



Area Forum Thursday



January 19, 2006 Lion's Club, Smiths Falls

Present: Stan Lasenba, Area Commissioner, Michelle Niefer, Secretary; Jean Lasenba, Finance; Roger Nuttall, DAC Program; Dianna Nuttall, Fundraising; Ken Richardson, APM; Brian Billings, Trees; Kim Comstock, H & A; Allan Yates, Gr. Com Merrickville; Andrew Wise, Gr. Com. Drummond; John Stalker, CP & Venturers; Joan Smith, 2nd Smiths Falls, and Larry Palmer, Perth.

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome; O'Canada; Words of Wisdom.

2. Minutes – previous minutes (November 17th) reviewed.

Motion to carry: Ken Richardson; Seconded: Joan Smith. All in favor – unanimous. – Carried.

3. Stan Lasenba, Area Commissioner: Lasenba@sympatico.ca

- Council – Voyageur Council is presenting negotiating with National re: bringing back accounting to Council level.
- Membership: 6518 at present with numbers actively changing.
- Friendfest: February 1 – April 31st. \$500. to be awarded to the group who brings in the highest numbers during this time period. This money is to be used for camping at Camp Opemikon. This portion of the money will be awarded for the month of February only, however the reduced fee will carry on until end of April. Fee will be \$80.
- Guy Latour – has applied and accepted a position out in Calgary. Applications will be accepted for his position and interviews done in the next while.
- Commissioners Award – are finally ready for the past two years. They should be down to the groups within the next couple of months.
- February 18th – Open House at Scout Headquarters – if you wish to put in a display, you are more than welcome, especially if you want to do a winter camp display.
- Camp Warden – will also put in a display for Whispering Pines.
- Registration forms will include a blanket permission form, which will be ready for March. This permission form will not include Category III events.
- Training – new leaders are reminded to take training within their first year. There are a number of sessions put on across the Council.

DAC Reports:

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

ii: Fundraising - Diana Nuttall - rnd@perth.igs

- **nothing to report at this time.**

iii: Program - Roger Nuttall - rnd@perth.igs

Winter Camp – One group is registered. Where are the rest???

Winter Camp Skills: We had approximately 25 Scouts and 10 Leaders at this session. I would like to thank 2nd Smiths Falls Scouts (Jeff Crigger) for hosting this activity. Ken Richardson taught cooking; Tom Joron taught shelter building and John Stalker showed us how to pack our gear to be able to easily transport it from the car to the camp, while I covered the “umblies” of hypothermia and clothing. (Umblies = stumbling, grumbly and mumbly.

Camp Zero: Several Troops have cut their firewood and shelter poles for this camp to be held at Ken Richardson's on January 28 and 29, 2006. Ken has various winter camping activities planned for the weekend.

Cub Winter Challenge: A planning meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Sunday, January 22, 2006 at my place. The Akelas were e-mailed about this meeting along with a map to get to my place.

Beaver Burr: A planning meeting is scheduled for 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 22, 2006 at my place. The Contact Beaver Leaders were e-mailed about this meeting along with a map to get to my place. The Conlin Farm Recreation Center in Perth is available for this event, if the Beaver Leaders choose to use it.

iv: Camp Warden – Ken Richardson – wraith@ca.inter.net

- CP Beavers have the camp booked for February as well as Nepean Venturers.
- If your group is going camping at Whispering Pines, please let Ken know so that he does not rent out your site to outside groups.
- Last year, \$420. was taken in for rental of campsites. If you do not book, you loose if another group books your site if you do not plan ahead.
- # signs will be up in the Spring numbering each site for better location. This will also assist outside groups looking for the sites assigned to them.

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

- Ontario Volunteer Awards – Group Commissioner: Look within your group and nominate 1 person for each category of 5 yrs, 10 years, 15 yrs, 20 yrs, 25 yrs. Etc. Please submit by April 30th.
- Do you have a nomination for “Thistle Award” – this is an award for outstanding service to the area. Please submit by and of April also.

vi: Scout Trees - Brian Billings - brian_billings@carleton.ca

Rudy DYCK (RVCA) and Jeff WARD (OMNR) reviewed the plant site in November and due to the poor survival rate of cedar trees planted in 2004, they are now proposing planting tamarack for spot planting (re-planting) in this area. So this year's plant will see us plant a mixture of tamarack and white cedar seedlings.

Letters of appreciation, crests, and requests for re-sponsorship have been sent out to Tim Horton's - Perth, TDL Group, Centennial Truss, Albany International, RVCA, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, Blair and Son Limited, and the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley. It is hoped that fundraising efforts for the cost of trees and site prep will once again be covered through the kind gifts of these donors.

