



Area Forum



Thursday

April 21, 2005 @ Westminster Presbyterian Church, Smiths Falls.

Present: Jim Britton, Area Commissioner, Michelle Niefer, Secretary; Jean Lasenba, Finance; Roger Nuttall, DAC Training; Dianna Nuttall, DAC Group Support; Stan Lasenba, APM; Kim Comstock, Comm2nd Smiths Falls; John Stalker, 2 & 3rd Gr. Comm. Carleton Place; Andrew Wise, Gr. Comm. 1st Drummond; Tracey Joron, Gr. Comm. 2nd Almonte, Larry Palmer, member at large, 4th Perth; Ray Burrill, Treasurer 1st Beckwith; Chris Tyler, Act. DAC Program; Allan Yates, Gr. Comm. 1st Merrickville.

Regrets: Ken Richardson, Program; Val Venebles, Perth; Brian Billings, Scout Trees, Annette Thompson, Montague.

Agenda Items:

1. Jim Britton, Area Commissioner: scouterjim@sympatico.ca

Main purpose of the evening is to pass on information on current events and news from the Council level. A few words of thought were also given.

2. Minutes: Minutes were read for February – one change was made: Garry Thompson wishes it to be known that he will not act as coach/mentor for Merrickville Pack.

Motion made to accept the minutes by Kim Comstock, seconded by Jean Lasenba. All in favour.

3. DAC Reports:

i: **Youth - Alyssa Comstock -** smartkid_31@hotmail.com

No report at this time.

ii: **Group Support - Diana Nuttall -** rnd@perth.igs

No report at this time.

iii: **Training - Roger Nuttall -** rnd@perth.igs

- **Standard 1st Aid Course** - April 30 and May 1 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Smiths Falls
There are only two people registered for this course to date. We need at least 10 before we can hold this course and can accommodate up to 16. The trainer must order his supplies early next week, so if this course is not to be cancelled, I need firm numbers by Sunday April 24. Register through me.
- **Basic Canoe Course** - June 11 and 12, 2005 at Whispering Pines Camp. Stewart Ross and the Nepean Rovers are the Training Crew for this course. See Council Training web site. Register though the Council Office.
- **Boat Rescue Award Course** – June 25 and 26, at Whispering Pines Camp. Hope Gray is the course leader. See Council Training web site. Register though the Council Office.

iv: **Camp Warden - Stan Lasenba - lasenba@sympatico.ca**

v: **Honours & Awards - Kim Comstock - comstock2@sympatico.ca**

- Request that the Honours & Awards banquet take place at the regular meeting time in June
- The change is now made to the calendar. **Honours and Awards banquet will take place June 16th.**
Mark your calendars and get those nominations in for awards for your fellow Scouters.

vi: **Scout Trees - Brian Billings - brian_billings@carleton.ca**

- * Plant site is being marked on Monday, May 2nd, 2005 and Jeff WARD from the OMNR/Lanark County Community Stewardship Council will be on-hand to assist with direction on the plant day. I am still awaiting confirmation from Tim Horton's with regards to sponsorship but am hopeful that they will once again provide coffee (for adults), timbits, and refreshments (for youth). Given that we were completed w/ planting at 1100h last year, I am not looking at providing lunch for Participants but will ensure that there is sufficient refreshment and snacks for youth pending the good graces of Tim Horton's.
- Cost for tree seedlings this year is higher than last year due to poor stock at the nursery so another source had to be found - cost is \$2,360.00. I have support from Municipality, Lanark County Community Stewardship Council, and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority so one way or another, price of trees will be covered. I also have received a donation from Albany International in the amount of \$150.00 (return sponsor)...this is only the second donation received thus far this year - the other being for \$100.00 from Centennial Truss in Lanark. Cost for Scoutrees Kits for Area, now distributed to all groups as of April 16th, 2005 amounts to \$138.25. I would like to make a motion that this amount be paid by Area and will be covered by donation receipts.
- Plant date is Saturday, May 7th, 2005, rain or shine. We will start planting at 0900h....please aim to be on site by 0845h or earlier so that we can get underway and complete all planting before noon. A separate e-mail will be forwarded to Michelle early next week for distribution to all groups to give directions and further info regarding the plant date for Scoutrees. I will look forward to seeing everyone out on May 7th!

