



Area Forum

February 5, 2009

Lion's Club, Smiths Falls



Present: John Stalker, AC; Jean Lasenba, Finance; Brad Simpson, Technology / Fundraising; Michelle Niefer, Secretary; Roger Nuttall, Area Team; Gen Stalker, DAC Youth, Alex Beelich, Program; Bill Lawrence, 2nd Almonte; Hope Gray, Recognition; Chris Tyler, 2nd Westport; Brian Billings, Scout Trees; Stan Lasenba, Camp; Ken Richardson, Area and Joan Smith 2nd Smiths Falls.

Regrets: Allen Sinfield, 1st Beckwith; Elizabeth Docker, Carleton Place, and Kelly Banks

Agenda Items:

Call to order: Hope Gray

Opening: O'Canada / Prayer. – Michelle Niefer

Minutes: Bill Bradley was not present at last meeting as indicated in minutes; AC report to year end – to be included in February report.

Motion: To accept as amended: Chris Tyler; seconded Roger Nuttall. Vote: All in favour; abstain 0, opposed 0.

John Stalker, Area Commissioner: j_stalker@sympatico.ca

January report: Council Management Advisory Committee met on Dec 17.

Mostly concerning our assignments (Mine is to ensure that 75% of sections meet Program Standards.)

Items of real interest to Area are requirement for Area Annual Report, Area Budget, Concern about ratios, next year's Area budget requested by May 1, 2009, and concern about lack of requests for recognition.

Please recognize your volunteers! It is very important as well as well deserved. Ignore the CCM medals in your decision to send in a recognition request. They don't overlap.

That being said, there are 55 CCM's still available if you can think of anyone that should have received one but was overlooked. 1st come, 1st served. When they are gone, they are gone.

Trainer Accreditation Process. Voyageur has a proposed process. Discussion has been intense. Was to have been passed by e-mail, but numbers too low. I voted yes. It is not perfect, but definitely a step in the right direction and needs changes at National to bring it up to scratch. In the meantime, at least we will have a recognized process for both Trainer and Service Team accreditation.

Exemption process. Document

Gone Home: **Sandra Thomson** - 4th Perth, December 29, 2008. Group of Scouters attended the Funeral Home and John also attended the funeral service, representing Area. Very nice service with Scout color party.

Graham Gent, Drummond Scouts, on Jan 1, 2009. Visitation by Michelle, Roger Stan, and others.

February: Council Management Advisory Committee met on January 17, prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Mostly concerning our assignments (Mine is to ensure that 75% of sections meet Program Standards.)

Items of real interest to Area are Area Budget, Concern about ratios, and next year's Area budget requested by May 1, 2009, and continued concern about lack of requests for recognition.

Please recognize your volunteers! It is very important as well as well deserved. Ignore the CCM medals in your decision to send in a recognition request. They don't overlap.

That being said, there were 55 CCM's still available if you can think of anyone that should have received one but was overlooked. 1st come, 1st served. When they are gone, they are gone.

Trainer Accreditation Process passed. This includes Service Team members who can now be recognized for their training and work with 3rd & 4th Beads.

Voyageur exceeded 100% of previous year's membership again. We have work to do in VH.

Council Financial Statement for 2007/2008 was approved and signed.

CCJam has been cancelled due to poor numbers.

Thanks to 4th Perth for their invitation to attend their Group meeting. It was informative and productive, and nice to meet the members.

I would like to attend a group meeting for each Group in Valley Highlands to get to know you as well as trying to answer any questions.

Our thoughts & prayers are with Jean & Stan, who are dealing with difficult medical news in their Family!

Council meets February 18, and I will pass-on anything urgent via E-mail and have a full report for March

John Stalker

Council report:

Kelly Banks – Field Executive: kbanks@scouts.ca

see attached

DAC Reports:

i: **Youth** - Gen Stalker stargate_gal@hotmail.com

I have been invited to attend the Merrickville Venturers meeting on Feb 10. Thanks for the invitation to Allan Yates.

JC Winter Camp – Venturer/Pathfinder switch (gender bender), February 13th-15th

RSVP coming up. See VAF website for details

First 2009 Rovent committee meeting this month, see VAF website for details

CC Jam is cancelled

Looking for nominations for Area Youth Commissioner

Next JC meeting, Tuesday, March 3rd, 7:30 @ Scout Headquarters

Still on the search for a more Youth Rep nominations

ii: **Training** – No DAC. Any takers?

