



## Area Forum

October 25, 2012

Westminster Presbyterian,  
Church

Smiths Falls



**Present:** Alex Beelich, Michelle Niefer, Kelly Banks, Larry Palmer, Stan Lasenba, Amanda Smith, Glenn Richards, Diana Nuttall, Roger Nuttall, Mike Dobbie, Sharon Dekart, Johanne Dekart, Allen Sinfield, Kevin Tetreault, Joan Smith, Jean Lasenba, Alex Beelich, Bill Lawrence, Angeliq Jahn, Kathy McKee

**Regrets:** Elizabeth Docker, Brian Billings

**Call to order:** at 7:00 p.m.

O'Canada by all

Words of Thought by Stan Lasenba (Remembrance Day)

**Acceptance of the minutes of August 23 2012: Moved:** Stan Lasenba **Second:** Michelle Neifer **Abstain:** 0 **Carried**

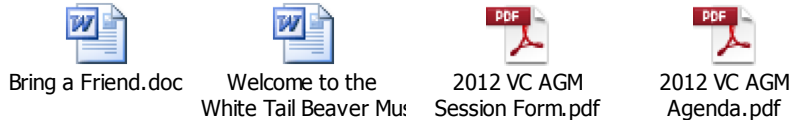
### Reports:

**Alex Beelich**, Area Commissioner:

### COUNCIL REPORT

- November 3<sup>rd</sup>- Council AGM- to be held at Sir Robert Borden High- distribute sign in form and Agenda- Breakout sessions -6 morning and same after AGM
- Registration is progressing well, actually ahead of last year at this time @ 74%of last year. I have reviewed the My Scouts and will discuss with each GC the status of their registered leaders, youth. Some groups need to update their status
- Group Commissioners are to ensure Leaders are active.
- Rovent is scheduled for November 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>, estimated at 400 Venturers and Rovers to participate
- White tail sleep over is scheduled for Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>- Check Council Website for additional details
- Cub camp scheduled for Apple Hill- May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>- Distribute flyer- Planning a Badge contest for the Cubs- Information to be circulated to all Group Commissioners and Akelas. Contest Deadline is December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Impact 2012- Johanne Dekart will report.
- National AGM to be held in Ottawa- Voyageur to assist – Youth to be upfront and involved
- John Staff DCC – Child and youth safety. Behavior issues- Voyageur is developing additional training for the section leaders based upon needs.
- Training Portal is operational on the Council Website.
- Group Commissioners should retain paper copies of completed training- ie: COC, CYS, AODA-

- Commissioner's work shop has been resurrected- GC, DAC, AYC and AC. Suggested dates of Dec 1<sup>st</sup> or Dec 8<sup>th</sup>- details to follow.
- BP&P – updated section – financial record keeping to be distributed to each GC



### **Council report: Kelly Banks – Area Support Manager:**

Kelly provided some online assistance with MyScouts.ca to those who needed it.



Voyageur Council  
Area Support Manage

### **Secretary report: Kathy McKee**

Please have your reports sent to me at least two or three days prior to each meeting. I have been tasked with getting the minutes out within 7 days of the meetings. If reports are not received they won't be added to the minutes.

The Valley Highlands Directory for 2012 – 2013 is now up to date. See Old Business for discussion.

Please ensure that when responding to an announcement that you send it to the correct contact person.

Attached is a document from Stan regarding Scouting's roll in the war. This would be good to share with the groups with Remembrance Day approaching.



remember.wps

### **Financial: Jean Lasenba –**

Financial Reports for 2011 to 2012 are needed for the following groups:

- Carleton Place for 2010–2011 and 2011-2012
- Beckwith
- Drummond
- Almonte

Please get them in as soon as possible. **See attached 3500 By-laws, Policies and Procedures.**

When requesting reimbursement for expenses, Jean must have the original receipts.

