



1st Merrickville Scout Group

Newsletter

AUGUST 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.

ORGANISATION

Scouting is a hierarchical organisation. Most activities are arranged at the section level (Beaver/Cub/Scout), but a number of camps occur at the area, region, and higher levels. On our uniforms we have the crests for Voyageur Region and Valley Highlands. Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts are each known as sections within the 1st Merrickville group.

World Organisation of Scouting Movements
Scouts Canada
Central Division (Ontario/Quebec)
Voyageur Region
Valley Highlands Area
1st Merrickville
Beavers
Cubs
Scouts

MEMBERSHIP

Our youth membership grew by 75% last year to a total of 75 boys and girls. We enrolled 32 Beavers, 30 Cubs, and 13 Scouts. Our expectation is that the numbers will be in the same range in the coming year. School talks have been scheduled again this year where leaders make presentations in the three local schools (Merrickville, Wolford, and Ste. Marguerite). This is a very effective method of bringing youth into the program.

FUNDRAISING

We would like to thank all the youth and parents who participated in the various fund raising events over the past year: Apple Day, Popcorn, Scout Trees, Hot Chocolate, and Tupperware. A total of \$1,920 was raised for the group. This money went directly to the youth program. The Scouts went further and ran a few other fundraising activities to specifically fund their program. We also managed the village fair gates this summer on the Friday and Sunday in return for a share of the gate receipts.

We will be changing our fundraising methodology this year. Numerous comments have been received from parents indicating that they do not like to be continually asked by organizations (schools, Scouts, Guides, sports teams, etc.) to sell products, nor do they like repeatedly imposing on their friends and neighbours. Thus, at registration time, each family will have the option of purchasing \$48 of Scout Hot Chocolate which they can then sell to recoup their full cost, or they can pay the new \$24 group fee.

We will be continuing with both Apple Day and Scout Trees as they are traditional Scouting events. Attendance at Apple Day and Scout Trees is mandatory; although pledge collecting for Scout Trees is not. Scout Popcorn will be available for any interested youth/family as there extensive prizes (DVD player, 2-way radio, binocular, and post-secondary scholarships) available for the keen youth.

For Scouts, 50% of the money they raise (outside of Apple Day) will be allocated to their individual activity fund. This is primarily intended to offset their Jamboree costs, but may be used for other activities undertaken by the Troop. In this manner, the youth will have the ability to directly reduce the cost of events in which they participate.

DONATIONS

As a charitable organization, we can issue tax receipts for any cash or in-kind donations to the Scout group. All donated funds go directly to the youth program. Please consider switching any workplace donations (eg United Way) to the Scout group.

We would like to thank our major donors from the past year:

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

BECOME A LEADER!

The entire Scouting program in the Merrickville area exists solely due to the adults who volunteer their time - they are our most important resource. We currently have 17 section leaders and group committee members who dedicate a total of over 2,000 hours of their time each year to the program. Due to an ongoing shortage, several of the leaders are volunteering their time in multiple sections.

Leadership is fun and exciting. You will be with your child during a special time and see him (or her) develop and grow before your eyes. As well, the friendship and camaraderie you'll share with other parents can lead to long-lasting friendships and memories. A full suite of training courses is available. For as little as two hours a week, you too can be part of this team.

If you are concerned that your schedule doesn't allow commitment to every week, don't worry. Many of the leaders can't make it every week, but with enough people this doesn't matter. Alternatively, if youth leadership is not your desire, there are always positions available on the group committee.

NEW MEMBERS

New members are welcome at any time during the year. We encourage the youth to bring their friends so that they too may experience the fun and benefits of the Scouting program. New youth may participate in the program for several weeks before registering so they can see for themselves the fun they will have. Remember that Scouting is co-educational; both girls and boys are welcome.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

The meeting schedule remains the same as last year. Unless previously advertised by the section, all meetings are at the Merrickville Community Centre (350 Read Street).

Beavers	Tuesday	6:30pm - 7:45pm
Cubs	Wednesday	6:30pm - 8:00pm
Scouts	Monday	6:30pm - 8:30pm

The first meetings of the year are on September 8th, 9th, and 10th.

Meetings start and end promptly. Please ensure the youth arrive at least five minutes early. For their safety, Beavers and Cubs should be dropped off and picked up inside the Community Centre. When dropping off your child, please do not leave them unless at least two leaders are present.

Full uniform, including handbook (for Cubs and Scouts), is required for each meeting unless other instructions have been given. Uniforms will be inspected!

UNIFORM

The uniform has been a key component of the Scouting movement since its inception by Baden Powell in 1907. It identifies each youth and adult as a member in the world's largest youth group. The uniform is both practical attire to be worn during activities, and it provides a place to display the badges and awards earned by the youth. The uniform gives the youth something to be proud of, and is also invaluable in showing Scouting to the community. When the youth are out in the community, everybody recognizes them!

