



Area Forum



May 19, 2005

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Smiths Falls

Present: Jim Britton, Area Commissioner, Michelle Niefer, Secretary; Roger Nuttall, DAC Training; Dianna Nuttall, DAC Group Support; John Boyce, Council Commissioner; Jeff Benson, CFF; Jenny Williams, 3rd CP; John Stalker, 3rd CP; Charles Courtland, 2nd CP; Bill Lawrence, 2nd Almonte; Allan Yates, 1st Merrickville; Valerie Venables, 4th Perth; Larry Palmer, 4th Perth; Annette Thompson, 1st Montague; Chris Tyler, ADAC Program; Kim Comstock Honours & Awards, 2nd Smiths Falls.

Regrets: Brian Billings, Scout Tree Coordinator

Agenda Items:

- 1. Calendar:** The main focus was getting the Area calendar done for the year 2005-06. This was achieved. Jim will be sending this out to all Scouters in the near future.
- 2. Jim Britton, Area Commissioner:** scouterjim@sympatico.ca
 - Effective as of June 16th (Honours & Awards Banquet), I will be stepping down as Area Commissioner. I enjoy Scouting, but at this time must step down for personal reasons. I have given one year and now pass on to another Scouter. A nominating committee will be formed to find a new commissioner and hopefully have in place within a short time.
 - This is the “Year of the Veteran”. Scouts Canada has developed a crest for all registered Scouting members. They ask that you in turn give this to a Veteran as a sign of our thanks for their contribution, both to our old veterans of the 2nd WW as well as our younger veterans who have served overseas. You may hand these out at any time, however, if you have wrapped up your program for the year, they may be given out in the Fall, especially just prior to Remembrance Day.
- 3. Minutes:** Minutes had been sent out to all members. It was pointed out that the Camp Report was added since the minutes were distributed. Two spelling errors were corrected in #7, otherwise the minutes were accepted as is.

Motion to accept: Ghislaine Magnan, Seconded: Annette Thompson. All in favour.

DAC Reports:

- i: Youth - Alyssa Comstock -** smartkid_31@hotmail.com

No report at this time.
- ii: Group Support - Diana Nuttall -** rnd@perth.i
 - Groups are winding down;
 - Reminder of early registration, which ends June 30th.

iii: **Training - Roger Nuttall - rnd@perth.igs**

The multi-Area Basic PPB course held at Opemikon on April 22 – 24, 2005 was well received. Valley Highlands Area was represented by both Trainers and Participants.

We are sponsoring a Basic Canoe course on June 11 & 12 and a Boat Rescue Award course on June 25 & 26, both will be held at Whispering Pines Camp. See the Voyageur Training website for registration information.

iv: **Camp Warden - Stan Lasenba - lasenba@sympatico.ca**

Since our last meeting I have met with Ruddy of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and marked trees that need to be removed. He also sent me a map of the complete Mica Mines Conservation area which is very up to date a shows all the types of vegetation, swamps and areas that are under water. He also has given us permission to make trails through the area and to this end Roger and I have marked out a trail from the beach area to the point on the north west side of the camp and continues along the creek and returns to the road near the south west point of the camp. Another trail has been marked that will take us from near this same point to the next cottage road. We also looked at a trail from the Long Lake road back to meet this trail. To continue the trail that goes to the cottage road unto the Mica Mines we will have to get permission from a hunting club to cross a small portion of their land as there is a beaver flood we have to go around. When this trail is complete it will hook up with the Rideau Trail. Gravel and road repairs have not been done as the half loads have not been taken off yet but as soon as this happens arrangements will be made for 2 loads of gravel and the use of a backhoe for 5 or 6 hours to do some ditching and leveling.

The invoice for the lease is in and we owe Rideau Valley \$1500.00 for that and this should be paid ASAP. We also owe for the membership for the Otty lake Ass. which should also be paid. I will need an advance of \$ 850.00 to pay for the gravel and backhoe.

Expenses

First Aid Course	50.00
Tape for marking Trails	10.32
Total	60.32

v: **Honours & Awards - Kim Comstock - comstock2@sympatico.ca**

- June 16th the date for the next area forum, will be for the **areas Potluck - Honours & Awards Evening.**
- 90% of our Scouters will be receiving something, so we hope to see you all there.
- Place: St. James Church Hall, Carleton Place – more detailed directions to follow.
- RSVP to Kim Comstock what dish you wish to bring.
- Arrival 5:30, sit-down 6 p.m., awards 7 p.m.

