

JANUARY 2020



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

Newsletter



Beaver Tales

What happened to January? It's already finished! Well, the Beavers' first meeting of 2020 was focused on getting ready for winter camp. For several Beavers, this was the first time attending our annual All Sections Winter Camp at Opemikon – a favourite event of the year.

The unfortunate part is that Mother Nature was not very kind with the weather – on Saturday we had something like 75mm of rain. However, even a weekend of bad weather at camp is still a good weekend at camp. Our bravest Beavers attended and yes, they got wet but they also had a blast. A garbage bag makes a great poncho.



On Saturday morning we were lucky to have the Cubs organize some great games for the Beavers. They played "snolf – golf in the snow. Thank you Cubs for the awesome games, the Beavers loved them.



This was followed by a game put on by the Venturers. It involved two teams collecting as many coloured ice cubes as possible. A couple hundred ice cubes later, and then we played a version of rock, paper, scissors involving various birds including a chicken.



Saturday afternoon involved some time in the cabins and in the dining hall to play board games and do a scarf and hat craft courtesy of Cub Leader Hathi. What a great idea!

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Thank you to the parents who came out to camp and the Leaders for keeping the Beavers busy. The food was great as usual, the location beautiful and the company excellent.

The other big event for the Beavers in January is Beaver Buggies. We spend one meeting putting them together – hammering in the wheels, glueing on the wooden beaver and painting them. The following week is the much anticipated Beaver Buggy race night.



Some Beavers got a little cabin fever so we went for a short hike in the forest – where all the snow was gone. We found some low ropes to have fun on. Beavers love to climb on stuff.



The Beavers get very, very excited when they see our two race tracks assembled.

On Sunday, the rain had stopped and turned to snow so we got some time tobogganing.



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We had two judges for the races to determine who came in first, second or third.



Each Beaver got to race on both tracks and even Bucky came to watch the races.



February will include lots more outdoor winter fun: tobogganing, skating and a hike.



Cub Corner

We hit the ground running in January and got all the Cubs up to speed on Winter Camp – what to



bring, what NOT to bring. Stay away from the Lake! Don't lick the flagpole! Wear a helmet when you go sledding! All the important things were covered. After all that exhausting discussion, we absolutely had to play the Zombie/Graveyard Game.

On the Friday of our first week back from Holiday we were off to All Sections Winter Camp! The weather was challenging – rain and freezing rain in the forecast. But we are Brave and Adventurous Cubs. Everyone agreed that the walk down the hill was slippery. But once everyone got settled, the fun started. Mug up in the dining hall – cookies and blue juice. Then it was back to the Health Centre where we were staying. Games were played and sleeping bags were set up and when we called lights out at 10:30pm, everyone quieted down. Great job Cubs!



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Saturday morning found us listening to the rain pelt down on the roof. Hmm. A good breakfast of sausage and pancakes made for a great start to the day. Akela's stuffed Rhinoceros Rhubarb ran a stuffed animal camp for all the stuffed animals that came.



Meanwhile, the Cubs entertained the Beavers with Broomball; Broomball Longest Drive and throw balls back and forth through the tarp with holes. (We really need a better name for that activity.)



The Beavers enjoyed it though and we had enough GORP to share. They enjoyed that too. Thank you Baloo for organizing the games and thank you Raksha for bringing the Broomball sticks up AND down the hill. Our next stop was up to the Scout area at Clement's Lodge. We got there a little early apparently and they weren't quite ready for us. So we had a few rousing renditions of "There are no flies on us!" Scouter Ruth said we won that round.

Splitting the group in half, one half played Mafia in the Pavilion after realizing that the rainy, water soaked snow didn't make for good Hide and Go Seek places; the second group braved the elements and the traditional Capture the Flag game was on!



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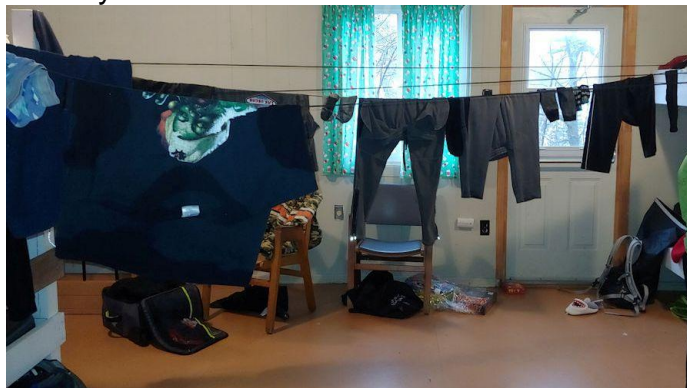


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We stopped a little early so we could all traipse back down to the Health Centre to get into warm and dry clothes.



Lunch was good. Veggie Noodle Soup (I didn't see any chicken, did you?) and Grilled Cheese. NOMS! After making some amazing hats with Hathi – THANK YOU HATHI! - the Cubs spent



the rest of the afternoon indoors, playing games, and preparing skits for campfire. A huge thank you to Baloo for keeping the Cubs on track for the skits. Akela was just settling down for a nap when it was time to go for supper!



Chicken fajitas with cheese, sour cream, salsa, grilled onions and peppers and good friends sharing our tables. Yummy. We also celebrated Cub William's and Scout Mason's birthdays. Oh, and there was ice cream for those of us not celebrating a birthday. With a cherry on top. Due to the weather conditions we had campfire in the dining hall. Certainly an easier walk, and yet still a special occasion. Our skits were well received, our songs were exciting and the Mug Up afterwards was yummy too! Hot chocolate and chocolate chip muffins! Sadly, after that it was off to bed. Lights out at 10:30pm again and the Cubs were down for the count.

