MAY/JUNE 2025

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

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Registration Information

You do not need to register to continue in September as your registration covers all of the 2025 calendar year. You will need to register to continue in January 2026. The fee for 2026 is $277.

If you would like to register early for 2026, it will open on August 5th for returning members.

New members can register starting on September 8th and it covers the Fall and all of 2026. So, bring a friend and share the fun.

Beaver Tales

The Beavers started off May with a visit to a local organic vegetable farm. This farm is on Ramsayville Road, very near to the city. The Beavers learned all about organic farming, the different types of vegetables that are grown on the farm and sold at the farm's store. Not only were the Beavers fascinated by the farm but the owner even took out his old scout shirt to shown them the badges he earned.

Next up was the annual swim-up ceremony for our three White Tails – Charlie, Evelyn and Lochlan. This ceremony marks the occasion when they "swim up the river" to meet the wolf cub pack and its leaders. We will miss our three White Tails but they will make good Cubs and we look forward to seeing them at joint meetings. The ceremony was followed by an indoor campfire led by some of the Scouts who came to help with the ceremony.

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The week after that we met at Hog's Back Park to go on a special walk around with a Geologist. Rainbow's cousin works for the Geological Survey of Canada and showed the Beavers all sorts of cool rocks that you can find in the Ottawa region. That included rocks with fossils in them. Hog's Back Falls is also a neat geological feature to see. The Beavers were pretty keen to ask her about almost every single rock they picked up off the ground.

The last week of May was our camp preparation meeting where we took out the camping gear we would need, went over the packing list for the next weekend's camp. The Beavers went to our spring camp the last weekend of May at Voyageur Provincial Park. The weather was a little cool and it drizzled for a good part of Saturday but we still made the best of it.

We went on a nice hike on a trail that took us through some different environments – from marshes to wooded higher ground. We saw lots of mushrooms and even a huge erratic – a boulder left behind by a retreating glacier tend of thousands of years ago.

We also walked to the beach area of the park, which was deserted due to the weather – but we got slushies at the camp store. Yum!

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We had a nice campfire on Saturday night that helped chase the cold away and the Beavers organized themselves without being asked to present to us three skits. That was a lot of fun and we of course finished up the campfire with s-mores. The following morning was pack up and a short Scout's Own before heading home.

The last meeting came the Tuesday after camp and we returned our camping gear, played games, and handed out the last badges for the year. But we saw each other again the week after for the group awards night. The Beavers who came all got a special certificate from the Leaders as they all have their own special traits. Two of our White Tails, Lochlan and Charlie worked hard to get their North Star Award and we were very happy to give them their plaque, certificate and badge. Congratulations to them and thank you for their community service.

The Beaver Leaders want to wish you all a very safe and fun summer. We say goodbye to Rainbow who is moving up to become a Cub Leader in September – we will miss you Rainbow and your crafts, stories and snacks. We encourage you to bring a friend in September as we need more Beavers to join us for the fun.

Cub Corner

We started the month of May by preparing for Camp. Cubs decided on what food they would be eating. Notice the almost unanimous decision to switch from traditional chocolate chip muffins to croissants on Sunday morning. We also made sure that at least a FEW Cubs could put up and take down a tent. Great job there.

Then came our camp! Given that we took a giant leap and went to visit Kaa at Escape Maze Peterborough, we had a staggered arrival at camp Friday, but eventually, we all arrived. Special Guest Rascal and Kaa got a fire going and after a quick tour of the area – particular care given to pointing out the kybos –

the Escape Maze staff brought out some popcorn for us! YUMMY! By 10:15pm though, we were all chilled and tired and ready for bed so off we went. Special thanks go out to Rascal and Mang who put together a tent and air mattress for Rikki Tikki Tavi who was coming in late, tired and frustrated after a long work day. So all she needed to do was grab her gear and go to bed. We know she appreciated it.

