SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

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

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Apple Day 2025

We held our annual Apple Day on October 4th and thanks to our volunteers, youth and parents, it was another great success. Did you know that this traditional scouts fundraiser goes back to 1932 and only happens in Canada?

We collected a total of $2.912 thanks to you! We keep about 75% of that after paying for the apples and crests.

Special thanks to our Venturers who again helped count the donations are they came into the church.

Beaver Tales

The Beavers are off to another exciting year of adventures, learning and fun. We have several new Beavers this year and we are up to 16 Beavers in our colony.

We started the year with a fun first meeting of introductions, colouring and games, including a classic – the “graduated rock paper scissors”. Maybe ask your Beaver how you play.

The next meeting was a neighbourhood walk to Weston Park. We had a marked trail to follow along the neighbourhood streets and sidewalk until we reached our destination at the park for some fun games and of course time on the play structures. All Beavers love the play structures.

The following meeting was to prepare for our first camp of the year. We went over the packing list with the Beavers so they know what to bring – and what not to bring – and we practiced our skits of the campfire. We have some pretty enthusiastic Beavers this year willing to perform.

Then camp our fall one-night camp at Baxter Conservation Area. What a nice weekend we had weather-wise and the Beavers had a blast exploring the outdoors and discovering new things. We went on a nice hike along the trails all

the way down to the marsh where we saw an osprey and several turtles. The Beavers also did a bit of a nature scavenger hunt along the way.

They collected some rocks and got to paint them to make pet rocks. Some had a lot of paint on them, ha ha! After a few games, including tug of war against the Leaders (guess who won), we had a dinner of tacos thanks to Chef Bubbles and some quiet time to practice their skits once again.

The campfire was a lot of fun with the new Beavers learning some songs, cheers and skits

that we do at scout campfires. After all that fun, we broke out the stuff to make s'mores.

The following morning was dedicated to breakfast, packing up and short Scout's Own moment of reflection before heading home.

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After camp, we needed to be outside some more! So, we went on a nice Fall hike. What excitement to be hiking in the woods when its dark and cool.

The following week, the Beavers teamed up with the Cubs for a very wet cleanup of Canterbury Park, which our group sponsors. But rain, even coming down a little hard sometimes will not deter us! The Beavers and Cubs did a great job of picking up lots of trash and were rewarded with some lemonade and cookies.

The next two weeks were dedicated to preparing and doing our investiture ceremony. We welcomed our newest Beaver Leader – Acorn who joined us this year.

We also invested our three lodges:

- Wolf Lodge with Matthias as Lodge Leader
- Moose Lodge with Simon as Lodge Leader
- Eagle Lodge with Toby as Lodge Leader

We look forward to more adventures this year with some more new Beavers joining us as well.

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Our last meeting of the month was dedicated to a Halloween party. So many fun costumes and even the Leaders got dressed up.

Cub Corner

Welcome and Welcome Back Cubs!
We had our first meeting with our traditional getting to know you games and questions. We welcomed several new Cubs to our Pack as well as a new Scouter. Welcome Hathi! We were so busy getting to know each other that we totally forgot to get a selfie!

Our second meeting was Code of Conduct related. We discussed expectations and figured out the difference between Responsibility and Respect. We also played this way cool game where we had to walk around with a piece of paper on our head. If it fell, we were frozen until someone else picked up our papers. It didn't help when Chil turned on the big fan. We discovered that it works better with a folded piece of paper.

Our third meeting was a hike! We hadn't been to Pine Grove Trail in ever so long so off we went. We saw wee little frogs, mushrooms, lots of trees. We didn't REALLY lose Akela this time – though it's almost tradition to lose her at some

point – she was just walking too slowly. A great hike. Coming back here in the spring might be cool too.

For our last September meeting we organized into Lairs. Once again Akela's spring hair colour will be chosen by the lair with the most points. We also took the opportunity to do a favourite activity – roasting marshmallows. Of course, each Cub gets a chance to do this on their own small fire, which they lit themselves. Fire and campfire safety is also discussed.

This year's marshmallow roasting was extra special as we received word from a neighbour – and previous 101st Scouter – that seeing and hearing us do our opening, and coming back from their walk to see our campfires warmed their heart. We're going to need to invite the neighbours to our next marshmallow roast apparently.

The first Saturday in October is traditionally Apple Day. Our Cubs showed up and collected donations, handed out apples, and I'm sure had at least a little bit of fun. Altogether, all the sections raised a totally of $2063.30. With Cubs being the top fundraiser. WOOHOO! Top fundraiser for this event was Lochlan the Blue.

Our next meeting – in THE RAIN – was the Semi Annual Park Cleanup and Playground Inspection. Once again we made sure that Canterbury Park was ready for winter. Of course we also had a snack. And in between the raindrops we made sure that the park was still playable. It is.

