May 2015

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

Scouter Dan McCarthy receives Mayor's City Builder Award

Mayor Jim Watson and Alta Vista Ward Councillor Jean Cloutier presented the Mayor's City Builder Award on May 13, 2015 to Scouter Dan for his dedication to the mission of Scouting and to enhancing Ottawa's southeast as a healthy, caring community.

Over the past 20 years, Scouter Dan has been a leader of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers with the 101st Ottawa, as well as a Group Commissioner for 13 years.

Scouter Dan exhibits outstanding dedication and leadership, helping youth of all ages to get the training and master the skills they need for personal development, and inspiring other adult troop leaders by example. He is a special advisor to the Venturer Company, mentoring teens at a challenging time in their lives. He also leads the 101st Group in providing exemplary support to local community services through such initiatives as organizing a Christmas appeal to help local families in need, with the Scouts gathering donations.

In 2013, he prepared an application on behalf of the 101st Scouting Group, for a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The application was approved in 2014, and the group received a grant of $8,900 that was used to replace and update camping equipment and tents, to buy equipment for backpacking, canoeing and snowshoeing, and to subsidize training for leaders as well as 15 Venturers.

The Mayor's City Builder Award is a civic honour created to recognize an individual, group or organization that has, through outstanding volunteerism or exemplary action, demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to making our city a better place today and for the future. This may include lifelong service, outstanding acts of kindness, inspiring charitable work, community building or other exemplary achievements. Individuals, groups or organizations may be nominated by members of City Council or the public. The award is presented at the beginning of each City Council meeting.

Beaver Tales

At the end of April, the Beavers had a special treat of visiting Macoun Marsh. Most people don't even know this place exists but it is a preserved wetland that is at Beechwood Cemetery right off St. Laurent Blvd.

Mike "Swampy", who is a science teacher and his son Allan guided the Beavers on a tour of the marsh. This included looking for fossils in the rock found there and the various birds and animals.

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The Beavers were able to get a close up look at a couple salamanders found under rocks.

In May, seven White Tail Beavers swam-up the river to become Cubs. The Beaver Leaders are sad to see them go but happy that they have taken this important step. After that, the Beavers and Cubs did their spring cleaning of Canterbury Park and then devoted a meeting to spring camping and how to be ready for it.

On May 22-24, the Beavers held their annual spring camp at Foley Mountain Conservation Area in Westport. The Beaver Pirates there had a swashbuckling good time even when the temperature dipped to the freezing mark on the Friday night.

Bubbles kept us well fed and we raised a pirate flag over Upper Rideau Lake.

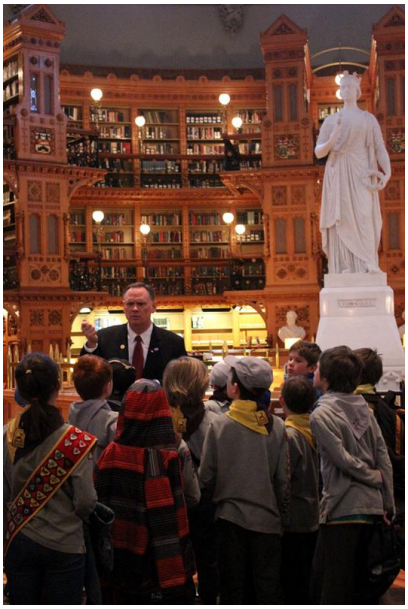
The Beavers went a great nature hike to see the view from Spy Rock and a beaver pond, made their own pirate flags and headscarves, built pirate ships out of cardboard boxes and floated them in the lake (with the Beavers in them). Some brave Beavers even went swimming.

There was a campfire on the Saturday night and a treasure hunt on the Sunday morning.

Cub Corner

The Cubs finished off April with a very special visit to Parliament Hill. We took the bus downtown and then walked up to Parliament Hill.

After going through security we were taken to the Railway room and were met by David McGuinty, the MP for Ottawa South. Mr. McGuinty introduced himself to the Cubs and explained the different parts of his job; what a typical day might be like, the work he does in the Transport Committee, the kind of requests he gets at his constituency office and what he does when Parliament is not in session. He then answered lots and lots of questions from our very curious Cubs.



