



Valley Highlands Area Agenda – Dec 16, 2010 7PM, Presbyterian Church Hall, Smith's Falls

Call to Order: 7:10 p.m.

Oh Canada: All

Scouter's 5: John Stalker – Deciderata for Cubs

Regrets: Alex Beelich, Andreas Beelich, Kelly Banks, Matt Courtland, Torstein Dekart, Hope Gray, Jean Lasenba, Allen Sinfield

Present: John Stalker – AC, Diana Nuttall – Sec., Michelle Niefer – DAC Training, Roger Nuttall – DAC Recognition, Jacynth Stalker – Registrar, Chris Tyler – Service Team, Stan Lasenba – Property Manager, Elizabeth Docker – GC Carleton Place, John Armstrong – GC 1st Elmsley, Joan Smith – GC 2nd Smiths Falls

Acceptance of Minutes: Moved by Chris Tyler; seconded by Stan Lasenba Passed with 3 abstentions

Business arising from the minutes: None

Commissioner's Report: John Stalker

Council Management Advisory Committee meets Wed Dec 15. I will report at the meeting.

Council Financial audit. We are in better shape than expected.

The last CMAC meeting was Nov 24. Highlights:

Beaver program changes will be introduced April 2011 for fall implementation.

New uniform Scout/Guide week 2011.

Venturer Jamboree 2012, Haliburton Scout Reserve. 7 Days long. 5 day "challenge race" format.

Scouters conference April 7, Smiths Falls Collegiate.

All MMS records should be verified and inaccuracies in service, awards, training etc corrected to ensure that the new system, to be introduced early 2011, is accurate. (Do all groups have someone who can take care of this for all their members?)

I have OPP PRC forms.

DAC Reports:

Secretary: Diana None

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

Registrar: Jacynthe (Jacy):

Finance: Jean

Camp: Stan

Recognition: Roger

I now have a high speed internet connection and can access the Scouts MMS. Joan Smith is getting me the files which were prepared on the Leaders a few years ago. I will be updating these files and hope to have the 5, 10, 15 year etc pins available for presentation in February

Program: Alex Update:

PL/APL Conference scheduled for Dec 4, 2010 cancelled and to be rescheduled for late February /early March.

Upcoming events:

- **Winter Camp prep night** – Wednesday January 12th, 2011 – To be hosted by the Smiths Fall Troop. Presbyterian Church in Smiths Falls.
- **Winter Camp:** At Camp Whispering Pines January 29th and 30th
- **Cub Winter Challenge:** Camp Whispering Pines January 29th, 2011
- **Beaver BRRR-** February 12th, 2011 – Same location as last year – Easton's Corners

Community Centre- Theme suggested – Galactic – Space-

The final frontier where no Beaver has ever gone before.

Scout Winter Camp/Cub Winter Challenge and Beaver BRRR participants will receive the Event badge at the closing of their event.

- Beaver Buggy/ Cub Kars/ Scout Trucks to be held March 26th, 2011- additional details to follow

-
Round Center 2010/2011 Badges for all registered members of Valley Highlands are available. Please see you Group Commissioner.

Also available to help complete the Valley Highlands badge- Founders' week and Pitch in for Canada.

Planning meeting was held for the upcoming "Scouting Back to Basics 101" spring Camp. To be held in Carleton Place the last weekend of May. Please make note of this year end event on your calendar. Open to all sections- Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers.

Algonquin 2011- Information schedule has been sent to all Group Commissioners, Cub Packs and Scout Troops inviting them to join us in July at the Kiosk Station. 2011 will be the 3rd annual canoe week in Algonquin and with each passing year things just keep getting bigger and better. Youth must register by Mar. 1, 2011.

Organizing meeting for Spring camp on Jan 19, 2011 at St James Church Hall in Carleton Place

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Technology: Mike Dobbie None

Popcorn: John:

Scoutrees: Brian

Youth: Andreas & Matt

Training: Michelle

First aid course was done on 11th & 12th. Two participated.

A number of Scouters and Scouts/Venturers need to have this course. Not sure if we will do another one in

the area this year. If one is wanted, Scouters must commit with down-payment to book a weekend and/or

meeting night to do the training. Must give 2 months notice so that a trainer could be booked.

- WB1 was also booked and placed on the calendar. Only one officially registered in the area, so the weekend was cancelled.

Again, **new leaders must have WB 1 in their first year and leaders new to a section must taking training in that specific section.** It is up to you to obtain this within your

first year.

- E-Learning: This is another way one can do training, although you will miss out on the interaction with other participants. If you do it this way, you must print off the certificate at the end of each Module (5 in total) and present it to me and your Group chair to get the credit and your woggle or pin.

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.

1st Beckwith

Both sections and leaders participated in the Carleton Place Santa Parade. Scouts held a day trip to Whispering Pines, still working on skills, and preparing for Camp Zero.

Beavers working on Xmas crafts.

Both sections finishing on Dec 16th, and will start up again Jan 6. Beckwith hosted a Standard 1sr Aid Course, and had one leader attend.

Upcoming:

Scouts training for Camp Zero, and planning day trip to prep site. Preparation for Beaver Brr.

Carleton Place by Elizabeth Docker

We have 4 to be registered otherwise all registrations have been completed. We have had difficulty contacting Carolyn Pink at Council about OPE.

1st Elmsley By John Armstron

We took part in the Santa Claus Parade; are sellin Christmas Trees; carolling at the Lombardy Retirement Home and are planning an all section Christmas party

4th Perth

The 4th Perth Group held their Christmas Party and Dinner on Monday, December 13th at Pizza Hut in Perth. Because of the support we receive from the community we are able to do this without additional cost to our Beavers and Scouts.

We welcome back Tom Young to help with the Beavers while Sandy Grella is away. Tom was with us for many years and is an experienced Beaver leader.

We will make one more attempt to recruit Cub age youth early in the new year.

4th Perth wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Old Business: AC Replacement Committee

New Business: Large Posters are available if anyone has use for them. Contact John Stalker

Next Meeting: Jan 20, 2011 Presbyterian Church

Motion to Adjourn: 8:02 p.m. Moved by Joan, seconded by Elizabeth