

March 2017



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

Newsletter



All Sections Winter Camp

Our most anticipated annual camp – the All Sections Winter Camp took place the weekend of March 3-5 at Camp Opemikon on Christie Lake near Perth.



This was the first time in a long time that we held this camp in early March when it usually takes place in early January. No, there was not a lot of snow on the ground after two weeks of rain and spring-like weather, but the temperatures sure turned like real winter weather dipping down to -20 degrees at night.



We were able to enjoy a weekend of outdoor fun including snowshoeing, tobogganing, great linking activities between sections, a campfire and of course excellent food. Many thanks to our two Venturers Sam and Stephan for organizing the Scout's Own.

Beaver Tales

In March, the Beavers came out in force to the All Sections Winter Camp. A total of 26 Beavers took part, all with parents and Leaders occupying three cabins at Ope. For many, this was their first time to this camp, others are now old pros.

What a weekend! The mandatory snowshoeing around camp on Saturday morning followed by tobogganing.



In the afternoon, the Cubs put on some great games for the Beavers and the Venturers taught them about how to make a fire, tie a knot, follow a compass and basic first aid.



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After a craft of making sit upons, it was time for the campfire where we got to use them. On Sunday morning, there was more tobogganing and Scout's Own before leaving after lunch. No doubt, great memories for the Beavers.



We capped off March with a ride on the O-Train. They were bursting with excitement to hop the train to the end of the line and back while looking at the sites along the way. Some Beavers impressed the Leaders by even knowing the names of the stations.



Also in March, the Beavers had a sugar shack night where they learned about maple syrup and had maple slushies (our taffy did not turn out despite our best efforts).



After March Break, the Beavers had an intense bingo night. While no Beaver came with a lucky charm, several hit Bingo!!



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Cub Corner

In our freeze-thaw-freeze winter, the cubs took every opportunity to enjoy the outdoors -- whatever the outdoors looked like. We played capture the flag, built a giant snow person and went hiking through the greenbelt.

March came in like a mountain lion and so Winter Camp in March was, well, decidedly winter!



The Cubs braved the Arctic temperatures and went on a hike, employed outdoor survival skills (not a scheduled activity, but all that practice sure came in handy) and did a lot of tobogganing. Akela AJ regaled all Scouts with an elaborate campfire story that had us literally glued -- make that frozen -- to our seats!



Following winter camp, once everyone had thoroughly thawed out, the Cubs did a little soul searching as they staged morality plays to discuss beliefs and values central to being a good citizen.

Most recently, the Cubs celebrated Earth Hour by playing board games in the darkened church, with only electric candles and 90-decibel conversations to keep them awake.



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Scout Trails

March for Scouts started the best way possible; Winter camping at Opemikon!



The Scouts planned and organized the linking activity with the Cubs. They had a scavenger hunt using coloured ice cubes made from Jello. They divided the Cubs into 3 groups and sent them on a mission to find as many ice cubes as they could and bring them back to their designated storing location as fast as they could. Of course, they didn't make it easy.

The storing location was at the top of the toboggan hill and the ice cubes were scattered in the field below. Some of the Cubs of course got hungry during the hunt and tried a few of the yummy flavored ice cubes. Another team won because the other team ate themselves into second place!

Also, a very special thank you to the Scouters who provided coffee to the other Scouters to help keep us warm and caffeinated!

The Scouts tried their hand at making hobo stoves out of tomato and soup cans. Using gloves, can openers, metal cutters and individual

creativity, the Scouts designed and made their own stoves. Braving the bitter wind, they broke into teams of 2 and competed to see whom could melt and boil a soup can of snow the fastest. They learned how to deal with the elements, what designs were the best for air flow, and what worked best for fuel.



The linking activity with the Venturers was amazing! The Venturers designed a mini golf course! The Scouts and the Scouters had a blast tapping tennis balls around the wonderfully designed golf course. Thank you for making it so much fun!

The second week of March the Scouts went bowling at the Walkley Bowling Alley. It is always fun to watch the Scouts cheer on each other in a friendly competitive match of who can get the highest points and win the game. A few of them even got a strike!

The Scouts were off during March break, and we were back at the Church for March 22. The Scouts started planning ahead for the Spring activities. One of which is planning for the Soap Box Derby. The Scouts wrote down or drew their ideas for the refurbishing of the Soap Box car.

