



Area Forum

August 20, 2009

Lion's Club, Smiths Falls



Present: John Stalker, AC; Jean Lasenba, Finance; Diana Nuttall, Registrar; Roger Nuttall, DAC; Alex Beelich; DAC Program; Michelle Niefer, DAC Training/Admin; Ken Richardson, DAC; Christ Tyler, Westport; Elizabeth Docker, Group Com, CP; Torsten De Kart; Group Com, Drummond; Hope Gray, Recognition; Gen Stalker, Youth DAC and Ray Johnston, Beckwith.

John Stalker, Area Commissioner: j_stalker@sympatico.ca

- Went to Scotia Jam – had a real good time (near Sydney, Nova Scotia).
- Canoe trip
- Thank you to the team for Lombardy Fair Booth – organizing, etc. Thanks to Jeff Criggar, Jean Lasenba, Stan Lasenba and Joan Smith.

Council report:

Kelly Banks – Field Executive: kbanks@scouts.ca

1) Membership Statistics 2008-2009:

First of all - a few really positive things to report:

Valley Highlands Area had a Total Membership of 373 Members = 99.2% (this is up from a low of 80.7% Growth last year and is only 3 members shy of achieving 100%)

- **4 Groups reached and exceeded 100% Growth** - Congratulations to 1st Beckwith, 1st Merrickville, Carleton Place and 1st Elmsley
- The **Area's retention was 62%** (up from 53.9% the year before!)
- 1 Group reached 70% retention - 1st Merrickville

Voyageur Council grew for the third year in a row!

We finished with 100.4% Growth and reached our goal of 65% retention with a total of 65.17% retained.

GREAT JOB TO EVERYONE FOR MAKING SUCH A GREAT MEMBERSHIP LEAP THIS YEAR IN VALLEY HIGHLANDS :) !!!!!

2) School Postcards 2009:

The school postcards should be arriving by today (Friday) or Monday of next week. They will be bundled and distributed to the schools (as they have been in the past) next week in time for the first day of school. Please see the attached proof of the final Postcard. Throughout the design process, the postcard ended up morphing from a postcard into a much more dynamic "door-hanger" idea - it turned out great!

The website: The website (www.voyageur.scouts.ca/join) is almost ready to go live. Parents will be directed to the website via the postcard and will find listings of Groups and their contacts on the website - much like the back of the flyers had last year. The website was designed to look a lot like the School Postcard to make things simple for parents looking for information.

IMPORTANT - ALL GROUPS - Please find attached the information that we have on file for you from last year and let us know any changes that need to be made to this ASAP. We originally asked for this information back in the Spring but have not yet received anything from Valley Highlands. If we do not get a response from you we will assume the information is correct. Thanks!

As well - the full contest information will be available on the website along with a picture of the prize package.

How the contest works: Anyone who is new to Scouting this year can cut the bottom portion of the postcard off and attach it to their Registration form to be entered into a draw for a \$500 Camping package. Groups - please make sure that you send these cards (filled in completely) in with your registration packages to the office. This will help us track how successful the postcards were in bringing in new membership.

French Postcards: Please note that a French version of the postcard is also available. Contact us if you would like some to distribute to French schools in your Area.

3) New Leader Welcome Kit (NLWK) from National:

An excellent new tool from the National Organization is being distributed this Fall across the country - the "New Leader Welcome Kit". Here are the details of the kit:

The kit will contain:

Print Materials

- a one page Welcome Letter from Steve Kent, Jessica Page and Rob Stewart
- Leader introduction to their section
- Leader Uniform checklist
- Introduction to Risk Management Brochure
- Catalogue
- *Council Contacts Page
- *Training Schedules
- *these items will need to be added locally by the office.

DVD

- Chief Commissioner's video on Growth
- Resource Tool Kit Page with links to: Online Orientation/WB1 Mod 1, Program Builder Online, 6 weeks of programs from Beaver and Cub Handbooks, 4 weeks of programs from the Scout Handbook, Jumpstarts, Risk Management webpage, Scout shops ecommerce site
- Scouting Life magazine

We will be distributing the Kits to your Area Commissioner in early September and they will be passed onto the Groups through your AC. The number of kits you receive will be approximately based on last years number of new leaders recruited to your Group. If you anticipate a greater need than that - you can contact the Council for more kits and also download the whole kit at this link: www.scouts.ca/nlwk (after September 1st). A great deal of time and resources have been invested to meet the demand for these kits – and this tool should be provided to each and every new leader as there is a direct relationship between successful orientation /initial training and new leader retention - so please use them! The Field Executives will be following up with Groups and assessing the usefulness of the kits.

