

MAY 2022



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

# Newsletter

### [Follow Us on Social Media @101stOttawa](#)

The 101<sup>st</sup> is now on social media. Follow us [@101stOttawa](#) on:



### [Save the Date – 101<sup>st</sup> Awards Night](#)

We are happy to announce that after two long years, we will be hosting a year-end group event. It will not be a full banquet like past years, but we will take time to hand out our annual awards and recognize our volunteers. Dessert, coffee, tea and drinks will be served. See you on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.



### [Beaver Tales](#)

May with spring weather brings Beavers outside and doing lots of fun activities. Our first outdoor meeting of the month was a linking one with the Cubs where we met at Canterbury Park for our spring cleaning. As the 101<sup>st</sup> has adopted the park, we have a duty to clean it twice a year.



The Beavers and Cubs were busy working together to pick up every single piece of trash they could find. The park was spic and span after they were done.



The following week was an adventure for most Beavers who had never ridden on the LRT. We met at Blair Station and took them on the train from one end to other and back again. They counted the number of stations (there are 13) and their names and especially liked the tunnel.



MAY 2022

## 101<sup>st</sup> OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER



The next week was a special event for our White Tail Beavers. We held the swim-up ceremony where the Beavers “swim up” the river (represented by a big blue tarp) to join the Wolf Cub Pack on the other side. In September, our four White Tail Beavers will be Tenderpads as new members of the Cub Pack.

They received their new 101<sup>st</sup> neckerchiefs and were welcomed by Akela and the other Cub Leaders.

After the ceremony, we moved to the basement of the church for a fun campfire together. We sang songs, did cheers and were entertained by a couple of skits.



Our next meeting was a camp prep meeting where we talked about getting ready for camp and tick safety.

Then, came the event of the spring for the Beavers – our first spring camp since 2019. We went back to an old favourite location at Foley Mountain Conservation Area at Westport. The theme of the camp was Jedi Training Camp. And, yes our Beavers got to train their force and lightsaber skills. Some Jedis even



came to visit them at night.



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MAY 2022

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Except for a bit of rain on Friday night, the weather was fantastic all weekend. The food was also exceptional thanks to Bubbles and his famous camp menu. The parents who attended were a big help in food prep and clean up. The Beavers even got to cook their own lunch on the hot coals.

We went on a nice hike after checking out Spy Rock and the view of Westport. On the hike, we went around a beaver pond and saw some turtles and a variety of plants and trees.



The afternoon we went down to the small beach and yes – you guessed it – all of the Beavers eventually ended up in the water. Even a couple of Leaders and parents did too.



On the Saturday evening, we held a really fun campfire with lots of songs, cheers and a couple of funny skits we had practiced with the Beavers. That was topped off with some yummy s'mores. Fishing was also a spectator sport for our Beavers as a couple parents brought their fishing gear and even caught some fish. The



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MAY 2022

## 101<sup>st</sup> OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

Beavers were amazed at being able to see and touch different kinds of fish.



The Sunday morning after breakfast, we packed up and had a quiet moment of reflection during Scout's Own. What a fantastic weekend!

Our last meeting of May was back at the church for a craft night. This included making some pet rocks. We have some very creative Beavers.



### Cub Corner

We started May with our Semi-Annual Park Clean Up and Playground Inspection. This is a very important meeting, as Playground Inspection is very important for the Park. We can assure you that the whole park – particularly the swings – are working at optimal performance.

Our second meeting was for Camp Prep. The Cubs used their massive muscles to pull the gear up the stairs – especially the stove and the griddle – those were heavy! Once the gear was

packed, they showed us what they knew about putting up tents! Then of course there is the take down and rolling that must be done. They did good.



That brings us to Camp Weekend! Trust us to pick Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> - with a full moon - to go to camp! Kaa and Akela met up at Fitzroy Harbour Provincial Park Group Camp site number 405 and started setting up the kitchen and their own sleeping areas. Akela was boring and had a tent, while Kaa had a hammock! Cubs were expected between 7 and 8pm and they showed up all excited and raring to go! First order of business was to put up their tents. A lot of Cubs brought their own tents and shared those – wonderful! Akela heard that several Cubs had spent the previous week practising pitching their tents. Great job Cubs!

