



1st Merrickville Scout Group

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2003



BEAVERS

Our Beavers are always very busy. Themes of the circus, dog training & care, inventions, germs, magnets, and animals have kept our young ones enthused. The owl session especially had our Beavers captivated. The sleepover at Easton's Corners was a resounding success as always. A spy theme made detectives of all those attending. The fire department jaws of life really showed some excitement one evening as a car was ripped apart in front of their eyes. We also held a special session on Remembrance Day and its meaning. Carolling in the streets of Merrickville finished the year, and each Beaver went home with "Snowman Soup".

Upcoming activities include:

Aviation Museum Sleepover	February 7 th /8 th
Annual Banquet	February 18 th
Church Parade	February 22 nd
Beaver Burr	February 28 th
Beaver Buggy racing	April 3 rd
Hobby Show	April 3 rd /4 th
Scout Trees	May 1 st

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new leader Elizabeth Collinson and our new activity leader Elizabeth Jackman.

CUBS

Kick-starting the year was a camp to introduce all the new Cubs to camping. Survival in the woods was the theme with everyone building emergency debris shelters. Our sixers and seconders also attended a special leadership development camp the following weekend. There is a high interest in entertainment this year, so we have focused a fair bit on songs, skits, and cheers. Carving pumpkins brought us up to the Halloween party. The OPP visited one evening with the theme being if lost in the woods - "Hug a Tree". We held a very interesting Remembrance Day evening with a slide show courtesy of Dan Black and John Maclean from the Legion. The jaws of life were a big hit when we visited the fire department and watched a demonstration of rescuing a person trapped in a car by cutting apart a car. At the end of November, the sound of hammers echoed throughout the village as we built wooden kits of bird feeders, CD holders, and pencil holders. December saw a skit, cheers, and games night that helps the Cubs earn their entertainers badge. The year rounded out with our Christmas party and had each Cub taking home a special present for under the tree.

Upcoming activities include:

Aviation Museum Sleepover	February 7 th /8 th
Annual Banquet	February 18 th
Winter Challenge	February 21 st
Church Parade	February 22 nd
Winter Camp	February 27 th -29 th
Crystal radio building	March
Kub Kar racing	April 3 rd
Hobby Show	April 3 rd /4 th
Scout Trees	May 1 st
Spring Camp	May
Regional Camp	June 1 st -3 rd

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new leader Kevin Bacon.

SCOUTS

The Scout section has seen the most growth this year, with an increase of 31% over last year. We are in desperate need of two additional Scout leaders. The Scouts started the year with a focus on archery with three trips to Ron's Archery for practice. A trip to Upper Canada Village ensued for work on the Heritage badge. Each Scout has since taken some of the numerous steps required to earn this badge. The focus then moved to canoeing with a number of sessions at the Canoe Association. Instruction is being provided on the proper fitting of a personal floatation device and how to paddle as a pair or threesome. The aim is to take an overnight canoe trip in the spring. The final meeting of 2003 was a night hike through some of the trails around Merrickville reaching the destination for hot chocolate. Picture albums were distributed to each Scout with individual pictures of some of the events in which they were involved.

Upcoming activities include:

Annual Banquet	February 18 th
Church Parade	February 22 nd
Winter Camp	February 27 th -29 th
Overnight canoe trip	Spring
18 Wheeler racing	April 4 th
Hobby Show	April 3 rd /4 th
Scout Trees	May 1 st
Nite Vent	May 7 th /8 th
Spring Camp	May 28 th -30 th

SOAPBOX DERBY

Our annual soapbox derby was a smashing success! A total of 58 youth participated in the event; 28 Cubs and Scouts from our group, and an additional 30 Cubs from the Kemptville and Oxford Mills packs. Not only did all the youth have a great time, but this was an important fund-raising activity for the group. Thanks to the very hard work of George Clark, sponsorships were obtained from a large number of businesses resulting in a net profit on the day of \$3,149. These funds are earmarked for much needed camping equipment. Special thanks also go to Peter Cornelisse for all his efforts, Mike Jackman for the car repairs, Dan Black for his photography, and Richard & Annette Huton for the BBQ lunch.

