



Area Forum



**Thursday
March 16, 2006
Lion's Club Hall, Smiths Falls**

Present: Stan Lasenba, Area Commissioner, Michelle Niefer, Secretary; Jean Lasenba, Finance; Roger Nuttall, DAC Program; Ken Richardson, APM; Larry Palmer, 4th Perth, John Stalker, Venturers, CP Rep; Jean Trant-Lambert, 1st Beckwith; Joan Smith 2nd Smiths Falls; Andrew Wise, 1st Drummond; Val Venables, 4th Perth; Allan Yates, 1st Merrickville; and Bill Lawrence, 2nd Almonte.

Agenda Items:

Minutes: Previous minutes were reviewed. Motion by Ken Richardson to accept as is; seconded by Larry Palmer; All in favour – unanimous. Carried

Area Commissioner: Stan Lasenba: Lasenba@sympatico.ca

- No information at this time from Council; it was to be done by conference call, but I had a previous commitment that week. Attended a supper where he handed out 14 crests to Veterans who had not received one previously.
- Think of ideas, on what direction you would like to see Valley Highlands go. Discussion will be held later this evening.
- Basic Training (WB I) will be held Friday April 7th – Saturday April 8th at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Smiths Falls. No fee for area members.
- Attended the banquet in Perth. I was able to return 2 Kub Kars (purchased at a garage sale that they had been put into accidentally) to Stan Haskins the original owner and who started Kub Kars in this area.

DAC Reports:

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

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

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

- I want to thank the Merrickville Cub Leaders for volunteering to organize Camp Impeeza (the Valley Highlands Area Cuboree), to be held on May 26 –28, 2006. I am sure the organizing committee will be calling on Cub Leaders from other Packs to help run various activities for this camp.
- The Nitevent for the Scouts is coming up on May 12, 2006 at Whispering Pines. Since Chris Tyler will not be back from Florida this year in time to organize this event for us, I am sending out a notice to all Scout Leaders asking them to put together an activity for each Patrol they will be bringing. Chris has sent me a list of possible activities that they can use or they can come up with their own ideas. I will be the coordinator.
- We still need a coordination team to organize the Beaveree to be held at Whispering Pines on May 13, 2006.
- Many banquets were held during BP week and were all successful.
- Brad Simpson and Lisa Kennedy were presented with their advanced training (WB II) neckerchief and beads. Congratulations.

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

- Camp not accessible at this time of year; roads are getting too soft for vehicles to go in.
- Thank you to Allan Yates for making up the wooden number signs for each campsite. These will be able to identify campsites when they rent the camp for a weekend.

- We had a display at the Open House at Scout Headquarters – not a great turnout, but some did show interest in the camp.
- Camp crest: We have a contest on the go to design a crest for Whispering Pines. This did not get sent out, so we did not have a great response, so it will be resent with a new deadline. This will be sent out to all members as a separate entity.

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

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

I am pleased to report that sponsorship for the 2005 and the 2006 Scoutrees Plants has been secured and all is good to go for Scoutrees 2006 on Saturday, May 6th, 2006, at the Drummond/North Elmsley Landfill Site. Following a presentation that I made to the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County on March 8th, an agreement has been reached for continued financial support (annually) for the Valley Highlands Scoutrees project. The balance owing on planting costs of \$1500 from last year will be covered through a donation of \$500 from the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County and a \$750 donation from Blair and Son in Perth...(I have just invoiced Jeff WARD for these amounts today and have directed him to have cheques made out to Scouts Canada and sent to Jean, directly). Donations of \$700 from the Municipality of Drummond/North Elmsley, \$100 from Centennial Truss in Lanark and \$150 from Albany International in Perth had previously been received in the 2005 calendar year.

The estimated costs for this year's plant is \$1470. Centennial Truss has already contributed \$100 and Albany International has forwarded \$150 for this year's plant. (Jean, I will invoice Jeff for the 2006 Scoutrees donations/contributions from the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County and Blair and Son in May after I have picked up the trees from RVCA).