With respect to the Scoutrees Program for this year, I need to hear from groups that are planning on attending so that I can ensure that sufficient kits and crests are ordered for the youth. Please advise me by January 30th as to numbers in your groups and whether you will be using Scoutrees as a fundraising initiative. For those raising funds with Scoutrees, please keep in mind that a portion of funds raised does go to the Brotherhood Fund. More details will follow in next month's report.

Financial: Jean Lasenba - lasenba@sympatico.ca

- I have only received three financial statements from Groups. Where are the others? We need to have these in order to send along with ours to Region. This is a safeguard in case any group is having difficulty or goes defunct. If a group goes defunct and the money not turned over, it lays unclaimed and eventually turned over to the banks. So lets ensure it stays with Scouts Canada for the purpose of our youth.
- We have obtained our financial statements yesterday from Council; these will be reviewed with some questions still to be answered.

GROUP REPORTS:

Almonte: No report available.

1st Beckwith:

1. **EVENTS TO DATE:** a. Group fire at Scouter Jean's on Dec 15th

2. FUTURE EVENTS: (within the next month)
 - a. Scouts to attend Camp Zero
 - b. Beavers planning on a 67's game and outing to police station.
 - c. Scouts planning a visit to the War Museum as well as a winter hike.
3. MAIN EFFORTS: (the groups focus this period)
The main focus is to have all sections attend the upcoming area events planned for them, providing enough information is given in advance.
4. ISSUES: (items you need assistance with or questions you need answered)
Cubs still need another leader. Will most likely need two next year.
5. COMMENTS. (general comment on your program and area program)
Although there were a few growing pains getting used to the new Group Chair and the expectations per section I think we are on the right track.

Yours in Scouting,

Jean Trant-Lambert
Group Commissioner

Carleton Place:

Activities: Beavers are going to Whispering pines; Cubs are having a Winter day hike/camp
Scouters are going Winter camping.

Group Commissioner: "The decision of Jenny was not really to stand down as Commissioner, as we did not consider the decision appointing her to be legal, as she had not been consulted and the decision was made by e-mail. She did not accept the decision arbitrarily made by Stan. She will act as administrator.

John Stalker will assist with program in the CP group; He will also represent group at Area.

1st Drummond Group

1. EVENTS TO DATE: (since the last meeting)
 - Beavers: (a) White Tail Sleep over at Museum of Science and Tech. (b) Christmas Party.
 - Cubs: (a) Christmas Party.
 - Scouts: (a) Pre-Winter Camp with Almonte. (b) Christmas Party.
2. FUTURE EVENTS: (within the next month)
 - Beavers: Beach Party; Skating; Beaver Burr
 - Cubs: Beach Party; Skating; Cub Winter Challenge
 - Scouts: Game Pest; Skating

Yours in Scouting, Andrew M. Wise
Group Commissioner

1ST ELMSLEY

Were very busy in December.

- Our Venturers sold Christmas Trees as a fundraiser. We have been doing this for 10 years and the trees go fast.
- All 4 sections participated in Christmas caroling at the Rideau Ferry Nursing Home. We also had a Christmas party for all sections where gifts were exchanged and Santa made a visit.

January started out with us and Beckwith doing the New Year's Day bingo.

- Our Scouts visited the OPP detachment in Perth
- Our Cubs and Beavers are having a joint movie night.
- The Venturers rallied to support on of their own, Josh McBride whose grandfather passed away.

- They are planning a Skiing outing soon.
- We are planning ahead for our family Banquet and Church parade in February.
- Our registration has settled at 36 members and still have a couple of Gateways to complete.

1st Merrickville

Events To Date

- Scout overnight hike in Limerick Forest.
- Scout outing to Diefenbunker.
- Scouts built a float for village Christmas parade.
- Beavers: Pirates, The Old West, Sign Language, Fire Station visit, Kwanzaa, Skating, Artists
- Cubs: Orienteering, swimming at Perth

Future Events

- Scout to attend Camp Zero.
- Cub winter camp at Rock Dunder Scout camp (<http://www.1stmerrickville.ca/camping/dunder.htm>)
 - Rock Dunder (230 acres of Rideau River waterfront) was recently expropriated from Loyalist Area by Scouts Canada and sold for \$120,000.
- Contemplating a Gang Show for 2006/2007.
- Beavers: Skating, visit to local nursing home, What I Want to Be When I Grow Up, Valentine Christmas Ball
- Cubs to build model airplanes, skating

Miscellaneous

- Website <http://www.1stmerrickville.ca>. Lots of pictures, documents, event information, etc.
- Historical photographs, back to the 1970s, received from previous Scouters. To be put on website.
- Archived records going back to 1935 retrieved from Scout HQ. Full transcription available on website including historical retention rates and registration fees.
- Hobbies & Wheels.
 - Communiqué emailed. Anybody who did not get it can contact me to be put on a snail mail distribution list.
 - Are the leaders/adults from other groups (especially Smiths Falls/Carleton Place/Perth) willing to obtain the entries from car dealers/etc?
 - Criteria for fastest pack/troop. Currently fastest average speed. This can be seen to favour small packs/troops. Should different criteria be used? i.e. average of fastest top three? Pack/troop must have at least three entries to be eligible?
 - Need ideas for a few Beaver activities other than the standard fun events.
- Vote for democracy in Scouts Canada, see <http://scouteh.ca> for details.