APPLE DAY

In spite of the miserable weather, Apple Day was reasonably successful. 38 youth participated (54% of the Beavers and Cubs, 80% of the Scouts). Profit was \$670. Special recognition goes to the initiative of Josh Gordon, Adam Hastings, and Lilian & Mackenzie Bacon who all did additional selling on their own, bringing in significantly higher donations.

Next year, please remember that if the main event cannot be attended due to other commitments, apples can be sold in other places and at other times to give Scouting both community recognition as well as valuable funds for the program. Thank you to all who braved the inclement weather.

SCOUT POPCORN

Thanks to all the youth and parents who put in the effort to sell Scout Popcorn. This was a voluntary fund-raising activity. A total of \$815 of popcorn was sold, resulting in a profit of \$265. Crests and Scout Bucks have not yet been received from Voyageur Region, but will be distributed to the youth as soon as they arrive.

SCOUT TREES - UPCOMING EVENT

We will again be participating in the national Scout Trees program on May 1st. The primary purpose of the activity is environmental. Many thousands of trees are planted each year by Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts across the country. A large amount of positive publicity is also received through the media. The secondary purpose is to provide Scouting groups an opportunity to raise funds. The youth obtain pledges from their neighbours in return for promising to plant about 50 trees.

We have decided our main goal this year is environmental. We would like to see all the youth and their parents out for the planting activity regardless of whether they collect any pledges. Though pledge collecting is also appreciated.

BADEN-POWELL WEEK - UPCOMING EVENTS

The third week in February is dedicated each year to the founder of the Scouting movement, Baden-Powell. Normal meetings are cancelled this week. We hold our annual potluck banquet on the evening of Wednesday February 18th. Entertainment is provided by the youth, and a variety of awards are presented.

We also participate in a Church service each year on the Sunday (February 22nd). This year we will be attending the Anglican church. We rotate through the three churches in Merrickville.

WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO?

While it may appear that a large amount of money has been raised and donated this year, there are significant costs associated with running a top notch program. We submit \$99 for every person to Scouts Canada for their registration. Here are some of the other key expenditures incurred and planned:

Leader registration	\$1,288
Subsidise winter camp	\$560
Subsidise aviation museum sleepover	\$500
Additional Scout tents	\$650
New and additional Cub tents	\$780
Group crests	\$800
Financial assistance	\$486
Neckers	\$168

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have a total of 73 boys and girls. This is comprised of 27 Beavers, 29 Cubs, and 17 Scouts. The Cub and Scout sections are closed to new members at this time. Growth above these numbers will be entirely dependant on additional adult volunteers.

REGISTRATION FOR 2004

Scouts Canada is recommending that groups move the main registration date from September to May/June. The reason is that the insurance coverage for the Scout year starts on September 1st. We believe this will work well for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it will allow the September registration night to be dedicated to new members; and without the crowd, the leaders will be able to take more time explaining the program to the new parents. Secondly, with the sections becoming full and waiting lists being implemented, those registering in the spring will be guaranteed places in the program, while registrations in the fall will be on a first come first serve basis.

CAMP OPEMIKON

For a summer camp for your child, camp Opemikon can't be beat! Opemikon, run by the Voyageur region of Scouts Canada, offers a variety of 3 night to two week programs for boys and girls aged 6 to 16. Brochures will be available at the weekly meetings as soon they are published. Every youth we know that has attended, has returned desperate to go again the next year. Counsellor opportunities also exist for youth aged 16 and older. **Applications for counsellors positions (available from the Voyageur office or the group chair) are due January 16th.**

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 on multiple nights.

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.

WEBSITE

Our group website, www.1stmerrickville.ca, is operational. Please pay it a visit to see information on past and future activities. There are lots of pictures too! Thanks to Peter Cornelisse for his tireless work.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

We are starting to use email to distribute information. If you have not given us an email address, or your address has changed, please send us the updated information. Not to worry though, if you don't have an email address we will still get the you all the information.

NECKERS

Special thanks go to Annette Bedor and Barb Bacon for sewing 40 new neckers for the group this year - and at short notice too!

MEETING ETIQUETTE

Please ensure your child arrives on time for all meetings, preferable 5-10 minutes before the meeting is due to start. Having the youth trickle in late is very disruptive to the program.

