SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

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Fundraising Update

Our group's first two fundraisers were a resounding success. The first one was Apple Day held on October 5th. We had great participation from all of our sections as they offered apples for donations at our usual locations. Thank you to RioCan, Laura's Your Independent Grocer and Starbucks at the Elmvale Mall, Princess Auto and the Tim Horton's on Hawthorne Road.

The youth raised $2,361 in total. Minus the cost of the apples, a total of $1,905 stays with the 101st to directly support our programming. Thank you to all of the parents and Scouters who also helped supervise because without you, we would not be able to run such a successful day. And a special thank you to the Venturers who helped out the whole day at the church handing out collection tins and counting the donations are they came back.

The second fundraiser is MacMillan's. Again, the youth and parents really came through. The tally so far is a total of $6,450 in sales, of which we keep $2,258 in profit, plus about another $750 in donations. This is amazing!

Our top sellers who will get to pie Scouter Sunshine in the face at the year-end awards are:
Beavers: Max Dopko-Hill
Cubs: Dylan Barkley
Scouts: Max Petersen
Venturers: Derek Lagace

Beaver Tales

Welcome to another year of Beavers. We are very happy to see many new Beavers join the colony this year. We also welcome a new Beaver Leader with Rascal joining the team. We welcome back Bubbles, Echo, Rainbow, Sunshine and Tic Tac.

We started the year off with a welcome meeting to get to introduce Beavers to the new ones and get to know them a bit more.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

This was followed by our annual walk to Weston Park. During the walk through the neighbourhood, the Beavers learned a bit more about the types of trees that are around us, and checked out this neat looking carved stump on the way to the park. At the park, we played soccer baseball – a combination of exactly those two sports before hitting the play structure. At the next meeting, we prepared for our first camp of the year.

We went to Baxter Conservation Area for a one night camp. Some Beavers and their parent tented while some slept inside the interpretive center. We had loads of fun and the weather was really nice.

We went on a hike to check out the nearby marsh and river and ended up at a grove of various nut trees. This actually fascinated the Beavers.

After the hike, we did a scavenger hunt and played some outdoor games – the main point of

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

the camp is to be outdoors as much as possible. Meals were inside the interpretive center and we had tacos for dinner and cereal for breakfast. But let's not forget about the campfire after dinner that had songs, cheers and a couple skits that the Beavers practiced a couple time before hand. The campfire of course culminated with s'mores – yum! The next morning, we had a Scout's Own – a quiet moment of personal reflection – before ending the camp and heading home.

In October, we had our investiture ceremony when the new Beavers received their badges and neckerchiefs and when all Beavers received their tail. We divided the Beavers into two "lodges", which are led by an older White Tail Beaver known as the "Lodge Leader". This year Lochlan will lead the Moose Lodge and Charlie will lead the Orca Lodge.

After the investiture ceremony, we did our annual Fall cleanup of Canterbury Park with the Cubs. As our group has adopted this park, we have a commitment to clean it up each year. We can guarantee that there was not one piece of litter left in that park.

After that, the Beavers went on a nice hike on the trail at the end of Walkley Road where it meets Ramsayville Road. It was a really nice night for the hike given how mild the weather has been. The last meeting of October was a Halloween party. The Beavers and Leaders came dressed up in their costumes. We had everything from no less than three dragons and two Harry Potters to Kylo Ren, an anime character and many others. The Beavers helped carve two pumpkins and decorated their own to take home.

Looking forward to many more adventures to come.

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101ST OTTAWA ST. AIDANS

101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Scouting since 1961

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

Cub Corner

A Huge Welcome Back to our Cubs and their Families and another HUGE welcome to our New Cubs and Famillies. And BOY to we have a lot of them! As of this writing, the Pack is 28 Cubs strong. GAH! We have 7 Scouters – Kaa, Raksha, Bagheera, Rikki Tikki Tavi, Mang and Akela have returned and we'd like to welcome Chil to our Pack!

