NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

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

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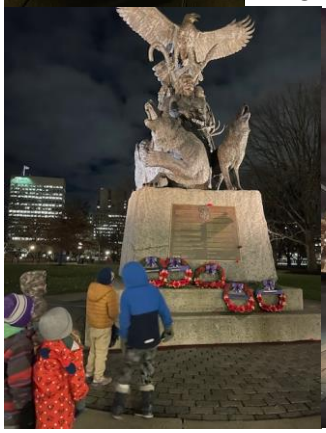
Beaver Tales

In our last newsletter, we ended with Halloween and as November started, the Beavers looked to Christmas and started the month with a meeting dedicated to giving back. They brought in small items to donate in shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Beavers filled eight boxes that were then dropped off to be sent to children in need in other parts of the world. Thank you Beavers (and parents) for your generosity.

The next meeting was our annual downtown walk to visit some of the war monuments in honour of Remembrance Day. It was a cold night but the Beavers were curious to learn about the four different monuments we visited.



We were back at the church the week after for a treasure hunt. Rainbow hid some “treasure” in different spots inside and outside the church for the Beavers to find. Some were pretty keen to search – before all instructions can be given – and they found all of the loot, getting to keep some candy and a cool compass.

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The compasses came in handy at our late Fall hike at P19 on Leitrim Road. We got a little ambitious with this walk but the weather was great and we had a clear view of Jupiter in the night sky. The Beavers were pretty tired by the end of the hike but they made sure we did not get lost by following the right trails to the next waypoints. Thanks to the parents who joined us.

December then came and we spent a meeting practicing some Christmas carols to sing during the next week's visit to Perley Health Veteran's Home. Some were new to some Beavers but most knew them – just not all of the words. Although the "fa la la la…" part was easy.

Then came the visit to Perley and meeting some of the residents. The residents loved to hear their young voices sing some carols for them. After we sang, the Beavers then sat with the residents to share a juice and cookie and make a holiday drawing for them. The residents were very touched and their visit brightened their day.

The last meeting of 2024 was a holiday party with a story, a game and of course some treats. Thank you to the parents who contributed cookies, fudge and other goodies. The Beavers (and Leaders) loved them. 2025 is upon us and we have lots of fun activities and meetings planned.

Cub Corner

We started November by doing something very honourable, but not necessarily fun. Once again, the Cubs – along with a few Scouts, Venturers and a Beaver or 2, placed Canadian Flags on the graves of veterans at Capital Cemetery. It's not a fun thing to do, but

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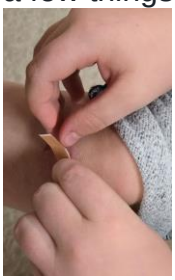
it's an honourable thing to do and we were very proud to do it. Thank you Bagheera for organizing this for us.

We continued into November with more Service work by making Cards for the Caring Hearts Card drive. The Cards we made will be delivered to retirement homes and nursing homes around the city. We were going to make 101 cards but final count was actually 103. No idea where the extra 2 came in.

The third week of November had us making First Aid Kits to keep in our buckets. We also learned a few things along the way. Including how to



make a paste out of baking soda and water to help when the mosquito itch gets to be too much. Not a problem for our next two upcoming camps, but something that we can keep in our First Aid kits for the spring.

Next up was KNOTS. Can't say that we mastered any, but we're getting there. Round turn and two half hitch, Reef Knot, a half hitch on it's own and a figure eight knot! We still have a few to learn, but it'll be at a later date.

We finished November off with some camp planning! Specifically Menus. Cubs brainstormed some of their favourite meals (and the not so favourite ones) and we decided what we would have for our upcoming Cabin Camping in December.

Our first meeting in December is traditionally our paperwork Meeting where we review what we've done so far and plan out what activities we'd like to do in the coming winter. It seems like the Cubs REALLY enjoyed the first third of the year – particularly learning how to start a fire. For the Winter, they'd like to go Skating and Sledding and Hiking. Guess we'll be busy outside this winter.

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Our second meeting in December was Camp Prep! We had to dig out some gear from the gear cupboard. Not the tents this time, but the table, the stove, good stuff like that.

Then, there was CAMP! 12 intrepid Cubs made their way to Apple Hill Scout Reserve on December 13th to spend 2 nights in the cabins. Trust us to plan a cap on Friday the 13th WITH a Full Moon. There was much playing outside, did you know that the woods are a natural playground? No? They are great places to play!

The woods are also a great place to find tracks! Bunny and wild turkey for sure. There was good food – including campfire cones! Very yum – if you got the right combination.

We were very lucky though, because we were the only group at camp that weekend, they offered us the two sleeping cabins as well as Wade Lodge, which we used for meals and socializations and warming up. What a fantastic weekend!

