

APRIL 2023



101<sup>st</sup> Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group

# Newsletter

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## Beaver Tales

April – when winter becomes spring and first meeting of the month was outdoors for the Beavers.



We explored Pleasant Park Woods from Grasshopper Hill Park all the way to Pleasant Park School and back. Keeping up with our busy Beavers a challenge but also great to see their enthusiasm and curiosity.



Next meeting was post Easter and of course the Beavers needed more chocolate, so we organized an Easter egg hunt in the church both upstairs and downstairs and outside.



In these moments, the competitive streak in most of the Beavers also tends to come out. We evened it out in the end to make sure all Beavers got an adequate number of Easter eggs. And then there was the trading and wheeling and dealing among several of them as they traded their caramel eggs for cream filled eggs or vice versa.

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And of course, there was time to play on the structures.



The following week, the Beavers were back outdoors for a night of games at Hutton Park. Most of the hour at the park was spent playing soccer baseball – what's soccer baseball you ask? – well it's exactly what it's called.



The last meeting of April was back at the church for some basic first aid skills. The Beavers made a small personal kit or those who already had one, got to replenish it with some more bandages and antiseptic wipes. They also got to practice putting on bandages on

each other – good practice when they need to help a friend.

One more month of meetings before we wrap for the summer.



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**Cub Corner**

We're going back in time to March 28 – where the Cub Scouters wore Pink in support of International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31st. Thanks to our wonderful Social Media guru – aka Kaa – you may have seen our picture Instagramed out by Scouts Canada. If you missed it, here we are.



The Cubs started April with a Splash! We hit the Splash Wave Pool for a Leisure Swim and we had a BLAST! Akela was impressed with all of the Cubs' swimming skills. Of particular note and a lot of pride goes out to those who were not the strongest swimmers at the start of the night but gained confidence and ended the evening having more fun than they expected.



Our second meeting in April was at a local parkland near Orlando Park. It was very wet and muddy. Ask us how we know. The Cubs had a great time and we had a good hike.



Chil and Scouter Rich took a few Cubs to the Men's World Curling

Championships on April 1<sup>st</sup>. No joke! The Cubs seemed to have a good time and Chil remembered how much Akela enjoys a good Selfie. Thank you Chil. Looks like you all had a good time.



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There was one bit where Cubs built a bridge to help us all cross. Thank you Cubs. In case the Cubs forgot, we also got in a good game of The Grand Old Duke of York. Chil had a grand time calling that one out. Looks like we flustered a few of the locals though (the ducks.) There was also the great discussion of how to tell directions using the sun.



We had lots of fun on our third meeting in April. Venturers Indy and Sofia popped in to lead a STEM night. We got to experiment with pH levels and finding bases and acids, as well as mixing up colourful baking soda volcanoes and making everyone's favourite non-Newtonian fluid – ooblek! Oh, and we made a mess too. Great times though! It was a lot of fun to have the Venturers join us.



By a strange Stroke of Luck, we booked a visit to the Museum of Nature for Earth Day – April 22, 2023. Our Cubs are FANTASTIC and put up with a group selfie in various exhibits.



We filled our brains with information on Caribou and Reindeer, Crows and Ravens, Common Loons, Metamorphic Rocks, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Blue Whales, Thin Horn Sheep, Pikas, Archelons, Ambulocetus, Megacerops and Bugs and Insects. Thank you Cubs for a wonderful morning of Adventure!



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Our last meeting of April was fascinating! We met Richard. Richard owns not one, but TWO World War II German Enigma Machines and he came in to tell us about them and a few Cubs had a chance to push some buttons. WOW! What a great way to end the month. Thank you Richard!



The other Scouts brought stuff to add to their cookies and let's see we had some interesting concoctions. Of course, they got to eat!



### Scout Trails

After cancelling the first meeting due to the ice storm, the next two meetings of April was spent on continuing our patrol-led meetings. Each patrol is responsible for planning and running a meeting for their fellow Scouts. The first meeting was Polar Bear Patrol and Patrol Leader Eli and Assistant Patrol Leader Derek and their other members of that patrol planned a baking night. They organized baking cooking ensuring they had all of the ingredients and supplies needed.

The next and last meeting was up to Bear Patrol and Patrol Leader Van and Assistant Patrol Leader Andrew planned a "shark tank" where the other Scouts had to bring some recyclables to invent and then pitch to the "sharks" not a useful invention but rather a useless one – yes, teenager humour. We had some pretty good and useless inventions.