Morning broke over a cold, quiet camp. Much too quiet. By 7:45am we had to resort to our now traditional "I'm alive awake alert enthusiastic". Up and at em and down to the Pavillion for Breakfast. It was Breakfast Scramble and fruit. A hit. Pretty sure that's a make again.

After Breakfast, Kaa gave instructions for the adventure/escape room outdoor game – and off they went! We're pretty sure Rascal was a little confused that the Cubs went off without the Scouters, but eventually, a few Scouters ended up following them. Some of us stayed behind to prep for Mug Up – there was pudding to make. The games involved compasses,

measuring, map reading, history, teamwork, tree and mineral identification. These skills sound so familiar. We had to drag the Cubs back in for lunch (hamburgers with vegetables) then they went back out to finish the game. Some quiet time playing board games in the Pavillion, and some freezies and eventually it was time for supper!

Kebabs! Or meat on a stick, depending who you ask. Very yum. After supper came a few games of tactical laser tag. Of course, it's the quiet ones you have to be careful about. Quiet Cubs Saffire, Amira and Eleanor the Blue took the lead early.

While that was going on, Cub Persephone and Rascal were building a campfire. Great job! We welcomed Ms. Jack (one of the owners) to our campfire. She got a kick out of some of the songs. After campfire it was Mug up! Walking pudding snacks. Vanilla or chocolate pudding

with extras – mini cookies, pretzels, strawberries, marshmallows, whipped cream. Speaking of whipped cream – did anyone ever take a picture of the slowly exploding frozen can? That was freaky. We gathered up our ditty bags to pack up in the morning and off to bed.

Sunday morning and we hope all our Cub Moms had a good Mother's Day, but our Cubs were a little slow off the mark again. We're probably out of practice in packing up. As per usual, no breakfast until the gear is packed up and on The Tarp or in the vehicles. So we were eating breakfast by 9:30am. Croissants, and muffins – because Kaa loves us and got us muffins as well. We did a lovely Cubs Own around the firepit – everyone took a turn saying 1 bad thing, 1 good thing and 1 thing they were thankful for. Oddly enough, no one complained about the bugs (or lack of them). Parents were pulling in for about 10:30am or so and we were off the site for 11:00am. Thank you so much Kaa and Escape Maze Peterborough. What a fun time.

We came back from camp for Swim Up. We welcomed 3 new Tenderpads – Charlie, Lochlan and Evelyn – and we look forward to Scouting with them next year. We also had to say goodbye to a few though. Persephone, Gabriel, Fletcher, Saffire, Amira and Rudy were invited up to Scouts. We hope they have a great time up there, but we're going to miss them. We also helped Rainbow swim up. She'll be joining us as a Cub Scouter next year, but Raksha is going up to Scouts (she said she'd still visit!). Swim up Day is always so Happy/Sad.

Following Swim Up was a visit from the lovely and talented Fletcher's Mom to show us how to hand build pottery. Once again the Cubs surprised us in how crafty they like to be. This is amazing and we will make use of this information when planning for next year. Pinch pots were made and painted and we can't wait to see them after firing!

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We went off Adventuring again! This time to Mahdahoki Farm (pronounced Mah DOW ki). We were welcomed by the lovely and talented Belle, who is herself Algonquin, so she welcomed us in Algonquin and in English. She took us for a tour around the Farm and we learned a few important facts about the Plains people and their teepee (as an aside, we learned it took 1 woman, 30 minutes to pack up her family's teepee – including their personal items.) We saw a small wigwam traditionally used by the Algonquin people.

Did you know that the Beaver inspired the canoe? The waterproof fur inspired the Algonquin people to use the inside of birchbark, which is also waterproof. The Beaver's ribs inspired the shape and ribs of the bottom of the canoe. The Beaver's tail inspired the paddle and the Beaver's hand inspired the handle of the paddle.

We learned about the Haudenosaunee People (People of the Long House) and even learned a call and response song and dance. And we learned about the Metis people as well. There was also some free play time where Cubs were able to meet the animals – Goats, pig, the Ojibway Spirit Horses, bunnies – and play on the hay bales. All in all, a good meeting.

