JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

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

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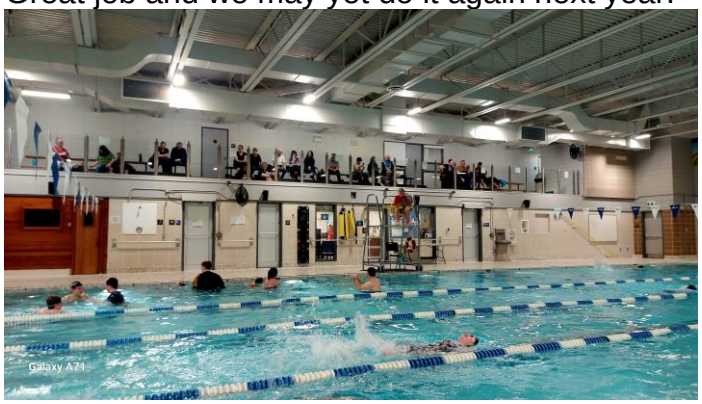
2nd Swim-a-Thon Fundraiser

Last year, we held our first swim-a-thon fundraiser and it was a great success so we decided to bring it back this year. On March 1st, we had over 20 youth come out to Canterbury Pool to swim as many laps as possible in one hour. The youth set goals of the number of laps to swim and most if not all of them beat that.

Thank you to the Leaders who supervised youth in the pool, to the many parents who were our cheering section and to City Councillor Marty Carr who sponsored this event and even came to watch. A special thank you to Scout Gabriel Villeneuve and his dad John who made the arrangements with the pool and helped set up the communication with parents.

We will report on the total amount raised in the next issue of the newsletter as we collect the cash and online donations.

Great job and we may yet do it again next year.



Beaver Tales

A new year and a new set of adventures for our busy Beavers. And what a better way to start the first full month of winter with a beach party? Yes, this has become a bit of a tradition for the Beavers to dress in their beach gear and play some games. There was beach ball blanket toss, bean bag toss, volleyball and the ever popular limbo – how low can you go? Pretty low in fact and we ended it with some watermelon – what a great day at the beach.

The following week, we dedicated to building our Beaver Buggies so that they can race them the following week. Thanks to the parents who came to help put them together and watch the races. Always a favourite meeting, the Beavers excitedly raced their buggies on our two tracks.

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After that, we got to more winter-like activities with a night of skating at the rink at Weston Park. We have pretty good skaters and several parents and Leaders also put on their skates on a beautiful night. And yes, there was hot chocolate to top off the night.

After that, we held a meeting to prepare for our annual All Sections Winter Camp where we went over the gear packing list and practiced our skits that we would present at campfire.

Then came the big weekend – and what a weekend it was.

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The weather was prefect, the lake was frozen so that the Beavers can go on it and there was fresh snow for tobogganing. The food was good and plentiful in the dinning hall and the cabin was comfy for sleeping. Even the parents who came had a great time we think. We even had bedtime stories.

The Beavers really loved the tobogganing and tried their hand at curling on the frozen lake. At campfire, the Beavers presented a funny skit of the "ugliest person in the world". We can't wait to do it again next year.

The Cubs put on a neat linking activity of building small fires in pie plates to allow the roasting of marshmallows – something the Beavers cannot eat enough of it seems. The Venturers did a hike on the lake.

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Back at our weekly meetings, we were tired so did an easy meeting of playing boardgames. This was followed by some more tobogganing at the hill at Dempsey Community Centre. There was a lot of new deep snow, but we made a hill to slide on and the Beavers braved the colder weather and were rewarded again with more hot chocolate and some yummy cookies thanks to Rainbow.

Our last meeting of February was a craft night – the Beavers LOVE crafts! They made a bird feeder using ingredients that birds need at this time of year. They learned about the birds we see in the winter – what they eat, the sounds they make and a fun fact about them.

