



**Newfoundland and Labrador Council** 

Girl Greatness in Newfoundland and Labrador.





























































## **Editor's Note**

We have a great issue compiled for you this month. There are lots of Area Highlights, from Units all over the Province, sharing their activities of the past few months. On the cover are pictures of different Units across the Province participating in many events. It's wonderful to see Guiding active in so many communities! Keep sending in your stories and pictures, we love them..

Also check out our need feature with 'Let's Talk Science' for fun STEM activities to do with your Unit's

As we start to think of the end of this Guiding year, please remember to have a camera at all your year-end events and camps. The Signal is eager to share your ideas and stories with our readers all over the province. Enjoy and have fun!

Stacey Adey The Signal Editor

### Stories Wanted!

'The Signal' is currently looking for stories for upcoming issues. "Blast From the Past", "How She Did It", your favorite camping recipes, how you Unit is preparing for Guiding Mosaic 2016, just to mention a few. If you have a story idea please submit it to Stacev Adey thesignal.ggc@gmail.com

## The Signal

The Signal will be published every three month with a total of sour issues per year

### **Deadlines**

Dec. 15

Mar. 15

**May 15** 

Sept 15

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Girl Guides of Canada Guides du Canada

### From Your Provincial Commissioner

With 'World Thinking Day 2016' behind us and a very successful Baden-Powell Brunch shared with Scout Canada Members at our Provincial Office, we are now looking forward to spring.

Spring is certainly in the air and with that comes the excitement of camping. With Units and Districts preparing for their camps here at home, many excited Girls and Guiders are anxiously awaiting their trip to the National Camp "Guiding Mosaic" in Sylvan Lake, Alberta. This follows many hours of fund-



raising and hard work by Girls, Guiders and parents, alike. A very special thank-you to Guiders and Core Crew Staff, here in our province, for their efforts in helping to ensure this adventure is a second-to-none experience for the Girls.

With spring approaching, also comes our Classic Cookie campaign. Due to circumstances beyond our control, delivery of cookies has been delayed this year, however, we look forward to seeing our Girls and Guiders participating in our Provincial 'Door-Door Cookie Week' when the cookies arrive.

The new Provincial Council structure will come into effect in June and with these changes come wonderful opportunities for Guiders. Ever wonder what goes on in Guiding at another level? Well, now is the time to check it out. As a member of Provincial Council or being a part of a Provincial committee can open new doors and give you a chance to have your voice heard while making decisions affecting Guiding across the province.

As my role of Provincial Commissioner is quickly drawing to a close, I would like to welcome our Provincial Commissioner-elect, Margot Walsh. She brings with her many years of Guiding experience and I am sure she will continue to make Guiding in Newfoundland and Labrador a positive experience for Girls and Women. Our National Chief, Pamela Rice who will be in St. John's to attend Council meetings that weekend, will install Margot April 23rd at our Provincial Annual General Meeting.

Over the next several months, as you prepare for camp, attend meetings and prepare year-end banquets, enjoy and have lots of fun because that's what Guiding is all about...FUN.

Thank-you for all you do for Guiding in Newfoundland and Labrador. It's because of you "GIRL GREATNESS STARTS HERE"

Kay Penney Provincial Commissioner

## Girl Guides at a Hockey Game





## Spreading Christmas Cheer



Here is a picture of the goodies the Staff at Provincial Office donated to Naomi House, in lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> annual donation!

Say NO to Bullying

The 1st Corner Brook Pathfinders Express their dislike of bullying by rocking their pink shirts!

Story and photo submitted by Mary Cashin.



# CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE





















#### What you need:

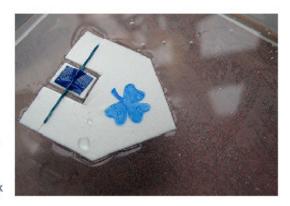
- Duct tape
- Elastic bands
- Permanent markers
- Styrofoam trays/plates
- Water basins
- Paddle boat template (see next page)



- Cut out the template for the paddle boat and paddle (see next page), and trace onto Styrofoam trays.
- 2. Cut out the Styrofoam paddle boat. The paddle boat and paddle should be two separate pieces. Decorate with markers.
- Where marked on the template, cut slits on the two sides of the paddle boat.
- 4. Loop the elastic band around the paddle boat so the loop crosses the open portion of the back of the boat. The elastic band should fit into the slits on the sides of the paddle boat.
- 5. Place the paddle in between the loop of the elastic band and tape the band to the paddle on both sides with duct tape.
- Wind the paddle towards you as far as you can and hold it.
- Place the boat in the water and release it and the paddle.
- Try again, but this time wind the paddle in the other direction.