Our first meeting we spent meeting our new Cubs. 8 of the 15 new Cubs are BRAND NEW to Scouting with us. You can imagine with that many new ones, we did a lot of getting to know you games. So many in fact that Akela forgot to get her selfie! GASP!

Our second week of Cubs had us working on our Code of Conduct. We did a Bingo Game this year, with Mang's home made chocolate chip cookies as Bingo awards. Very yum.

Our third meeting was a Hike! We did a new favourite, the Dewberry Trail off of Dolman Ridge Road. It seemed to be a very busy place, as we saw a Beaver Colony going in just before us. The Cubs did the 1 km trail.

Of course we had the now traditional moment of We lost Akela! It took them a while (Cubs are very loud on the trail) to hear Akela's whistle blasts, but eventually a few of them did and they came back for her. After that hike Cubs were split into two groups, one group did some drawing of what they saw in the woods, while the second group continued along the road. Lucky group 2 saw both a toad and a frog. Way cool! Cubs went

SCOUTS CANADA
It starts with Scouts.

101ST OTTAWA ST. AIDANS

101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Scouting since 1961

home with Parents and so finished our first month back at Cubs!

Looking forward to the Adventures in October!

Our first meeting in October was called Ball Games and a Mystery. So yes, we did play games with a Ball, but sneaky Rikki Tikki Tavi had dusted the ball with a (safe!) glow in the dark powder to help Cubs in realizing how dirty their hands can get and how to wash them effectively. Even the Scouters joined in with a rousing game of Stella Ella Olla. The black light was a hit.

Apple Day happened. Cubs (amongst other sections) went out with fresh apples to get donations for the Group. The Cubs rocked it again this year. Well done!

Our second meeting in October was on fire! Literally. Cubs learned some fire safety as well as how to safely light a fire. It was scary for some of them, striking a match is a scary thing to do. Our Cubs persevered and the reward was cooking a marshmallow over their own fire.

Our third week was our Semi Annual Park Cleanup and Playground Inspection. This is a traditional meeting where we team up with the Beavers and cleanup Canterbury Park. As well as inspect the playground. The traditional hot chocolate and cookies were served. Well done Cubs and Beavers.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

Our fourth meeting was our Investiture. Parents and Families were invited to join us while Cubs were given their new woggles and badges. We have 14 New to Us Cubs! Welcome to everyone. We finished early and had some leftover cookies from the week before and also took an opportunity to answer questions from parents. Quite a nice evening.

OH! Almost forgot, Scouter Sunshine invested our newest Scouter, Chil. Welcome Chil we're happy to have you!

Cubs had an opportunity to check out an Ottawa Senators game on October 19th! Several Cubs and their parents took part. It was against Tampa Bay and it looks like the Sens won 5-4. Sweet! It's because our Cubs were there right?

SCOUTS CANADA
It starts with Scouts.

101ST OTTAWA ST. AIDANS

101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Scouting since 1961

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

Our last meeting in October was, of course, our Hallowe'en Party. Cubs (and Scouters) were encouraged to dress up. Kaa planned some great activities – Racing Spiders, Witch's Hat Ring Toss, Bobbing for Donuts, a knock'em down game, some crosswords and a Creature Feature game. Great job Kaa!

We also had to say Good Bye to Kaa (and Snakey Zed) as she is moving away. She says she will still come to camp with us so we're really looking forward to that. Thank you Kaa for 4 great years!

That ends October. On to the November Adventures!

SCOUTS CANADA
It starts with Scouts.

101ST OTTAWA ST. AIDANS

101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Scouting since 1961

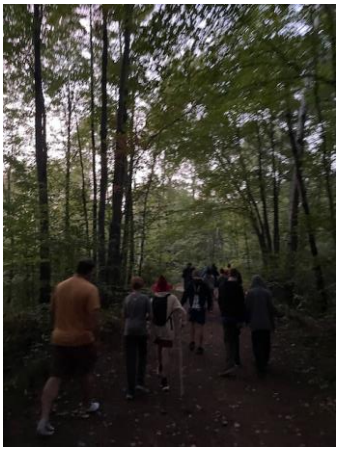
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

Scout Trails

The Scouts had a good start to the year with all of them returning and welcoming five new Scouts, four of whom came from Cubs. Our first meeting was our welcome back planning meeting. We went over the code of conduct and talked about appropriate behaviour and how we treat each other. We then got to planning as in Scouts, the youth take a more active role in planning the activities that we do.

