



Area Forum

February 18, 2010

Presbyterian, Church

Smiths Falls



Present: John Stalker, AC; Kelly Banks, CFE; Michelle Niefer, Admin; Matt Courtland, AYC; Larry Palmer, 4th Perth; Bill Lawrence, Gr. Comm., 2nd Almonte; Torsten Dekart, 1st Drummond; Stan Lasenba, Camp, Alex Beelich, DAC Program; Roger Nuttall, Area; Diana Nuttall, Registrar; Joan Smith, Gr. Com, 2nd Smiths Falls, Alan Sinfield, Gr. Com, 1st Beckwith; Elizabeth Docker, Gr. Com, CP.

Regrets: Brad Simpson, Brian Billings.

Agenda Items:

Minutes: Motion made to accept minutes as distributed. Bill Lawrence; 2nd by Larry Palmer. Carried.

John Stalker, Area Commissioner: j_stalker@sympatico.ca

- Council Management Advisory Committee met yesterday.
 - Budget – discussions & clarity of budget.
 - Spirit of EOAC costs in White Pine 55%-45%.
 - Registration fees same for next year as this year.
 - New book keeping process to make statements more understandable. All areas to use same template as Council for ease.
 - Any groups with Council cheques - please cash by April 1st or they will be stopped.
 - Northern On. Subsidy – request last year for assistance – Voyageur Council only Council that it. They are \$350,000 in debt. Decided not give any more money on issue that National should be handling.
 - National Awards – get them handed in please. Group submit for certification of Commendation. For Medal of Good Service John will help if needed to write up. Do what you can and John and Hope will help finish the write up.
 - Retention Bonus: Discussion – is it working? It has had some effect on Growth. Should we keep it, or change it? Should it change to 70% retention and 100% growth? Comments.
 - Early registration fee – more incentive than retention
 - Groups get retention bonus; early registration savings goes to parents.
 - Membership discussion – 15% Growth goal by Steve Kent.
 - Tim Horton's example – good product; good reputation in community, etc. We should be same and advertise. This has been pushed down to groups to do. National should be doing some advertisement – bigger audience.
 - Discussion: We didn't take advantage of our 100th Anniversary; Vancouver Olympics – could have used Scouting, etc.
 - Give-a-day; Get-a-day: Disney promotion – gets a free day and get a free pass for a day.
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- The Scout flag will fly at Ottawa City Hall for Scout/Guide Week. Raising ceremony Feb 20 @ 11:55.
- Opemikon Golf Tournament Wed June 2, 2010 at Manderly on the Green. (See me for details)
- The World Brotherhood AGM is to be held in Ottawa in Oct 2010. They will be visiting OPE, including the Chairman, the King of Sweden.
- The Council Cub Camp is planned for June 4-6 at Apple Hill, east of Ottawa, a great place for a Cub Camp due to it's more open landscape. The Theme is "UP", as in the movie. The costs are being kept low, \$25 including t-shirt and patch. There is a contest for the patch artwork.
- We need to give our hard working volunteers the recognition they are due. I am asking that you take a careful look at your staff, and put them in for an award as suitable. Hope and I are available to help, and there are several free training sessions (3hr) coming up. One just held was very successful.

- Child Tax Credit is the same as last year.
- My concerns at the moment are:
 - Leaders who have not yet taken WB1.
 - Prospective members (awaiting VRAD etc.)
 - How to maintain our numbers and hopefully expand
 - Attendance at Area meetings. It is important to have as full representation as possible as this is how we communicate. If the GC cannot attend, then would it be possible to have a fill-in, either temporary or permanent?
 - I have a list of Awards due to Volunteers (mostly Long Service Awards).
 - I am leading a Senior Section WB1 - March 26/27 at Scout HQ, and on the SOS (Scouting Outdoor Skills) Challenge May 15.

Council report:

Kelly Banks – Field Executive: kbanks@scouts.ca

- **Good Turn Bracelet:** Were handed out at the meetings to pass down to the groups. More information to come regarding this. This will begin March 7th – 13th

DAC Reports:

i: Youth -

- Very Active
- Attended the Council Youth Forum
- JC Winter Camp coming up.
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ii: Training – Michelle Niefer mniefer@sympatico.ca

- Several members in area still do not have WB I training. Please refer to Council Calendar to find one suitable for your section.
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iii: Program - Alex Beelich alex.beelich@nfinancial.ca

February 6th, 2010 – Cub Winter Challenge held at Camp Whispering Pines-

Attendance included 60 cubs registered and 22 adults from the various Packs.
Packs participating included- Almonte, Carleton Place, Drummond, Elmsley, Merrickville and Smiths Falls.

A variety of activities were available to challenge each Pack-

- Sling Shots – checking for accuracy
- Hiking – exploring camp whispering pines in the winter and visiting the Scout Camps to discover a new facet of scouting
- Marathon Hike in from the roadway
- Sledding - fun time for all
- Shelter construction – practicing knots
- Tree golf – a game of skill.
- Moose Poop Soup – Stone Soup, hot dogs, hot chocolate and new friends.

