

**February 23, 2006**

**1<sup>st</sup> Merrickville Group Committee Meeting**

**In attendance:** Stew Hamill (left at 9pm), Liz Collinson, Simon Eadie, Shelia Cornelisse, Peter Cornelisse, Bob Sargent, Allan Yates, Keith Skelhorne (arrived 8:30pm).

Regrets: Lea Anne McCarthy, Alex Beelich, Mike Jackman

Meeting commenced at Peter and Shelia's house at 7:20pm.

Minutes from 2006-01-26 not available for review.

Reviewed agenda for tonight's meeting and added the subject of trailer hitch.

**Colony Report (Shelia)**

It was confirmed that attendance numbers/costs of Beavers for our January 2006 hall rental fees to the township is \$60.00. This amount was given to Stew at last Group Committee meeting.

February attendance figures to date are 14 beavers for February 17, 19 beavers for February 24 and 11 beavers at the Founders Banquet.

It was mentioned that the group pay for the Founders day hall rental – nothing confirmed as yet. Alex has been asked to verify as to whether or not a fee will be charged to our group - rumor suggests the fee may have been waived. Alex subsequently confirmed that the Guides have negotiated no rental charge for the hall for that day.

There have been some changes in the Beavers schedule – April 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a Sleepover at the Brockville Museum. Registration is to commence shortly regarding the Jamboree on the Trail. Lastly, 7 Beavers invited friends to attend our last meeting.

Shelia gave \$37.00 to Stew for the attendance numbers of Beavers for the month of February - to date.

Shelia gave an incident report to Allan concerning a minor injury that took place on December 13, 2005. Allan mentioned that an incident report is needed when we have concerns that something further could transpire from the situation.

**Pack Report (Bob and Peter)**

Attendance: February 2 – 23 cubs, February 8 – 23 cubs, February 15 – 27 cubs, 28 cubs present at the Banquet and 6 cubs were present at the Church Parade.

Peter spoke of the details of the Pack Specialty badge and that these discussions are not finalized yet. Some of the latest Cub events include winter camping, banquet preparations, skating, United Nations acting and a Winter Cub Challenge at Whispering Pines. There was discussions regarding one child having been treated for hypothermia and that no further actions have come – an incident report and post-mortem discussions took place. Camp Dunder also had an incident, which was handled, reported and discussed.

The Church Parade was discussed further and the activities of the day were well received. One point raised was we must always keep in mind the age differences between the groups so that children can be children.

Up and coming on their schedule includes some sling shot activities, magic tricks etc.

At this point Allan mentioned that we can use some of these past incidences as a time to ensure that we are always prepared to handle difficult and unexpected situations as efficiently as possible. That due diligence is had, paperwork is completed properly and on a timely basis and that all leader involvement is reputable.

Simon remarked about a prior concern – Beavers skating and our risk management of injury. We agreed that helmets should be a requirement by all kids, as skating does increase the risk for injury. Even Beavers not sporting skates and opting just to play on the ice surface in their boots should be required to wear a helmet. Allan agreed that yes, we can impose additional safety measures if we feel it is in the best interest of keeping the kids as safe as possible – even when the activity is considered to be in a regular meeting location – the Merrickville area. Generally when a Scout group function of any kind is in the Merrickville area, we are properly covered by our insurance plan. We are to decide whether additional precautions and or permission slips are in order, such as when an activity may involve a higher accident risk.

A discussion was had that as a group we can do more drills with the children on the subject of accidents and the ways we would go about handling different situations – such as continuing to allocate designated areas for play, procedures such as the child blowing their whistle, leaders following emergency planning and so on.

Bob mentioned that we should revisit the playing of “capture the flag” during the evening. It was agreed that this kind of activity is best played in the daylight.

Allan noted that there is a stretcher available for our use at Whispering Pines and that it would be a good idea to educate the cubs (and others) of how it can and may be used during an emergency.

### **Troop Report (Keith)**

There was an attendance of 9 Scouts this past Monday and 7 Scouts the week prior. All other meetings were held in the Church.

Cub/Scout Linking Camp (Fruit Loop Camp) is coming up for the third year cubs to attend. In keeping the costs down, it has been decided that the kids will be allowed to bring their own food for this outing and the leaders will bring breakfast for Sunday and the hot chocolate for the mug up. It is expected that approximately 6 cubs plan to attend. Group committee approved of the camp plan and mentioned that future camps and canoeing activities should include even more details concerning emergency planning and safety measures.

### **Trailer Hitch**

The Scout group purchased a trailer that included a weight distributing hitch. We did not actually need this additional hitch, and Bob offered to purchase this hitch for 50% of its retail value. All were in favor, so Bob paid \$200.00 cash to the group in exchange for the hitch. The money was given to Stew. Bob plans to retrieve this hitch in the spring and if for some reason the hitch is not worth \$200.00, he is invited to again revisit the price and or the entire purchase.

### **Financial Report (Stew)**

We have approximately \$3400.00 in our account. To be deducted from this is: two checks to Camp Opemikon \$425.00 and \$250.00, a check to Allan for scouts camp, banquet, awards and photos in the amount of \$226.43, and \$45.00 to Simon for this Sundays bingo expenses.

