

MAY 2023



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

Newsletter

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Beaver Tales

May just flew by and what a great month it was. We had real spring weather and we took real advantage of it. The month started out with some community service with the Cubs and our spring cleaning of Canterbury Park. Our group sponsors the park and have a commitment to clean it up twice a year. For many Beavers, this is one of their favourite meetings of the year.

We picked up several bags of trash and the Beavers were then rewarded with some hot chocolate, cookies and time of the play structures.



More outdoor time followed the week after with a hike around the Mer Bleu boardwalk. It was beautiful evening and the Beavers were keen to explore the boardwalk. A great way to spend some time outdoors just on the edge of town. And

they even got some birds to land and feed from their hands.



Our next meeting was our swim-up ceremony when we said goodbye to our White Tail Beavers. We saw them "swim-up" the river (also know as the blue tarp) and they emerged on the other side as Tenderpad Cubs. They were warmly welcomed by Akela and the other Cub Leaders to the Pack. We will surely miss them as Beavers but we know they will make great Cubs. Best of luck to you White Tails.

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We then headed downstairs for a short indoor campfire and our Scouts who attended and even led some songs and cheers for the Beavers and Cubs there.



Next we prepared for our spring camp going over the packing list of what to bring and not to bring to camp. This led to a great weekend at Camp Otter Lake, Quebec. We could not have asked for better weather. We had mug up night one and then after a good sleep in our tents. After breakfast, Saturday started out with a pretty lengthy obstacle course. We went

swimming and canoeing after lunch, then had a scavenger hunt just before dinner.



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The campfire was great! Lots of smores were made and the White Tails led a few songs and a skit for us, getting their fellow Beavers to participate.



There were a lot of mosquitoes but the Beavers got used to wearing their nets and didn't let the bugs phase them. Most of the Beavers said the obstacle course and canoeing were their favourite part. The mosquitoes and 'going home' tied for the only downsides of the weekend.

Echo and Rainbow want to thank the parents for helping out.



Then came our last meeting of the year on May 30th. While the Beaver Leaders need a break, it was still bittersweet to say goodbye for the summer to such a great Colony of Beavers. The Beavers did a review of the year, helped returned the camping gear to the cupboard at the church and then we played outside until it was time to hand out the final badges.



Cub Corner

Summer Break is rushing towards us but we still have a ton of activities still to do!

Our first meeting in May was our Semi-Annual Park Cleanup and Playground Inspection with the Beavers. Cubs (and Beavers) did a great job



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working together to get Canterbury Park ready for summer. Then, of course, once it's clean, Cubs (and Beavers) had to test out the play structures. Akela can personally attest that the swings are in good order. We had our traditional cookies and hot chocolate too.

Kudos to those Cubs (and Beavers) who brought their own cups!



On May 7, we participated in Scout Trees once again! It was nice to get back to that. Camp Sheldrick in Winchester hosted the event and had 1000 trees to plant. Various Groups from across Voyageur Area participated. Thank you to everyone who came out. A little sad we ran out of room before we ran out of trees though!



The second week of May was our Camp Prep week! 13 Cubs are joining us at Camp this weekend! We dug out all the gear we need from the cupboard and then still had time to set up some tents! Please note, our

Cubs are awesome and had the tents up and down and folded and back in their bags in under 30 minutes. We'll see how well they do at camp this weekend.

CAMP WEEKEND! Though not our original location, the choice of Over the Hill at Camp Opemikon turned out to be a good one. When they mean Over The Hill though, they mean OVER THE HILL! Phew! Many thanks to William's Dad, Griffin's Dad, Max's Dad and Emiko's Mom for their trips up and down that hill to help us get our gear into position. The Cubs did a great job of getting their tents up before it got too dark – luckily, it's getting dark later and later! We welcomed Scouter Shaz who normally hangs out with the Scout Troop too. With the kitchen set up we were able to have our cookies and cheese strings as mug up!

Saturday morning came really early. Our breakfast team started in on pancakes and



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sausages, it was delicious! Then our clean up team went in to do their thing. Great job from everyone. We took a few minutes to build up some first aid kits. Thank you Chil for getting all that organized for us.



After that it was time to hike ourselves up the hill to start the whole reason we came to camp – CANOES! Chil, with his two canoes and inflatable kayak, and Baloo with his canoe and stand up paddle board, met us down at the lake – the Cubs did a great job of hauling the canoes down from the Health Centre (our winter friend) to the lake. A quick lesson from Kaa on how to use the paddles and then it was into the canoes! The Cubs paddled around for about an hour before we had to pull the lunch crew to head back to our camp to make lunch!



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Grilled cheese and vegetable soup! Very tasty, great job lunch crew! Clean up crew took over and then it was a quick break before the Cubs headed back to swim! Akela admits to staying behind to have a nap. She was told that the water was a little chilly. Once the Cubs came back and changed into dry clothes it was time to make supper. Supper is always a special occasion at camp and this one was no exception. NOODLE WEENIES! A first time meal for some, but apparently now a camp favourite. Thank you to supper crew and cleanup crew!



There was some “quiet” time and eventually Chil and Baloo took the Cubs into Cub Field for a game of Capture the Flag. The Cubs were back before full dark so Chil could show them how to make bannock. Kaa started the fire and Mug Up was delicious! For some reason, the Cubs were tired. Who knew that could ever happen.

