

FEBRUARY 2024



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

## Newsletter

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### Beaver Tales

Despite February being the shortest month of the year, it sure was busy with some fantastic meetings and a winter camp for the Beavers. Our first meeting was to prepare for winter camp at Opemikon. This was the first all-sections camp for some of our Beavers and parents. We made it to Barker Lodge on Friday night and got settled in. The Beavers went down for mug up and were very, very excited to be at camp.



On Saturday, after breakfast (yum!) we went to the Cub Field to go tobogganing. The weather was unseasonably warm and the Beavers had

fun going down the hill and building snow structures when not doing that.



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After lunch (also yum!) we gathered with everyone for an "opening" and did our first linking activity.



The Cubs hosted us in the dining hall to make hats from some polar fleece. Beavers were paired with Cubs and made a super cool – or brightly coloured – hat. Thank you Cubs, we loved it!



That was followed by a linking activity with the Venturers. Pairing the youngest and oldest sections together brings a certain magic. The Venturers prepared this amazing activity. The Beavers built these extremely cool structures of snowballs and

added strings of small lights that glowed at night on the way into the campfire. The Beavers were extremely proud of their work and the Venturers were just great with them.



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After dinner (third yum!), the Beavers has some free time and practiced their skits they presented at campfire. They did the famous "Invisible Bench" and "Department Store Elevator" skit. We sang songs like Pizza Hut and Baby Bumblebee, did cheers and it was

just a fantastic campfire. Even after mug up and a story time, the Beavers were so zonked, they crashed easily.

On Sunday, we had breakfast (last yum!), packed up, cleaned the cabin and had a Scout's Own with the other campers. This is a quiet moment of reflection to appreciate all that we have.



The following Tuesday, we went tobogganing at Grasshopper Hill Park. The conditions were decent enough and the Beavers got quite a few good runs in and played in the park.



The following week was a board game night. Beavers brought in a game and played with their buddies a wide variety including card games.

The last meeting of February, we had a craft night that Rainbow organized.

The Beavers were given a pizza box, piece of art paper, marbles and paint and created abstract art. Their creations were beautiful and Beavers love craft night – thank you Rainbow!



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**Cub Corner**

We started off February by SLEDDING! WOOHOO! Our traditional Hill at Alda Burt Park/Dempsey Community Centre was awesome. Too dark for good pictures, but we got our selfie!



Winter Camp happened! We all met up at Camp Opemikon on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Cubs were in the Health Centre once again. 11 Cubs and 5 Scouters found our bunks, went for mug up of Oreo Cookies and then spread ourselves out to get comfortable for the next few days.



Saturday morning started VERY early when the smoke alarm went off. Many thanks to Rikki Tikki Tavi for being on the ball and getting the emergency door opened and the mittens off the heater. Yep, a melting mitten set off the smoke detector. Cubs learned an important lesson on where to put their clothing. Cubs and Scouters managed to get back to a sense of quiet, maybe not sleep, but quiet at least, until Akela and Mang got everyone up with the song "I'm Alive Awake Alert Enthusiastic!" There was a busy day to get ready for and breakfast to eat!

Breakfast was crepes, bacon and fruit. After breakfast the Cubs gathered back at the Health Centre to get their instructions for the day. Their job was to lead Mang, Rikki Tikki Tavi and Raksha up to the parking lot, grab the snowshoes and then go on a hike from the parking lot to our campsite from last spring – Over The Hill - and then back to Cub Field where Akela was waiting with the sleds! So while the Cubs headed off up the hill, Akela loaded up the sleds into the Draggin' (her cargo



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sled) and with Bagheera as her sidekick, they headed to Cub field.



The Cubs had a great time snowshoeing. Cub Max – who was here last summer during summer camp, was happy to see one of his forts was still around. Cubs were able to sled for quite a while before we had to head back for lunch! Hot Dogs, veggies and potato chips. Yum!



After lunch we had a quick opening at Barker Lodge and then the Cubs and Beavers

headed up to the Dining Hall once again. This time not for food, but to make Hats out of polar fleece! Cubs and Beavers were teamed up with the Cubs each having the job of helping their

Beaver with knot tying. Everyone seemed to enjoy their new hats though! Good job Cubs and Beavers!



Once the Hats were finished, Cubs headed up to Clement's Lodge (just up the hill) to make Bannock and play Capture the Flag with the Scouts. Awesome! The Cubs enjoyed that, but let's be honest, it's food.



Once the Cubs came back to the Health Centre, Akela had some GORP for them. Quiet time – which let's be honest, is never quiet when the Cubs are around – and then we are off to supper! Chicken Fajitas with ice

cream for dessert! YUM! One more little burst



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of practice time for our song and cheer and we were off to the Council Fire for the campfire. The Cubs presented The Cat Came Back as our song of choice for the campfire. We cheered on skits from the Scouts and Venturers and generally had a really good time. Back to the Dinning Hall for mug up – Peach Crisp and Hot Chocolate!

Cubs were asleep before 10:30pm. They must have been tired and were once again awoken the next morning by Mang and Akela singing. It was now time to pack up and get ready for breakfast. Breakfast of sausage patties, eggs, English muffins and jam went over pretty well with the Cubs. Back to the Health Centre to finish packing up and loading up our sleds for the hike back up the hill. We had Scouts Own up at the TeePee! That was quite fun. Parents appeared and Cubs went home. Another great All Sections Camp.

Our second meeting in February was supposed to be sledding. That was cancelled and Cubs were encouraged to do some chores around the house (cleaning bathrooms!) to learn about respect for others and respect for other's property.

