

REPORT TO OHOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FROM: GLEN MARSHALL
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The quantity of canoe equipment available this summer was sufficient. For the first summer since OHOC started (1994), I did not have to leave my personal canoe in the canoe rack or provide my own paddles and lifejackets for OHOC canoe outings.

Next summer, I recommend that there must be two (2) leaders for each canoe outing. One leader will sign up participants, answer questions, match drivers with participants, and direct participants to the equipment room. The other leader should assist the drivers in mounting canoes safely on cars and in locking up the canoe racks and equipment room. I have noticed that some leaders leave the canoe racks and equipment room unlocked. By having two leaders, this problem could be avoided. However, having two leaders on every canoe outing would drain our volunteer base and could result in fewer outings during the summer.

The Memorandum of Understanding between OHOC and Hostelling International Canada - Ontario East (HIC-OE) gives OHOC members the right to rent canoes. There are 10 canoes: HIC-OE owns eight and OHOC owns two. If an HIC-OE canoe were to be lost while it was rented to an OHOC member, the club should not expect that HIC-OE would pay to replace the lost canoe. Should an HIC-OE canoe be lost while on an OHOC outing, the canoe can be replaced with an OHOC canoe or replaced at OHOC's expense. Renting of HIC-OE canoes by individuals happened twice during the past year, both resulting in regrettable incidents. The cost of renting the green «old town» canoe (owned by OHOC) is \$15 per day. The renter of the green canoe signed an activity sheet, provided a blank cheque made out to OHOC to cover rental fees and damage charges. The renter picked up the canoe from the equipment manager and returned it to him. The other canoe owned by OHOC (a grumman) is susceptible to damage and was not rented out this summer. Please note that the cost of renting an HIC-OE canoe is also \$15 per day to OHOC members.

Rope tie downs were provided this year, but only two leaders knew how to use them. Some strap tie downs were burned by mufflers. No equipment has gone missing so far this year.

The HIC-OE Board of Directors passed the following motion at its meeting of March 11, 1997: «The Board appreciates the work being done by OHOC in meeting the objectives of our constitution with respect to serving our local members». At the HIC-OE Board meeting in April, the president of OHOC, Jim Fraser, was invited to speak about OHOC's activities and mandate. Furthermore, the minutes of the 1996 OHOC AGM state that «we should not take this facility for granted because it would be very hard to do club functions at somebody's home.» The HIC-OE newsletter has an article on OHOC, and our E-mail address and hotline are on the HIC-OE web page.

In August 1997, a member of the current OHOC executive sent an e-mail message to other members of the OHOC executive requesting that action be initiated on certain items, one of which included the severance of OHOC's ties with HIC-OE. I want to remind club members that if OHOC were to sever its ties with HIC-OE, the club would lose the use of eight (8) canoes. I also want to remind OHOC members that, in mid-1970s, Trailhead gave HIC-OE canoes 1, 2, 3, and 4 when Trailhead operated out of the Ottawa International Hostel.

In conclusion, the newsletter distribution team requires more volunteers to deliver newsletters to selected locations close to where members live or work. If you wish to help distribute newsletters, or know of a new place where they can be dropped off, please let me know during the break or after the AGM.