September 2014

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

Apple Day – October 4

Apple Day is Saturday, October 4. This is our first fundraiser of the year and one that Scouts have been doing since 1940.

Why do we do Apple Day:

- It's a chance for the youth to give back to the program that gives them so much.
- We do not add any levies to our registration fees and are thus the lowest cost group around. That means we are 100% dependent on dues and fundraising to run the group.
- It shows community service and gives visibility to scouting.
- It's fun – ask any who have done it.

Beaver Tales

Getting to know each other was the focus of the start of another year of Beavers. That, and getting outside and reinforcing the outdoor element of the program with a night at Weston Park.

The Beavers also started the year with their second annual Fall Mini-Camp the weekend of September 20-21 at Baxter Conservation Area on the Rideau River near Kars.

The Beavers went on a nature hike, played games, did a scavenger hunt and craft and had a campfire with the Venturers who were camping there that weekend.

Most Beavers slept in the Interpretive Centre with a group of our hardy White Tails sleeping in the River Cabin. All Beavers went home on the Sunday afternoon with smiles and memories.

The Beavers then had a meeting when they built forts and tunnels with boxes of all shapes and sizes.

Investiture is an important ceremony for a Beaver and it's when they officially become part of the world's largest youth movement in the world. The Beavers learned their promise, law and motto for the big night on October 14th.

September 2014

Cub Corner

The Cubs got off to a great start this fall with the Rideau Area Fall Cub Camp at Rideau Hill Campground. On Friday evening we got settled into our cabins, put our creativity to work on making shields, and then enjoyed a game of "burning bridges" in the dark fields of the camp. For this game, all the Cub Packs join together to try to outsmart the leaders and turn off the hidden lantern. The Leaders try to catch the Cubs sneaking by in the dark by shining their flashlights on them. It took a little while and several different strategies but eventually the Cubs outsmarted the Leaders- maybe we'll get them next year!

On Saturday morning, we enjoyed some fantastic activities based on the medieval theme. We created a Pack dragon's head mascot for our cabin, we tried jousting, an obstacle course, and team "ski" races.

Then our Cubs worked together and built a battering ram which they used to crash through a wooden barrier! In the afternoon, the heavy rain caused some of the activities to be cancelled but our very own Kaa saved the day with a really cool game of life-size Stratego which he had designed and prepared before the camp.

Thankfully, the rain eased up in the evening so we were able to have our campfire outdoors. Our Pack did us proud with a song and skit and our third year cubs even arranged to do an extra skit themselves. On Sunday, we had the annual Gooflebird egg hunt. This is a competition between Packs to find the most Gooflebird eggs, with the winners getting to take home the coveted trophy. Our Pack pulled out all the stops and finished second by the slimmest of margins- well done! We finished the weekend off with a Scout's Own and headed home with a lot of good memories.

September 2014

This year, our Pack's activities will be themed around the Tawny (creative expression) and Green (the outdoors) Stars. If you have an activity that you think our Pack would enjoy, please share it with us; we are always open to ideas.

We started off our star activities by spending a meeting hiking through Brewer Park until we reached the underside of the Bronson Street Bridge where the cubs got to see and learn about the graffiti from the House of Paint Festival. The Cubs made some sketches and we will be following up on this activity at a later meeting where we will create our own big graffiti collage.

We spent a meeting making lumières and preparing for investiture and then on Sept 30, we had our investiture ceremony in the beautiful setting of Vincent Massey Park.

This year we welcomed 15 first year Cubs to our Pack. They will be helped along by our Cub Leaders, the Sixers and Seconders. This year, we will also be establishing a Sixer's Council to help run the pack.

SCOUTS CANADA

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101st (St. Aidan's) Scouting Group
Celebrating 53 years.

September 2014

Next month, we are looking forward to our annual park clean-up, badge-testing, and of course, the Halloween party.

Scout Trails

Welcome back to Scouts and this year we have a Troop with half of its members being first year Scouts. There are also new Leaders which brings a new energy.

The Scouts started out by working on their permits for being able to make fires, use matches, saws, axes, knives, lanterns and stoves. They then planned their first camp of the year.

The Brotherhood Camporee is an annual event that has brought together Scouts from Canada and the USA for over 40 years. It alternates between Ontario and New York and this year was on the other side of the border at Wellesley Island State Park in the beautiful 1000 Islands.

The Brotherhood Camporee includes formal ceremonies, lots of activities like archery, target shooting, fishing,

Tomahawk throwing

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games, animal and bird of prey displays,

army and low enforcement demonstrations and lots of badge trading.

The Scouts are already talking about going next year when it's in Morrisburg, Ontario.

Next up, the Scouts are helping serve the Harvest Dinner at St. Aidan's as part of our community service element. We will also be planning another camp in November.

Venturers News

The Scouting year for the Venturers got underway in early August when 8 youth and 2 Advisors travelled to Newfoundland for AdVenture 2014 -- a week long jamboree held at Camp Nor'West on the boundary of Terra Nova National Park. Along with 450 Venturers from across the country, our Vents went whale watching, sea-kayaking, white water rafting, mountain biking, hiking and practiced their archery, and spent time at the beach swimming

in the adjacent lake. Evenings were taken up with rock and folk bands, and socializing with new friends.