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Cub Corner

We started 2025 with our now traditional Medieval Fight Night – Cubs brought in their empty wrapping paper tubes and learned the basics of European Medieval Fighting and then went to town! We were also able to incorporate some jousting!

Our second January meeting was Skating at the Rink of Dreams! Cubs (and a few parents) joined us downtown. We had such fun. We did remember to get our selfie and that's about it! A huge shout out to Raksha for helping our non skating Cubs to become skaters! I heard a few newbies were able to jump? What the WHAT?!?! Great job Cubs! Thank you Raksha!

We were going to be sledding on the third Tuesday in January but the temperatures reached the minus stupid level - even before the windchill! – so we went Star Travelling. Akela brought in her star projector and we discussed the stars and constellations and even made up a few of our own.

On the last Tuesday in January, we finally went sledding! We hit our traditional hill at Alda Burt Park and the Cubs had a roaring good time. It was still a little colder than necessary, so Akela appeared with Hot Chocolate. Still a fun night!

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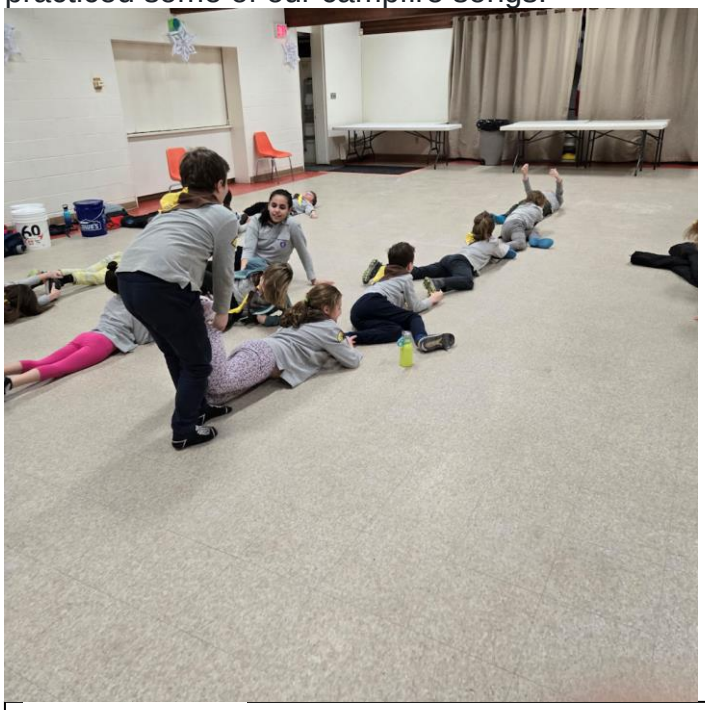
Our first meeting in February was Camp Prep! We discussed what to bring and worked on some Winter Skills – including how to do an ice rescue! There is a possibility that we'll be able to walk on the lake at camp this coming weekend, we want to be prepared. We also practiced some of our campfire songs.



Camp! What a memorable camp.
14 Cubs and 6 Scouters gathered at the Health Centre of Camp Opemikon on February 7th for a weekend of snowy fun. It started out with extra Lair points to Cub Rudy who had an extra sleeping bag he offered when another Cub realized he had forgotten his. Thank you Rudy! Akela has done that forgotten sleeping bag thing – sharing a spare was fantastic.

Mug up was cookies and hot chocolate. Of course, there were not enough cookies. We may want to bring more next year, note to futures selves! Cubs then made it back to the Health Centre, did their bedtime stuff and were in bed with lights out by 10:15pm. Akela and Kaa stayed up and they were pretty sure all Cubs were asleep by 11pm! WOOHOO!

We were all up dark and early at 6:45am when Scouters marched into the Cub Room singing "I'm alive awake alert enthusiastic!" Which has kind of become our Camp wake up song. Pretty sure Kaa introduced us to that. We had a good breakfast of pancakes and bacon. Very yum. Then suddenly lost Kaa for a minute – there were only 2 cooks/kitchen staff so Kaa went over to help wash dishes. Way to go Kaa!