Pioneering, First Aid, WBI Section & Group (Pass schedule)

Another SS WBI planned for April 24-26

Cyndy Courtland is taking her St John's Instructor certification. Hopefully we will be able to put on a couple of First Aid courses per year.

iii: **Program** – Alex Beelich alex.beelich@nlfinancial.ca

_Troop:

Annual winter camp (Camp Zero) was well attended on the weekend of January 17th and 18th. A total of 21 Scouts took part in various activities including snowshoeing, fire building (burn the chicken) and various orienteering trails. This was in addition to shelter construction and generally keeping warm. Three troops slept out and were to receive the "Freezie Award" from Scouter Ken Richardson

Venturers from Smiths Falls rounded out the overnights.

Upcoming events:

February 7th – Pack Winter Challenge- Scheduled for Whispering Pines. Expecting Cubs from most of the Area packs.

Camp outline circulated to all eligible Packs as follows:

Cub Winter Challenge

Date: Saturday, February 7th, 2009

Location: Whispering Pines Camp.

Cost: \$3

Drop-off: 9:00am at the camp

Pick-up: 3:00pm at the camp

The Cubs are participating in an area event involving many fun outdoor winter activities. This event is a great Opportunity for our Cubs to meet Cubs from all over the Valley Highlands region. Smiths Falls, Carleton Place,

Beckwith, Almonte, Westport, Perth, Drummond and Merrickville Packs will be taking part in this team Building experience.

Planned activities include:

- Snow Shoeing
- Tobogganing
- Fox & Goose
- 'Burn the Bunny'
- Button making.
- 'Six Cub' Nordic skiing
- Ice fishing (weather permitting)

A hotdog lunch with warm drinks will be provided.

What to bring:

- Something to slide on: Toboggan, Crazy Carpet, Flying Saucer.
- A can/package of soup for a 'Moose Poop' soup concoction at lunch.
- Mess kit.
- Most of all bring your spirit and enthusiasm to make the day fun and exciting.

****This is a green event. Please think of the environment and suggest alternatives to bottled water****

Colony:

Celebrating Valentine's Day:

Annual Beaver BRRR is all set to go next weekend February 14th

Registration at 9:30 followed by Opening

Games begin at 10:00

Location: Conlon Farm in Perth.

Cost: \$3.00 for each Beaver.

Activities planned: Snow shoeing,
Tobogganing,
Curling,
Sling shots,
Beaver Buggy Races

And of course Lunch.

Upcoming events- Scout Guide Week February 16th until February 22nd.

-Kub Kar and Scout Truck races at the County Fair Mall

Smiths Falls – April 4th – Stan Lasenba organizing

Nitevent, Friday May 8th at Whispering Pines. (to be organized)

Scout Camporee May 22nd to May 24th at Whispering Pines.

Water based camp incorporating canoeing and safety while canoeing. (to be organized)

Beaveree May 30th (to be organized)

Camp Impeeza June 5th until 7th (to be organized)

Chief Scout awards June 6th

Algonquin Park Still Camp and Canoe Trip, June 28th until July 4th
(planning underway).

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

Marilyn Johnston heading up Camp Committee for all camps in Council.

We are currently in compliance with regulations.

Road will be open soon for Cub Winter Challenge.

v: **Recognition – Hope Gray hope@kevinrobertgray.com**

Order of Thistle: Do we keep as is, and make new award or change?

Give your input to Hope in the above e-mail address.

Previous questionnaire given on needs; one suggestion given to call a new award "Spirit of Scouting" award, which will be for both adults and youth. Discussion held.

Motion: Moved by Hope Gray to call the new award "Spirit of Scouting".

Seconded: Roger Nuttall. Vote: For – all; oppose 0, abstain 0.

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

- February 2009

3300 trees ordered - bill forthcoming from RVCA in the amount of \$1,491.60 (not received yet). Once bill is received (will have same by next meeting), I will submit for payment.

Funding is looking good again for this year with returning sponsors: Lanark Cedar, RVCA, Stewardship Council of Lanark County, Drummond, Township, and Blair & Son, Limited. Letters and framed certificates have also been sent to Almonte Lumber & Truss, Home Depot - Carleton Place, and Albany International that thank them for their past support and request continued sponsorship this year...no responses yet.

Lanark Cedar has once again offered their venue for the after plant BBQ and is interested in supporting Scoutrees again by selling seedlings and promoting our fundraising BBQ. I will be in touch with Sandy GRELLA in the next few weeks to start to line this up.

Fundraising kits and crests have been ordered - the order in thus far is for 150 kits/crests. If your group needs kits or if you would like me to come and speak to your group about Scoutrees as an environmental initiative and/or fundraiser, please do not hesitate to contact me - I am more than willing to make a brief presentation to any group!

My plug for Scoutrees as a fundraiser...this is a great opportunity for your groups to raise funds for your Scouting activities...it is also a feel good/greening initiative that people feel good about supporting. Revenue from Scoutrees is shared: 70% goes to the local groups. You remit only 30% of funds collected with 15% of that going to Council and the other 15% going to the Brotherhood Fund.

