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

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Year-End Awards

On June 4th we held our annual year-end awards ceremony. Thank you to all of the youth and parents who came out to celebrate all the achievements of the last year. The 101st is a big scouting family and we are blessed to have such engaged and committed youth members, families and volunteers.

First up were the Beavers. We had a fantastic group of busy Beavers this year and all of them went home with a special recognition.

We had five Beavers complete their North Star Awards and who received their special plaques and certificates. Congratulations to:
Arthur Mckim
Isaac Oliver
Matteo Paladdini
Harrison Pelletier
Julien Ross

Then it was the Cubs turn and the Leaders handed out their annual awards. This year's recipients are:

Six Award (Top Lair): Blue Lair with Tommy Lincoln, Grady Allard, Melody Doerffer, Will Huddleston

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Best New Cub: Dylan Barkley
Most Improved Cub: Grady Allard

Most Consistent Effort by a Cub: Casey Street
Cub of the Year: Tommy Lincoln

The Seeonee Award recipients this year are:
Tommy Lincoln
Max Petersen
Noah Ross

After that, it was the Scouts turn and the Leaders were honoured to recognize the following youth:

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Best New Scout: Annie Ha, Curtis Courtney-Cheung, and Griffin Foulkes-O'Flaherty
Most Improved Scout: Dan Hillerup and Liam Gable

Scout of the Year: Andrew Dark
Special Recognition: Alexander Kurz, Derek Lagace and Casey McKegney

We had two Scouts work hard to get their Chief Scout's Award:
Andrew Dark
Dan Hillerup

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The Venturers put together a presentation on all of the things they did this past year and it was great to see the youth lead that presentation. We said goodbye to Luca Pepe and Indira Marier who are now aging out of the program. And we recognized Indira Marier who is the first Venturer to receive the King's Venturer Award in many, many years.

We then recognized our dedicated and hard working volunteers. The 101st could not exist without them and all of the hours they put in all year long.
Rob Samulack (Tic Tac) received his 5 years of service award
Kerry Chalmers received her 10 years of service award and was also given the Bar to the Medal of Good Service
Ruth Humphries receiver her 15 years of service award

Then came the big moment of the Group Commissioner getting pied in the face by the four top fundraisers from each section:
Zach Boyer for Beavers
Max Petersen for Cubs
James Jamieson-Bazil for Scouts
Indira Marier for Venturers
It was messy but tasted good.

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Beaver Tales

May started with our annual spring cleaning of Canterbury Park with the Cubs. This is something we do twice a year with them to help keep a popular and beloved park clean that our group has sponsored for some 25 years now. The Beavers were keen to make sure every single piece of trash they could find on the ground was picked up. Great teamwork Beavers!

The next meeting was another linking activity with the Cubs with our annual "swim-up" ceremony. This is the time when the White Tail

Beavers swim-up the river to leave the beaver colony and join the cub pack up the river. We had seven White Tails be welcomed by Akela, the other Cub Leaders and the Cubs as "tenderpads". While we were sad to see them leaving the colony, we were happy for them too new adventures await them as Cubs. The ceremony was followed by an indoor campfire with lots of fun songs and skits.

The next meeting was a preparation meeting for our big spring camp held the following weekend. We talked about our camp activities, what to pack to camp, and practiced a couple skits to be presented at the campfire.

Finally, the moment came with the spring camp with a Robin Hood and his Merry Men theme. The weather turned out to be very nice for the weekend and the bugs were out but not too badly. Thanks to the parents for helping out and to Bubbles for running the kitchen. We ate well!

On Friday night, after setting up the tents, we gathered in the cabin at Foley Mountain Conservation Area near Westport to go over the camp rules and of course have mugup.

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Saturday morning came and we had a delicious breakfast and then went down to check out Spy Rock and the great view of Westport. We then hiked the beaver pond trail and saw frogs, turtles, ducks and even a beaver who was swimming in the pond.

After the hike, we heading back to our camp and did some Robin Hood skills by learning how to use and fight with a staff. The object was to not be the first one to lose their balance on the log. This proved to be a very popular game. Another skills we did was spear throwing and trying to get inside a target. Another popular activity. To round out the Robin Hood theme, we played a game where the Beavers had to steal the gold from the Sheriff of Nothingham's stash. This one was tiring for the Leaders as they not as young and fast as the Beavers…and lots of fun!

