

Valley Highlands Area Agenda – Nov 18, 2010
7PM, Presbyterian Church Hall, Smith's Falls

Call to Order:

In attendance: John Stalker – Area Commissioner, Kelly Banks – Council Field Executive, Diana Nuttall – Secretary, Jean Lasenba – Treasurer, Alex Beelich – DAC Programme, Michelle Niefer – DAC Training, Roger Nuttall – DAC Recognition, Jacynthe Stalker – Registrar, Andreas Beelich – DAC Youth, Stan Lasenba – Property Manager, Ken Richardson – Area SAL, Chris Tyler – Area SAL, Ray Burrill – 1st Beckwith Treas., Elizabeth Docker – Carleton Place GC, Torsyein Dekart – 1st Drummond GC, John Armstrong – 1st Elmsley GC, Joan Smith – 2nd Smiths Falls GC

Oh Canada: by All

Scouter's 5: by John Stalker

Regrets: Brian Billings, Matt Courtland, Hope Gray

Acceptance of Minutes: moved by Alex; seconded by Stan

Business arising from the minutes:

Commissioner's Report: Council Management Advisory Committee meets next week, 1 week later than normal, to permit review of the Audit done on Voyageur Council. I will send out an update if required.

Number ONE priority for this meeting, is to figure out how to get Registration done in a timely manner The straw poll at the last meeting showed a small increase in our numbers, but we still have only 44% of last year's numbers registered. That means 54% of our members are NOT Insured, and their group commissioner is personally liable in case of an accident! I will soon have to close those groups who have not registered.

Jacynthe is available at the meeting to get all the outstanding registrations done.

Voyageur AGM Dec 4. Location St Basil Church Ottawa.

Scouters conference April 9, 2011. Location Smiths Falls High School.

Lots of things to hand out. New Scouter Welcome Kits, Cards, Caribou patches,

There is an all section & Group Commissioner Woodbadge in Kingston Nov 26-28. No cost except room & board (\$15/night room, \$8/food @ CFB Kingston)

I have OPP PRC forms.

Valley Highlands Annual Report
2009-2010

2009/10 was a good year for Valley Highlands Area despite a small reduction in the number of registrations, mainly due to a lack of adult volunteers. A busy year, with lots of outdoor activities was enjoyed by all.

Scout/Guide week had celebrations held in each of our Groups home ranges across the area.

Successful winter events were held for all levels, with the Beaver BRRR, Cub

Winter Challenge and Scout Winter camp all being well appreciated by their participants.

The spring camp was, for a change, an all-sections camp (Springtime on the Mississippi), was held with a great turnout and good weather, with great turnouts and enthusiastic youth and leaders.

A combined year-end Cub/Scout canoe trip in Algonquin Park was a great success and will be repeated on an annual basis.

The annual "Beef-on-a-Bun" booth at the Lombardy Fair fundraising for Whispering Pines Camp raised enough income to fund the camp for the next year, thanks to all the volunteers' enthusiasm. Whispering Pines use numbers were good with many training sessions held as well as local and more distant scouting groups.

We awarded several of our new Area award, The Valley Highlands "Spirit of Scouting" Award, for mentorship.

The Venturers and Rovers participated in many of the events organized by the Venturer Advisor Forum, the Senior section youth committees in their various forms, and the Joint Council with senior Guiding members, including Venclimb, Rovent, Adirondack Winter Alpine Snowshoeing Adventure, Laserquest Lockdown, Whitewater 1 & 2, & Wilderness First aid Training and many more. The Rovers canoe trip on the Noire river was put off until next year due to the lack of water on the river.

Although paid membership was down very slightly, the enthusiasm of our youth and leaders is always great to see, and we look forward to a great year in 2010/2011, and an active push for new members.

DAC Reports:

Secretary: Diana

Council: Kelly Membership Update: The Council is currently sitting 89.8% of last years membership – slightly ahead of where we were last year at this time. When looking at the core membership numbers only (I.e., excluding summer camp and other Council operated programs) we are at 92.6%. So far we have retained 62.6% of our membership. Let's keep up our recruitment efforts – if you have sections that have room – fill them up with a school talk or Bring a Friend event!

New! Add a Section Bursary: Please see the attached Memo about a new Bursary program to financially assist Groups opening up new sections.

'The How Did you Hear About Scouting' Survey and National Retention Survey: In an effort to best determine which of our PR efforts are effective in recruiting new members, Voyageur Council will be sending an a-survey (via email addresses entered into MMS) to all new members that have joined us this year. We will share these results with Groups in the new year so you may use it to tailor your recruitment strategies.

As well, the National organization has commissioned Ipsos Reid to conduct a survey of both youth and volunteer members who have left the organization to help determine why they are no longer with us. This will help us determine where we need to focus efforts to increase retention. Results should be available early in the new year.

