

OHOC Membership Report 2004
Margot Gallant, Membership Secretary

42 snail mail.

For the 2004 membership year, OHOC had a total of 245 active members. This number is slightly down from the 2003 total of 280 members, but still in the same general range. Upon reviewing the number of membership form submitted on the 'infocard' as opposed to on paper, the infocards account for only 6% or 15 membership forms.

My comments and suggestions for the 2005 membership year: *how many ticked off head about it*

I have enjoyed participating on the executive and feel that the membership process ran fairly smoothly last year. Having a personal email address – ohocmembership@yahoo.ca – as well as a central address at the Hostel to send memberships to seems to be a system that works well. However, I would like to suggest some minor changes for 2005 that will be beneficial for all members:

- I am going to include written reminders in the newsletter, email updates and on the application form on the Web suggesting to members that they use a Yahoo and not a Hotmail email account. As many members are aware, large-size attachments are sometimes blocked from the Hotmail accounts, and the easiest solution in my opinion is for members to simply open a free Yahoo account where they can receive their OHOC mail. I will also be reminding members that if they are not renewed prior to Jan 31/05, **they will no longer be on the email list**. Ken and I receive a significant number of emails about this issue throughout the year.
- I have purchased a receipt book and will be issuing a written receipt to each member, beginning immediately with any 2005 memberships purchased after the AGM. This should assist me greatly with my record-keeping. I will be issuing written receipts at the Winter Info Night, and will be making members aware that this process will take more time than in previous years. If members do not feel they can take the required time to do that at the info night, they are free to send me their renewal any time between now and the info night.
- I will be reminding experienced and new leaders that non-members on day trips are required to pay the appropriate activity fees, and it is the leader's responsibility to actively collect these fees. Activity fees are a source of income for our club.
- Lastly, the Executive voted at our Sept 8th meeting to increase membership fees to \$30 for members wishing email correspondence only, and to \$40 for those wishing to receive the newsletters through the mail. **The 'snail mail' mailouts are costly (postage + photocopies) and, more importantly, take several hours of volunteer time.** I would like to suggest two options: 1) that we 'grandfather' in anyone currently receiving the mailout but do not offer the option to new members 2) that we leave copies of the newsletter in the Equipment Room for member pick-up. In my opinion, I feel that the Internet is now so widely accessible that the mailout is no longer essential, as it eats up valuable volunteer time!