Our Investiture happened on October 14th. Three new Cubs were invested – Charlie, Lochlan the Red and Isaac – and our new Hathi! WELCOME ALL! This was a great time for parents to ask questions, and we had a few. The biggest one was how to tell the difference between the Runner and the Tracker Badge. Honestly, Akela is still trying to figure out which is which.

Our next meeting was Camp Prep. Working in our Lairs, we played a game. Each Lair was given a list of items on tags. These items fell

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into three categories – Things I bring to Camp; Things a Scouter brings to Camp; Things I NEVER bring to Camp. Cubs seemed to have a great time bringing these items up when asked. Let's also say that what Akela thinks is a Don't Bring To Camp, isn't always the same as a Cub's Don't Bring to Camp. A Fun game. This was also the night that Mang made us APPLE SAUCE! Oh it was good.

Then we were off to Camp! On October 24, 25 and 26, you would have been able to find us in Cub Field at Camp Opemikon. Specifically, the Black Pack Cabins. These are 5 unheated wooden cabins facing our traditional sledding hill. Happily, no sledding this weekend, although it did get cold. We were all set up and ready for mug up by 8pm. Our traditional Cookies and Cheese Strings came out and were enjoyed immensely. Rules and Regs, where is the Kybo and then it was off to bed. Lights out and stay warm

Saturday morning was cold but no one totally froze so we're calling that a win. And a big Thank you to Mang – who had nightmares of frozen Cubs so she packed a truck full of cold weather gear. Only 1 Cub took advantage, everyone else had packed accordingly. A nice relaxing morning meal of Muffins and croissants, making sure all the Cubs drank some water and then we eased into what all of them were so excited about – Archery.

Down at the bottom of Cub Field is the Archery Range. Akela, our Range Safety Office, and Mang, her Second, led the Cubs through the basics of Archery. The Cubs (and Scouters) decided that we should do this more often and for much longer than the time we had that morning.

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We had lunch in the dinning hall! That's right! In the Dinning Hall! Chicken Burgers and vegetables. Awesome. The afternoon was spent playing outside. We got a chance to play on the climbing wall and all around Cub Field, just not in the cabin itself. That was hard for a few Cubs, but we managed it. Supper was Roast Beef, mashed potatoes and vegetables with pie and ice cream for dessert.

On the way back from supper, Cubs grabbed some wood and sticks and we made a nice little campfire. It was a perfect evening to sit by the fire, enjoy each other's company and watch the night sky. After campfire we went down for Mug Up and then it was early to bed. Some Cubs (and Scouters) were just exhausted!

Sunday morning didn't feel as cold as Saturday morning. We got up, got dressed and headed down to breakfast. Pancakes and sausage. Yum. Then it was back to pack up. Once we were packed up at Cub Field Akela brough gear down to Armstrong so that parents would find it easier to get their Cubs. We had a lovely Cubs Own where no one was upset about bugs, they just didn't like the cold. Everyone enjoyed the food and archery and being able to camp with friends. Sounds like a fantastic weekend to me!

Our last meeting in October was, of course, a Hallowe'en Party! We had our traditional donut on a stick game, some frightfully cute Tic Tac Toe boards, a craft, that balloon game everyone loved from last year and a

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sensory bin with flayed ears, eyeballs and skin. A few Cubs Noped right out of that. It's all good, everyone had a good time and that's what's important.
Stay tuned for more Adventures in November and December!

We had our first community service volunteering at the Alta Vista Corn Roast at Balena Park. The Scouts shucked lots of corn, helped prepared plates and serve chips and drinks to the community. They also were on garbage duty to keep waste separated. City Counsellors Marty Carr and Tim Thierney paid us a visit. Great job Scouts!

Scout Trails

Scouts are back and ready for some amazing adventures again this year. At our first meeting, we welcomed five new Scouts and we went over our troop's code of conduct. We also did some planning for the year after we split them up into their new patrols.

Scout Max also showed the Scouts his very impressive diorama that he built over the summer to earn his hobby badge.

Scouts is best enjoyed outdoors so the next meeting was our first hike of the year. We met at the network of trails at P20 on Anderson Road and hiked for almost the full two hours.

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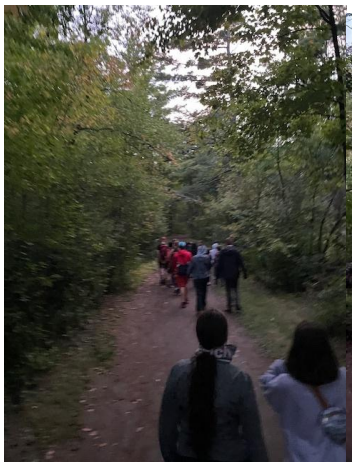

Then came camp preparation for those attending Brotherhood Camporee with the Venturers. While that was the majority of Scouts, a few instead talked about earning badges and then worked on some knots and lashing, making a stretcher strong enough to carry a scout.

