

CANS E-NEWSLETTER



Camping Association
of Nova Scotia

Serving the Organized Camping Communities of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

Highlights of SPRING Issue: MAY 2009

- ***NEW* Camp Canoe Instructors Course** organized by CANS (exciting details inside!)
- Program Development Assistance **Grants of \$750** available for member camps in 2009 (deadline: June 30, 2009). Information will be emailed to you by May 10, 2009.
- CANS **membership dues** are due! It's that time of year!
- CANS **annual meeting** (Tuesday, May 19, 2009)
- **Nominations** needed for Camping Association Board of Directors and Officers
- CanoeKayak Nova Scotia **Flatwater Instructor Course** (Halifax & Big Cove)
- Invitation to attend **NB Camping Association** training and canoe events this May
- **Outdoor Leadership Conference** planned in Antigonish (NSOLD Conference)
- Tips on **Checking Staff and Volunteer References**

Calendar of Events of Interest to Camps (highlights by date)

- May 19 CANS Annual Meeting, South Park YMCA at 7 p.m. (business meeting only)
- May 22-24 Counsellor Workshop – New Brunswick Camping Association
- May 22-24 Flatwater Instructor Course with CanoeKayak Nova Scotia (plus June 5-7)
- May 29-31 NSOLD Outdoor Practitioners Conference (outdoor leadership & education)
- May 29-31 Canoe School – New Brunswick Camping Association
- June 13-14 CANS Camp Canoe Instructor Training, Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp
- June 27-28 CANS Camp Canoe Instructor Training, Johnston Christian Park

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Camping Association of Nova Scotia

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

Location: South Park YMCA, Halifax, N.S.

Time: 7 p.m.

We expect that the annual meeting will last approximately 60-90 minutes. It will only be our business meeting. We hope to plan a director's forum and training event for the fall of 2009, perhaps at the same time as the Recreation Nova Scotia event.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED

We would like to have you involved in our association!!

If you are interested in serving as an officer, on our board of directors, or on one of our committees, please contact Heather MacDonald, our Past President and Nominations Chair at camping@abilitiesfoundation.ns.ca

Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer

Board of Directors: meet 4-6 times per year from September to May for three hours

Standing Committees: Membership & Accreditation, Education, Awards, Archives, and Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP DUES DUE!

Membership fees are due by the end of May 2009 for the 2009-2010 membership year and include membership in the Canadian Camping Association.

Current Membership categories and fees:

Camps	\$50.00	Corporate	\$100.00
Agencies & Program Camps	\$30.00	Individuals	\$15.00

The Membership form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Four \$750 program development assistance grants are available to member camps this year. The program must either be a new program that you are developing this year or a significant expansion of an existing one. More information will be emailed to you by May 10, 2009. Application Deadline will be June 30, 2009. Contact russell_prime2@yahoo.ca for more info.

2009

NEW CANOE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM



CAMP CANOE INSTRUCTOR'S PROGRAM

- This program is designed to certify camp staff to operate a basic canoe skill training program for campers (see Canoeing Certification for Campers below) starting in 2009.
- Program will last two days and will consist of canoe skill development, safety training, and teaching instruction.
- Two instructor's programs will be held in Nova Scotia in the Spring of 2009, one in Central Nova Scotia at Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp (June 13-14) and the other in Southwestern Nova Scotia at Johnston Christian Park (June 27-28). If requested, one may also be held in Prince Edward Island or Cape Breton on a cost-recovery basis.
- Trainers will either be Paddle Canada Flatwater Instructors (or higher) or CANS certified Instructor-Trainers. If you have significant canoe training experiences at camps or in the school system over a decade or more, please contact the CANS Education Committee for more information on the CANS Instructor-Trainer designation.
- Prerequisite: Paddle Canada Level D or higher or an equivalent certification from another jurisdiction. A Paddle Canada Level C certification may also be accepted in 2009 **only** with significant canoeing experience. Canoeists with significant experience over several years may also be accepted into the program for 2009 with the trainer's permission.
- We recommend that at least two staff members from each camp receive the training and work together in canoe programming at camps.
- Currently, staff instructing or leading canoeing programs at CANS Accredited camps are required to hold at least a Paddle Canada Level C certification. Starting for the summer of 2010, Accredited Camps will either require a Paddle Canada Flatwater Instructor or a CANS Camp Canoe Instructor on staff to operate canoeing programs.


