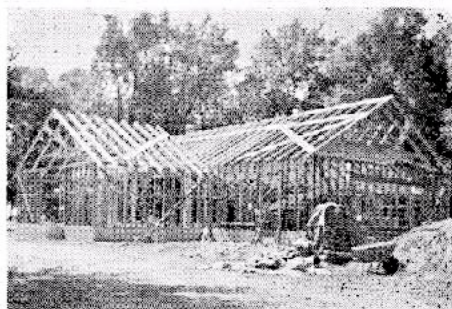


# New Ontario Conference Grounds

# Chi Rho Camp and Young People's Conference



**BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**

This is the main building on the Disciples of Christ Ontario Conference Grounds, taken July 29, 1953, by Byron Howlett.

**M**UCH needed support has been given by church people throughout Ontario in the building of a fine lodge on the Ontario Conference Grounds.

The contractor, Mr. William Messner, of Sweet's Corners, has been helped in the erection of the lodge and some cabins which will ensure the successful operation of the Chi Rho Intermediate Camp and the C.Y.F. Conference.

There is still a good deal to be done and it is hoped that more cabins and ever-increasing facilities will be added next year and in the years to come. Camp leaders feel that the plea of the Disciples of Christ can be strengthened and continued by the successful operation of this conference ground.

Jim Lemon



Young Adult Weekend Campers at the Ontario Conference Grounds, July 31 - August 3, 1953.

**A**BOUT twenty young adults and older young people attended a work camp at the new Ontario Conference Grounds from Friday, July 31 to Monday, August 3.

Saturday and Monday were almost entirely given over to work on cleaning up the grounds and to work on the lodge, which is a fine spacious structure.

On Sunday, the group was fortunate to have, through the efforts of Mr. Roy Phillips of North Tonawanda, Rev. James Saylor of Forest Avenue Church, Buffalo, who led a very interesting and inspiring discussion on Evangelism, the emphasis of the Disciples of Christ in 1953-54. Three sessions were held and proved very worthwhile.

Through the good graces of the church people in the area, billets were arranged and this helped to make the weekend very successful, for enthusiasm ran high.

Officers elected for next year's weekend were: Walter Mahler, Windsor, Chairman; Shirley LeCouteur, Toronto, Vice-chairman; Grace McAlpine, Windsor, Secretary-Treasurer. Churches represented were small in number.

Jim Lemon



**DREAMING OF THE FUTURE**

Members of Sweet's Corners C. Y. F. looking into the opening where the fireplace will be in the main Lodge are Marion Fitzgerald, Margaret Rose Wardell, Glenna Fitzgerald, Ann Wooley.



**O**N SUNDAY evening, August 9, history was in the making as some eighty Chi Rho Campers, counselors, and staff members sat down to the first meal to be served in the new dining hall on the Disciples Conference Grounds near Sweet's Corners, Ontario.

True, the camp was lacking in many conveniences that are expected in the near future; but even so, everyone was thrilled with what we had, partly because it was ours, and we had a sense of belonging!

The campers took pride in being real pioneers as they literally cleared and made new paths. By the end of the week, the path was well worn to our clearing among the trees where we held evening devotions, and along the path was placed a lovely rustic marker reading "Angelus". Just before entering this chapel among the trees, another lovely sign is seen, reading, "Surely the Lord is In This Place".

The campers were divided into seven quest (study) groups each studying the theme "This Is My Father's World". Many of the boys and girls came to realize through various projects and activities that they too can help to be co-workers with God in helping to make the world more beautiful and a better place in which to live.

The sixty-seven campers came from fourteen Churches of Christ in Ontario, and four other churches. It was not only the largest Chi Rho Camp to be held, but the largest number of churches to be represented for more than eight years!

It seemed as though the campers showed their gratefulness for a wonderful week on the new conference grounds as on Sunday morning they gave an offering of \$18.66 to the Christian World Friendship Fund, and \$14.22 towards the new dining hall on the grounds.

On August 16, twenty-two young people, seven faculty, and two staff members gathered for the first Young People's Conference to be held on the grounds. Miss Jessie Law, missionary from Mexico, was on the faculty for both camps.

The **October 1953** issue reports on the first Young People's Camp held at the Conference Grounds in the summer.

## **Ontario Young People's Summer Conference**

**O**NTARIO young people made history this summer when for the first time they met for their Summer Conference (Camp) at the Disciple Conference Grounds near Sweets Corners, Ontario. The twenty-one young people who came from the valleys of everyday living to spend a week upon the mountain-top of inspiration found it a truly challenging experience.

Dean of the Conference was Mr. W. M. Kennedy of Ridgetown, and Miss Shirley M. Smith of Windsor was Director. Courses taught included The Service Committee, by Mrs. R. Bicks of Windsor (Mrs. Bicks also served as Dean of Women); The Recreation Committee, by Mr. D. J. Bailey, Owen Sound; The Worship Committee, by Mr. H. J. Simpson, Toronto; "The Teachings of Jesus", by Mr. James Clague, Toronto; "Abroad with the Missionary", by Miss Jessie Law, missionary to Mexico; "A Vital Sunday Evening Fellowship", by Mr. W. M. Kennedy, Ridgetown; and "Hymns as Aids in Worship", by Shirley Smith.

Mr. Clague gave the vesper messages each evening on the theme, "Forget Thyself and Follow Me." Assembly programs each morning included talks by Jim McLarty and Marty Bange on their trip to the International CYF Commission at Portland; presentation of a Character Bond skit by the Service Committee; addresses by Miss Law on missions and by Mr. Clague on Recruitment; and presentation of Christian World Friendship Fund by Shirley Smith.

Officers who served this year were: Carol Ann Wills, President; Marty Bange, Vice-President; and Jim McLarty, Secretary. New officers for 1953-54 installed at the closing Friendship Circle are: Jim McLarty, President; Joan Bange, Vice-President; and Dorothy Durfy, Secretary.

—*Shirley M. Smith.*



July 1954 • Building Cabin 2



May 1955 • Andrew Barnard  
Master Fireplace Creator  
Using rock blasted from the Erie shore



July 1954 • First Family Camp



July 1956 • Building the Administration Building



July 1958 • Building the Wash House