Retention Bonuses 2010/11: Bonuses will be issued once in the Spring, the deadline to qualify for the bonus is April 30th 2011, however - now is the time for Groups to work on retention. Make sure that all of your members that returned this year are Active in the MMS. If you haven't already - call those members that didn't return and invite them back! There is still lot's of the program year left and perhaps they tried something else but would like to come back to Scouting!

The Importance of Registration and Insurance: Just a reminder that any Groups that are operating with members that are not registered (i.e., both Active in the MMS and paperwork completed and in the office) are not covered under our insurance should anything happen to those members. If you need assistance please contact your Area Commissioner and/or CFE.

National PR Efforts: January 2011 will see the launch of four 1 ½ minute Public Service Announcements created by Scouts Canada. The Online Brand Centre (more information

to come in the new year) will be launched to the field in January 2011 as well.

We would like to wish everyone and their families a wonderful holiday season

RE: INTRODUCING NEW INCENTIVE PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO GROUPS:

“Add-a-Section Bursary Program”

What is the “Add-a-Section Bursary Program”?

In lieu of the National and Council goals to grow considerably over the next few years, we would like to offer existing

Groups financial assistance to open new sections by offering them a financial incentive. This incentive includes:

A Bursary of \$390* per new Section opened.

•This Bursary is made up of \$250 to be used to assist with the cost associated with opening a new Section,

•And \$140* to assist with the Council portion (\$70) of the Registration fee's for two (2) new leaders to support the new Section.

How does my Group qualify for this Bursary?

• Arrange to open the new Section on a different night of the week or in a different location as the existing Sections. Inform your AC and CFE about your intentions to do so.

• Work with your AC, DAC's and Field Executives to recruit new members. For example -this recruitment canbe done through School talks, fun nights and bring-a-buddy promotions.

•In order to receive the bursary:

o Beaver, Cub and Scout Sections must register at least ten (10) new Youth members and two (2) new Leaders.*****

o Venturer and Rover Sections must register at least five (5) new Youth members and 1 new Leader.*****

o And, your Group has to grow from your previous year's membership.

Terms & Conditions:

-* In the case of opening a new Venturer or Rover Section, the requirement to qualify for the bursary is one (1) one new

Leader – therefore the they will receive a bursary of \$250 for costs to start the section and \$70 to cover the Council

portion of the Registration fee, for a total bursary of \$320.

-Full paperwork and payment needs to be in the office and MMS needs to reflect these new members. Groups should register their new members as they join and once they have reach the criteria to qualify for the bursary they can apply.**

i.e. do not wait and hold onto registrations until you meet the criteria

-* New Leaders recruited to work with the new section must have the full screening process completed (including PRC in office) and MMS needs to reflect these new members in order for office to waive the Council portion of the registration fee.**

-The Retention Incentive still applies to Groups that also qualify for the Bursary. However, the Retention Incentive discount will not be applied to the new Leaders registered in the new section for which the Council portion of their fee was waived for. -

We understand that Groups will split their current and new membership up between the existing and new Sections. This is acceptable as long as the qualifications outlined above are met.

We need to have each group verify their sponsors so Council has an accurate and up-to-date listing.

We are very concerned about the slowness of registrations. Remeber no one has insurance coverage if their registration is not into council by end of Oct.

There was a general discussion about late registration . John will be sending out information for all registrars and GC. It was suggested that in future years no members will be able to attend Area events until the registrations for the group are in to council preferably by the end of Oct.

Registrar: Jacynthe (Jacy): Final check of Reg'n forms packages tonight ALL packages must be verified and signed-off.

Finance: Jean I have sent in our annual financial report to Council.

I have received the annual financiell report from only 4 groups. They were due in at the end of August.

Expenses – Moved by Ken, seconded by Michelle to pay the following expenses

John for ink cartridges \$61.01

2nd Smiths Falls for trophy engraving \$22.40

Total \$83.61

Camp: Stan

With winter just around the corner I have removed the hand cleaners and other supplies that might freeze. The camp has been used for 87 days fro, Sept 2009 to August 31 2010. This is 24% of available days, Considering that in the winter it is rarely used this amounts to a very busy summer. The amount of campers using the camp is also up. Rideau Valley conservation checked the Black Rat Snake boxes and found that they were well constructed but there were no sign of any eggs being laid. This is usual as sometimes it takes the snakes a couple of years to find the nests.

Recognition: Roger

Program: Alex When attending Whispering Pines please register your group. PL & APL Conference will be held Dec 4 at Easton Corners – please register in advance so we can appreciate the numbers.

The leaders for the Algonquin trip will have a meeting on Thursday Dec 9 at 7pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Smiths Falls

Technology: Mike Dobbie Web site is being kept up-to-date vhscoouts.org.ca . Can contact Mike at cubs@2ndsmithsfalls.org

Popcorn: John: 5 Groups participated in Popcorn sales this fall. They sold a total of \$14750 worth and are profiting to the extent of over \$6300.

