

Hobbies & Wheels 2006 Report



Summary

The event was quite successful. For the first time in three years, the weather was in our favour with the temperature hitting 20C and sunny. All the kids appeared to have a really good time. Many positive comments received.

Participation was down significantly, not only from last year, but also below the estimates for this year. It is suspected that many of the groups are not marketing the event to their kids. That is unfortunate, as the kids from these packs missed a great experience that would have cost their leaders no effort.

Scouts appear to have limited interest in racing their trucks, so their inclusion should be re-evaluated. However, the Scouts have lots to gain from the other aspects of the day that are common with the Cubs (e.g. the Meccano this year). So perhaps the focus of the Scouts needs to be adjusted.

The Cubs had their racing, built pioneering broomstick catapults (firing tennis balls all over the place), played the Wolf Pack game (while the entries were added to the race computer), and did the fun events (Kub Kar slingshot, uphill climb, ramp jump, and loop). Kub Kar bowling was planned, but was dropped as the event was running behind schedule. Kub Kar Kurling was not included this year.

The new loop-the-loop track was a hit. This is the only one in Canada, and only the second in North America.

The Scout pioneering activity was not successful. It was found that the climbing wall could not be built successfully with the short spars available. Sheer lashing did not provide the necessary structural rigidity. 24' spars are required with this project. A couple of the Scouts put together a small climbing wall over a fence for the Cubs to play on. Pioneering projects need to be a little less advanced as the skill set of the Scouts is below standard.

Bill & Stella Lawrence brought a tractor trailer cab for the kids to explore. They also setup a very nice Scouting display outside his truck. If more people put in the marketing effort they do, Scouting would have a much better reputation.

On the Saturday, the Merrickville volunteer fire department brought a fire engine for the kids to explore. This was extremely well received.

The Canadian Modelers Association of Meccano and Allied Systems brought five tables worth of Meccano models for the kids to look at and play with and two tables of parts for the kids to build their own models. The kids loved playing with the models, and there was a continuous stream of kids building their own creations. Numerous positive comments were received on this part of the event.

The new registration format, with all the Cubs and Scouts registering on Saturday morning, was superior to the attempts to have some done on Friday evening. The later start time and earlier finish time was appreciated by all.

The Carleton Place Venturers demonstrated rocket propelled cars. They enjoyed this project, and are already making plans for next year. The Cubs and Scouts found the entertainment of cars flying in all directions quite exciting. Other Venturer companies are showing interest in a competition.

The 2nd Almonte pitstop appeared to get much more usage than normal. Many of the Scout trucks arrived way over weight. The worst was one from a leader's kid!

The Dealer Derby has promise. Of the five dealers that were invited, two showed up, resulting in \$100 in revenue.

Rankings of Kars and Trucks within a pack/troop are available upon request.

The Beavers had a good day with the same fun events as the Cubs, plus eavestrough catamaran racing, a Trading Post game. A planned Beetle Dress-Up game was skipped due to time constraints.

Participation in the hobby show was up significantly, with Scouts from three separate troops entering. This was very gratifying to see. The Cub participation, while high, only had entrants from 1st Merrickville.

A crest was designed for this year, see attached, but was not manufactured due to budget constraints. A number of groups/sections have indicated that they would like the crest. The other groups will be contacted to see if there is enough interest to get the necessary volume to have the crest made. Estimated cost is \$2.50-\$3.00. All the groups with which this was discussed were surprised that the event fee was not raised a few dollars to cover the cost of the crest. Interestingly, the group that objected strongly before hand to raising the event cost, did not even bother to attend.

The pre-event media publicity resulted in a write-up in the EMC (see attached). An EMC photographer visited on the Sunday. Photographs will be submitted to local media outlets in the hope of additional coverage.

Pictures will be going up on the 1st Merrickville website (www.1stmerrickville.ca). If anybody else has some neat digital photographs, I would be interested in receiving a copy. Ray Johnston, 1st Beckwith, has already sent some good ones of the rocket propelled cars.

Many Thanks

To 1st Merrickville:

For the organisation, registration, setup, teardown, cleanup:

Steve Anderson, Peter Cornelisse, Sheila Cornelisse, Mike Jackman, Robert Sargent, Susanne Pilon

For the canteen:

Alex Beelich, Keith Skelhorne, and their Scouts.

And to other groups and people:

2 nd Almonte	Pitstop
Carleton Place Venturers	Rocket propelled cars
Bill & Stella Lawrence	Tractor cab & Scouting display
Michelle Niefer, Diana Nuttall	Judging of hobbies, Cars, and trucks
Diana Nuttall	Calligraphy
Andrew Wise	Race computer operation and data entry
Andrew Wise	Dealer Derby
Roger Nuttall, Ken Richardson	Cub and Scout pioneering
Stan Lasenba	Cub announcing
John Stalker	Scout announcing

And all the leaders who ran games, ran the track, etc. and anybody I missed.