### What's happening:

When a rubber substance is stretched, it creates a strain on its elasticity, so it has to bounce back to its original length and shape. By twisting the elastic and rotating the paddle, you are stretching the elastic and storing "potential energy". When you release the paddle, the elastic bounces back into shape causing the paddle to spin ("kinetic energy") and push on the water below the boat. As the paddle is pushing on the water, the water is also pushing back on the paddle - every action has an equal



and opposite reaction (Newton's 3rd Law of physics). Because of this law of motion, we can understand how the boat moves forward. Of course, there is friction between the boat and the water, so it takes guite a bit of energy to make it move very far.



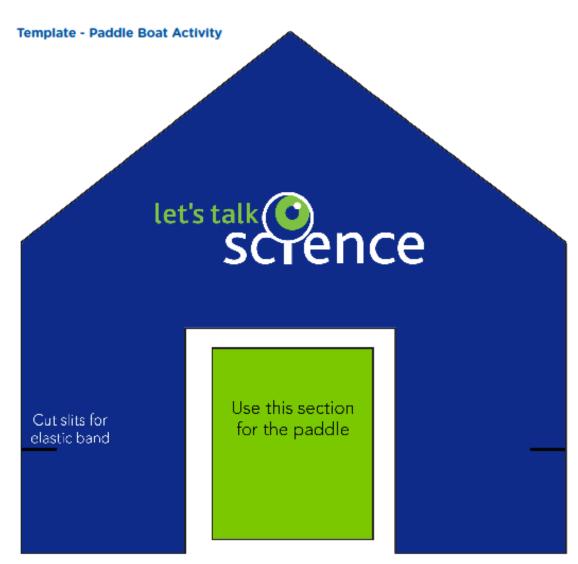
#### Extend the fun:

- Explore the connection between the number of times you twist the paddle and how far the boat moves!
- Give girls a chance to design and experiment with differently sized and shaped boats and paddles!
- See whose boat goes the furthest or straightest!

### **Program Connections:**

Sparks: Exploring and Experimenting
Brownles: Key to STEM; Making Things Go

Guldes: Try New Things #4; Engineering; Physics; Science



Activity provided by Let's Talk Science Outreach - visit letstalkscience.ca for more info

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# Planning an International Trip Responsible Guider Perspective

In 2006, I started as a Spark leader with 2 other brand new Spark leaders. By the end of the second year, I was ready to move from Sparks and at the same time, the Brownie unit my Sparks would be moving into needed leaders so I decided to follow the group of girls up to Brownies. Near the end of that last year of Sparks when we knew I would be sticking with them, we were talking about international Guiding and I promised the Sparks, then in Grade 1, that I would bring them on a trip to visit a world centre if they stayed in Guiding until they were teenagers.

Fast forward 7 years and I had stayed with the same original group of Sparks through all the branches up to Pathfinders and it was time to make right on that promise! Four of the original Sparks were still in the group and we had accumulated some awesome other girls (and Guiders!) along they way. We were ready for an adventure!

Being a responsible Guider on an international trip for the first time was a daunting challenge but one I felt prepared to take on. A few years earlier we had taken our Senior Girl Guides on a weekend trip to Ottawa and the group that were interested in travelling worked well together and all felt comfortable travelling as a group. We came up with an ambitious plan for fundraising and made sure to plan lots of longer camps and sleepovers in the 2 years leading up to the trip.

This August all that preparation was worth it as we set off on an adventure to London and Paris! Now that we're back from the trip, we definitely have some lessons learned from the Guider's perspective...

- Preparation is key! We spent a lot of time planning with the girls, but also planning within our Guiding team to make sure we were on track and that our roles were clear. We also had extensive information folders for Guiders, Travellers and Parents so that everyone felt informed and prepared.
- 2. Divide and conquer! Preparing for and leading an International trip is too much for just one person to take on. We had three Guiders and divided our responsibilities up one Guider was responsible Guider (leading meetings, doing paperwork, researching, and pulling together plans), one Guider was the financial Guider (tracking budget, fundraisers, and payments) and one Guider was "trip mom" (First Aider and medications supervisor).
- 3. Communication is tricky! As a group, we sent daily update emails with pictures (written by the girls) to all the parents. This helped the parents feel in the loop and see that their girls were having fun. Some of the parents had a hard time connecting by telephone so it helped bridge the gap. Having a shared ipad with skype-to-phone calling was a godsend for those having phone issues, and it only cost about \$4 total in skype

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### credit!