John Boyce, Council Commissioner then asked for the floor. He was waiting for the appropriate time and felt the Area Forum was the time. He presented Michelle Niefer with her 4th bead. Congratulations.

vi: **Scout Trees - Brian Billings - brian_billings@carleton.ca Below is the article that went into the local newspapers. There were four pictures also submitted.**

SCOUT TREES: On Saturday, May 7th, 2005, 125 Scout youth (Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts) and leaders from across the Valley Highlands Area met in Municipality of Drummond/North Elmsley for Scoutrees 2005.

Scoutrees for Canada is a national environmental program that involves youth in a meaningful and hands-on conservation project. Scouts Canada youth plant trees first and raise money second. Over the years, Scoutrees has helped raise funds for Scouting. Through sponsors and donors Scoutrees income helps fund local Scouting activities, council programs, and also provides much needed income for the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund - 70% of all revenues raised from Scoutrees programs remains with local groups.

Approximately 5,000 trees consisting of a mixture of white pine, red pine, and white cedar seedlings were planted in the buffer zone area adjacent the township landfill site. As Scout youth were engaged in tree planting, council members from Drummond/North Elmsley Township dropped by for a site visit and survey of the tree planting activity. Valley Highlands Area Commissioner, Jim Britton presented certificates of appreciation and crests to Drummond/North Elmsley Township Reeve Aubrey Churchill, Deputy-Reeve Gordon McConnell, Councillor Jim Lowe, Jeff Ward, OMNR Stewardship Coordinator, and Christie Gilles/Tom Richardson from the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County for their agencies' support and sponsorship of the local Scoutrees for Canada program. At the plant site, Reeve Aubrey Churchill made a cheque presentation to Scouts Canada and spoke positively of the partnership and the municipality's support of the local Scoutrees initiative. Valley Highlands Area Scouting youth and leaders have been planting trees on the municipal property buffering the Drummond /North Elmsley landfill site since 1992.

Other local sponsors of the Scoutrees program who were unable to attend but were also identified and appreciated for their support by Scouts Canada were Albany International, Blair and Son, Centennial Truss, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and TDL Group/Tim Horton's - Perth.

Financial: Jean Lasenba - lasenba@sympatico.ca

- No report at this time, as Jean has resigned.

Group Reports:

2nd ALMONTE REPORT

Reference: Group Committee Meeting held April 27, 2005 @ Superior Restaurant

1. EVENTS TO DATE:
 - All sections attended the Cub car rally, scout trucks, and beaver buggy rallies. The leaders thought it was a well run event.
 - The cubs had a bike rodeo meeting, and the next week they went on an bike outing in the Burnt Lands.
 - Sat. April 30 was Almonte's Scout Trees fundraiser. Although the morning was rainy, we had 30 youth/leaders and parents that came out to help and approximately \$600.00 was donated. That afternoon, 19 scouts,cubs with 7 leaders went to Lafleche Caves. They were given a guided tour of the caves and then set up bedding in the driest part of the cave and slept there. Those would didn't like the bats stayed in the dining hall.
 - Thursday May 12th was the final wrap up meeting for all sections. A swim up ceremony took place at the Mill of Kintail.
 - Early registration forms are being distributed to parents.
2. FUTURE EVENTS:
 - Scouts canoe training will be in mid June and in July they will be doing a canoe trip to Barren River Canyon in Algonquin Park. They will be having a BBQ fundraiser to help offset the cost of this trip.
3. MAIN EFFORTS
 - Early registrations forms.
4. ISSUES:

- We are looking for more leaders and group committee volunteers for the next year.

5. COMMENTS.

Yours in Scouting,

Tracey Joron
Group Commissioner
2nd ALMONTE

Arden: no report

Beckwith: No report

Carleton Place Group Report

Reference: Group Committee Meetings held__April 14/May 12, 2005_____

1. EVENTS TO DATE: (since the last meeting)

a. Beavers Swim-up ceremony April 19- both 2CP and 3CP packs involved. 5 beavers swam-up. Went well.

b. Hobbies and wheels - all sections attended. Concerns still exist with scoring as large groups tend to run against themselves.

c. Scoutrees - all sections attended.