Scoutrees: Brian

Youth: Andreas & Matt I suggest that at least 1 person per group qualify with wilderness first aid if they are going out of area.

Training: Michelle Upcoming Area WBI, Colony, Pack, & Troop Dec 19/20 **Cancelled**

November 2010 Training Courses

Event Start	Event End	Title
11/5/2010 6:30 PM	11/6/2010 5:30 PM	Carleton Area Woodbadge 1 Troop
11/13/2010 8:30 AM	11/14/2010 4:00 PM	Advanced Wilderness First Aid #935
11/19/2010 8:00 AM	11/20/2010 6:00 PM	Heritage Wood Badge 1
11/19/2010 6:00 PM	11/20/2010 5:00 PM	Valley Highlands Woodbadge 1
11/26/2010 7:00 PM	11/27/2010 4:00 PM	Wood Badge 1 (C/P) Loyalist Course# 936
11/26/2010 7:30 PM	11/28/2010 3:00 PM	Trainer Development 1 (TD1) Course # 924
11/27/2010 8:30 AM	11/28/2010 4:30 PM	Standard First Aid Carleton Area
12/4/2010 1:00 PM	12/4/2010 4:00 PM	Annual General Meeting
12/5/2010 8:30 AM	12/5/2010 5:00 PM	Carleton Area First Aid Recertification
12/10/2010 7:00 PM	12/11/2010 9:00 AM	Scout Night with the Sens
12/11/2010 9:00	12/12/2010 5:00	St. John Ambulance First Aid with CPR

AM

PM

[level B Adult and Child CPR](#)

1/23/2011 2:00 PM 1/23/2011 5:00 PM [Scout Day with the Ottawa 67's](#)

Break:

Group reports: I suggest that we stick to highlights to ensure we get out of here at a reasonable time. Full reports will accompany the minutes.

2nd Almonte: none

1st Beckwith:

Activities

- Beavers have had held a couple of meetings - introduced the new leader, worked on Remembrance Day craft for Beckwith's Ceremony.
- The colony is preparing for investiture, just waiting for the manufacture of the neckers in Beaver sizes.
- Scouts held their investiture, participated in the Beckwith Remembrance Day Ceremony, and are currently working on skills and leadership.

Upcoming:

- Sections will be entering a float in the CP Santa Claus Parade Nov. 27th, Scouts will be prepping the float, Beavers working on the decorations during the next couple of meetings.
- Scouts are in the planning stages of a day excursion... tbd.. Whispering Pines?
- 3 leaders planning on attending the Woodbadge 1 course (1 Colony, 2 Troop)

Outstanding Issues:

Awaiting PRC's in order to complete registration.

CARLETON PLACE

Reference: Group Committee Meeting held Thursday, October 28, 2010

1 EVENTS TO DATE:

- Nov 11th: Remembrance Day Parade & Ceremony at Cenotaph
- a) Nov 16th-17th: White Tail Sleepover

2. FUTURE EVENTS:

- a) Nov 27th: Carleton Place Santa Claus Parade
3. **MAIN EFFORTS:**
- a) Completion of 2009-10 Financial Report: The financial report, including the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income and Equity, for the year ending August 31st, 2010 was submitted to Jean to be sent to Council.
 - b) Popcorn Sales: Popcorn sales were down in Carleton Place this year with just under \$5000 in sales.
 - c) Completion of Registration: We are continuing to enrol a few new youth, in the Beaver colony. Our new group registrar, Christina Hepton, is now registered at Council and she is entering and updating all our registration information.
 - d) Training of New Leaders: Due to low numbers the WBI training planned for Nov 26th and 27th has been cancelled. New leaders will be encouraged to sign up for the next training session.
 - e) Area Camp: Cyndy Courtland emailed area leaders to begin plans for the Area Jamboree in the spring. It will be on the banks of the Mississippi River in Carleton Place. If you want to participate in the planning contact Cyndy at cynthia.courtland@ucdsb.on.ca.

1st Drummond: All sections operating with increases in membership in all sections.

1st Elmsley:

1st Merrickville:

Registration to be dropped off by Alex Beelich.

Nov. 11 in Merrickville saw all sections out for services, with Lunch with the Guides afterwards at the comm. centre.

All sections functioning with long term planning in place.

Group commissioner to take WB 1 training end of November.

Taking part in the Christmas parade

2nd Smiths Falls:

We have a total of 71 registered and all sections are very busy. We wonder why the Council Beaveree is so expensive? (John will check into this)

Old Business: AC Replacement Committee

New Business:

Next Meeting: Dec, 16, Presbyterian Church

Motion to Adjourn: