

President's report to the 1996 Ottawa Hostel Outdoor Club AGM

October 7, 1996.

I am particularly pleased with the success and the number of outdoor activities which have taken place over the last year. The credit has to go out to the numerous volunteer activity coordinators and in particular to the many members who volunteered a day or evening of their time to lead an outing. Members of the executive have also put in many dedicated hours of their time. And to all of them, I am indebted, for they have made my job easy. For the last 12 months I have done not much more than redirect issues and concerns to the appropriate executive member or activity coordinator.

I think that one of the highlights of the year, was to see some 50 or so leaders turn out for a leader's appreciation evening on a Friday evening last spring. It goes to show how much depth there is in the volunteer spirit of OHOC. Many thanks go out to Jane Ashley for organizing this event. We should not take our volunteers for granted. I have seen similar organizations dissolve quickly when volunteers are ignored or the organization lapses.

We have seen the second straight year where the treasurer has reported a surplus of revenues over spending. This is good. I urge the following executive to act responsibly with this reserve and to stick to the budget to be approved by the members here this evening. A few short years ago our parent body, Hosteling International - Ontario East had a large reserve. We saw this disappear in a few short years as they came precariously close to bankruptcy. I have been involved with this group for about 15 years. We offer a unique year round outdoor recreational experience. I'd like to see that continue into the 21st century. With the core of volunteers and the reserve that we now have a sound base to achieve this providing we coordinate our volunteers well, and elect a responsible and motivated club executive.

I have now served two terms as president. The first year was as our first full year as a totally volunteer entity was a difficult yet rewarding and successful year for OHOC. I had the unenviable responsibility of having to oversee the expulsion of one of the members. The last year has gone by particularly smoothly for me in comparison. All of the issues were straight forward. Each year I have had outstanding support from the rest of the executive.

I have just signed a "memorandum of understanding" with the Hosteling International - Ontario East. It is an agreement whereby we are allowed to continue our operations out of the Hostel for another year. The benefits that we receive from the Hosteling Association should not be taken for granted either.

I am not seeking a third term as president. This is solely because I feel that in any volunteer organization it is healthy to rotate the lead role. We are the Ottawa Hostel Outdoor club. This should not be synonymous with "John Galbraith". I wish my successor my full blessing. I expect to continue to play an active role with the club both in an organizational capacity as well as in trip leading.

OHOC President:



John Galbraith