Yours In Scouting,
Brian E. L. Billings

4. Financial: Jean Lasenba - lasenba@sympatico.ca

The discrepancy in our account has still not been straightened out by Council. We are \$7000. short in our account in comparison from June to now. We are still waiting for an answer.

Expenses: \$19.54 and \$85.35 for training and camp expenses were paid.

My thanks to Scouter Ken and Scouter Roger for hosting the Winter Camp training and the camp at kens place. From all reports a good time was had by all.

viii **Program report: Ass. DAC**

There seems to be some problem with organizing the Camporees. I am willing to head up the committees to organize these camps but the area leaders will need to step up and offer assistance in planning the programs. I will make sure that all gear needed is in place for the events, but running them will be down to troop and pack leaders. Lets get these camps organized NOW.

As for the Service teams - I am willing to head up the Scout section team but will need several volunteers to form a team -- any offers.

I am somewhat concerned that not everybody is receiving the newsletter. Notes"n"News. It is jammed packed with program ideas covering almost all of the scouting programs to help leaders plan effective programs. This takes quite a lot of work to put together each month and if the leaders are not getting a copy of it I am wasting my time. If you are not getting a regular monthly copy please email me at FirstscoutKim@aol.com and I will add you to the list. Back copies to November 2004 are readily available if anyone wants them. Hard copies can be arranged as well if need be.

Thanks to all for the work you are doing.

Chris Tyler.

5. Group Reports:

1st Arden: No report available.

2nd Almonte: Group meeting held February 23, next April 27th.

Events to date: Beavers: outing to library. 2. No meeting during March break. 3. Easter theme decorating eggs & egg blowing. Cubs: 1. Guest speaker to work on astronomy badge. 2. Winter camp was held at Fulton's Pancake House. 3. Only one meeting in March due to snowstorm/Easter/March break. 4. April 18 tested Kub Kars. Scouts: movie night. 2. Worked on Scout trucks. 3. Went to the Putting Edge (Glow in the dark mini putt) 4. Joined cubs to test their trucks. 5. Went to CPHS musical Seussical the Musical. All Sections: family/guests – BP dinner at JR's with approximately 75 in attendance. Thanks to Jim & family, Roger, Diana, Stand for joining us that evening.

Future events: 1. Hobbies and wheels – all will be participating **Cubs:** bike rodeo, bike outing & swim-up. Scouts: Swim-up, tree planting, spring camp @ Lafleche Caves, June – canoe tripping prep. July – Barren River Caynon Canoe Trip Algonquin Park with 18 participating. All sections: Scout Trees fundraising; wrap-up May 10th for all groups.

Main Efforts: 1. Preparing for Scout Trees fundraising. 2. Planning the swim up. 3. Looking to recruit new leaders for next year especially Beaver leaders.

Issues: Almonte is celebrating their 125th Anniversary. A former Scouter announced that the Scouts and Guides will be holding a campfire, however, the current leaders cannot commit to this. We have invited Art Solomonian to our next group committee to let him know that we are not able to do this and that he will need to put a retraction in the newspaper indicating this.

YIS Tracy Joron, Group Chair.

1st Beckwith: Group Committee Meeting held March 29th, 2004

Events to Date: Since the last meeting) a. We were invited to be a part of the Opening Ceremonies for Beckwith Park's new hiking trail that the cubs and scouts had originally scouted out.