- 4. Be visible! We travelled for 10 days and wore at least our international scarf everywhere we went. Whether it was navigating through the Tube in London, or exploring the Champs de Mars in Paris, it was so helpful to be able to easily identify each other and quickly do headcounts! They also helped us meet lots of fellow Guides/Scouts and other Canadians!
- 5. Down time is valuable! With only 10 days to the trip, we didn't want to waste a minute of it so we planned a very ambitious itinerary. Every minute of downtime was valuable so that we could take a break, drink a cup of tea, or do some quick sink laundry. Have an afternoon or even a full day in the middle of your trip for downtime or flexible activities so that those who need a break can sit out and take a breather.

Taking on the International Trip was a huge challenge (especially while running 3 units and being District Commissioners) and I'm proud that we were able to pull off a great trip! Now that we're back and things have started to settle down, it's time to start planning for the next big adventure to Our Chalet...

### Submitted by Holly Baker





# Girl Guide of Canada Newfoundland & Labrador Council Provincial AGM and Dinner

If you would like to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Dinner of the Provincial Council scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2016.

Contact Provincial office at 709-726-1116 for tickets (\$25). Dinner starts at 6:30 with the AGM at 8:00pm. It is located at Lester's Farm Chalet, 92 Pearltown Road, St.John's, NL

## **Parkside District Goes Abroad!**



After seemingly endless fundraisers selling cookies, bagging groceries, washing cars, selling crafts, catering events, collecting recycling and selling more cookies, the 19<sup>th</sup> St. John's Pathfinders and the 1<sup>st</sup> Parkside Rangers boarded a flight in August 2015 to London to embark on adventures.

Upon arrival at Pax Lodge, we were greeted by a lovely 'Cream Tea' followed by getting to know our fellow 'Journey Through London' Participants. During the International Evening,

we were joined in our Pax Lodge program by another group from Canada and a group from the United States. We shared what life is like in Newfoundland through a hilarious skit (and purity kisses!) and learned about life in small town British Columbia and Connecticut.

Through the next 5 days we packed in a lot of site seeing in London, including the London Eye, Buckingham Palace, Camden Market, the Tower of London, The Natural History Museum, Hamley's, the Science Museum, Hyde Park and riding the Tube as often as possible. One of the highlights of the trip was taking the train to Harry Potter Studios



were we explored the actual sets the movies were filmed on and had Butterbeer! We also enjoyed meeting up with some international Guiding friends who showed us all the best shops on Oxford Street!



Near the end of our time in London we headed to Hampstead Heath to be volunteers with an organization called Heath Hands. Hampstead Heath is a large, ancient naturalized park that boasts one of the highest points in London and is a wildlife refuge in the centre of metropolitan London. We helped by removing an invasive species called Ragwort and then were treated by the organizers to tea and biscuits and a visit to a huge hollow tree that we fit 16 girls in!

Next we headed to Paris for a whirlwind visit of the major sites. We did a Hop on Hop off tour, went to the top of the Eiffel Tower, visited Notre Dame, did a walking tour to the love lock bridge and the Bouquonistes (book sellers alongside

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the Seine), and ate lots of French food like Crepes and escargot. The biggest hit among our book-loving group was a visit to the famous Shakespeare and Company bookstore. We also finished off our busy trip with an evening dinner cruise on the Seine.

The girls (and guiders!) had a very busy but awesome trip where we were constantly learning something new! When asked what makes travel with Guiding unique, Emma said "We're always prepared and have back ups if something goes wrong. We also plan our time accordingly to make sure we fit in everything that we want to do. We became closer friends because we were experiencing it all together which made us learn new things about one another and make unforgettable memories."

Travelling with Guiding is a unique and exciting experience. Kerry-Lynn, Elizabeth's mom, said it best: "Travelling with Guiding provides a safe setting to my daughter to explore with people outside her immediate family. By travelling with others her age, she could explore

the things most interesting to her age group and discuss the experiences with those people in a way that is meaningful to that generation. Guiding is also wonderful in its international reach. It can take the core principles that Lady Baden Powell founded the organization on and demonstrate that these principles are held as valuable to people all over the world and are still relevant today."