Group Pictures available.

February 6th and 7th, 2010- Scout Winter Camp held at Camp Whispering Pines.

Attendance included 36 scouts and 17 adult.

All overnight campers have achieved a personal goal.

A number of Troops attended including Beckwith, Carleton Place, Elmsley, Merrickville, Perth and Smiths Falls.

Activities included – Shelter construction, camping overnight,

Marathon Hike from the road.

Proper toboggan packing

Cooking in the winter – boil in the bag

Practicing fire building, proper use of and axe and saw

Sledding on toboggans and a flat bottom boat

Wide game – Burning bridges a great hit

Group Pictures available.

Thanks to Ken Richardson, John Stalker, Alex Stalker, Michelle Niefer, Roger Nuttall, Diana Nuttall and Andreas Beelich for ensuring all the activities ran smoothly and the Cubs and Scouts had an enjoyable weekend.

February 13th, 2010- Beaver BRRRR was held at the Wolford Community Centre in Easton's' Corners. A total of 30 Beavers from Beckwith, Carleton Place, Drummond, Elmsley, Merrickville and Smiths Falls spent a day challenged by various activities-

- Beaver crafts, games, campfire songs, sledding, skating, bowling, tree golf and parachute games rounded out the fun time.
- Appetites eagerly gobbled up the veggie treats, hot dogs and orange juice drink provided by McDonalds.

Many thanks to all the parents and leaders who helped to make this day a success.

Group Pictures available.

A total of 6 Venturers from different companies helped out during the 2 weekends. Our future section leaders.

Valley Highlands Badge sections are available to anyone attending events in the Area.

A great addition to your campfire blanket or badge jacket.

To date we have distributed the following- Fall Bike and skills camp

- Beaver BRRR, Cub Winter Challenge and
- Scout Winter Camp
- Centre date disc will be distributed to all registered members in Valley Highlands at no cost.

Badge section available - Founder's Week.

Please contact your group commissioner, Jean Lasenba or Alex Beelich to obtain your badge.

Badge sections will be available for the following events

Upcoming- Beaver Buggy races, Kub Kars races and Scout Truck races are scheduled for **April 10th**, 2010 in Smiths Falls at the County Fair Mall.

May: Planned the following activities- Pitch in for Canada

- Scout Trees
- Nitevent
- Area Spring Camp for All

July- 4th – 10th – Annual Canoe camp in Algonquin Park
Seven days and six nights in the wilds of Nature's playground.

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

- Winter camp @ Whispering Pines went well. Only had to plow road twice. Keeping road open cost about \$200.
- Received \$500. from Bell as an old employee to be used towards Camp.
- Made new box to keep registrations for camp in.

v: **Honours & Awards – Hope Gray hope@kevinrobertgray.com**

Spirit of Scouting Award - Valley Highlands Area award for Mentorship in Scouting.

Crest and certificates are ready for the first wave of recipients. (18)
These will be presented during festivities of BP week all around the Area.

We have a problem with the badge. Right hand shake – was it designed this way or was it reversed by badge producer. John will look into getting the original design and contacting the badge company. Will go ahead and pass out the crest and certificates to participants anyway.

Motion made to pay Hope for the cost of the crests \$214.98 (\$190.97 crests; 24.01 certificates). Elizabeth Docker; 2nd Bill Lawrence.

Discussion: Vote: unanimous.

This award may be received by Adult or Youth members of Scouting, who have Mentored other Youth or Adult members in any number of ways. Anyone wishing to nominate a recipient just needs to e mail an explanation of the reasons for the nomination to those on the committee: John Stalker, Hope Gray, Ken Richardson.

I also attended the Voyageur Council meeting of Recognition AAC's in January. A full report and small info session regarding how to nominate for Council, Provincial and National awards will be presented at March Area Meeting.

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

I made a presentation to the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County last Wednesday and also had some previous communication with them on funding for a Black Rat Snake study they are undertaking...and they are interested in a partnership with VHA Scouts for fabrication and maintenance of structures for their Black Rat Project. Merrickville Venturers have indicated their interest in assisting (copied John and Alex on my communication with Merrickville)...and I will be following up on my return in early March. Alex may speak to this as part of his Group Report.

