



Girl Guides  
of Canada  
Guides  
du Canada

# FOCUS

## Inside

New Unit Initiative 1

Partner profile:  
How Sears  
supports Guides 2

GGC  
scholarships 2

What's new at  
GGC 3

Young Advocates  
Fund 4

Contact us 4



Support in Action

Fall 2008 Issue No. 1



Girls in Saskatchewan discover all that Guiding has to offer.

## New Unit Initiative Bringing Guiding to every corner of Canada

For almost 100 years, Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada (GGC) has been providing girls the opportunity to become the best they can be. As a national organization, we

strive to make Guiding available to girls in all communities, big and small. Indeed, in rural towns, Guiding is often one of the only activities available for girls. In tiny Fond-du-Lac, Sask., Guiders have led the way in bringing our dynamic programs and activities to the girls in their community.

It all began in February 2008 when Margaret Ferguson, Deputy PC, and four trainers flew to Fond-du-Lac to do trainings and screen nine potential Guiders. They also held a sample GGC meeting for 30 girls. Both the girls and adults had a blast. Several of the girls were so keen that they asked to return the next day.

By the end of the weekend, three new Guiders were enrolled, two others had renewed their Promise and a new multi-branch unit was born. Since then, another six Guiders have signed up and are now working with mentors.

>>Continued on page 4



Myrtle G. Corkum  
Chief Commissioner

## A message from the Chief

Dear Donors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of GGC Focus, a newsletter dedicated to sharing our successes and achievements with our supporters and partners. In this inaugural issue, you will find uplifting stories about our New Unit Initiative, a program that brings Guiding to girls in areas in need, and our scholarships that help girls pursue their edu-

cation goals. You'll also read about the many other ways our partners are helping to provide girls with opportunities to discover new interests and learn valuable leadership skills.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our donors and partners for your kind support and encouragement. Many of these stories would not be possible without your generous contributions.

## Partner profile:

## How Sears supports Guides

Sears has been supporting after school programs across Canada for over 50 years and has found Guiding to be strong in both the urban and rural communities.

Since the launch of our New Units Initiative, 10 new units have opened in Canadian communities. More than 300 girls now have the chance to experience all that Guiding has to offer, from sports, camping and science to eco-activities, fashion design and community projects.

It all started in 2006, when Sears Canada approached GGC. "Sears has been supporting after school programs across Canada for over 50 years and has found Guiding to be strong in both the urban and rural communities. What we like about GGC is that it is not just about a place for girls to go and stay after



The O'Leary Unit, in P.E.I. opened in 2006 and was the first supported by the Sears Young Futures program.

school but the programs can help nurture their development and future leadership potential. The programs bring out the best of each girl in Canadian society," said Dwight Skeates of Sears Canada.

Through their Young Futures community program, Sears wanted to support a program for the girls and GGC wanted to do something meaningful with their commitment. We put out a call to the provinces asking them if they had areas where they would be able to set up new

units if funding was available and the New Unit Initiative was born. Our first funded unit opened in O'Leary, P.E.I.

Since then, support for the program has expanded through assistance from corporate and individual donors. The Sears program has expanded and become Sears In Your Community. This past September, Sears stores across Canada opened their doors to Girl Guides to set up registration displays and will do so again on November 1st to sell cookies.

### GGC scholarships

## Investing in Canada's future leaders

For almost a century, GGC has been providing girls and young women the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. Our scholarship program is just one way we help our Members achieve greatness.

Brittany Chandler and Vivian Hui are two of this year's scholarship recipients. Their GGC scholarships were supported by the **Masonic Foundation of Ontario**, whose goal is to assist young people to be the best they can be.

For Brittany, a first year nursing student at Lakehead University, the scholarship means she can focus on her studies rather than worry about her tuition. "Girl Guides has been a huge part of my life

and now I will be able to keep it in my life next year at school," she says, adding that she plans on helping in units.

"As the first child entering university in my family, this award is not only meaningful for me but also for my family," says Vivian, a first year engineering science student at the University of Toronto.

We thank all the individuals, units, Trefoil Guilds, corporations and foundations who support Canada's future leaders through our scholarship program.

Brittany Chandler



"As the first child entering university in my family, this award is not only meaningful for me but also for my family."

Vivian Hui



# What's new at GGC

## GGC Members go global

"It was amazing to hear how many girls all over the world are changing their lives and their communities through Guiding."

One of the benefits of GGC Membership is belonging to the world's largest organization of girls and women, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). This past July, GGC sent a delegation to the WAGGGS World Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ready to take on the world were our young adult representatives, Bryanna Thiel and Susie Hawkins.

Bryanna and Susie are great examples of just how dynamic our Members are. Bryanna is studying Global Resource Systems at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. She is well travelled and fluent in French, German and Spanish. Susie is a teacher in Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut. Susie speaks French fluently and brought to our delegation her knowledge of life in Canada's north.

