

Scouts Canada 2009-2010

# VOYAGEUR

## COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



It starts with Scouts.

# VOYAGEUR COUNCIL

## Our Mission

To contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

### Scouting's Mission is achieved by:

- Involving youth throughout their formative years in a non-formal educational process.
- Using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent in his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive, responsible and committed person.
- Assisting youth to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles as expressed in the Promise and Law.

## Our Principles

Scouting is based on three broad principles which represent its fundamental beliefs. These include:

- **Duty to God:** Defined as, The responsibility to adhere to spiritual principles, and thus to the religion that expresses them, and to accept the duties therefrom.
- **Duty to Others:** Defined as, The responsibility to one's local, national and global community members to promote peace, understanding and cooperation, through participation in the development of society, respect for the dignity of one's fellow-beings, and protection of the integrity of the natural world.
- **Duty to Self:** Defined as, The responsibility for the development of oneself to one's full potential physically, intellectually, spiritually and socially.

## Our Practices and Methods

Scouts Canada employs a system of progressive self-education which includes the following practices and methods:

- commitment to the values in a Promise and Law,
- learning by doing,
- membership in small groups,
- progressive and stimulating contemporary programs,
- commitment to the values of doing one's best, contributing to the community, respecting and caring for others, contributing as a family member,
- relevant through youth and young adult engagement,
- use of outdoor activities as a key learning resource.



## Council Team

Council Service Team

Council Commissioner (CC)

Council Youth Commissioner

Deputy CC of Recognition

Deputy CC of Program (Council)

Deputy CC of Volunteer Development

Deputy CC of Operations & Administration

DCYC of Finance

DCYC of Program

DCYC of Recognition

DCYC of Training

DCYC of World Scouting

Council Administrator

Mike Jowett

Neal Rice\*

Stewart Ross

John Dougherty

Nick Wise

Michelle Niefer

Andrew Grant

David Eliot

Victoria McCormick

Raymond Desjardins

Alex Landry

Catherine Snedden

## Key Council Volunteers

Treasurer & Chair of Finance Committee

Popcorn

Doug Hall

Doug Cody

## Area Commissioners

Algonquin Hills (AH)

Carleton (C)

Heritage (H)

Loyalist (L)

Nepean (N)

Odawa (O)

Rideau (R)

Stormont-Glengarry (S-G)

Upper St. Lawrence Valley (USLV)

Valley Highlands (VH)

Angela David (AC)

Laurence Tyler (AC) / Ian Wilenius (AYC)

Dan Drummond (AC) / Chris Majka (AYC)\*

Mike Beausoleil (AC)\* / Emily Beausoleil (AYC)

Patti Milan (AC) / Francesca Viney (AYC)

Jim Peverley (AC) / Jamie Schaffler (AYC)\*

Grace Jones (AC) / Mike Harris (AYC)

Sandy Thomas (AC) / Madeline Richer (AYC)\*

Brian McAuley (AC)

John Stalker (AC) / Matt Courtland (AYC)

## Council Staff

Council Executive Director

Operations Manager

Council Field Executive

Council Field Executive

Manager, Revenue Development

Properties Manager

Council Registrar

Communications / Administration

Camp bookings/Accounting assistant/Training

Council Accountant

Warren McMeekin\* / Barry Hardaker

Jeff Benson

Kelly Banks

Heather Lee

Natalie Benson

Marilyn Johnson

Lynn Levitan

Pamela Bazinet

Carolyn Pink

Dee Rizeweski\* / Lyn Williams

\* Term ended



# COUNCIL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

*Michael Jowett – Council Commissioner*

What an exciting time to be involved in Scouting. Our Council has grown for the fourth year in a row, something that hasn't happened in over 20 years. This is mainly due to the exciting program that our volunteers deliver on a weekly basis, which keeps our youth members coming back for more. Congratulations to all our volunteers for the creative efforts they provide in making our programs a fun learning experience.

Our Council has taken a lead role in making the youth an integral part of the leadership of our organization and it has been a fantastic experience to watch them take on responsibilities and make a creative difference in how we do business. They are the living proof that all we need do is provide them the opportunities and the tools and they can make things happen. Our future is in their hands.

This year saw many changes within our Council in the ways in which we do our business. We have attempted to be more transparent and democratic and have allowed the grass roots to have an impact on how we train, deliver program and recognize our volunteers. Operationally we have grown our membership, delivered a balanced budget and maintained our fees. Our future looks bright and we will continue to find ways to improve. We are a Council that many look up to and we will continue to be at the forefront of initiatives to ensure that Scouting remains in our communities for years to come.

We have much to be thankful for, not the least of which is the thousands of volunteers who, week in and week out, provide good quality programs for our youth. I cannot thank you enough for the continued efforts you provide. All of the Service Scouters deserve our thanks as well. Your support and guidance help us to concentrate on the job at hand, delivering the programs. Thank you all for your service to our members.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention some of the unique services our Council has, such as the Opemikon Rover Crew, who continually provide a service to the Council (despite the loss of our kitchen for several months), and the Advisors to our Senior Section at the VAF who dedicate themselves to providing exciting adventures for our more senior scouts. We have one of the largest proportions of active senior sections in the country.

Thanks to all of you who sat on the committees for the events within our Council, including the annual camps: Cub Camp, Rovent, RSVP and Crazy Canuck just to name a few. Wow, what a line-up of adventures.

I would also like to thank the staff and management of our EOAC for their dedication and commitment to providing us administrative support. It has been a pleasure to work with you.

There are many aspects to our Council that I have probably overlooked, but rest assured your efforts do not go unnoticed. All of us have a part to play, and together we make up one of the greatest Councils in the country.