After the usual rules and regs, Cubs were treated to a lovely Mug Up of chocolate chip



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MAY 2022

## 101<sup>st</sup> OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

cookies and cheese strings. Eventually, they were all herded into their tents and lights out was called at about 10pm. An added note, what an AWESOME full moon it was Friday night!

Imagine Akela's surprise when she was awakened at 1 am by a Cub running by her tent. Turns out a few Cubs were making use of the full moon to stay awake. After a second warning at 1:30 am they finally quieted down and hopefully got some sleep.

Saturday dawned early, and bright, and sunny, and only slightly bug infested. A wonderful breakfast of pancakes, sausage and bacon with choice of strawberries, mangoes, apples or bananas was a great way to start the day! Oh, I need to mention the whipped cream. It was lovely too. A great job was done by our breakfast cooking crew and our breakfast clean up crew. Once clean up was done, Kaa explained what Orienteering was, what the Cubs needed to do, and how to read the map. Then we shooed them off to find all 8 of the targets.



Just over an hour later Emiko and Russell were the first to bring in their completed control cards. All 8, including the sneaky tricky one! Well done Emiko and Russell!



Lunch was Walking Tacos. That's the official name, you may recognize it as tacos in a Dorito's bag. A bit of a hit and miss with the Cubs, some enjoyed it, some didn't, and that's fine. Extra fruit for dessert, Darn, we should have put out the whipped cream too. Next time. Thank you to the lunch

cooking crew and the lunch clean up crew.

The Cubs decided to just play around the campsite for a while, some playing Uno, others playing Chess, still another bunch running around playing with the disc golf and lawn games. Eventually, we needed to cool the Cubs down and asked them to grab their bowls and follow us. We hiked over to the Group Picnic Area, took our traditional selfie, and then headed back to a water tap.



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MAY 2022

101<sup>st</sup> OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER



First soaking goes to Tommy and Griffin who had helped Akela by carrying her water bottle and the First Aid Kit. Oh did that soaking feel nice! Then it was all out WATERFIGHT! Last soaking is shared by Henri and Akela. Henri filled his bowl, but Akela made sure Chil cooled down too! This was certainly a highlight of the day!



GORP and some quiet time after the water fight. Some of us had naps. Others didn't get their pictures taken while napping, so there isn't any proof, but it happened.



Eventually, supper was started. The Cubs had



decided to combine spaghetti and hot dogs. Trust us, they were NOT expecting what we served them. I give you the noodle weenie. A better name has not been agreed upon yet, but you can Google search under the name noodle weenie to get cooking directions. It

seemed to be a hit! Such a hit that we didn't even think to get a picture of a plate full, just that one picture before we cooked it!

We would like to take a moment to thank a certain Cub who does not want to be mentioned, but he hauled an awful lot of water on Saturday for both cleaning lunch and making supper. Thank you Oh Mysterious Cub, whose name starts with an R. Thank you also to supper cooking crew and supper cleaning crew. Special



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shout out to Emiko who was the ONLY Cub who did NOT complain about doing dishes.

Once the kitchen was clean, we paused while Kaa got a fire going for Campfire and Chil started making the naan bread beavertails on the griddle. Some great songs, the invisible bench skit, and those beavertails! YUM! Pretty much a perfect Cub Camp evening. Bedtime, and lights out by 10pm. Only a few stragglers on the lights out, but eventually everyone was sleeping.



Akela's rule for the morning that you leave Cub Camp is that no one eats breakfast until all the tents are down and the gear is put away. That being said, our Cubs were waking up for 7ish am and had everything done and were finishing breakfast by 9:15am! We were a little shocked everything was done so quickly but it gave the Scouters a few extra minutes to get a good Cub's Own planned.