Submitted by Elizabeth, Emily, Emma, Hayley, Jennifer, Kailey, Keonna, and Sarah, with Guiders Holly, Sarah and Jenn



## Marconi District Celebrates the True Meaning of Christmas

Throughout the year, our District hosts several district-wide events for our 250+ girls and guiders. One of the things we did in the past two years is a Breakfast with Santa event. What started out as a celebration of our 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, has now turned into an annual event. On Saturday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, we held our second annual breakfast with Santa food drive, as our way to bring all our girls together to celebrate the season and give back to the community.

For the Breakfast, we asked our girls to bring a food bank item for the local food bank and before pancakes were served, the girls decorated gift tags to attach to their food items. Instead of gitting a gift from Santa, the girls gave food items to him in support of the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank that services the ocal Mount Pearl Community. Each girl also donated \$2 to the food bank.

The food and monetary donations were greatly appreciated by St. Peter's Church and the girls really enjoyed everything - the pancakes, the singing, getting their picture taken with Santa and really enjoyed bringing their food item up to Santa.

Aside from our District wide event, some of the other activities our various Units were involved in this Christmas included:

- Christmas Caroling to Seniors just about every one of our ten units went Caroling. Two and three units joined together to bring joy to seniors at several Seniors Homes (Hillcrest, Masonic Park, and St. Pat's Mercy Home). The 1<sup>st</sup> Sparks brought along Christmas Puddings for the residents of Hillcrest to enjoy as their snack.
- Happy Tree Donations The 11<sup>th</sup> Sparks went to Toys R Us and picked up presents and dropped them off at the Happy Tree.
- Stella's Circle The 3rd Brownies filled 5 stockings with items like soap, toothpaste, gloves and other essentials for people in need. They donated these to Stella's Circle.
- Socks for the Sole Sock Drive The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brownies also collected Socks for the Socks for the Soles sock drive at the Gathering Place.
- Hat and Mitten Drive for Iris Kirby House the 8th Guides had a
  hat and mitten drive. Thanks to the generosity of Newtown Elementary and Morris Academy, they collected almost 45 pairs of
  mitts, 65 hats and numerous scarves, socks and slippers for Iris
  Kirby House.
- The Pathfinders, Rangers and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Guides collected food along the Mount Pearl Santa Clause Parade route.

Of course, most units had Christmas parties to celebrate the season but in most cases their community giving activities was incorporated into their Christmas parties

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and their Christmas fun. We are so proud of our girls and everything they have done to help others this season.

### Story and photos Submitted by Lisa Engram

















# Rain, Rain Go Away – We Want to Sell Cookies Today!

It may have been a cold and rainy afternoon, but that didn't stop the 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Thomas Brownies in Paradise from decorating their wagons and filling them with cases of mint cookies during the unit's fall Cookie Blitz this past October.

With umbrellas in hand and hats to keep them warm, the girls went door to door spreading good cheer and chocolate mint! Though damp and chilly by the end, the smiling Brownies were quite pleased with their sales, mastered the art of giving back change and the neighborhood was just that much sweeter for them having been there!

The girls are already looking forward to the classic cookie blitz in the spring and are hoping for sunny, blue skies ahead.

### Photos and Story by Leslie Earle







**Photo Captions (left to right):** Several of the Brownies pose for a photo during the cookie blitz. Our cookie-selling wagon, all ready to hit the streets of Paradise. Brown Owl and Miss Silly Owl take a break during the fall cookie blitz!

## Codroy Valley Brownies

Here is the 1st Codroy Valley Brownies holding a wreath they made out of egg cartons for Remembrance Day. They used this wreath to lay in church during the Remembrance Day Ceremony.





This group also participated in Valentines for Veterans and

here is a photo of the cards that they made.

Photo and Story Submitted by Melissa Cormier

## Great Day for a Manuals River Hike!

Although the weather was forecasting a lot of rain, sunny skies prevailed and on a beautiful, clear, crisp day in October, the Beachy Cove Pathfinders/Trex group went outside to enjoy the fresh air and hiked the Manuals river trails, both the upstream and downstream. The five girls are gearing up for a more rigorous adventurous hike/journey in the late spring and used this hike as a warm up. The scenery was beautiful and we stopped along the way to enjoy it and of course, snap a few pictures!



