**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025**

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

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## MacMillan's Fundraising Campaign 2025

Thank you to all of the families who participated in our MacMillan's fundraiser again this year. We sold $6,603 in products with a profit of $2,145.98 that stays with the 101st plus donations of over $600.

Our top fundraisers that will have the chance to pie Scouter Sunshine in the face at the year-end awards are:

- Simon Pollock for Beavers
- Dylan Barkley for Cubs
- Max Petersen for Scouts
- Everett Dubeau for Venturers

## Beaver Tales

The Beavers started November by participating in two community service activities. The first was with the Cubs and some Scouts and Venturers to place Canadian flags on the graves of veterans at Capital Cemetery. The first meeting was our annual putting together of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. These shoeboxes of toys, school supplies and essentials will be sent to children in countries in need so that they can open a gift at Christmas. Thank you to the Beavers and their parents for their generosity as we filled five boxes.

The following week we went on a walk downtown to visit the war monuments in time for Remembrance Day. First, it's very exciting for the Beavers to be downtown on a school night and some had never visited them before, so we were happy to share how important these monuments are for Canadians.

The following meeting was back at the church and we worked on some skills that included putting up and taking down a tent followed by some very basic knots. Some Beavers had never put up a tent before or gone camping in one, so this is good practice for when we go camping in the spring and need to set up tents.

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025**

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

Bubbles showed the Beavers a knot – the one knot who need to know above all others! To our delight, a couple Beavers already knew this knot and some were very keen to learn it.

The next meeting was back outdoors – we went on a hike at P20 on Anderson Road and low and behold, what did we see just next to trail in a pond, but a family of beavers! One just walked across the trail right in front of us carrying a nice stick to munch on and he was not phased at all by our presence. Let's say that the Beavers (the human ones), were beside themselves as we walked on the last stretch of the trail.

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Back at the church the next week, we practiced singing our Christmas carols for the visit to Perley Health the following week. This special residence for veterans is important and they love to see young faces coming to visit them.

The Beavers sang four carols for them and this brought a lot of smiles to the faces of the residents. The Beavers then sat with the residents and made Christmas cards for them while sharing a cookie and a juice. There were some special moments and this intergenerational connection is important.

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Our last meeting before the holidays was a party with some games, including pin the red nose on Rudolph and lots and lots of cookies and holiday treats to eat.

The Beaver Leaders would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holidays and see you in 2026.

## Cub Corner

It was once again our honour to place Flags on the Graves of Canadian Soldiers at Capital Cemetery the first Sunday of November. This was a joint operation with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts AND a few Venturers attending. With the many hands, it went quickly. Thank you everyone who attended, your work was appreciated. Thank you to Bagheera for organizing.

Our first November meeting was the start of our Cub Kar Building month! In past years we haven't been able to get 3 full weeks in the

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025**

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

Spring to work on the Kars so this year we decided to do them in November. This week was just pick your pattern.

While those decisions were made Mang started the Cubs on some knots and a spontaneous Limbo game appeared. So all in all, a great evening. Let us not forget the Beavers sneaking up the stairs to serenade us with their Battle Song. There were apparently no flies on them, but the Cubs assured them that there were no flies on us and that the Beavers were wrong. Pretty sure the Cubs won, the Beavers may say differently, but we know the truth.

Second week of November was sanding week. All the cars were sanded to be ready for painting next week.

Third week was Painting week! Painting and drying. All for the finale….

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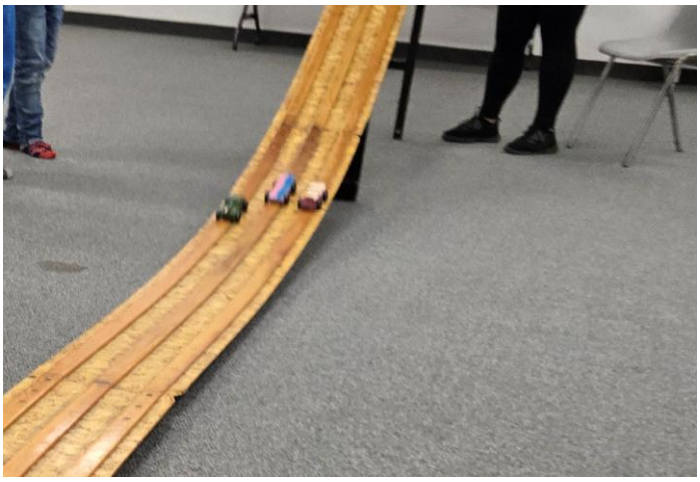
**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025**

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

RACE WEEK! The Cubs had a blast racing their cars. Great big Thank Yous to Mr. Panther and Poppa Panther who came out to help us through the whole Cub Kar Adventure.



First week in December was Camp Prep! Cubs were asked to bring in certain gear items so we could ensure that they knew how to roll a sleeping bag (they do, for the most part, some are harder than others); how to inflate and deflate any air mattresses, and roll those up if needed; and to make sure that when they took their gear out of their pack it didn't explode and fill up the whole room. All in all, the Cubs did a great job. All that work for….