Thanks to all of you for your support and dedication to the youth in our communities.

Sincerely,

Mike Jowett

# DCC REPORTS

## TRAINING

### *Nick Wise - DCC Training*

Voyageur Council continues an envied history of playing a leading role in Scouting training in Canada. Voyageur Council has the highest percentage of trained leaders in Canada, with over 66% of leaders with WBI. Our challenge is to get that to 100%.

Our primary focus remains providing the Wood Badge Part I (WBI) courses that all new leaders and leaders changing sections require in their first year of program. We are very proud of the quality of our WBI courses. Our council also provides advanced program training and program support courses.

Your dedicated Voyageur Council Training Team provided many training courses distributed across the council in 2009-10. More than 20 Wood Badge Part I (Colony, Pack, Troop, Company, Crew, Group Commissioner) courses, plus numerous Standard

First Aid courses, Basic Canoe and Boat Rescue, Trainer Development I, varied Program Skills Workshops, and a Trainers' Workshop.

Thank you to our volunteer trainers, council staff, deputy area commissioners for training, deputy council youth commissioner, training coordinators and other members of the training team, for your dedication and commitment.

The training team congratulates all Voyageur Scouters who participated in training, who earned Wood Badge and First Aid recognition, and who participated in skill building workshops. When you take these skills back to your section, remember the words of our founder B.P.: "There is no teaching to compare with example." Your enthusiasm is infectious. Spread the Scouting spirit and good scouting to you.

## PROGRAM

### *John Dougherty - DCC Program*

Program activities in Voyageur Council were quite successful in 2009-2010. Events included the annual food drive with thousands of pounds of food collected, over 500 attended a Scout Night with the Ottawa Senators with over 200 staying for a sleepover at Scotia Bank Place, a Scout Day with the Ottawa 67's, a proclamation and flag raising for Scout/Guide Week by Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien and an "UP" themed Council Cub Camp at Apple

Hill Scout Reserve with over 600 participants. Many thanks to all those who helped make these events possible.

Areas have continued their strong leadership with dozens of section day activities and camps and multi section events. Senior sections continue to grow and take a greater presence in the day to day activities of the Council and in providing support to Sections, Groups, Areas and Council.

# DCC REPOI

## RECOGNITION

### *Stewart Ross - DCC Recognition*

The past year has seen a number of changes of how recognition is handled in Voyageur Council. There have been a number of innovations including the promotion of Area, Council and National honours and awards; wide spread advertising of the Council Scholarship program; changes of how nominations are processed, decided upon, announced and delivered; the introduction of a new Council recognition; and changes to some of the forms used to nominate worthy members of Scouting.

Perhaps the greatest change has been in the processing of nominations for recognition. A new approach was introduced which meant that the Deputy Area Commissioners – Recognition, a youth representative (the Deputy Council Youth Commissioner – Recognition) and a representative of the BP Guild along with the Deputy Council Commissioner – Recognition formed the Council Recognition Team. Throughout the year it was encouraged that nominations be forwarded to the Area or Youth Deputies by email instead of faxing or mailing to the Eastern Ontario Administrative Centre. The Deputies then were responsible for vetting nominations for completeness and correctness including ensuring that the nominations were on appropriate forms. Once a nomination had been vetted, it was circulated to the other members of the Council Recognition Team to decide on the award to be conferred. In many cases this helped in getting a quick “turnaround” of an award. (This was especially important for those submissions which were forwarded to National for decisions which had to be made at that level.) Once a decision had been made, it was communicated to the Scout Office who prepared the certificates and medal for presentation. The nominator, the Area/Council Commissioner, and the Deputy Area Commissioner was then advised that the materials were available for presentation.

Another significant change is that recognition was no longer held until the Council Annual General Meeting. Most often, recipients received their recognition in front of their peers, the youth they work with, or at special events such as RSVP, Area/Group/Section events. This change meant that presentation ceremonies were typically short, had great impact on the recipient and their audience, and were an unexpected surprise. It was often the case that the presenter was a youth or other member who had particular significance to the recipient instead of an Area or Council Commissioner. Recipients can still elect to receive the recognition at a representation at the Council Annual General Meeting but more often than not just their names are read out as having received recognition.

To facilitate submissions, nominators have been encouraged to use the newly released on-line PDF forms for the National level awards (unlike in the past, one can type and save their forms and submit them instead of having to type and print off the forms for forwarding) or use the Word documents available on the Council website. Although distribution of the forms was complicated with the introduction of the new Council website, soft copies of the forms were made available to all of the Deputies (in some cases after they had been up-dated). [In October of 2010 a new guide to many of the types of recognition, who is eligible, who the form should be sent to, and links to the forms was made available on the Council Recognition page.

Emphasis of youth recognition took on a stronger role through the Council Scholarship (Phil Mondor) Awards which was presided over by members of the Mondor

# RTS

family this past June. The ceremony was held outside of Scout Headquarters with the Council's Venturer Advisors' Forum and members of Joint Council in attendance. The recipients of the \$500 cheques and framed certificates were: Amanda Boudreau, Francesca Viney, Ian Wilenius and Jamie Schaffler. Council Commissioner Mike Jowett and Mr. Robert (Bob) Mondor made the presentations by congratulating the recipients and encouraging more to apply for next year's round of Scholarships.

Another innovation was in the planning and conduct of this year's Chief Scout and Queen's Venturer Award Ceremony. With the support of the Ottawa area chapter of the Chief Scouts Association, the Council Youth Network designed a memorable ceremony celebrating the 53 Chief Scouts and 2 Queen's Venturer who achieved these prestigious awards.