Yours in Scouting,

Brian E. L. Billings
VHA Scoutrees Coordinator

vii: **Technology / Fundraising - Bradley Simpson** bradleysimpson@sympatico.ca

DAC- Technology Report January/February 2009

Website,

Our web address is www.valleyhighlandscouting.com and is all one word with only on 'S' shared between highlands and scouting.

Friend Fest 2009 is being updated to match the council Website.

Please continue to send in pictures and any other scouting info you have to be posted.

Feedback is always welcome.

I am waiting for picture submissions for a power point presentation for Valley Highlands Scouting. None have been received as of yet.

The site is being updated this week for the Upcoming Baden Powell Celebrations so Groups *please forward me your BP Plans by Feb 12th so that they can be posted.*



Fundraising,

2008 Popcorn Review

As you likely know by now, Voyageur Council sold over \$330,000 of product this past fall. That represents approximately \$150,000 in profits that have gone directly to the Groups and Sections! A'maze'ing!

We are in the final stages of wrapping up lingering details from the campaign (e.g. additional prizes, Fill-it-up T-shirts) but we need to hear some constructive feedback from you so that we can build upon our successes and correct those things that need correcting.

Please e-mail your answers to the following questions to jbenson@scouts.ca. (If at all possible one submission per Group please)

Campaign Survey (Your feedback is requested)

What worked well this year?

What did not work well?

Next year, what would you change, add or get rid of?

Did you participate in the Show & Deliver (selling with the product in hand)? If “Yes”, are you interested in doing it again? If your Group did not participate in the Show & Deliver, are you interested in trying next year?

Remaining Popcorn Product

We do have some product still available if your Group is looking to do something special for Scout/Guide Week or is interested in doing a Winter/Spring Fundraiser. If you are interested, please contact Pamela Bazinet pbazinet@scouts.ca with your request and we will see what we can do to make it happen for you.

AGAIN, A BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

"Fill-It-Up" T-shirts (update Jan 21)

We have been informed that we should be receiving the t-shirts this week. As soon as we know, you will be informed. Any fundraising needs please let me know; I am available to assist.

Yours in Scouting,
Bradley Simpson DAC – Technology and Communications

viii : **Financial: Jean Lasenba** - lasenba@sympatico.ca

Area financial reports due in at Headquarters. Any groups still have not given their report to Jean, please do so ASAP. \$21,000. in bank account at headquarters.

Jean needs to order new cheques. Motion made by Jean to order cheques for the Area. Seconded: Michelle Niefer

Vote: passed by consensus.

GROUP REPORTS:

2nd Almonte:

1. EVENTS TO DATE:

- a. All Sections participated in Almonte’s Santa Claus Parade, and the Cubs, Scouts and Venturer’s gave out hot chocolate and apple cider at the Annual Light up the Night festivities in town. The Group collected 7 basket loads of food along the parade route for the Almonte Lions Christmas basket campaign.
- b. Beavers have been meeting sporadically due to weather and Leader availability, but are still active.
- c. Cubs have had a couple of evenings of sledding in Gemmill Park, and have been meeting at Scouter Bill’s house to work on Kub Kars and badges. They are meeting there for about two months.
- d. Cubs spent a few hours on the Rideau Canal on 17 January.
- e. Scouts went to Dynamic Hobbies in Ottawa, did a night snowshoe hike in Gemmill park and have been doing knife safety during the last few regular meeting nights.

2. FUTURE EVENTS:

- a. Cubs are working on Kub Kars and badges at Scouter Bill’s for regular meetings, and will be participating in the Cub Winter Challenge this weekend.
- b. Cubs are scheduling a tubing day at Mount Pakenham on 28 Feb, and are heading to a Senator’s game on 17 March. They are planning a Winter Camp in March in Trenton/Belleville area (waiting for confirmed date for Kub Kar rally before booking camp).
- c. Scouts are planning a Winter Camp near Rosetta on 21/22 Feb, with a day trip for site preparation on 15 Feb.

3. MAIN EFFORTS:

- a. Get our registration numbers up to show actual participants and Scouters.
Registered: 5 Scouters/ 1 Bvr / 9 Cubs / 8 Scouts / 1 Venturer 5 / 19
Actual: 11 Scouters / 3 Bvrs / 10 Cubs / 12 (?) Scouts / 3,4 Venturers 11 / 29
- b. Get our financial statement in for last season
- c. Continue with our “Show and Sell” Popcorn fundraising.

4. ISSUES:

- a. When are Kub Kars planned for?
- b. I apologize to Area and Council for not having paperwork (registrations/finances) submitted in a timely matter. Stella and I have had unforeseen family issues over the past 6 months that have taken a lot of our time, and it has reflected on our ability to get our Scouting duties done. Last week things got ironed out somewhat, and we hope to get back on Scouting track shortly. This situation has also affected my duties as Group Commissioner in regards to helping with our other Sections, so I will be following up on that too.

