MAY/JUNE 2026

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

Year End Awards

On June 9th, we held our year-end awards night – or as some call it, the "dessert banquet". We gave out awards in three of our sections and the Venturers told us all about their year with a youth-led presentation.

We also recognized our volunteers and congratulations to Heather Barkley (Rikki Tikki Tavi) and Adrienne Briere (Bagheera) who both earned the Medal of Good Service. Akela Cindy Dark and Registrar Rich Lincoln also celebrated 10 years of service to scouting. But one Scouter celebrated an major milestone with Scouter Bill Woodley marking 50 years of service. Amazing Scouter Bill!

The night was capped off with the traditional pie in the face of the Group Commissioner by our four top fundraisers.

Beaver Tales

The Beavers schedule for May was pretty busy with meetings and our spring camp. The first meeting was the joint spring cleanup of Canterbury Park with the Cubs. It was a nice night and the busy Beavers got busy picking up every single piece of trash that they could find. A few ended up in the leaves though.

The next meeting was our swim-up ceremony where the white tails moved up to Cubs. We had 7 white tails swimming up and who got their new neckerchiefs. We will miss them dearly,

especially those who were with us for the last three years. We also have two Scouters moving up to Cubs with Tic Tac and Rascal saying goodbye to the colony.

The outdoor ceremony was followed by a joint "campfire" indoors led by the Scouts who came to help with the crossing the bridge portion of the ceremony for the senior Cubs moving up to Scouts. Thank you Scouts!

Our next meeting was a camp preparation meeting for our spring camp at Foley Mountain Conservation Area near Westport. There was a small group of Beavers at camp and the mosquitos outnumbered us by millions but it was fun nonetheless. The Beavers had a great hike around a beaver pond but before that checked out Spy Rock with a great view of Westport.

MAY/JUNE 2026

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

The theme of the camp was dinosaurs and it came with a dino bone dig on the beach. Yes, even it was mid-May, all of the Beavers went in the water with a couple of Scouters and parents too. The water was cold – really cold but so was the rain that started later on the Saturday. So we had to migrate indoors in the main cabin with some games of charades and guess the dino.

Bubbles again spoiled us with his amazing cooking all weekend with make your own lunch over the hot coals of the fire and his legendary spaghetti sauce for dinner. The rain prevented us from have a campfire outside but instead we used the fireplace in the cabin and the Beavers did amazing with the skits – they love skits a lot! Bubbles told the Beavers about the "old times" in scouting and we sang some traditional songs.

On the Sunday, we had a Scout's Own and turns out that swimming in the freezing cold lake was the highlight of the weekend. Thanks to the parents who helped with the cooking and cleaning and managing the busy Beavers.

The following week, we had a fun outing to Mooney's Bay beach and park. After checking out the beach, we migrated to the giant playground, which was like a magnet pulling them towards it. We think they had a great time.

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MAY/JUNE 2026

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

Our last meeting was partially spent outside at the church with some games and where we said congratulations to Bubbles for marking 40 years of service to scouting. The many Beavers of the years remember Bubbles fondly to this day.

We also did a review of the year with the Beavers and heard from our white tails who told us about their North Star Award projects.

Our last event of the year was the year-end awards night. Each beaver received a special certificate from the Scouters to recognize their special contributions to the colony.

And six Beavers completed their requirements to earn their North Star Award. Congratulations to: Zacharie Boyer, Toby Briere, Mateo Kirby, Kaobi Ogwu, Simon Pollock, and Matthias Samulack.

Acorn, Bubbles, Echo, Rascal, Sunshine, and Tic Tac wish all the Beavers a great summer and see you in September.

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MAY/JUNE 2026

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

Cub Corner

We started May with our Semi Annual Park Cleanup and Playground Inspection. This is a shared event with the Beavers. We can attest that Canterbury Park Playground is clean and in good repair for the upcoming season. Really not sure what they would do without us.