As mentioned earlier, numerous members of Scouting were recognized throughout the year with Awards of Fortitude, Meritorious Conduct, the Council Youth Award, various Outstanding Service to Scouting recognition, the Medal of the Maple, as well as the Order of the Caribou. Their names are appended to this report and the Council applauds not only the recipients but also those who took the time to prepare the submissions and presentation ceremonies. And with the up-coming 2010-2011 Scouting year, as we embark on new adventures, the Council Recognition Team has recommended the development of a new Council Recognition – the Bar to the Order of the Caribou as well as crests for both the Order of the Caribou and the Bar to the Order of the Caribou.

As we prepare for the next Scouting year, we also wish to extend our appreciation to the many who have ensured that recognition is possible. To the Group Registers

that ensure that records in the MMS are accurate, to the Group Commissioners who collect information of their Group adult volunteers so that many can be recognized for the efforts to make our programs effective, to the youth and volunteers who nominate others for recognition, to the Areas who recognize the many who support their programs and to the Council who provides excellent programs, training and Council/National Recognition for members of Scouting.

As we wind down this Scouting year, I would personally like to thank the Deputy Area Commissioners-Recognition for their hard work (and especially to our BP Guild and youth representatives who have provided outstanding support to the Council and National Recognition), to the Area and Group Commissioners and event organizers who have recognized the outstanding work of our youth and adult volunteers, and especially to our Council staff who have spend many hours in ensuring that recognition is both available and presented in an appropriate venue. Special thanks to Pamela Bazinet, who has coordinated Council level recognition for the past few years and who will be taking on new Council obligations in the new Scouting year, as well as a welcome to Lynn Levitan who will be the new Council Recognition go-to person. If Lynn thinks that she was busy before, just wait until you have to fill the shoes that Pamela has left for you. Hopefully, by having the nominations being received and vetted by the Council Recognition Team members, we can reduce your workload and balance it by offering you other challenges to support Council Recognition.

# AREA REPC

## CARLETON

### *Laurence Tyler - Area Commissioner*

Carleton Area and its groups produced another great year of Scouting program in 2009/2010! Carleton Area completed the Scouting Year as still the largest Area in Voyageur Council with a slight decline in membership to 1,195 members (94.7% of 2008/2009); with 65.4% members retained.

The Groups within Carleton Area provided active programs for their youth and continued to participate in local community events including; Remembrance Day, Santa Claus Parades, Canada Day in Stittsville and Kanata, Community parades, Food Drive and Scoutrees – including a Scoutrees display at Hazeldean Mall and participation in the Sears Scoutrees promotion at Carlingwood Mall. Area groups helped raise funds for Haiti Relief and led an initiative to raise the Scouting Flag at City Hall in honour of Scout/Guide Week. In addition to numerous Section, Group and linking camps and other activities; one Council-wide and three Area-wide program activities were carried out:

- the 20th Anniversary of the White-tail Beaver Sleepover at the Museum of Science and Technology in November 2009 with over 500 participants from Colonies across Council;
- the Winter Beaveree/Cuboree at the Carp Fairgrounds in February 2010 with over 500 participants;
- the sixth annual Klondike Derby at the Goulbourn Recreation Centre in February 2010 with 229 participants from Carleton and other Areas, including a visit by Neville Tomkins, the Chief Commissioner of Australian Scouting;
- Carleton's annual Camporee at Fitzroy Provincial Park in May 2010 with over 1200 participants.

Eleven Scouts (up from 6 last year) achieved their Chief Scout's Award. Numerous recognition awards were also given to volunteers in the Area including 11 Order of the Caribou, a Medal of Merit, a Medal of Good Service, an Award of Fortitude, a Certificate of Meritorious Conduct and a Certificate of Commendation, plus Area and Council recognition awards.

The Area Service Team supported its 11 Scout Groups including service visits, providing program material such as Hug-a-Tree and program element guides, plus provided two 3-section (C/P/T) WB 1 courses, with 66 Area leaders receiving their WB 1. Several volunteers developed programs for Scouts to provide guidance for achieving the 4 Scout Safety Permit Pins, which is expected to become part of the Scout Handbook. More resources for each Cub Star was compiled and posted on the Area website with thousands of reads and downloads of material.

Groups were active in engaging the media to promote Scouting with coverage of events by local community newspapers.

Area finances are in good order with the Area's cash reserves having decreased slightly per the objective of reducing some of the Area surplus. Area committee has continued to use some of these surplus reserves to offset costs for WB 1 and First Aid Training and to help promote registration through advertising. Area purchased a number of snowshoes which were extremely popular with Area Sections. (Financial report available)



# SPORTS

## HERITAGE

### *Dan Drummond - Area Commissioner*

**H**eritage Area has had a successful scouting year! We enjoyed growth with membership at 109% of the previous year and 7 of our groups surpassed the 15% goal. We continue to believe that our success is the result of delivering a quality scouting program including our popular area events.

The Heritage Program Team offered lots of opportunity to our youth. Our Beavers had a Winter Beaveree at Carlington Park and a Pirate Beaveree in the spring at Brewer Park. Cubs held another excellent Urban Quest starting from City Hall, a winter Polar Day and Kub Kars races at Ottawa Tech. Scouts started the year with a workshop for new scouts followed by a fall camp at Foley Mountain, a winter camp at the area's Otter Lake Camp, a well attended Klondike Derby in February at Fitzroy Provincial Park, Scout Trucks in April at Hilson School and a spring camp at Camp Awacamenj Mino in May. We are pleased with the continuing growth of Heritage's Venturer numbers and have plans in place to form a Heritage Rover Crew in 2010 – 2011.

