MARCH/APRIL 2025

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

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2nd Swim-a-Thon Fundraiser

In our last newsletter, we reported on our swim-a-thon held on March 1st. The results are now in and the 20+ youth who participated raised a total of just over $4800. That's amazing! This money goes right back into our programming and part of it is to repair and replace the group's aging camping gear. Thank you to all those who worked so hard in the pool and in getting those pledges.

Beaver Tales

The Beavers ushered in March with a nice walk in the freshly falling snow at Pleasant Park Woods. No bit of snow will hold us back! The scene was really nice and the Beavers were nice and tired at the end, especially after burning off whatever steam they may had left in the playground.

After pausing for March Break, the following week we were back at the church again, but again outdoors and the Beavers were split into two groups and challenged to build a snow fort in the huge pile of snow beside the parking lot. The two groups took completely different approaches. One focused on building a tunnel – which actually worked, and the other took to trying and build actual walls, or at least the base of a walls.

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We couldn't get enough of the nice weather in March to then go for another hike, this time at Dolman Ridge trail. Another lovely evening for a walk to explore a trail we do not use very often.

After that and now into April, it was a very exciting evening as the Beavers went on a ride on the O-Train. We met at Greenboro station to ride part of the recently opened line 2.

We took the train south to the end of the line and came back. We even got a glimpse of the inside of the train driver's cab. For some of the Beavers, this was their first time on the O-Train. We got off at a station and got back on to practice that and give them an extra bit of excitement.

We were supposed to hold park cleanup with the Cubs, but it snowed (again). So instead we still got together with the Cubs and met at Carson Grove School to go geocaching nearby. We took the trails that run alongside the government buildings and found 3 caches.

We have a couple more seasoned geocache hunters in the colony but also for most, they had no idea what a cache could look like and that these treasures were hidden all over the place. Hopefully, this piques their interest in what is a fun pastime.

We were back at the church after a month-long absence and did some recyclable robots. The Beavers brought some recyclable materials to the church and let their imaginations take over. We had some pretty inventive robots, each with a name and a purpose.

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After that, we finally got to do our spring cleanup of Canterbury Park with the Cubs. As sponsors of the park, our group commits to cleaning it up twice per year. It was a cool evening but the Beavers who were put in small teams with Cubs worked hard to make sure that there was not one speck of trash left on the ground in the park. Thank you Beavers for "taking care of the world", which is part of the Beaver Law. The local residents sure appreciate it. For their efforts, they were rewarded with lemonade and a cookie and time in the playground.

Finally, our last meeting for this newsletter was supposed to be a bike rodeo outside at the church but it got rained out, so the Beavers went inside instead and learned bike safety through fun games.

We are now in the home stretch and our last couple months of meetings before we break for the summer. Meanwhile, Bucky continues to have adventures at each Beaver's house. Here he is having breakfast.

Cub Corner

March weather wasn't the greatest, but we are the 101st Cubs and we'll do anything in the rain. Including skating once again at the Rink of Dreams! We had so much fun the first time we

decided to go back. Enjoy it while we have it right?

March Break brought both our Annual Gourmet Pancake Challenge and our 2nd Annual March Break Reading Challenge. Let's talk pancakes first. Thank you to everyone who made pancakes for their families. As an aside, cleaning up was mandatory, so great job Cubs! We'll get to the Reading Challenge in a moment.

The first Tuesday back from March Break had us being visited by some special guests. First, there was a lovely speaker, Patty, from the Ottawa Wild Bird Care Centre. Then there was her wild bird, Indigo, an American Kestrel. Cubs had a great time learning about different birds in the area and we heard several say – I have the wingspan of a snowy owl.

Cubs also had a great – gross? – time dissecting an owl pellet – which is regurgitated, not excreted! As another aside, we learned that loons are so perfectly made for swimming and flying that they can no longer walk. WOW! I KNOW!

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Finally we ended March with an Adventure at the Elmvale Branch of the Ottawa Public Library. Cubs had a good time being creative with the Lego collection, hunting for Pokemon among the book shelves and taking out mountains of books to read!

This is also where we shared the total of the Reading Challenge. Cubs were encouraged to read over March Break. Their collective total would be put up against the collective total of the Scouters. Here are the results:
Cubs 5,689 pages read, Scouters 12,066 pages read.

