



## 2019 Annual Report

*A better world, by girls*



Lorena Fortune, NS Provincial Commissioner

When I accepted the position of your Provincial Commissioner I knew it would provide me with the opportunity to meet new people, both girls and adults, it would take me outside my comfort zone, and it would challenge me, but I always knew I could count on my Guiding sisters to make it fun and rewarding!

So here I sit, reflecting back on my last 3 years and I can honestly say, while some of the times have been challenging, the fun times have far outweighed those.

Over the last 3 years I have seen guiding at its best and these last few months are no exception. My focus has been and always will be the girls and what is the best we can do to prepare them for the next step in their life, both inside and outside of Guiding.

As I think back at the changes our Organization has experienced, I see the wonderful progression from “Everything she wants to be” to “A better world, by girls”. Nova Scotia certainly rose to the challenge to mentor our members thru the unit meetings as well as the many camps and events over the past 3 years.

There have been camps for all ages: Spark Brownie camp, Kwahee Guide camp and Quest Pathfinder event. Our Program Team has presented many STEM events to Sparks right on up to Rangers, the Arts Team offered day events to girls and Internationally we supported over 100 girls and Guiders who travelled to 11 counties.

Our adults participated in many Link events, Trefoil gatherings and numerous Trainings to better prepare them to take on the world of Guiding. Our Unit Guider Conferences continue to be huge successes and I consider it a badge of honor to be called a “minion”!! These Conferences continue to prove that when Guiders gather, nothing short of fun will happen and that’s what our sisterhood is all about!

I said before that the girls are my focus and the youth of today will be our leaders of tomorrow. Recognizing the achievements of our Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers is a critical and through the Provincial Youth Recognition Event. I have been honored to present girls, that I met at Kwahee and Quest, with their Canada Cord and Trail Blazer Awards, it truly is rewarding to see these girls move through the program and reach the goals they set for themselves.

I would be remiss if I didn’t also mention some of the unique events that Nova Scotia planned or participated in.

- The 2019 AARMS event: All SySTEMs GO was a huge success- over 550 members came together from all parts of the province to spend a weekend in Halifax learning all things Science Technology Engineering and Math- this was a wonderful testament to Guiding, our community partners and how, when passionate people come together, they can make anything happen.
- The bi-annual Guiders Conference brought Guiders together for a weekend of learning, fellowship and to reenergization.
- Our Youth Forum continued to grow and develop with representatives of our amazing youth providing direction to Council as we work together toward and girl engaged province.

You would have seen in my Volunteer Week message that I truly am thankful for all you have done and will continue to do. I have great respect for our Guiders in NS, you have all stepped up and given what you can to Guiding, balancing family and work commitments- Thank You! You will also have read that there is a special thank you gift coming your way, if you haven’t already received it, hang tight – it will get to you as soon as it’s possible within the social distancing guidelines.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Provincial Council, both past and present members. I had the privilege to work with many very talented women who I can call very dear friends. I would also like to thank the staff of the Provincial Office, who provided not only Council and myself, but all members and parents, with the support they needed to ensure Guiding provided a solid customer service experience for all.

In closing, I would like to thank every girl, guider and parent who saw and continue to see the value in Guiding and who supported me in my journey as your Provincial Commissioner.

I wish Debbie Mellish and Cindy O’Hearn, your incoming Provincial Co-Commissioners all the best as they take on the PC role and lead us all into the world, we call Guiding!

***Thank you, Lorena***

# A better world, by girls.

## Harvest Trail:

- Fundy view and Western Districts both held Girls First launch parties.
- Hants District was one of the winners of The Great Guiding Games being among the Districts with the highest percentage of increase in membership.
- South Shore District has expanded to include a new unit in Chester for the Fall of 2020.
- Parker District used a unique approach to spread the word about Guiding with their "Look For A Book" idea. This saw them hiding books around the Kentville area, which included info on Guiding, and encouraging everyone to get out and find a book. With community support they were able to get much of the supplies donated.