Training continues as a priority and eLearning is certainly being embraced among our new leaders. Our rising membership is the result of good programs delivered by well trained leaders. Thanks to our DAC Adult Development for keeping the pressure on to complete training!

Thirteen of our groups participated in Apple Day. Heritage manned 3 stores during the November Food Drive and popcorn sales show steady improvement.

Our DAC Recognition has been busy this year with more leaders and youth receiving recognition and awards. We have added a colourful certificate to the Heritage Area Award in an attempt to personalize this recognition.

I am pleased to mention that we have a contingent planning to attend the World Jamboree in Sweden next summer. This is a huge commitment but also a once in a lifetime opportunity. Planning and fund raising are well underway. Great Scouting!

Once again I must thank the dedicated members of the Heritage Team for helping to make scouting a success in Heritage. We have been blessed with great people and once again Council thinks so too. Chris Majka, our Area Youth Commissioner has moved up and has accepted the major responsibility of Council Youth Commissioner. Congratulations Chris!

# AREA REPC

## NEPEAN

### **Patti Milan - Area Commissioner**

The major focus for the groups within Nepean Area this year was on Growth. The year kicked off with a Strategic Planning for Growth workshop run with all Group Commissioners. Key points in this workshop were:

- Evaluation of who the weakest sections were in each Group and how to help them become stronger.
- A lost members listing was provided to each group and then each followed up with a phone call to all lost members to find out the reasons for their departure and to see what patterns existed, if any.
- Each group was provided with their "capacity" ratios (how many spaces still existed in each section based on the size of the venue and the number of leaders already within the section). Each group then worked hard to bring each of their sections to "capacity" with Bring-A-Friend events.

The Area ran 3 brand new Workshops for it's members:

- A "Financial 101" workshop to help remove the confusion around what financial information is required each year, what the minimum requirements are and how this should be done.
- A "Sharing, Sharing, Sharing" workshop which was a jumpstart of sorts for any colony leaders who could use samples of excellent programming, or new ideas. This workshop featured 3 seasoned Colony trainers bringing their 3 BEST meetings each and demonstrating them to the participants. This workshop was very well received by the participants and multiple requests were received to "bring this on the road" by other Groups.
- Nepean Area co-hosted with Rideau Area a Music workshop to highlight the many ways to bring music into the program.

To help with retention within the Area, Nepean Area launched 2 new events:

- The Area All Leader Appreciation Dinner/Dance occurred during Scout/Guide week for all leaders, Rovers and their significant others to provide some "adult fun" for our leaders and to provide an environment to meet someone new within the Scouting family.
- The Area Family Camp was launched to reignite multiple section camps within the Area and to help those families who are leery to try camping by providing a gentle way to learn the OUT in Scouting. Multiple activities were set up over the weekend that were optional for families to participate in and we are happy to say that EVERY group within the Area was represented at this inaugural camp.

The Area continues to host many program activities that enrich the experience of our youth, notably:

Rovent - 112th Nepean Venturer Company & Rover Crew  
RSVP - the Nepean Rover Crew  
Paddle Night - the Nepean Rover Crew  
Night Prowl - 123rd Ottawa Group  
Basic Winter Skills Course - 123rd Ottawa

The Area officially launched a brand new award this year - the "Order of the Bell". This award is intended to recognize those (volunteer, youth or non-member) that have provided exception service to Scouting in which Scouting within Nepean Area has benefited.

To help promote Scouting within our community, the Area Website was totally revamped and updated. It can be found at <http://www.voyageur.scouts.ca/nepean/>. Further promotion of Scouting occurred during some of our Media coverage highlights from this year:

# SPORTS

## NEPEAN CON'T

- A television crew visited the 27th Nepean A Pack in January to cover the Jack Cornwell Award that Evan Simms received last winter and to shoot some footage of him at cubs doing cub activities (game, opening, inspection, etc.). The footage was then televised during the CHEO Telethon in June.
- The Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien proclaimed February 23, 2010 as Scouter Alan Griffin day in the City of Ottawa in honour of the extensive service that he has given to Scouting within the Ottawa area and for his many

contributions to Canadian youth. This was then followed by a CBC Radio 1 interview with Al and the Nepean This Week newspaper also ran an item about this in their March issue.

Although our membership was down overall, I'd like to thank all of our volunteers for all of their hard work this past year to begin turning our membership numbers around and making Scouting within Nepean much stronger.

## ODAWA

### *Jim Peverley - Area Commissioner*

**O**dawa Area has once more completed a successful Scouting year with dynamic programs offered in one or more sections in 13 groups. The hallmark of Odawa Area was once again a very full calendar of area events designed to provide interesting and challenging program opportunities for all youth. Beavers participated in fall and winter Beaveerees as well as a White Tail Camp. Cubs had the opportunity to attend the fall and winter Cuborees as well as a Senior Cub camp and an area Kub Kar rally. Scouts were particularly active with the annual Medic Alert/BP Woodsman camp, the winter sub-zero camp, Scout Guide Week challenge, and the Night Owl Challenge as well as a Scout Trucks rally. It

is particularly noteworthy that the majority of Scout troops conducted an extended canoe trip of four to six days over the summer period. Once again the Odawa Area spring camp offered a challenge to youth of all sections using a highland games theme. Area participation in the Scouts Canada Food Drive and Scoutrees reflected that all groups take their duty to others seriously as participation was very good.

With the introduction of the Odawa Award it was possible to recognize 47 youth and adult leaders who provided excellent programming at the section level.