Our morning was spent on the sledding hill! Sledding and fort building and for some reason a lot of complaining about being hungry. Even though we brought snacks!

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Before lunch we gathered up for a group bathroom break, we were a little early for the dinning hall though so we took a quick detour – and a game of can you walk as slowly as Akela (very hard to do for some) - and ended up walking on the frozen lake! There was a great lunch of grilled cheese and tomato soup. Kaa was instrumental in making the grilled cheese apparently. They were very yum.

We had a little bit of time between lunch and opening to be quiet – and the Cubs were reasonable about it. Then we lined them up to go back outside. Akela's cargo sled was packed with our activity to do with the Beavers so we lined up the Cubs like a dogsled to pull it. We may have over estimated how many Cubs we needed, The Draggin' (Akela's cargo sled) nipped a few heels on the way up.

Our linking activity with the Beavers was fire starters. Cubs were able to help the Beavers start a small fire and roast marshmallows! It seems like everyone had a great time, and they were all sugared up to go and play with the Scouts!

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Quiet time after being outside all day, and the Howlers helped with setting the tables for supper. Chicken parm, spaghetti and Caeser salad. With cake and ice cream for dessert. Kaa claims to have made the cake.

Luckily, we had chosen and practiced our songs BEFORE camp so we had a few ready before campfire. Rikki Tikki Tavi got us a little lost on the way TO the campfire, but we made it. In her defence, it was dark, snowing and it's only her second time at camp with us.
Bedtime and another memorable day for the Cubs.

Up in the morning with some tired Cubs and Scouters. It's like they spent all day Saturday outside enjoying the FABULOUS weather. As per usual, no breakfast until everything is packed and on sleds. Would like to report that all Cubs had their bags packed and on their sleds AND the Cub Room was swept up BEFORE BREAKFAST!!!!! WOOHOO! GO CUBS! Akela is SO PROUD. She even got a message from Scouter Ruth later on Sunday saying everyone was surprised that the Cubs were so awesome in their packing up. A few items were forgotten – a pair of gloves, a few socks. Breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausage, thank you Kaa for the eggs! A special thanks also goes out to those Cubs who helped Scouter Dan take the curling items off the Lake.

Our Own (aka Cub's Own or Scouts Own) went great, and pick up went well. We hope the Cubs slept all the way home, had a nice shower and are up for more adventures on Tuesday!
Rikki Tikki Tavi, in a note during our After Camp Revue states, "So many little lessons and a lot of growth this weekend!" Proud of you Cubs.

Our next meeting after camp was sledding at Stonehenge Park. The hill isn't as high as Alda Burt Park, which means you won't go as far, but it also means you don't climb as far. Akela had Hot Chocolate ready for us after sledding. Yum.

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We have discovered a new favourite activity for the Cubs. We had Scouter Doug come in from the Ottawa BP Guild (Scouters who don't work in groups all the time but do special meetings like this one). Scouter Doug came prepared to teach us Leathercrafting. The Cubs were ENTHRALLED by Scouter Doug. They absorbed his lesson on how to use the tools he brought for us to use, then went to town on building a small leather pouch.

When it came time to do closing, the Cubs were still in the process of putting in their rivets and snaps for their pouches! A few Cubs had to be dragged out by parents almost 30 minutes after our closing! Scouter Doug, we're going to be inviting you back next year.

Our last meeting of February was a favourite – Robot Recyclables. Using recyclable items – boxes, cans, containers, pie plates, whatever can be found – Cubs are encouraged to build a robot. They then battle their Robots using 20 sided dice. Highest total score after three throws is declared the winner of the match.

More exciting adventures coming in March and April!

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Scout Trails

The Scouts eased into the new year with a board game night. Easy but fun nonetheless.

The following week was a little more challenging in that the Scouts started working on their bridges for the bridge building competition. This competition happens every two years among local scout troops who build bridges out of only popsicle sticks and glue – nothing else.