4) School Talks: If your Groups wishes to use School Talks this year as a recruitment tool - please contact me directly ASAP (my info is at the bottom of this email). Please let me know the schools you would like to target, the principals names and the schools Contact info and I will contact them ASAP.

5) Registration Reconciliation: Just a friendly reminder that all of your packages need to be checked by someone at the Area level before being sent into the office.

6) Growth Website: The Growth website (<http://www.voyageur.scouts.ca/growth/index.htm>) has been static for some time now and the resources are outdated. We will be completely revamping the website this Fall and posting new and improved resources on it to assist Groups with their Growth and Retention campaigns. Stay tuned for more info!

I think that is all for now - GC's please make sure you get your Group info to me ASAP for the School Postcard website. And again - sorry for missing the meeting last night - who knew there were two tenth line roads in that area! :)

Yours In Scouting,

Kelly Banks

**Field Executive - Voyageur Council
Scouts Canada**

Home Office in Ottawa, Cell: (613) 552-0367, Fax: (613) 225-2802

DAC Reports:

i: **Youth - Gen Stalker** stargate_gal@hotmail.com

- a couple of youth are interested, she will be talking with them and it will be announced as who will be replacing her.

ii: **Training – Michelle Niefer** mniefer@sympatico.ca

- training calendar – see attached.
- **WB I** for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts planned for December 4th & 5th in Almonte.
- First Aid being offered in CP. Trainer: Cindy Courtland. Check training calendar for more details
-

iii: **Program - Alex Beelich** alex.beelich@nlfinancial.ca

- see area calendar.
- JOTA/Skills Camp will include 1st and 2nd year Scouts; Will ask Girl Guides to participate.

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

Some work has been done at the camp but my list of things to do is still quite long. Grass cutting has been ongoing and some trimming along the road has been done. The marquee has been used a few times and has generated some income. The camp proper is in good shape and the archery range grass is coming along. A work party for September will be announced in the near future

Income

Joynt Auction Services	3 rentals	550.00
Camp Rental Income		105.00
		660.00

Note that the welding was donated. The 50.00 for gas was approved at the meeting.

* Curling Bonspiel which is a Council event will be held again in Smiths Falls. More details to follow.

Motion made by Roger to pay Stan gas money for deliver/set up of the tent. 2nd by Elizabeth Docker; Vote: Unanimous.

v: **Honours & Awards – Hope Gray** hope@kevinrobertgray.com

- Crest to be made – Spirit of Scouting.
- Chris Tyler made a plaque for “Lily of the Thistle” and “Spirit of Scouting”.
- Plan to put team together to help with criteria.

vi : **Financial: Jean Lasenba -** lasenba@sympatico.ca

- **need financial reports by October 17th:**
- **Advertising:** \$50. will be given to each group to assist towards their cost of advertising. Submit your bill and you will receive this from Jean.

Motion to pay the bills from Lombardy fair = \$2,254.58. Made by Alex Beelich, 2nd by Roger Nuttall. Unanimous.

vii: **Registrar: Diana Nuttall:** dcn@storm.ca

- contact Diana before sending registration into Headquarters

GROUP REPORTS: Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

- I would like at this time to thank Jeff Crigger, Joan Smith and Jean and Stan Lasenba for all the work in setting up and arranging things the Lombardy Food booth. Without their hard work and the dedication of a few area Scouters to help run the booth, our Youth would have to pay to keep Whispering Pines going. **THANK YOU.**

* **Thank You John** for hosting the/meeting Barbecue at your home. It was nice to have a relaxing evening and visit with other Scouters socially.

Michelle Niefer.

New Business: September 17th at p.m.

Recorded: Michelle Niefer

Minutes Read at Area Forum and motion to accept: _____

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