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In the afternoon, we cooked our lunch on the fire and then we went down to the beach and yes, all of the Beavers, some of the Leaders and parents went in the water. It was certainly "refreshing" and the Beavers learned that if they splash someone, they can expect to get splashed a lot more back.

After a great dinner of spaghetti with special home-made Bubbles sauce, we had a fun campfire with songs, cheers, skits and even a magic trick by Bubbles. Then there were s'mores and lots of lots of them.

On Sunday morning, we got up, had breakfast, packed up our tents and gear and had a nice quiet Scout's Own. What a great camp!

The next Tuesday was our last meeting and the Beavers played bingo. Everyone won a game or two and went home with some cool stickers.

The Leaders want to thank the Beavers for being such a great bunch and for such a fun year. We look forward to seeing you back in September.

Cub Corner

We started May with our Semi-Annual Park Cleanup and Playground Inspection. As usual, our Cubs did a great job and the cleanup went well and the park is in good shape for the summer.

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After that came our much anticipated Spring Camp at Fitzroy Provincial Park. This camp was organized, planned and executed by Scout Andrew for his Chief Scout Award. We started the camp by setting up tents. Then came our traditional cheese strings and chocolate chip cookies. They weren't our usual chocolate chip cookies, but we ate them anyway. Many thanks to Scouter Kerry for throwing the thermal blankets at us as we were packing gear! We needed them! Brrr! It was chilly overnight.

Saturday breakfast was French toast with sausage, frozen mangoes and frozen strawberries. Very yum! After breakfast came some quick info on ticks and tick avoidance and safety. Then something all Cubs need – FREE PLAY!

Lunch was grilled cheese and tomato soup. A favourite. We did have to put up with some heavy rains around 2pm Saturday afternoon, Cubs gathered in tents and played card games. We did have one tent get soaked due to placement over a bit of a sink hole that gathered water. But we persevered.Supper was Kraft Dinner with hot dogs in it. The Cubs enjoyed it immensely. Campfire was great fun. Scout Andrew refreshed Mang's memory on how to build a nice campfire, we had cinnamon rolls and hot chocolate for mug up and for some reason all the Cubs went to bed early. However did that happen?

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Sunday morning dawned a little warmer, gear was packed up and stacked on a tarp and tents were left to dry out a little bit while we had our chocolate chip muffins with leftover fruits and vegetables for breakfast. Much yum.

During Breakfast, the Cubs rated Scout Andrew's camp as good and, with some prompting on what the Scout Laws were, decided that he did indeed meet or exceed them. Tents came down and were packed up and Cubs were picked up slightly early – thank you parents for that! Many thanks to Scout Andrew, Mang, Kaa, Raksha and Akela for their work on and during this camp. And a special thank you to Kaa's son Snakey Zed who added to the fun of the camp.

Our second meeting in May was our Swim Up and Leap Up Ceremony. We welcomed 7 Tenderpads (ex Beavers) into the Pack. We also had to send up 4 Howlers to Scouts. Happy Sad day. Welcome to Tenderpads Julien, Arthur, Elliott, Harrison, Isaac, Matteo and Junjun. Best Wishes for great Scouting Adventures to Noah, Max, Casey and Tommy.

So, WAY back in March, when Akela challenged the Cubs to a reading contest – which they won - they were promised a surprise. Our third Tuesday in May was that surprise! We took them to Escape Manor Junior. Kaa set us up with two escape rooms – Forbidden Forest and Spy Mission.

She split us up equally and sent us on our way! We had 45 minutes to solve our mystery! The Forbidden Forest Crew was awed by the awesome design of the room. With only 1 hint from the control office, they managed to get out with 14 minutes to spare! The Spy Mission had to work a little harder and they came out with 1 minute to spare! WAH! Great job Cubs – that whole working together to solve the puzzle thing. We got it.

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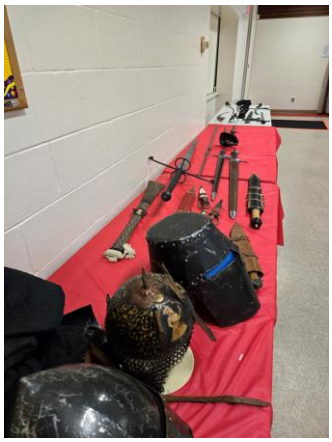

Our last meeting in May was a visit from Mr. Dark (aka Mr. Akela). He brought in his swords and armour and Cubs got to find out how absolutely gross Medieval life could be. Kudos to all the Cubs who volunteered to turn flax and wool into cloth, hunt for bog iron, make charcoal and become squires. Their lives would have been very gross. Each Cubs also got a chance to wear some armour and hold a real sword. Pictures were taken.
Then June happened!