It was a great hike and we ended at Bergs for some well-deserved ice cream!

Photo and Story Submitted by Sharlene Jones

## Girls Support Anti Violence Campaign

On February 2 all of the girls took part in making buttons for the Anti Violence Free Skate that The Burgeo Lioness sponsor every year. We also made the poster about Anti Violence that was displayed at our local hospital. We all drew our handprints and inside each one we wrote a message about Anti Volience. By doing this we are also entered in the HELP committee contest where we have a chance to win a pizza party. The girls had lots of fun & enjoyed doing it.

### Story and photo Submitted by Donna Warren



# Superhero Night!



This past fall the 1st Catalina Guiding Unit participated in 'International Day of the Girl' activities and earned our crest! We had a Superhero Night where the Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders made superhero capes and masks,. They each got a superhero ID card. We talked about their female heros, both in real life



and movies and story books. We also talked about what they think are qualities of a superhero. Strength and kindness were the two that they mentioned the most, and they discovered that they themselves also contain the same qualities that they believe superheros possess! At the end of the evening they all got Superhero certificates. It was a

great night!





## Paradise Guides



The 2nd Paradise Guides have been very busy this year participating in a number of activities. In the Paradise Christmas parade, they were so creative with their "Christmas on Jellybean Row" houses, they did a physical activity challenge, a Say No to Violence challenge,

walked in the Remembrance Day Parade and made 105 Valentines for Vets!



Story and photos Submitted by Shelly Savoury, contact Guider, 2nd Paradise Guides.

## **Pathfinders Help the Homeless**

Did you know that 30% of the homeless population in St. John's are youth? The 2<sup>nd</sup> Chamberlains Pathfinders partnered with Choices for Youth this fall to earn their Community Service Award and to help make a difference in the lives of some of these homeless youth.

Choices for Youth is a not-for-profit, community based organization which provides youth with a range of supportive housing options, access to a variety of services that promote healthy personal development, and a sense of belonging within an environment of respect, tolerance, peace, and equality.

Choices for Youth has been serving the community for over 20 years with programs to support youth with the three key life factors for independence and healthy transitions to adulthood: stable housing, employment, and education. The Shelter for Young Men and Outreach are two of several programs within Choices for Youth. The Shelter for Young Men is an emergency shelter that provides supportive housing and crisis response for individuals identifying as male aged 16-29 years.

In the fall of 2015, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Chamberlains Pathfinder group chose to partner with Choices for Youth as their community service project to help earn their Canada Cord. The 8 girls did a "toiletry drive" to help stock the shelves of the Shelter for Young Men and Outreach with items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, razors, and feminine hygiene products. The girls were challenged to use their own allowances, or canvas family to come up with the items. From September to December, toiletry items were collected at each meeting, and all items were dropped off at Choices for Youth on December 14<sup>th</sup>. That evening, the girls learned about the value of this organization to the community, they stocked the shelves with their toiletry donations, and helped wrap boxes of chocolates to distribute to youth who attended the Christmas community supper at Outreach.

Many thanks to Angela Picco, Development and Campaigns Officer and Andrew Harvey, Coordinator for the Shelter for Young Men for their enthusiastic support. It is our goal as a Pathfinder Unit to continue to support the programs and services offered by Choices for Youth.

Story and Photo Submitted By Michleen Elliott



Photo caption: Angela Picco (far left) and Andrew Harvey (far right) of Choices for Youth with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chamberlains Pathfinders made up of (L-R) Kim Penney, Erin Elliott, Kelly Neville, Leah Penney, Jenna Neville, Victoria Martin, Kaelan Burke, Dylan Abbott, Kierra Oxford, Heather Martin and Michleen Elliott, who is a Guider and a counsellor at Choices for Youth.

# **Active Living**

The 1st Marystown Brownies participated in an exercise class to complete the "Go For It" badge from the key to Active Living. Mrs. Farrell led the girls in an intense workout session and discussed the importance of exercise for a healthy body and mind. The girls really enjoyed the exercise class and look forward to participating in more active living activities.