Ideas for Next Year

- Investigate possibilities of scheduling Beavers on the same day as the Cubs and Scouts. The benefits are that Beavers would see what the Cubs get to do, hopefully increasing retention; and parents with kids across Beavers and Cubs/Scouts would only have one day of commuting. The drawback is the number of kids in the community centre at once, especially in the case of inclement weather. A large tarped area might be required.
- Consider a project for the Scouts that is more exciting than pioneering. Initial ideas are model rockets and potato guns.
- Signs in the village advertising event to the public.

Feedback

I am very interested in receiving feedback on the event. Specifically:

- What went right?
- What could be improved?
- How do we get more groups to participate?
- What activities should or should not be present next year?
- How can we get more entries in the Hobby show? Do leaders think this is not important? It has to be continually marketed to the kids.

Lost and Found

- Navy blue light jacket with light gray piping. Highpoint small.
- Navy blue light jacket with yellow portions and yellow piping. Fleece lining. JOTT 2005 crest in pocket.

Youth Attendance

Overall

Group	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts
2 nd Almonte		7	6
1 st Beckwith	8	3	
Carleton Place		1	2
1 st Drummond	3	8	1
1 st Elmsley			
1 st Merrickville	10	20	6
2 nd Smiths Falls			2
4 th Perth			
1 st Portland			
Total 2006	21	39	17
Total 2005	35	71	20
Total 2004	48	80	22
Delta 2005/2006	-40%	-45%	-15%
Delta 2004/2005	-27%	-11%	-9%
Percent of area 2006	14%	26%	24%
Percent of area 2005	26%	47%	30%

Beavers

Group	2006	2005	2004
1 st Beckwith	8	6	4
Carleton Place		5	10
1 st Drummond	3	4	4
1 st Merrickville	10	8	12
1 st Montague			3
2 nd Smiths Falls		12	11
1 st Pakenham			4

Cubs

Group	2006	2005	2004
2 nd Almonte	7	6	9
1 st Beckwith	3	4	8
Carleton Place	1	25	24
1 st Drummond	8	5	1
1 st Merrickville	20	16	16
1 st Montague			2
2 nd Smiths Falls		15	12
1 st Pakenham			8

Scouts

Group	2006	2005	2004
2 nd Almonte	6	6	1
1 st Beckwith		2	1
Carleton Place	2	7	11
1 st Drummond	1	4	
1 st Merrickville	6	2	4
2 nd Smiths Falls	2	3	4
1 st Pakenham			1

Hobby Show Entries

It was found that the entry by the first place Cub winner was not that person's own work. They were disqualified, and the 2nd and 3rd place winners moved up.

Overall

Group	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts
2 nd Almonte			1
1 st Merrickville		27	3
2 nd Smiths Falls			3
Total	0	27	7
2005	29	19	3
2004	24	22	16

Beavers

Group	2006	2005	2004
1 st Merrickville		1	4
2 nd Smiths Falls		28	20

Cubs

Group	2006	2005	2004
1 st Beckwith			1
1 st Merrickville	27	17	1
2 nd Smiths Falls		2	20

Scouts

Group	2006	2005	2004
2 nd Almonte	1		
1 st Merrickville	3	1	16
2 nd Smiths Falls	3		

Vehicle Speed Results

Only troops/packs with three or more entrants are eligible for their respective award.

Pack

- 1st - 1st Merrickville
- 2nd - 1st Drummond
- 3rd - 2nd Almonte

Troop

- 1st - 2nd Almonte
- 2nd - 1st Merrickville
- 3rd - N/A

Kub Kar

- 1st - Nicholas Cameron 1st Merrickville
- 2nd - Mitchell Trusty 1st Merrickville
- 3rd - Dylan Lackey 1st Drummond

Scout Truck

- 1st - Max Proulx 2nd Almonte
- 2nd - Max Taylor 2nd Smiths Falls
- 3rd - Gabe Rudyk 2nd Almonte

Vehicle Design Results

Kub Kar

- 1st - Josh Walton 1st Beckwith
- 2nd - Mitchell Trusty 1st Merrickville
- 3rd - Nicholas Cameron 1st Merrickville

Scout Truck

- 1st - Max Taylor 2nd Smiths Falls
- 2nd - Conrad Koster 2nd Almonte
- 3rd - Gabe Rudyk 2nd Almonte

Hobby Show Results

Cub

- 1st - Alana Reade 1st Merrickville
- 2nd - Nathan White 1st Merrickville
- 3rd - N/A
- HM - Heather Yates 1st Merrickville
- HM - Mitchell Trusty 1st Merrickville
- HM - Laura Yates 1st Merrickville

Scout

- 1st - Josh McLaren 2nd Smiths Falls
- 2nd - Max Proulx 2nd Almonte
- 3rd - Ben Catton 1st Merrickville
- HM - Max Taylor 2nd Smiths Falls