MARCH/APRIL 2026

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

3rd Annual Swimathon Fundraiser

On March 28th, we held our third swimathon to raise important funds for our group. We had close to 30 swimmers in the pool and pledges are still coming in. We will update you on the total amount raised once we have that final tally. Thank you for all of the families who once again helped us out with this important fundraiser at a time of the year when we really need it.

Beaver Tales

The Beavers had a lot of variety over the last couple of months in their meetings. They started March with a craft night – Beavers love crafts – and we made some pretend binoculars that they can use to go bird watching. Spring time is a great time to spot returning birds.

The following week was pretty exciting as we went on a special visit to the Ornge ambulance helicopter hangar at the Ottawa airport. This was courtesy of Beaver Charlie's dad, who is a helicopter pilot. He showed us a helicopter that was in the hangar for maintenance, the equipment that the pilot and paramedics use and we even got to see another helicopter being towed into the hangar after it had just returned. The moms and dads who accompanied us were more excited with this visit we think.

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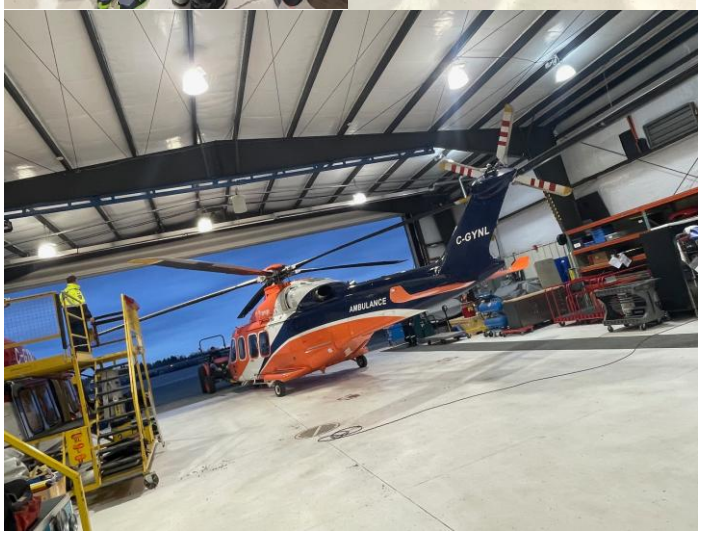

The following week we went to visit where Beaver Leader Echo works, at Produce Depot at Bank and Hunt Club.

We visited all of the different departments, the fish department that Echo manages being the biggest hit. But we also got the see the back of the store, which was a treat as well.

We ended March with another craft night – this time to make two different kinds of bird feeders. We hope that the Beavers got to hang them outside and watch birds come feed at them.

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April brought a sort of joint hike with the Cubs. We both hiked the trail at P21. The Beavers wanted to keep going but halfway on the way back were complaining about their legs hurting so good thing we turned back when we did.

After that was a first aid night where the Beavers learned some basic wound care and made small personal first aid kits. Those who already had them, got to replenish them. These are good basic skills for all ages to have. We continued on that theme of basic skills and the following week, the Beavers learning some compass skills and how to move from one mark to another.

We ended the month with a special night about the world of scouting, the world's largest youth movement. Everywhere around the world, there are scouts and Bubbles showed us some of things he collected over his many years of scouting. (That's Bubbles in the black and white photo)

Cub Corner

March actually started in February, our last meeting in February was First Aid. Our good buddy Actar showed up to help us learn the basics of CPR, and we also got to practice with an Epi-Pen trainer this year! We all know how to apply small bandages and we know that washable markers can stain those bandages after sweating.

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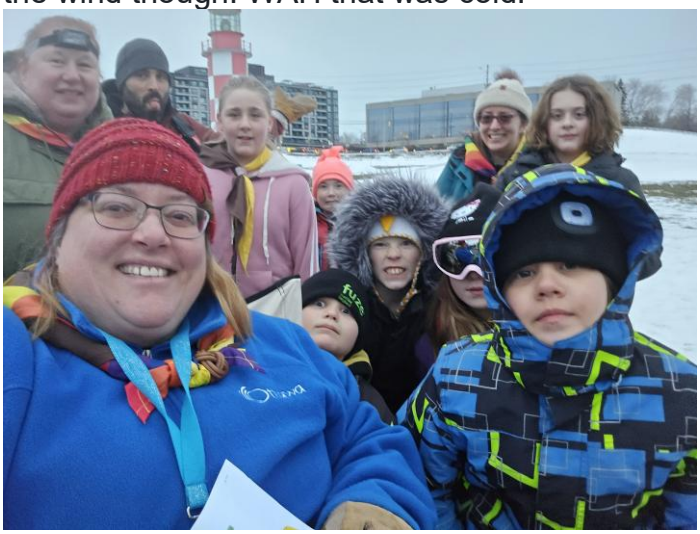
Our real first meeting in March was Robot Recyclables! This is when Cubs bring in boxes and cleaned recyclable items, make robots and "fight" them with d20s. As usual, the Cubs had a great time. Congratulations to Myles who rolled into the win.