Our second meeting in May was our Swim Up Meeting. We welcomed 7 Tenderpads to the Pack (only 6 were there, but the 7th is welcome too!). Three had siblings in the Pack so they were pretty familiar with us, which is a good feeling. Sadly, we sent up 7 Howlers to Scouts. Which means we're going to have to say good bye to them later in June. Hmmm. Our third meeting of May was Camp Prep! We had to figure out what gear we needed from the cupboard, find it, dig it out and bring it upstairs. We managed that, and filled up Akela's car. The Cubs are great at volunteering when muscle is needed!

Finally we got our Camp Weekend! This was a large Camporee – about 200 youth, 100 Scouters. It is the largest Camp our Cubs have been a part of since 2019. Akela showed up early and dropped of the gear and collected our t-shirts. As Scouters and Cubs arrived, the campsite began to fill out a bit. We had decent room, and the 2 Scouter tents and 4 Cub tents plus the HUGE dinning shelter filled a good chunk of it. We had our classic Mug Up of cookies and cheese strings, Akela handed out our purple activity shirts with the request that they be worn on Saturday and we all went to bed. Some fell asleep faster than others.

Saturday had our Cubs up EARLY. Not necessarily because of noise on OUR site, there were other Packs there that were chatty in the morning too. When Scouters finally got up (around 6:30am!) it was to find all the Cubs awake, dressed in their Activity Shirts and ready for breakfast. What? We didn't even get a chance to sing! Breakfast was premade pancakes, bacon and fruit. We were on a schedule. At 8:30am the Parade to Opening Ceremonies started. As the second campsite in from the start point, we got into the parade fairly early, with our flag waving high.

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Scouting since 1961

MAY/JUNE 2026

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

We spent the morning in Kitchener Field playing games that other Packs had thought up. Our game was a Compass Game and Mang ran that for everyone. Apparently it was a hit. Mang is just that amazing. Akela – who was in on the organizing committee - sat in the middle of the field with a bullhorn and timed the activities and when to tell people to move. We made it back to the site for lunch – Hot Dogs and chips! Not often we get those at camp. Our afternoon was spent doing small Scouter run activities. There was a pizza making station – some of our Cubs tried Fiddleheads!;

The Cubs had a chance to use the Ham Radio and communicated with someone in Ohio! There was archery – just not enough of it. Although we were told that we were doing pretty well at the archery. Mang mentioned that we had an archery camp in the fall. Looks like we may need to plan one of those for next fall as well.

We came back to the site for supper – KD with bacon and left over sausages. A hit. Had a bit of downtime – by the way, our Cubs LOVE card games like Exploding Kittens and Tacos vs Burrito. This gave them some nice sit down time which they didn't get a lot off in the morning or earlier afternoon. Then we were back on the move for Campfire. We provided the song Puff the Magic Dragon and the Tony the Tiger cheer – both of which were a hit. We also learned a new song about a single peanut. More to come on that discovery later.

Mug up of Armpit Fudge! Oh we love our Armpit Fudge. Then off to bed. The Scouters were sure the Cubs were exhausted. We had rain and wind overnight and in our exhaustion some of

the Cubs had items too close to the tent edges and some things got wet. Raksha's chair got SOAKED sitting on the dinning tent! We persevered. We're also sure that the Beavers (who were camping at Camp Foley this weekend) sang Johnny Appleseed for grace one time. We'll blame them for the weather.

Akela was able to wake everyone up with our now Traditional I'm Alive Awake Alert Enthusiastic song on Sunday morning. Then it was pack up, eat breakfast (muffins and Croissants!) and we headed out to where the Cub's Own was supposed to be, to find out that no one was there, so we went started back to home base to try and figure things out and wouldn't you know it, they had combined the Beavers and Cubs Own together. Apparently we were the only ones not told. Not cool people. Frowny Face.

We did our own Cubs Own – once again the food was a hit, the activities were good and no one liked the rain or the mosquitos. Wait, we didn't hear that people didn't like the kybos. Hmmm. They actually weren't too bad – except for the few hours we shared a kybo with a wolf spider. That was a bit much for Akela. Once we did our Review we were once again trudging up to the farthest field for Closing Ceremonies. These were nice, short and fun because our Pack won 2nd Place in the Camp Challenge. This was based on costumes, camp decorations, game choices and making sure that our camp was safe for everyone. Our thanks to those Cubs who did NOT come but helped us provide decorations (our Art in the Park Night), we think that had a good impact on the judges. One last trip back to our site and parents started to appear – thank you parents for showing up early and on time! We took down the dinning shelter, got it to Akela's car and were off the site for 11:30am. Thank you Cubs for making this a fun weekend, thank you Scouters for all your hard work this weekend. One Scouter from another Pack came by to tell us that Mang should be awarded a Spirit Award – he was so very impressed with how she was engaging Cubs at the Games portion. Proud of you Mang.

Our last meeting in May was at the Maplewood Retirement Community. The Scouts had volunteered there earlier in the year and the Cubs decided they could do that too. We participated in a Campfire in their main lounge.

MAY/JUNE 2026

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

Several residents showed up to be entertained, and sing along. We couldn't roast marshmallows outside due to the winds so we made do with an "indoor" campfire. It was still fun. We sang favourites like Herman the Worm, Black Socks, Hello my name is Joe, Land of the Silver Birch and Kumbaya. That peanut song from camp made it into the evening too, I think we all saw that coming. Our Cubs were fantastic, everyone seemed to have a good time. We're thinking of doing this again next year. We shall see.

Our first meeting in June was another Camp Prep. We made sure we had all the gear we needed (we had most of it since it didn't get put away from the last camp), grabbed what we needed – and the Cubs put up and took down a tent, just to prove that they could do it.

Second meeting in June was our Annual Awards Ceremony and Dessert Banquet. The Cubs had a good time. Congrats to everyone who received awards, including the Scouters! This is also where Akela Cindy said she was stepping back as Akela and passing the name to Akela Mang. Good luck Akela Mang, we're looking forward to September now!

Congratulations to:
Best New Cub: Lochlan Flowers
Most Consistent Effort: Junjun Nieu
Most Improved Cub: Elizabeth Boyer
Cub of the Year: Owen Gable & Rhys Pollock

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MAY/JUNE 2026

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

Lair of the Year (Six Award): Dylan Barkley, Isaac Tozer, Julien Ross and Junjun Niu

Congratulations to the Seeonee Award recipients: Dylan Barkley, Elizabeth Boyer, Myles Briere, Owen Gable, Eleanor Holmes, Rhys Pollock and Fletcher Leering.

The weekend after the Dessert Banquet was our End of Year Camp at Rideau River Provincial Park. The weekend was calling for thunder showers so we tried to keep on top of that. Joining us one Tenderpad – Toby. Tents went up, Kitchen was organized, Mug Up was offered and then to bed!

Saturday dawned just lovely! Akela was able to sing the Cubs out of their tents this time. Breakfast was a little later than normal as there was a moldy bread discovery. Luckily we weren't too far from a store and we were only an hour behind for breakfast. The Timbits that appeared with Bagheera and the news bread and eggs kept the Cubs relatively calm until they could have their French Toast and sausage.