December Camp at Apple Hill Scout Reserve! We had a great time. 9 Cubs and 6 Scouters (Raksha joined us later) congregated

at Apple Hill Scout Reserve in Apple Hill Ontario (near Maxville). We had access to Wade Lodge – with a lovely wood fired stove to heat it; McKinnon Manor and Odawa House, the two smaller heated cabins across the "street" from Wade Lodge. Cubs slept in the cabins with two Scouters in each group (Thank you Special Guest Scouter Rascal for showing up and teaching Baloo how to Scouter at Camp). Akela and Bagheera slept in Wade Lodge to keep the fire going (it was our cooking fire).

After drop off and setting up beds we had our usual mug up of cookies and cheese strings, then it was off to bed with lights out at 10pm. The Cubs were pretty good about the curfew. Saturday morning dawned (Sunrise was close to 7:30am) and that's when Bagheera and Akela woke up! The response from Cubs when they heard that Akela and Bagheera were still sleeping was, "Thank goodness!" Apparently the Cubs have learned that waking up Akela and or Bagheera is not always a good thing. Due to the "sleeping in" breakfast was a little later but nothing was too urgent.

As the Cubs waited for breakfast (Breakfast Scramble – eggs, hashbrowns, bacon and fruit) Akela sent them on a hike with a reward if they found the archery range of leftover cookies and cheese strings from Friday night. Given 2 Cubs knew where the range was, Akela made it a teensy bit more difficult. Because they knew, they could not give hints or they would not get cookies. We are happy to report that the range was found, no hints were given and cookies and cheese strings were enjoyed by everyone. And eventually Breakfast was served.

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025**

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

Mang and Rascal led the Cubs in some wonderful lashing instructions, there was a hike along the red and yellow trails, deer, rabbit, coyote and possible wolf tracks were observed and a dormant wasp nest was discovered.

Then it was lunch time. Tomato Soup and Grilled cheese. So Yum. We'd like to thank Baloo the Soup Guy (Cubs say Soup Boy, but we have to leave him some dignity) for his SOUPER ladling skills. Yes, the weekend was full of Dad jokes.

There was quiet time after lunch in the cabins with card games, colouring, reading and eventually another hike and playing outside. Until we reached supper – Sloppy Joes! Probably best that there was no arm wrestling about whether or not beans go into Sloppy Joes, there was a beans version and a no beans version and the Cubs enjoyed both. Quiet time while the dishes were being done and then the lights went out and we had to finish and do mug up by headlamp and flashlight. What was for Mug Up do you ask? DIRT. We fed the Cubs DIRT. It's ok, Cubs enjoy DIRT. DIRT, for those who have forgotten, is chocolate pudding with Oreo crumbs and gummy worms. We asked the Cubs to make sure they tell their parents that we made them eat DIRT.

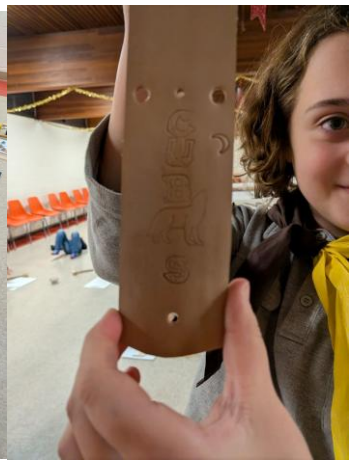
Since there wasn't much left to do, with no lights, it was early to bed for everyone.

Akela woke everyone up for 7:30am for Meds call. The Boys were already busy packing up – knowing that you need to pack up before Akela will feed you breakfast. The girls needed to be nudged awake but they got it in gear really fast and we were soon eating our classic camp Sunday Breakfast of muffins and croissants. Very yum. After cleaning everything up and doing a lovely Cub's Own, Baloo and Rikki took the Cubs on another hike until about 10:30am, at which point the Camp Ranger came to help us shut everything down. With all the Cubs carrying wood, we filled up the wood rick SO FAST! Great job Cubs! Parents began arriving and it was time to go home. Thank you everyone for a great Camp Weekend!

As an aside, the Scouters had brough almost 120L of water to drink this weekend. Our

estimate is that we actually used 95L. So, yeah, we didn't bring too much. Go Scouters!

Our next meeting was Leathercrafting with Scouter Doug from the BP Guild. Once again he had the Cubs enraptured with Leatherwork. We opted to make the pouches again. Thank you Scouter Doug!



Our last meeting of 2025 was our Festival of Cookies. Cubs were asked to bring in Nut Free snacks, Akela brought the milk and everyone overindulged on cookies. We also had a brief discussion on whether Cubs would be celebrating Christmas or just a regular Thursday (which is an excellent reason to celebrate as well).

From all the Cubs and Pack Scouters of the 101st, may you have Health, Wealth and Happiness this Christmas Season and into the New Year.