CANOEING CERTIFICATION FOR CAMPERS

- Instructors must either possess a Paddle Canada Flatwater Instructor's certification or have passed the CANS Camp Canoe Instructor's Program.
- Four levels of certification are available: Mink, Muskrat, Otter, and Beaver.
- Mink level is for children under age 11 and is a basic safety program with a bit of paddling instruction.
- Muskrat, Otter, and Beaver levels are for children 11 years and older and are roughly equivalent to Paddle Canada's A and B levels.
- Program is free for member camps. Camps must register and will receive certification cards that each camp is responsible for handing out if campers pass the program.

* **Registration / Questions: Contact Russell Prime at russell_prime2@yahoo.ca or 902-491-6285**

The Camp Canoe Instructor programs are on trial for 2009. We have approached instructors from Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia to assist us in the training required for this program. It is our hope that a co-operative partnership will develop with Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia in the future to assist us with the canoeing program and a future kayak training program, as well.

Sample Card for CANOE Certifications (Campers)




Camping Association of Nova Scotia
Serving Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

This is to Certify that

has passed the Muskrat level of
Basic Canoeing Skills in the Summer of 2009.

Camp Canoe Instructor _____ Camp _____


P. O. Box 33039, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6
(902) 425-5454 ext. 431 Website: <http://www.campingns.ca/>



(front side)



INFORMATION ON CANOE SKILLS

<p>SKIPPER LEVEL ONE OF BASIC CANOEING Strokes: bow, back, jam Safety: PFDs, basic equip., balance, entry Other: paddle parts, positioning</p>	<p>MUSKRAT LEVEL TWO (includes SKIPPER) Strokes: feathering, push, draw, sweep Safety: rescue entry, balance, weather Other: boat parts, change positions on water</p>
 <p>OTTER LEVEL THREE (includes MUSKRAT) Strokes: draw/push underwater recovery Safety: carrying and transporting canoe Other: emerg. shelter, boat sizes/materials</p>	 <p>BEAVER LEVEL FOUR (includes OTTER) Strokes: Demonstrate/Work on "J", Skulling Safety: In water canoe rescue practice Other: history, special strokes, carries, tripping</p>



(back side)

CAMP CANOE INSTRUCTOR'S PROGRAM FOR NS & PEI

It only takes two days to become an instructor!

We will review skills, provide basic Paddle Canada certification, help you plan a few lessons and strategies to lead camper canoeing skills sessions at your camps this summer, and certify you as a CANS Camp Canoe Instructor!

You can take this course this summer at two locations in Nova Scotia:

June 13-14 at Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp, near Middle Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia

June 27-28 at Johnston Christian Park, near Digby, Nova Scotia

Prerequisites:

- Canoeing Experience, preferably at a Paddle Canada Level "C" or equivalent.
- Must hold an emergency first aid or higher certificate recognized in N.S. or P.E.I. Paddlers may take the course without it, but they must complete first aid training before certificate will be awarded.

Cost:

\$75 for member camps (or staff associated with member camps)
\$125 non-member camps (or staff associated with non-member camps)

For more information or to register, please contact:

Russell Prime
CANS Education Committee
P. O. Box 12
Blandford, NS B0J 1C0
(902) 491-6285 or 228-2761
russell_prime2@yahoo.ca

Next year, you can train your own camp canoe instructors using our curriculum if you make use of a Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia flatwater instructor or a very experienced (over many years) canoeist associated with your camp that has been approved as a CANS Canoe Instructor-Trainer.

For details, please contact Russell Prime at russell_prime2@yahoo.ca or (902) 491-6285.

Camping Association of Nova Scotia (C.A.N.S.) Registration Form
"CANOE INSTRUCTOR TRAINING"

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address (if used): _____

Birthdate: _____ Age: _____

Medical Conditions / Allergies / Food Concerns: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (if under 19): _____ Telephone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Telephone: _____

Health Card Number: _____ Province of Coverage: _____

Other Comments: _____

**Please register as soon as possible. Call or email to let us know that you are planning to attend.
Bring this form with you when you arrive at camp.**

Russell Prime, CANS Education Committee
P. O. Box 12, Blandford, Nova Scotia B0J 1C0
Phone: (902) 491-6285 or 228-2761
Email: russell_prime2@yahoo.ca

Fee of \$75 (members) or \$125 (non-member) is due upon arrival. Payment may be made by either cash, cheque, or money order. Cheques or money orders should be made payable to the "Camping Association of Nova Scotia". Registrations will be accepted until the event begins, depending upon space.

