



1st Merrickville Scout Group

Annual Report

2002/2003



MISSION

The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

MEMBERSHIP

Our youth membership grew by 75% this year for a total of 75 boys and girls. We had 32 Beavers, 30 Cubs, and 13 Scouts. Presentations in the three local schools (Merrickville, Wolford, and Ste. Marguerite) were instrumental in this achievement. Our thanks go out to the schools for their participation.

The number of section leaders and group committee leaders also increased by 50% for a total of 21 by the end of the year. It is the time and effort (a grand total of ~2000 hours total over the year) by these individuals that makes the program a success.

Additional section leaders are always needed. Adults with and without children in the program are encouraged to volunteer some time. There are plenty of opportunities and commitment to the weekly meetings is not necessary.

FUNDRAISING

We would like to thank all those who supported our various fund raising events during the past year. The main ones being: Apple Day, Popcorn, Scout Trees, Hot Chocolate, and Tupperware. A total of \$1,920.59 was raised for the group. This money went directly to the youth program.

GROUP COMMITTEE

Our group committee is made of parents and other adults that meet monthly to discuss and finalize plans for Scouting events, programs, facilitate transportation, set overall group direction, and determine fund raising activities.

We encourage parents and other adults to consider a role in which they can best use their talents and skills (i.e. Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Fund Raising, Activities Chairs, Transportation, or as an assistant to one of these positions).

GROUP CREST

A contest was held for the design of a group crest. Entries were received from a large number of Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts. These were combined to give the final design which can be seen on the front page of this report. These will be very hot trading items with Scouts from other groups.

TRAILERS

Two large tractor trailer units were donated by Canadian Tire. These are being used for storage of our Soapbox cars and other large items. The land on which they are located is courtesy of Don McConnell.

LONG TERM EVENTS

As part of our planning, we look at what will be happening in the Scouting world so as to work our program around these objectives where appropriate. The year 2007 brings the 100th anniversary of Scouting. With this will no doubt come a number of special events. Three events that we know of now are a World Jamboree in England in 2007, a European Jamboree in 2005 in England, and a Canadian Jamboree in 2007. The World Jamboree is restricted to Venturers aged 14 to 18. The European and Canadian Jamborees are open to Scouts and Venturers (ages 11 to 17). These events are once in a lifetime opportunities for the youth, so we are starting to consider the options are for members in 1st Merrickville.

BEAVERS

The past year proved that we indeed had many busy Beavers in the Merrickville area and we did many exciting things. Hot on our list was shooting rockets, OPP sirens, the Fire Hall, a medieval night, an experiment night, and an aeroplane night! Some rather cool things we did included a skating party, bugs and critters of the Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum, and a night of mud. Of course, the year would not be complete without a camp-out at Eastons Corners, and a sleep-over at the Museum of Nature. Oh yes, lots of parties too.

The Eager Beaver Award, sponsored by the Lions Club, was awarded to Ben Huton. This award is for the Beaver who best captures the essence of the Beaver program.

CUBS

Back to basics was the key to the forward growth of the Cub pack this year. We started the year with a traditional community fund-raiser, "Apple Day". The streets of Merrickville and other smaller communities were a buzz with Scouts, Cubs, and Beavers all offering apples to the pedestrians, visitors and residents alike.

The pack enjoyed its' first camp of the year early in October at the area campsite "Whispering Pines". The objective of this and all camps is appreciation of the outdoors and learning the skills we all need to enjoy life in Canada. The Cubs were all encouraged to develop camaraderie with the other campers. We were fortunate at this outing, the weather had been very stormy and threatened to limit our activity, but we prevailed.

Other activities included Remembrance Day, the Christmas parade with a float, first aid training with each Cub making their own survival kit, and conservation themed annual tree planting.

Cubbing is primarily about learning to appreciate the outdoors while in the company of your peers. A lot of time and effort was spent on the basics that Lord Baden Powell stressed when he first started the Scouting movement. These included tenting, tying knots, games, star gazing - all while working as a team.

Three end of year highlights were winning the area Kub Kar trophy (beating out 10 other packs) and the two camps in May. The latter one being an area Cub camp with over 100 Cubs attending; each pack showcasing a different country - we were Peru.

Two Cubs, Branden and Victor Schroeder, were presented with awards for earning all six stars and all seven award badges. They received a framed copy of all the badges they earned from the group and a plaque from the Valley Highlands area.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As always, it is recognized that some parents, for a variety of circumstances, may have trouble meeting the cost of the Scouting program. This includes the registration fee, uniform, handbook, and activities. Subsidy is provided by the group on a case by case basis.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the group chair, Allan Yates, at 269-3074 or email allan@yates.ca.

SCOUTS

The troop had a very active Scouting year with David Dillabough, Steven Dillabough, Stephen Fuller, and Michael Gray earning the Chief Scout Award. This is the highest award a Scout can achieve, requiring several years of hard work.

Trips to the Diefenbunker, swimming, and archery were some of the interests the Scouts pursued. Our focus was on community service and leadership. Scouts performed many environmental projects during the year. Pitch-in-Canada as well as clean up of the park areas and at the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association grounds and waterfront were some of the ways Scouts showed leadership and environmental concern in the community.

Fall, spring, and winter camps were attended, as well as a night hike event. Three Scouts attended the area Patrol Leader Conference. Area ScoutTrees planting was also carried out.

CONTRIBUTORS

We would like to thank the following organisations businesses for supporting us over the past year:

The Royal Canadian Legion - Merrickville branch
 The Lion's Club - Merrickville branch
 Rideau Lumber - Smiths Falls
 Canadian Tire - Kemptville and Corporate
 The Canal Gallery
 Kemptville Building Centre
 Gunnebo Security - McEvoy Lock
 Mountain Equipment Co-Op
 Don McConnell Construction

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Revenue	Expense	Net
Awards		\$710.84	
Camp		\$52.96	
Donations	\$1,000.00		
Equipment		\$45.77	
Events	\$413.73	\$1,037.23	(\$623.50)
Fundraising	\$3,786.82	\$1,866.23	\$1,920.59
Investments	\$0.12	\$0.02	\$0.10
Office		\$175.00	
Registration	\$5,390.00	\$6,488.00	(\$1,098.00)
Subsidy		\$57.00	
Supplies		\$65.58	
Training		\$256.75	
Total	\$10,590.67	\$10,767.86	(\$177.19)