As part of the Scouts winter survival badge, they need to make an item of winter clothing. They chose what item of clothing that they would like to make from fleece, followed by a much needed game of Man Hunt outside the Church.



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The last meeting of the month of March was also at the Church. The Soap Box Car arrived and we were able to get a closer look at the damage it sustained from last years race. Not as bad as we expected, but there is a lot of work to be done. Thank you to the parents who have offered to help restore our car and make it into something even better!



Scouter Bill took some time away from the Ventures and joined us for while to talk to the Scouts about outdoor survival kits. He showed the Scouts what he carries in his pack when he goes on hikes and camping. Thank you so much Scouter Bill for joining us!

The last part of the evening was spent designing and cutting out the patterns for the articles of winter clothing. Looking forward to seeing the finished products, they are all pretty amazing!



Venturer News

March was Ope camping month as the Company participated in two weekends at our favourite Scout camp. Venturers Stephan and Sam represented the Company at the All-sections camp the first weekend in March and did a fantastic job in organizing linking activities with the Beavers and the Scouts. Our two intrepid Venturers built a 12-hole 'Snolf' (snow golf) course for the Scouts, and challenged them to put their best putter forward. Despite the chilly conditions on the course, the Snolf course was enjoyed by all - a few Scouters were spotted on the course as well.

The Beavers were treated to skills stations including: fire-building, basic compass skills, and knot-tying. At the end, the Beavers were rewarded with a licorice snack. Sam and Stephan also put together materials for the Sunday morning Scouts Own, and organized the participation of the Scouts. And they 'carried the Venturer flag' with songs, skits and cheers at the campfire Saturday night (man was it cold !!). No doubt they slept well on their way home from camp!

Four of the Venturers participated the next weekend in the winter JC camp at Ope. JC is short for Joint Council which is the local organization of Venturer Companies and senior Guide units. The weather that weekend was still wintery but a little warmer.



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Venturer Kendra was 'day-runner' for Sunday which means she was responsible for organizing and running the camp activities on that day. Venturers Izzy, Dana and Shiloh were recognized with 'sunshine awards' at the camp for - bringing sunshine to the camp. Congratulations Vents.



Now the Vents are waiting for the snow to go, so they can shift their focus to spring camps and a late-May canoe trip.



Scoutrees 2017

Every year, thousands of scouts and volunteers head out at the beginning of May to plant Scoutrees. This is a way for Scouts to make a difference for the environment and to beautify their community. Last year, the 101st Ottawa planted 150 trees at park on Telesat Court.

But, Scoutrees is also an important fundraiser for our group. Each youth member will soon receive a pledge envelope to collect donations, of which our scouting group gets to keep 85% to fund our programs, camps, equipment, etc. Those who donate \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt. We encourage all youth to collect pledges of any amount to support our group and our tree planting efforts. Did you also know that 15% of pledges raised go to the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund. These funds assist Scouts in developing countries run self-help and community betterment programs that are adapted to local needs and conditions.

Envelopes with pledges are due back on:

- May 3 for Beavers and Cubs
- May 4 for Scouts and Venturers.

Stay tuned for details on our "Dig Day" when we plant trees on May 6th.



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Summer Camp at Opemikon

Camp Opemikon offers summer camping programs for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturer aged youth.



Camps includes crafts, swimming, hiking, canoeing, campfires, theme weeks, and so much more. A truly memorable summer camp experience.

Information is now available at:

<http://voy.scouts.ca/ca/camp-opemikon-summer-programs>

Dates for your Calendar

- **April 7:** Scouts Sleepover at Church
- **April 8:** Venturers Social Day at Camp Sheldrick
- **April 23:** Scouts Rideau Area Soapbox Car Derby at Terry Fox Complex
- **May 6:** Scoutrees Planting (Dig Day)
- **May 5-7:** RSVP Camp at Opemikon (Scouts and Venturers)
- **May 13:** White Tail Beavers Sleepover at Aviation Museum
- **May 19-21:** Venturers Canoe Camp
- **May 26-28:** Beavers Spring Camp at Legewade

- **June 6:** End-of-Year Banquet at Canterbury Community Centre
- **June 9-11:** Cubs Spring Camp at Voyageur Provincial Park
- **June 16-18:** Scouts Canoe Camp at Lac du Poisson Blanc



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

<http://www.scouts.ca/thanks/>

Visit our website regularly for updates:

<http://www.101ottawa.com/>



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