June came along and oh look! Another Camp Prep meeting! This camp was being run by Scout James to get his Chief Scout Award. He

walked us through putting up tents and deciding on food choices. Then we were off to Camp in that first weekend of June!

We headed to Voyageur Provincial Park. New for the Cubs, but the Scouts and Beavers have been there before. Akela arrived early and scoped everything out. Mang appeared next, Bagheera, Raksha and finally Rikki Tikki Tavi! Cubs also trickled in and very glad that we gave instructions that our site was very much out of the way. Our famous mug up of cookies and cheese strings happened and then we were off to sleep. Some of us were tired.

Morning came and the Cubs woke up Bagheera. Much too early. And she couldn't get back to sleep. This is never good, no matter which Scouter it is, but Bagheera is very much like her totem and enjoys a good sleep. We promise she'll get a nap today when she needs it. Breakfast was pancakes and sausage and hashbrowns. It's amazing how much the Cubs enjoy their hashbrowns. Of course, there was fruit, and Akela's rules of Fruit and Vegetables was in effect. We also had one Tenderpad join us for camp this morning, so happy to see them!

Scout James led the Cubs on a discovery hike along a trail that eventually led them to The Beach! As is normal when a new Scouter leads the Cubs in hiking, the group separated at some point. Scout James learned this lesson first hand and we know he'll never let that happen again. No one was concerned, this was a very safe place for this experience to happen, and it's happened to several other Scouters before.

When they came back, the Cubs REALLY wanted to go swimming. It was of course lunch, so we fed them first. Grilled cheese and tomato soup – which sounds strange for a summer time camp, but these Cubs were probably dehydrated and needed the liquid. Scouters are sneaky at hydrating the Cubs. Shhhh, don't tell them. So, as the dishes were being done, the Cubs got into their bathing suits and headed off with Scout James in the lead. He didn't loose anyone this time. The Cubs had a great time in the water. Upon their return, we weren't quite ready to start supper so we gave them a snack. Armpit Fudge. Akela only serves the BEST snacks. Dirt last year, armpit fudge this year. Cubs had some quiet time and then we started supper – walking tacos. Although it is a Cubs favourite, some Cubs have not learned to put their empty bags in the garbage so there

was a LOT of unnecessary cleanup. We may have to hold off on making Walking Tacos again for a while. It was a lovely meal though and once dishes were done, the Cubs started preparing for Campfire.

Scout James led them through a good campfire, even though the Cubs were a little rangy after all their activity today. The Cubs need to work on their skits though. Mug up of Beavertails was delicious! – and it was time for bed. Scouters stayed up a little later, but those Cubs crashed hard. Oh, Bagheera did get her nap. So did Rikki Tikki Tavi and Akela.

Sunday morning and it was time to pack up. At 7am, Akela had to dish out meds but no one was waking up. With apologies to Bagheera, Akela leaned on the car horn and started our wake up song of I'm alive awake alert enthusiastic! Meds were handed out, gear was packed up and put on the tarp, tents came down and were rolled up. Please note, Mang, who had brought her brand new personal tent, managed to get it back into the original box and bag. Go Mang! Once everything was either packed up or on the tarp, breakfast was served! Double chocolate muffins or croissants and any leftovers that we happened to have – there wasn't much.

Parents began arriving around 10:15, so we quickly did our Cubs Own with the question of 1 bad thing, 1 good thing and 1 things you're thankful for. As usual, the bugs and kybos were the bad things, the food and friendships were the good things and being able to come to camp was what a lot of Cubs were thankful for. Lots of fun was had and now it's time to start planning for the next camp!

Our second last meeting of this year was our Annual Dessert Buffet and Awards Ceremony. Special Shoutouts go to Blue Lair, for turning Akela's hair purple with blue streaks;

- Best New Cub: Henry Desrochers
- Most Consistent Effort: Elliot Jeffrey
- Most Enthusiastic: May Quebdani
- Most Improved Cub: Oliver Heys-Nicol
- Cubs of the Year: Persephone Beverley and Rudy Dubeau

Congratulations go out to our Seeonee Award recipients: Persephone, Rudy, Gabriel and Saffire.