B. Tonight is the Clean Up Beckwith night for us and we are cleaning the park and trail. The Township is supplying garbage bags and stickers as well as a thank you BBQ on Saturday. C. The Beavers took part in the Beaveree in Perth

Future Events: a. Planning is underway for a spring cub camp at Foley Mountain Provincial Park.

b. Hobbies and Wheels (April 23rd) c. Scout Trees (May 7th) d. Scout Camp (June 4th)

Main Efforts: 1. The Cubs have just about completed their work on their Purple Star and other requirements together. Currently work is on to get the Beaver Buggies, Kub Kars and Scout Trucks completed. The group had the opportunity to use the shop at Ken Fisher's house to get the major work done. 2. Final arrangements have yet to be made for our final group camp but planning is begun and coming along. We also have a small fundraiser underway selling Vessey Bulbs to help the Scouts get to Haliburton 3. Our interviews are completed and all but one person has been contacted for the reference checks. Messages were left but no answers have been had as yet. We will continue to try reaching this person. One new leader has had their Gateway training

done with one left to go. As for our Fundraiser person, they have had to back out due to workload and new job requirements.

Issues: We are still not sure about how much we owe for our registrations. This year there was no bill sent out and we are not sure what we owe as there was early registrations paid plus the regular registrations to be paid.

Comments: Funding continues to be an item of major concern.

Yours in Scouting, Stephen Mayne
Group Commissioner

2nd & 3rd Carleton Place: . Friendfest brought in a new Beaver.
Things are now going well and jelling again. Now working on new leaders.

1st Drummond: Group Committee Meeting held 01 April 2005

Events to date: (since the last meeting)

a. Beaver Burr b. Easter at Steve's Independent c. Camp Gadget

Future events: (within the next month)

a. Hobbies and Wheels b. Camp "Bug Out" April 29, 30 & May 1

Main efforts: (the groups focus this period)

1. Completing some badge requirements. 2. Communication Plan

Yours in Scouting, Andrew Wise Group Commissioner

1st Merrickville Report for Area Meeting April 21, 2005

Events To Date: **1.** Scouts built and install duck nesting boxes in Limerick Forest. Will be checking them periodically over a number of years to collect usage information. **2.** Scouts planned canteen for Hobbies & Wheels. Fitness testing. **3.** Built Scout trucks. Outdoor orienteering exercise. **4.** Scouts raced Scout trucks. **5.** Cubs had a hike and activity day at Camp Trail on Charleston Lake. Nice camp. Rope bridge setup. Practiced fire lighting with magnifying glass. **6.** Cubs learnt common animal tracks along with an associated game. **7.** Cubs did compass practice with orienteering poker! **8.** Beavers did a leather craft and built Beaver Buggies. Had a meeting that had been planned by the white tails. **9.** Cubs raced Kub Kars. White tail Beavers invited to participate. **10.** Cubs did archery at Ron's Archery in Smiths Falls.

Future Events: **1.** Swim-up and going-up ceremony. **2.** Spring Cub camp at Whispering Pines. Fire lighting, orienteering, games, broomstick catapults with water balloons. **3.** Scout NiteVent. **4.** Scout canoe practice at Whispering Pines and canoe trip. Three days over May long weekend starting from Whispering Pines. **5.** Scout Trees in Merrickville. Trees to be donated by the village. **6.** Pitch-in Canada.

Main Efforts: See our website for pictures of our events: <http://www.1stmerrickville.ca>

Issues: **1.** 2005 registration fee of \$110 is way too high.

Scout canoe practice at Whispering Pines and canoe trip. Three days over May long weekend starting from Whispering Pines.

Scout Trees in Merrickville. Trees to be donated by the village.

Pitch-in Canada.

Allan Yates, Gr. Comm.

1st Montague: What have we been up to? The 1st Montague Scouts are continuing to finish requirements for Chief Scout.....we will be ready for April 2006 for sure.

* Scout camp was held over April 16th and April 17th, 2005 with a bike rally into Merrickville on Sunday. All youth and adults enjoyed themselves.

Thank you, Annette Thompson

1st Pakenham: No report

2nd Smiths Falls:

All the sections are busy wrapping up

4th Perth

- The 4th Perth Group Committee met on April 14th. Unfortunately illness and other commitments did cut into our attendance.

- The focus was on Continuity Planning.