Sunday morning found us with snow on the ground, cold temperatures and the promise that if we were all packed up before 10am, than we could all go tobogganing! Challenge Accepted and Completed! The sledding was wild! Raksha even got a few rounds in.



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We also weren't too far from the Chapel for when it came to Scout's Own. Great job on the Scouts Own Venturers and Senior Scouts. Back down the hill one last time to pack up our sleds for the wild hike back up to the parking lot!

Parents started arriving left, right and centre! We hope a few Cubs napped on the ride home. As is traditional, the Cubs played Board Games on the first meeting after Winter Camp. Chess, Spy Alley, Exploding Kittens – our Cubs were busy! Leftover snacks from camp were at hand for those not too lost in their games.



Our next meeting finished off the Signalling we had started in the fall. Everyone got a chance to make naval flags of their name and semaphore flags. Can you guess what we spelled out using our newly learned semaphore? Big Hint – It's the Cub Motto. Well, that's what it's supposed to spell.



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Our last meeting in January was outside. We are lucky enough to have Scout Edoardo coming in every now and then to help us out. To encourage his leadership skills, Akela asked him to run a meeting. He chose to teach us a game. We are now converts to the amazing game of Edoardo's Rugby Tag!



And that finishes off January! February will see us focusing on Kub Kars! Wish us luck!



Scout Trails

January – what a month for the Scouts. We also started with a camp preparation meeting. Winter camp felt like spring camp at times with the amount of rain we received. Despite this, the Scouts had a grand time being entertained – and pranked – by the Venturers. Their linking activity had a Star Wars theme, something most Scouts really had fun with. The Scouts put on a game of capture the flag and mafia for the Cubs. Unfortunately, due to the rain, they could not put on the fire building activity for the Cubs.

Time spent in the cabin involved a major Euchre tournament and just plain old goofing around.



The Scout Leaders had fun also making fleece scarves and hats in the dining hall.



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Our Scouts were also very helpful, showing up early before each meal to help set up the tables and staying behind to help sweep and cleanup. Great job Scouts!



After an epic indoor campfire, some of our senior Scouts helped the Venturers with the Scout's Own at the outdoor chapel and it was very nicely done. Looking forward to next year already.

The following week, we split the Scouts into two groups. The first year Scouts met at the church to earn their knife permits. Thank you to Venturer Advisor Scouter Dan who came to help out to teach knife safety and skills, including how to properly whittle a stick. The older Scouts went to Coyote Rock Gym for some rock climbing.



The following week, Venturer Advisor Scouter Bill came to teach the Scouts some knots. We focused on three knots and then did some lashing of sticks together.



Knots are a basic but important skill for Scouts and one that can be very useful for most situations in the outdoors. Thank you Scouter Bill and even the Scout Leaders appreciated the lesson on knots.



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Scouter Dave and Scout Chris were great at showing the Scouts how to program a robot to do something like move forward, turn, etc.



The Scouts had a lot of fun programming the robots and hope to do it again.

That night was also devoted to some cool robotics.



Our last meeting of January was a field trip to T&T Supermarket on Hunt Club Road.



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Each Patrol was given a list of ingredients and a budget of \$25 to buy the groceries needed for a recipe they will cook the following week, just in time for Chinese New Year.



February promises to be another action-packed month with a cooking night, trip to Winterlude, hike and some community service.



Venturer News

Winter camp at Opemikon is one of the Vents' favourite camps. It's a chance to explore the vast grounds, while also having a relative easy camp, with a cabin and catered food. This year the weather made it a bit more challenging.

However many of our Vents (and Scouters) have been with the group since they were Beavers, and were well prepared.

The micro spikes, from last year's Adirondacks climb, were fantastic for the icy conditions. Most of us also know how to keep dry. Unless puddles call out to us, of course.

The Vents were also well prepared for the activities. They ran an ice cube hunt with the Beavers, who happily scooped up almost 200 colourful blobs from the puddles. They then played a animal version of Rock-Paper-Scissors.

The Vents also ran a Star Wars themed event with the Scouts. This included many "stations" such as untying endless strands of knotted ropes to free BB-8, assembling a Darth Vader puzzle, and knocking off ice towers, each of which gave clues to the next station.



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The finale was a battle scene between Darth Vader and Skywalker with the Scouts own Leaders as special costumed guests.



The rest of camp involved a long game of Risk, in between extra "practice" with the light sabres.



This was of course all a ruse to keep the Scouts busy while the Vents pranked the Scout cabin.



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January of course led into another hike, this time on the wonderful trails on Davidson road. The leaders once again did most of the hike far behind the youth. Their long legs and quick strides serve them well. Luckily we are the ones with the vehicles and keys, so we know they will always be waiting for us at the end.

Dates for your Calendar

- **February 22:** Rideau Area Kub Kar Rally
- **February 29:** Scouts Fish-out-Water
- **March 14:** Cubs Paddle Night
- **March 21:** Scouts Paddle Night
- **April 4:** Beavers White Tail Sleepover at Aviation Museum
- **April 19:** Scout Soapbox Derby



March Break Camp at Opemikon

Camp Opemikon is again offering a fully animated program for all youth to enjoy. Crafts, games, survival, winter sports and FUN!! Fully heated facilities, catered meals and amazing animators make this an experience of a lifetime!

Outdoor Activities are based on ages, weather conditions and temperatures. Boys and girls, ages 8 - 14 EVERYONE is welcomed at OPE, both registered Scouting Members and Non-Members looking for a great March Break adventure! This is an overnight camp (Monday – Friday).

Space is limited. More information and registration is available at this link:

<http://voy.scouts.ca/ca/march-break-camp>



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

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Visit our website regularly for updates:

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