



# Voyageur Council Annual Report 2013-2014



## A Year in Review!



It starts with Scouts.

# Council Leadership

## Council Key 3

Council Commissioner (CC)	Jim Peverley
Council Executive Director (CED)	Barry Hardaker
Council Executive Director (CED)	Jon Wiersma
Council Youth Commissioner (CYC)	Ian Wilenius
Council Youth Commissioner (CYC)	Devon Staff (July 1, 2014)

## Support

Council Administrator	Heather Shore
Finance Chair	Donnalú Sabo
Deputy Elections Officer	Rod Wilson
Council Operating Procedures	Michelle Niefer
Popcorn Coordinator	John Bennett
Area Support Manager (ASM)	Kelly Banks
Area Support Manager (ASM)	Heather Lee
Revenue Development Manager	Kathryn Brown
Operations Manager	Jeff Benson
Property Manager	Michel Besner

## DCC's

DCC Child and Youth Safety	John Staff
DCC Camping	Doug Proud
DCC Recognition	Garth Jonah
DCC Volunteer Development/Training	Iain Holness
DCC Program Standards	Mark Milan
DCC Events	Nolan Smith

## DCYC's

Training	Kalen Smith
Recognition	Skye Walker
Program	Andrew Ralph
Communications	Jamie Schaffler

## AC's

Algonquin Hills  
Carleton  
Heritage  
Loyalist  
Nepean  
Rideau  
Odawa  
Valley Highlands  
Council Groups

## AYC's

Algonquin Hills  
Carleton  
Heritage  
Loyalist

Nepean  
Rideau

Odawa  
Valley Highlands

Council Groups (AYC)  
Ontario Incorporated Body Rep

## ENOSSC

Administrative Assistant  
Camp Administrator  
Registrar  
Accountant  
Bookkeeper  
Administrative Assistant  
Program Manager COP's

Owen Wiseman  
Don Bell  
Perry Schippers  
Dave Cunningham  
Sarah Smith  
Ken Shore  
Patrick Wall  
Alex Beelich  
John Dougherty

Nicolas d'Entremont  
Ashley Schippers  
Lisa Serino  
Nicholas Landry  
Siobhan Ward  
Devon Staff  
Aidan Power  
Alex Griffith-Turtle  
Johanne Dekart  
Alaric Eamon  
Matt Doody  
Rod Wilson

Pamela Bazinet  
Theresa Strickland  
Ladka Stodola  
Lyn Williams  
Corinna Milan  
Lynn Levitan  
Kassi Clifford

# Council Commissioner

Voyageur Council continues to provide outstanding growth and development opportunities for our youth members through the efforts of an extensive and dedicated volunteer base. Training for volunteers, leadership opportunities for youth and of course adventure remain hallmarks of Scouting in Voyageur Council.

Recognition of our volunteer base reflects the excellent work done by Scouters day in and day out. A large number of certificates of commendation have been presented as well as many milestone awards such as the Medal of Merit and Silver Acorn. Additionally there have been some significant youth awards presented recognizing exceptional achievement.

Program quality is maintained at a high standard across the council. Remarkably though there have been relatively few program quality awards presented which is not reflective of the real situation. The national goal of 80% of sections receiving the program quality award is achievable and is something all groups and areas should be striving for in the next Scouting year.

Senior sections within Voyageur Council represent a significant achievement for the council. With one of the largest senior section enrolments in the country it is important to continue with the outstanding program opportunities for our senior youth.

Training is an important activity in the council. With many in-person Woodbadge Part 1 courses offered, various courses designed to provide practical application of material identified in on-line training the council is dedicated to providing the skills needed by our scouters to deliver a

quality program. As a council we continue to be committed to providing advanced training through the Woodbadge Part 2 courses. Everyone who has taken this training comments on the value of the material covered.

Growth is an area where we did not do well in the past year. For the first time in nine years we did not grow overall. This has an impact on the cash flow of the council as fewer members does mean less money available to run the program, but more importantly it means we are not providing the outstanding program that is Scouting to as many youth in our region as we could be. As a council we need to concentrate on growth opportunities.

We have many exciting challenges in the coming year, not the least of which is the gradual implementation of the new program, The Canadian Path. To many of you the changes implemented this year are in fact nothing new. Youth led, Adventure, Plan-Do-Review and SPICES (Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual) are not new concepts to the majority of you who have been running superior programs for many years. This is the year for all of us to review how we do things and keep Scouting as the valuable youth program that it is.

