

1st Merrickville Group

Committee

Valley Highland District, Merrickville ON K0G 1N0, Canada

Notes of the Group Committee meeting held on **Thursday, September 25, 2003.**

Present: Allan Yates (Chair) Alex Beelich Peter Cornelisse
 Sheila Cornelisse Richard HutonStew Hamill
 Hope Gray Tammy Glaser

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 23, 2003, at 7pm (location: Hope's house)

7:00pm - Allan called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Items discussed:

Thank-you to Allan and family for their hospitality as they hosted this meeting.

- Colony Report: Peter and Sheila reported that having 26 Beavers is making it hard to keep control and get things accomplished. A sleepover at the Canadian Aviation Museum in Ottawa is planned for February 7th. A mock fire emergency is planned for November 18th at the beach and it is hoped that 911 can attend.

- Pack Report: Alex and Peter reported that the September camp had 21 cubs in attendance and was a success. They reported that the program seems to be working better this year as it is a more cohesive group. They hope to plan 2 months at a time.

- Troop Report: Hope reported the group is large this year at 13 youth. She has 2 leaders and 1 possible leader. The troop will spend 3 meetings at the archery range to earn their troop specialty badge. They will be travelling to Upper Canada Village to work on their heritage badge. The troop is to attend the JOTA camp at Whispering Pines and 2-4 scouts will attend the patrol leader conference at Whispering Pines.

- Financial Report: Stew reported that we received \$150.00 back from the GST rebate he applied for. All receipts to be handed in so he can apply again.

It was moved by Stew Seconded by Hope

That the following cheques be issued: \$4,385.24 to Allan for expenses,

230.00 to Alex for expenses from year end report,

100.00 for deposit to Canadian Aviation Museum,

69.00 to Scouts Canada. Carried.

Stew reported that \$7000.00 taken in at registration but money to Scouts Canada for registration not yet sent. The unit has approximately \$4000.00 in the bank. Stew requires a financial report from the September cub camp.

Allan reported that the group crests cost \$800.00 and he has asked the Lions Club to help. The Legion has helped with subsidizing youth who need it and Allan hopes to get some more help

from them.

- Registration: Registration night saw enrollment rise to 66 youth total (26 Beavers, 27 Cubs and 13 Scouts). There is still a shortage of leaders/volunteers making it hard to handle the larger groups. The idea of placing a cap on the number of youth was not accepted by the group. It is feared that a cap could see the loss of many good kids and be hard to administer. Agreed next years registration needs to be better organized. Parents should fill out forms in front of the leaders thereby leaving Stew to process them quickly and to relieve parental frustration. National is talking of having registration in the spring, all agree not the best idea. It would be better to have in the spring and fall or the fall only.

- Apple Day: Lee has arranged for 6 bushels of apples to be available at the ambulance bay of the Merrickville Fire Hall. The Beavers and Cubs are to go door to door on Saturday, October 4th from 9am-4pm. A few cubs will be put at strategic locations on St. Lawrence Street. The scouts are to man St. Lawrence Street on Sunday, October 5th. Allan to provide a handout for parents.

- SoapBox Derby : Allan reported that not all cheques are in from the sponsors. It was noted that if no more cheques come in that we will breakeven. Due to the expected bad weather a discussion was held on whether or not to go ahead, decided to go ahead unless weather became severe (ie thunder/lightening). Peter to divide participants among the cars so the race schedule can be finalized. Peter expressed the feeling that the organization falls on only a few people and is very draining. He suggested that next year we do only a fun day of racing not a big fundraiser.

- Fundraising: Allan stated that popcorn sales should be voluntary and not pushed on the youth this year, parents will handle, or the leaders. Stew has 600 trees to be planted, agreed the cubs/scouts should plant (details to be worked out later). Sheila suggested selling hot chocolate and microwave popcorn at the craft fair on November 30th at the community centre, all agree.