The call for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gourmet pancake Challenge also went out! Several Cubs participated and sent Akela pictures. No reports if participating Cubs did the dishes that went with making supper, but Akela is keeping her fingers crossed that they did. Special flour and special toppings were the name of the game and the Cubs came through.



Our third meeting in February was Mail Call. Way back in the summer, Akela answered a call for Pen Pals from a group in Chilliwack BC – 6<sup>th</sup> Chilliwack Vedder Pack. We received a package of letters from them in late January and tonight was the first night we were in a position to respond. Cubs enjoyed receiving personalized letters as well as a Provincial Crest of British Columbia! We will be sending them our letters before March Break and everyone in Chilliwak will get a 101<sup>st</sup> Ottawa crest – the same one that is on our neckers.



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Our final meeting in February was Robot Recyclables. Cubs brought in recyclable items – boxes, toilet paper tubes, plastic bottle – and turned them into Robots! Each Robot was named and then the robots faced off against each other in a battle of 20 sided dice. We were able to go two rounds before we had to pack up and go home. Pretty sure the Cubs had a good time. See you in March!



Scout Trails

What did the Scouts do in February? Well, let's start with that little winter camp you keep hearing about. What a blast that was! The Scouts were in their cozy cabin at Clements Lodge at the top of the hill at Opemikon. The weather was pretty amazing and the Scouts did good.

The Scouts were a big help throughout the camp, especially at the end of the meals when it was time to clean up the tables and sweep. Now, if only their rooms in the cabin did not look like a war zone, that would be even better. The Saturday morning had the morning ritual of going to the tobogganing hill. The train of sleds they can put together is quite impressive sometimes and even that did not tire them out.



The Scouts were hosted by the Venturers in the first of two linking activities. There was a very competitive tug-of-war which proved to be a lot of fun. Victory belonged to the Scouts so they savoured that for a little while.



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At campfire, the Scouts skits of JC Penney and Igor stood out as fan favourites among the other youth there. Many Scouts would say that their favourite camp of the year is winter camp – and many of the Scouters would agree.

Then it came to hosting the Cubs. They split the group into two with the more “active” Cubs playing the old classic game of Capture the Flag while the “quieter” group cooked Bannock over a campfire that the Scouts light themselves.



After camp, we need to stay outside and went tobogganing at Conroy Pit. The hill was a little narley but nothing the Scouts couldn't handle. They got in quite a few runs down the hill and were rewarded with some hot chocolate for spending all of that energy.

The Scouts then turned their attention to building their Scout Trucks. What's a Scout Truck? It's an 18-wheeler made out of wood that the Scouts need to assemble and design. The goal is to



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make a truck that will race against other trucks in a rally to take place in March and to enter it in a design competition.



The Scouts sure have a lot of great ideas for their trucks and we can't wait to see what they look like. We held two meetings dedicate to putting in the wheels, cutting the pieces that needed cutting, glueing and drilling holes. Thanks to John, Ray and William who came to help us out to put these together.



### Venturer News

For a short month, the Vents packed in quite a bit of activity! We started the month by going skating at the Jim Tubman Chevrolet Rink. It was nice to get outside, stretch our legs and have some fun.



Following that we all headed to OPE for the All Sections Winter Camp - and what a beautiful camp it was! The weather was fantastic, it was super fun, and the Vents had a lot of fun putting on the linking activities and at Campfire.



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Special thanks to our President, Indira Marier for taking the lead in both organizing the activities and the Scouts own, and to Venturers Sophie, Chris and James for their enthusiastic participation!



Even though the Vents lost to the Scouts at the tug-of-war, many laughs were had, and solace was to be found in having such beautiful snow lanterns, build with the Beavers, on the way to Campfire.



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Venturers Indira, Sophie and Dante stepped up to do some community service in serving at St. Aidan's annual pancake dinner, and later that week, we all had an educational outing to the Museum of Nature. We got to see the live owls that are outside, the interesting insects and whole host of other very cool exhibitions.



We ended the month in coming together to initiate projects for Scouts Canada's new "Sustainability Badge" which shows support for international scouting through the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. We encourage the other sections to check it out and see if there are projects you too can take on that are interesting and fun. You can check it out here: [Sustainability Badge](#)



### 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 you're not sure ask them or another volunteer or parent. [www.scouts.ca/thanks](http://www.scouts.ca/thanks)

WE KNOW THAT YOU LOVE TO TRADE BADGES AT CAMP BUT...

WHY WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT BIG CAMP? BRING YOUR COLONY, PACK, TROOP, COMPANY, CREW OR UNIT AND COME TO SCOUTS CANADA HQ AND JOIN US FOR OUR

**EASTERN ONTARIO 2024**  
**MARCH BREAK**  
BADGE TRADING EVENT

\*\*\*FREE ADMISSION\*\*\*

WHETHER A NEWCOMER TO TRADING OR A SEASONED PRO...LET'S TRADE BADGES. FUN FOR ALL! A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE TRADING BEFORE THE NEXT JAMBOREE OR BIG EVENT

YOU CAN ALSO VISIT THE NATIONAL SCOUT MUSEUM WHILE YOU ARE HERE.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 8th (6 PM - 9 PM)**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 9th (9 AM - 2 PM)**  
SCOUTS CANADA HEADQUARTERS  
1345 Baseline Rd., Ottawa, ON  
Let us know if you are coming or for more info - contact [ottawa.area.badgers@gmail.com](mailto:ottawa.area.badgers@gmail.com)



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