# AREA REPC

## RIDEAU

### **Grace Jones - Area Commissioner**

Rideau Area was presented the Mighty Oak Award for 2009-2010 for both the highest increase in growth and retention. Membership increased by 89 members or 9.7% with an overall retention rate of 71.3%. Nine Groups registered over 100% of their previous year's membership numbers with one more almost there at 98.6%. Six Groups also reached over 70% retention with two of those achieving over 80% retention. A huge congratulation goes out to all the Groups in the Area and their leadership teams for their commitment and belief in the Scouting movement.

Youth input and involvement increased greatly throughout the year. There was an increase in youth leadership seen throughout the Area with more sections actively engaging Activity Leaders and Scouters-in-Training and an increase in our senior youth's involvement at Council and in the Council Youth Network.

Area Scouters' clubs and summits continued and the youth in all sections had a number of opportunities to participate in Area events. Beavers enjoyed a winter and spring Beaverie. Cubs held a fall camp, winter Polar day, Kub Kar rally, the third annual Third Year Sleepover, and Sixer/Second workshop, closing off the year by attending the Council Cub Camp. Scouts also participated in a number of camps, Klondike Derby hosted by Carleton Area, the ever popular Rideau Challenge, and a very exciting bridge building competition. Our Venturers also were busy with their own section and group activities as well as the many planned through Venturer Advisor Forum (VAF) for advisors and Joint Council (JC) meetings of senior section youths of both Scouts Canada and Girl Guides of Canada. Again

the Rover Crew grew and continued to be involved in many of the Area events and assisting individual sections when requested.

On October 24, 2009 at Baxter Conservation Centre, all levels of Rideau Area came together for the first annual Area All Section Activity Day. The main objective of the day was to allow all sections the opportunity to participate in fun linking activities in an outdoor environment. Scheduling was designed to allow for interaction between groups at the same section level, interaction between all section levels, and a campfire that brought all participants together to celebrate the day. Although the weather was not ideal, more than 450 participants attended this successful activity.

The Area Group Membership Increase Award was awarded to the 1st Osgoode Group for having the greatest increase in membership over the previous year. 1st Osgoode increased their membership by 45.5%. The Group Retention Award was awarded to the 104th Ottawa Group, the Group who retained the greatest percentage of members from the previous Scouting year. 104th Ottawa retained 80.6% of their members.

The Commissioner Quality Awards were also encouraged resulting in 8 Gold level awards being presented. Congratulations to 1st North Gower Troop, 1st Manotick Colony A, 101st Ottawa Pack, 11th Ottawa Group Committee, and 2nd Russell Colony, Troop, Company, and Group Committee.

For the first time, 58 Rideau Area Participation Awards were presented to members from six Groups, a very prestigious award for which the bar has been set high. Not everyone



# SPORTS

## RIDEAU CON'T

will receive it but everyone (youth and adult members) are eligible to receive it provided they achieve the requisites for the award. The award focuses on one's outstanding participation at the Section, Group, and Area levels. Each of these members participated in at least 90% of their section meetings and activities and their Group's events as well as a large number of Area events. This was a great achievement for all the recipients and a testament to the programs being delivered.

Rideau Area is also extremely proud that several members (youth and adults) have been the recipients of Council and

National Scouting awards. 2 Silver Acorns, 4 Council Youth Awards, 2 Medals of the Maple, 9 Orders of the Caribou, 2 Certificates of Commendation, 2 Medals of Good Service, and 1 Medal of Merit were awarded to Rideau Area members.

Maintaining support to our Groups and programs with an increased focus on recognition contributed to our successful 2009-2010 Scouting year in Rideau. Our planning for the future will help to ensure many more successful years to come.

## UPPER ST LAWRENCE VALLEY

### **Brian McAuley - Area Commissioner**

The scouting year 2009/10 has been a year of some success and of one more lost group to the area.

The Mallorytown group had been under difficult times this year. One leader has been running all 3 sections for several years and is no longer interested in continuing without any support from parents or the community. It may be viable in the 2010/11 year if enough interest is found.

The program year was good. All the sections had at least one seasonal Area activity per season. There were linking activities by all the sections at some of these Area camps/activities as well.

Most area Cub Packs attended the Council Cub Camp at Apple Hill and aside from the weather, considered it a rousing success. Our 3 Venturer Companies have new leaders and active participants with the Venturer Advisors Forum. They hosted an event in May at Camp Sheldrick that was open to all Council

Companies. Although the attendance was low, they considered it a success and will host it again in the coming year. The new leaders have taken training to ensure program standards are met.

Another positive development is the proposed formation of a new Rover Crew based out of Prescott in the 2010/11 year. This Crew will likely contain 5 or 6 members, but you have to start somewhere.

Training is still encouraged at all Scouters clubs.

We have achieved some growth this year, the main thrust of growth being in the rural communities. The trend at this time continues to be growth in the rural areas and holding steady in the urban centres.

# AREA REPORTS

## VALLEY HIGHLANDS

### *John Stalker - Area Commissioner*

**2**009/10 was a good year for Valley Highlands Area despite a small reduction in the number of registrations, mainly due to a lack of adult volunteers. A busy year, with lots of outdoor activities was enjoyed by all.

Scout/Guide week had celebrations held in each of our Groups home ranges across the area.

Successful winter events were held for all levels, with the Beaver BRRR, Cub Winter Challenge and Scout Winter camp all being well appreciated by their participants.

The spring camp was, for a change, an all-sections camp (Springtime on the Mississippi), was held with a great turnout, good weather and enthusiastic youth and leaders.

