

FEBRUARY 2023



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

Newsletter

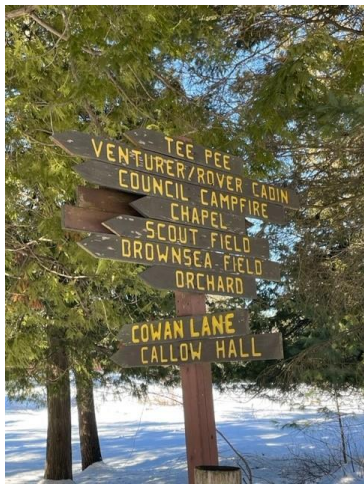
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All Sections Winter Camp

Our annual winter camp for all youth sections in the 101st took place on February 10-12 at Camp Opemikon on

beautiful Christie Lake near Perth. We have a total of 70 people attending.



Beaver Tales

In February, the Beavers main focus was first on winter camp. The meeting prior to camp was spent preparing for it by going through the packing list and talking about the fun things we would do there.

Then came the camp weekend. For most of the Beavers, this was the first time at our usual all sections winter camp considering we took a two year hiatus.

The Beavers occupied Barker Lodge and had a blast whether they were inside the cabin or

outside – and we made sure to keep them outside as much as possible.



After a hardy breakfast, they went tobogganing on the Saturday morning on the hill in the Cub Field and the weather was so nice that we ended up staying there most of the morning and built a teepee when not sledding.



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After regaining energy with lunch, the Beavers were treated to two linking activities. First with the Cubs where they were divided into two groups and had to follow a trail laid out by the Cubs. We then made our way down to the shore of the frozen lake and we even saw some fresh deer tracks and scat. Thank you to the Cubs for the great fun.



Then the Beavers linked up with the Venturers who had a snow fort building activity. There was tonnes of snow to use and we got two nice snow forts built. Thank you Venturers Indy and Luca.



Dinner was delicious and after practicing our campfire songs, cheer and skit, it was time for a fantastic campfire with lots of laughs and fun. And both nights, Sunshine read the Beavers a bedtime story – the eyes were a lot heavier the second night than the first.



Sunday morning was another bright beautiful day with a great breakfast, packing up and a Scout's Own quiet moment of reflection. Then off home when most fell asleep in the car on the way. Thank you parents for coming!



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The following Tuesday was supposed to be skating but that has been a challenge this winter so we went on a hike at Pine Grove instead.



The second big activity of the month was making cars out of large boxes so they can be used for a drive-in movie night the following week. We had some very creative Beavers and some boxes really were made to look like cars. There was even one with actual lights.



The drive-in movies consisted of the Madagascar Penguins first followed by some classic Looney Tunes with some Beavers seeing Roadrunner, Coyote, Bugs Bunny, Tweetie and Sylvester for the first time. There was lots and lots of guffaws!



Cub Corner

February brought lots of fun for the Cubs. With Winter Camp coming up fast, the Cubs spent the first meeting of February learning about winter layering what to bring to camp (LOTS OF SOCKS!). We also had sleeping bag races. Rolling – as in rolling around in it and Rolling – as in to put away. Good times.



Then came CAMP!

We arrived in the dark at Camp Opemikon and slid our gear down the hill to the Health Centre. Cubs know how to have fun and we all settled in just fine and made it to the Dining Hall for Mug Up of cookies and hot chocolate. Then the Scouts taught us Burning Bridges. A little one sided since they outnumbered us, we'll get them Saturday night. It was late to bed but Akela read from The Jungle Book and the Cubs quieted down. A little.



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Saturday 6:45am and there is noise from the Cub room! Akela is there saying Good Morning! Up and At Em! Breakfast is in an hour! Then Akela worked at getting the Scouters to wake up! Much harder to do.

Breakfast of pancakes and sausage. Akela's rule of 2 fruit or vegetable went into effect and the Cubs were good about it. After a yummy brekkie, off we went to get into snow gear and SLEDDING! The Cubs were great about helmet checks! Sledding was AWESOME! They lasted the whole 2.5 hours!



A quick snack of GORP and then LUNCH! Grilled cheese and Tomato soup. And a rousing chorus by Emiko of baby Shark – including Akela shark do do do do do , Chil the shark do do do do do , Baloo shark do do do do do and Kaa the shark do do do do do.

