



101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group

Newsletter

Christmas Appeal – Mitten Tree

Many thanks to all those who made donations for our annual Christmas Appeal/Mitten Tree. Your generosity shows the true spirit of the Holidays and they will be put to very good use by those less fortunate. They were delivered on a cold December day at a time of the year when they are needed most.



More than 50 toques, mitts and socks were donated to Christie Lake Kids. Gift bags for adults were delivered to Centre 454, which is a homeless drop-in centre on King Edward Avenue. The gift bags for the children were donated to The Well, which is a women and children's shelter on Elgin Street. The staff of all three organizations were very appreciative of the gifts and how meaningful they were as it was youth behind the donations.



Beaver Tales

The Beavers continued on their Explorer Beaver badge by visiting the local branch of the Ottawa Public Library at the Elmvale Mall. They made a cool bookmark and then went exploring the children's book section to see what they can take out. It seems that the graphic novels and video games sections were the most popular ones and just about every Beaver came away with some books to read.

The following week, the Beavers had a Holiday Party at the church. They played some games and had a treat – whenever food is involved at a meeting, the Leaders surely get the Beaver's attention. They also practiced our Christmas carols for the following week's visit to the Perley Rideau Veteran's Home.



For the last few years, the Beavers have gone to the Perley Rideau to visit the Veterans before the Holidays. The Veterans look forward to seeing us every year and to hear the Beavers sing Christmas carols.

DECEMBER 2016

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

This year, we sang four carols we practiced and the Beavers sounded great! They then dispersed and chatted with the Veterans while making Christmas cards to give to them. They finished by sharing a small snack before we needed to leave.



The Leaders were very proud of how well behaved were our Beavers and how good they made the Veterans feel that they would want to go and visit them. A great way to finish a great Fall 2016.



Cub Corner

With the onset of winter, our Cub Scouts were able to show their true Canadian spirit and demonstrate the qualities which make them such a well rounded and close-knit group. By interacting with each other, with the older Scouts and with another Cub Pack through the month of December, they had many opportunities to develop their social, physical and intellectual skills, as well as building character and thinking about the emotional and spiritual aspects of the activities they undertake each week and as part of the Scouting movement as a whole.

Our pre-winter camp turned out in hind-sight to be exactly that; we were fortunate to miss the snow and the bitter cold (the low was only -6°) for our much anticipated night under the stars on the second night.



It starts with Scouts.



**101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Celebrating 55 years.**

DECEMBER 2016

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

Scouter Ruth and Bagheera worked their thermal socks off to bring everything together in one complete, perfect package, while Scouter Bill was instrumental in making the weekend a success by helping us plan for a comfortable sleep outside, as well as cooking some incredible chicken and tea-cakes over the fire.



Our Cubs demonstrated admirable independence, helping at meal-times by laying the tables, cooking, and cleaning without complaint (as no doubt they all do at home) and setting up their own tents with only a little guidance from the Scouters.



To see the older Cubs working with the younger ones was quite inspirational, especially as this was the first time camping without parental assistance for many youth. Before the first day was through, the Scouts organised a fabulously creative linking activity in small groups to build outside shelters from naturally available materials, which could have all been used for sleeping in that night if the nightly rates weren't so high (we're on a limited budget).



Campfire was the usual mix of fun and frolics, after which all the cubs (and leaders) settled in for a cozy night in their tents, keeping each other warm while heeding the excellent advice from Scouter Bill so as not to become cub flavoured Freezies. Demonstrating remarkable tenacity and courage, mostly everyone made it through the night (including Bagheera who would feel the cold on a tropical island), and some were even difficult to rouse from hibernation.



It starts with Scouts.



**101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Celebrating 55 years.**

DECEMBER 2016

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER



Camp was followed by an easy week to review the fall plan, reassess our personal goals and play some board games, and then we were right back into the winter spirit of things with an outdoor campfire to celebrate 100 years of Cub Scouts. We were joined by a few of our friends from the 11th Ottawa Cub Pack, as well as at various times throughout the night several members of Ottawa's marvellous emergency service groups who received a series of concerned calls from observant locals. Their intense excitement and disbelief that we actually had a valid permit for the event (thanks to Scouter Jean for organizing) was quickly tempered by the fact that we weren't cooking sausages and there was nothing for them to eat. Regardless, the night was a huge success full of skits and songs, with Mang providing the fire starting expertise with his innate ability to make something out of nothing, and Akela leading the way once more, back in the driving seat as campfire chief.