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

- regrets from the Olympics

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

- Received \$500. from Bell for Community groups (on behalf of employees – current/old) – earmarked for Camp.
- Second portion of the Bill for Winter events - \$301.05. **Motion** made to Pay Alex \$301.05. Diana Nuttall; 2nd Bill Lawrence.
Discussion. Vote: Unanimous to pay the amount.

viii: **Registrar: Diana Nuttall:** dcn@storm.ca

- Thanks for getting in your registrations. Our numbers are up. If all prospective were cleared, we would be sitting at 91.7%.
- Early registrations kits will be out soon.
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GROUP REPORTS:

2nd Almonte:

1. EVENTS TO DATE:
 - a. Beavers are meeting regularly at the Holy Name of Mary School. I'm not sure of their activities as the Cubs are now meeting at my house.
 - b. Cubs participated in the Winter Challenge, had a great time. They are currently working on Kub Kars and badge work at my house.
 - c. Scouts are working on 18 Wheelers in my shop. They went out to the winter campsite on Sunday, 14 Feb for lunch over the campfire and to check things out for their winter camp on 28 Feb.
2. FUTURE EVENTS:
 - a. Beavers and Cubs will have a campfire at my house on Monday, 22 Feb, with a museum type set-up in the house to show the kids the history of Scouting.
 - b. Scouts will have their special night on 23 Feb, same schedule as Beavers and Cubs. They will head out for a winter camp "afternoon" on 28 Feb. Leadership is not available for an overnight due to personal last minute issues.
3. MAIN EFFORTS:

- a. Registrations – Currently have 18 registered in the system, have 5 more to input (forms signed) and have a couple to hound for paperwork. We have one Leader from Smith Falls showing up as a Cub Leader in Almonte.

4. **ISSUES:**

- a. Venturers – Venturer Advisor has been told that there is only one Youth allowed to participate in Group / Area activities. Group Committee will no longer allow unregistered youth to participate in Area and Group activities.

Yours in Scouting,

Bill Lawrence
Group Commissioner

1st Beckwith:

Beavers: Small turn out of Beavers for the Beaver Brr. All that attended had a great time.
Currently finishing up on the Feb theme “Winter Birds”
Getting ready for Beckwith’s BP evening.

Scouts: Attended Camp Zero at Whispering Pines, all Scouts attend + guest and leaders. Everyone enjoyed themselves.
Scouts continuing to work on skills, and planning next outing.

Upcoming:

BP Chili Pot Luck dinner with the families, Thurs Feb 25th.
Scouts planning day outing Whispering Pines – to dismantle shelter and retrieve the tarps. Date to be determined (tentatively Mar13, or weather permitting).
Beavers planning outing in early spring... Mill of Kintail.

GC: Registrations have been handed in, sorting out discrepancies with the MMS, and the records.
Will need to look at Spring fundraising to top up treasury.

Carleton Place:

- All sections are busy: BP week will be celebrated in each section as all are too busy for formal event.
- Church Parade planned for St. Mary’s Church on the 21st.
- All sections will be participating in Kub Kars / 18 wheelers
- Cubs attended Winter Challenge; Scouts Winter Camp

1st Drummond:

1st Elmsley:

- All sections busy; Annal Family Banquet and Church parade.
- Beavers attending Beaver Burr; Tobogganing/skating Conlon farm; Winter olympics; Winterlude & 67s game.
- Cubs Winter Challenge.; tobogganing/skating conlon farm; Winterlude & 67s game
- Cubs making Kub Kars;
- Scouts: Winter camp; plan to participate in 18 wheelers; tobogganing/skating Conlon farm; Winterlude & 67s game.

1st Merrickville:

- Any section wishing to let the Area Groups know of your program,, may contact me anytime to submit a report and they will be included in the minutes.

4th Perth:

Past Activities: The Beaver Colony continues to thrive even though one of our leaders is enjoying warmer weather down south. The Scout Troop enjoyed Area Winter Camp and already looks forward to more adventures. Even our accident prone leader survived without incident. The Venturer Company is reaching out to others and helping as needed.

Future Plans: Our next big day will be on Saturday, February 27th starting with the Scouts bowling for Big Brothers/Big Sisters followed by pizza lunch and activities at the church. The 18 Wheeler Races will take place that afternoon with Beavers arriving later to run their Beaver Buggies. The day will end with a family pot luck dinner.

We will be promoting Friendfest and also holding a barbeque on May 15th as a fundraiser.

We are already looking forward to expansion in the fall.

2nd **Smiths Falls:**

- 77 plan to attend Winterlude on Sunday – 2 busses will be going.
- Plan to attend the 67s game.
- Banquet planned for BP week.

New Business:

- March 1st = Home of Roger Nuttall – planning meeting for Spring Camp; 7 – 8 p.m. A map will be sent out under another e-mail.
- **Trophy's** – For various events – WHERE ARE THEY??? If you have one; please let us know.
- Problem with finding information, refer to the above reports as e-mail addresses are included.
- Otty Lake Ass. Will hold a bio blitz on May 15th @ 3 p.m. to May 16th 3 p.m. (24 hour period). All Scouts, Venturers and Rovers & leaders are invited to attend. (We are members of the association) The procedure is for people to come for whatever length of time they wish. There will be experts in various areas of flora and fauna. As interest is expressed, someone will lead a walk to look at nature with emphases on their field of expertise. We would like to borrow the marquee and hope somebody will help erect it. We would also invite the Rovers to provide overnight security.

Recorded: Kelly Banks / Michelle Niefer

Next Area meeting: March 18th @ 7 p.m.

Minutes Read at Area Forum and motion to accept: _____

Minutes Signed by: _____
John Stalker, Area Commissioner