As we finished eating, our Day Trippers arrived. (Saturday Only was an Option and a few decided on it). So did our Scout Harrison who planned some activities for us for his Chief Scout Award. He had planned a Scavenger Hunt along the trail with little pencils and clipboards for everyone. WOW. The Cubs REALLY enjoyed that. As per normal, Scout Harrison did manage to lose the group once – but quickly found them again. This is now a right of passage for every new Scouter or Scouter Equivalent who hikes with us. At some point

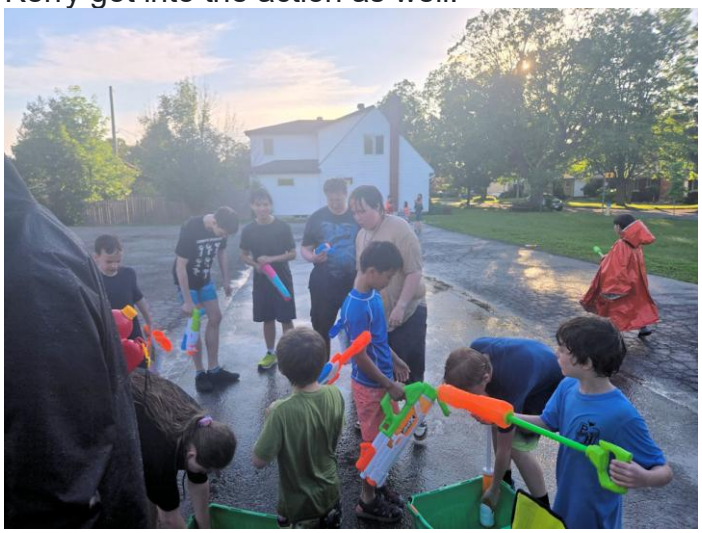
they will lose track of us. It's become a bit of a tradition at this point.

The Cubs made it back to camp to discover that a large Yellow Alert Storm was heading our way for the evening/overnight, and a LOT of rain expected in the morning. The tough decision was made to head home for the evening. Parents were advised and responded rather quickly – thank you parents! Cubs had supper for dinner – Chicken Fajitas – this will be a make again, with more chicken – and the tents started to come down to be packed up. Once that was done, Scout Harrison set up his second activity – Orienteering in the field behind the campsite. We held a small Scouts Own – several Cubs thankful for Harrison and his activities, all of us sad about the incoming rain and the mosquitos. Strangely, no one mentioned the kybos.

We could see the rain coming in so we set up a dry area on the picnic tables, and the card games came out. There was minimal rain at this point, but we were still glad we were packed up. Watermelon for snack, and as parents arrived, Cubs were sent home with a muffin or croissant as a snack to get them home. Thank you parents for coming to pick up early. All of us

were safely home when the dark clouds moved in. Sad that we had to call camp early, but thankful that we were not out in the pouring rain.

And our last meeting in June was our Traditional Ice Cream Social and Water Gun fight. Many thanks to the Beavers, Scouts and Venturers that showed up to celebrate with us. It was a great fight, good ice cream and there was a bonus of SMORES – left overs from camp! Thank you to Scouter Bill who stayed to help with the marshmallow cooking – he didn't want to watergun, go figure. Hathi had her best Lara Croft Tomb Raider look going, and Scouter Kerry got into the action as well.



And that is all for the 2025-2026 101st Ottawa Cub Pack Year. Cubs, may your summer be full of Adventures, Excitement and at least some quiet time where you can learn new card games for next year. A fond farewell from Akela Cindy, Akela Mang, Bagheera, Rikki Tikki Tavi, Hathi, Raksha, Baloo and Chil.

Scout Trails

The Scouts busy schedule kicked it up a couple of gears in May and June with three camps. First came the very popular RSVP Camp at Opemikon. This is only for senior Scouts 14 years and above and is done jointly with the Venturers. It's a very "chill" camp as the Scouts would describe it, but nonetheless with lots of fun activities.

MAY/JUNE 2026

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

There is an opening and closing ceremony and lots of activities like high ropes, archery, boating and the famous Saturday night dance and campfire. Yes, they have a DJ come and they cut the rug under the big teepee.

Our first two meetings of May were devoted to preparing for first RSVP Camp and then the Rideau Challenge Journey. The Rideau Challenge is a hiking journey through Malborough Forest with three degrees of difficulty. Our first year Scouts did a bronze level hike, where it is only a day hike accompanied by Scouters but the Scouts are the ones finding the way on a map and directions. You can get lost pretty easily in this forest.