This financial support means that those groups using Scoutrees as a fundraising initiative may keep 85% of all funds/pledges raised for their local efforts...the other 15%, of course, is to be forwarded to National Office for the Scouting Brotherhood Fund. I will be in touch with those groups who requested Scoutrees Kits once the items are received from National Office. I anticipate this to happen in the next week or so. For all other groups using Scoutrees as an environmental initiative, I encourage you to have as many of your youth out on May 6th as possible...this year, I am looking forward to having a greater involvement from some of our sponsors and they are of course interested in seeing where their money is going...so the more youth that we can show participating, the more likely our sponsors are to continue to support our project. Members from the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County (including Jeff WARD - OMNR), the Reeve/Councillors from the Municipality of Drummond/North Elmsley, Blair and Son, and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (Rudy DYCK) will be on hand on May 6th. I am looking to also have representation from Centennial Truss and Albany International on site on the date that we plant so that our Area Commissioner can present each with a certificate of appreciation and crest to acknowledge and thank them for their support and I would like to get as much media coverage as possible to demonstrate the community involvement and commitment to our Scoutrees project.

I will be on hand for the next area meeting in April and will provide further details as to the plant day and events planned. Please do flog this date to your youth and their parents - Saturday, May 6th, 2006 from 0900h to 1200h. All youth participating in the plant will receive a crest and will be fed...Stan has volunteered to run the kitchen for this event and will be serving hotdogs and drinks to all who come out. Tim Horton's has been approached, as in previous years, and I am hopeful that they will once again support us and provide Timbits and coffee/water for the morning of the plant. In the interim, if any groups would like me to attend/make a presentation at their meeting to discuss Scoutrees from either a fundraising or environmental initiative, I have a short PowerPoint presentation that I would be more than happy to show. I can be reached at the undersigned.

Yours in Scouting,
Brian E. L. Billings

Financial: Jean Lasenba - lasenba@sympatico.ca

- the \$99.40 has now been refunded and is in our account.

- Registration fee for Basic Training in Valley Highlands will be covered by area. If a leader goes outside the area, a small portion will be covered.

GROUP REPORTS:

2nd Almonte REPORT

Reference: Group Committee Meeting held 5 March 2006

1. EVENTS TO DATE:
 - a. All Sections participated in Group Annual BP Dinner
 - b. Beavers had a Police visit, March theme – Our Community
 - c. Cubs had their winter camp at Fulton's Pancake House (Venturers assisted)
 - d. Cubs had a skating night at the Almonte Civitan Hall rink
 - e. Scouts went to the Science and Technology Museum: Mission Outerspace
 - f. Scouts did a winter camp in Maberly
 - g. Venturers had a snowmobile outing and played computer games at I-Play in Stittsville
 - h. Venturers attended Camp Slush at Petawawa
2. FUTURE EVENTS:
 - a. Beavers are visiting the Veterinarian
 - b. Scouts are getting ready for Hobbies and Wheels
 - c. Venturers are planning a go-carting trip
 - d. All Sections participating in Scout Appreciation Night with the Senators
3. MAIN EFFORTS:
 - a. Group is setting up First Aid training and some Leaders are looking at Canoe training
 - b. Group is looking at purchasing a couple of more canoes to strengthen our Canoe program
4. ISSUES:
 - a. Will Area be providing any trading badges for CJ/WJ 07 participants or will Groups have to purchase them?
 - b. Early registration dates for this year, and cost.
5. COMMENTS.
 - a. 25 Feb, 2007 – mark your calendars: Scouting history display, Scouts Own and BP Banquet at the Almonte Civitan Hall. This event is open to all Scouting families. More info to follow.

Yours in Scouting, Bill Lawrence
Group Commissioner

BECKWITH REPORT

Reference: Group Committee Meeting held the Last Tuesday of Month

1. EVENTS TO DATE:
 - a. Successful BP pot luck. One of the best attended in years.
2. FUTURE EVENTS:
 - a. Beavers busy with bugs, transportation and eggs.
 - b. Cubs busy with badge and star work.
 - c. Scouts planning hike and working on trail at park.
3. MAIN EFFORTS:

Focusing on next year with the interviewing of potential leaders for Beavers and the moving up of leaders to cubs. Also some leaders are interested in attending the upcoming training courses. We will be doing a Vessey bulb fundraiser for the month of April.