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The trail sure has changed in the year that we were last there with so many of the trees brought down during last year's wind storm.



Thank you to all of the patrols for their ideas.

We capped off the month with a practice hike for those Scouts taking part in the Rideau Challenge Journey in May – an arduous hike through some challenging terrain and conditions. Wet conditions are particularly an issue in the spring. So, we headed to the trail at P19 on Leitrim Road, known to be nasty and difficult to navigate without getting soaked or muddy or both.

The Scouts taking part had to come with their backpacks packed with all of the gear they will be carrying during the Rideau Challenge's 25-30 KM hike. This is important so they can test the weight of what they will carrying on their backs.



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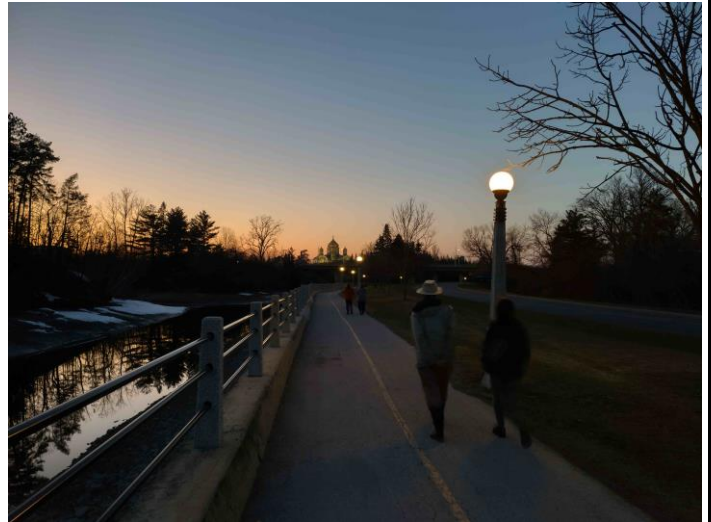
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Venturer News

It was tough to get all the Vents together in April. Early in the month all four Venturers went to an Escape Room, and we are told they beat the clock! We got out for a hike at Hog's Back Falls.

Being prepared is the Scout motto and that means proper footwear, hydration and ensuring that patrols work together as a team to get through the challenge is what we the Leaders try to pass on so they succeed. We are looking forward to seeing how they do in a couple weeks time.



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Later in the month Venturers Indira and Sofia organized and led a STEM linking activity with the Cub Scouts. Cubs learned about the pH scale with Venturer Sofia by doing experiments and learned about viscosity with Venturer Indira, with whom they made Ooblek.



Looking forward to our road trip to Toronto and getting all the youth together so accomplish some of the ideas they have set out.



There was a hike at Chaudiere Falls planned with the Vents from the 28th Ottawa, but none of our youth made it, so Scouter Ruth H. and Scouter Bill enjoyed themselves with the other group.



### [Thank a Volunteer Today](#)

Want to say thanks to a volunteer – you can do so online and the volunteer will receive a special recognition. It's easy – just go to this website and fill out the information. You do need to know their real name – not just their leader name and if not sure ask them or another volunteer or parent. [www.scouts.ca/thanks](http://www.scouts.ca/thanks)



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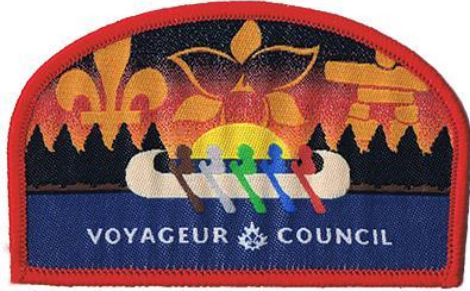


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### Summer Camps at Opemikon

For summer 2023, we are pleased to be bringing back our wide variety of great summer programming at Camp Opemikon. Youth can choose from a multitude of camping options including tents and cabins, and great instructor-led programming like archery, a low-ropes course, paddling excursions and guided trail hikes. There will also be a Family Adventure Camp August 5th-12th (more info about it will be available soon)

Since 1938, Camp Opemikon has served the camping needs of more than half a million members of the Scouting family. The camp is owned and operated by Scouts Canada, Voyageur Council, and is one of the finest residential Scout camps in Canada. It is located on Christie Lake just west of Perth, Ontario and 100 km southwest of Ottawa.

Registration and further information is at <https://www.scouts.ca/camps/camp-opemikon.html>



**PITCH YOUR TENT ON HIGH GROUND**



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