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It was a lovely meeting, Scouter Sunshine got pied in the face – congrats Dylan for representing the Cubs in that endeavour. It was also nice to see the Beavers, Scouts and Venturers all in one spot.

Finally, our last meeting was the Ice Cream Social and Water Gun Fight. So that the ice cream would melt as little as possible, we had a choice of Ice Lollies or ice cream sandwiches.

What a surprise that most of the Cubs preferred the ice Lollies. Then it was time to hose the Cubs down! They were asked to come in their bathing suits and they did not disappoint. It's a good thing that Chil lives so close, we had to get more water. Luckily, delivery was available. Tenderpads Charlie and Lochlan The Red joined us too. When asked which were the

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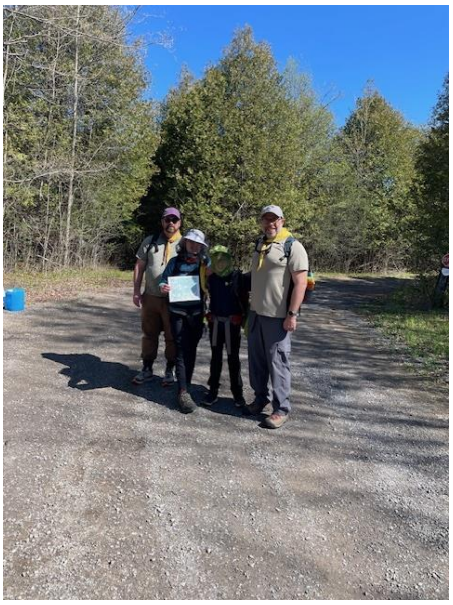
Cubs favourite meetings, Oliver said it best – all the ones that we weren't at the Church for. OK, this was important information for us. We handed out those last few Badges and Crests and yeah, that was it. Thank you to Scout James and Venturer Andrew for taking charge of the water station.

From Kaa, Raksha, Mang, Bagheera, Rikki Tikki Tavi, Chil and Akela, we wish you a great summer with lots of Adventures, Ice Cream and Ice Lollies and we hope to see you in September.

Scout Trails

We had two camps at the beginning of May. The first one was RSVP Camp at Opemikon where the oldest Scouts camp with the Venturers. The second one if the Rideau Challenge Journey. This is a challenging two-day hike through Malborough Forest. The conditions can be very challenging with the heat, cold, wet and bugs.



We had three patrols – one was "bronze" made up of Tommy and Nicolas who did a day hike with Scouters Dan and Street. But the Scouts were responsible for navigating the trails with their maps and compasses.

The two other patrols were "silver" meaning the scouts hike unaccompanied. Covering about 32-35 KM over two days with an overnight camp. The first patrol of Casey, Harrison, Russell and William did well and finished on time.

The second patrol of Gabriel, Duncan, Pip and Griffin did well the first day but struggle a bit the second day but finished in the end.

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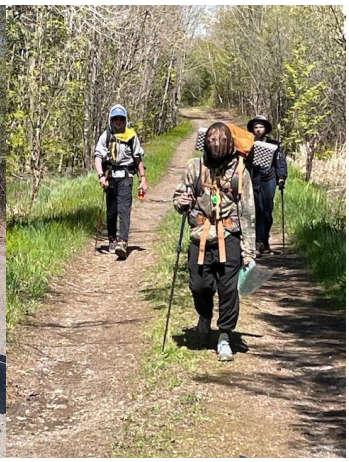
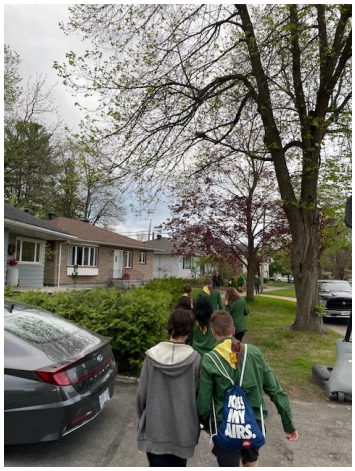


All of the Scouts should be proud of their efforts as doing the Rideau Challenge is not easy even with perfect conditions.



