

JANUARY 2023



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

Newsletter

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Beaver Tales

January is over already? Wow, that went by fast! Well, the Beavers made the best of it, starting off with something a little unconventional – a beach party in January.

The Beavers came dressed in their beach wear and played some fun summer-time games, like a beach blanket ball toss. Let's say the Beavers got pretty excited with this game and the ball had a hard time staying on the blankets.



They also played beach volleyball, did the limbo and had some watermelon to end the night. What fun!



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The following week, the Beavers met to build their Beaver Buggies. What's a Beaver Buggy? It's a wooden car with a wooden Beaver on it that the Beavers put together with the help of some parents and then painted and decorated. They were so efficient, that they even had time for a game.



Then came the big race night. The Leaders set up the two race tracks and the Beavers took turns to race their Buggies down the tracks. They had their score sheets to keep track of how they placed in each race. We got quite a few races in and they got to try each track. Definitely one of the most exciting night of the year for most of them.



It starts with Scouts.



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The last meeting of January was tobogganing night at Dempsey – our local hill. The night was not too cold, there was lots of fresh snow on the hill, and the Beavers were full of energy. The hot chocolate helped too.



Cub Corner

What did we do in January? Oh my dears! We had SO much fun.

The Cubs started off the year by recycling. What were we recycling you ask? Why, we were recycling the wrapping paper tubes from Christmas. How did you recycle those Akela I can hear you asking right now. Well, we had a sword fighting night. Cubs learned the very basics of sword defense and sword attack and the Virtues of Chivalry.



Maybe we can work on shields for next time. Then they were paired off and told to Lay on! I believe there was much fun to be had by all. We were also able to practice some jousting with Akela's two water noodle horses.

Special thanks to Scouter Sunshine who bravely went up against Akela in the joust. And valiantly fell to her water noodle lance.



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Meeting Number 2 of January had us discovering some tracking skills we didn't know we had. First outside – where we found MANY bunny tracks. Secondly inside where we examined tracks from other types of animals we would see in the wilds of Canada.

Like llamas and house cats and crows and chickens.

We snuck in a Saturday visit to the Museum of Science and Technology. Oodles of fun! We had a chance to visit everyone's favourites – especially the quiet room, the trains, the crazy kitchen, and the bicycles.



What did we do next? AH! Sledding! No, wait, first we checked the parking lot and saw tracks that we were able to identify! THEN we went sledding. Akela of course did her traditional helmet check, everyone went up and down the hill multiple times, and we all came back to the parking lot for Hot Chocolate.



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Finally we ended January with a Games Night at Weston Park. Oddly enough, we were really busy and didn't take any pictures. It was also -20 with the windchill. WAH! Still we managed to play in the snow, do a quick trivia type game and drink some hot chocolate. The Cubs did a great job with the trivia questions on Winter Skills. Akela will have to dig out the Winter Skills badges to hand out.

Stay tuned for more excitement in February!



Scout Trails

The Scouts started the month with a planning meeting at the church. Scouts is very much a youth-led program where the Patrols come up with ideas for meetings and activities and the Leaders help guide them to what's feasible. One big decision was whether there were Scouts interested in participating in the Bridge Building Competition, which is back this year. This is a

competition between scout patrols in the area to build a bridge using only popsicle sticks and glue. The bridges have to fit certain dimensions and weight. They are then put to the test of how much weight they can hold and there are also design and engineering categories. We have two teams with a total of 9 Scouts participating in the March 1st competition night. These are pictures from the last one in 2019 where the 101st placed 3rd in the strongest bridge competition.



The following week, the Scouts had a board game night – enough said!



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Then came the tobogganing in the snowstorm at Conroy Pit. We shortened the time there as the wind was howling at the top at that hill right in our faces and the snow was coming down fast.



We had some hot chocolate to warm up a bit and some Scouts found a bit of refuge on the back side of the hill when they were finished tobogganing, while others seemed immune to the cold wind and snow.



Getting off the hill was a priority when we were done.



The last meeting of the month – technically the first meeting of February was devoted to bridge building for our two teams and badge trading for the other Scouts. We went over proper badge trading rules and etiquette and traded some.



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Venturer News

The Venturers have been focusing on preparing for a trip to the Adirondacks for some hiking in the mountains. Given it's a small Company this year, they have paired up with another Company nearby from the 28th Ottawa to plan this trip.

One of the events they held in January to prepare was a day of snowshoeing on a Sunday in Gatineau Park – the closest we'll get to the Adirondacks around here.



The weather was fantastic and there was a good group of both Advisors and Venturers.



Given that the Venturers are all senior high school students, they also skipped a week of meetings given it was high school exam time.



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All Sections Winter Camp

Our annual winter camp for all youth sections in the 101st is back for February 10-12, 2023. We are going to Camp Opemikon on beautiful Christie Lake near Perth. This is a very popular camp with loads of outdoor winter fun and great camaraderie. We have a total of 70 people attending. It's going to be great!



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

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



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