



An old friend needs our help, please support the Owasippe Guest Lodge Restoration Project!



A committee has been formed under the leadership of Dr. Francis Podbielski and Ron Kulak to do a rehab of the Guest Lodge. The plans also include an expansion of the building in keeping with its intended use as an off-season dormitory for scout units and a staff/program facility during the summer. This has taken on some urgency as the building has fallen into serious disrepair. It was actually being considered by the Camp Properties Committee for demolition until a reprieve was granted to see if funds could be raised to try and restore the building to operational use. The council has no funds of their own for this project, and the effort will have to be supported by private funding and sweat equity. CAC will allow some time to see if this restoration project can succeed.

The Guest Lodge was originally built as the key hunting lodge for The Lake Wolverine Club which acquired the land and built the Gus Kopp Dam that formed Lake Wolverine in the late 1940s. When the hunt club folded, Chicago Area Council was able to acquire all of that land and a series of hunting lodges situated around the lake. Over the years, the Guest Lodge, in particular, has been used by hundreds of Units for winter camping and by the staff for pre-camp housing. Ceremonial Teams for Owasippe Lodge OA also have used this as an administrative facility during the summer.

There has been enough personal interest in the building's preservation that has given life to this committee and its intended mission. The Owasippe Staff Association is supporting this project and is also going to act as the manager and repository of donations. The committee is not only seeking pledges and monetary contributions but also donations of time and talent to restore this building to operational use.



The building is structurally sound but needs a new roof and windows, a complete gut job of the kitchen and bathroom, new electrical wiring, a new heating system, and a rebuilt porch....for starters. A local building inspection was also recently completed for an objective evaluation. Interestingly enough, rot and insect infestation was found to be minimal.

So, we are seeking your help and that of others you can recruit. Pledges and checks can be sent in using the donation form below. The OSA is a 501-c-3 charitable organization and such donations are tax deductible. Pledges can be emailed to Ron Kulak at owasiron@juno.com for further followup. Also let Ron know if you have a specific trade that would be useful, ie. carpenter, electrician, plumber, or if you have building material resources.

Spread the word... together, we can make a difference and preserve this beloved and historic structure for future generations of Owasippe campers.



Owasippe Guest Lodge Restoration Project Donation Form

Mail to: The Owasippe Staff Association, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154

- ☐ Yes, I would like to contribute to the OSA's efforts to RESTORE GUEST LODGE in the amount of: \$ _____
My check (payable to the Owasippe Staff Association & earmarked for Guest Lodge Restoration) is enclosed.
- ☐ I work in the building trades and would like to be contacted about volunteering my time on the project.
- ☐ I have access to building materials and would like to be contacted about making a donation or substantial discount.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Signed: _____

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