Scouts did railway bed cleanup in CP as annual conservation project. Full van of garbage collected.

d. Beavers held JOTT early - May 10. Good time had by all on Arklan/Stonewater gate nature trail.

e. Beavers enjoyed Beaver Burr - recommend Conlon Farm for annual location

f. Both Cub sections went to Thistle Springs Trout farm - Many caught fish and all had a good time.

g. Nightvent May14 attended by 6 scouts - Came in 1st All thoroughly enjoyed it even with rain

h. 2 Scouts attended planning meeting for Camporee. Only 2 Scouts in attendance. Theme will be Lord of the Rings

2. FUTURE EVENTS: (within the next month)

a. Cub log jump to Scouts -May 24. Expecting 1-2 cubs to jump log to Scouts

b. Beaver end-of-year camp at OPE June 11/12

c. Beaver Campfire and end-of year party May 24/31

d. Impeeza - Wild west theme. 2CP cubs part of organizing team May 27-29

e. Visit to Bonnechere cave by both Packs June 11

f. Scout Camporee June 4/5 - Lord of the Rings theme

g. Scout Canoe trip to Algonquin Park July 22-25

h) Final Group meeting set for June 9th

i) 2- 3rd year scouts and 1 leader to attend Venturer Whitewater 1 course on Petawawa river May 27-29

3. MAIN EFFORTS:

Formalizing "Supergroup" for 2/3CP

Recruiting new group members and section leaders

2 beaver leaders finished WB1, One awarded, others interested

1 scout and 5 leaders, as well as 2 "friends" attended Standard First Aid course. All passed.

John Stalker attended "For Those Who Serve" level 1 course. Well done and received.

Several cub and beaver leaders attended WB1 training. Well received

More WB1 and First Aid courses requested

*** 5 of this year's Cubs and 2 of last year's will qualify for 7 Award Awards.

*** One Scout, Gen Stalker has completed her requirements for her Chief Scout Award.

One more will possibly qualify as a Venturer.

4. ISSUES:

Communications issues: Plan presented by Cub Akela Simon Jones, and is being implemented. Good job!

Teamwork/personality issues within Beavers. Solution in progress.

Recruiting of new adults and youth. New tacks being taken

Yours in Scouting,

John Stalker

Group Commissioner

Carleton Place Scouting Groups

1st Drummond Scouts REPORT

Reference: Group Committee Meeting held 6 May 2005

1. EVENTS TO DATE: (since the last meeting)

a. Beavers: Hobbies & Wheels, Scoutrees, and Beaver Birthday Bash.

b. Cubs: Hobbies & Wheels, Camping Trip and Scoutrees.

2. FUTURE EVENTS: (within the next month)

a. Beavers: Camp Impeeza (white tails), Camping Trip to Opemikon and Family BBQ.

b. Cubs: Camp Impeeza and Family BBQ.

3. MAIN EFFORTS: (the groups focus this period)

Our group has been focusing on improving Communication between the sections and amongst the committee members. We started work on a Group Communication Plan as part of an overall Group Management Strategy. As part of this effort we are also trying to develop a Marketing Plan to raise the awareness level about our Group in the communities where we recruit. We are targeting school newsletters by submitting articles to the school principles about our activities. Next we will be sending out information about the Early Registration Program for 2005 – 2006.

4. ISSUES: (items you need assistance with or questions you need answered)

At the end of April our Akela resigned for personal reasons. If anyone knows of someone in our area who would be willing to come on board in that capacity, could they please pass the persons name on.

Yours in Scouting,

Andrew M. Wise
Group Commissioner
1st Drummond Scouts

1st Elmsley 1st Elmlsey Group REPORT

Reference: Group Committee Meetings September 2004 – May 2005

1. EVENTS TO DATE:
 - a. Monthly bingos
 - b. Church Parade
 - b. Family Banquet
 - c. First Aid / CPR course
 - d. Ham & Bean Supper
2. FUTURE EVENTS: Nothing planned for the rest of the year.
3. MAIN EFFORTS: The Group hosted it's annual Ham & Bean Supper on April 16th, a major fundraiser for 1st Elmsley. We served approximately 175 people and made a profit of over \$650.00. Our monthly bingos are also very lucrative fundraisers, revenues have enabled us to purchase new camping equipment. We had a trailer built to specifications to store all our camping gear. We had too many storage areas and felt this would best suit our needs.
4. ISSUES:
5. COMMENTS. All groups attended the above mentioned events as well as their own individual weekly meetings as described below. The Group purchased canoe paddles and the kids got to finish them to their own individual taste. The younger kids painted logos, while the older ones got to burn logos and all applied a protective finish to preserve their work.

The **Beavers** have had all kinds of activities in the recent weeks. There was a skating / sledding event. They had a "Bring-A-Friend" night and made snowflake and chalk drawings. They also attended the Beaver Burr at Conlon Farm. They made crafts for Easter and had an Easter Egg Run and held a sugar bush party at the Thomson's homestead. Most of the **Beavers** also attended the Beaver Birthday Bash in Petawawa. The **Cubs** worked on their paddles and did work toward their green star. They went to the Art Makers Studio in Port Elmsley where their creative juices flowed freely and beautiful pieces of arts made from glass and

copper emerged. Each **Cub** designed, sanded and edged their very own creation. The **Cubs** are planning their year end trip with an overnight stay on a harboured ship in Kingston. They will complete their trip with a cruise of the Thousand Islands.

