances of ME and NH/VT)

Overnight Camps

Laura Ordway - *Chair* (Winona) Fritz Seving (Fernwood) Norm Thombs (Mechuwana) Terri Mulks (Susan Curtis) Jon Deren (Manitou)

Tuesday, January 12, 10 am

Conversation around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Education Committee will host a casual conversation about diversity, equity, and inclusion in hiring practices in a Zoom on Tuesday, January 12 at 10 am. See below.

The goals for this session are to carve out intentional space to reflect on this issue, share ideas and resources, and connect with others tackling similar challenges.

The conversation will begin with use of levels of "inclusive school communities" to reflect on participants' our own camp staff cultures.

In addition, the committee will share additional resources and make space for MSC members to share their ideas and questions together.



Click here to register for the January 12 Zoom meeting

Community Connections News

ewly renamed the **Community Connections Group**, the former Outreach Committee spent the fall season brainstorming ways to build connections and relationships within Maine Summer Camps.

The Community Connections Group was created for professionals in the early stages of their careers who are looking to connect with other MSC professionals. Without the ability to safely gather in person, we've been meeting online to get to know each other and expand our professional spheres through online camp tours and brainstorming sessions.

We are excited about our new Drinks & Discussion series, an initiative aimed at helping emerging professionals connect with more experienced camp leaders by providing an informal structure to get to know each other and discuss camp related topics. We had an excellent first event, learning more about Rich Deering and hearing about his career journey (not to mention getting the recipe for his current favorite cocktail)!

We plan to facilitate more Drinks & Discussion events with different leaders in the industry, so keep an eye out for future events and ways to expand connections across Maine Summer Camps members! If you'd like to get involved, send an email to kristy@campwawenock.com.



2021 Calendar

January 26, 20	021
10 am	Virtual MSC Board of Directors Meeting
January 27	
9:30 am	Virtual MSC Workshop
February 2-4	
	Virtual ACA Conference
March 9-11	
	Virtual ACA Northeast Camp Conference,
March 10	
1-2 pm	Virtual MSC Job Fair at Husson University
March 11	
8:30 am	Virtual Semi-Annual Membership Meetings
	of MSC and MYCA
April 28	
9 am	Virtual Spring MSC Board of Directors Meeting
11 am	Virtual MSC Spring Workshops
*July 10	
9 am-3:30 pm	JMG Rendezvous Workshop
	Bryant Pond 4-H Camp
*July 13	
1:30-4 pm	Chris Thurber Staff Training Workshop
	Camp Wawenock, Raymond
*July 15	
	15th Annual MYCF Spelling Bee
	Portland
* July 26-30	

*July 26-30

Junior Maine Guides Test Camp Stephen Phillips Preserve, Oquossoc

*September 22

MYCF and MYCA Annual Meeting & Fall Membership Workshop and Cookout Migis Lodge, South Casco (tenative)

* Tentative dates due to COVID-19

Welcome New Camp Members!

University of Maine 4-H Camp Greenland Point

Located on a 64-acre peninsula known as **Greenland Point** on Long Lake in Princeton. The camp includes log cabins that form a small village and a sporting-camp-style lodge and dining hall. The extensive waterfront includes an aquatics area, boating docks, and natural shoreline, providing swimming, boating and great fishing opportunities.

Ron Fournier 207.665.2068 extension.greenlandpoint@maine.edu Extension.umain.edu/Greenland-point/summer-camp/

Welcome New Business Members!

Pierce Atwood LLP

Pierce Atwood LLP is a full-service law firm based in New England, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise in complex and class action litigation, energy production and distribution, midmarket mergers and acquisitions, information security and technology, commercial real estate development, and complex construction projects. We regularly represent Maine summer camps in employment, tax, and government relations matters.

Newell Augur 207.446.3430 nauger@pierceatwood.com www.pierceatwood.com

NEWS BRIEFS

2021 Business Networking Event

We are currently exploring various formats for holding some type of virtual Business Networking Event and hope to hold the event in late March. If you know of an easy-to-use and affordable program, please contact Ron Hall at camps@mainecamps.org.

MSC/MYCA Semi-Annual Membership Meeting

For the second year, and hopefully the last year we will be holding our Semi-Annual Membership Meeting virtually. This year's meeting will be held on **March 11 at 8:30 am** in conjunction with the ACA Northeast Conference. Details will be in the February Hall Monitor.

