

1st Merrickville Group Committee
Valley Highlands District, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0, Canada

Notes of group committee meeting held on **Thursday, December 4, 2003.**

Present: Alex Beelich Sheila Cornelisse Keith Skelhorne
 Peter Cornelisse Tammy Glaser Allan Yates (Chair)

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 22, 2004 at Kevin Bacon's home.

7:08PM Allan called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Thank-you to Sheila, Peter and family for their hospitality as they hosted the meeting.

Items Discussed:

- Registration - The numbers of youth enrolled stand at 27 Beavers, 29 Cubs, and 17 Scouts. Registration is now closed for Cubs and Scouts. Registration is open on a probationary system for Beavers. The group discussed the possibility of putting a limit on next years enrolment and holding a pre-registration for returning members. No decision was made. Allan reported that 51% of the youth enrolled this year are new to the scouting movement.

- Colony Report - It was reported that the Beavers are running a good program so far this year and are remaining in the black financially. Two handouts were given to Tammy regarding incomes and expenditures. Peter expressed concern that the meetings are being run by one leader with no delegation of duties. This must be rectified as the leaders must only set the agenda for the evening they shouldn't have to run the whole evening themselves. The colony sustained a \$45 loss on the sleepover at Eastons Corners partly due to parents wanting refunds when kids were unable to attend. A policy must be set regarding refunds due to the fact that the money is spent expecting the child to be there and food etc cannot be returned. It was decided that the receipt book bought for Beavers should come from the Beaver's funds not the group funds. The Beavers will be going carolling on Dec. 16th for their last meeting and will restart Jan. 6th, 2004 with a Karate demonstration.

- Pack Report - It was reported that the Cubs are operating in the black financially. They will have two meetings in December and then will restart January 7th, 2004 for a lesson on weather stations. Allan is to set up a presentation of additional weather information. The plans for winter camp are to be finalized.

- Troop Report - It was reported that the Scouts are short leaders, even with one possible volunteer it may be necessary to ask for help from the parents. Except for the shortage of leaders the program is running well, the kids are enthusiastic and the parents are happy. The Scouts have spent two meetings at the canoe club doing some training. A canoe trip is in the planning. The Troop will start up again on January 12th, 2004.

- Financial - The area has released \$506.12 (\$306.12 + \$200) to us from Scout Trees 2002. Allan has obtained \$150 in coupons for registration (10 x \$15). The region is still holding ~\$1000 of Soapbox funds of ours. There is still ~\$1500 in sponsorship funds for George to collect. The group approved the issue of 4 cheques: (1) \$549.95 to Allan for popcorn; (2) \$62.50 to Allan for Valley Highlands crests; (3) \$92.81 to Dan Black for photo processing of Soapbox; and (4) \$21.39 to Col.Byte for photocopying.

- Remembrance Day - The group was in agreement that we need to be more organized next year. Allan will contact the legion to let them know what we need from them to be ready next year (ie. Busing information).

- Upcoming Events - The decision to participate in Cubkar events this year was made. Events and plans need to be organized. The parade for BP Week is scheduled for February 22nd at the Anglican Church in

Merrickville, Allan to coordinate. There is a competition open at the area for the crest design for the regional Cub camp in June.

- Fundraising - There is hot chocolate available at the area for fundraising. It was discussed that contacting the Chamber of Commerce may be a possible route for selling hot chocolate. The group decided we should participate in Scout Trees but that obtaining pledges should be voluntary and planting only should be highly recommended. The area is trying to get the costs sponsored again this year. There are 200 trees that Stew has arranged for planting. Popcorn sales and profit were down this year from \$1852 in sales and \$519 in profit last year. This years sales were \$815 and profits were \$271.10. All in agreement that information regarding popcorn sales needs to be given out earlier so more youth can participate.

- Miscellaneous - It was pointed out that it is inappropriate to mention youth by name unless it is necessary to the discussion being held. Allan is to schedule a gateway course on a Thursday night in January for those who need to take it. Allan is to prepare another newsletter for the new year. A legal liability release has been sent to the canoe association as they are storing their canoes in our trailers. In exchange for canoe storage they will make their facilities and equipment available for our use. Allan reported that David Wray from the region has offered to help with publicity if we want.