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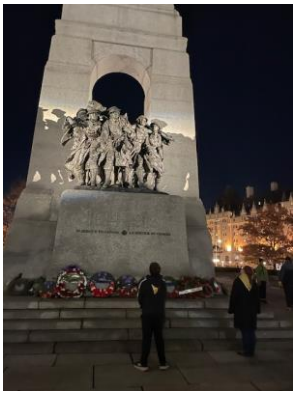
Our last meeting in December was our now traditional Cookie Exchange! Each Cub was requested to bring in some cookies, Akela provided the milk and Chil brought the Reindeer Games. A very yum and fun meeting.

We hope all of our Cubs Families had a Very Merry Christmas and we wish you all Health Wealth and Happiness in the New Year.
-Chil, Mang, Bagheera, Rikki Tikki Tavi, Raksha, Kaa and Akela



The next week, we met downtown for a walk to visit some of the war monuments. We started out with the Peacekeeping Monument, headed to Parliament Hill, went to the National War Memorial, the Korean War Monument and ended at the ones in Confederation Park. Thank you to the Scouts for showing proper respect during our visit.

Scout Trails

November for the Scouts started with a night at Laser Maxx for some laser tag fun. Of course, the Scouts getting a chance to target the Leaders is always fun – for them at least– but this is a chance to break out of the routine and do something that they want to do. Playing something like laser tag has a way of showing the different personalities of the Scouts, particularly, who's competitive versus who's cunning and who's nonchalant about the whole thing. Pop and chips that followed are loved by all Scouts, no matter the personality.

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The following week, we met back at the church to prepare for our Fall camp. We hauled out the gear we needed, went through the packing list and then walked over to the Independent Grocer and did some shopping for food. The Scouts can be very efficient at finding things in the grocery store, with the right amount of instruction.

Then we had our Fall skills and shelter building camp. We went to Baxter Conservation Area and stayed in the River Cabin on Friday night. It was cozy for the Scouts while the Leaders slept in tents – so they can actually get some sleep.

The Saturday was spent building temporary shelters in the woods for the Scouts to sleep in that night. The weather hovered at just below zero degrees, so perfect for this time of year. We had some pretty good shelters, including from some of the first year Scouts. A couple shelters got wet on the inside from a drizzle that fell Saturday evening so that made them unusable. Good thing we had the cabin as backup but all of the Scouts that tried sleeping in their shelter, made it through the night.

On Saturday, the first years also worked on some of their permits with most earning their stove/lantern permit, match/fire permit and part of their axe/saw permit.

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We saw great leadership from some of the older Scouts teaching the younger ones their permits. We also had a good crew manning the campfire the whole weekend and some funny skits at night. And kudos to the Scouts for doing all of the food prep, cooking and cleaning up.

The next meeting was our annual egg drop challenge. This was started several years ago where each patrol builds a couple "vessels" from recyclable materials to protect an egg from cracking or breaking when dropped from a height. We had some interesting "vessels". All the eggs survived the drop this year, except for one that was badly broken.

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Then December rolled around and we started the month with a hike at Pine Grove trail. There was already snow on the ground, but the Scouts kept a very fast pace, completing a loop in less than an hour.

We finished up the month with a planning meeting and then a movie night with a holiday classic – Home Alone complete with pop and chips. What more can you ask for?

Also in December, some of the senior Scouts teamed up with some Venturers to help out at the Canterbury Community Association's Breakfast with Santa. On the Friday night, they helped set up and on the Saturday morning, they helped with cleaning up tables, manage line ups and taking down at the end. Their help was greatly appreciated by the community association and Councillor Marty Carr.

The Scouts also committed to filling two gift bags to be donated through St. Aidan's advent community outreach. These bags were for senior women living in community housing nearby and thank you to the Scouts and parents for your generosity. Thanks to Scouter Street who finished putting the gift bags together and deliver them to St. Aidan's. See you soon when we resume in 2025.

Venturer News

In November, the Venturers welcomed Alexandra Ismail to the group and she has been an awesome addition. This means we now have 7 adventurous youth!

Over the last two months, the Vents embarked on a few new adventures, including going to the Museum of Nature, Geocaching (including some off-trail navigation), and going to the Splash Wave Pool. The Vents also had a camp chef cook-off where two teams made steak, mushrooms and mashed potatoes, and everyone won (especially the judges – Sunshine can also attest to their delicious dinner!!).

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The Vents also volunteered at Breakfast with Santa, which was a resounding success, and several of them received certificates to say that they were on the nice list.

Our last meeting of the year was an outing to the movies to see Red One, which was enjoyed by all.

We look forward to meeting again on January 8 and having more fun adventures.

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
Thanks

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