Sneakers are necessary in addition to winter boots as running in sock feet on the floor is a safety hazard.

All meetings are full uniform unless previously communicated otherwise. This includes navy blue trousers for the Cubs and Scouts.

All youth must remember to bring \$1 in dues each week. This is important as it not only helps teach the youth about financial responsibility, but also provides the funds necessary for items such as craft and badge supplies.

BADGES

Earning badges is a very important part of the Cub and Scout programs. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to sit down with your child and spend some quality time together. Your encouragement is instrumental in their success.

For Cubs, there are special incentives. Upon completing the Cub program and moving to Scouts, Cubs that have earned all six stars are presented with a framed copy of all the badges and awards the Cub has earned. If they have earned all 7 award badges (the square ones) they will be presented with a silver wolf plaque from the Valley Highlands area. These awards are very special to the Cubs and will remain with them for a lifetime.

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. This box can be examined on any meeting night.

USED TONER AND INK JET CARTRIDGES

Empty toner and ink jet cartridges from laser and ink printers can be dropped off at Colonel Byte Computers (105 Wellington Street East, Merrickville). These are sold to a recycler and the profits donated to the Scout group. Please tell your friends, neighbours, and employers!

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please notify a leader immediately if any medical changes occur that need to be noted on the physical fitness form.

CAMPFIRE BLANKETS

Campfire blankets make great presents for your child. All event participation badges can be sewed on it for safe keeping, and it keeps the youth warm around the campfire.

FEEDBACK

If you have any comments or suggestions on the program, please do not hesitate to contact either one of the leaders or the group chair.

DONORS

The following businesses have made significant monetary and in kind donations to the Scout group this year.

Please support those who support us.

As a charitable organization, we can issue tax receipts for any cash or in-kind donations to the Scout group.

EXECUTIVE (\$1,000 and greater)

Royal Canadian Legion

PLATINUM (\$300 - \$999)

Canadian Tire (Kemptville)
Canal Gallery and Frame Shop
Kemptville Building Centre
Kemptville Truck Centre
Lion's Club
Merrickville General Store

GOLD (\$100 - \$299)

A.M. Plumbing
Baldachin Inn
Comeau Insulation
Dr. Alison Greenop Dentist
Gamma Dynacare
Lark Spur Lane
McNamee Concrete
Mel Johnston Chev Olds
Mrs. McGarrigle's Fine Food Shop
Pat Strouglar Realty
Rona Home & Garden (Hunt Club)
Round the Corner Bakery
Stone House Gallery

SILVER (\$50 - \$99)

Brewed Awakenings
Burlco Wood Flooring
Country Bumpkins
Dillabough Sales and Service
Food Town
G. Tackaberry Construction
Grenville Castings
Haedae Farms
Herb White Automotive
Jack's Garage
Knock Knock Shop
Merrickville Health Centre
Oxford Construction
Prudential Maximum Realty
RJ's Shell Centre
Rowland Leather
Satellite Truss
Valley Bus Lines
Wood-N-Feathers

BRONZE (\$10 - \$49)

The Avery's Guest House
Jim Weller

Contact Information**Group Committee**

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Richard Huton	Member at Large	269-3216	annette.huton@hrdc-drhc.gc.ca
Ken Richardson	Member at Large	258-1348	wraith@ca.inter.net

Beavers

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Elizabeth Collinson	Malak	Assistant Beaver Leader	258-7715	collinson.elizabeth@ic.gc.ca
Peter Cornelisse	Ringtail	Assistant Beaver Leader	269-4036	peter@naafdata.com
Mike Jackman	Hawkeye	Assistant Beaver Leader	283-9936	sjackman@trytel.com

Cubs

Keith Skelhorne	Akela	Cub Leader	258-9016	bhdks@bellnet.ca
Alex Beelich	Chil	Assistant Cub Leader	283-3307	alex.beelich@nlfincial.ca
Kevin Bacon	Raksha	Assistant Cub Leader	258-0221	
Peter Cornelisse	Bagheera	Assistant Cub Leader	269-4036	peter@naafdata.com
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Scouts

Hope Gray	Scouter Hope	Troop Scouter	269-2343	
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