We followed the library adventure with gallivanting around the NCC Trail at P20. That's the one with the birdhouses. Mang, of course, brought her bird food. She's always so prepared for these things. The ground was still slippery and icy and we only got as far as the birdhouses before we headed back to the parking lot. Please note, there was large areas of water and ALL Cubs managed to stay dry. Very impressed with that one Cubs. Keep up that good work.

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Several of our Howlers (3rd year Cubs) were able to take part in Paddle Night!

Paddling and Canoe skills were worked on in Walter Baker Pool. It made for a late night, but the Cubs had a great time!

We were going to do an early cleanup of Canterbury Park and then got snow so we teamed up with the Beavers and went Geocaching off of Bathgate Road (near CSEC and CSIS and the NRC). THAT was fun. We found 3 caches. Two were pretty easy, one got us turned around but we found it eventually. We're pretty sure this little taste of geocaching has gotten a few Cubs interested.

Our next Adventure was Swimming at Splash Wave Pool! The waves were not going but the water slide was and we're pretty sure some Cubs ONLY went on the waterslide. No pictures, we were too busy swimming!

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We finally got a chance to do the Canterbury Park Cleanup and Playground Inspection. Everything is all good to go.

Finally, to finish off April, we had an OAS Game Show. Throughout the year we work on our Outdoor Adventure Skills, but there are always little things that we forget to slip in or don't have time to talk about. Like for the Aquatics 1 Badge – name 3 animals that live in water. So we had a few speed rounds and handed out A LOT of badges. Have fun sewing those on Cubs! Looking forward to May and June Adventures with you Cubs!

Scout Trails

At the start of March, we had three Scouts help out with a couple Venturers at the St. Aidan's Pancake Dinner on March 4th. Thank you to Casey, Harrison and Russell for their community service and giving back to the church.

Our first meeting in March was a planning meeting and to finish the bridges for the competition. Each patrol planned the meeting they are running and the senior Scouts worked on the plan for our June camp. After March Break, it was Bridge Building Competition. We had a really good turnout of Scouts competing again some 9 other troops and almost 20 bridges entered.

They got to watch and cheer on the bridges as they were put in the "Bridge Buster" to see how much weight it can take before busting. There is also a design competition, including a "Scout's Choice" bridge where all of the Scouts present vote.

We did not come home with any trophies, but our Scouts made a valiant effort and completing their bridges was an achievement in itself. You did your best and that's what counts.

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After that excitement, the Scouts met at the trail on the corner of Anderson and Ridge roads for a nice hike in the woods, going all the way to Mer Bleu and back to the parking lot.

Into April now, the Scouts had a fun night doing escape rooms. There were three groups and two of them were able to finish their room in time. We usually do a fun activity like this in the spring and the scouts all chose this one and them scarfed down a bag of chips and can of pop after their escape room. Ah, the life of a scout…

The first of four patrol-led meetings then took place. Each year, we have the patrols plan, organize and lead a meeting from start to finish. The first patrol up was Fox Patrol (Casey M. as Patrol Leader and Harrison as Assistant Patrol Leader). They ran a Dungeons and Dragons campaign. They split the Scouts into four and a member of their patrol led the campaign. The Scouts all seemed very enthusiastic and overhead one say "…best meeting of the year".

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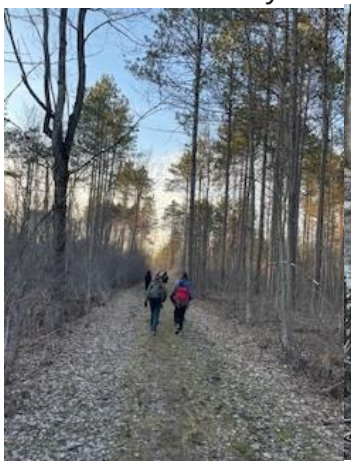
Next up was Raccoon Patrol (Liam as Patrol Leader and Annie as Assistant Patrol Leader). They ran a casino night with chips handed out and a series of games that each patrol member ran. We did a rotation so each Scout got to try out each card game. Some did well at the games while others lost everything quickly. Even the Scouters got in on it.

Then we met at P19 on Leitrim Road for a practice hike for the Rideau Challenge Journey. The Scouts taking in part in that hiking challenge in May needed to come with their bags packed. This trail can be a little challenging and very wet in the spring and this is a good replication of the conditions that they will face on the challenge.