In terms of meetings in May, we had two planning meetings for the camps and then our two last patrols held their meetings. Beaver Patrol (Everett as Patrol Leader and Russell as Assistant Patrol Leader) organized an easter egg hunt at both the church and then as Weston Park. This activity was very well liked by the Scouts because, well we walked to the park and back and they had candy. Then Polar Bear Patrol (Liam as Patrol Leader and William as Assistant Patrol Leader) did a "president tournament" as the church. Let's say some scouts take their games of president pretty seriously.

The last meeting of May was dedicated to canoe instruction organized through the Rideau Canoe Club. So after some instruction on land, we headed out on the Rideau River for some on-water instruction. A few scouts struggled to stay straight but it was good to be on the water on a beautiful evening in late May.

The June meetings were devoted to camp planning for the last camp and a shortline cleanup along the river path across from Billing's Bridge Mall. We found lots of garbage and filled several bags. They were rewarded for their efforts with ice cream from McDonald's.

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At the year-end awards night, we handed out our three annual awards to some very deserving Scouts who impressed us and showed great maturity and leadership:

- Best New Scout: Tommy Lincoln and Max Petersen
- Most Improved Scout: William Collin and Everett Dubeau
- Scout of the Year: Casey McKegney

Also congratulations to our four Chief Scout's Award who worked hard to earn it: Casey M, James, William and Everett.

Our last meeting was a pretty easy affair of handing out the last badges and a big game of mafia led by Liam.

The June camp at Otter Lake Camp near Frontenac Provincial Park was a great weekend. The weather turned out perfectly and we spent a lot of time in and on the water. Who says Scouts grow out of building sand castles? But they spent a whole morning canoeing and then the afternoon swimming, canoeing and more. There was a fun campfire with a "war" of there are no flies on us with the neighbouring troop.

We also has a very well run Scout's Own by the senior scouts who had done a lot of the pre-planning for the camp.

The Scout Leaders wish you a great summer and look forward to seeing you again in September with the new Scouts coming up.

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Venturer News

Throughout May, the Vents did a lot of planning for their camps.RSVP Caamp was once again a favourite camp as the Venturers and Scouts linked up to participate in high ropes, waterfront activities, and target shooting. As always, the dance was a enjoyed by all, as was the campfire presentation of the group's hand carved loon.

While no awards were won, the real treasure was the friends they made along the way.

The end of year camp saw a very soggy group of Venturers at Otter Lake, Ontario. They hiked trails in Frontenac Park, and went out canoeing. The group spotted a number of birds over the weekend, including a bald eagle! While the weather didn't cooperate, the Vents showed resilience and creativity to make the most of the weekend.

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Following the camp, the Vents did an equipment check and would like to remind others to sweep out their tents before putting them away and to report damaged tents to their Scouters.

The last meeting of the year, the Vents took to an Escape Room, and managed to successfully make it out of the Boom Room with 4 minutes to spare, showing cooperation and determination and leaving on a high note.

The Venturers also made an excellent presentation of their activities over the past year at the awards night. Their numbers will increase in September with five Scouts moving up.

Year-End Award

Our year-end awards night on June 10th was a very well-attended evening with loads of desserts, awards and pies in the face. We honoured our volunteers that make the 101st such an amazing group. Venturer Advisor Tom Lagace celebrated his 10 years of service to scouting. We also honoured Akela Cindy Dark, Cub Scouter Melissa Beverley and Venturer Advisor Paul Schock with special medals.

Then came the moment everyone was waiting for with the annual pie in the face of Scouter Sunshine by the four top fundraiser.

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Some were more gentle like Beaver Max but other were not as much like Cub Dylan, Scout Max and Venturer Derek.

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