The past year has provided some challenges but the council is in good shape overall with about 5,000 youth experiencing what scouting has to offer. As scouters we must continue to provide the opportunity for our youth to grow as leaders for Canada.

Jim Peverley  
Council Commissioner

# Council Training

The 2013-2014 Scouting Year was preceded by an experimental two-weekend Colony-Pack-Troop Woodbadge II course held during the summer of 2013. It succeeded thanks to the hard work of the entire training team, but it was noted that much more time was needed to successfully cover Outdoor Skills to the level that is expected in Voyageur Council (the reason we normally run three-weekend courses).

During the course of the 2013-2014 Scouting Year, the following courses ran:

- a number of Standard First Aid courses, including a March Break course for Scouts
- a Group Commissioner WB1 was run in the fall
- a Company/Crew WB1 was run in the fall
- a New Leader Workshop / Practical Skills training was run and well-attended in Carleton Area
- a Company/Crew WB2 was run in the spring-summer
- a multi-section WB1 was successfully run in the early summer in Carleton Area
- a Boat Rescue course was run in the summer

Regretfully, a number of single-section and multi-section WB1s were scheduled then not run due to low or no registrations. That has been a consistent pattern over the past several years, with increasing complaints from Group Commissioners that some leaders with only e-Learning training need one-on-one practical skills training, resulting in additional coaching and mentoring on the program side.

I took on the role of DCC Training in the spring of 2014. Effective as of June 2014, the following changes have been made in Training for Voyageur Council:

- A New Leader Workshop will be run in each Area in the fall and in the winter/spring (two per year)
- A single in-person WB1 will be run in the fall and in the late spring, with at least one of them being residential, and each WB1 will have a complementary Outdoor Skills day run on that same weekend to provide well-rounded training for new and existing leaders.
  - Additional WB1s will only be run if a DAC Training accumulates a list of 4

or more participants per section, with each participant tracked for attendance and completion of any pre/post course requirements.

- Council pins that indicate WB1 and WB2 for each section will be handed out to Scouters who complete in-person WB1 and WB2 training, but Scouters who complete an e-Learning WB1 will need to complete a Practical Skills Checklist with assigned coaches/mentors in order to receive the corresponding pin.
- Voyageur Council is re-establishing its own trainer accreditation program to better support the development of trainers from senior section youth and upwards, to better service the need to provide in-person training for WB1s, WB2s, youth leadership training (FAST, FLEX, FOCUS), and other skills development courses that are needed/required for members of Voyageur Council. As part of this, active Scouters in Voyageur who are accredited trainers and are actively involved in training in the Council will be given Council crests to indicate their trainer status on their uniform.

The first two items were agreed to by the collective DACs-Training for all Areas in Voyageur Council. The third was my own requirement to ensure accountability on leaders asking for in-person WB1 training, and was agreed to by the DACs-Training. The final item was endorsed by both the DACs-Training and the CMAC, and will remain in place until such time as the National accreditation program is reinstated.

The logistics to achieve these changes are not trivial, but I have had nearly-unanimous agreement and support from Scouters and youth alike who are keen to see us moving forward in Voyageur on all of these fronts (including many long-frustrated trainers).

Yours in Scouting,

Iain Holness  
Voyageur Council DCC for Training

# Council Recognition

The 2013-2014 Scouting Year was an active one with respect to recognizing the members of our Council. As a result, and as of August 31st, 2014, the following recognition awards were approved for our 1,823 Active Members:

<b>NATIONAL OSA AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT RECOGNITION</b>			
<b>Recognition</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Recognition</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Jack Cornwell Decoration	1	Medal for Meritorious Conduct	1
Award for Fortitude	2		
Bar to Silver Acorn	1	Silver Acorn	1
Bar to Medal of Merit	11	Medal of Merit	1
Bar to Medal for Good Service	9	Medal for Good Service	53
Certificate of Commendation	979	Certificate of Appreciation	16
Medal of Maple	4		
<b>NATIONAL MILESTONE RECOGNITION PROGRAM</b>			
5-Year Pin	77	Long Service Award	24
15-Year Pin	19	20-Year Pin	9
25-Year Pin	6	30-Year Pin	7
35-Year Pin	5	40-Year Pin	5
45-Year Pin	3	50-Year Pin	2
55-Year Pin	2	60-Yr Pin	2
65-Year Pin	0	70 Yr-Pin	0
Warrants of Appointment	208		
<b>VOYAGEUR COUNCIL RECOGNITION</b>			
Legacy Award	3	Council Youth Award	13
Bar to Order of Caribou	1	Order of the Caribou	17
Opemikon Scholarship	2		