Kaa led the Cub's Own, teaching us a song about friendship, prompted the Cubs to tell us about the worst things about the camp (mostly the bugs and stinky kybos) and the best things (water fight and food and friendship – in that order). Each Cub also had the opportunity to give thanks for something. There were a lot of thank yous for having their fellow Cubs around to share the weekend with. Akela made sure to thank Chil and Kaa for their hard work during the camp. We ended the weekend with Vespers, Daylight Taps, and our end of meeting Grand Howl, just as parents were starting to arrive.

Thank you Cubs for a wonderful weekend of good memories. Here are some important lessons learned from this weekend.

1- If you leave your tent door open during the day, your tent will be bug infested all night.



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MAY 2022

## 101<sup>st</sup> OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

2-Always stick with your buddy and never leave a buddy behind.

3-Clean up after yourself or you won't get a special treat – like the extra Doritos.

Cubs has always been about life lessons learned.

May has 5 meetings this year, so meeting 3 was unpack all the gear as well as our End of Year Swim Up and Leap Up Ceremony. The Cubs welcomed 3 New Tenderpads, and sent off 5 Howlers up to Scouts.



In a twist on our past Swim ups, we were actually inside for this one as it was slightly rainy. After the Swim Up and Leap Up ceremony, and an energetic campfire with some old favourites and a few new songs, some skits and rousing cheers, we all headed outside for a game of reverse tag. Good times.



WAY way back in September, Blue Lair planned a meeting where they wanted to play a game similar to Predator and Prey. For those not in the know, it's a strange form of Tag, where some are predators, some are prey and they go looking for resources to try and survive. Blue Lair said their



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MAY 2022

## 101<sup>st</sup> OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

game would go better in the spring, so we waited. This is finally their chance!



It was fabulous! There were Cubs running all over Balena Park! Great job to all the Predators and Prey! We managed to get two games in. During the second game we introduced Forces of Nature! Chil was drought and stole water or a life. Hathi was a forest fire and went running after Cubs to steal a life, she caught a few. Akela was rabies and didn't catch anyone. This is definitely a game we want to play again! Many thanks to Hathi who organized all the cards and popsicle sticks on this one!



Finally, meeting number 5 for May was our Bike Rodeo. Not to discriminate against people who didn't ride bikes, we also included a Scooter Round-up and some Skateboard and Inline/Roller Skate Herding. We must stay with the cowboy theme, so cowboy hats were invited, as long as they did not interfere with safety equipment.



Akela proudly announces that the Cubs are very proficient cyclists, know how to stay safe on the road, and she is very proud of them for their knowledge. Great job Cubs!



### Scout Trails

May – a time for spring camps and getting outdoors. To go camping, a Scout needs to be prepared. So our first meeting had us split the Scouts into two groups. Those going to RSVP camp for older Scouts did some camp prep, including going to the grocery store to buy all the food they will need for the weekend.



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MAY 2022

101<sup>st</sup> OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER



The second group did a neighbourhood cleanup, including of Weston Park, earning some valuable community service hours. The streets leading from the church to the park were picked clean of garbage. Good job Scouts!



Activities included things like a rope bridge, archery, canoeing, tomahawks, badge trading and more.

RSVP Camp at Opemikon took place the first weekend of May. This is a camp for Rangers, Scouts, Venturers and Pathfinders, so a joint Scout-Guide camp for older youth.



At Scout camps, the Scouts choose their menu, sometimes do the shopping themselves and always do all of the cooking and cleaning up. This is part of camp life and learning to pitch in and do their part in keeping the camp going. And we have some pretty good and keen cooks in the troop.



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MAY 2022

## 101<sup>st</sup> OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER



There was a huge campfire and a teen dance on Saturday night. Some of our Scouts really like to boogie down.

RSVP is a very social camp too and our Scouts apparently got along great with a group of Pathfinders camping nearby.



The following week, we met at the church for a mandatory prep meeting for those Scouts taking part in the following weekend's Rideau Challenge Journey. This is a hike on a portion of the Rideau Trail through Malborough Forest. There are three levels of hikes and the 101<sup>st</sup> had

three patrols: two bronze patrols, which are day hikes of about 12-15KM accompanied by Leaders. And one silver patrol, which is a two-day hike of about 25KM, unaccompanied by Leaders but with an overnight camp.