Our last meeting before March Break was to test out some Games. We're heading to a rather large camp in May and we need to provide games for it, so we tested out a few.

Then it was March Break! The Cubs should not have been too idle during March Break though, we did send out our Reading Challenge AND by special request from a PARENT, a second round of Service Scavenger Hunt went out. Thank you to everyone who joined in.

We are suddenly in the last third of the Cubbing Year. There are 12 weeks left until our Ice Cream Social and Water Gun Fight. How did THAT happen so fast? Anyway, we started off with learning the points of a compass, the cardinal points and the in between points and learning to walk on a bearing. This also involved running around like goofs so you know we did good at this game. Luckily we had a huge field at the Lighthouse to play in. Didn't account for the wind though. WAH that was cold!



A few Cubs and Scouters joined us the next Saturday for our 3rd Annual Swim-a-Thon. Fun was had, Cubs did a great job and everyone who wanted to had a chance to go off the diving board. It got us ready for the next meeting though.

Swimming at Splash Wave Pool was next. Who doesn't love to swim, no one we know that's for sure. The slide wasn't open but that didn't stop anyone from having a good time. Most of us ended the evening with some time in the hot pool. Ooooo, the hot pool.

We went out and About with the Beavers at P21. It's a nice place to hike, we like it

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there. We invested our newest Cub Richard there. Welcome to the Pack Richard!

We did some prep work for our upcoming camp including an Art In The Park evening at Weston Park's Gazebo! And we finished off the month with a hike at P21 – the one with the birdhouses. We made sure to leave a whole bag of birdseed for the local residents!

See you in May!

Scout Trails

The Scouts also had a wide variety of meetings and activities over the last two months. We started with a hike at P18 Pine Grove Trail. The weather was good that night and the Scouts made very quick work of the trail. On March 7th several Scouts took part in the annual Paddle Night organized by the Service Corps along with some Cubs from our group. This was very good training, especially for those without much paddling experience so that they properly learn their strokes and rescues.

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We had to cancel our last scout truck night due to bad weather but after March Break, the Scouts came to the Scout Truck Rally along with over 110 other Scouts and Leaders from 8 troops. This rally is the culmination of two months of hard work to design, cut, assemble, and paint their trucks. There are the races with the eliminatory rounds, quarter, semis and finals and there are the design competitions with both Scouts and Leaders voting for their favourite truck.

The competition was tough this year but our Scouts did very well. We had 5 Scouts go into the quarterfinals, 4 go into the semifinals and in the one come with an overall third place finish. Congratulations to Saffire.

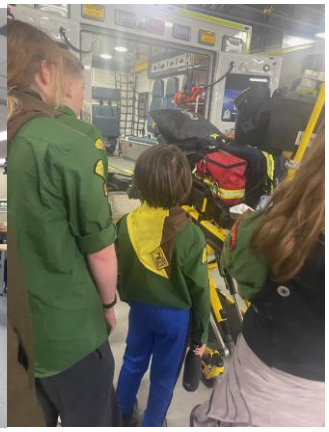
In the design competition, Max was the winner of the Scouts Choice for Design for his dystopian-inspired truck.

And the Leaders and parents from the 28th Ottawa who were running the event told us that our scouts were by far the most polite and considerate of the night. That made us proud.

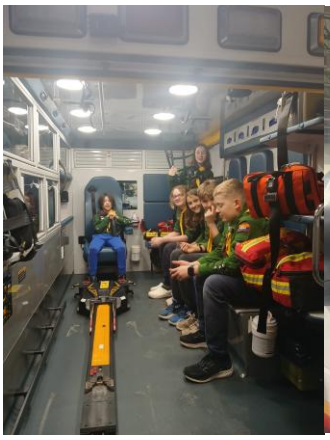
After such an exciting week, we went back to the church where we started the first of our patrol-led meetings. Each year, each patrol must plan and run a meeting all their own. The first was Cougar Patrol with Curtis as Patrol Leader and Griffin as Assistant Patrol Leader. They

organized a few rounds of mafia, followed by other games like squirt. The noise level in the church made it sound like they were having fun.

The following week, we went on a special tour of the Ottawa Paramedics Headquarters. These are conducted by the Ottawa Medical Venturers or MedVents, which are a specialized company of Venturers and Rovers who work with the paramedics.