Maine Camp History

Summer Camp Traditions:Rainy Day and Evening Movies

By Henry Paul Johnson, Maine Summer Camp Historian

n most Wednesday and Thursday evenings and on many rainy days, campers and camp counselors at Camp Powhatan in Otisfield, Maine (including myself) participated in the camp tradition of watching movies. Movie times provided campers and staff time to sit back and relax and enjoy what might have been considered for its day a significant film. Films were shown via reel-to-reel projector and were projected onto portable movie screens.

Campers would many times bring out their secret stashes from their footlockers so that they could enjoy refreshments during the movies. These snacks often included TastyCake pastries, homemade brownies and cookies (that had been sent to camp by campers' parents), popcorn, and many times various candies. Candies at Powhatan, many times, were obtained from a candy sale that took place following lunch at the camp canteen. Campers there would have the opportunity to purchase such treats as Mounds, Almond Joy Bars, Skybars, Chuckles, and even Necco Wafers.

Back to the movies ... As I reflect upon movies shown at Camp as an adult, I have come to realize that the range of movies which campers and staff viewed were, in many regards, classics of film—at least semi-classics of film by virtue of the fact that many of those same movies can be viewed today on the Turner Movie Classic cable channel today.

The movies ranged in genre from science fiction to westerns to comedy to horror and to even biography or semi-biographical film. I remember being haunted by the images of Vincent Price in his starring role in *The Pit and The Pendulum*.

Among the Maine Summer Camp archives, I was able to locate a publication that was created and edited by Powhatan Camp Director Dr. Joel Bloom called *The Powhatan Pow-Wow* (1967) which was provided to campers prior to their attendance at summer camp. I was most interested to find that the Pow-Wow disclosed the movies that were to be shown at camp. It even went so far as to indicate that the movies would be all "in color".

So, as we look back at camp history, and we remember the movie experiences which Maine summer camps have offered to campers and staff, we take a look back at what movies were shown at Camp Powhatan in 1967. They were as follows:

McHales Navy
War Gods of The Deep
The Devil at 4 O'Clock
The Pit and The Pendulum
Jason and the Argonauts
The Second Time Around

First Men in the Moon
Six Black Horses
The Young Racers
The Face of Fu Manchu
Antragon
Fluffy

Campers and counselors who have attended camp in Maine realize as they age that camp has had many influences upon each of them. I submit that the movie experience at Camp Powhatan in some interesting way impacted this Historian's fondness of film.

Please enjoy the list as reprinted above and write or share with me your stories about your own camp's movie experiences.

Editor's Note: This article is written by noted author and Maine Summer Camp Historian, Henry Johnson who attended Camp Powhatan in Otisfield, Maine from 1966 through 1973 as a camper, counselor, and ultimately, program director. Mr. Johnson is the author of numerous articles and publications relating to the history of Maine summer camps. If you wish to submit information relating to the history of any Maine summer camp you may do so at: hjohnson@henryjohnsonlaw.com



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Outgoing MYCA President Peter Hirsch

Praise for Peter Hirsch

s **Peter Hirsch** steps down, and Laura Ordway assumes the presidency of MYCA, Laura reached out to colleagues for input on just how valuable Peter's contributions have been. She writes:

On January 1, Peter Hirsch, director of Camp Androscoggin, completed a six-year term as President of MYCA (the sister organization to Maine Summer Camps that focuses on policy and advocacy). Peter's insight and understanding of how

governmental legislation can help (and at times, hinder) camps' successful operations has been invaluable. He has guided MYCA through dozens of proposed bills and policy directly impacting camps at both the state and federal level, as well as the unforeseen overtime helping navigate Maine camps through the global pandemic summer season of 2020.

Camp colleagues also have high praise for Peter's work.

From Steve Sudduth of Wyonegonic: "Peter is a true camp professional: he is steady, balanced and understand the value of MYCA's mission."

"Unlike most leaders, Peter was able to always see what was best for all camps, not just best for camps that looked like his. I enjoyed Peter's wit during meetings (and in the last year it was fun to see how his lockdown beard was progressing)," writes Fritz Seving of Camp Fernwood.

Jack Erler of MSC also speaks to Peter's professional abilities. "Based on his questions, conclusions and recommendations for the issues presented, Peter obviously had read, understood and gave serious thought to the information pertinent each matter under consideration. He also scrupulously sought input from all the Association directors before deciding. As a result, he made good decisions."

It is our good fortune that Peter plans to remain on as Vice President for the foreseeable future, continuing to support MYCA's role as a leader in the camp industry.