Even the bugs were out already, but it was a nice evening for a hike – an a couple soakers.

The last meeting of April was a night for the five older Scouts going to RSVP camp to prepare with the Venturers, while the other worked on some skills, including map and compass.

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Venturer News

The Venturers have had a busy few weeks. They kicked off March with some planning for upcoming camps and meetings. As well, the Company welcomed Chace as their newest addition. One of the Venturers joined some Scouts to serve food and clear tables at St. Aidan's for Shrove Tuesday. The event was sold out and a great success. The group is always happy to lend a hand to St. Aidan's, who has provided a free meeting (and storage) space for the 101st Ottawa for over 60 years. Thank you to Dan and Venturer Advisors Paul and Bill for helping out.

They got the ball rolling and had a great time bowling, and had an evening featuring Trivial Pursuit and a screening of The Princess Bride before pausing for March Break. The week after, they headed out for an evening of Laser Tag.

In true Venturer fashion, the first week in April, they invested Chace during a hike at Mooney's Bay on a super cold spring day. Unfortunately, plans to fix up the group's boxcar have met a snag, as the vehicle is a bit bigger than expected and will take some additional planning to take that on. Luckily, they finally got some beautiful weather for their hike at the Arboretum.

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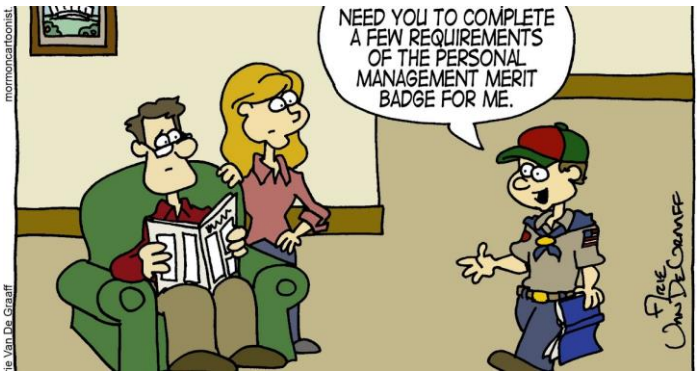
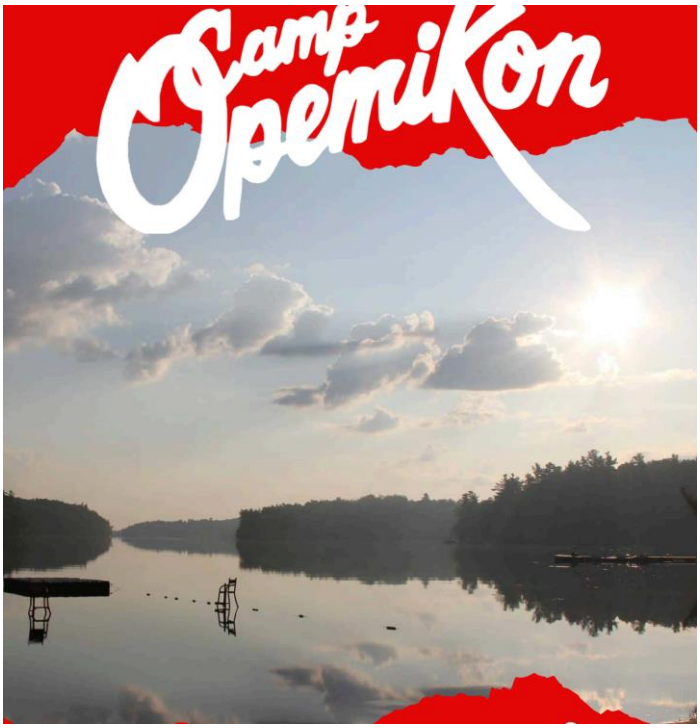
For their last meeting in April, they joined up with senior Scouts to plan for camping at RSVP May 2-4.

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





Summer Camp at Opemikon

Camp Opemikon summer camps are a great way to spend a few days, a week or even two weeks with amazing programming on the shores of beautiful Lake Christie.

Transportation to and from camp is usually included and they will make memories for a lifetime. Many, many past and present 101st youth have gone to summer camp and even worked there.

Information can be found here: Camp Opemikon