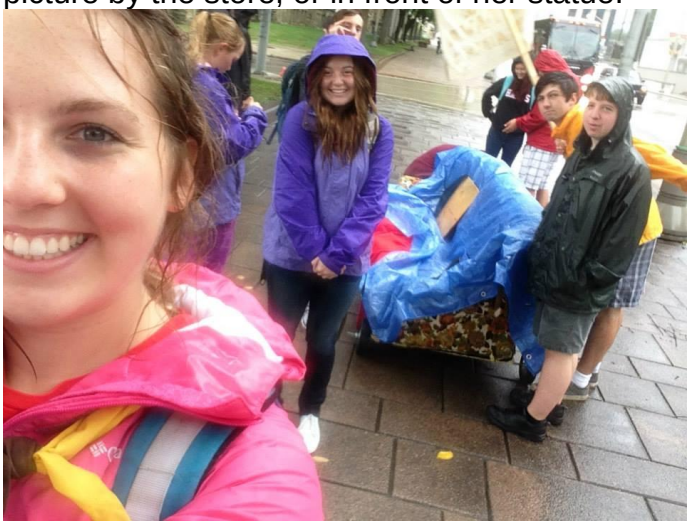
Highlights of the week included the 'Day on the Bay' which saw the Vents do a 6km hike around the cliffs outside of historic Trinity, tour the beautiful town, and then scramble into survival suits for 2 hours in a high speed zodiac to search for whales. We were lucky to see minke and humpback whales, and one humpback in particular that put on a jumping show. The Vents were drenched by ocean spray and finished the say with a Mac and cheese feast in a local church hall.

The next day, the Vents participated in a 32 km bike ride (including one 14km continuous up hill stretch), followed by lunch and then a 12km hike. The 101st was the only group that had all their Vents that started the challenge, finish the challenge -- Advisors included! The next day, event organizers changed the activity to a bike OR hike!

We finished with 3 days in St. John's highlighted by a sunrise visit to Signal Hill, and a bar-b-q at the home of former 101st Ottawa Venturer Ben Purcell and his parents. Staying in residence at Memorial University was a nice change from sleeping on the ground for a week.

September 2014

After Labour Day, the Vents kicked off the year with the Couch Rally. Wheeling a couch through downtown Ottawa, the Vents seek out clues to local sites, and get pictures of passerbys sitting on the couch in front of the building or monument. Consider a clue such as 'chocolate lady' and voila, head off to Laura Secord's for a picture by the store, or in front of her statue.



The Venturers joined the Beavers at Baxter Conservation Area for their first camp in late September. On a very windy Saturday, the Company paddled down river to Kars. The a Vents closed off Saturday by participating in the Beaver's campfire - thanks for the invitation Beavers and for the S'mores. On Sunday, we broke camp in a rainstorm. Coming up in a couple of weeks is the ever popular Rovent, which will see 400 Scouting youth gather at Ope for a weekend of medieval- themed activities. The theme this year is The Hobbit so the Vents will be busy thinking up new costumes, shield paintings, and building catapults.

The Company has 15 Venturers who are all looking forward to another year of adventure!

September 2014

Scout Popcorn

It's that time of year again with Scout Popcorn. Youth received their envelopes, which includes all of the information to sell delicious popcorn to repeat or new customers. This is our most important fundraiser of the year. In 2013, youth raised enough funds to cover the cost of the cabin rentals for the all section winter camp at Opemikon (some $2000). It also allows us to purchase some in badly-needed new camping equipment.

Volunteers Needed!!

The 101st needs volunteers! Become a Leader and share the experience of scouting. You can even become a part-time Leader. Other positions are also available like Quartermaster (takes care of our camping equipment). See Scouter Francois Marier (aka Sunshine), Group Commissioner for more information and on how to apply and how you **CAN** make a difference.

Dates for your Calendar

- October 4: Apple Day
- October 17-19: RoVent at Camp Opemikon for Venturers
- October 25: All Sections Rideau Area Activity Day in Greely
- November 1: Scouts & Venturers Food Drive
- January 9-11, 2015: All Section Winter Camp at Opemikon

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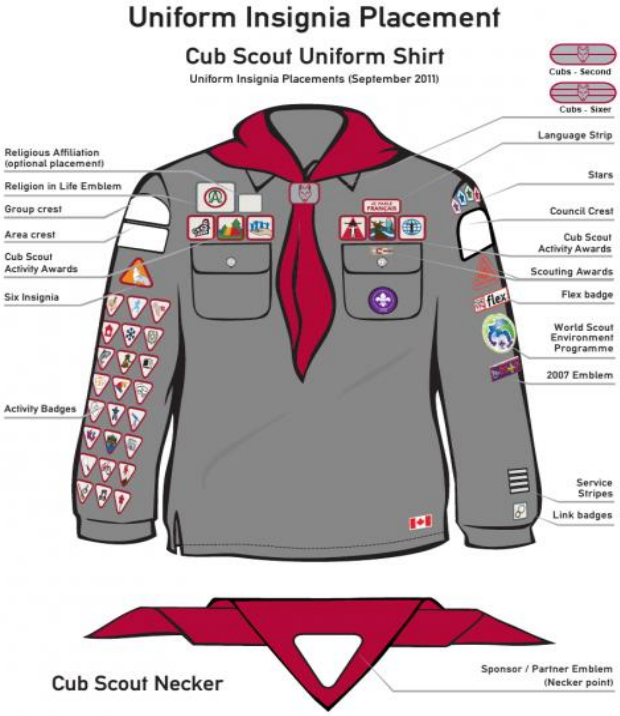

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