Scout's Canada has set a recognition goal of 20% of its membership being acknowledged each year with National awards. Voyageur Council achieved that goal during the 2013-2014 Scouting Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Garth Jonah,  
Deputy Council Commissioner for Recognition

# Council Operations

2013-14 represented another exciting year within the operations of the Eastern & Northern Ontario Scouting Service Centre. Only a year earlier, we adopted our new name to embrace our friends from Northern Ontario in joining the White Pine and Voyageur Council Scouting family. Just as we were working through our growing pains, this year represented further significant change when we received notice that White Pine Council would be leaving us at the end of August to be replaced by Quebec Council starting September 1, 2014. With that, it became obvious that attempts to create a geographical name would be extremely unlikely. To that end, we gave thought to what we do and where we are ... hence we should forever be known (fingers crossed) as the "Scouting Service Centre (Ottawa)", but you can simply call us the "Council Office".

Each year I report on the Council office's responsibility in supporting approximately 240 Groups and 4000 volunteers across the three Councils. The compliment of staff at the office assist with everything from: registration, training, recognition, subsidy assistance, website maintenance, finance, fundraising (e.g. Popcorn, Scoutrees), donations, tax receipts, membership reporting and a host of other odd jobs (*covered under "other duties as required"*). In short, it is a very busy place. To see an Organization Chart of all the current staff and their functions, please check out your Council website and select "Council Office" under the "About" menu item.

The Myscouts registration system and volunteer screening & compliance matters continued as a major focus last year. Throughout the year your staff worked as best as they could to address concerns and fix issues, but with any new systems and processes they take time to work out the kinks. We appreciated the patience and understanding of the Scouters and Parents.

This year we faced several staffing changes. Corinna Milan took on the function of Bookkeeper after Carolyn Pink left to partake of formal educational opportunities. We hired Kim Doupagne to fill in where Corinna left off as Deputy Support, but unfortunately had to let her go in the spring. We were short-staffed in dealing with Registration matters and appreciated the support of volunteer Sarah Smith (Nepean Area AC) who came in as often as she could to assist. We also said goodbye to Lyn Williams (Council Accountant) who retired at the end of August.

Once again, I would like to thank those volunteers who have assisted us with a number of administrative tasks throughout the year: "Team Judd", Nolan Smith, Eugene Lavigne and Sarah Smith.

Jeff Benson  
Council Operations Manager

# Area Support Managers

The focus for 2013-14 Scouting year was Recruitment, In-person Support at the Group level, Child and Youth Safety, and the introduction of the Canadian Path. Working with the Area Teams, Area Support Managers focused on engaging directly with Sections and Group Committees with the long term focus of quality youth programs, building Section capacity, and encouraging "One Scouts Canada – Growing Together". We were also involved in participating on several Area Commissioner and Area Youth Commissioner Succession Planning Committee's due to several of our key Area volunteers reaching the end of their terms. There was also a great deal of success in growing the Voyageur Council Youth Network.

Voyageur Council had a very successful Scouters Conference and AGM in November and had the largest number of youth commissioners join the National Leadership Summit in Toronto in early March. There were many other opportunities to network such as Area level camps and Council level training opportunities.

Child and Youth Safety awareness continued to grow within Voyageur as did participation in the Program Quality Award program. As well, we assisted in the promotion of Scouting to the general public through the implementation of the 2013-14 Marketing plan which included: the School Flyer program, print-ad campaigns, the promotion of the use of the Recruitment Toolkits, Area PR Kits and Bring-A-Friend Incentive programs.

The Mighty Oak Award is presented to Loyalist Area for the highest Growth at 101.5%. We would also like to recognize Carleton Area (101.2%) and Heritage Area (100.6%) for growing as well. Finally - we would like to welcome new Beaver Colonies in Otter Lake Quebec and Cardinal Ontario, and the 1st Hull Group to the Council.