After the question and answer session, we toured the Library and then Mr. McGuinty snuck us into the viewing area of the House of Commons, which was in session. We had to be very quiet but we could look through the windows and see the Speaker and about 20 MPs from all parties. After that, it was time for a quick snack before taking the bus home again. Judging from the high spirits on the bus ride home, the cubs all enjoyed the evening.

We had our annual sleep-over at the church on May 1. The Cubs practised setting up the tents, made banana muffins for the next day's breakfast, had a mini-campfire and then enjoyed a movie with popcorn.

In the first meeting in May, the Cub Pack officially welcomed the white tail beavers as they swam up to become Tenderpad Cubs. We had 8 whitetails swim up and join our Pack and we are all looking forward to sharing many fun times with them. We also said good-bye to our 7 third year Cubs as they leapt up to Scouts. Although it is sad to see them go, we are so proud of their accomplishments and we know they are ready for the new challenges presented by Scouts.

The Cub spring camp was held this year at Foley Mountain Conservation Area, just outside

Westport, from May 8-10. This was our first time at this site and it turned out to be a great spot.

The Cubs battled the black flies on Friday night and set up their tents before some outdoor games, followed by mug up and bed. On Saturday, the rain clouds held off and we enjoyed a beautiful hike through the woods, on part of the Rideau Trail. The wildflowers, including lots of Trilliums, were in full bloom.

In the afternoon, the Cubs worked in teams to build boats out of cardboard, duct tape and plastic sheeting. Luckily, it was hot when we dragged the boats to the beach to test out the designs… because although the boats held up for a short time, everyone ended up going for a swim!

More outdoor games and fishing rounded out the day before it was time for the campfire where we were regaled by lots of camp stories, skits and songs. On Sunday morning, we had time for pack-up, Scouts Own and some free-time before it was time to go home.

We had our annual spring park clean-up on May 12, where we linked with the Beavers to get our adopted park, Canterbury, ready for the summer season. As usual, the Cubs and Beavers did a fantastic job and left the park gleaming. Our last meeting of the year, May 19, was filled with games and reflections of all the fun times we've have together all year. We are already planning and looking forward to next year!

Scout Trails

The Scouts started off the month with our environmental cleanup along the Rideau Canal pathway along both Queen Elizabeth Drive and Colonel By Drive as part of both *Great Shoreline Cleanup & Cleaning the Capital* campaigns. We had a small turnout- Scouters Ruth, Mike, Sara, Ethan, Stephan and Zion as we collected litter between Ottawa City Hall and the Corkstown Bridge at Somerset St. The cleanup report was submitted and now we await the crests to trade at SJ '15.

The first two weeks everyone was busy preparing for the **Rideau Area Challenge**. The first meeting ensured everyone reviewed their kit list, grocery items, menus for Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast, and the 2 hiking routes for the Bronze and Silver Teams. Scouters Ruth, Michael, Shazeela took a few scouts for a day hike on Saturday, May 2 along the Rideau Trail off Roger Stevens Drive. They surveyed the conditions, follow the northern portion of the trail of the silver hike route and along the way map & compass skills were reviewed, the necessity to stay hydrated, fed and stop for breaks.

The following weekend the 2 Patrols were ready to head off into Marlborough Forest to hike approximately 24 km over two days. The Bronze Patrol: Scouters Mike, Ruth, Ethan, Damir and Jordan set off on their north eastern hike from Gilroy Rd to Flood Road HQ where they would have some time to relax before setting up camp and preparing dinner for the night.

The Silver Patrol: Stephan, Samuel and Max started walking from Lower Nicholson Locks to Burritts Rapids and finally along the trail to Flood Road HQ to meet up with the Bronze patrol.

Everyone was tired after their long, hot Saturday hike as they walked approximately 16-20 km each. They shortened their Sunday hike by all hiking together to meet their carpools by 12:00

pm and head home for a good nap. Along the way Scouter Mike stopped to take some photos of youth and interesting forest mementos like a garter snake and red trillium flower.