Regarding the Bingo sessions we are assisting with as a fund raising effort, Allan will verify as to whether or not we still receive some payment in the event that we do not supply the staff requested of us.

Bob volunteered to have his name included in a back-up listing of someone to contact if we need a last minute volunteer to jump in and help with our Bingo sessions.

Our next bingo events are this Sunday, February 26, March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

It is noted that Allan has temporarily misplaced 4 checks. These checks include: an attendance check for Cubs - \$73.00, a Troop attendance check for \$14.00, a check for toner cartridges in the amount of \$95.50 and lastly, a check for his Christmas light collection for \$62.53.

Stew was asked and agreed to provide a financial report for the year ending August 31, 2005. The report should match our bank balances and show all accounts payable and receivable.

Stew asked the group if we had any specific requests and or needs for our \$3400.00 and it was mentioned that spring registration would cost approximately \$1500.00. The Beavers

were also given the go ahead to purchase a new Beaver flag, since the current one has been misplaced.

A check in the amount of \$155.00 will be written to the village for the payment of January 2006 attendance (whole group total).

### **Website (Peter)**

Peter received pictures of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts which were used in our Banquet slide show and these pictures will also be added to our website as soon as possible. Allan mentioned that schedule changes should be sent to him as quickly as possible as our parents are using our site.

### **Church Parade**

The event went well and appeared to be enjoyed by all. Leaders in attendance were Shelia, Simon, Mike, Alex, and Keith? The Service included the children several time and the Priest spoke consistently to their level. An e-mail was received by Allan from Alex that this event is definitely one to participate in again and again. It worked well having all of the kids outside together and inside together at the same time. A suggestion for the next event would be to have the kids all keep their coats etc. on the backs of their chairs – to avoid such a pile up in the entrance area of the community center.

### **Leader Qualifications**

The group will be looking at assisting leaders gain additional qualifications for outdoor camps, canoeing and the like so as to ensure highest level of preparedness and that with change-over in leaders, skills are continued to be replaced. All leaders are again encouraged to get additional skills.

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

Available to Scouts program as a combination of scouting with community services, expeditions and the like.

### **Banquet**

The banquet was well attended and appeared to be enjoyed by all. A suggestion was made that the food line could have been faster and that perhaps next year the Scouts can serve the Beavers and Cubs first and the parents could follow and serve themselves. After the meeting, it was pointed out by Cheryl that parents usually help their Beavers, so this idea may need revisiting.

Some concerns were discussed regarding the large bowl of walnuts on the ice-cream sundae dessert table. It was agreed that having the walnuts present was fine, but that they could be at the very end of the table to show that we are doing our part in clearly keeping

them away from the rest of the dessert toppings. It was also agreed that in no way should we as leaders feel responsible to assure parents that it is a nut free dinner – that nuts are around us and we need to learn and teach ourselves that each person is responsible for understanding the dangers of peanut allergies.

The Veteran theme was well received and so was the wonderful slide show.

Allan has offered to burn CD's of the slide show for those wanting same. The cost agreed upon for these CD's is \$5.00 each. We are to take orders and promise no immediate dates for delivery.

Allan also mentioned that Eleanor had searched though the United Church archives for pictures and information of interest, but that nothing additional was found. Queries to other local historical collections have also turned up nothing.

### **Awards Day at Whispering Pines**

Each year this event is held for leaders and Allan wanted to throw it out to those interested. The date is the Saturday or Sunday June 10/11, 2006. General response was that people not interested unless a member of the group was receiving an award.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Merrickville Scouting Group Sign**

Peter mentioned that we should approach Gary Clark regarding having a sign placed as a tourism or historic indicator on the entry and exit points of the village. The sign would indicate that 1<sup>st</sup> Merrickville was and remains to be the first scouting group in all of North America. There may be some debate as to the accuracy of this information and Allan and Peter have agreed to take the lead on this project.

### **Car Dealership – Sponsor**

Keith to approach dealership to determine whether or not a sponsorship for Cub car races is possible. Allan agreed to supply copy of last letter by Liz to Keith for informational purposes.

### **Swim-up Ceremony**

Allan requested that all sections of our group get together and co-ordinate dates and details for this event.

### **First-aid Certification**

The need exists for leaders to attend first-aid re-certification courses and in some cases, an entire first-aid training session of 2 days. Keith to take the lead on this activity and report back to the group.

### **Special Events for 2007/2008**

Allan requested that each leader give some thought to upcoming special events and that further discussion would take place at the next group committee meeting.

Bob suggested and it was agreed that an all group leader (and their children) camping event would be a good team activity. He has agreed to take the lead on this initiative and report back to us with possible dates, plans etc.

### **Next Group Committee Meeting**

The next group committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2006 at 7pm. The tentative location is Bob's house. His address is 1091 McCrea Road and he can be reached at 269-2521.

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm.

Minutes taken by Liz Collinson and reviewed and distributed by Allan Yates.