



## Area Forum

January 8, 2009

Presbyterian Church, Smiths Falls



**Present:** John Stalker, AC; Jean Lasenba, Finance; Brad Simpson, Technology / Fundraising; , Kelly Banks – Field Executive, Hope Gray – DAC Awards, Gen Stalker – DAC Youth, Diana Nuttall – Registrar, Elizabeth Docker – Carleton Place, Larry Palmer – 4<sup>th</sup> Perth, Joan Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Smiths Falls, Chris Tyler – 2<sup>nd</sup> Westport  
(Cub planning meeting taking place at the same time – participants arrived at 8 pm.) Alex Beelich DAC Programme & 1<sup>st</sup> Merrickville, Roger Nuttall – Scouter-at-large, Stan Lasenba – Camp, Torsten DeKart – 1<sup>st</sup> Drummond, Bruce Hodgins – 1<sup>st</sup> Drummond, Angelique Jahn – 1<sup>st</sup> Elmsley.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm.

**Regrets:** Michelle Niefer, Secretary;

### Agenda Items:

Opened with “Oh Canada” and Souter’s 5

Minutes reviewed Motion to accept minutes moved by Chris Tyler and seconded by Gen Stalker.

**John Stalker**, Area Commissioner: [j\\_stalker@sympatico.ca](mailto:j_stalker@sympatico.ca)

2007/8 was a busy year for Valley Highlands Area. With the second half of the centenary of Scouting and the beginning of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Merrickville Group (arguably the first Scout Group in Canada) there was a lot to celebrate.

Merrickville plans a special weekend event this fall to mark this milestone, and has arranged for the Venturer “Crazy Canuck Challenge” adventure race to coincide with their celebrations.

Scout/Guide week was especially meaningful due to being the end of the centennial celebrations, and dinners and award ceremonies were held 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 camps for Beavers (Beaveriee, organized by Almonte) Cubs (Impeeza) and Scouts weren't hampered by our wet spring, with great turnouts and enthusiastic youth and leaders.

The annual “Beef-on-a-Bun” booth at the Lombardy Fair fundraising for Whispering Pines Camp was down a bit from last year due to the weather, but still provided enough income to fund the camp for the next year, thanks to all the volunteers' enthusiasm.

The Venturers participated in many of the events organized by the Venturer Advisor Forum, the Senior Section Youth Committee (SSYC), and the Joint Council with senior Guiding members, including Venclimb, Rovent, Laserquest Lockdown, JC Winter Camp, WW Training and many more.

The Carleton Place Venturers planned and executed a 12 day canoe/train trip from Mattice to Moosonee on the Missinaibi River, as an entry for the Amory Adventure Award.

Although membership was down, the enthusiasm of our youth and leaders is always great to see, and we look forward to a great year in 2008/2009.

Commissioner's Report (on file) plus Exemption Process for taking training has a document that must be filled by the member and the Group Commissioner and then submitted to the AC.

Membership in Valley Highlands is 74% of last year.

C. Jam information is available at [www.ccjam09.com](http://www.ccjam09.com)

Senators 50/50 information is available at [dereck.ellwood@rogers.com](mailto:dereck.ellwood@rogers.com)

Scout Day with Ottawa 67's and Kingston Frontenac's is Feb. 8, 2009. More information at [calvin@ottawa67s.com](http://calvin@ottawa67s.com)

Scout Fest on April 18, 2009 at SF High School. More details later.

Troop Camp will be June 12-14 2009. More details later

Area Meetings will be on the third Thursday each month at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Smiths Falls starting in Mar.

**Council report: Kelly Banks – Field Executive: [kbanks@scouts.ca](mailto:kbanks@scouts.ca)**

Friend fest is on for the month of February

As of March 1, 2009 the registration fee will be \$76.75

**DAC Reports:**

i: **Youth - Gen Stalker** [stargate\\_gal@hotmail.com](mailto:stargate_gal@hotmail.com)

ii: **Training** – up-dates are on the Council web site

All training applications require Area commissioner's signature

Winter Camp training had 24 youth attend and the event went well

iii: **Program** – Alex Beelich

**Troop** - As noted in copy of the correspondence attached Winter Camp Prep night was held in Smiths Falls on Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup>. Information/practice sessions were conducted on shelter construction, preparing and cooking at winter camp, how to properly load and pack a toboggan and what to look for should Hypothermia be suspected. A total of 28 Scouts and their leaders from different Troops were in attendance.

Thanks to Roger, Chris and the troop leaders for making this a success. Thanks to Smiths Falls for sharing their facility.

**Camp Zero** Scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> at Scouter Ken Richardson's bush lot. Hoping for a strong turnout.

Message sent to all Troop leaders in Valley Highlands)

Good morning.

A new year and many activities to enjoy.

- Tuesday January 6th, **Winter Camping** training session and prep night for Scouts

Meeting commences at 6:30 and will end by 8:15 - Presbyterian Church in Smiths Falls.

Information sessions to include: Preparing for and cooking out of doors in the winter

How to dress for warmth at winter camp

How to build a shelter to sleep in at

winter camp

Proper method of packing a toboggan.

Sharing ideas with other Scouts and Scouters.