Beaver Uniform

Beaver vest and Beaver hat.

Cub Uniform

Tan Cub shirt, Cub Sash (red with yellow border), and navy blue pants.

Scout Uniform

Tan Scout shirt (same as Cub shirt), Scout Sash (red with green border), and navy blue pants.

Uniforms and Cub/Scout handbooks may be purchased at:

National Scout Shop
1345 Baseline Road (at Merivale behind the totem pole)
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 0A7
Telephone: (613) 224-0139
Fax: (613) 224-3571
Email: scoutshop@scouts.ca

Uniforms and Cub/Scout handbooks will also be available for purchase at registration night on September 11th, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, Merrickville Community Centre.

Prices:

Beaver Vest	\$18	Beaver Hat	\$15
Cub/Scout Shirt	\$35	Cub/Scout Sash	\$8
Cub Handbook	\$12	Scout Handbook	\$15
Fieldbook	\$20		

Scouts are encouraged to wear the group tee shirt under their Scout shirt for games and activities. It is available for \$10 from any of the Troop Scouters.

Also part of the uniform are the group necker, woggle, and epaulets (Cubs/Scouts). These are provided during investiture of the youth at no additional charge. Replacements are: necker - \$8, woggle - \$2, epaulets - \$3.

WEBSITES

In an effort to improve communications and share information, we have in the progress of establishing a website:

www.1stmerrickville.ca

This website will contain information on past, present, and future activities, program, and administration. There are also websites for Scouts Canada and Voyageur region:

www.scouts.ca

www.voyageur.scouts.ca

GROUP COMMITTEE

Our group committee is comprised of parents and other adults that meet monthly to discuss and finalize plans for Scouting events, programs, facilitate transportation, and set overall group direction. Parents are welcome at all group committee meetings. Meetings are typically the second Thursday of each month from 7pm-9pm at the Merrickville Community Centre.

We encourage parents 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). We have found that in most cases the youth who have parents who take an active role in the Group's leadership are the youth who make a strong commitment to get the most of their Scouting experience.

HANDBOOKS

The Cub and Scout handbooks contain a description of the program and includes the badge system. Each Cub, Scout, and parent is encouraged to become familiar with the achievement award system, which encourages and recognizes the individual for his activity, learning, and growth. Each youth is required to bring a copy of their handbook to each meeting. Ensure your name is on the handbook!

The *Field Book for Canadian Scouting* is a Scoutcraft and campcraft resource book that provides invaluable aid in outdoor settings. The Fieldbook is packed full of useful, up-to-date information that will improve any wilderness experience. Experts from St. John Ambulance, the Canadian Recreational Canoe Association, and Environment Canada all had a hand in contributing to the latest edition. The Fieldbook is an optional, but recommended resource for Scouts.

These books are available from Scout Shop in Ottawa, and will also be available for purchase on registration night in September.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

As always, it is recognized that some parents may have trouble meeting the cost of the Scouting program. This includes the registration fee, uniform, handbook, and activities. If financial support is needed, please contact one of your section leaders or one of the group committee members. Your request will be kept strictly confidential and discussion kept to a minimum. We don't want anyone deprived of the benefit of the Scouting program due to financial reasons.

KNIVES AND MATCHES

Both knives and matches are restricted to the Scout program. They will be confiscated if found in the possession of any Beaver or Cub. This includes any multi-tool with a knife, such as the one in the base of the flashlight owned by many Cubs.

The use of pocket knives is a traditional part of the Scout program, however certain rules must be followed for safety. No large sheath knives will be allowed. Smaller pocket knives with a locking blade are recommended. Knives are not allowed unless the bearer has received the proper training and is carrying their "Knife Permit" signed by a Troop Scouter. Violations of the safety rules will result in confiscation of the knife. Intentional dangerous acts will result in disciplinary action.

All Scouts working with matches, lighters, and other first source materials must have received the proper training and be carrying their "Fire & Matches Permit" signed by a Troop Scouter. Violations of the safety rules will result in confiscation of the fire starting materials. Dangerous and irresponsible use of fire starting materials will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

REGISTRATION FEE

The annual registration fee is now comprised of two components: The Scouts Canada fee and the group fee. The Scouts Canada portion is \$99 for the upcoming year. This covers insurance and operations at the regional, division, and national levels. The group fee, new this year to offset a decision to reduce fundraising efforts, is \$24. The group fee is payable once per family. Thus the total cost for the first youth is \$123, the cost for all subsequent youth in the same immediate family is \$99.