Kelly Banks and Heather Lee  
Area Support Managers

# Opemikon Scholarship

In 2013, Camp Opemikon celebrated its 75th year of operations. At the celebratory banquet, our then National Commissioner, Andrew Price, announced the formation of an OPE scholarship fund. This fund is in support of recruiting and retaining best possible summer staff, who deliver outdoor programming to up to 500 campers, at Camp Opemikon's summer residential camp.

For summer 2014, two scholarships each in the value of \$1,000.00 were awarded. Funds to support these came from two sources. The Price Family Foundation, specifically Brenda and Andrew are the original benefactors of this program. Both Brenda and Andrew are summer staff and OPE Crew alumni. Funds for the second scholarship were donated by Mr. Gary Johnson, a long time supporter of the camp and with two sons who are summer staff alumni. Recipients for 2014 are Sascha Godoy and Sarah Tourangeau. Moving forward to continue this program, a committee will be set in place by the Council Commissioner for securing additional funding and establishing a larger fund to ensure future scholarships.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Johnson

## Year End Numbers

### Annual Membership Numbers\*

	2012-13 <sup>1</sup>	2013-14	(+/-) diff	%age
Full-time** Participants	5366	5000	-366	93.2%
Full-time** Volunteers	1782	1781		99.9%
Part-time*** Participants	307	178	-129	58.0%
Totals	7455	6959	-496	93.3%

\* Does not include Parents or Employees

\*\* "Full-time" is defined as the traditional, annual core programs (e.g. Beaver Scouts, Scouts, etc.)

\*\*\* "Part-time" is defined as short-term programs (e.g. Summer Camps, etc.) - new members only

<sup>1</sup> Last year's membership numbers adjusted based on audited reconciliation

# Carleton Area

Although Carleton Area experienced adverse publicity early in the year that threatened both enrolment and retention, we nonetheless had an excellent Scouting year. We enrolled 937 participants, which represented a 1.2% increase over last year, second only to our good friends in Loyalist Area. Full credit for this success goes to the front line Scouters and Group Commissioners, who addressed the adverse issue directly, communicated openly with parents and youth, and made it clear from the outset that corrective action had been taken.

Carleton Area continued our practice of running major events for all section levels throughout the year – Carleton-run White Tail Sleepover for all of Voyageur Council at the Museum of Science and Technology on three separate days in November, a Beaveree/Cuboree and a Klondike Day, both at the Carp Fair Ground on Saturdays close to BP's Birthday in February, and an all-sections weekend Camporee at Fitzroy Provincial Park in May. For all events except the sleepover, events are led by an individual Group or pair of Groups, each serving one year as the understudy and the next as the event leader. The area has established long-standing close working relationships with museum, fairground and provincial park staff, thus making the planning and execution of these events a pleasure for all involved.

Carleton Area is making a special effort to encourage youth leadership through the role of Area Youth Commissioner, the appointment of several Group Youth Commissioners, and the active involvement of Venturers and Rovers in Area event planning and offers of service. Although many college and university age students move downtown or further away to pursue higher education, we have been fortunate to retain a small but dedicated Area Rover Crew that focuses on supporting Area events.

Key accomplishments this year include:

one Jack Cornwell Award;

seven Chief Scout Awards and one Queen's Venturer Award;

one Legacy Award;

five Order of the Caribou Awards;

one Bar to the Medal of Merit, six Medals of Good Service and one Bar, 105 Certificates of Commendation and numerous service year pins.

Area finances are still in a strong position and well managed. Area is deliberately expending funds slightly faster than accumulating them in order to subsidize needy youth for camp programs, and to support essential training.

Carleton Area recognizes that online training is not sufficient to prepare new leaders for their duties. In September 2013 we instituted in-person supplemental training for leaders who had completed their WB 1 online, and also ran an Outdoor Skills course to prepare leaders for camping. In June 2014, we offered an in-person WB 1 course for all new leaders with 20 enrolled. We plan to follow up with more such training in future to ensure that new leaders become safe, confident and enthusiastic in their roles.

In August 2014, Don Bell completed his three-year term as Area Commissioner and turned over these duties to Doug Hall. We look forward to another great year of Scouting in 2014-15.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Bell

Outgoing Area Commissioner,

# Heritage Area

Heritage Area had an outstanding Scouting year thanks to excellent programs and events delivered by the Area's Volunteers, the Area again grew in numbers of youth, volunteers, and number of groups. The Area's demographics study demonstrated that when you have a good program the youth and volunteers are willing to travel quite far outside the Area to participate in the Group!