**Motion:** For payment to be issued to Stan Lasenba for \$67.01 for camp cleanup expenses and payment to be issued to Sharon Dekart from \$173.33 for Nitevent and Joda :

**Moved:** Diane Nuttall **Second:** Larry Palmer **Carried**

Discussion regarding the alteration of cheques. If there is a problem with a cheque and it needs to be altered, please return it for correction. **Cheques must not be altered in any way.**

## DAC Report

### i: Training – Michelle Niefer -

- Training: JOTA / Nitevent = did not go off as well as initially thought. Those that are needing basic skills training, were not around to take it. OADA and CY & S was available, but Scouters present either had it or having sessions this week.
- Rope Bridge: A few Scouter's were given pointers on how to erect this for future events. Thanks Chris.
- Standard St. John's First Aid: is being offered November 17 & 18<sup>th</sup>. Legion in Smiths Falls; 9-5 p.m. Cost: \$75.00. Register by e-mail or send in application.



VC Training  
Application[1].doc

- Nov 3 – Voyageur Council Conference = training sessions are being given as well as other interest sessions. Check your e-mail and get your registration in early if you plan to attend.
- Basic camp skills: Are you interested? How to light a propane stove; one burner stove, lantern, tie various knots; knife handling – proper use; axe usage, fire lighting, setting up camp/tents, etc. This would apply to new leaders, and all section leaders.
- AODA / CY & S = if you are still needing this, I will come out to your meeting for you to view this on computer. Let me know if you require this.

### ii: Program – Sharon Dekart -

Nite Vent/Jota Oct 19-21

44 scouts, 5 venturers, 22 leaders & parents attended

10 stations for nite vent were set up

7 groups of scouts

Saturday saw the day start at 12:30 with the scouts being broken down into groups

3<sup>rd</sup> year scouts spent the afternoon with the Jota people building an antenna & then with Mike Dobbie talking about wireless communications

Axe & Saw as well as Match & fire permits were earned by the younger scouts

A group of 3<sup>rd</sup> year scouts made fudge in a baggie for everyone to sample

Interested leaders worked on cooking without stoves and prepared roast beef in a pit, chicken breasts in tin foil, fish in cabbage leaves & various vegetables on a bed of coals. With the exception of 2 pieces of chicken all turned out perfect.

An informal campfire rounded out the evening.

Sunday ended with a short Scouts Own, presentation of permits earned, a talk by the Jota people and a presentation of an area blanket to Michelle Niefer for her hard work as Area Commissioner over the last scouting year and her many years of service to the area.

A big thanks goes out to all of the leaders and parents who helped make this event a success. Especially to Chris Tyler for supplying the activities and props.

The flag poles need new halyards as it is impossible to raise the flags to an acceptable level.

Plans are under way for a meeting about this summer's canoe trip (mid November). Watch your email for the date & time. Anyone with ideas for the trip please let us know and we will add them to the agenda.

2 Scouts are in the process of putting together separate plans for the area spring camp. Both are in the process of putting their ideas on paper. Will keep you posted as more details are presented

We are making plans for the Winter Camp workshop in early December as well as winter camp and the Cub winter challenge.

The first meeting of the Chief Scout group is happening this weekend in Smiths Falls

I believe Carleton Place is looking after the Beaver Burr this year.

The information is out regarding the White tail sleepover.

**iii : Youth – Johanne Dekart -**

I attended an awesome youth conference at Camp Samac. Over 200 scouting youth spent the entire weekend in seminars, listening to guest speakers, doing community service projects and discussing the future of the scouting movement.

I attended seminars on green camping, unlearning stereotypes, combating apathy and leadership 1 & 2. The Voyageur Youth Committee has started work on their My Impact project of getting more youth involved in the venturer and rover programs. We are focusing on youth in high schools, universities and colleges with separate ads noting that scouting is indeed a co-ed organization. On that note there were more girls than guys at the conference.

The keynote speakers were Barbara Elliot and John May. Some of our community service projects consisted of garbage picking, planning a campfire for seniors, working in the local soup kitchen.