To round off the year, Bagheera provided the ingredients, and five recipes for success, so that each lair could make dips for everyone to experience. All were full of flavour and some quite unique, particularly the guacamole which had hints of sea-breeze and ocean water thanks

to the creatively bold levels of sodium used in defiance of the recommended one teaspoonful.



Throughout the month of December, we were also working on our Kub Kars thanks to the tools and expertise of Scouter Chris. Moving into the new year, we will be trying to focus more on personal development through the Personal Achievement Badges and would welcome parents' help with this side of the program.



It starts with Scouts.



**101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Celebrating 55 years.**

DECEMBER 2016

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER



We wish you all the best for the holiday season, and look forward to seeing all the cubs refreshed and ready to go for 2017.



Scout Trails

The Scouts started December with a joint camp with the Cubs at Baxter Conservation Area. They worked together to build shelters out of branches, pine boughs, leaves and tarps.



Scouter Bill came to show us how to cook a chicken and biscuits in cast iron pots (Dutch Ovens) on an open fire. Yummy!

The Scouts appreciated Scouter Bill taking the time to come out, and they loved the chicken!

There was then team building of their shelters they were to sleep in Saturday night.



The Scouts took a vote. They voted that they would rather hang out in the cabin, than sleep in their newly made shelters.



It starts with Scouts.



**101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Celebrating 55 years.**

DECEMBER 2016

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER



Easier to play games with a table.



The Scouts did some more cutting of their Scout Trucks. They are looking great so far and hopefully will be ready for the Scout Truck Rally in late February!



And besides, Alex needed to make sure that our woodstove kept going!



There was a meeting devoted to personal achievement badge planning, followed by a good long game of Capture the Flag!



It starts with Scouts.



**101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Celebrating 55 years.**

DECEMBER 2016

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

The Scouts then went swimming at Splash Wave Pool! Who needs the waves?! Our Scouts had a blast just swimming!

We finished with a year-end Christmas Party that had a movie and munchies. See you all in the New Year!!



Venturer News

The Venturers showed the true spirit of Christmas by meeting at Billings Bridge Mall to shop for and wrap gifts for Christie Lake Kids and Centre 454.



Thank you Venturers for thinking of others at this time of year and your gifts to needy kids. In fact, when the boxes were dropped off at Centre 454, the homeless people who received them were really touched that you thought of them.

With 2017 on our doorstep, the Venturers have big plans, including the Adirondack Winter Adventure in February and the all sections camp in March.

First Meetings of 2017

We will start up again after our usual two week break during the Holidays. Beavers and Cubs will restart on January 10th and Scouts and Venturers will restart on January 11th.



All Section Winter Camp

Our highly anticipated annual All Sections Winter Camp is scheduled for the weekend of **March 3-5** at Camp Opemikon on Christie Lake near Perth. This is the weekend before March Break starts. This is the only such camp during the year when all of the youth get a chance to be together at a camp. Details, including cost and deadline to sign-up will be made available in January.



It starts with Scouts.



**101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Celebrating 55 years.**

DECEMBER 2016

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER



Welcome Thunder and Hawkeye!

The Beavers welcomed two new Beaver Leader who were invested in December. Eric Sendel will now be known as Thunder and Olivia Letemplier will be known as Hawkeye the Hawk to the Beavers.

We are in need of another Cub Leader so please see the Group Commissioner if you have an uncle/aunt, grandparent, cousin or neighbour that is looking for something to get involved in.

Dates for your Calendar

- **January 22:** Beavers Rideau Area Winter Beaveree at Greely Legion
- **January 28:** Cubs Polar Day at Greely Legion
- **February 18:** Cubs Rideau Area Kub Kar Rally at Jim Durrell Arena
- **February 25:** Scouts Rideau Area Scout Trucks Rally at St. Timothy's Church
- **March 3-5:** All Sections Winter Camp at Camp Opemikon
- **April 29:** Scoutrees Planting (Dig Day)
- **May 26-28:** Beavers Spring Camp at Camp Legewade

Saying Thanks to a dedicated Scouter is easier than you might think...

<http://www.scouts.ca/thanks/>

Visit our website regularly for updates:

<http://www.101ottawa.com/>

**New Year's Fireworks
Scout Style
Happy New Year!**



It starts with Scouts.



**101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Celebrating 55 years.**