NOVEMBER 2023

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

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Fundraising Update

With Apple Day behind us, the group turned its attention to two other fundraising efforts in November.

First, was the MacMillan's frozen foods campaign. Thank you to all those who took part. This is a critical fundraiser as the group only receives $20 from each registration and between Apple Day and MacMillan's, the results of these fundraisers make the group function and all the proceeds go directly into programming. This is why it's so important for each member to participate in the raising of funds.

We sold a total of $7958 for a profit of $2786 plus donations of $984, giving us a grand total of $3770 from this fundraiser. Great job!

The youth who were the top sellers and who will get to pie Scouter Sunshine in the face are:
Beavers: Zacharie Boyer
Cubs: Max Petersen (our top most seller)
Scouts: James Jamieson-Bazil
Venturer: Indira Marier

Also in November, we held another fundraiser where we ran a raffle for prizes during the Canterbury Christmas Craft Fair. Some of our Cubs and Scouts came out to help sell tickets to the public and through the raffle and donations from local businesses, we raised almost $1000 that will go towards our camping gear renewal fund. As we told you at the beginning of the year, most of our camping gear is 15-20 years old and in dire need of replacement and we have a goal of raising $4000 for this.

Thanks to parents Andrew Collin and John Villeneuve, who got prizes donated by local businesses for the raffle.

Stay tuned for more fundraising efforts, including a swim-a-thon to raise money for our camping gear fund.

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Beaver Tales

November started off for the Beavers with a walk downtown to visit some of the war monuments. It was a little brisk that night but our Beavers are hardy and loved the idea of being outside downtown at night! They listened well and were very respectful when visiting the National War Monument and other nearby sites.

The following week was a service opportunity for the Beavers. Every year, we gather small items that we put in shoeboxes for a campaign called Operation Christmas Child. This campaign gathers shoeboxes of toys, school supplies, clothing, hygiene products, etc. for children in need in developing countries.

The generosity of the Beavers (and parents) meant that we were able to fill two shoeboxes for each of our lodges, totalling six boxes that will make six boys and girls somewhere in the world very happy at Christmas.

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The next week we started on our pirates theme. Many Beavers came dressed and yaaarrr maties it was a swashbuckling good time. Full of games and fun and the following week even a treasure hunt outside around the church. The pirate Beavers came away with quite the loot of stuff – including some mini bars of bounty that proved to be popular.

In December, the Beavers will finish their pirates-theme meeting, go on a hike and have a party.

And, we have some keen Beavers looking to earn badges! Any Beaver can earn a personal progression badge and we handed out our first one of the year to Beaver Julien for his excellent presentation on what he learned to earn his Chef Beaver badge.

Cub Corner

We can't say that we had fun at our first linking event in November, but it was a satisfying event. 5 Cubs, 7 Scouts, 2 Parents and one lone little Beaver congregated at Capital Cemetery on Prince of Wales Drive to lay Canadian Flags on the graves of members of the Canadian Armed Forces. It was quite an honour to be able to do this small service and we hope to be invited back next year to do it again. Seeing Kaa, meeting Snakey Zed and the pizza afterwards were just bonuses.

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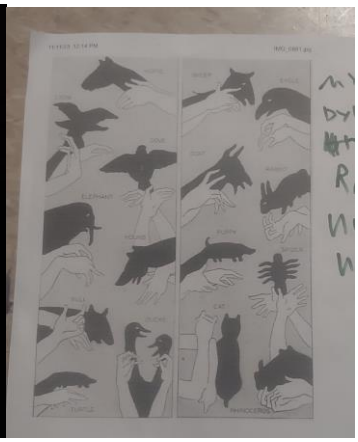
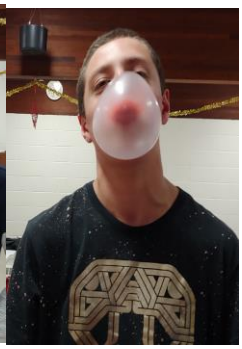
We started November by being creative. We made 101 cards for the 2023 Caring Hearts Card Drive. These cards will be distributed to local Ottawa Long Term Care residences in early December. The coordinator was quite impressed at the amount of cards we made. Many thanks to Raksha and Bagheera who stuffed envelopes with Akela.

The second week of November we learned a new skill. Hand Shadows. The was part 1 of a two part plan because in the third week of November, we invited the Venturers to join us and we taught them how to DO the Hand Shadows.



The Cubs were pretty decent teachers and we had run out of hand shadows before we ran out of meeting time so Akela gave us all a challenge! Who could blow the biggest bubble using only 1 piece of Gum!