I have been contacted by 2 scouts who are interested in planning the area spring camp. Both are in the idea stage with more info to follow.

I hope to visit each group to get the youth's ideas on what they would like to see happen over the coming year. So far I have only managed to visit 1 group other than my venturer company. I look forward to meeting with the others over the next couple of months.

**iv: Recognition – Roger Nuttall -**

I am now able to access most of the data on the My Scouts site to be able process award submissions for Valley Highlands Area Members.

**v: Registrar: - Christine Hepton -**

No report

**vi: Technology / Fundraising – Mike Dobbie**

Website is up and functioning but requires updating - key areas to be updated this month ( area team and calendar). Whispering Pines page has been visited over 1200 times since mid-2010, and Area Team directory over 800 times. Any content that could be on the website should be forwarded to Mike. The domain [www.vhscouts.org](http://www.vhscouts.org) is registered through Google and costs \$10/yr - this includes website,photo and document storage, calendar and up to 200 email addresses can be defined. Website address should be included in all communications.

Facebook - Valley Highlands needs a page, Johanna concurs. Focus will be on communication to parents, and to encourage youth communication participation. Mike will set up and share admin duties with Johanna.

**vii Camp Warden – Stan Lasenba –**

The work party that was scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Roger did come and cut an pile the wood around the Headquarters site so that is done. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Carlton Place cubs were there that weekend and seemed to be enjoying themselves very much. I have a few items that need to be done before winter and that will be done as soon as possible.

Expenses ( These will be used at the next work party)

Paint supplies	36.09
Food for work party	30.92
Total	67.01

viii: **Scout Trees - Brian Billings -**

On Tuesday (23rd), I visited the plant site with Dan COOPER - RVCA and Jeff WARD- OMNR...overall we assessed a 72% survival rate for those trees planted in May! This is awesome considering the Summer weather that we had and the competing vegetation. Further, we walked the area planted in May 2011 and were equally impressed with the thriving success of VHA Scouting's efforts - great work team and thanks to all! I am still working on a plant site for Scoutrees 2013 and hope to have that finalized by the end of November....I am still following up with DNE for the area that they indicated could be planted and Dan COOPER (RVCA) is still speaking with OMYA - some significant site prep is required if we are to plant at the OMYA Plant, however. Stay tuned...

ix: **Popcorn – Brian Billings – -**

I believe that I have communicated with all groups participating in Popcorn Fundraising this year....orders are slowly coming in. I have not be advised of the deadline yet but suggest that Groups get their orders in ASAP. I am available to assist if you are having any issues. Please contact me at [brian\\_billings@carleton.ca](mailto:brian_billings@carleton.ca) or on my cellphone at (613)794-1975.

x: **Quartermaster – Diana Nuttall**

No report

xi: **Chief Scout – Kevin Tetreault**

I visited all groups in the area to talk about the club to all youth. There is about 15 youth that showed interest. Our first meeting is on Oct 28/12 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Smiths Falls. Some of the Beckwith Venturers will be helping out with the club as well. We will dicuss some of the history and the requirements for the award.

**GROUP REPORTS:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Almonte: Bill Lawrence –**

1. **EVENTS TO DATE:**

- a. Beavers participated in the Crown and Pumpkin Tour in Mississippi Mills during the Thanksgiving Weekend. They had pumpkins that they decorated, judged by tour participants then met at the Almonte Legion with the Brownies for prize presentations.
- b. 3 Scouts and 3 Venturers participated in the Night Vent / J.O.T.A. weekend camp. They had a great time.

2. **FUTURE EVENTS:**

- a. All sections will be participating in the Remembrance Day Parade in Almonte.
- b. Cubs are doing a Fall Camp on 10 / 11 Nov 13

3. **MAIN EFFORTS:**

- a. We are currently sitting at 16 Beavers, 10 Cubs, 4 Scouts, 5 Venturers and 7 Scouters. We are still trying to recruit new Leadership for all Sections and Group Committee.
- b. We are trying to get all paperwork on time this year. We currently have 4 subsidies in progress.
- c. Our Venturers are designing a Web page for 2<sup>nd</sup> Almonte, and hope to have it up shortly.