The weekend of the Rideau Challenge was exactly that – a challenge! The weather was very hot and conditions tough. The morning started fine but the Scouts need to navigate a series of trails and roads following a pre-determined route. One bronze patrol took a wrong

turn early on and that added time and walking.



The Scouts hiked for about 6-7 hours total covering between 12-16 KM in sometimes very tough conditions with no shade in some spots or



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MAY 2022

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very wet trails. The Leaders kept a close watch to make sure they rested when needed, stayed hydrated and nourished, checked in at each checkpoint along the way, and even helped carry some gear when needed. The bugs were also a challenge for some.



Let's say at the end of the hike, they were exhausted and happy to be finished. The silver patrol stayed overnight with a couple Leaders and then finished their hike the day around noon and hiked some 26KM in total.



While it was tough, the fact that they finished and were able to persevere through it is a huge accomplishment and the Scouts should be proud of themselves for doing that.



The following Wednesday, it was Raccoon Patrols turn to organize and run a meeting. They ran a murder mystery with a plot and clues hidden throughout the church. The other patrols had to figure out who was the murderer.

The next meeting, we met at Dows Lake on a beautiful spring evening and walked the 2.5KM one way along the Canal to Lansdowne. The Scouts brought some money and we got gelato at Lansdowne. What Scout does not love gelato? We then walked back to Dows Lake for parents to pick up.



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MAY 2022

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What a great month the Troop! Just one more.



### Venturer News



The 101<sup>st</sup> Venturers are always on the move, and the month of May was no exception. The youth began the month with flexing their muscles by doing some rock climbing at Coyote Rock Gym. They practiced tying themselves

properly into the harness and supporting each other going up and down the walls, or doing some free form climbing on their own.

The youth also gathered on a sunny afternoon to take in a Scouts Night hosted by the Atletico Soccer Club, and delighted in heading for gelato afterwards.



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MAY 2022

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Following a productive and intensive meeting, where the youth sat together to do the paperwork, emergency plans and camp planning for the rest of the scouting year, Venturers Luca, Edoardo, Indira and Sofia volunteered to assist at checkpoints and HQ during the

Rideau Challenge undertaken by some of our very own Scouts! Their service was greatly appreciated by the organizers in ensuring that all patrols arrived at the meeting point safely. They even got to use the ATV!



Our Vents then took on an Escape Room in Byward Market, where they worked together to beat the clock and escape! They celebrated their victory by sharing in some milkshakes and laughs with each other.

The month ended with a lovely day trip to Kingston, Ontario planned by Venturers Sam and Sofia.



The Company visited Fort Henry and learned of the fort's history and significance, took an interesting tour of the Correctional Services Museum, visited the beautiful St. Mary's Cathedral,

strolled through the heritage district of Old Sydenham and spent a wonderful afternoon in this historic town.



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MAY 2022

## 101<sup>st</sup> OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER



### [Thank a Volunteer Today!](#)

Did you know that the 101<sup>st</sup> has 21 dedicated Scouters and volunteers? Some of them have continued to volunteer even after their own children have left the program. Some of them have been Scouters for 35 and 45 years! And some of them volunteer behind the scenes like Sara Walker our Treasurer and Richard Lincoln our Registrar. Without them, the 101<sup>st</sup> would not exist. If you can spare 5 minutes, click on the link below and thank a volunteer today. To help you fill out the form, the 101<sup>st</sup> is part of Voyageur Council. Thank you!

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



### [Scout Coffee Year-Round Fundraiser](#)

Scouts Canada has brought back the Scout Coffee fundraiser as a year-round one. If you really love coffee – and may consider yourself a “coffee snob”, then you’ll love this. We’ve partnered with Equator Coffee Roasters in Almonte to sell fair-trade, organic coffee.

There are various roasts, sizes and even bundles available. And shipping is available to anywhere in Canada.

Go to [www.scout-coffee.ca](http://www.scout-coffee.ca)

At checkout, click on support local scout group and type in 101<sup>st</sup> Ottawa and select the youth section you want to support. 35% of proceeds come back to the 101<sup>st</sup>.



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