

DECEMBER 2023



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

Newsletter

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Thank you to all of the parents who came on December 10th to pick up their MacMillan's orders. Sunshine is looking forward to being pied in the face four times at the year-end awards night.

On December 17th, several of our senior Scouts and Venturers volunteered to help out at the annual Breakfast with Santa. This event is put on by the Canterbury Community Association and Alta Vista Councillor Marty Carr.



They cleaned tables, helped manage the garbage and recycling, helped with the line up to see Santa (and even saw the big guy himself) and cleaned up afterwards.



They were a very big help as always and represented the 101st very well.



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Beaver Tales



The Beavers had three meetings in December starting with a nice evening hike. The weather was fantastic and there was a little bit of snow on the ground as we gathered at NCC parking lot P20 on Anderson Road. We did a nice loop through the forest and had some pretty tired

Beavers at the end. But, it was a good kind of tired and no fighting to get to bed that night.

The next week, the Beavers finished their last of three meetings on a pirate theme. This time, they did a cool craft of a pirate treasure map thanks to Rainbow.



Beavers love crafts and anytime we make them, they really enjoy it. In January, they will allow their imagination to run wild when they make their Beaver Buggy.

The last meeting of the year was our holiday party. The Beavers played a fun game of charades led by Echo and then sang a couple



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Christmas carols, which they then sang for the parents at pick up time. And there were cupcakes and some other treats to send them off with for the holidays.



The Beaver Leaders wish all of the Beavers and their families a great holiday season and happy new year and see you all in 2024. And we are accepting new Beavers to join the colony so if there is a friend of cousin that would love Beavers, they can come try it out for up to two meetings for free.



Cub Corner

We started our December Adventures with a Camp! When we were doing our early planning this year the only thing all the Cubs agreed on was wanting to Camp, so we facilitated that. We met up at Wade Lodge at Apple Hill Scout Reserve in Apple Hill, Ontario. We've stayed

here before (about 5 years ago), but it's still a great adventure. Cubs came into the lodge and got settled, got a quick tour of the cabin and the kybos, a nice mug up of cookies and cheese strings, and then settled down to somewhat quiet play inside until lights out.



Saturday morning dawned a little snowy. Breakfast was a choice of hashbrowns, sausage patties, eggs and cheese cooked in foil on the griddle! We

were hoping to cook them on the coals, but it was a little bit too damp. Strawberry and Mangos were the fruit of choice. After breakfast the Cubs had a great time building forts around the lodge. Lunch happened – grilled cheese and tomato soup with peppers and cucumber to splurge on as well. After lunch some Cubs stayed inside to warm up, while others stayed outside to play. OH! We had some very special guests join us! Kaa and Snakey Zedd came to visit for lunch and supper!



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After a quiet afternoon – only quiet because Akela got her nap, could you imagine how loud it would have been if she didn't? – Mang and her dedicated supper crew presented us with Walking Tacos! Yum. That's another make again meal. We finished off the day with a rousing campfire inside and some wood stove cooked cinnamon buns for Mug Up! Akela made the Cubs go to bed early – some of them had stepped past cranky and needed to sleep.

We also took the opportunity to get pictures of the forts before taking them down. A Cub takes only pictures and leaves only footprints.



Sunday morning and a slow start since we didn't have to take down any tents. We packed up, refilled the wood rick, swept the floor and then had a good breakfast of chocolate chip muffins with leftover fruits and vegetables and hot chocolate to drink.



Sunday morning was also a great time to invest new Cub Grady! Welcome to the Pack!

We finished cleaning up, packed up some Scouter vehicles and had a nice Cub's Own where we asked the Cubs what they disliked about the camp and what they enjoyed about the camp. Weather was the number one down side, but the good stuff out weighs the bad. The Campfire, the spending time with friends, the food, and definitely the fort building were what they were thankful for.

Many thanks to Bagheera and Mang for their hard work in everything, but especially cleaning up from Supper. Also a great big thank you to



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Scout Andrew who came to be our Firekeeper, and Raksha and Kaa who weren't able to make it to the whole camp, but popped by for lunch and supper. Your presence was enjoyed and appreciated. We will definitely do this camp again.



Our first meeting in December was a Hike at a New To Us Trail called the Dewberry Trail. Apparently it is a favourite of Mang's so she was trailblazing for us. Part of the trail was closed, but we had fun in the dark on the trail that was available to us. Mang also brought some bird seed so we could leave some behind. Even though Cubs practice the Take only pictures, Leave only Footprints type of hiking, we think birdseed is ok in this instance, as there were feeders available.



We'll have to do this trail in the spring when it's not so dark out. With more birdseed.



Our second meeting in December was what Akela calls the Paperwork Meeting. This is where she asks the Cubs what they liked about the Fall Activities and what they'd like to do for Winter. Oddly enough, the Cubs all talked about enjoying Apple Day and Fort Building at Camp. Ideas for the winter include Sledding, Skating and an oldie but a goodie – Robot



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Recyclables! Look for our Winter Schedule coming out soon.



Cubs were encouraged to wear their PJ's, and some board games, Pokemon Cards and Yu-Gi-Oh cards to play. Games were played, cookies were eaten and Akela made everyone stand still for a group selfie!



We hope 2024 brings you all Peace, Joy, Love, Health and Happiness. Look for more adventures in January!



Our last meeting in December was our now traditional Cookie Exchange. Cubs were asked to bring in their favourite cookies to share with the Pack (tough for some Cubs as they've never met a cookie that they didn't like!)

Scout Trails

The Scouts started December with a really nice hike. Now, when the Scouts go on a hike, they usually walk at a pretty fast pace and cover a lot of ground. Sometimes, they are a little too fast and we need to get them to slow down. One of our favourite spots to hike is the network of trails off Anderson Road that connects to the end of Walkley Road. The Scouts can cover 6KM easily in a two hour hike, even with some snow on the ground, which usually slows you down a bit.



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We do a minimum of one outdoor meeting per month, so a hike is a good way to get your steps in for the Leaders.

The second meeting was perhaps a little less exciting but was necessary. This was a planning meeting. We do most of our planning in patrols. There are four patrols in the Troop this year: Deer Patrol, Coyote Patrol, Raccoon Patrol and Wolverine Patrol. The Scouts planned out most of their schedule for the winter and part of the spring. These are their ideas and as long as they are legal or allowed, the Leaders try and accommodate them. Each patrol also runs at least one meeting in the late winter.

The last meeting was a movie night with lots and lots of popcorn, pop and more junk food. They watched Monsters University so despite them being all mature and that, they still like to watch those kinds of movies. At least it wasn't another Shrek movie.



Venturer News

The Venturers had a month of feeding the mind, soul and body, starting with a visit to the Mayfair Cinema to see Mountains on Stage. Three documentary films on mountain climbers who challenge themselves to the extreme with the backdrop of some of the most awe inspiring scenery. Aside from the thrills, there were several lessons to take away; to always work with your team, never give up, however



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sometimes there is a point to turn back so you can climb another day!

The following week the youth completed their library challenge of cooking something for the potluck dinner that they had never cooked before. Remarkably all the dishes went very well together; macaroni and cheese, deep fried sardines, asian style noodle salad, charred carrots, frittata, green pesto pasta, sushi rice with seaweed, asiago and fennel grissini, with Mexican buenelos and pavlova for dessert.



The last week was spent on a downtown hike to see the Holiday lights and fire on Parliament Hill before enjoying the Killaloe Sunrises! Now to look forward to some of the bigger challenges for the group in the canoe camping and city trips they have planned for 2024.



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