

FEBRUARY 2021



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

Newsletter



60th Anniversary Design Contest

As reported in our last newsletter, 2021 marks an important milestone for the 101st. It's our 60th anniversary. Our group was founded in 1961 when Elmvale Acres was a new neighbourhood on the edge of a growing Ottawa and St. Aidan's church was brand new.

Crest and T-shirt Design Contest:

We have received five designs so far and hope to decide which ones will win our crest and t-shirt design contest. Thank you to those who took the time to create a design.



Beaver Tales

The Beavers continued their virtual meetings for the first two weeks of February. The first meeting was devoted to doing a couple easy crafts at home. The first was a beaver made out of a paper plate and the second was a tree with colourful leaves made of tissue paper, napkins or buttons. The Beavers actually really love to do crafts and it keeps them well focused during virtual meetings.



The second meeting had a few rounds of charades, where the Beavers had to act out some animals or other funny things. We have some great actors and good guessers!



Then, we were finally able to meet in person again!! And the Leaders were so happy to see the Beavers in real life again. We met at a nice hill next to the Dempsey Community Centre to go tobogganing. This was right after a snow storm, so we had lots of nice fresh snow on the ground and some very tired Beavers at the end.

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The following week, we met at Pine Grove trail to go snowshoeing. The Beavers also learned some of the basics of a compass and how to use it to tell you which way is north. It was a really nice night to get outside and some parents even joined us for some fresh air.



We also threw in some Winter Skills that everybody knew, but it's always good to refresh our memories. Hang your wet clothes up when you come in from outside! Keep your feet dry! If you can't dry your boots, wear plastic bags on your feet! And, the most important – DON'T LICK METAL FLAGPOLES! But we do know what to do if you do get your tongue stuck on metal – lean in and breath on it like haaaaa. Keep doing that until your tongue comes off the metal.



Cub Corner

It's February! The Cubs got ready for the Beach, because that's what you do in February! You'd think it would be hard to work on our Aquatics Badges without water, but not so much. There were still a lot of skills we were able to work on. And, of course, you can't have a proper Beach Day without learning how your snorkel works! Especially those cool full face snorkel masks! Several of our Cubs (and Akela) showed up with those on!

We're calling our second meeting of February CUBS IN SPACE! (Do you hear the echo?) Our fantastic Cubs came as their favourite Space Lifeforms! What do you think? There was certainly a Star Wars theme. The Cubs showed off their knowledge of Space with some Trivia, teaching Akela how a rocket works, and the difference between a comet, a meteor and a meteorite.



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We snuck in a Half Day Winter Camp at Baxter Conservation Area on the last weekend in February! The Cubs did an awesome snowshoe hike with Chil and Kaa. They practiced compass work and walking on a bearing, and came back to Raksha's campfire and hot chocolate with Akela's now traditional GORP. Then it was time to make pizza sandwiches on the coals of our campfire.



A somewhat surprise investiture for Cub Lucas and Scouter Kaa rounded off the morning.

The Cubs also expressed interest in participating in a Pen Pal type program with a Cub Pack in the United Kingdom – thanks to Raksha for keeping in touch with Scouters who came to visit with the World Jamboree in 2019. Looking forward to this!

Our third meeting was IN PERSON! How amazing to be back together again. Our Cubs finished off their Cub Youth Leadership Badges with a few Leadership games and then it was time to just have fun in the snow together. Baloo led us through a snow maze tag game. Sorry, no pictures, it was pretty cold!

Finally, our fourth meeting of February saw us sledding at Alda Burt Park! WOOHOO! This was a great introduction for our newest Scouter – a huge 101st Welcome to our new Kaa!

Special Thanks go out to Chil and Kaa for taking lead on the hike and compass work, as well as the making of the pizzas! And to Raksha for her fire skills – building the fire as well as handling the hot chocolate. You make good hot chocolate Raksha! We'd also like to thank Scouter Sunshine for helping us organize the Day Camp.



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And what kind of Winter Camp would it be if no one got stuck in the snow? Thanks to the Muscles of the 101st , Chil and Sunshine!



