

JANUARY 2024



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

Newsletter

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Beaver Tales

The Beavers were back and Mother Nature served up a snowstorm for our first meeting in January. But the majority of our Beavers still made it out to the meeting. It was our beach day in January. Dressed in their beach wear, we played some beach games like doing a blanket toss where the object is to keep the ball(s) on the blanket – some of our Beavers kept thinking the opposite was the objective.



We then moved to beach volleyball – a game some Beavers had never played before. There were a couple naturals and they actually were able to get a couple good volleys during the

match. Finally, we did the limbo – how low can you go? – followed by a relay race. It was all topped off with a typical summer treat: watermelon on a wintery night.



The second meeting was dedicated to building and decorating our Beaver Buggies. With the help of the Leaders and some parents (thank you!), the Beavers hammered their wheels in, glued on their wooden beaver to the base and then painted and glued to their hearts content. This was all in preparation for the big race night.



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The following week, we held our Beaver Buggy race night. What fun! Given the smaller size of the colony this year, they all got to race many times on each of the two tracks. We kept track of their results on their race cards and a few visited the pit stop for emergency repairs or attempts to make their buggy go a little faster.

The last meeting of the month was outside – we went snowshoeing. Again, Mother Nature prevented the tobogganing we were supposed to do. But it was a nice night to be outside. Not too cold and we used the group's snowshoes on Pine Grove Trail.

For some Beavers, they had never used snowshoes before while others had some experience with them. The trail was a little icy and we walked a fair bit along the trail – close to 2 KM at least.



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It was just nice to get outside and enjoy a local trail. Thanks to the parents who tagged along and helped out.



Cub Corner

What a January it turned out to be! We started the year off with what has now become our 2nd Annual Medieval Knight Night.



Cubs were asked to bring in their cardboard wrapping paper tubes and were taught the basics of sword fighting and the Knightly Virtues – which are oddly familiar if you know the Scout Law. Hmmm. Also making their second

appearance is Akela's water noodle horses so that we could also participate in jousting. Thank you to Scouts Liam and Andrew for their assistance and Scouter Sunshine for good humour and enthusiasm at only his second attempt at jousting. He did great.



To keep on the theme, for the second week in January we built catapults out of popsicle sticks and spoons under the careful tutelage of Scouts Andrew and Pip. Our ammunition of choice – mini marshmallows. Akela made the Cubs all



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recite the mantra – I Will Not Eat the Ammunition! - several times. It might have worked, maybe.....possibly.... probably not.



Our third meeting was originally going to be the Rink of Dreams – but the weather forecast on Friday wasn't good, which meant when Tuesday rolled around it was actually perfect. Sigh. That's ok, we were having fun doing some drawing. Cubs brought in their favourite stuffed animals and were asked to draw them. We think the artwork turned out beautiful!



Finally, our last meeting in January was at the Rink of Dreams! We FINALLY got there and weather wise it was pretty much perfect. A few parents stayed to skate, we saw a few siblings join in the fun, what we didn't see very much of was Cubs sitting around not skating – except for the 10 minutes that the Zamboni was out – that's



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when we got our selfie in. There was a requisite Beaver Tail snack for several Cubs, but most of their time was spent on the ice. Perfect!



Can't wait to see what February has to offer us.



Scout Trails

At the first Scout meeting of 2024, we honoured Scout Zoe Doerffer who received the Bronze Cross. This is a Scouts Canada award for bravery when faced with a life-threatening situation. Zoe sensed danger during a house fire last summer and successfully warned and helped evacuate members of her household and neighbours. Congratulations Zoe!



The first meeting was a pretty relaxed affair – the Scouts had a board game night.



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There was a multitude of different games – some old favourites and others newer ones.



Some Scouts were more interested in eating the junk food brought by some Scouts than actually playing any games – where there is junk food, there are teenagers!



The next meeting was something that the Scouts thought of in their planning and really showed off their creativity and imagination. They wanted to spend a meeting building boats made of

popsicle sticks and see if they would float first of all and then race them.



There were all sorts of creations. Some were wind powered, while other had some propulsion using elastics and some Scouts even brought wind up or battery powered propulsion.



Let's say it was a lot of fun.

The next meeting was supposed to be tobogganing, but the freezing rain killed that idea. We were back at the church to work on our Scout Truck designs. This is a Scout Truck year and most of the Scouts are very keen to build one for a rally in March with other Scout Troops. The rest of the meeting was spent in patrols



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doing some more planning and then ended with a massive game of “mafia” led by Scout Liam.



Venturer News

It's been a pretty chill month for the 101st Venturers. Started the month with a planning meeting to tackle some of the bigger adventures we want to take on in the coming months, and slowed things down with a movie night. All the Vents had exams, so we took a week break, but now we are back planning for the All Sections Camp.



The last meeting of the month was outside. Again tobogganing was off, so instead we headed to the trail off Leitrim Road for some snowshoeing. We hunted for 3 different geocaches there were hidden off this

trail and found all of them. The snowshoes came in handy for those Scouts who went off trail into the woods to go find the geocaches. We also had a “coffee break crew” of Scouts who stuck to the trail and...well...we're less interested in finding the caches.

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