## Scout Trails

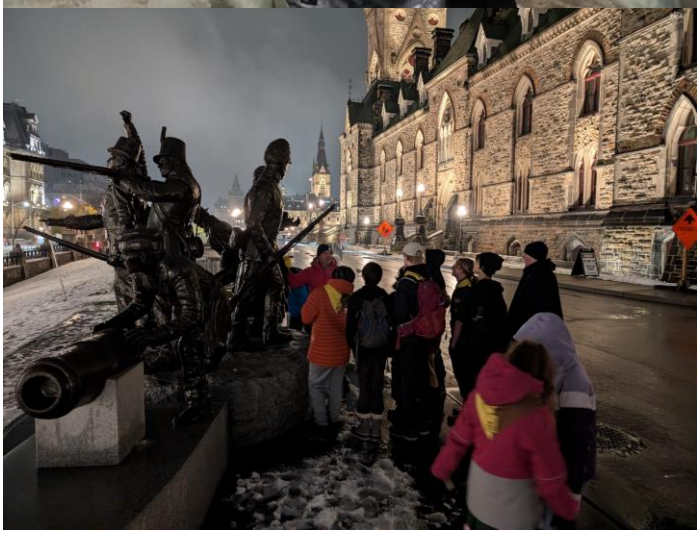
Scouts were busy in November and December with lots of variety but first November started with two service activities. A few Scouts teamed up with Beavers, Cubs and Venturers to place flags on the graves of veterans. At the first meeting in November, the Scouts visited Maplewood Senior's Residence on Industrial Avenue for a special intergenerational evening. They sang campfire like songs and played games, such as chess with the senior residents. We were invited to come by the program director that we met while volunteering at the corn roast back in September.

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025**

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

What a special time for the residents and for many scouts, this being their first time in a senior's residence.

After that, the Scouts went downtown for the annual Remembrance Day walk to visit many of the monuments dedicated to Canadians who fought for Canada and lost their lives. IT was good to see them up close and for the Scouts to take a few moments to remember. We also made it up to Parliament Hill.



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We were back at the church after that to prepare for our shelter-building camp. This is a camp we do each year at Baxter Conservation Area where the Scouts spend the Saturday building a temporary shelter using sticks, leaves, ropes and tarps. Each shelter will hold 2-4 scouts and they must work in teams to build them.

The Scouts worked hard all day and worked well together to build their shelters. The Scouters were a little concerned about a couple of them that would either not get finished or be warm enough - but not only did they all finish before it got dark, but they all lasted the night. Even if it got minus 8 degrees, every single scout spent the entire night sleeping in their shelters. This was quite an achievement.

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There was also some fun time playing cards and sitting around the campfire, eating your body weight in s'mores.

After that adventure, we needed more adventure so we went to Lasermaxx for some fun laser tag (who knew Scouter Street was going to beat everyone two games in a row).

Then we went on a hike – a long hike! We met at P21 at the corner of Anderson and Ridge roads and walked all the way to the Mer Bleu boardwalk and then back on the road (about 12 KM in total). The breaks were appreciated.

The Scouts then held a planning meeting for their activities in 2026 and at the last meeting, played two really fun games. First a card game courtesy of Scouter Street, followed by a mafia – and lots and lots of cookies and other baked goods to take home.

The Scout Leaders want to wish everyone a very happy holidays and stay safe. See you all soon.

## Venturer News

The Venturers have had a social fall. They watched movies, went to the museum of nature, and invited the 104th Ottawa over for a games night with a giant version of Catan.

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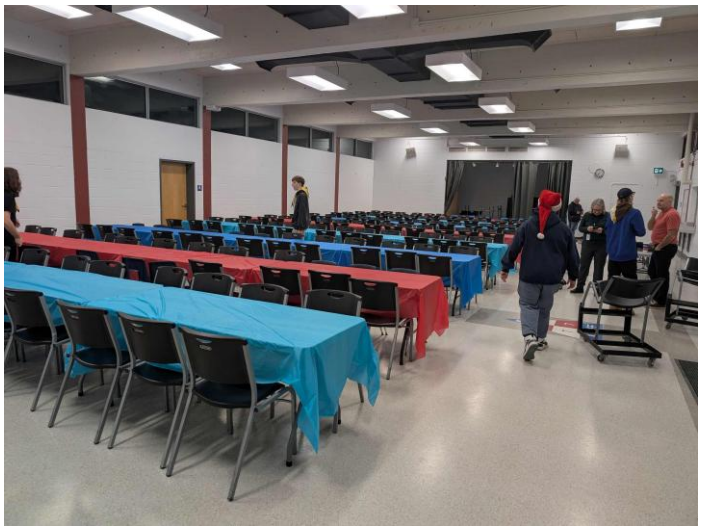
The Vents also, once again, helped out with Breakfast with Santa hosted by Alta Vista Councilor Marty Carr and a few of them found their way onto the Nice List. Thank you Venturers for helping with that again this year.



**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:
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Council Name: Voyageur Council
Group Name: 101st Ottawa
Link to the page: Thanks

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