Story and Photos Submitted by Lori Parsons-Farewell





Photo Caption: Jorja Bateman, Catherine Hanrahan, Kara Squires, Aliyah Clarke, Roxy Strowbridge, Santana Bishop, Gracie Fiander, Peyton Haley, Staci Jarvis, Madison Flynn-Slaney, Andrea Hiller, Alicia Farewell(brownie helper) and Instructor Mrs Farrell. The 1st Marystown Brownie Leaders are Lori Parsons-Farewell, Gail Loder and Amanda Walsh.

# **Bridging Event**

The 1st and 2nd Chamberlains Pathfinders participated in a bridging activity and no better day to do so than on the February 22, World Thinking Day. With this year's theme, Connect with Guiding, we made our connections between the 2

units stronger yet again. And while we may not all have been breaking the 100 score that evening, we certainly celebrated the unity of Guiding. Another memorable event with these bright young ladies!

Story and Photo Submitted by Coreen Bennett, 1st Chamberlains Pathfinders.



## Pathfinder's Citizenship Weekend

The 10th and the 34th Pathfinders of Tuckamore Area got together at Girl Guide Headquarters for a weekend of fun, friendship and Citizenship. The girls of both units needed to complete the "Be a Model Citizen" badge for their Canada cord so both units decided the best and most fun way to do this would be to get together for a weekend camp and use the whole weekend to work through this badge. Among the activities the girls, created their own flags, took a citizenship test (which was very hard and none of the girls got enough right to become Canadian Citizens), learned all the verses for O'Canada and then made up short poems and rants about what it means to be Canadian. The highlight of the weekend was when the girls had to pretend they were stranded on a desert island and had to work together to survive, it was during this activity that they learned about their own personal leadership skills and how they interact well with in a group situation. The girls had so much fun they are already asking when they can go to camp tighter again. Some really great and lasting guiding friendships were developed over the weekend and all the girls earned their 'Be a Model Citizen' badge.

Story and photo Submitted by Stacey Adey, 34th Pathfinder Guider



## Fun Way to Work on Teambuilding Skills



In November, the Beachy Cove Pathfinders/ Trex group decided they were up for a challenge and decided to head to Escape Quest located in downtown St. John's. Escape Quest has rooms where you have to solve puzzles and riddles, complete challenges and work together as a team to figure out a way to get out of that room! These seven girls decided to chal-

lenge the Superhero Saga room which has a high difficulty rating but that didn't deter them from trying!

This is a fantastic way to work on teambuilding skills as you cannot escape without working together. The girls had a lot of fun and when it was over, there was nothing but smiles and stories.

Photo and Story Submitted by Sharlene Jones

### **Enrolment Ceremony**

On Nov. 25th 2015, the 1st Bay Roberts Girl Guides held their Enrolment Ceremony where 16 new members officially became Girl Guides. At the ceremony, the girls presented gifts for the Magic Room at the Ronald McDonald house in St. John's.

Photo and Story Submitted by Stacey Russell.





## **BADGE WORK**

Here are a few things the 1st Bonavista Brownies have been doing so far this year. After completing the Pet Pals Badge with the help of SPCA volunteer Beverly Dyke, we collected some food, treats, blankets and a monetary donation for the Clarenville SPCA. We also had a guest, Margaret Hicks, come in and work on our Listen to This badge. Here is a picture of her with our brownies talking about being a good audience.

Photos and Story Submitted by Tammy Squires





## **School Suitcase Project**



Have you ever had a moment in life when you were fortunate enough to know that something amazing was happening right in front of you?

I was fortunate to recently have one of those amazing experiences in Guiding, with the incredible Guiders and girls in the Sparks, Brownies and Girl Guide Units in Baie Verte.

The local Roman Catholic priest, Father Patrick, is originally from the diverse country of Nigeria in West Africa. This fall, a local resident recently donated a used van, which Father Patrick was planning to ship to Nigeria. One of our dedicated Guide Unit Guiders, Sherry had talked to

Father Patrick, who was in fact a past school principal in Nigeria, about sending some school supplies with the van, to be distributed to students when Father Patrick returned to Nigeria in January 2016. Father Patrick did not feel comfortable in asking his congregation for help yet again, as they had already done so much. Not one to be dissuaded, Sherry thought it would be the perfect opportunity to teach our girls global awareness in a hands-on way.

