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

3rd Annual Swimathon Fundraiser

On March 28th, we will hold our third swimathon to raise important funds for our group. We are in particular need of replacing some of our aging camping equipment.

Families have received the information and pledge form. Swimmers can be pledged a lump sum or per two lengths of the pool. We hope to see as many of you there.

Beaver Tales

The Beavers came back from the holidays ready to party – a beach party in January. We played beach blanket toss and did the limbo – how low can you go? Some of the Beavers can go quite low. Oh, to be young and flexible again. They had a great time dressed in their beach wear.

The following week, the Beavers worked on their Beaver Buggies. They put together their buggies and thanks to the parents who helped us. There was a lot of hammering of wheels into the blocks of wood, glueing of the wooden beaver and painting of the buggy. We have some pretty creative types in the colony.

Then came race day the following week. This highly anticipated meeting when the Beavers can race their buggies on our two tracks. What a great time they had with Beavers seeing their buggies place either first, second or third in many, many races.

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After three meetings indoors, we needed to get outside and go skating. We met at Weston Park and had the outdoor rink all to ourselves. The weather was perfect and the Beavers had a blast skating up and down the rink, racing each other, and trying to get the bubbles that would freeze in mid-air. We topped off the evening with some hot chocolate.

Then, we were back at the church for a joint camp preparation meeting with the Cubs. We went over the camp rules and packing list. Then the Beavers practiced their skits that they would present at the campfire.

That first weekend of February we gathered at our annual All Sections Winter Camp at Opemikon. This annual event is a favourite camp for youth and adults alike. This year, it was cold! Really cold!! But we persevered despite the cold and spent lots of time outside.We went tobogganing at the same time as all of the other youth being on the hill – and the sun felt nice. In the afternoon, the Cubs and the Venturers ran some linking activities for us. These were great! The Beavers loved the fire making with the Cubs (and roasting of a couple of marshmallows) and the coloured ice cube hunt that the Venturers organized. We spent some time in the cabin making sit-upon's (handy at campfire) and playing card and board games.

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It starts with Scouts.

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At the campfire, the Beavers did a song and skit which made us forget about the cold (a bit). The path to the campfire was light and set the mood for a great time with a sky full of stars above us. In the dining hall, the Beavers really helped out by washing down tables and we heard a lot of compliments to the Rover Crew who cooked all of our meals. And let's not forget the bedtime stories which saw even some of the parents nodding off as they were being read. What a great camp it was!

The following Tuesday, we were tired from camp still, so a relaxed meeting with some card and board games did the trick.

We have chess players, battleship players and all sorts of games that made an appearance. Some of which the Leaders did not know.

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And the Beavers were very helpful in putting away the tables. This is something the Leaders always appreciate is when the beavers willingly help out to clean up.

We were back outdoors for the following two weeks. First, we did a hike at Pine Grove with the Cubs and then we went tobogganing at Grasshopper Hill Park. As we move towards spring, we have lots more adventures in store.

Cub Corner

Welcome Back Cubs! We hope everyone had a great break, but it's time to get back into the Adventures that is Cubs. First of all, we collected up the Service Scavenger Hunts from the Cubs. Kudos to everyone who participated, and special bonus to the Cub that DID THEIR OWN LAUNDRY! WOOHOO!

Once that was collected, we got down to the important stuff – Medieval Fight Night. Cubs were asked to bring in empty wrapping paper tubes, then they learned the basics of sword fighting defence and attack. Once they had the basics down they showed proper etiquette – saluting their opponent and the Marshal – and were given permission to LAY ON!

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Those wrapping paper tubes are getting stronger it appears, we had to stop before all of the tubes were destroyed. Hmmm. For the second part of the evening, Cubs had the chance to learn to joust. Everyone had a few turns, and then Cubs started challenging their Scouter parents. Oh dear!

Lastly, Akela brought in swords and armour for Cubs – and their family members - to try on and hold. It was a hit.

Our second meeting was Skating at the Rink of Dreams! Oh wow, we do love skating there. We

were treated to a Bear on Ice – Baloo showed us his moves. He's not bad.

Somewhere in January, a few Cubs, Scouts and Scouters and their families took part in Scout Day with the Ottawa 67's. There was much fun and a few of them skated on the ice after the game!

We followed that with some Emergency Skills. Important things like Stop Drop and Roll. Learning about warning labels, fun stuff like that. We'll go into Emergency First Aid later in February.

Then of course we HAD to go sledding. Alda Burt Park is our preferred sledding spot. Of course it was super cold out so we only stayed in for an hour or so. Still ever so much fun.

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Then we were doing some Camp Prep! Unfortunately the upper hall was being used so we shared the space in the basement with the Beavers. We went through the Kit List so we knew what to bring to camp and what NOT to bring to camp. Cubs also practiced water rescue and were reminded NOT to Lick Flagpoles! We also FINALLY got to invest Baloo. Doesn't he look great in his shirt?