We had three Scouts do a silver level hike (hiking by themselves with all their gear and camping overnight) and two do a gold level – first time in many years where they camp by themselves and carry all their gear and food. Great job Scouts for braving the elements and the bugs!

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MAY/JUNE 2026

101st OTTAWA (ST. AIDAN'S) SCOUTING GROUP NEWSLETTER

After these two camps, the next two weeks were led by Coyote and Racoon patrols. First it was Raccoon patrol with a gambling night. The competition was fierce but friendly. Then it was Coyote patrol with a scavenger hunt around the church. Bat Patrol was up at the end of May with a combination of games and search for clues around the neighbourhood leading us to Weston Park. Each year, we get each patrol to plan and lead one meeting. This gives the Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders a real chance to step up and take on a true leadership role.

After that, we went on a hike and the scouts covered a lot of ground as usual even testing some closed trails. We ended the

Then came the awards night and in troop, we hand out three awards. Congratulations to:
Best New Scout: Fletcher Leering and Saffire Miner
Most Improved Scout: Pip Barrington, Nicolas Kizas, and Gabriel Villeneuve
Scout of the Year: Griffin Foulkes-O'Flaherty

And we had two Scouts earn the top award of the Chief Scout's Award: Curtis Courtney-Cheung and Harrison Holmes

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MAY/JUNE 2026

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Our last event of the year was a spring camp at scout camp Otter Lake, ON. Given this camp is right next door to Frontenac Provincial Park and is connected to it's many lakes, the main activity was canoeing. And the scouts who took part in the canoe training earlier this year as well as older scouts with plenty of paddling experience, had their skills put to the test. It was a lovely weekend for the most part weather-wise but it did end up raining late on Saturday. The Scouts participated in the cooking and cleaning at camp as usual and it was an amazing weekend of first discoveries for especially our newest Scouts.

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MAY/JUNE 2026

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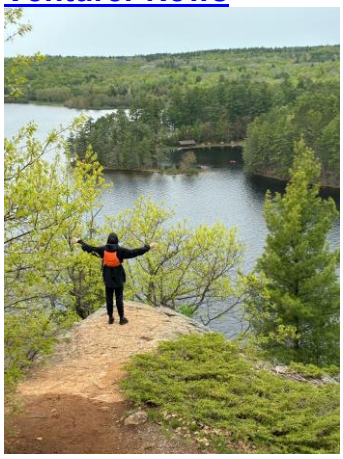
Scouters Amanda, Caitlin, Dan and Francois wish all of the Scouts and their families a safe and good summer. See you in September.

Venturer News



In May, the Venturers had three camps. First was RSVP Camp at Opemikon with the senior Scouts. Later in May, a small group went to Bon Echo Provincial Park. They canoed the lake looking at the thousand year old petroglyphs and portaging from lake to lake. In June, they had a nice camp at Murphy's Point Provincial Park.

At the year-end awards night, the Venturers delivered their annual youth-led presentation on their activities this past year. It was heartwarming to hear how much scouting has meant to them, many of who have been part of the 101st since they were Beavers.

Have a great summer Venturers from Scouters Bill, Kerry and Tom.

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MAY/JUNE 2026

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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

Meet and Greet with St. Aidan's Parish

On June 7, a group of Scouters and youth were invited by Reverend Rosemary of St. Aidan's to meet and greet the parishioners after the Sunday service. We talked about our activities this past year and how much the partnership has meant to the group for the last 65 years.

Volunteers Needed

We are searching for volunteers for two roles:

1. Registrar: this role is responsible for tracking registrations, section capacity, volunteer readiness and assisting with screening.
2. Web Designer: our website needs a reboot and we are looking for someone with web design and maintenance experience to migrate our site to a new platform and redesign it.

If either of these roles are of interest, please email Scouter Francois at frmarier@rogers.com

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