- All Sections are winding down from a very active year. During the next weeks, in addition to regular meetings, there will be several special activities, many of them outdoors.

- The Group will hold a barbecue at Independent Grocery in Perth on Friday, May 20th.

- Suggestions were made for registration fees for next year including early registration. Our Scouts are preparing for the Central Canada Jamboree. Some summer activities are being considered.

All in all we look back on a good year.

Arnel W. Pattemore, Group Commissioner

1st Portland: no report

6. Old Business:

Hobbies & Wheels is just about all set and ready to go!

- The crests look awesome, a great range of activities set for the kids, a box of trophies, we just need to keep our fingers crossed for the weather :)
- There should be some surprises in the Hobby Show!
- It would really be appreciated if as many Kub Kars and Scout Trucks could be brought down and registered on the Friday evening. This saves a lot of time and congestion on Saturday morning. If that is not possible, please email or fax me the entry sheet giving the kids names and their vehicle number. This data all needs to be entered in the race computer, and we don't want to waste time with this on Saturday.
- Unfortunately, there is always a bit of work for leaders to do during events. Here are the key positions that will need to be filled. First come first serve :) I would appreciate volunteers ahead of time. All equipment and instructions are supplied, all that is needed is your enthusiasm. Naturally any leader not in an official position will be glad to help out where ever they can :)
- Pitstop - 2nd Almonte? They did it last year, but I haven't received a response for this year.
- Registration (Saturday, help with weighing) - ?
- Master of Ceremonies for Saturday (announcements on the PA) - Jim Britton? (John Stalker expressed regrets due to loss of voice)
- Master of Ceremonies for Sunday - ?
- Race computer operator - Andrew Wise * Track official (Cubs) - Jeff Criggar
- Track official (Scouts) - ? * Scout pioneering - Sean Williams
- Cub pioneering - ? * Scout game (outside) - ?
- Cub game (outside) - ? Beaver Games - Lisa Kenneday & Doug Shoup?
- Calligrapher - ?

There will also be leaders needed to walk the Beavers and Cubs amongst the fun events, but those people can be appointed on the day.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for all your support,
Allan. allan@yates.ca (613) 269-3074 (home) (613) 599-2148 (work) (613) 269-3076 (fax)

UPDATED REPORT: Executive Summary

- In my biased opinion, I believe the weekend went very well. The weather was challenging for outdoor activities, but the kids persisted and accomplished most of their objectives.
- The surprise of the day was an exhibit by the Ottawa Radio Control Club. They had a static display of some large aeroplanes, and some really cool rubber band planes that they flew in the community centre. The kids were mesmerized. A short clip of a number of their aircraft flying was shown on a large projector. They were delighted with the kids and would like to participate again next year. Pictures of the Cubs and their aeroplanes will be going up on their website (www.ottawarcclub.ca) shortly.
- The Scouts built a 12' tall by 25' long Monkey Gym using pioneering skills and raced their Scout trucks.
- The Cubs raced their Kars, build-pioneering chariots and raced them, played Nigel's Navy outside (very well received), climbed the Scout built Monkey Gym, and finished off with all the fun events with their Kars.
- The Beavers day ran on Sunday from 12:30pm to 4:00pm. They played a parachute game, ran through their six fun Beaver Buggy events, did an outside scavenger hunt, and played a sock throwing game.
- Crests will be available for sale (\$2) at the next area meeting.
- Rankings of Kars and Trucks within a pack/troop and overall are available on request.
- Pictures will be going up on the Merrickville website (www.1stmerrickville.ca) in next week or so.

Many Thanks: **Organizing**, setup, teardown, cleanup, etc. - 1st Merrickville **Pitstop** - 2nd Almonte

And all the other leaders who ran or lead individual games, ran the track, ran the race computer, did the announcing, etc.