Says Susie of her WAGGGS experience: "It was amazing to hear how many girls all over the world are changing their lives and their communities through Guiding and how so many member countries value the expertise, resources and commitment that Girl Guides of Canada provides."

One of the more exciting developments at the WAGGGS conference was the election of GGC's own Margaret Treloar of Pickering, Ont., as Chair of the World Board. Marg has been active in Canadian Guiding for 25 years. She looks forward to taking part in the WAGGGS theme for 2009-2011, Global Action. The tagline for this theme, which will address the UN Millennium Development Goals is: "Girls worldwide say together we can change our world".



Bryanna and Susie attended the 33rd WAGGGS World Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa.



## GGC Girls

Sparks, Brownies and Guides now have their very own website! **GGC Girls** offers a safe online environment for Canadian girls, with everything from a book club, polls, games, e-cards and contests. GGC Girls is a user-friendly site with a fresh, fun design and serves as an exciting way for non-Members to explore all that Guides has to offer.



## A national camp for girls, by girls

In 1927, 300 girls and women from Canada and the United Kingdom gathered in Victoria, B.C. for GGC's first ever national camp. The camping tradition is still strong at GGC, and 83 years later, thousands of Girl Guides from Canada and around the world will attend Guiding Mosaic 2010, our upcoming national camp.

GM 2010 will take place in July, 2010, at the Guelph Lake Conservation Area in Guelph, Ontario. Sure to be a highlight of GGC's 100th anniversary celebrations, GM 2010 will focus on what girls want to do while at camp. This includes adventure activities, sports, awesome out trips, celebrating 100

years of girl greatness, a major community service project and an environmental focus on all aspects of the camp. Technology will also play an important role in how camp programs and activities are delivered.

Girls are playing a major role in the planning and delivery of all camp activities. At GGC's AGM in Montreal this past May, Pathfinder Kate Stafford and Ranger Teresa Poprawa – both members of the GM Steering Committee – officially unveiled the camp theme and logo.

Please visit [guidingmosaic.ca](http://guidingmosaic.ca) for regular updates.

# WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

“The 1910 Society is an excellent way to help shape our future and ensure the continuation of Guiding for the next 100 years.”

– Chris Burton  
Chief Commissioner-Elect



Girl Guides  
of Canada  
Guides  
du Canada

Become a proud member of the 1910 Society today by naming GGC in your will. The society is named after the courageous women who started the Guiding Movement in Canada in 1910.

For details, contact  
Lynne Hodgson  
hodgsonl@girlguides.ca  
416 487 5281 x 228

## Young Advocates Fund Helping girls take action

The Young Advocates Fund (YAF) encourages girls to become active members of their community and the wider world by offering them the chance to develop leadership and advocacy skills while assisting them in developing and implementing social change initiatives. As their own advocacy skills are strengthened, so is Guiding's visibility in communities across Canada.

Through the YAF and a partnership with Leaders Today, four GGC Members attended the Take Action! Academy this summer in Toronto. The academy's hands-on seminars helped sharpen the girls' leadership skills.

“I really enjoyed the academy – it was such a great experience and I learned a lot. I liked every single bit of it... I learned about the environment, our world, AIDS, developing countries, and lots more! Not only did I get the opportunity to learn about global issues, it was nice to make

a ton of friends who enjoyed the same thing,” says Jasmine.

This new initiative would not have been possible without the generous support of the TD Bank Financial Group, CIBC and The Leonard Foundation.

## Bringing Guiding

*Continued from page 1*

A few months later, a group of girls and their leaders made the six hour trip to North Battleford, Sask., to attend the

Saskatchewan AGM and Girl Engagement session. For many of these girls, it was the first time they had left their community. The girls were made to feel very welcome and were able to start forming new friendships. At the AGM Banquet, there were performances by a group of young Aboriginal dancers, a tour of the Allan Sapp Art Gallery (a well known Aboriginal artist from the area), a hike in the wildlife sanctuary and a basketball game. Great fun was had by all.



Jasmine and Sophie attended the Take Action! Academy this summer.

## CONTACT US

**Focus** is published each Fall and Spring.

Our donors make it possible for us to bring Guiding to new communities and support future generations of leaders.

### To find out how you can support Guiding, contact:

Lynne Hodgson, Coordinator  
Fund Development & Stewardship

50 Merton Street  
Toronto ON M4S 1A3;

e-mail: [hodgsonl@girlguides.ca](mailto:hodgsonl@girlguides.ca)  
phone: 416-487-5281 ext 228

or visit our [Ways of Giving](#) page  
on [girlguides.ca](http://girlguides.ca)

Charitable Reg. No. 118938554RR0027