Our first community service volunteering activity came early as the Scouts helped at the Alta Vista Corn Roast organized by our city councillor Marty Carr. The Scouts shucked and split some 600 cobs of corn and helped manage the garbage by ensuring compost, recycling and garbage did not get mixed. They did get some food out of it, so that was a reward for doing an exemplary job. Many local residents who came out were very pleased to see the Scouts out doing this for the community.



For the second meeting, we got outside right away and went on a long hike through the trails off P20 on Anderson Road.
It was a really warm night and still a bit of daylight as we set off from the parking lot.

The third meeting was also supposed to be outdoors but the weather did not cooperate so we ended up meeting at the church for some board games. Risk seemed to a popular game.

SCOUTS CANADA
It starts with Scouts.

101ST OTTAWA ST. AIDANS

101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Scouting since 1961

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

Our next meeting was our knife permit meeting, where the new Scouts could earn their permit that allows them to use a pocket knife. It was also a good refresher for the returning Scouts on how to safely handle and use a knife. This is the first of four permits that can be earned in Scouts.

The next meeting was the investiture ceremony that we hold each year at the Dominion Arboretum at a spot overlooking Dow's Lake. The weather was nice and we were serenated by the geese on the water as we invested first the Patrol Leaders, then the Assistant Patrol Leaders, then each Patrol.
We have four patrols this year:

- Fox Patrol: Casey M. as PL and Harrison as APL
- Beaver Patrol: Everett as PL and Russell as APL
- Polar Bear Patrol: James as PL and William as APL
- Raccoon Patrol: Liam as PL and Annie as APL

We also invested Scouter Street, our newest Scout Leader who joins Scouters Dan, Francois and Melissa as our leadership team this year.

The next meeting was a camp preparation meeting for the trip to the Brotherhood Camporee. This is an annual camp of Canadian and American Scouts and Venturers and this year was at Wellesley Island State Park in New York State.

SCOUTS CANADA
It starts with Scouts.

101ST OTTAWA ST. AIDANS

101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Scouting since 1961

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

The camp consists of a big opening and closing ceremony, and many drop-in activities like games, displays like from the military and first responders, archery, bb guns, and especially badge trading which is a very popular activity. The Scouts and Venturers camped together and attended the huge campfire on the Saturday night. This was a fun camp.

The next meeting after camp was back at the church where we had Scouter Bill, one of the Venturer Advisors and a long-time Scout Leader come and teach some knots to the Scouts who also put them into practice with some lashing. Thanks Scouter Bill!

The last meeting we did not have access to the church so we were invited to come to Scout Max's house to watch a movie outdoors. Given it was the day before Halloween, we watched A Nightmare before Christmas. Some even came dressed in their costume, and yes there was popcorn and pop.

We have loads more planned for the year and we have a great troop to do it with.

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101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Scouting since 1961

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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

Venturer News

And we are off to a new year with Venturers and a very different looking company this year. Some of the Venturers from last year aged out or moved on and we had several move up from Scouts and even one return after taking a break. Scouters Kerry and Tom moved up as Venturer Advisors, joining Scouter Bill and adding Scouter Paul who returned after a year away.

The Venturers have been off to a busy start this year, with some planning, Investiture, Apple Day and a hike, followed by a few meetings getting ready for camping back-to-back weekends at Brotherhood with the Scouts, and RoVent.

The members of the 101st Dutch East India Company surely looked fearless amidst the pirates at RoVent, with the red coats they made, as well as their custom shields and barrel. To wrap up October is pumpkin carving, after which the Venturers will need to find some more adventures to pursue.

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It starts with Scouts.

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101st Ottawa (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Scouting since 1961