Please call or email to let us know that you are planning to attend in case of cancellation or schedule changes.

I grant permission for the CANS to arrange any medical treatment that may be required in an emergency without further consent. I also authorize CANS to allow pictures of me to be used for reasonable promotion of the Camp Canoe Instructor's Program and CANS.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



NEW BRUNSWICK
CAMPING ASSOCIATION

www.nbcamping.ca

The New Brunswick Camping Association invites our camps to attend...

Counsellor Workshop – 2009

May 22 - 24

Camp Directors this is an opportunity for you staff to gain a useful amount of knowledge that applies to all types of camps. There will be 30 workshops offered with four options during each time frame. To gain the most from the workshop you should have you staff spread out so they have someone in every workshop.

This year we are encouraging each camp to arrive in costume, we will have an opening parade so they have a chance to show their stuff. We have a full program so we will start on Friday at 7:15 so please try to be there on time.

This years workshop is being held at Caton's Island – driving directions are included on a separate sheet so you can copy and give to the drivers

Each year the NBCA hold an auction so please sent items to be auctioned and advise your counselors that they might buy items if they bring money.

The cost is \$75 if you register by May 12th – Note that this has remained the same for the last number of years – a real bargain

Registrations after May 12 pay \$ 85 - so don't be late, you'll save money.

What you need to bring:

- sleeping bag – pillow?
- Clothing
- Toiletries
- Running shoes
- Costume for opening parade and perhaps campfire
- \$\$ for buying at the auction??
- Items from your camp for the auction??

New Brunswick Camping Association Counsellor Workshop
Registration Form 2009

Early registration Deadline - May 12th

Return form to:

Counsellors Workshop

Box 782

Moncton, NB

E1C 8N6

Or e-mail the info to: campcent@nb.sympatico.ca

Camp _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

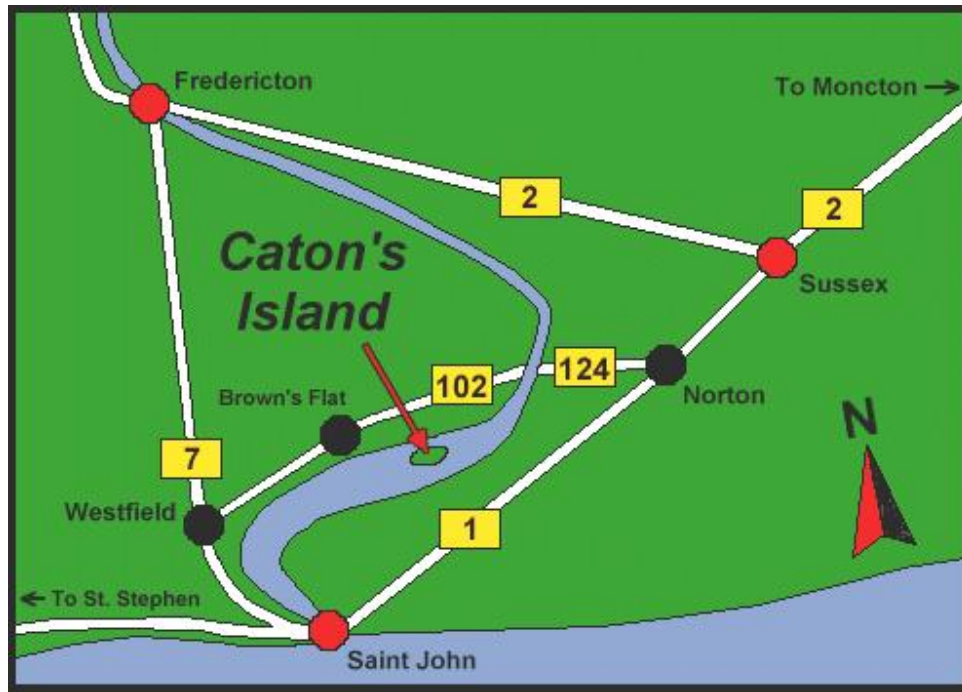
Number of counselors from our camp _____

Name of any counselors attending who have allergies _____

***** make cheques payable to: Owen Fraser

_____ Cheque included

_____ We will send a cheque opening day



From:

- **Saint John** - Take Route 7 North to The Grand Bay/Westfield exit. (Route 102) Follow Route 102 until you come to Brown's Flat. Take a right on the Caton's road about 1/2 kilometer after the Irving Station. Follow that Road until you come to the parking lot.
- **Fredericton** - Take Route 7 South to The Grand Bay/Westfield exit. (Route 102) Follow Route 102 until you come to Brown's Flat. Take a right on the Caton's road about 1/2 kilometer after the Irving Station. Follow that Road until you come to the parking lot.
- **Sussex** - Take Route 1 and take the Norton/Route 124 Exit. Follow Route 124 until you come to the Evandale Ferry. After you cross the ferry take a left on Route 102. Follow Route 102 until you come to Brown's Flat. There is a hill and at the bottom of it is the Caton's Island road on the left.(There is very little warning) Follow that Road until you come to the parking lot. (It is easier to drive up to the Irving, and turn around since the road is at a very sharp left turn to the left coming from Sussex).

New Brunswick Counsellor Workshop – 2009

Friday May 22

7:15 - Opening Parade - All Camps in Costume

7:30 – Clothes change

7:35 – Camp Wide Games

**9:00 - Opening Address – John Jorginson “Jorgi” from Camp Tawingo
“Making Camp a Magical Experience”**

10:00 – Snack

10:15 - “After Dark” activities

Saturday May 23

9:00 am **1. Firelighting – the know how, tips and tricks**
2. Creating new games
3. Camouflage fun – games and ideas
4. --]

] Creating a dynamic 2 hr session
] Campfire Program Max 35 persons

10:00 **1.—]**
2. Creative Initiatives – requiring brain & brawn
3. Slack line and other balance challenges
4.--]

] Crafts - 2 hr session Max 14 persons

11:00 **1.--]**
2. Map & Compass – learning how & what you can do at Camp
3. Intro to Birds and Trees. How to make it interesting
4. More wide games with smaller groups

12:00 **Lunch**

- 1:30** **1. Spare minute ideas(a pocket full of ideas)**
2. I have a diabetic, asthmatic etc. camper, what do I do?
3. Knots – how to tie them – where to use them
4. String games and ideas.
- 2:30** **1. Learning how to create obstacle challenges**
2. Quiet Riot(energy burning in confined spaces)
3. Fun challenges – egg drops, marshmallow creations etc.
4.--]
] Open fire cooking - 2 hr session Max 14 persons
- 3:30** **1.--]**
2. Secret societies – including explanations
3. Paper airplane challenges
4. The “art” of story telling
- 5:00** **Supper**
- 6:30** **Camp Wide Activity**
- 7:30** **Annual NBCA Auction**
- 9:00** **Campfire - Each camp contributing so come prepared**

Sunday May 24

- 9:00** **1. Making the most of drama & Improv**
2. Creating fun camp structures- forts, teepee’s etc.
3. Developing camp skits
4. Using the educational moment
- 10:00** **1. Rainy day excitement**
2. Special events – all Camp
3. Using costumes creatively
4. Initiative games
- 11:00** **Large group activity**
- 12:00** **Lunch**
- Pack – up and head out with a camp size load of ideas.**



NEW BRUNSWICK
CAMPING ASSOCIATION

www.nbcamping.ca

The New Brunswick Camping Association invites our camps to attend...

Canoe School

May 29 – 31, 2009 at *Caton's Island*

The New Brunswick Camping Association is again sponsoring a canoe certification course which allows your staff to receive their Paddle Canada certification and thus be able to run your canoe program this summer at camp.

The cost is \$ 90 for students and \$ 100 for adults. Registration deadline is May 20, 2009. The cost for late registrations is \$ 125.

Canoeists live in cabins and eat together in the dining hall. All food and services are provided and are included in the cost.

This course is very intense and you are expected to come with a positive attitude and ready to work hard. The canoeing level you receive depends on how well you master the skills. There are demonstrations and classroom sessions but most of the time is spent in and on the water.