Changes under consideration for next year

- Participation ribbons for hobby show? The purple ones are currently being used as honourable mentions.
- Give out hobby honourable mentions at closing with the rest
- Remove "Judge's Favorite" as an award.
- Change proportion of cost of Beaver day in comparison to Cub/Scout day. The Cub/Scout day is much longer and more involved so they should bear more of the cost.
- Give judges pictures of pre-made kits so those cars can be eliminated from the design competition.
- Eliminate pre-registration. Have all Kars & Trucks arrive on Saturday morning. Day will start with a non-racing activity to allow time for data entry.
- Change Beaver hobby trophies to generic ribbons to reduce cost.
- Invite additional hobby clubs and demonstrations in addition to the Radio Control Aeroplanes.

Feedback I am very interested in receiving feedback on the event, especially related to the Beaver portion. Specifically: What went right?

What could be improved?

How do we get more groups to participate?

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.

Why do so many kids leave part way through the day?

Thanks,

Allan. Chair, 1st Merrickville <http://www.1stmerrickville.ca>

Note: For detailed information on stats, please e-mail Allan or they and myself will be e-mail to you

Honours & Awards: Look within your own sections and nominate one of your deserving fellow Scouters. Get them into Kim Comstock ASAP so that we have given them out at our ceremony in June.

COUNCIL:

- **Linking:** start now with including Beavers in the Cub program; Cubs in the Scout program; Scouts in the Venturer program, etc. Invite them to attend your meetings/events – this will help to retain the youth within the program
- **Perspective members:** Group Commissioners and Group Registrars – check your list and verify the reason they are still perspective and when that status will change. (PRC/interview/gateway could be missing).
- **Growth:** Website for area is now up and running. Click on beaver, click again and you will get new information. Check it out
- **Training:** New vision – need training? Not enough courses or types? Need a mentor/coach not really working. Council has looked into this and they plan a major influx of training with two courses this year run and six planned per area for next year. 3 for beavers, 2 pack and 1 for troop. There will be a policy change, in that new leaders are encouraged to take training within the first year.
- **Group Commissioners:** Will facilitate in managing this change. They are encouraged to motivate their leaders to take training. One members take it, they enjoy it and will be encouraged to do more. They will do the training and then can be mentored/coached by another leader within the group. The concept is, that trained leaders can give better programs.
- **Retention:** At present 50% return; we recruit 35-50% each year. The problem is, we are losing as many as we recruit. Discussion held and ideas tossed about on how to change this trend.

Night: For adults only – give date to Gr. Comm. and they in turn will check with their leaders. This will be an event such as a barbecue – casual dress.

List: It was asked if we had a list in the area listing the skills of our members. Presently, there is not one, but that is something that can be done up. Skills listed were such things as canoeing, rock climbing, etc.

Camp Impeeza: 3 members will be organizing the camp. Stan Lasenba, Jeff Crigger and Michelle Niefer. They will be getting other members on the team. Please give a hand.

Date: May 27-29th.

7. New Business:

Budget was reviewed and revamped for the year 2005-06. copy attached.

Venturers: Will be starting up at 3rd Carleton Place. They hope to have youth from Almonte, Beckwith, Pakenham and Carleton Place. Please encourage your youth to join or if they have any questions, to contact John Stalker.

D.A.C. positions on the Area team will be vacant. A team will be put together to nominate and fill these positions.

Calendar: A draft will be sent out before the next Area Forum. Check it over, bring your calendars and we will prepare the calendar for next year. This is the time for you to add your comments/ideas.

7 Challenge Award: Cub leaders – do you have any youth near completion or completed their 7 challenge awards. Get their names into Michelle Niefer no later than May 13th so that certificates can be done up and presented at Camp Impeeza.

Lombardy Fair: Is coming up once again this Summer. July 29, 30 31 and Aug. 1. The money raised from this booth goes towards running the camp, thus we can have the youth in our area camp free. Please give Stan Lasenba a call and volunteer for one shift. Shifts are 10 a.m – 2 p.m./ 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Smiths Falls Legion: Asked to borrow the marquee. This was done, as the Legion has been very good to us.

Meeting adjourned: 9:50 p.m. Next area meeting location to be announced.