Yours in Scouting,

Bill Lawrence
Group Commissioner

1st Beckwith:

Reference: Group Committee Meeting held ___Jan.27, 2009

1. EVENTS TO DATE: (since the last meeting)
 - a.) both sections have started up again, resuming programs.
 - b.) Cubs will be going to the visit the Canadian War Museum during regular meeting night Jan 29.

2. FUTURE EVENTS: (within the next month)
Beavers will be attending the Beaver Brr.. and the Ottawa 67's game.
Cubs will be attending the Winter Challenge as well has holding their own Winter Camp at Opi – Feb 20-22.
Beckwith Scouting will be joining the Beckwith Girl Guides for a joint BP-Thinking Day Ceremony on Wed. Feb 18.

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

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

5. COMMENTS. (general comment on your program and area program)

Yours in Scouting,
Allen Sinfield, Group Commissioner

Carleton Place: No report

1st Drummond: No report

1st Elmsley: No report

1st Merrickville:

Troop: Working on Pioneering.
Banquet for BP on the 18th of February.
21st – Snowflake Festival with Scouts demonstrating Winter Camp display
Linking with Cubs.
Winter camp in March.

4th Perth:

Past Activities: The 4th Perth Group Committee met on January 15th and was joined by Area Commissioner John Stalker and Sponsor Contact Rev. Christine Piper. Our Cubs, Scouts and Venturers are off to a good start in the New Year with the usual activities and focus on achievement.

Upcoming Plans: The Cubs will hold an Investiture Ceremony in January. Scouts will plan an activity to replace the Area Winter Camp. Venturers report they are recovering from Christmas!

The youth sections will hold a joint sleepover at the church on February 27th and will participate in the Big Brothers/ Big Sisters Bowl for Kids on February 28th. There will be a family potluck dinner on the early evening of February 28th. We are also looking forward to a barbecue fundraiser in May and also participation in Maple Fest at the end of April.

Concerns: We continue to experience some difficulty in communications and are hoping for improvement at all levels.

Arnel W. Pattemore,
Group Commissioner

2nd Smiths Falls:

The Scouting sections this year are Beavers 19 youth 4 leaders 1 Scouter in training and 1 Keoo, Cubs 28 youth 6 leaders, Scouts 5 youth 3 leaders and Venturer's 4 youth 1 advisor. Our Rover Crew did not come back due to going to University and work commitments. Last year our leaders and Scouts received their training in First Aid and CPR. A week or so later our Scout Roxanne Hull was called upon to use her training at a ball game at her school and at a car accident in front of her home. It is nice to see our training work not only in Scouting but also outside the movement. Our leaders are very dedicated to getting the youth involved in outdoor activities. Before Christmas all sections went caroling down town, Scouts at the hospital, and Cubs at the nursing home. All sections were in the Santa Claus parade where the Scouts and Venturer's won for their float. Upcoming events are all sections skating on the canal and going to a 67's game; camping indoors and out in the cold for the older sections burrrrr..... does it get cold. Beaver and Cubs have winter fun days coming up, little Rays Reptiles coming in, trips to museums in Ottawa and lots more. We are still looking for Beaver leaders as some of us are still doing 2 or 3 roles. With businesses closing in our town we have subsidized quite a few youth in the program with the help of Scouts Canada, our group committee's fundraising and with the help of our local organizations. Scout Canada's promotion this year is "No One Left Behind." We would like to thank the church for being our sponsor and for help keeping the Scouting movement alive in our town.

Joan Smith
Group Commissioner

Old Business:

- i: Executive meeting: Date?, frequency?
- ii: March break – After discussion, meeting will be held on Thursday March 19th at the Presbyterian Church, Smiths Falls.
- iii: Group Commissioner's Report Template – Distributed with the October minutes – Please use this template to make things easier to read.
- iv: March Break Camp at OPE for 2nd/3rd year Scouts working on their Chief Scout Awards
- v: Audit of Area books – Reduction of requirement to a review by 2 persons at arms length from finances. Doug Rogers former CP and Carleton Place's financial advisor has offered to be one.
- vi: Chris Tyler requested money for 2nd Westport. As this was previous decided upon, a cheque was issued to assist 2nd Westport on getting started.

New Business:

I: Discussion held on the budget for 2009-1010. All item were reviewed and amounts adjusted to suit the needs of our area events.

Meeting adjourned: 9:12 p.m.

Minutes Read at Area Forum and motion to accept: _____

Minutes Signed by: _____ on _____
John Stalker, Area Commissioner Date