The tour was divided into two parts, with a part on first aid and CPR and the second was time in the garage to see the different vehicles, stretchers, and gear.



Our second field trip was to the Canadian Scouting Museum at Scouts Canada Headquarters. The members of the BP Guild provide these tours for free to members of scouting. There was a lot of interest in the various memorabilia in the museum, which even has a piece of the 101st on display.

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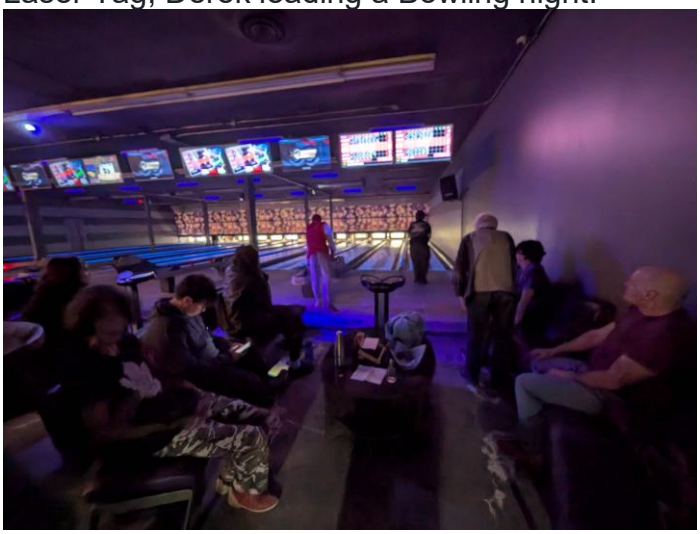
After that was a hike, which was mandatory for those Scouts doing the Rideau Challenge in May. We pick an especially wet and nasty trail at this time of year so that the Scouts can learn to navigate it without getting too wet and with the gear that they plan to carry on their backs so that they know how it feels.

We ended the month with a prep meeting for those going to RSVP Camp and the others not going did a litter cleanup in Hutton Park and Alda Burt Park (in the rain!).

Venturer News

With the Venturers having limited access to the church over the last 2 months, they have been on a number of adventures. Each of the Ventures has been organizing a meeting with Laser Tag, Derek leading a Bowling night.



Chace leading us Geocaching around Lansdowne, Everett hosting a movie night, Alexandra taking us on a hike near MacKenzie-King's House in Gatineau Park along the waterfall trail, and Liam coordinating us to join the Scouts on a tour of the Scout Museum.

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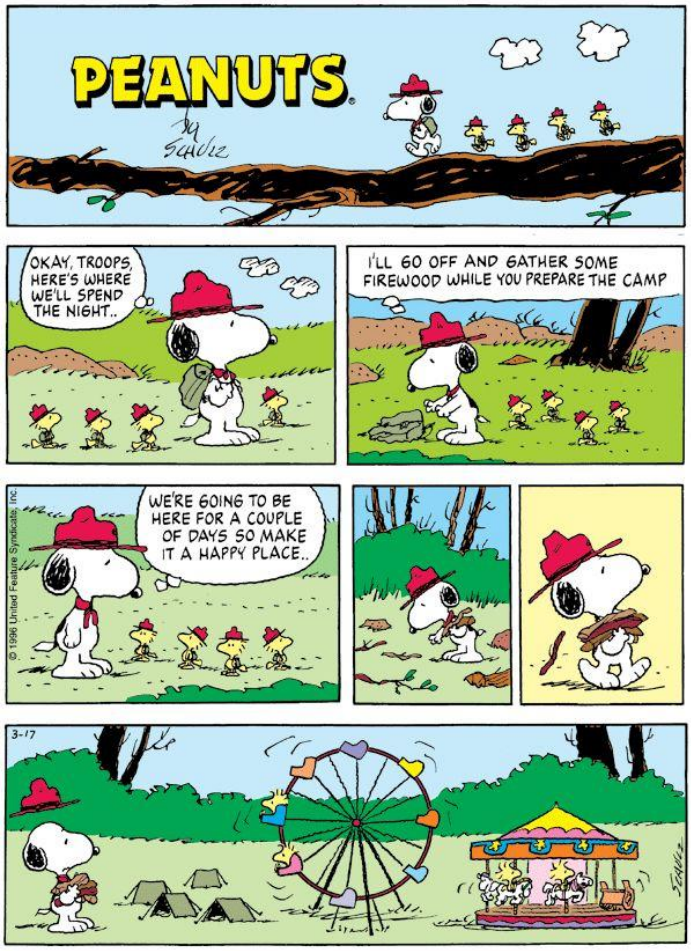

The last two meetings were back at the church for some camp planning for this weekend's RSVP camp, board games and getting ready for the spring.

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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