The **Scouts** also worked on their paddles. They went to the museum of Science and Technologies and had a ski trip at Mount Pakenham. Two senior scouts have just about completed all their requirements in order to receive their Chief Scout Award. The **Scouts** attended Nitevent and even though the group had to be split up in order to help another group, everyone had a blast. For the year end trip the **Scouts** are planning a camping trip to the caves in Quebec. Most of them have already been to the caves, but due to the great success of the last trip, they asked their leader to take them again.

The **Venturers** held a meeting to do some planning and decided to go skating on the Canal as well as going night skiing at Mount Pakenham. They also plan to go rock climbing and some of the kids will be attending a boat rescue course. The **Venturers** also intend to be part of a team at the Cancer Walk in June,

Yours in Scouting,

Group chair
1st Elmlsey

1st Merrickville Report for Area Meeting May 19, 2005

Events To Date

Swim-up and going-up ceremony.

Spring Cub camp at Whispering Pines. Fire lighting, orienteering, archery, air rifles, water balloons, campfire battle, bungee running, assault course, wide games, blindfold course.

Scout NiteVent. We came third!!!! Thanks Chris, excellent work!

Hobbies & Wheels for Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts. Lost the pack trophy to 1st Beckwith :(

Cubs built broomstick catapults using lashings and fired tennis balls at each other.

Scout canoe practice at Whispering Pines.

Scouts canoed in Limerick forest checking the duck nesting boxes they built and installed. Two were in use, 13 and 24 eggs in the nests.

Scout Trees in Merrickville. Trees donated by the village. 750 trees planted by 28 Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts.

Pitch-in Canada. All sections collected litter from around the village.

12 Beavers participated in the Birthday Bash in Petawawa. All reports showed it to be well organised.

Future Events

Area Cub camp at Whispering Pines.

Area Scout camp at Whispering Pines.

Scout spring camp at Whispering Pines, May 20-22.

Summer Cub and Scout camp at Whispering Pines, Aug 26-28.

Float plane ride for the Scouts arranged for the fall.

Main Efforts

See our website for pictures of our events: <http://www.1stmerrickville.ca>

Issues

Why is my group report not being included in full in the area meeting minutes? The issue and comment sections are being cut out.

NOTE: It was asked “**Why is my group report not being included in full in the area minutes?**” Allan, the minutes are mainly to keep everyone up to date on local scouting activities/issues within the group/area. Your Group report is to report on the "activities" of the Group and Sections. Any "debate" or "issue" should be left to the Area Forum meeting for discussion and resolution. Area minutes are not designed to capture a person's personal opinion.

Michelle Niefer.

Group Report for 1st Montague Scouts

We are still working on finishing requirements for Chief Scout Award, almost there.

We have participated with the following events.... Scoutrees, Commerative Ceremonies in Ottawa for Veterans.....handed out Programs , Canadian Flags and Poppies for three hours stayed for Ceremonies. (Request from Eugene Lavigne for Scout Help). Attended Whispering Pines....NITEVENT...2nd Place for second year running. Trophy was unavailable to give to Scouts as 1st Pakenham still has it from last year. Chris said he would get it to us..... Team members John Gennrich, Samantha Thompson, Phillip Lamothe and Jacob Thompson. Congratulations to 1st Montague youth.

We will be attending the Scout Camp in June and then putting plans together for September 2005.

We have been invited to continue with 1st Beckwith Group for Monthly meetings for next session. Thank you everyone for your help.

Just a little request....Help for compass and map reading review to be done again next session. If someone or two person could help me prepare some stuff for September I would really appreciate it. Email any information I can use to set up a couple of nights of theory and practice.

Scouter Annette Thompson

Perth:

The 4th Perth Group Committee met on May 12th. Details were completed for our barbeque at Hendrik's Independent to be held on Friday, May 20th. Also plans were made for advance registration and recruitment. The group registration fee was confirmed with \$5.00 being added for group use. At our next meeting we will review budget and also establish common camp fee for next year.

Beavers finished with a great night at Stewart Park including a barbeque and sailing catamarans in the river. Cubs continue to be active with an emphasis this year on badge work and plans for a June camp. Scouts finished regular meetings with a visit to the police station for bike safety, a trip to Dairy Queen, and excitement about special summer events including the Lynx sleepover, the Central Canada Jamboree, and a possible combined camp with the Cubs. What a chance for linkage!