***Caton's Island Camp* is located on the St. John River near Brown's Flat. Instruction on how to get there are included on a separate page.**

For any questions contact Owen Fraser at 853-3507 or e-mail at:
campcent@nb.sympatico.ca

Checklist:

PFD

Sleeping bag – pillow?
Peak cap
Bug spray
Towel(s) & toiletries
A paddle(if you have one)

Bathing suit

Sunglasses
Sunscreen
Rainwear
Extra clothing for clothed swim
A PFD(if you have one)

Registration Form
NBCA Canoe School 2009

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____

City or Town _____

Postal Code _____

e-mail address _____

Your Camp _____

Students(\$90) _____

Adults(\$100) _____

Please make cheques payable to: Owen Fraser

Mail registrations to:

**Canoe School
Box 782
Moncton, NB
E1C 8N6**

NSOLD Conference May 29-31, 2009



Celebrating the Past, Recognizing the Present, Envisioning the Future

2009 Outdoor Practitioners Conference

May 29 – 31st, 2009

St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Many who share in outdoor experiences can attest to a phenomenal growth in interest, activity, and practice in Nova Scotia. This conference will serve as a nexus—a refocusing of the vastness in outdoor experiences and sustainability education. Nova Scotia has taken leadership in many facets of outdoor experiences, and we have much to celebrate, for there is a rich history that embraces education, sustainability, recreation, community programming, and adventure for all ages. Join us at StFX University as we reconnect, partner, and vision for the future growth of Outdoor Practitioners in Nova Scotia. The conference is a partnership of the Nova Scotia Outdoor Leadership Development Program, the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection and SENSE (Sustainability Education in Nova Scotia for Everyone), a working group of the Nova Scotia Environmental Network.

We will come together as an outdoor and sustainability community to recognize past contributions, acknowledge current realities facing outdoor practitioners, and develop new directions for the future. Building on the success of the 2001 Sharing the Outdoors Conference, this will be an opportunity for fun, learning, and celebration. The conference will include hands on experiential sessions, a trade show, an engaging series of keynote speakers, entertainment, magic and much more including the Outdoors!

For more information contact Jody Conrad: 902.424.7589, or Sandra Fraser: 902.424.5481.

Check the website for more information and lots of details!

<http://www.theanthill.ca/nsold/2773/Home>

CHECK REFERENCES BEFORE CHOOSING CAMP STAFF MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

by Russell Prime, CANS VP and lawyer in Nova Scotia.

EVERY CAMPER in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia deserves to attend a summer camp where their safety is protected in all reasonable ways.

One reasonable way of protecting the young people entrusted to our care is to ensure that we obtain relevant reference information from our potential **employees** and **volunteers** and that we check references without exception!

You might say, “But, I have checked for a criminal record. Oh, and in some provinces, I checked the child abuse registry system. Isn’t that enough? After all, people only put down references that are going to be positive, anyway! Why do I need to take the huge amount of time to check references?”

But, I would humbly suggest that criminal and abuse registry checks only alert you to problems that have already become “public” knowledge. Instead, you need to try and find ways that will alert you to possible problems and help you avoid possible difficulties in the future. Indeed, you are trying to be proactive! Even if it takes a great deal of time, references can help you find the right employee or volunteer and can help you provide the safest camper environment possible.

Here are four suggestions:

1. Criminal Record & Child Abuse Registry Checks. All employees and volunteers that will be working at a camp need to provide you with a criminal record check and a child abuse registry check (if available in your province)—NO EXCEPTIONS. Please make sure that you even include returning employees in these checks.

2. Gathering Reference Information. There is no need to gather reference information until you are seriously considering a candidate. However, once you are serious, ask the candidate for references that you may contact to help you evaluate specific skills, appropriate relational behaviours and responsibilities, and previous employment or volunteer details. Good sources are previous employers and, in the case of young people, high school teachers or non-family members familiar with your candidate over a substantial period of time. For older adults, co-workers, clients, and business partners might also make useful references. Try and obtain contact information for more than the couple of references that most candidates provide as a matter of course.

3. Oh, and do the reference contacting yourself, please! You know what you want your employee or volunteer to be able to do and are most capable of asking questions that will help you make an appropriate decision.

4. Ask good questions of references and listen! Try and keep questions open-ended and yet specific to your needs. For example, how did So-and-So work with junior high youth? Would you hire her back again, if you could, to work with your youth? Did you ever have a problem with him while he worked with your youth that was unsafe? And, remember, listen for tone changes, hesitations, or for what is not being said.

References may in fact be your best “check” to guard against problems before they arise. Take this part of the process seriously and follow your instincts.