## Harbourside:

- Three Independent Trips were held this past summer.
- Involvement in the Pride Parade continued again in 2019.
- Harbourside Round Up once again was a very successful event.
- Guiding was represented at the Atlantic Outdoor and RV Show and hosted a Campfire that was enjoyed by all.

## Maplewood:

- Area Day (Feb 2019) with a World Centre theme.
- 2 pathfinders (and a Guider) climbed Mount Fuji on a personal trip away!
- Maplewood units are increasingly planning their own international trips.
- Increasing number of Spark units who are camping (in backyards, but still in tents!).
- Girls are planning their own meetings and choosing amazing activities like an intro to vehicle mechanics crash course!
- The DCs on the Maplewood council work hard to ensure the girls in their Districts are not sitting on waitlists so all girls can be in a unit.

## Tri-Waters:

- Seven girls and one Guider elected to travel nationally and internationally in 2019.
- Bedford District held a STEM day or Brownies in conjunction with IBM technologies
- One guider working with national in the diversity & inclusion framework.

## Ceilidh:

- 575 girls and guiders attended a special performance of Matilda at the Savoy Theatre in October.
- Pathfinder/Rangers travelled to Halifax to see the Tattoo and sightsee the city with shopping and Harbour Hopper ride included.
- The Sparks travelled to Iona to Highland Village for a day of events at the village put on by the workers of the village.
- The Brownie had a teddy bear clinic, where the girls took their bears and they were treated by nurses from the VON and the Guides enjoyed a Harry Potter themed camp.
- We had a Ranger, Mya Kosick, travel to Amsterdam for a jamborette.

## Dartmouth Shore:

- Pink Explosion (Sparks), Brownie Blast & Area Thinking Day Event
- 500 girls and Guiders gathered for a "Fun and Games" theme day. Brownies and Sparks packed compassion bags with a snack, a drink, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, gloves/socks, to be distributed by members of the church where we meet.
- We are excited about getting girls on our District Councils and on Area Council.

## Acknowledgements

Guiding Members, Volunteers, Parents

His Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia,  
Clergy and Places of Worship - KPMG - Community and Service Clubs - Municipal/Town Councils –  
Advisory Council on the Status of Women – Supercity Office Services - RCMP/Halifax Regional Police –  
Provincial School Boards - St. John Ambulance - Acadia University - Mount Saint Vincent University –  
Dalhousie University – St Mary’s University, Scotiabank - District Health Authorities –  
Local Council of Women – AARMS: Atlantic Association for Research in the Mathematical Sciences –  
WISE - Engineers NS – Royal Bank - Recreation Nova Scotia - Crowe Dillon Robinson

Special Thanks to Provincial Office Staff

(Cindy Douglas, Devon Brady Thompson, Jo Swinemer, Miriam MacDonald, Peggy MacPhie,  
Sharon LeLievre, Trudy Sangster)

## Awards

**Beaver Award:** Darlene Banks

**Honorary Life Award:** Cindy O’Hearn, Mary Louise Johnson

**Mayflower Award:** Julia Parr

**Medal of Merit:** Angela Stoddard, Libby MacLean, Patricia Chapman

**Letters of Commendations:** 1

**Gold Merit Awards:** 4   **Silver Merit Awards:** 2   **Bronze Merit Awards:** 3

**Full Circle:** 10   **Youth Commitment:** 19

**Guiding Hearts:** 4

**Provincial Bursary:** Emily Dennis, Emma Little, Olivia Foran, and Annika Sydney Benson

## In Memoriam

A Robert Carnerole, Anette Chernin, Doreen Ina Phalen, Eleanor Stepheon,  
James & Vera Dempsey, Kathy Sawler, Margariete Hatcher, Marie Langley,  
Mary Ferguson, Mary Louise Morrison, Ruby Mason, Walter Crawford