Not sure what March will bring, but we'll have a good time doing it, that's for sure!



Scout Trails

Like the other sections, the Scouts had a split month of two virtual meetings at the beginning and two in-person ones at the end.

Starting our virtual meetings, we continued to get really good turnout from the Scouts and they were able to continue working on their Youth Leadership Training. The first meeting was a scavenger hunt of sorts and we really put the Scouts to the test by giving them a pretty big list of items. This was another challenge between patrols and they actually tied in the end. The second meeting was some time planning some future meetings and an online game of scattergories. They did it in patrols and then compared answers, with Wolverine Patrol coming out on top by a hair.

We then got the good news that we can resume in-person meetings and to get some tobogganing in this winter, that's what the Scouts did. And were they happy to see each other in person!



It starts with Scouts.



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We met at the hill next to the Dempsey Community Centre and some 90 minutes later, they could barely drag themselves back up the hill.



The freshly fallen snow on the trees was pretty magical as we hiked a back trail to complete a 75 minute loop. It needed some strong Scouts in the front to clear the path.

The following week had 6 brave Scouts come out during a snow storm to go snowshoeing at Pine Grove Trail.



The snowshoes were put to good use and they even refreshed getting their bearings using compasses. Which way back to the parking lot Scouts?

The month was capped off with a promised half day camp at Baxter Conservation Area. It ended up being a very nice afternoon spent outside and the Scouts said they wished it was longer (with more food of course!).



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The first year Scouts who came got to work with Scouter Bill and Scouter Paul to build small fires using only material found in nature like twigs and bark to earn their match and fire permits.



The older Scouts spent some time building a shelter in the woods where they have built them in past years.

They also got to go out onto the frozen Rideau River but really they were happy either building up a nice campfire or hanging out on a large bent tree over the frozen river drinking hot chocolate and apple cider. Ah, the life of a Scout!



March promises to be even more adventures as we look towards spring.



[Venturer News](#)

In February, the Vents put their creativity to the test. Starting the month with "Passionate Presentations", the youth got to know each other a bit more whilst learning about their interests and hobbies (such as fashion and martial arts) and listening to their great musical performances. Some online boardgames helped beat the winter blues in the middle of the month, with Venturer Luca hosting the group through some funny and silly games.

Next, we had a real whodunit, as we acted out a Murder Mystery. It was a hoot to see the group



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dressed up as their character, and role playing their parts. The youth then broke out in teams and worked on crest designs for the 60th Anniversary and came up with some really great prototypes. One group went so far as to design a whole line of 101st Ottawa Scout wear, including wind pants and sneakers, which was hip, trendy, and hilarious.

Finally allowed back out into the wild, the Vents went tobogganing at Conroy Pit at the end of the month.



They really loved being able to be back outdoors all together and spent a good part of meeting, having fun in the snow and in each other's company.



[Registration for 2021 Scouting Year – We are accepting New Members](#)

Registration for the 2021 Scouting Year is open and will cover the period of January 1st to December 31st. And, we are accepting new members at this time so if you have a friend that wants to join the fun – they can check out two meetings for free before joining.

The registration fee is \$230 for the year and the 101st only gets \$15 of that amount as we aim to keep registration fees low and rely more on fundraising.



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Spring 2021 Group Activities

Fingers crossed that come the spring, gathering restrictions will permit us to have some much needed outdoor all section group activities. In January, we usually have our famous and much-loved Winter Camp and Opemikon. This is first year we cannot have this camp in over 15 years.

But, we believe that getting together this spring for some group events will be important and we will ensure to do it in a safe way while respecting all local guidelines and restrictions.

Here are some activities we are tentatively planning for the spring – details and dates to be confirmed:

- **May 8:** All Section Day Camp at Apple Hill Scout Reserve
- **Early or Late May:** Tree Planting at local parks with fundraising of pledges in advance (Scouttrees)
- **Early to mid June:** Saturday afternoon family picnic/BBQ and year-end awards banquet at Vincent Massey Park



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/>



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