The following week we continued to enjoy the beautiful weather and went out for a bike hike. Everyone met at the church parking lot at 6:30 pm, drive along Pleasant Park Road to Riverside Drive. They crossed the street and continued south along the Rideau River pathway to Vincent Massey Park. They relaxed, saw the geese, learned some Ottawa history before returning to enjoy and ice cream at McDonalds before ending at the church about 8:30 pm.

Looking forward to ScotiaJamb, there were 2 planning nights to review the Program Manual with all participants and decide the week long programming based on 23 different ideas from a beach day to canoeing on the lake to a day tour of Halifax. Once everything was decided it was submitted to the event organizers so the Troops still need to wait another few weeks to see their final schedule. A quick discussion was held this week with all attendees about packing light, ensuring they label everything that comes to the Jamboree and passing along some words of wisdom from the Canadian Jamboree 2013 that will be useful on this trip.

As we near the end of May look forward to attending Voyageur Council Troop Camp or "Survivor 2015" at Camp Opemikon on June 5-7th by reviewing the kit list, prepare them for lightweight camping menus as the schedule does not allow for any prep time so we will learn the art of cooking dehydrated foods for the first time. Don't worry we will still be eating our fruits and veggies while learning to survive as a Tribe and hopefully find the Immunity Idol.

We will be wrapping up our year in the next few weeks as the Scouts train the youth for the canoe camp taking place at Lac Poisson-Blanc, QC from June 19-21st and wrapping up by passing out trophies and certificates to the hard working Scouts and Leaders on June 9th.

Venturers News

May was a very exciting month for the Venturers kicking off with the RSVP camp at Opemikon. Joining a few hundred other Venturers and senior Scouts, the 101st Ottawa Vents enjoyed a sunny weekend filled with canoeing, archery, low and high ropes activities among others. The Vents were joined for the weekend by Scouter Tad whose active participation in the camp made our attendance possible.

Also in May, the Venturers were notified that their group photo atop Wright Peak outside of Lake Placid was one of the winners in the Scouts Canada Maple Leaf 50th anniversary contest. In this contest, Scouts of all ages were encouraged to take a Maple Leaf with them on an adventure and include it in a photo. The 101st did – and won a prize package that included a $100 gift certificate from the Scout Shop and a bag of other Scout goodies like compasses, fire starters, a camp pillow, storm proof matches and other camping items. The gifts will be 'auctioned' off at the Venturer year-end party later in June.

The Venturers that participated in AdVenture 2014 in Newfoundland also received certificates from Scouts Canada signifying their entry into the Amory Adventure Award competition for 2014. Following their trip to Newfoundland, the Venturers prepared a trip journal complete with photographs and other memorabilia from the 10-day trip. While the Venturers did not win the Amory Award this year, they had a fantastic time in Newfoundland and enjoyed re-living the experience in preparing the trip journal.

The next significant event on the calendar is the 101st Ottawa year-end party to be held on June 9th. This event will be bitter-sweet for the Company this year. The Vents are always happy to show off their activities through the year in the form of a slide show but there may be few wistful faces as 9 of our Venturers graduate from high school this June, and will be moving on from the Company. Aidan, Andrew, Ben B and Dylan started in the Scouting movement in Beavers, and have been joined by Allyson, Ben S., Daniel, Maddie, and Sarah through Scouts and Venturers.

Through 'form river banks', Beaverees, Cuborees, Polar Days, 'Akela, we'll do our best', the Scout Law and Promise, Sharing Sharing

Sharing, Rideau Challenges, Klondike Derbys, Apple Days, popcorn sales, two national Venturer AdVentures, Crazy Canuck Challenges, Adirondack High Adventures, canoeing trips in Algonquin and on the Rideau River, 40 km bike hikes, camps at Ope, Apple Hill, Rideau Hills, No' Chimik, Whispering Pines, Oskenonton, Thousand Islands, among other camping areas, Food Bank, Lost Child Services at Winterlude, 2 We-Days, Rideau Area Activity Days, Rovents of course, RSVP camp, tents, no-tents, lean-tos, snow trenches, quinzes, cabins, huts, church basement, field house at CFB Petatwawa, first aid training, whitewater training, PI/APL training, Beaver crests, Six Star Awards, Chief Scout Award, Voyageur/Pathfinder levels and Venturer achievements, more crests and badges than we can count, Rideau Area Youth Commissioner, National Media Spokesperson, Sixers, Seconds, Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol leaders, Venturer Company Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Secretaries, it has been an amazing run for all these wonderful young people. These fine teenagers combined have more than 75 years of Scouting experience.