Though Saturday night and Sunday morning were a little colder than we liked, everyone survived and we started packing up. Remember, we had to get everything up the hill though. Cubs were fantastic in packing up and bringing everything up the hill to the Scouter vehicles. When almost everything was off the site we had

breakfast – those huge Costco muffins! What a special treat. We also took the breakfast moment for a mini Scout's Own where we went through and said what was our best memory and worst memory. Consensus was the canoes were the best and the bugs and kybos were the worst (aren't they always?). After breakfast we walked the site to make sure we didn't forget anything – oops, a few things got missed, pack those up.

Once we were all up with our gear, Scouters loaded up their cars while the Cubs warmed up with some hot chocolate courtesy of Chil and his kelly kettle. Before parents started arriving we did our closing and all of our Cubs were picked up by 11am. Thank you Cubs for a fun weekend, thank you parents for a quick pick up!

Our third meeting in May was our Swim Up. We welcomed 5 New Tenderpads to our Pack! Welcome to Myles, Owen, Melody, Rhys and Dylan. Eleanor was missing, we'll welcome her when we can. We also sent up 9 Howlers to Scouts. Congratulations go out to Gabriel, Duncan, Arfan, Curtis, Griffin, Emiko, Annie, Pip and Zoe.



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We also had to give some sadish news. Baloo will be going back to Beavers, Raksha expressed an interest in going back to Beavers, Chil is going up to Scouts and Kaa is expecting a baby python (well, probably a

human baby, but we'll call it a python) in October. That leaves Akela needing help to run the Pack. Here's hoping a few parents can help.



For our last two meetings in May, we're working on our Kub Kars! Our goal is to have them ready for June 13th for our races. Lots to do between then and now though. Stay tuned for more Adventures!



Scout Trails

There were a couple big events for the Scouts in May. The first one was RSVP Camp. This is an annual camp at Opemikon for those aged 13 and above only. It also includes Venturers, Rangers and Pathfinders and is a very social camp with lots of chances to mingle.



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Our Scouts, being a pretty social bunch, were out there taking part in the activities during the daytime and at night.



The big attractions for the social butterflies is the huge campfire and the dance in the big teepee. Yes, the dance and our Scouts were the first ones in there leading the way dancing to music that came from the eras of the Scouters. The Scouters commend the DJ for his good taste. And the weather was fantastic.



The next big event of May came the weekend after with the Rideau Challenge Journey. This is a weekend hiking challenge through Malborough Forest in the south west end of the city through some pretty tough conditions.



We had three “silver patrols”, which means that they must hike over 2 days covering between 26-32 KM (yes that’s not a typo) with all their personal gear on their backs – unaccompanied by Scouters. It can be gruelling.



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This year the weather was good and even the breeze kept the bugs at bay back at camp.

Yes, we camp overnight on Saturday in bare-bones conditions. Off the grid and not even kybos to relieve oneself – a good weekend to learn how to “be prepared”. The good news is that nobody got horribly lost and all three patrols managed to finish their hikes on time. Great job!



In terms of meetings, the two to highlight was first a sword history and techniques night courtesy of our favourite arms and armour expert – Mr. Dark. We had some pretty excited Scouts to be handling some swords. But, don't mess with Mr. Darka and the Scouts learned a few disarming techniques.



The second meeting to highlight was a Friday night at the Splash Wave Pool in lieu of a meeting. Scouts + water + waves = FUN!



Venturer News



May has been another busy month for the Venturers, taking a couple meetings to plan for trips and prepare their year-end presentation. In addition, they were invited to an indoor curling night with the Venturers from the 28th Ottawa - which was tons of fun.

We took the train down to Toronto where we had a gorgeous weekend exploring the city.



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We went to the CN Tower, the Toronto Zoo, the Eaton Centre, Casa Loma and the Royal Ontario Museum. There was a lot of walking, but we enjoyed ourselves.

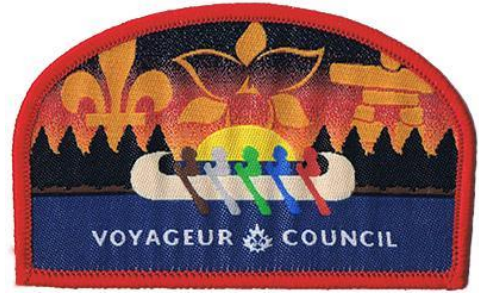


The Vents are now in the process of planning and preparing for their final camp of the year at the Scouts Camp in Otter Lake, Quebec.



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[Summer Camps at Opemikon](#)

For summer 2023, we are pleased to be bringing back our wide variety of great summer programming at Camp Opemikon. Youth can choose from a multitude of camping options including tents and cabins, and great instructor-led programming like archery, a low-ropes course, paddling excursions and guided trail hikes. There will also be a Family Adventure Camp August 5th-12th (more info about it will be available soon)

Since 1938, Camp Opemikon has served the camping needs of more than half a million members of the Scouting family. The camp is owned and operated by Scouts Canada, Voyageur Council, and is one of the finest residential Scout camps in Canada. It is located on Christie Lake just west of Perth, Ontario and 100 km southwest of Ottawa.

Registration and further information is at <https://www.scouts.ca/camps/camp-opemikon.html>



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