- Saturday January 17th - **Camp Zero** located at 442 Bolton Road off County Rd 43 (formerly highway 43) east of Merrickville.

Camp commences Saturday morning and finishes Sunday January 18th 11:00am

Come practice your winter camping skills.

**Freezie Award**" to be earned by all participants sleeping overnight should the nighttime temperature drop below - 10 degrees C.

**Scout Trucks** - racing day to be confirmed. Tentative date March 28th.

**Nite Vent** - May 9th at Camp Whispering Pines. Please forward suggestions for activities

**Scout Camporee** - May 22nd until May 24th

### Year end Canoe Trip to Algonquin Park

Currently planning for two (2) camps is underway

1) Still camp with duration of 6 nights and 7 days, including travel. All 3rd year cubs going up to Scouts in the fall and this years 1st year Scouts are eligible to attend. Basis of the camp will be to build upon camping and canoeing skill in the wilds of Algonquin Park.

2) Canoe trip complete with canoeing, portaging, fishing, cooking and camping is planned for Algonquin Park. The duration will be 6 nights and 7 days including travel. All Valley Highlands 2nd year and 3rd year Scouts with the necessary canoe and camping skills will be eligible to attend.

Our plan is to have both groups travel together to the destination, split up and travel to their respective routes and end the camp together.

Anticipated cost will be in the range of \$175.00 to \$200.00 for each attendee. This will include food, canoes, camp fees, camp fuel and possibly a travel allowance.

Planned date is Sunday June 28th until Saturday July 4th.

Number of Scouts attending will be dependant upon the number of Scouters (adult) participating **.Not every group must provide an adult leader.** As all camp reservations must be made in advance we need to determine the number of attendees for each camp as soon as possible.

Your thoughts and comments are appreciated.

**Pack-** Planning Session scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – planning for upcoming **Cub Winter Challenge-**

Other activities to begin organizing – Impeeza, Kub Kars, introducing the June 28<sup>th</sup> until July 4<sup>th</sup> Still Camp to 3<sup>rd</sup> year Cubs.

**Colony** – Follow up meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> regarding the **Beaverree** scheduled in February.

iv: **Camp Warden** – Stan Lasenba – [lasenba@sympatico.ca](mailto:lasenba@sympatico.ca)

v: **Honours & Awards** – Hope Gray [hope@kevinrobertgray.com](mailto:hope@kevinrobertgray.com)

vi: **Scout Trees** - Brian Billings - [brian\\_billings@carleton.ca](mailto:brian_billings@carleton.ca)

vii: **Technology / Fundraising** - Bradley Simpson [bradleysimpson@sympatico.ca](mailto:bradleysimpson@sympatico.ca)

viii : **Financial:** Jean Lasenba - [lasenba@sympatico.ca](mailto:lasenba@sympatico.ca)

### **GROUP REPORTS:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Almonte: no report

1<sup>st</sup> Beckwith: no report

Carleton Place: no report

1<sup>st</sup> Drummond: no report

1<sup>st</sup> Elmsley: Group Christmas Party was enjoyed by all with attendance by Santa Claus being the highlight. The Scouts attended the Winter Camp training and are looking forward to the camp.

1<sup>st</sup> Merrickville: No report

4<sup>th</sup> Perth:

The 4th Perth Group is mourning the passing of Scouter Sandra Thomson. Sandra has served the Group for more than ten years as Group Committee Chair, Beaver Leader and Assistant in the Pack and Troop. She set an example for others and encouraged our youth to advance her training. We cherish her in our hearts.

- The Pack has been studying knots, playing games, and attended the Group Christmas get together.
- The Troop has been preparing for winter camp, practicing their knots and lashings, and attended the Group Christmas get together.
- The Venturers I am not sure although one is working on his Chief Scout award, and attended the Group Christmas get together.
- Rewards were handed out to the Cubs by Alan Vickers for popcorn sales; to the Scoutts by Alan Keith Thompson for popcorn sales., to the Venturers by Scouter Rick for popcorn sales and to the Group committee by Arnel Pattemore for popcorn sales.
- Kub Kars were passed out to the Cubs and Scouts, and Trucks were handed to the Venturers.
- All sections were active in the Christmas Parade, and in the Funeral for Sandy.

Larry Palmer for Arnel W. Pattemore, Group Commissioner

2<sup>nd</sup> Smiths Falls: No report

2<sup>nd</sup> Westport:

1. EVENTS TO DATE:

- a. Meeting cancelled due to bad weather
- b. Meeting cancelled due to school concert
- c. Meeting cancelled due to Bad weather

2. FUTURE EVENTS:

- a. Group committee meeting next Tuesday  
Regular meeting next Wednesday
- b. Investitures at tramp supper first week February

3. MAIN EFFORTS:

Registrations and orientation of leaders

4. ISSUES: None

5. COMMENTS. Now have five leaders and one administrator. And of course myself as GC. A good start. Still need a Treasurer/fund raiser. Several additional kids plan to join as soon as weather breaks. Should bring our numbers up to 6 beavers, 8 cubs, 2 scouts. Progress is slow but were getting there !

Yours in Scouting,

Chris Tyler, Group Commissioner

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Diana Nuttall

Minutes Read at Area Forum and motion to accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
John Stalker, Area Commissioner Date