Our first meeting in June was our annual Dessert party and Award Ceremony. Very Yummy Desserts and congratulations to all of our award recipients:
Lair Award – Blue Lair – Akela's Hair went Blue!
Best New Cub – Dylan
Most Improved – Grady
Most Consistent – Casey
Cub of the Year – Tommy
Seeonee Award Recipients – Tommy, Noah, Max

Our second meeting in June was Camp Prep! This was the long asked for Fishing Camp! Cubs were super excited about it. Our Tenderpads were also invited. We packed Kaa's truck with gear and hoped for good weather!

Here comes the camp! We met up at Rideau River Provincial Park, Group Camp Site number 303. WOW. It's huge! Akela and Kaa started placement of tents and kitchen and then waited for Cubs to arrive to set things up. Standard Operating Procedure is to have Cubs set up their own tents and the kitchen.

By 8pm, everyone was here and set up and we did the usual rules and regs - the newest one was don't go in the woods because there is probably poison ivy in there. Just as we finished setup, a local raccoon came by to check us out. Special shout out to the bat flying g around making Mang happy too. We had our usual cheese strings and cookies, good conversations and lots of running around by the Cubs. 10pm quiet time and lights out soon after.

Saturday morning dawned and Cubs were still sleeping! Eventually they all got moving and breakfast was made - in foil. This was our second attempt and it wasn't working for us so we'll have to think of something else for next time. Once clean up was done and Papa Panther showed up, off the Cubs went to learn how to fish. Between Papa Panther and special guest Scouter Rich, most Cubs caught something, and ALL of them got at least a nibble or three! Tenderpad Matteo was our over achiever with a count of 5 fish caught. Amazing!

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Lunch was beef stew. Yum. After lunch cleanup the Cubs headed back to the water for some swimming and playing at the park. Gotta keep these Cubs moving you know.

Supper was spaghetti. A favorite apparently. Bagheera made enough to feed a small army. Which worked out well. One Cubs - who we will not identify, *coughnoahcough* claims to have eaten 6 servings. 4 seemed to be a magic number for several others. Clean up happened and for some reason. The Cubs were tired and a little cranky.

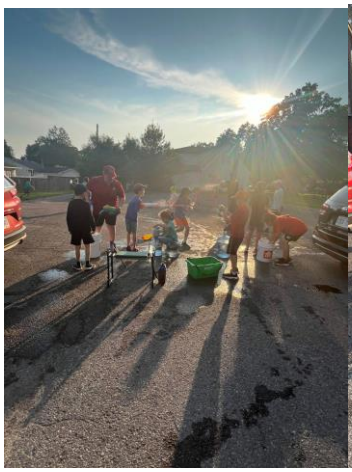
We had a short campfire - provided by Mang (her first campfire made on her own! So proud!) And mug up. This mug up was provided by Akela with the condition that Cubs tell their parents that Akela made them eat dirt. (chocolate pudding, oreos, gummy worms). The Cubs loved it as a mugup and it is a do again. One Cub asked why we didn't roast marshmallows. Dude, you got dirt! Marshmallows are boring!. We also had a brief visit from the raccoons. Bedtime came early.

Sunday dawned and once more the Cubs were sleeping in. Up and at 'em, empty your tent onto the tarp and dry the fly. Once everyone's gear was on the tarp we had breakfast. Muffins! Chocolate chip of course. Thank you to Scouter Rich, who is training the Cubs to be prime tent rollers.

Cubs own, and free play until parent pick up and the handing off of Crests. Once again, thanks to strong parent participation, we were off the site at 11:01. Thank you Parents!

Our last meeting was the now traditional Ice Cream Social – with the addition of a water gun fight. Given that temperatures were hovering in the mid 30's Celcius, water gun fights were welcome. Ice cream first so we could enjoy as

much water time as possible! Cubs were asked to line up, given their boundaries and rules of play and then were sprayed down by Akela. Don't worry, they got her back – repeatedly! Many thanks to Mr. Panther for being our Chief Water Bearer and keeping our buckets full of water to recharge.