4. **ISSUES:**
At this time there don't appear to be any issues of great concern.
A request from a local landowner to plant trees on his property was deferred for now but we will confer with Brian Billings as to how to handle this type of request in the future.
5. **COMMENTS.**
At this time our program seems to be going smoothly. We have finally had an offer of help for our Bingo timeslot and hopefully it will be a good solution.

Yours in Scouting, Jean Trant-Lambert
Group Commissioner

1st Drummond Group Committee Report

Reference: Group Committee Meeting held: 24 February 2006

1. **EVENTS TO DATE:** (since the last meeting)
 - a. Beavers: Beach Party, Bring A Friend Month, Snow Tubing, Skating, Flag Day, Olympics, Beaver Burr.
 - b. Cubs: Design your own t-shirt, Snow Tubing, Winter Challenge, Skating, Olympics, Beach Party, and Skating.
 - c. Scouts: Game Pest, Knife Safety, Winter Camp, Beach Party, B.P. Dinner, Wave Pool, and Skating.
2. **FUTURE EVENTS:** (within the next month)
 - a. Beavers: Swimming, Sleigh Ride, Hobbies and Wheels.
 - b. Cubs: Swimming, Sleigh Ride, Hobbies and Wheels.
 - c. Scouts: Swimming, Sleigh Ride, Hobbies and Wheels
3. **ISSUES:** (items you need assistance with or questions you need answered)
 - a. Food Allergies and preventing an accidental poisoning have become very important issues for our group because we have one individual with a life threatening food allergy. Does Scouts Canada have a policy with regard to dealing with this? If they do, what is it? Where can we find it?

Yours in Scouting, Andrew Wise
Group Commissioner

1st Elmsley.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are continuing to work on their programs. Scouts are making a visit to Pakenham to do some tubing. Our Ventures were planning to attend Camp Slush. 1st Elmsley is planning ahead for their annual Ham and Bean supper fundraiser for the end of April.

1st Merrickville

Events To Date

- Annual family pot-luck banquet held during Baden-Powell week. Pioneering demonstration by the Scouts, Story of B-P play by the Cubs, Sign Language promise by the Beavers. Slide show of the year's activities. Many thanks to all the area leaders who were able to find time to attend; your presence was very much appreciated.
- Scouts held a second winter camp; located behind the Scout Leader's house. Senior Cubs were invited for the day and/or overnight as a linking activity (5 of 6 stayed overnight in the shelter). The linking was a great success; one Cub who hadn't wanted to go to Scouts came back from the camp wanting to go up the next week! -10C overnight, so Freezie award certificates have been requested from Chris Tyler. Kids provided and cooked their own food.
- Church Parade and activity day (Olympic theme) in conjunction with the Merrickville Guides.

- Cubs built pioneering backstops and practiced their slingshots.
- Beavers did Valentine's Day Ball, Dress in Royal Attire, Bring a Friend, pancake day

Future Events

- Scouts to work on modeler badge. Building and racing Scout trucks. Forestry.
- Cub will be having a Junk Yard War. Building something from a brown bag of junk parts provided by Active Surplus in Toronto.
- Cub miniature catapults, magic tricks, secret codes, jungle dances, Ron's archery in Smiths Falls.
- Beavers: World day of water, wilderness survival, hike.
- Beaver sleepover at the Brockville Museum.
- Scouts will be participating in NiteVent, but not the area or council camp.

Miscellaneous

- Website <http://www.1stmerrickville.ca>. Lots of pictures, documents, event information, etc.
- Campsite number signs for Whispering Pines have been created.
- Hobbies & Wheels.
 - Cost will be \$5 per person for the event.
 - Full details will be distributed in the near future.

Issues

- \$65 fee for Wood Badge I course is too high. Based on the content, this course should only cost a maximum of \$25 including food. Loyalist area is putting on a WB I course for \$10!
- Beavers have been sharing their crafts with the Cubs
- Cubs are working on preparation for investiture

4th Perth:

Our Group Committee meeting scheduled for March 9th was cancelled due to weather and road conditions. What follows is a report on recent activities:

- Beavers and Cubs participated in the Bowling event for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and raised more than \$100.00 to support this worthwhile program. One of our leaders is also a Big Brother.
- The group attended church service on March 19th and was welcomed by clergy and congregation.
- Our Wheels Day on March 25th was successful in spite of bad weather. We welcomed Stan Haskin with an original eighteen-wheeler from 1979. This program was initiated in Rideau Lakes District and only later became a national event. We also had a Kub Kar from 1979. Excellent publicity was given by the Perth Courier, Smiths Falls EMC, and Jack FM radio. Our youth not only had a great day but became more aware of the historical background of Scouting.
- Our Troop continues to be very active and innovative in meetings and special events.
- As a group we are now considering plans for next year and possible celebrations for the Centennial of Scouting.