Alan Yates, Gr. Commissioner

4th Perth

Sections held very successful Christmas parties at public restaurants where we were very proud of our youth. Once again all received kits to prepare for the racing season.

Beavers and Cubs continue to meet together and had an interesting evening learning about China. They will now start individual components in their meetings. Scouts are very active with their winter camping (Camp Zero) and lots of other adventures. We are anticipating some new members as the New Year begins.

At the Group Committee meeting it was decided to try something a little different for Scout/Guide Week. On the 25th we plan to have our usual race afternoon but will invite former members to bring along their vintage Kub Kars and 18 Wheelers to see how they can do. This will be open to the public as well as to any others who wish to attend. It should be a great day with a few surprise treats.

We also plan to attend a regular church service and invite other groups to join us.

With a great team of leaders and support staff, Scouting continues to prosper in Perth! Our greatest strength is our youth members.

Smiths Falls:

1. EVENTS TO DATE: (since the last meeting)
 - a. Beaver sleepover Ottawa – wave pool and glow in the dark golf – supper burger king-sleepover in church – church service white Christmas.
 - b. Cubs sleepover church – swimming – bowling – railway museum.
 - c. Scouts winter camping. d. Christmas carolling, parade, remembrance day, popcorn all sections
2. FUTURE EVENTS: (within the next month)
 - a 67's game Jan. 22 b Bears game Feb. 24 c. skating on canal Jan. 11 d. cub winter challenge Feb. 4th e. Banquet Feb. 17th note date changed. f. Scouts winter camp
3. MAIN EFFORTS: (the groups focus this period) - FUN IN THE OUT DOORS
4. COMMENTS. – Communication needed throughout the area. Area events need to be planned more in advance. Lack of training for leaders. Group chairs not receiving all sections info.

Yours in Scouting, Joan Smith

Old Business:

Bingo: John Stalker: Facts as they stand

- Meeting (November) as **stated by** Stan Lasenba was a good meeting.
- If spots allocated by numbers; Carleton Place spots should have increased due to their numbers.
- Small groups would loose if spots allocated by numbers.
- Spots lost should have been on a voluntary basis, not just taken to give to groups who now want part of the action.
- CP used to get \$600 per month; they expect to drop to \$175. after the No Smoking Law comes to CP.
- Stan Lasenba made an arbitrary (unilateral) decision contrary to his promise to hold another meeting on the subject in January, once the numbers were known.
- Therefore, CP will immediately withdraw from Bingo.

Spots will therefore be divided among the new and old groups to bingo.

New Business:

i. Directory: Diana now has it completed, and is presently being reviewed by those at the meeting to make any corrections if needed.

ii: Web Page:

- * **Web site** at Council level is still being worked on; once this is complete area/groups can link up to have their sites viewed.
- Allan Yates, from Merrickville, provided me with a method to encrypt email addresses displayed on the website. This will prevent programs, which harvest email addresses from websites for marketing purposes (Spam), from adding the ones on the site to their mailing lists.

iii: Smiths Fall Bears help celebrate Scout / Guide Week: flyer sent out as separate e-mail to all scouting members.

iv: Lanark: The sponsor wants the equipment moved, which consists of canvas tents, Kub Kar track, etc. The group is no longer running. Any group needs of would like to see the equipment, contact Stan Lasenba.

v. Camp Slush: Flyer has been sent out to all groups and Venturer Advisors. This camp is for all Venturers and takes place at Fort Pine, Petawawa, March 10 – 12th.

vi: Lombardy Fair Booth – Received word that all the buildings on the site were vandalized. In early May we will be calling for help to clean up our booth that had been damaged. Any supplies we had left were dumped on the floor and the florescent lights and coffee pot smashed. The screen door will also need replacing.

vii: Camp Timpken

Motion made by Alan Yates: With respect to the attempted sale of Camp Timken from under the Elgin Area by Scouts Canada, the Valley Highlands Area fully supports all efforts by the Elgin Area to prevent this sale, thus ensuring the camp will remain available for generations of Scouts to come. A letter to be sent to the Elgin Area by Valley Highlands indicating this support.

Seconded: Gary Thomson

Discussion held. All in favour: unanimous.

viii: Crest: Discussion was had re having a contest to have the youth design a crest representing Whispering Pines. This could be a crest that could be sold to all groups that use our camp. More information to follow.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 p.m.

**Next meetings: March 16th.
April 20th.**

Recording secretary: Michelle Niefer

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

Minutes Signed by: _____ on _____.
Stan Lasenba, Area Commissioner Date