After lunch we were off to prepare our tracking trail for the Beavers. With tracks of Gorilla and Great Blue Heron and some food colouring and water, the Cubs split up and started their trails. We had a quick opening in front of Barker and



Armstrong Lodges to find out where we were going to spend the afternoon and then the beavers joined us at the Health Centre. And off they went! Successful trackers (all of them) got some Rice Krispie Squares. A quick trip down to the lake just to take a peek

and real honest to goodness deer track to examine. What luck!

After a hike up the hill to Brownsea Field, the Cubs were invited by the Scouts to play Capture the Flag, and or learn to build a fire. Then it was back down the hill for some quiet time. Some Cubs read, some napped, some played tetherball. A good time. Eventually we made our way back to the Dinning Hall for supper. Chicken Parmesan with spaghetti and ceaser salad! Ice cream for dessert. We were even able to wish our own dear Annie a Happy Birthday. We may have embarrassed her. Oops.



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After supper we practiced our skits and songs for the Campfire until it was time to go up the hill again. Our own dear Kaa was Campfire Leader and did a rocking good job. Invitations to Campfire were given to the Rover Crew running the kitchen – who were very appreciative. Mug up of chocolate chip muffins and hot chocolate. No Burning Bridges tonight, everyone seemed to be exhausted. Go figure.

Sunday – I'd like to say that the Cubs were impressed when Akela and Kaa walked in singing "I'm alive Awake Alert Enthusiastic" but they were all awake and said "You should have done this yesterday!" Yeah, they were already awake at this time yesterday! A yummy breakfast of english muffins, scrambled eggs, bacon, fruit and jam. Plans for after breakfast is to get everyone packed up and see how it goes.



Our Cubs are amazing. The Tuck shop – currently being run out of the Health Centre – was opening at 9:30am. Our Cubs were out of the building and had their sleds packed up, AND the building was clean, before 9:30 rolled around. Well done Cubs! Scout's Own was done

outside Barker Lodge so we hauled our gear over, lined it all up ready to go up the hill. Once Scout's Own was finished, everyone stopped for a bathroom break and by then parents were arriving. Cubs went home, hopefully full of wonderful memories and probably exhausted.

That brought us to our second meeting in February – Planting Seeds. We were supposed to have a special guest, but there was COVID in her family so she stayed home, Chil stepped into her shoes and between him and Baloo, we learned a bunch of things about Swamp Milkweed and we planted some seeds. In a few weeks – once the snow is gone, we should be able to plant them and encourage butterflies and other pollinators to our gardens.



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The third week in February found us heading downtown to Chapters/Indigo on Rideau Street. Kaa's Mom, now known as Mother Python (we gave her a choice of a few and she chose Mother Python) gave us a tour of the new store. Three Cubs were also allowed to wear the earpiece to listen to the associates asking each other for help. Mother Python was quite impressed our Cubs were very knowledgeable in marketing practices. Along with the tour of the store – both floors – the Cubs made themselves useful by re-shelving some books for the staff. It was decided that a lot of them would like to work at a book store in the future.



Our last meeting in February was going to be a trip to skate on the Rink of Dreams at Ottawa City Hall. Then it snowed. And snowed. And snowed. And it was decided that for safety, we should meet at the Church. But that gave us all a chance to play on the GIANT snow bank. A few Cubs tried snow shoeing, and a few more tired making snow forts and tunnels. We still had a great time.



Once the tour was finished and parents were present, the Cubs – who had been vibrating about this all evening – were finally able to pick out a book or more, depending on their parents permission. Pretty sure everyone left with something. Thank you Kaa and Mother Python for organizing this!

Until next month!



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Scout Trails

The Scouts – an active and curious bunch of teenagers with ravenous appetites. So, if you are moving and eating most meetings, you cover most bases with the Scouts. Joking aside, the Scouts had some work to do in February, first to get ready for the main event – winter camp. We spent the meeting before camp going through the packing list in detail and hopefully they will be able to recite the mantra – stay warm, dress in layers and stay dry – i.e. no cotton or jeans! We also had them plan their linking activity.