Finally came CAMP! WOOHOO! 10 Cubs and 4 Scouters made it to Camp on Friday (two other Cubs made it by Saturday – REALLY nasty weather on Friday night!) Once again we were in the Health Centre. We unpacked and settles, made a trip to the flushies and then headed to the Dinning Hall for Mug Up! Cookies, yum. Then it was getting ready for bed time, and eventually, around 10:30pm, lights out. As usual it took the Cubs some time to settle down but the Scouters were able to fall into bed for about 11:30 or so.

Rise and shine for 6:50am to our rousing I'm Alive Awake Alert Enthusiastic song. Which the Cubs were all awake to participate in. Sigh, maybe we can get them on Sunday morning. Saturday is always our get up and go day so we got up and went! Getting dressed, flushies, breakfast in the dinning hall – pancakes and bacon with fruit – and then getting ready for the sledding. Akela provided hot pockets for feet and hands and off we went to be first on the hill! With fresh snow. Not as easy as it could be but fun was still had for the most part. Eventually the Beavers, Scouts and Vents appeared – so slow guys, so slow. Seeing as it had reached stupid cold levels, about -30 with the windchill, the Cubs eventually retreated to the Health Centre to play games for the remainder of the morning.

Lunch was grilled cheese and tomato soup! Yummy! We had our Camp opening and then went right into our linking activities where the Cubs helped the Beavers learn to start fires and toast marshmallows. Oh yeah, that was a hit. We got them all sugared up to the send the Cubs up the hill to the Scouts to play Capture the Flag and practice lighting the Council Campfire. Our Cubs are such pros.

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Cubs came back down for quiet time, Scouter naps were had, Cubs played games. Then all of a sudden it was dinner time! (Naps – taking you time traveling for millennia) REALLY good chicken parm with noodles, sauce, veggies and milk. So yum. Have to say our Cubs are awesome with Akela's Rules of Fruit and Vegetables and that's very appreciated Cubs. Thank you very much for following that rule. Wait! There was ice cream for dessert that night! With sprinkles! We almost forgot.

After supper it was preparing for Campfire. The Vents came down to escort the Cubs to the fire. Songs were song, cheers were cheered, skits were skitted? Not the best word, skits were done and then it was back down the hill for Mug up! Brownies! Oooooo. Brownies. Once we devoured those it was bedtime. Lights out at 10pm and it was QUIET. It's like the Cubs spent all their energy rushing around and trying to stay warm. Scouters fell asleep around 10:30.

Sunday showed how absolutely amazing the Cubs were. They were waiting for us to sing them awake at 6:50am again. One day we'll get them. They got dressed quickly and started packing. We hit the flushies early and were at the dinning hall at 7:45am to set up the breakfast tables. After a lovely breakfast of English muffins, sausage patties, eggs, jam and fruit, the Cubs headed back to the Health Centre. Those that had finished packing loaded up their sleds and helped carry gear out for Scouters and friends. By 10am all the gear was loaded and at the flushies while we checked out the Tuck Shop. Bagheera, the last one out of the Health Centre, was emptyhanded, NO ONE left anything behind. WOOT WOOT!

Akela caught a ride with Scouter Kerry to the top of the hill, zoomed back down to the bottom and loaded the Draggin' (her sled) and all the other Cub gear into her car so that the Cubs only had to drag their sleds to Scout's own at the Teepee. Parents grabbed gear and once Scout's Own was done you could almost hear the WHOOSH as the Cubs departed for home. Another Fantastic Camp finished.

So, what do we do on our first meeting after Winter Camp? We go sledding of course! Once

again the weather gave us a blast of snow, decent temperatures though. 8 intrepid Adventurers joined Akela, Mang, Rikki Tikki Tavi, Bagheera and Hathi at the hill at Stonehenge Park (near Akela's house) for some sledding and then a quick walk to Akela's house for Hot Chocolate. Special guest star was Akela's dog Shaker who welcomed everyone to his house.

Our next meeting in February happened on Shrove Tuesday. Aka Mardi Gras or Pancake Day! Cubs were challenged to make pancakes for their families with gourmet (extra flavouring ingredients like chocolate chips or blueberries) extras. A few managed to do it. Well done Cubs!

Our not quite last meeting in February was a hike with the Beavers at our old favourite, Pine Grove Trail. Let it be known that the Cubs are not silent as they walked through the woods. They could be heard quite clearly for a very long period of time both going and coming. Special cheer goes out to new Cub Richard – his first time on a hike with us, and though he admits he was a little scared, he was brave and lead the Pack out of the clearing they were playing in and back on the trail.

Look for more Adventures coming soon!

Scout Trails

Scouts were back after the holidays and caught up over some card and board games at the church. There were some intense games going on all over.