Our group takes advantage of opportunities to reach out to the community and enjoys great support in return.

Arnel W. Pattemore, Group Commissioner

1st Pakenham: No report

1st Portland: No report

Old Business:

i: **Hobbies & Wheels:** Thank you Allan for a job well done. Full report attached.

Extra crests are still available at \$2. The crests will be turned in and used for future trading events for the youth going to jamborees.

ii: **Scout Trees:** Very successful day with 5000 trees planted. Big thanks to Brian Billings for all his work and getting sponsors for the trees. He was able to get full sponsorship again this year. Report attached

iii: **Nitevent:** Thank you to Chris Tyler for planning this event. It too was very successful. Activity report.

- Once again my grateful thanks to the twenty-three Adults and the 39 youth that made the event successful.
- In many ways I failed in my assessment of the youth's ability to problem solve, hence some of the events were too easy both physically and mentally. So, I will rethink the events for next year when the average of the youth will be greater and more physical challenges will be needed.
- * This is also the reason that the event is not open to Venturers. VSAWC was designed for them, but we have had no request for such an event this year.
- One difficulty is that we have the Camporee so soon after Nitevent and we need to keep some challenges back for the Camporee so as to provide some diversification. The lack of money for equipment also curtails activities available at any one time.
- On the whole, the activities went well with no accidents and little in the way of complaints. Several people have made constructive comments which are worth taking forward and we will see what can be done next year to incorporate them.
- As yet, I have had no feedback directly from any youth, but expect that to come later, possibly at the Scout Camp in June. I am sure they all enjoyed a balmy night of fun challenge, particularly the senior cubscouts.

iv: **Camp signing in:** A reminder for all groups using the camp to sign in with the numbers attending and number of nights. This promotes the usage of our camp in future reports. For large group activities, such as Camp Impeeza and Scout Camp, the Camp Chief will sign in for all. Therefore, it is asked that each group contact Scouter give in all this information to the Camp Chief at the leaders meeting.

New Business:

i: **John Boyce, CC:** Outlined the steps/process for a Nominating Committee

1. A committee is formed of 3-5 individuals from the Scouting community and the Council Field Exc., Jeff Benson.

2. A list will be obtained of all Scouting members, past and present. This will also include a guideline or characteristics to look for in choosing a new AC. This will be reviewed to come up with a list of prospective individuals.
3. All Scouting members are encouraged to submit a name that they wish to nominate for AC.
4. Once the list is made, each individual will be contacted to ask if they wish their name to stand.
5. The nominator is then interviewed by John Boyce & CC and Jeff Benson, CFE.

Volunteers were asked for the Committee: Roger Nuttall, Kim Comstock and Michelle Niefer stepped forward to form the committee. No other members spoke up at this time.

- ii: **Camp Impeesa: May 27, 28 & 29th**. Theme is “Wild West”. Plans are in place with activities arranged; crests are ordered. An information has been sent out to all groups, but will be sent again. Detailed program will be handed out to the groups at the leaders meeting Friday night. Challenge: For the youth to have a costume ready. Fee for the camp is \$5.00.
- iii: **Scout Camp: June 3, 4 & 5th**. The theme is “Lord of the Rings”. Fee is \$2.00. Activities are patrol based. Set-up Friday evening. Patrol leaders meeting/Leaders meeting planned in the evening. See attached sheet.
- iv: **Membership: Jeff Benson, CFE**

At present, with the membership across the country, Voyageur Council is in 2nd place with achieving 91% of last year’s membership, and 95% when compared to the same time last year. A reminder that the Council is once again having early registration, which can add up to substantial savings for each group if all leaders and youth members were to register prior to June 30th. A Pre-registration package has been prepared for all groups. As well, a Group Growth Plan handout specific to each group was presented and discussed. It included each Group’s current Section registration numbers from the MMS and possible membership goals for next year. The numbers in the plan are not cast in stone and can be adjusted by the Groups/Sections accordingly. Groups can use the “Growth Ideas” handout to develop action plans designed to meet their membership goals. To get Council and Area support for their membership plans it is important that they send in a copy of their growth plan to either the Council office or DAC Growth, Diana Nuttall. The Growth Pages on the Council web site have been overhauled and now includes all the tools/resources developed over the last year and a half. Check it out, when you get a chance.

Adjourned: 9:15 p.m.

Minutes Read at Area Forum and motion to accept on: _____

Minutes Approved by: _____
 Jim Britton, Area Commissioner

** Note: The minutes are now longer as the group reports were not condensed. If you wish to revert to the condensed version, please let me know, and I will go with the majority.