Then came camp. Most of the Scouts were at the top of the hill in Clements Lodge as usual. On Friday night, they got a visit from the Cubs after mug up to teach them burning bridges – a favourite! The

fourth year Scouts were down in Armstrong Lodge with the Venturers and got to bond with them as they will be moving up soon.

After breakfast (remember appetites), it was off to the tobogganing hill. Some Scouts corralled the Cubs into elaborate “trains” down the hill

while others helped the Venturers make a bobsled course and got to test it out!

Then lunch and some linking activities. They first got an activity with the Venturers where they were blindfolded and had to find coloured ice cubes and then they got together with the Cubs for either capture the flag or fire building with Scouter Bill.



Dinner and campfire rounded out the night. Sunday, we saw the oldest Scouts lead the Scout's Own with the Venturers and did a great job of helping us reflect on how lucky we really are to have spent the weekend at camp.



The Wednesday after camp, the Scouts went downtown to check out the Winterlude ice sculptures – or whatever was left of them. Beavertails (more food) was a must stop too.



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our Scouts were – showing the core values in the Scout Law



Shrove Tuesday was on April 21st and the fourth year Scouts volunteered at St. Aidan's to serve and clean up the pancake dinner for the parishioners. This is part of our community service and it earns them volunteer hours needed for their Chief Scout's Award and high school.

Then we made up for January's miserable tobogganing night in the blinding snowstorm with a great night at Conroy Pit. Oh what fun they got up and there was even hot chocolate.



We had 5 Scouts plus Scouter Shazeela help out and the organizer and parishioners were very impressed with how helpful and respectful

The month (well technically it was March 1st), wrapped up with the return of the (former) Rideau Area Bridge Building Competition. This is a competition between scout troops every 2 years where patrols of scouts build a bridge only out of popsicle sticks and glue with certain dimensions and weight.



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Then they get tested on the “Bridge Buster” to see how much weight they can hold. There are also prizes for the best engineered bridge and the Scout’s choice for coolest bridge.



We were hosted by the 28th Ottawa troop with 6 troops and 12 bridges competing.



We had 2 bridges entered in the competition. While neither came away with a trophy this year (we placed 3rd the last time the competition was held in 2018), they got their fill of junk food at the canteen (again food) and cheered on their fellow scouts.



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Venturer News

The 101st Venturers were busy doing all sorts of adventures in February. They started the month with a planning meeting at the church to nail down their calendar for the next little while. Venturers Luca and Indy went to the movies one week, and the pair teamed up again to represent the Vents at the All Sections Camp.



They revived some long-standing Venturer traditions, such as pranking the Scouts by decorating their cabin.



And they built a sliding hill for the older youth with Advisors Scouter Bill and Scouter Ruth. A shout out to Cub Scout Max Peterson, and some other cubs and scouts who joined in the effort.



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The Vents also helped the senior Scouts with delivering their Scouts Own, ran some really fun activities for the Scouts (blind-folded scavenger hunt) and the Beavers (snow fort building). The Beavers really really liked their activity with the older Venturers and it's a tradition to get the youngest and oldest youth of the group together – seeing as most of our Venturers were Beavers at one time themselves.



And led the 101st in a joyous campfire dance to Purple Soup.



At the end of the month, Venturer Luca had a birthday, so he joined Venturers Indira and Sofia in cooking a birthday dinner of homemade pasta, with a delicious Bolognese sauce in the church kitchen, which we polished off with Sofia's lemon raspberry cupcakes.



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



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New Members can Join Now

Registration is open for new members to join in the fun. Have a friend that you want to bring to check it out? They can come to up to two meetings for free to give it a try. To register, they would join at www.scouts.ca/join



“Gone Home” In Memorium – Helen St. Denis 1959-2023

In February, a former Akela of the 101st has “gone home”. Helen St. Denis, who was formerly with the 109th Scouting Group that used to meet at Hawthorne Public School before the group closed, was Akela with the 101st from about 2006 to 2011. Many now former scouts and leaders of the 101st remember her fondly. She was a gentle soul and espoused the values of scouting by passing them down to the youth who’s lives she touched. You can view her obituary here:

[Helen St Denis | Obituary | Ottawa Citizen \(remembering.ca\)](#)



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