The following week, we let the Scouts creative side take over as they spent the meeting building small shelters out of cardboard boxes. Some Scouts used themselves as the canvass for their cardboard creations. By working together, they built shelters that were innovative, usable – or not! There is when their personalities really do come out.

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We could not let January go by without doing some skating on the canal, so we heading down to the Fifth Avenue access and let the Scouts skate up and down the canal, even meeting up with Scouts from a nearby troop who were also there. And of course, there was time left for beaver tails and hot chocolate.

At the end of January, we started working on our Scout Trucks. Every two years, Scouts have an opportunity to build a Scout Truck – which is a bigger, more complex version of a Beaver Buggy or Kub Kar. These are 18-wheeler transport trucks made out of wood, thus presenting a challenge to build and to design. Again, we have some very creative Scouts so some of the ideas are very fruitful.

There were two more meetings devoted to cutting, hammering, glueing and painting in February. We will have one more in March, before the big rally with other local scout troops when the Scouts get to race their trucks and enter them in the design competition.

Early February saw a camp preparation meeting to go over the packing list and preparations for camp and then came the main event – the All Sections Winter Camp. The Scouts were in their usual cabin of Clements Lodge at the top of the

hill and the walk down to the washrooms or the dining hall was a cold one this year.

Camp was, well, in one word: great! The Scouts had a blast tobogganing with everyone (or not tobogganing and just laying in the snow as per the photo).

They also put on an activity for the Cubs – splitting them into two groups for either a game of capture the flag or fire building skills. At campfire, the classic skit of the slow-motion fight on the street made a re-appearance courtesy of the Scouts who practiced it in advance.

Of course, hanging out in the cabin was another favourite pastime at camp as was being pranked by the Venturers and pranking them back – another tradition that endures.

Other activities in February include going tobogganing at Conroy Pit. The hill was fast and the Scouts had a blast creating large trains of toboggans down the hill.

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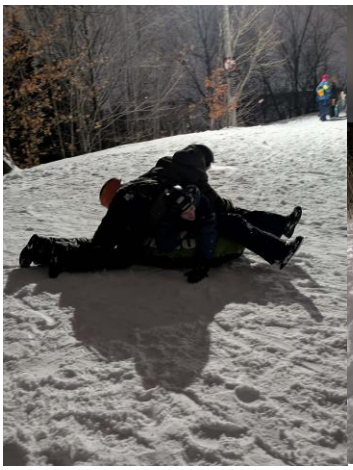
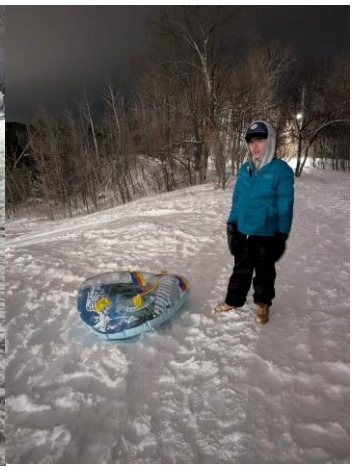
And, thanks to the four Scouts – Harrison, Annie, Curtis and Max, who volunteered to help serve the annual pancake dinner at St. Aidan's. This community dinner put on by the parish members marks Shrove Tuesday and they always appreciate the help of the Scouts to serve the and clean up. The Scouts ate their weight in pancakes, sausages and homemade cookies and Max won the church's annual pancake race. Thank you to the four of them.

Venturer News

The Venturers slid into the new year with toboganing at Conroy Pit where we crossed paths with other Scouts enjoying the mild weather and perfect snow. It turns out it was Chace's first time sledding (can you believe it), and while he was nervous at first - He now thinks it's awesome!





From there, through January and February there were a few planning meetings (and a board game night during exam week), as the Venturers are looking to participate in 1, 2, 3, 4... No, make that 5 camps this spring. They love camping!

Speaking of which, the Venturers were in full force at the winter camp in early February. As the oldest section there, they have extra responsibilities to organize two linking activities for both the Scouts and the Beavers. The Beavers loved loved their coloured ice cube hunt outside of the cabins. As the campfire, the Venturers put on a revived and much improved skit of Igor – this skit will be never die it seems. And finally,

the Venturers planned and delivered the Scout's Own on Sunday morning of camp. This is a quiet moment of reflection done just before departure from camp. While it was very cold, everyone appreciated the messages of peace, gratitude and selflessness.

The Venturers still found more time to enjoy the winter weather, including outdoor skating (and Beavertails) and an outdoor hike/snowshoe/cross-country ski at Mer Bleue, which saw the Vents complete their 5km hike in record time... I guess we'll need longer trails?

More adventures are to come!

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Scouts Day at the Ottawa 67's

Several members of our group with their families attended the Ottawa 67's game on January 18th against the Peterborough Petes.

Lots of junk food consumed and the 67's won!. And as a bonus, there was a skate on the ice of TD Place following the game.

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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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