In a court of law, should a liability issue arise, you will need to assure the court that you acted reasonably, prudently, and in line with the best hiring and volunteer standards followed by other camps and employers. And, in my opinion, it is reasonable that you take the time to check references and verify information that is readily available to you.

Camps continue to struggle, year after year, with the process of hiring qualified staff and choosing good volunteers. It is a great deal of work! And, many of us involved in the hiring or vetting processes are not “human resource professionals”. However, reference checks are essential; please take the time to verify information and check for potential problems. Hopefully, it will save you from future problems and will help keep our young people as safe as possible.

Happy and Safe Camping in 2009!

FURTHER INFORMATION:

I found the following websites very helpful:

N.S. Child Abuse Register Information. There are now new forms in place and the forms no longer require the applicant to swear or affirm before a commissioner of oaths:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/abuse/ChildAbuseRegister.html>

American Camp Association article on hiring good staff:

<http://www.acacamps.org/campmag/0703hiring.php>

Article on background checking in *Canada Camps Magazine*:

<http://www.canadacampsmag.com/content/view/59/12/>

Good reference check information from a Halifax-based business consultant called Gerald Walsh Associates Inc.: http://www.geraldwalsh.com/news_article_refer.html

Ideas on reference checking from a business world perspective:

<http://www.allbusiness.com/human-resources/workforce-management-hiring/1470-1.html>



Camping Association of Nova Scotia

P.O. Box 33039 Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3L 4T6

(902) 425-5454 ext. 431

E-mail: info@campingns.ca

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Privileges of Membership in CANS are:

- Membership in the Canadian Camping Association
CANS and CCA Newsletters and Periodicals
- Reduced Rates for CANS Events
- Access to Spring Staff Training Weekend
- Summer Camp Visitations by CANS Reps
- Networking - Programs and People in CANS
- Free advertising in CANS Newsletter
- Access to the CANS Accreditation Program

Name of Camp _____

Camp Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Camp Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Contact Name _____

Contact Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Contact Telephone Home: _____ Office: _____

Contact E-mail _____

Type of Membership:

_____ Camp \$ 50.00 _____ Commercial \$100.00
_____ Adult \$15.00 _____ Agency/Program* \$30.00

* Those Running More Than One Camp

- NOTES:
- The CANS year for membership purposes runs annually from April 1 - March 31.
 - Please make cheques payable to the "Camping Association of Nova Scotia". *Thanks!*

Date

Signature

For Office Use Only

Date Received _____

Receipt No. _____

Amount Received \$ _____

CAMPING ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

MISSION STATEMENT

The Camping Association of Nova Scotia supports the development and promotion of organized camping in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

GOALS of the ASSOCIATION:

- **To represent camping to government and other agencies**
- **To provide opportunities for the training and development of camping leaders**
- **To act as a referral source for information pertaining to camping**
- **To provide, promote and revise accreditation standards for organized camping in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.**
- **To educate the public regarding camps and camping in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.**

(Revised January 2007)

LIST OF MEMBER CAMPS

Acadia University Summer Camps*	Camp Lion Maxwell	Lutheran Camp Mush-a-Mush*
Arthur J. Kidston Memorial Camp*	Camp MacLeod*	MacLennan Memorial Camp*
Bayside Youth Camp	Camp Mockingee	Mount Traber Bible Camp & Conference Centre
Big Cove YMCA Camp*	Camp Morton	Nova Scotia Choral Federation (Agency)
Camp Abegweit (PEI)*	Camp Peniel*	Redtail Nature Awareness
Camp Aite Breagh*	Camp Pugwash	Ross Creek Centre for the Arts*
Camp Connect*	Camp Rankin	Scotian Glen Camp*
Camp Evangeline	Camp Tidnish*	Sherbrooke Lake United Church Camp*
Camp Geddie*	Camp Treasure Chest*	Tim Horton Children's Camp*
Camp Glasgowhead*	Cape Breton Bible Camp	Truth for Youth Bible Camp
Camp Good time	CUPW Summer Day Camp	YMCA Camp Wapomeo*
Camp Hilles*	Girl Guides of Canada - Nova Scotia (Agency)	
Camp Jordan	Johnston Christian Park*	
Camp Kadimah*	Long Lake Youth Camp	
Camp Keir (PEI)*		

* these camps have met the accreditation standards of the Camping Association of Nova Scotia.