A combined year-end Cub/Scout canoe trip in Algonquin Park was a great success and will be repeated on an annual basis. The annual "Beef-on-a-Bun" booth at the Lombardy Fair fundraising for Whispering Pines Camp raised enough income to fund the camp for the next year, thanks to all the volunteers' enthusiasm. Whispering Pines use numbers were

good with many training sessions held as well as local and more distant scouting groups using the property.

We awarded several of our new Area award, The Valley Highlands "Spirit of Scouting" Award, for mentorship. The Venturers and Rovers participated in many of the events organized by the Venturer Advisor Forum, the Senior section youth committees in their various forms, and the Joint Council with senior Guiding members, including Venclimb, Rovent, Adirondack Winter Alpine Snowshoeing Adventure, Laserquest Lockdown, Whitewater 1 & 2, & Wilderness First Aid Training and many more.

The Rovers canoe trip on the Noire river was put off until next year due to low water levels.

Although paid membership was down very slightly, the enthusiasm of our youth and leaders is always great to see, and we look forward to a great year in 2010/2011, and an active push for new members.

## STORMONT-GLENGARRY

### *Sandy Thomas - Area Commissioner*

**I**n 2009-2010 all Area events were open to all Sections, which turned out to be a lot of fun for everyone.

In October we hosted JOTA with radio operation from two organizations, The Prescott-Russell A.R.E.S and the West Island Amateur Radio Club running the radios and other related activities over the weekend. Everyone had a great time.

Area Bowling was held at the end of March. Thanks to Mary MacLaurin for organizing the Bowl; she did a great job.

1st Maxville Hosted the Area Beaver Buggies, Kub Kars, Scout Trucks and even our Rovers joined us with Rover Buggies. We all had a great day.

2nd Cornwall organized our Scoutrees in May again this year.

Apple Hill Scout Camp – Gone Home – In December 2009 we lost Wade Bates, our Camp Warden. Wade may be gone, but he lives on at the camp in all the hard work he did to build the camp to what it is today. We will miss him very much.

I would like to thank Mike MacKinnon for taking on the job of Camp Warden and all of the camp rangers for your hard work at Apple Hill.

# REVENUE DEVELOPMENT

**Natalie Benson - Manager, Revenue Development**

Scouts Canada, Voyageur Council is proud to recognize the many Corporations, Foundations, Small Businesses, Service Clubs and Government Agencies that have provided us with the necessary funding to operate the programs and projects within Voyageur Council.

The financial assistance that these organizations, businesses, and Government agencies provide is generous and invaluable. It is with sincere thanks that we recognize the support from the following:

- TELUS Communications: contribution towards Voyageur Council's SCOUTSabout Program.
- Government of Canada, Human Resources Skills Development Canada: Funds to assist Voyageur Council in hiring staff for the summer months at Camp Opemikon to deliver our summer camp programs.
- Shell Canada Environment Fund: Providing assistance to Voyageur Council's Environmental Programs.
- TD Friends of the Environment: Providing us with funds for our Environmental Programs delivered within the Council.
- John Howard Society, Summer Jobs Service: Funding to subsidize the hiring of our Spring Wardens at Camp Opemikon.
- Otto's BMW/Subaru: Funding to assist Voyageur Council's Scoutrees program as well as worthwhile funding towards Voyageur Council's Youth Assistance Program.
- Youth Employment Bureau (Youth Employment Strategy Program): Funding to subsidize the hiring of summer staff at Camp Opemikon, the SCOUTSabout Program in Ottawa and the Schools and Scouting Programs within the Council.
- Urbandale Housing Corporation: Providing subsidies for Voyageur Council's Environmental Programs in the Ottawa area.
- Scouts Canada Foundation: Assistance towards our Extreme Adventure Program at Camp Opemikon as well as the 'No one Left Behind Program' (supporting local youth to join Scouting).
- Coventry Connections (Blue Line Taxi, DJ's Taxi): Assistance towards our local SCOUTSabout Programs in Ottawa.
- Government of Ontario, Ministry of Training: Funding to hire a full time Ranger at Camp Opemikon.
- Government of Ontario, Ministry of the Environment: Funding from the Community Go Green Program to support our Climate Change Action Program (summer program at Camp Opemikon, training programs, fun nights, open houses and more).

In Summary, Scouts Canada, Voyageur Council has successfully raised significant funds to support many worthwhile initiatives. Thank you to our donors for their much appreciated financial assistance. Your support is invaluable to us.

As volunteers, where possible, please do everything you can to recognize the support of these many donors personally.

# 2009 POPCORN REPORT

**Doug Cody - "The Big Popper"**

In 2008 Voyageur Council had sales of \$343,000 and in 2009 reached \$381,000 which was our best year ever. We offered 9 different products which suited a wide range of tastes. Sixty-eight Groups in Voyageur plus one Group in Germany received a combined net profit of over \$175,000 which translates into a lot of camps, new equipment and more program. Most of the Groups participated in the Take Order method of selling while a few also tried out the Show and Deliver program. For many Groups popcorn is now their one major fundraiser.

In 2009 our Area coordinators were responsible for inputting their Group's orders into the Trail's End system for the first time (previously done at Council level). As well Area

coordinators assumed a larger share of the responsibility of assisting and encouraging Groups in their respective Areas.

2009 was my first year in the role of Council coordinator. It certainly was a challenge on top of everything else I do in Scouting and beyond. But I appreciate the chance to help in the raising of the dollars that allow our organization to make a positive difference to our youth and our community.