That's right! Akela challenged the Cubs and Vents to a Bubble Gum blowing contest! Mang won the Scouters Division, Cub Grady won the Cub Division and Venturer Dax won the Venturer Division. Well done all! We'll have to try linking again, it was quite fun.



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Our last meeting in November had us preparing for a CAMP! We discussed rules and regs, how to stay safe around the campfire, around saws and axes, around a camp stove, and we talked about the Buddy system and why THAT was Important at camp (a hint, it's just in case you fall down the kybo). Look for pics of our December camp in the December Newsletter!

Scout Trails

The Scouts had a really busy November, with community service, fundraising and a camp. First, a few of our Scouts teamed up with some Cubs to lay flags on the graves of soldiers at Capital Cemetery. It was a very moving and rewarding experience. In terms of meetings, the first one of the month was dedicated to fun – our annual trip to Lasermaxx. The Scouts love the chance to tag the leaders and each other with a sprinkle of arcade games and some junk food – what's not to like?

After that, we got more serious and did another annual tradition – our walk downtown to visit the various war monuments. We saw the peacekeeping monument, Parliament Hill, National War Monument to name a few.

We can always count on our Scouts to be respectful in these important moments and the leaders hope that some of them maybe learned something new about the important contributions of our veterans.

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The meeting after that was back at the church for an important uniform inspection. The Scouts were asked to come to the meeting with all of the badges they received at the investiture ceremony put on their uniform shirt. All in all, almost all of them had their badges sewed on. We also took the opportunity to do some planning for the winter in their patrols.

The meeting after was to prepare for our second fall camp. We went through the packing list, took out the needed camping gear and went grocery shopping – yes, in Scouts they are involved in all of these aspect of camp preparation. This was all for our annual shelter-building camp.

On a cold Friday night in late November, the Scouts were dropped off at Baxter Conservation Area. We had a very bright moon and some visible planets in the sky to light the night as well as a warm campfire and cabin. We slept in that cabin on Friday shoulder to shoulder, fitting 20 people on its floor.
The Scouts are responsible for running many aspects of camps. Each patrol took a turn prepping and cooking a meal, each Scout must take care of their gear and do their dishes, they must build and keep the fire going including the chopping of firewood and all Scouts must help clean up at the end of the camp.

The main purpose of this camp is for the Scouts to spend all of Saturday working in small teams of 2-3 to build a shelter in the woods so they can attempt to sleep in it that night. We had some great shelters this year using logs, sticks, tarps, rope, leaves, pine needles and some straw to insulate the ground.

Before bedtime, we had a fantastic campfire with songs, skits and cheers – and yes the Igor skit is back! Half of the Scouts made it through the whole night in their shelters while the others ended up returning to the cabin at various times during the night. It wasn't as cold as on the Friday, going down to only minus 5, so with a good shelter and gear, you could make it no problem.

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What a great sense of achievement the Scouts felt as they were picked up by their parents on Sunday morning after a Scout's Own.

Special thanks to the Scouts who helped out at camp by cleaning out the cabin, maintaining a fire, chopping wood, and especially cooking those massive pots of oatmeal we had for breakfast and Kraft Dinner we had for lunch.

Aahhhh…the life of a Scout!!!

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The last meeting of November was back at the church for the staple egg drop challenge. What is this challenge?

Each patrol build 2-3 "vessels" that hold an egg and are dropped from a height. They gain or lose points on whether the egg survives unscathed, cracks or breaks. Congratulations to Wolverine Patrol for bragging rights for this year.

Venturer News

The Venturers started off the month of November going to the Greenboro Library for an exercise in cultural exploration. The Vents were challenged to find a recipe from another country that they can make and bring to a potluck we will have for our holiday party.

The next week, they dove into crafts, making a surprise they are looking forward to sharing at the All-Sections Camp in February (that's all we'll say for now). We were hosted by the Cub Scouts for a linking activity, where the Vents learned how to make shadow puppets and having a bubble gum bubble-blowing contest. Thank you Cub Scouts! The Vents had a lot of fun connecting with the younger youth, and hope to host them later in the scouting year.

We finished up the month with a much needed planning meeting and some board games. We're definitely looking forward to the adventures we have planned in the new year!

Thank a Volunteer Today

Want to say thanks to a volunteer – you can do so online and the volunteer will receive a special recognition. It's easy – just go to this website and fill out the information. You do need to know their real name – not just their leader name and if you're not sure ask them or another volunteer or parent. www.scouts.ca/thanks

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