When Sherry had shared her idea with the other Guiders, everyone was immediately on-board with the idea of a project for the girls to pack a suitcase of school supplies and gently used books for students in Nigeria. In working out the details of how we would roll out the project I asked Sherry where in Africa Father Patrick called home. When she replied Nigeria, I was speechless, as 10 years ago I was part of a group study exchange with Rotary International, that travelled to Nigeria and visited and photographed the country and the many schools we visited while there. We had the perfect way to not only explain to the girls about the importance of the 'School Suitcase' project, but to let them see the students and schools they could be helping.

Like all of life's adventures, there was however, a small bump in the road. The intent was to introduce the 'School Suitcase' project to our girls at our unit meetings the following week and allow the girls a few weeks to bring in school supplies and used books, which would then be shipped with the van in late November. Our 'bump' arrived when we learned that the van was being shipped earlier than expected – late the following week to be precise! Our dedicated Guiders, Kim, Katie, Amanda, Angie, and Sherry had no intention of throwing in the towel. We notified parents of our girls of the 'School Suitcase' project on Monday, and at our joint unit meeting the following day, the project was a go. We talked to the girls about the importance of helping to create a better world and how our project fit into that. The girls then viewed a presentation of photos of Nigerian schools and students that this project could be helping. With less than 24 hours notice, our girls (and parents) had collected enough school supplies and used books to fill a large suitcase and a box besides! If our Sparks, Brownies and Girl Guides are compassionate, motivated and generous enough to accomplish that in less than 24 hours, just imagine what they will each achieve in a lifetime!

To see the enthusiasm that our Guiders and girls had for this project was truly incredible, and as Guiders, we were thrilled to play a small role in helping our girls to learn that they have the ability to help change the world.

Photo and Story Submitted by Nikki Wright

The Signal Area Highlights April 2016

## Marconi District Celebrates International Day of the Girl

International Day of the Girl (IDG) is a day to commemorate and support girls' rights, and to end global gender inequality. This initiative was created to bring world focus to the challenges that girls face in their everyday lives, and to encourage govern-





ments and communities to address these challenges. As a girl-serving organization and a member of the largest voluntary movement for girls and women worldwide, Girl Guides of Canada (GGC) continues to encourage members to celebrate this special day. The theme for 2015 focused on breaking down barriers and overcoming gender stereotypes to help girls and young women to reach their full potential.

In October, Marconi District took this opportunity to celebrate the spirit of international friendship by presenting an **International Friendship Showcase**. It was a wonderful night of talent and fun as our 10 Sparks, Brownie, Guides, Pathfinders and Ranger Units

presented songs, dances, poems and skits showing us what friendship means to them. We also asked girls to bring along a travel size personal hygiene item to help and welcome new Canadians.

This event provided so many opportunities for girls and guiders. Units practiced their activities during their regular meetings leading up to the showcase, and in some cases worked it into their program. All girls, from



the littlest Spark to our oldest Ranger, got an opportunity to present, as a group/unit in front of everyone, and older girls got an opportunity to lead as they taught everyone a few dances from around the world, including the Canada Goose Stomp! We had a



Spark unit sing ,"We are the world" with stick people they made from different countries. A Brownie group present "I am" posters of how they feel about themselves, ranging from "I am creative", "I am brave", "I am sporty", to "I am funny".

The 2015 IDG event was well received

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by girls and guiders and especially by the Association for New Canadians. Our large box of hygiene donations was picked up the next day by the Association and they passed along a big thank you for thinking of them. The donations came in very handy

as they had 12 families coming that very night. What better way to share International friendship!

Story and Photos Submitted By Lisa Engram and Robyn Lee





## Brownies, Brownies - Where Are You?

The 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Thomas Brownies in Paradise took a journey into the forest for their annual enrolment ceremony on November 18. In total, 19 girls were enrolled in the twenty member Unit – with Alexa Critch being enrolled in Guiding for the very first time.

As each girl was twirled around the magical pond, they repeated their promises in front of family and friends and received special enrolment pins. Of course, no ceremony is ever complete without a snack and lots of fun at the photo booth!

Congratulations to all new Brownies and thank you to our second year, Abigail Feltham for her help in navigating the first years through the forest and to the toad-stool.

### Photo and Story Submitted by Leslie Earle



**Photo Caption:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Thomas Brownies pause for a photo during their recent enrolment ceremony











Provincial Cookie Week #1 - Saturday, April 2 to Sunday, April 10 Provincial Cookie Week #2 - Saturday, April 30 to Sunday, May 8