Scouter Doug  
"The Big Popper"



# CAMP OPE

*Marilyn Johnson – Property Manager*

Our regional camp was once again an active spot on both the program and facility sides of the house. Bookings included EOGR, RoVent, RSVP camp, Joint Council spring camp, multi-section camps, multi-section training courses, a Commissioners' Training Weekend and for the third consecutive year, the Odawa Medic Alert Camp. In June, OPE was the site of the centennial celebrations for Girl Guides of Canada Stittsville Area with over 400 in attendance. The RoVent and the Medic Alert camps continued to set attendance records and number of meals served in the dining hall over a weekend, over 3,000 meals! Incredible task by the cooking crew as we were still operating out of the mobile kitchen! Youth groups with the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Wellness, several high school leadership camps, Camp Adonai, our traditional summer camp users, and three schools within our Schools and Scouting program round out our clientele for the past season. This is a well rounded section of youth organizations from our community, a testament to the quality of the facility and programming at OPE. Facility projects advanced at record speed under the guidance

of our returning warden Betty Shillington and her husband Moe. An Ontario Trillium Foundation grant resulted in all lodges now having metal roofs, including the Venturer Cabin; all Cub Cabins have new doors that keep the bugs out and the youth in; fancy colours to designate the three packs Gold, Red and Black make for easy cabin identification; and the floors of heated lodges are now all insulated. This work makes for more energy efficient and healthier lodgings for our campers. Thank you OTF. Special thanks to all involved for your generous donation of time, talents and expertise in the completion of these projects.

Our ablutions received a thorough inspection by the Ministry of the Environment and thanks to Betty's organizational skills all data for usage, repairs and upkeep were readily available, resulting in a successful inspection.

The rebuild of the kitchen was finally completed, after much coordination with tradespeople and the contractor by Betty. The OPE Scouting group celebrated Christmas by cleaning; setting up various work stations; and cooking the first

meal in the renovated kitchen. It has been calculated that 36 person days of volunteer time was contributed in getting the kitchen up for use. Thanks to those Friends of Opemikon who contributed funds to enable the upgrades such as the new mop sink.

Our annual work weekends continued with 14th Gloucester assisting in the fall cleanup and movement of program equipment to switch from summer to winter focus. The spring weekend saw 200 plus Venturers, Rovers and their advisors once again sweep through the camp completing grounds keeping, light carpentry, minor maintenance and staining tasks. This weekend sees in excess of 2,500 volunteer hours being contributed to the Council camp by our senior youth members and their advisors. The 2010 edition was Tim Taylor's tenth year at organizing this event. Many thanks for a decade of dedication and support from the entire Taylor family.

On the program side of the house, work continues on developing a Program Centre located in the dining hall, with numerous self contained activities such as hiking trails, orienteering courses,





# MIKON



tree identification, mapping exercises and wide games. A low ropes workshop was conducted by CUI in the fall and 12 participants were qualified to now provide this unique activity for our campers. The Opemikon Scouting group with its Venturer Company and Rover Crew celebrated their 50th year of service to our Council camp. The official opening of the rebuilt kitchen and the dedication of the Homer Last Crew cabin were all part of their weekend celebrations. Once again, with weekend catering as their focus the OPE Company and Crew contributed thousands of service hours to the camp.

Our summer residential camp for 2010 fell under the leadership of David Wielusiewicz as the Summer Camp Director. The trend this summer saw the older youth programs being very successful with a second Seneca trip having to be booked. However, the younger ages in the Cub fields saw a drastic reduction. Total campers came in at 439. Taking into account the 2 and 4 week programs

this translates into 530 camper weeks. Campers were up by 4 and weeks were up by 29, this is mainly due to the Chinese contingent. Statistics show that the Cub Field camper numbers totaled 98, down 42 from the previous summer. Scout Field produced 204 campers which is down by 14 from 2009. Senior Adventures saw 72 campers which is up by 21. Those taking the CIT program and hoping for positions this coming summer numbered 33 which is an increase of 11 from the previous summer, 6 of which were in the month long OLC program. Chinese students returned after a one year break, with 32 students and teachers partaking in a 10 day stay. This summer also was time for a visit from the Ontario Camps Association for an accreditation update. We met all criteria and have been recertified for another four years. Well done to all involved.

Support continued with our Golf Tournament headed by John Bennett. Profits of \$3,500.00 were raised to purchase kayaks in support of this resurging water program.

The Venturer Advisors' Forum continued their support of OPE work weekends and also this year outfitted six of the ABS canoes for white water trips. The Friends of Opemikon campaign provided funds for updates to the new kitchen. Appreciation is sent to all our friends for your continued support monetary, time and resource wise.

Finally, the Opemikon Camp Committee continues to guide the activities at the camp and to provide support for special projects. Many thanks to its members for your time and dedication to our Council Camp. Committee members for 2009-10 were: Aoede Ellenbogen, Alex Gazaleh, Peter Goddard, David Humphrys, Matthew Janssen, Gary Johnson, Dan Kaplansky, John Rathier, Don Rutherford, Betty Shillington as our Camp Warden, Moe Shillington, Arnold Smith, and Tim Taylor.

# COUNCIL OPERATIONS

*Jeff Benson - Operations Manager*

Over the past number of years, the Eastern Ontario Administrative Centre (EOAC) has implemented numerous processes designed to harmonize both Voyageur and White Pine Councils and to avoid duplication. On one side, this harmonization has helped to raise the quality and speed of service provided to our members; but on the other hand, it comes with higher expectations from the field. This past year, we made only a few adjustments to our processes, because the Groups are getting more familiar with the documentation and processes of their Council.

On a day-to-day basis, we process registration packages; manage a PRC issues; prepare recognition materials; print membership cards; develop membership reports; process certificates of insurance; review contracts; order popcorn; pay a camp's hydro bill; process refunds; train new Group Registrars; take camp bookings; prepare training participant lists; collate annual reports; process subsidy requests; update web sites; and the list goes on...