4. ISSUES:
  - a. .Getting all Scouter's fully active. I have had problems getting online to register youth and Leaders.

**1<sup>st</sup> Beckwith: Allen Sinfield –**

No report

**Carleton Place: Elizabeth Docker –**

Reference: Group Committee Meeting held October 18, 2012

1. EVENTS TO DATE: (since the last meeting)
  - a. Venturers and Rovers attended ROVENT
  - b. Scouts attended Nite Vent
  - c. Cubs attended Fall Camp at Whispering Pines
  - d. Cub and Scout Investitures (Oct 15 and 16)
2. FUTURE EVENTS: (within the next month)
  - a. Remembrance Day Parade (November 11, 2012)
  - b. Santa Claus Parade & Craft Sale (November 24, 2012)
3. MAIN EFFORTS: (the group's focus this period)
  - a. Screening of Parent Volunteers
  - b. Recruitment and Screening of New Leaders
  - c. Fundraising for CJ'13
  - d. Updating myscouts.ca records for all Leaders
  - e. Scout Popcorn Sales
4. ISSUES:
  - a. Some of our volunteers are still having problems gaining access to myscouts.ca. Our Group registrar is working with Kelly Banks to solve the problems because opening a ticket with the help desk isn't resulting in answers.
5. COMMENTS.
  - a. Our leaders are working very hard and our Scouting year is off to a good start.

**1<sup>st</sup> Drummond: Torstein Dekart –**

1. EVENTS TO DATE:
  - a. Investiture with Johanne Dekart AYC
  - b. Hike along Baird Trail
  - c. Nite Vent/Jota
  - d. Hallowe'en Party with Chris Tyler
  - e. Fudge & Popcorn
2. FUTURE EVENTS
  - a. Legion Museum tour
  - b. Remembrance Day at Lanark Legion
  - c. Drug & Alcohol talk with Constable David Bird
  - d. Beaver Campfire
  - e. White Tail Sleepover
3. MAIN EFFORTS
  - a. 3 scouts preparing for Chief Scout Award
  - b. Leaders training
  - c. Inventory
4. ISSUES
  - a. none

### **1<sup>st</sup> Elmsley: Glenn Richards –**

#### **1. EVENTS TO DATE:**

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts participated in a very successful Apple Day. Our Fundraiser brought in over \$ 1100.00 of profit. With the Permission of the 4th Perth group, we were able to obtain some Perth store front locations. We set up at 4 Perth locations and 2 Elmsley locations. Most of the youth and their parents did attend this annual fund raiser.

The Beavers are working on a monthly theme of “Harvest and Halloween” working with leaves, pumpkins and preparing the Halloween Party. The Cubs and Scouts have been working on camping skills. We have had a night hike on Oct. 15th, and attended Nitevent/JOTA camp on Oct. 19-21 – 11 youth and 3 adults in attendance.

Investitures for all sections were held on Oct. 22nd at the Port Elmsley Hall.

#### **2. FUTURE EVENTS:**

November Beaver theme will be Bears. Cubs and Scouts will work on their Pack and Troop Specialties: MAGIC. We will also start on our craft nights. All sections to participate in the Smiths Falls Santa Claus Parade being held on November 25th.

#### **3. MAIN EFFORTS:**

Our main efforts would be to have all adult members registered and trained. We will be meeting to do a group training session. We are still waiting for some PRC's and also waiting for the time to do interviews. As the PRCs arrive, we will try to quickly have members registered at head office. We are having difficulties fixing errors and registering members on the myscouts.ca website.