The Advisors are wistful too – while the Vents know how many grey hairs they have generated in their leaders over the years, they have also provided great moments of accomplishment – for example, this winter atop Wright Peak, and our previous trips along the Barron River – that stay with us as amazing memories. They are also a very funny group. More than this, they are amazing people and we have been privileged to share a Scouting path with them over these years. There are more adventures to be experienced this year, and who knows, perhaps further down the road. The Scouting path has many trails, and we don't always know where they will lead! Go Vents Go!

End-of-the-Year Party set for June 9

Our annual party to end the scouting year, hand out awards to the youth, and recognize our volunteers is set for **Tuesday, June 9 at the Canterbury Community Centre**. This year we hoping to have a guest speaker come in and some entertainment thanks to some very motivated Leaders. Stay tuned and mark your calendars!

Scoutrees 2015

Thank you to all those who collected pledges for our annual tree planting. This year we collected just under $1,500 in pledges, of which the 101st gets to keep 85% and 15% goes to the Scout Brotherhood Fund to support scouting in developing countries.

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On May 2nd, a group of Beavers and Cubs gathered at Dossetter Park to plant 100 trees with our neighbours at the 137th Ottawa. We planting cedars and maples in the wooded area of the park. With time, the trees will grow beautifying the park for the residents. What a great turn for the environment!!

IMPORTANT - Early Registration for 2015-16

Early registration for the 2015-16 scouting year (September 2015 to June 2016) is now on!! Every year, those who register early save the hassle of registering in the fall and also save $20 off the regular registration fee.

Beavers, Cubs & Venturers: $180
Scouts: $230 (the extra $50 is to pay all dues at the beginning of the year)

Registration forms are available from Francois Marier, Group Commissioner. The deadline for registering early is June 26 but the sooner you complete the form and provide the payment, the sooner you beat the rush!

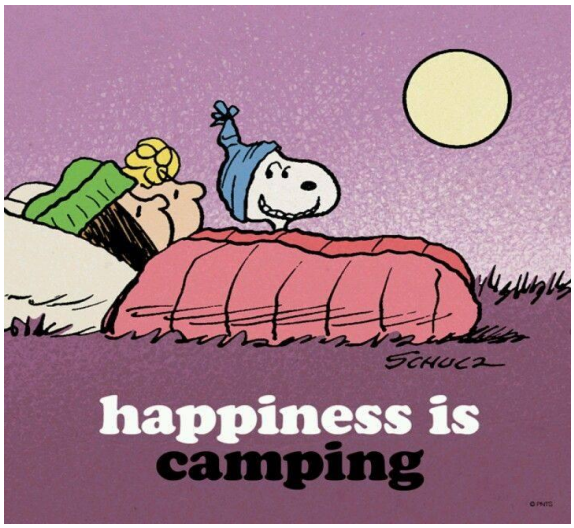
Parents, please note that we cannot guarantee your child's spot in the Fall if you do not register early.

Doors Open Ottawa

On June 6-7, many fascinating buildings in Ottawa will be open to the public. This includes the Canadian Museum of Scouting at Scouts Canada headquarters on Baseline Rd. Check it out from 10:00am to 4:00pm on both days.

Upcoming Dates for your Calendar

- June 5-7: Scouts Voyageur Council Spring "Survivor Camp" at Opemikon
- **June 9: End of Year Party at Canterbury Community Centre**
- June 19-21: Scouts Canoe Camp at Lac-du-Poisson-Blanc
- **June 26: Deadline for Early Registration**
- July 11-17: ScotiaJamb 2015 at Camp Nedooae in Nova Scotia
- September 9: Fall Registration Night at St. Aidan's
- September 15: First Beavers and Cubs meetings
- September 16: First Scouts and Venturers meetings



SCOUTS CANADA
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101ST OTTAWA ST. AIDANS

101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Celebrating 54 years.