And that's the end of our Cubbing Year. Great Adventures were had. Now it's time to rest and recharge and come up for new Adventures for next year! Best Summer Wishes to everyone!

Scout Trails

It was a very busy couple months for the Scouts. We packed in three camps and lots more. So, May kicked off with the annual RSVP Camp at Opemikon. RSVP stands for "Rovers/Rangers, Scouts, Venturers, Pathfinders" and its annual senior youth scout/guide joint camp. What a hoot with tonnes of activities like archery, tomahawk throwing, low and high ropes, canoeing, badge trading, etc. It's also a very social camp with a big campfire and a dance on the Saturday night.

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The Scouts and Venturers who came were a big help around camp, prepping all meals and cleaning up.

If one camp was not all, we needed another one the following weekend. It was the annual Rideau Challenge Journey – a challenge to hike parts of the Rideau Trail through Malborough Forest with a map and instructions to guide you.

The younger Scouts did a "Bronze Patrol" where it was a day hike accompanied by Leaders They hikes a total of some 16 KM through all sorts of conditions. The older youth did a "Silver Patrol" where they hike alone with their gear over two days, covering about 23 KM. This teaches them teamwork, how to follow direction, paying attention to your surroundings, and pushing yourself to physically and mentally accomplish it. The silver patrol youth camped overnight at the "HQ" in the middle of Malborough Forest with no amenities whatsoever.

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The next regular meeting back at the church was out last of the four patrol organized meetings with Deer Patrol leading an art auction. The Scouts were asked to create a piece of art that was then auctioned off. Some of these pieces went for thousands and a couple for millions of dollars.

The next meeting, we went swimming at the public swim at Canterbury Pool. Take Scouts, add water and presto – you have happy Scouts.

The following meeting was another active outing and we went to play mini golf. Again, another very fun activity and while some did not finish the whole course in the time we had, it was a hoot to see them play and encourage each other.

The first week of June was the awards night and the Scouts came out in force – and yes, there were "infinite brownies" as requested by them. Congrats to our award winners (see the first story in this newsletter). You are all so deserving of these awards and overall we had a great group again of 20 Scouts – so many of them having spent many years in the program coming up through Beavers and Cubs.

Then it was time prepare for our last camp. The Scouts headed to Camp Otter Lake near Frontenac Provincial Park for the weekend.

The weather was good – a little on cooler side – and this is the second we use this camp. It has good sites, a great pavilion for cooking underneath and a small beach and nice lake for canoeing. And that the Scouts did on Saturday. There was instructions on paddling techniques and safety and then they heading out on the water. The older and more experienced Scouts helped the younger ones.

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At camp, the Scouts also played some wide games, and teamed up with another troop who was camping there for a joint campfire. They learned some new songs and skits and thought them some too. We also had some of the older Scouts lead the Scout's Own on Sunday morning in the outdoor chapel and the Scouts worked well around camp in meal prep and clean up.

Finally, we had to return the gear to the church the following Wednesday and held our last meeting. The Scouts did a review of the year and talked about what they would like to do next year – many of the same activities and camps plus some new ideas there.

Our last activity was to run a fundraiser at the Canterbury Family Fun Fair on June 22nd. Scout Dan organized everything from the logistics, to the inventory of what they needed, making posters and recruiting other Scouts to come help sell drinks, baked goods and other treats.

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Great job Dan and thank you to the Scouts who came to help out with this fundraiser. He was also thanked by Cappy – the Ottawa Titans mascot who came to see us. That wraps up the year and the Leaders want to wish everyone a safe and nice summer and see you in September.

Venturer News

Well the scouting year is over - what a busy year it's been. May started off with some of the youth preparing to go to RSVP with the Scouts while the others dug in on putting together their end of year presentation.

The following two weeks were spent with the youth sitting down and planning their entire Charleston Lake camp, including gear, menu and programming, which resulted in a very active day comprising of an 8 km hike and and 8 km paddle. We were tired, but the weather was fantastic and the lake nice and calm.

We rounded out the month with a trip to Weston Park where the youth engaged in a game of Bocce, while the Scouters had some relaxing time of their own.

We had a great banquet, seeing all the sections recount their achievements and activities, and enjoyed all the smiling faces. While some of us may not be back next year, we wish all of our 101st family a fun and happy summer. Special shout out to our two senior Vents - Luca and Indira - you've been a big part of the 101st, and will be missed.

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