#### **4. ISSUES:**

There are many issues with the myscouts website. The system will not accept some email addresses and there are other technical issues with the site. We are trying to have them resolved with the help centre. The Adult volunteer registration method is a very slow process that is inhibiting the group from running to capacity and efficiently. We feel that the parents that only want to be occasional helpers are being required to have training along with their PRCs and that this training is mostly unneeded. It also is not possible for members with technical problems to do online training, therefore slowing down training time.

#### **5. COMMENTS:**

New members have commenced the required training. Copies of the Child and Youth Safety video were handed out at our meeting of Monday, October 1st. Updates will be sent to Area as training requirements are completed. An AODA record of training will be provided to Area at this meeting.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Merrickville: Amanda Smith -**

We had great apple day. All section have been running great programs. All sections have complete there investor. The beaver group is using the jump start for ideas. The cubs had a halloween party. They are working on badges as a group. The scouts have gone on two camp so far. Senior scouts are planning a night hike. The venturer are planning a weekend backpacking trip in November.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Perth: Arnel Pattemore –**

Our Beaver Scout Colony is off to a great start with two new leaders and plans for most of the year already in place. At the moment we cannot take any more Beavers. This year we will concentrate on a year-long process to recruit and renew with both adults and youth. The hope is to return 4th Perth to its former glory. We are fortunate to have a strong team in place and can only do our best in spite of ongoing challenges.

I am sorry that my last month's report did not make it in to the minutes.

## **Note from Kathy: My mistake. Here is the September Perth Report**

The 4th Perth Group held registration and is still hoping for more prospects. We will probably have only a Beaver Scout Colony. Due to overlap of catchment areas and what we consider unfair criticism in the past, combined with ongoing health problems among our adult volunteers, we are experiencing some problems in starting up. New registration requirements and a short time line have also presented some challenges. There is still a determination to keep the Group active and we have a core of enthusiastic leaders. There have been no arrivals of new Cub Scouts or Scouts. Our financial statement for 2011-2012 has been forwarded.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Smiths Falls: Joan Smith –**

Our apple day was another success this year. Beavers have been busy with a new theme night each meeting and baking. Preparing for a sleepover this weekend with a joint event with the cubs for a Halloween party. Cubs have been working on badges like crazy and preparing for their investiture. Scouts have been having weekend events for the month of October with no weekly meetings. They attend brotherhood camp and doing lots of outdoor activities. All sections are going to the Remembrance day parade and service on November 11<sup>th</sup>. In need of beaver leaders as we are two of them move next month.

### **Old Business:**

**Valley Highland Area Volunteer Directory** – The directory has now been updated however we are missing phone numbers. If there is new information please send it to Kathy as soon as you have it. Kathy to send out an email to each Group Commissioner to update the phone numbers. Further to discussion about who should have the Directory, it will be sent out only with phone number contacts.

**2011 - 2012 Year End Activity Reports – The Report from Perth is still missing.** Please send it in as soon as possible.

**Merrickville Storage:** The trailers have now been moved side by side and Merrickville are going through them now. The rental fee will be \$100/year with the difference in the insurance cost to be added. Area will need its own lock. A good one is recommended so that it doesn't jam or need constant replacement. Area will absorb some of the costs for the wall between.

**Alex requests that everyone send in an inventory of what they have. The list is to be sent to Diana Nuttall before the next meeting on November 22, 2012.**

**Attached is a document to help you make your list. If you cannot fill in all the information, just fill in the equipment and where it is located.**



Blank Equipment  
List.docx

### **New Business:**

**Cassie Warwick – Refund of \$125.00 to be issued for her cancelled Algonquin Camp.**

**FOR THE GOOD OF SCOUTING!**

**Leather Punch**



Kathy to send an email to Cyndy to let her know she should contact John Stalker about the leather punch.  
No one is sure if we actually own one.

**Registrations**

Just a note that registrations are due.

Adjournment at 9:25. **Moved:** Stan Lasenba **Second:** Michelle Neifer **Carried**

Next meeting: **November 22nd, 2012.**

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

Minutes Signed by:

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Alex Beelich, Area Commissioner