Brotherhood Camporee is held annually with Canadian and American Scouts alternating between the two countries. This year it was in Canada in Morrisburg. The Scouts and Venturers attended together.

There was an opening and closing ceremony with flags, lots of cool demonstrations and activities.

But the two favourite ones are playing cards and badge trading – some scouts got a really got haul of trading badges and for some, they discovered badge trading for the first time.

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We held our investiture ceremony at the usual spot in the Dominion Arboretum just overlooking Dow's Lake. We invested our new Scout Leaders – Scouter Raksha who moved up from Cubs and Scouter Caitlin, who is our newest Leader. We then invested the Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders and each Patrol. This year's patrols are:

- Bat Patrol with Russell as Patrol Leader and Gabriel as Assistant Patrol Leader
- Cougar Patrol with Curtis as Patrol Leader and Griffin as Assistant Patrol Leader
- Coyote Patrol with Annie as Patrol Leader and Duncan as Assistant Patrol Leader
- Raccoon Patrol with Harrison as Patrol Leader and Pip as Assistant Patrol Leader

The following meeting was again outdoors as the Scouts gathered at Weston Park to play some wide games. Capture the flag and burning bridges are favourites of course.

We followed that with camp preparation for our second camp of the year. We pulled out our camping gear, loaded them in the Leader's cars and then went grocery shopping.

The second camp of the year was a smaller affair with 10 Scouts going to Camp Otter Lake, QC for an outdoor skills learning camp. The weather was very nice and we ate very well as usual.

The older Scouts who attended took charge of teaching the younger ones so that they can earn their axe & saw, match & fire, and stove & lantern permits. This was great leadership on their part and all Scouts pitched in to help carry gear, put up and take down tents and clean up. While there was a fire ban on so we could not have a real campfire, we had one with a lantern, which proved to be as entertaining as usual.

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After all of that was done, we found the obstacle course – which provided a lot of fun of course and then went down to check out the lake, which was really beautiful at this time of year and the Fall colours.

The meeting after camp, we dedicated to knife permits to the new Scouts could earn their permits to use a pocket knife and this served as a good refresher for the older ones.

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Venturer News

The Venturers started their year with a geocache adventure around the Experimental Farm. Much of the September and October meetings were spent getting ready for Brotherhood and Rovent, but they find time to invest the 5 new members to the company this year at Hog's Back Park.

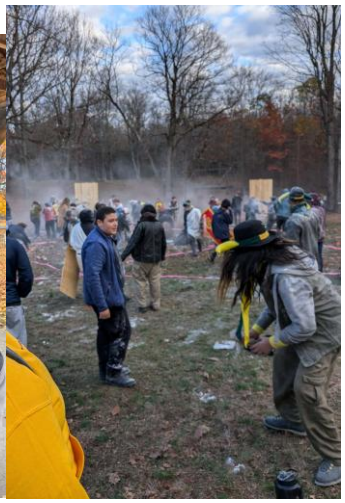
Brotherhood this year to place on the Canadian side of the border, and once some early logistical challenges were overcome, the Venturers and Scouts were off to try out welding, trade badges, watch a raptor demonstration (featuring several birds who appear in TV shows and movies), and attend the giant campfire.

Rovent once again did not disappoint. The Mid-Autumn's Night Dream was attended by Romans, fools, faeries, knights and other Shakespeare characters. As the Blue Jays were playing, several groups bright giant antennas to be able to watch it listen to the game. Scouter Tom and Derek managed to find a spot by the Teepee to get reception on their radio. On

Saturday, the morning Faire featured a rope maze, axe throwing, blind volleyball, egg and spoon racing, wobble jousting, and oven mitt knot tying.

For the second year in a row, the 101st's catapult took home the award for its accuracy. The company also won best banner for the historically accurate Roman shields they built and painted, and appreciation was shown for the group's togas (thanks to Akela for the loaned

bedsheets!) . This was also the second year in a row they won Best Banner. The Siege was governed by new rules and no longer were we allowed to lob the flour bombs in the direction of targets and opposing forces, but while cleaning the fields, the Venturers had much fun gently sprinkling the flour out while collecting the spent bombs from the catapults, ballistas and trébuchets on site. A dance closed out Saturday night, but most of our Vents opted to hang out by the campfire instead. Throughout the day several Vents also checked in on the Cubs who happened to be camping at Camp Opemikon the same weekend.



Back at the church for the final meeting in October, the group celebrated Halloween with pumpkin carving, music and keeping up on the Jay's game.

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
Link to the page: Thanks