As an alternative to the \$24 group fee, a case of Scout Hot Chocolate may be purchased at the time of registration. The cost for the case is \$48. Each case contains 8 boxes of Scout Hot Chocolate retailing for \$6 a piece. You may keep the Hot Chocolate for yourself or sell it, the choice is yours. Each box of Scout Hot Chocolate contains a \$5 coupon for Chapters, good until the end of December.

Financial assistance continues to be available to those in need.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Several enhancements have been made to the registration process this year to reduce both the amount of paperwork and time required.

Included with this newsletter are the registration materials for the upcoming year: A pre-filled registration form, a physical fitness form, and a volunteer interest form. Please make any updates necessary to the registration form and complete the other forms.

Of special note on the registration form, please ensure we have the following information as applicable:

- Full street address (house number and road) in addition to your rural route and box number.
- Email address

The completed forms may be mailed to the group chair (205 Wolford Drive, Merrickville, Ontario, K0G 1N0) along with a cheque, payable to *Scouts Canada*, for the total registration fee. The registration fee is \$123 for the first child in a family, and \$99 for each subsequent child. Alternatively, the completed forms and cheque may be brought to our registration night on September 11th, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, at the Merrickville Community Centre.

For those people with Scout Bucks from selling popcorn last year, those can be used against the registration fee. Just subtract the amount of Scout Bucks from the total registration fee, and send us the difference along with the original Scout Buck certificate. Note that the Scout Bucks expire at the end of October.

If the registration forms are mailed in, you do NOT need to attend registration night.

Uniforms and handbooks will be available on registration night for those who wish to avoid a trip into Ottawa.

VOLUNTEER SCREENING

Scouts Canada takes the safety of your child very seriously. All prospective leaders are subjected to a thorough screening process involving interviews, reference checks, and police record checks. If you have any concerns regarding a leader, please notify the group chair immediately.

PROGRAM

While we were reasonably happy with the program in the past year, it did not meet the standards we had set for ourselves. Thus, much thought, and many hours, have been spent by the leaders this summer planning the upcoming year's program.

There has also been much consideration given to the overall direction of the group. There is unanimous agreement to move the group towards a more traditional Scouting program. This will mean a larger focus on the outdoors and the accompanying skills.

Included with this newsletter are the current plans for each of the sections (Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts). While there will be no doubt small changes to these plans as the year progresses, this will give an overall idea as to the extent of the upcoming program. If you have any comments, suggestions, concerns, or would like to offer your help on a specific activity, please contact your section leaders or the group chair.

GROUP CREST

Thanks to all the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts who submitted entries for the group crest design. We have combined them all together for the final design as can be seen on the front page of this newsletter. All youth will be given one crest for their uniform and those who entered the contest will get five additional crests. These will be very hot trading items with Scouts from other groups. Additional crests may be purchased for \$5 each.

LONG TERM EVENTS

As part of our yearly planning exercise, we look at what will be happening in the Scouting world in the coming years so as to incorporate these events into our program where appropriate. The year 2007 brings with it the 100th anniversary of Scouting. As can be seen from our group crest, Scouting in Merrickville will be celebrating its 99th anniversary in that same year. We are the oldest Scout group in North America.

We are currently aware of four major upcoming events: A World Jamboree in England in 2007, a European Jamboree in 2005 in England, a divisional (Ontario/Quebec) jamboree in 2005 in Quebec, and a Canadian Jamboree in 2007. The World Jamboree is open to Venturers aged 14 to 18. The European, Canadian, and divisional Jamborees are for Scouts and Venturers (ages 11 to 17). These events are once in a lifetime opportunities for the youth. We are currently planning on taking the Scout Troop to the European Jamboree in 2005 and the Canadian Jamboree in 2007.

SCOUTING AND THE FAMILY

Scouting is a family based organization. Activities we offer, plus the values and skills we provide, are aimed at supporting your efforts to teach your child what is needed to become a well rounded person. Your personal involvement is important to help reinforce the lessons your child learns. Here are some suggestions to help you become involved:

- Sit down with your child and look through the Cub or Scout handbook together. What activities do you find interesting or appealing? How could you work on these activities as a family?
- Find out what activities leaders plan to run in your child's section. The leaders typically send home a calendar on a monthly basis. This information is also available on the group website.
- Get to know leaders by their real names. Too often parents only know the leaders as "Scouter Bob". Leaders are truly interested in your child's welfare. Tell them what your child likes to do, and how you can help out. This will help them plan fun activities.
- If your child is interested in working on an activity outside of the meeting, or you want to make it a family project, talk over your plans with the leaders. They can provide useful tips and tell you how well it fits into the weekly programs or activity badges.
- Your talents, hobbies, and interests are great program assets worth sharing with your child's section. Find out how you can become a resource for the section's programs. This will let you spend valuable time with your child and share experience. Children really enjoy showing off for an adult family member who attends a meeting. This sense of pride helps strengthen adult-child relations. When your child joins Scouting, you become part of the group's support team.