In the world of registration, we implemented a new "invoice/credit" form designed to help us keep every transaction clear. As indicated in last year's annual report, the Council adopted a "No Credit" policy, so when a registration package was reviewed and an overpayment (credit) was discovered, the Council Registrar immediately filled out this form and began the process to have a cheque cut to the Group, considering it's your money. However, if payment is short, this form serves as an invoice with details explaining the situation and is sent to the Group electronically for payment. This simple process has led to zero unpaid accounts receivable, which is a first for the Council in who knows how long.

We have seen a huge improvement in the pre-planning of the Sections/Groups/Areas as it relates to contracts and insurance requests. The "Certificate of Insurance (COI) Requests - Decision & Action Chart" document (available on the Council web site) now seems to be a staple with activity planning. The major issue this document has helped to resolve is permitting sufficient time for the office to respond to the request to ensure that events aren't put in jeopardy because of legal hoops. So remember, if you have an event

where they are asking you to sign a document or they want proof of insurance, the "Decision & Action Chart" is your guide.

This year saw the launch of a new Council web site! It started out with the brand "Creating A Better World", but was replaced in the summer with the new "It Starts With Scouts" branding. What is more important than the colour and look of the site is the content and how it serves your needs. We will continue to work with our Management Committee members to improve and update the content because we want you to feel confident in the web site as a useful resource for you and the programs you deliver.

I would be remiss if I did not express my sincere appreciation to our administrative staff (Ladka Stodola, Lynn Levitan, Pamela Bazinet and Carolyn Pink). Their contribution often goes unsung, and without their dedication and patience to the many changes I have introduced throughout the years, I would be insane. Thanks ladies!

In June this year, I made some staffing adjustments regarding roles and responsibilities. This transition, expected to take the summer was designed to provide additional support in areas that were otherwise suffering. I am pleased to say that this "adjustment" is working well with response times on many aspects of the operation being greatly improved. One aspect of the staffing adjustments was a realignment of your Property Manager, Marilyn Johnson as my direct report to the Executive Director's. This was to recognize that the role of Property Manager is as important a role as that of an Operations Manager.

This past year we have had a change in personnel in our Finance department. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dee Rizewiski for her many years of service and wish her well in her future endeavors. In July, we hired Lyn Williams as our new Council Accountant, she comes from a banking background and brings with her many years of financial experience. Although not completely foreign to the Scouting ways, she is still learning our many acronyms - so please be gentle with her.

# MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

*Kelly Banks and Heather Lee - Council Field Executives*

The 2009-2010 Scouting Year was a great year for Voyageur Council. We were proud to surpass the 100% Growth milestone for a fourth year in a row with a grand total of 102.1 % Growth (7407 members – 149 more members than the year before) and 63.9% Retention (4640 members). In the core program (Area's only) Voyageur reached 100.5% Growth and 66% Retention. Overall, Voyageur ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the country out of 20 Councils with respect to our Growth.

A detailed break-down of our final numbers is attached. We are the only Council in the country that has increased its membership 4 years in row.

As well, we would like to congratulate Rideau Area for reaching over 70% Retention as an Area (71.3% in fact!). This is a great accomplishment and is evidence of the great program and hard working volunteers of Rideau Area.

## Where did our Membership come from?

*The following is an approximate break-down of where the membership came:*

Early registration in June 2009 members before September 1, 2009	48.8%
By January 2010 – (Fall Recruitment Drive 89.8%)	41%
Friendfest 2010 and remaining Prospective activations	7.4%
Council Programs: - Schools and Scouting 2010 –109 Participants - Summer Camp 2010 (OPE) – 205 summer campers. - Summer Day Camps and SA 2010 – 39 Participants	4.9%
<b>Totaling</b>	<b>102.1%</b>

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING AREA'S FOR YOUR GROWTH IN THE 2009-2010 SCOUTING YEAR.

Service Areas	Percentage of Growth
Rideau Area	109.7%
Heritage Area	108.9%
Algonquin Hills Area	108.4%

## New 2009-2010 Initiatives that assisted with overall Growth:

- We welcomed Heather Lee as our new Field Executive servicing USLV, Nepean, Odawa, Heritage and Algonquin Hills.
- A new format of the School flyers was introduced to streamline the Process – the School Door Hanger and Join Site were created.
- ScoutsAbout Day camps and afterschool programs were successfully run.
- The Group in Iqaluit was revived thanks to some new leadership.
- Bring-a-Buddy pins were introduced as an incentive to bring in new friends.
- Sears teamed up with Scouts Canada for our Scoutree's efforts – this brought us some visibility.
- Creation of the Group Growth Strategy and the Handling Inquiries from the Field documents.
- Council Commissioner brought the message of Growth to the field through presentations to the Area's.
- New Council website launched to assist with communications overall within the Council.

## Continued Initiatives that contributed to Growth and Retention:

- The continuation of the Schools and Scouting Program led to new members.
- Dozens of School Talks & Open Houses to recruit youth and leadership.
- The Retention Incentive Program continued to encourage Groups to retain their members and grow.
- Area PR Kits continued to be used by Groups to promote Scouting locally.
- Group Locator – an excellent tool to help people find their local Groups.
- Mighty Oak Award – continues to provoke friendly competition amongst the Area's!
- Field Services Reports – to increase awareness of Services, Ideas and Resources available from the Council Field Staff.
- Monthly Membership Progress Reports. Keeping informed about the status of membership is the best way to "be prepared" to retain and grow.

# SPONSORS RECOGNITION

Thank you to our many Contributors.



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