Activities & Events: The Area's Groups and youth were again involved in various activities ranging from the regular activities and camps to special canoe trips, mountain climbing in the Adirondacks and Laurentians, through to participation at Canadian and International Jamborees. While each of the regular Area events were a definite success, this year was the Area Scout Klondike's 50th anniversary with over 150 participants enjoying the race through the country side of Wakefield QC. This Scouting year saw the 1200+ youth and volunteers in the 85 sections of the Area's 19 Groups combine to spend more than 6000 hours involved in special activities, and more than 4 million hours of camping.

The Heritage Area Rover Crew (HARC) all section event at Fun Haven was a definite success. The HARC formally agreed to be the Rover Crew for the Area's Otter Lake Scout Camp and have been busy assisting the Area with updating the Camp.

Property Report - Camp Otter Lake QC: In February the Area accepted the Business Plan, Project list, and budget submitted by the Otter Lake Management Committee for the management of Camp Otter Lake QC. While some projects will required further concurrence from the Council /National levels, the Area authorized the Committee to initiate the projects. Camp Otter Lake QC has been a wilderness based camp with a beautiful waterfront on Lake Hughes since back in the 60's, and the Area and Committee intend to leverage and promote this. Some of the Committee's accomplishments to date include re-leveling of the field, a new Camp site (Eagle 75) built atop the hill, an extra large Camp Fire Area developed, and commenced clearing the many tree the beavers had fell over the years.

Area Team: In Heritage Area, its team is composed of more than 20 persons in specific Area Team roles, and that does not include the 19 Group Commissioners and their teams. Thanks to the efforts of the each of these members the Area has been able to do the leg work to open a brand new group/section in a town we never had one in before! I am hoping with Area's and the local community's assistance to restart a group in a town that has not had one for over 15 years. If you're in the Outouais, QC region and want Scouting - Call us!

My last year as the Heritage Area Commissioner was made easier by the many excellent members on the Area Team, its various support groups, and the Group Commissioners and their teams, and an outstanding ASM (Heather Lee) and AYC (Ashley Schippers) - Thank you ALL and keep up the excellent work! Scouter Stephen Mihorean has taken over the role of Area Commissioner with an excellent support team in place!

Perry Schippers  
Area Commissioner (2013/2014)

# Loyalist Area

This past year, Loyalist Area focused on three priorities – Property, Program and Profile.

As to Property, the Area Property Committee continued its work in preparing a Business Plan for its six properties. The remaining portion of the Rock Dunder wilderness property was sold last September, with the deal expected to close this October. Loyalist has two properties in the city, with the land being leased from the municipality – Selby Hall is a meeting location and the site of our Scouting Museum; Crawford Hall is a storage facility. There are three camps in the Area – Folly, Oskenonton and Otter Lake. The property committee has developed a plan and is now pricing out the costs of its implementation.

With respect to Program, the year began with Loyalist Area volunteers hosting a very-successful World Brotherhood Camporee in Morrisburg. Following that event, Apple Day, Remembrance-Day-themed meetings and a Food Drive kept our youth busy in the fall. After the start of the New Year, the Area hosted a well-attended winter camp for our scouts. During BP Week, we held a campfire downtown in front of city hall that attracted over 100 people. The Kub Kar/Scout Truck Rally, as well as the Beaver Buggy Bash, each attracted over 200 youth, volunteers and parents. We also hosted a successful summer camp.

The final priority is profile. Loyalist staged a tent campaign that saw volunteers put up tents on their front yards, accompanied by a sign – “Scouting is an in-tents experience; for information go to [www.kingstonscouting.ca](http://www.kingstonscouting.ca)” We had about 40 tents up for a couple of weeks and the campaign got good local media coverage. We held a crest competition and ended up with a new one for the Area. Loyalist was approached by Strathcona Paper in Napanee inviting us to increase our normal output for Scoutrees. As an incentive, the Company offered to make a donation of \$1 for every extra tree we planted. Youth & volunteers planted an additional 2,000 trees!

Our membership did grow last year and we are optimistic that scouting will continue to appeal to the youth in our Area.

Dave Cunningham  
Area Commissioner

# Nepean Area

614 youth, 196 volunteers within 7 groups had an amazing year. Scouts of all ages stretched their wings and accepted challenges that many never thought they'd do.