LOST + FOUND

Many youths continue to bring clothes to meetings and camp without their name on the items. Please ensure that all uniforms and jackets brought to meetings are marked with the youth's name. Also, all clothing and equipment taken to camp must be named as well. We have accumulated an entire box of clothing over the past year. This box can be examined on registration night and on any meeting night.

CAMPFIRE ASHES

Scouting has many traditions, and we have recently introduced the Cubs and Scouts to the memories held by campfire ashes. A ceremonial campfire is one used strictly for bringing members of Scouting together for the sharing of entertainment. No cooking or heating is done with the fire, nor is any fuel added to the fire once it has been started. They are often started by ingenious methods such as a flaming arrow or magic! A campfire chief runs the event, there is singing, and each group in attendance typically puts on a skit to entertain the audience and another group responds with a cheer to show their appreciation.

The memories from these campfires are preserved in the ashes. After the ashes of the campfire are cool, they are collected and distributed to all the participants. These ashes are then added at the beginning of the next ceremonial campfire they attend. Thus the memories are preserved.

Now you understand why your child came home with a film container of gray powder.

SOAPBOX DERBY

The annual Soapbox Derby is scheduled for Sunday September 28th. This year it is being held in conjunction with the OPP Gold Helmet Motorcycle Team. We will be racing during the day, and the OPP team will take over in late afternoon. This is not only a fun time for the youth, but is an important fund-raiser for the group. Businesses sponsor the cars and in return their car is decorated to reflect their company. Also new this year, the Cub packs from Kemptville and Oxford Mills will be participating, and a trophy will go to the fastest pack!

This event is open to all Cubs and Scouts, so those families will find enclosed a consent form for this activity. If your child would like to participate, this form **MUST** be returned with your registration materials. There is very little time between the start of the Scouting year and the race, so we need to assign the youth to the cars and get the cars out to be decorated right away.

There will probably be 2 youth per car, and they will be responsible for the decoration of their car. A prize will be awarded for the best decorated car. There was a really awesome car done last year for Wood n' Feathers.

BEAVER BUGGY, KUB KAR, 18 WHEELER RALLY

Each year all the Scout groups in the Valley Highlands area congregate in the spring for a Beaver Buggy, Kub Kar, and Scout 18 Wheeler rally. This year the rally is being hosted by 1st Merrickville. This past year our Cub pack won the area trophy for having the fastest times, and it is our intention to keep it here for another year! Prizes are award for both the fastest Kar and 18 Wheeler, as well as the best decorated.

Beavers make Beaver Buggies, Cubs make Kub Kars, and Scouts make 18 Wheelers. Kits will be distributed to the youth, please make sure you work with your child as necessary to help them complete the project. We will be having our own races to test the cars before the area race.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

At registration time each year, one of the forms completed is the Physical Fitness Certificate. This certificate is taken by the leaders to every Scouting event in which your child participates. It is very important that if any changes occur during the year, that a leader is notified so that the form may be updated.

Additionally, at every Scouting event, from a weekly meeting to camp, at least one leader present will have both First Aid and CPR training. In fact, over half our leaders are so trained.

JUNGLE NAMES

Another interesting aspect of the Scouting program are the Jungle names. The Beaver program is based on *Friends of the Forest* and the Cub program is based on Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. All the Beaver and Cub leaders have jungle names taken from these stories. These are the names your youth uses when addressing the leaders.

In the Scout troop, the leaders typically go by "Scouter" and their names. Though there are sometimes other names used such as "Chief".

FURTHER READING

Detailed information on the Cub and Scout programs is located in their respective handbooks. Two guides were handed out at registration last year: *Beaver Parent's Guide* and *A Grown-ups Guide to the Wolf Cub Program*. The Cub guide has been included with this newsletter for the new Cubs. These can also be downloaded from Scouts Canada's website, or you may contact a leader for a printed copy.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs will be taken by the leaders at meetings and activities. Some of these photographs may be submitted to local publications for publicity purposes. The names of the youth involved will be released, but telephone numbers and address will always be held in strict confidence.

DUES

Dues this year are \$1 per week. The youth can however prepay for the month or year. Dues are used to cover the cost of badges as well as resource material required for the program. Each youth should be encouraged to earn their dues.

Contact Information**Group Committee**

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Beavers

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Chad McArthur	Malak	Assistant Beaver Leader	269-3861	mcarthur2606@rogers.com
Mike Jackman	Hawkeye	Assistant Beaver Leader	283-2903	sjackman@trytel.com

Cubs

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Scouts

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