Arnel W. Pattemore,
Group Commissioner

Old Business:

Area Webmaster Report: <http://www.voyageur.scouts.ca/valhigh/>

1. On Feb 20, 2006 I added a small photo gallery to the website. The pictures are from my own collection, taken at Area Events over the past year.
2. I would like to gather a collection of pictures, in electronic form, that can rotated through the website so others can have their pictures displayed.

3. You can send your pictures to me, at the Webmaster's email address on our site. Just make sure you have permission to use them.
4. Arrangements can be made to have paper photographs scanned.

Yours in Scouting, Andrew Wise

Camp Crest: Very few entries have been submitted for the design of a crest for Whispering Pines. Discussion was had as to "not getting any and/or enough information. Ken to revise the dates; send to Michelle, and they will be sent out as a separate entity to all area scouting members.

New Business:

i: Camp Impeeza: Set for May 26th – 28th weekend. Merrickville Cub leaders have offered to organize Impeeza this year. Proposed theme is Army Boot camp. A number of activity ideas are under consideration. Leaders from the other packs would be needed to run events during the camp, and some setup help might be needed the day or weekend before.

ii: Area Crests: Discussion was had as to whether or not to order more crests, as with CJ07 coming up rapidly, those that are going usually purchase crests to take with them to trade. A rough estimate in numbers was discussed and how many generally each purchase to take with them.

Motion: That more Area crests will be ordered to have on hand for those wishing to purchase some for CJ07. Made by John Stalker; Seconded by Bill Lawrence.

Discussion

All in favour – unanimous.

iii: Food Booth: Jean and Stan will once again run it this Summer, however they would like someone to help run the booth with prospects of taking over for 2007. With the Canadian Jamboree that year, Stan will not be around to do it, as well as several troop Scouters. Anyone up for the challenge?

iv: Training: Basic Training (WB I) will take place April 7 & 8th in Smiths Falls. This will be for Beaver and Pack sections.

For more information, phone Roger Nuttall. This does not include outdoor skills.

Basic Training will also held for all sections – Beavers / Pack / Troop / Venturers / Rovers, there is a basic training with

outdoor skills scheduled for Camp Opemikon for April 22nd, 23rd and 24th. Likewise, call Roger Nuttall for

more information.

v: What direction do groups want the area to go? Discussion was held and some points brought up.

- Training – we are short of mentors / coaches.
- Whispering Pines – keep as is.
- Finances – budget sent to region for VH
- Financial assistance.
- \$17,000 in Area Account, with \$5,000 reserved for Whispering Pines. Some want to spend it; some want to preserve it and find ways to add to it instead of steadily depleting it.
- Make \$ available for training
- Events – change some? Keep all? Add any?
- If groups refuse to give copy of financial records to Jean, groups will not be registered.
- Support and help groups achieve agenda; skill level needs to increase; provide opportunity for training.
- Increase public awareness that we are still here.
- ST – have someone represent each section. Need one person to co-ordinate to ensure each section has someone. Need willing Scouters – Possibly ask retired Scouters to come back and give assistance.

Open discussion will be held at the meeting in April. Be sure to come out and give your views on any of the above or what you would like to see happen.

vi: Bingo: Area still retains two slots every 5th Sunday. This will help to return some money into the account.

vii: Correspondence: Legion 95; July 1, 2006 they wish to use our structure and also would like us to put it up for them and take down. They have done much for us in previous years.

Motion: To allow the use of the shelter and help. Ken Richardson; seconded – Roger Nuttall

Vote: unanimous.

viii: Leader magazine: If anyone collects them, Stan has a few extra copies dating back to the mid 1970s and the odd one from 1930s. If interested, call Stan Lasenba.

Next area meeting: April 20th.

Adjourned: 9:20 p.m.

Minutes Read at Area Forum and motion to accept by: _____
Seconded: _____

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