RoVent 2013 saw 385 people attend. 116th Nepean Crew (previously known as 112th Nepean Crew) hosted a great event! The siege, one of the most popular events, was delayed by rain but went on, resulting in many Venturer and Rover Scouts seen with papier-mâché clothes and huge grins. Many thanks to the organizers!

Nepean Area's FAST (Fun Active Scout Training) was a resounding success. 15 youth learned how to communicate while walking blindfolded, learned teamwork with a magical tent pole and stacked "radioactive" cups. These youth left with a new knowledge of leadership, and of themselves.

Nepean Area Kub Kar Rally, hosted by the 27th Nepean and 116th Nepean, was held at Walter Baker Sports Center on March 1, 2014. Over 175 youth and countless leaders participated from many groups in Nepean.

Nepean's Winter Challenge, hosted by 1st Nepean Company on March 2nd, was held at Christie Lake. 18 youth from 3 troops, completed challenge stations that were manned by Venturers. 9 leaders circulated to ensure that all were having a great and safe time. Scouter Geoff of the 23rd Nepean said his youth really like having the info package in advance, as they split into two teams based on the youths' interest. The 7th Kanata said that they much preferred this to a typical Klondike derby.

Venturer Information Night: With the view to retaining youth, our AYC, Siobhan Ward, along with the 116th Nepean Company, hosted this year's Venturer Information night on March 26th. This is being done so senior scouts get visibility of the various Venturer Companies, and can chose which they feel is their best fit. Many attended, both from Nepean area, and Carleton Area as well. Looking to the future, the area team wants to increase the number of scouts attending, to include more troops, and possibly include

presentations by each company. As ever, it is a work in progress.

Scout Trees 2014: On May 3rd, over 170 youth, leaders, service scouters and parents gave up part of their Saturday to help Nepean become a little greener, breathe a little easier, and have pride in what many hands can accomplish! Our Scouting community managed to plant over 1000 trees in 4 locations around the area.

Honors and Awards: As of June 2014, Nepean presented 44 warrants, eighteen 5-year pins, seven Long Service Awards (10 year pins), four 15-year pins, and four 20-year pins. Group Commissioners or the Area team presented 85 commendations, four Medals of Good Service and eight Order of the Caribou medals by the end of June meetings. We tried to ensure these awards were presented during advancement ceremonies so that youth and parents could be involved in the celebration of our leaders' hard work.

On June 15, 2014, Nepean Area hosted the Voyageur Council Chief Scout's / Queen's Venturer Ceremony. 270 family, Scouts, leaders and special guests attended. Assistant Deputy Chief Sean Tracey of the Ottawa Fire Services spoke to the youth about their achievements and how they can continue their involvement in their communities. Many positive comments were received from parents and youth. To help with continuing to improve this event, the chair of next year's committee (Rideau Area) attended our wrap-up meeting to hear our discussion, and to ask questions.

Locally, Nepean Area was pleased to present 15 Nepean youth as "Pathfinder Scouts, holder of the Chief Scout's Award" to the community.

As a closing note, I want to say a special thank-you to all of my area team and all the Scouters of Nepean Area. Without their hard work and commitment to the youth of Nepean, our programs would not be possible.

Sarah Smith  
Area Commissioner

Siobhan Ward  
Area Youth Commissioner

# Odawa Area

Once again Odawa Area has had a successful year of Scouting with a varied and active program for youth in the area. Leaders from all groups have been very generous with their time in planning and executing a successful string of Area events for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Youth input and involvement increased greatly with 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. Several of our Groups now have a Group Youth Commissioner (GYC) who works directly with our Area Youth Commissioner, Katie Kerrivan.

Numerous recognition awards (Area/Council/National) were given to youth. In addition, eighteen Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Award and one youth earned the Queen's Venturer Award! The ceremony was held at our annual Year End Camp at Apple Hill Scout Reserve.

The outstanding work of our volunteers has been recognized through the presentation of over 200 National Awards, of these many were Certificates of Commendation from the 'Thanks' button. Many Medals of Good Service and Medals of Merit (including Bar) were also presented. Our own Odawa Awards were also awarded, which recognizes outstanding program at the section level. Two members were also honoured with the 'Award of Fortitude'.