The bridges must be within certain specifications and then they get tested in terms of how much weight they can hold as well as design. This is a big undertaking and we have three bridges being built for the competition in March.

We took a break from bridge building and took advantage of the fact that the canal was open for skating. We met at the canal access at Fifth Avenue on the same night as the Venturers who were also there. The Scouts went off in small groups to skate in between the Bank Street and Pretoria bridges. Hot chocolate was all drunk at the end of the evening as it was little chilly.

The following week, the Scouts had agreed to build houses out of large pieces of cardboard. We have some fairly creative scouts with some innovative additions to their houses. Everything from kitchens to entertainment centres. While the older scouts decided who had the best house – theirs of course – the Scouters were not entirely convinced.

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The Scouts then pivoted to preparing for winter camp but going over the packing list and deciding on their linking activity that they would run for the Cubs. While the senior Scouts joined the Venturers to plan Scout's Own, the others focused their efforts on working on their bridges.

Then came the camp weekend. The Scouts were in their usual cabin of Clements at the top of the hill. A good spot to hangout – and the Scouts sure to like "hangout and vibe".

But yes, there was tobogganing and some of the Scouts made a curling rink on the frozen lake and used laundry detergent bottles with frozen water to curl with. They showed the Beavers how it worked and it worked pretty good actually.

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The linking activity for the Cubs was split between those who played games like capture the flag and those who built shelters. Thank you Cubs for being good sports.

When it came to meals – well there was never enough food for the bottomless pits also know as teenage Scouts. At campfire, we even got a new skit – a take on JC Penney called TJ Nichols as well as the classic Igor. Overall it was a good camp and we look forward to seeing our older Scouts step up to lead more at future camps, which we started doing.

Back to the meetings, we dedicated two more meetings to working on the bridges while the older scouts spent time planning every aspect of our spring camp in June.

In between there, we went tobogganing at Conroy Pit. The hill was in good condition with some fresh snow and they had a blast as usual.

Venturer News

The Venturers started off the new year with lots of outdoor activities in January. The Venturers hiked in Hog's Back Park on a very cold evening to invest Alexandra into the group. Thankfully, Scouter Paul surprised us all with hot chocolate at the end. Also in January, they crossed paths with the Scouts on the Rideau Canal, where there was skating, exploring and Beaver Tails. They also went tobogganing at Conroy Pit and tested out the hill on the far side of the field.

In February, the Venturers had a blast at winter camp. They planned an adventure on the lake

with the Beavers and Tobogganing with the Scouts after spending the morning building their traditional toboggan run. They had Scouter Kerry test it out, but forgot to tell her there was a jump. Oops?

Unfortunately, Andrew had an accident involving a sled and Scouters and Venturers worked together to transport him to the parking lot to get him to the ambulance. He is doing well and on the mend in case anyone is worried.

Scouter Sunshine was very thankful for Scouter Bill and the Venturers who helped start and build a nice big fire for our Saturday night campfire. And it was epic with a skit where we learning of the origins of stalling and a Venturer in a gorilla suit – yes you read that right.

In February, the Venturers did a bit of acting by reading scripts written by Alexandra. Though the Scouters were banished from rehearsal, they were allowed to watch the amazing performance. In the planning meeting, they were joined by Chace, who will be joining the Venturers. It gave them time to get to know each other.

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Finally, they wrapped up the month by going bowling at West Park Bowling, with a full turnout (including Andrew and Chace!). Who knows why it was Rock and Bowl on a Wednesday night, but it added to everyone having a great time.

More fun awaits in March and April.

Thank a Volunteer

Anyone can thank one of our hard working, dedicated and passionate volunteers. Click on the link below and fill out the online form. They ask you for some basic information:
Volunteer's Name: If you don't know it, just ask
Council Name: Voyageur Council
Group Name: 101st Ottawa
Link to the page: Thanks

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