Two scouters were also acknowledged with the Council 'Legacy Award'. This spring the 'Eva Bandla' Award was presented to 1st Vankleek Hill in recognition of achieving the highest retention of their membership. This award was created to honour the dedication and service that Scouter Eva gave to Scouting.

The Claire Johnstone Award, which is presented to the Group with the highest ratio of members attending our annual Year End Camp, was awarded to 1st Clarence.

The Area Service Team supported its 16 Scouting Groups including service visits, mentoring and provided program material on the Area website. Area Scouters' clubs (Colony, Pack, and Troop) continued and the youth in all sections had a number of opportunities to participate in a number of Area events, such as Beaverees, Cuborees, Scouts Medic Alert Camp, Scout Sub-Zero winter camp, Scout-Guide Challenge, Scout Trucks and Kub Kar rallies and a very successful June Area Year End Camp for all sections.

You can follow our Area's activities on our website at [www.odawa-scouting.ca](http://www.odawa-scouting.ca)

A busy year, with lots of activities that were enjoyed by all. I want to thank all the dedicated volunteers that make up the leadership in Odawa for helping to make scouting a success in Odawa!

With the new Scouting year, Scouter Werner Liedtke has assumed the Area Commissioner role and has a full service team in place to support Scouting in Odawa.

Patrick Wall – Area Commissioner

Katie Kerrivan – Area Youth Commissioner

# Rideau Area

The Scouting year in Rideau was a success. Growth in the area was near 100% , however Retention was down with the final numbers not been made available. Several groups showed good growth again, and in general most of the groups continue to grow. We saw section growth across the board, with strong programming leading the way.

The year ended with a number of group sections doing week long camps and jamborees' Rideau recognized the excellent work of volunteers at all levels, with numerous Certificates of Commendations being presented on an almost weekly basis. Council awards were also presented and the youth of the area were also recognized, with both Council Youth Awards and Medals of the Maple. The area saw a large number of Chief Scout Awards and Queens Venturer Awards being presented at the annual presentation ceremonies. A special congratulations goes to Scouter Grace Jones for Silver Acorn presented at the awards dinner in November.

Area participation was also a success. The area all-sections day saw an increase in participation again of almost 3% . The individual area section events were well attended and the programming for them was excellent.

Training is an ongoing endeavour, with its challenges. We are working to provide as many opportunities for training, be it a Wood Badge 1 in-person, or workshops for both youth and leaders.

To sum up the year in a word, Amazing. Without the volunteers from the sections, through to the group and area teams, and all those youth involved as participants or in a leadership role, we would not have accomplished so much, and had so much fun.

We are looking forward to another great year, and the continued success and growth of Rideau Area.

Ken Shore  
Rideau Area Commissioner

# Valley Highlands Area

Valley Highlands enjoyed another successful Scouting year in 2013/2014. With the addition of groups from Brockville, Prescott, Spencerville and North Grenville Valley Highlands now supports Scouting from Almonte in the North, Brockville in the South and as far east as Cardinal .

Again this year we held a number of outdoor events, many of which were organized and supported by our youth leaders. Events including but not limited to fall, winter and spring outings occurred at Camp Traill and Camp Whispering Pines. A different location, Limerick Forest was chosen for the Beaver BRRR and Winter Klondike days to ensure all groups attending could minimize the distances travelled.

Brian McAuley was awarded a Caribou Award for organizing a superb Beaver Buggy, Cub Car and Scout Truck weekend in Merrickville. The place was packed.

Scouting is for all ages. While development and growth of our youth members is scouting ultimate goal, it is important to recognize those who have devoted many years in their volunteer life to a cause they believe in. A prime example of a life dedicated to Scouting is represented by Arnel Pattemore who received his certificate for 60 years of service. A major mile stone.

Valley Highlands also wishes to recognize our four Chief Scout recipients: Tanner Johnston, Jessica Larose, Alexander McAuley and Ryan Schultz. Congratulations to all.

In July, Valley Highlands headed back to Algonquin Park for the 6th annual Area canoe trip. The jump off site at Kiosk station (Algonquin's most northerly station) witnessed more than 50 Scouts, Venturers and leaders embark on a week long trek through various lakes. Neither wind nor rain hampered our progress.

Finally I would like to thank the entire Service Team and Group Commissioners for all their hard work in making the newest members of Valley Highlands feel welcome. A special thanks to Johanne Dekart and Alaric Eamon two very active AYC's.

Alex Beelich  
Area Commissioner

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