



## 2021 Annual Report

### Provincial Co-Commissioner Report

We are pleased to share our 2021 annual message with all of you. Challenge and change were definitely key words that we all lived by in 2021. And to say that the challenges we faced in 2021 made life interesting may, in itself, be a challenge for some.

As your Co PC's we can personally attest to the impact the following had on our unit meetings. Between changes in Covid Protocols, the Return to Guiding Phases, virtual vs in person meetings, venue challenges and home & family life – it was definitely a whirl wind year!

But in true Guiding spirit we faced them all, as best we could, and moved on to make the girls the priority!

While our Provincial Office remains closed, we were pleased to be able to host unit meetings, which helped a few units who were displaced due to facility issues with Covid 19.

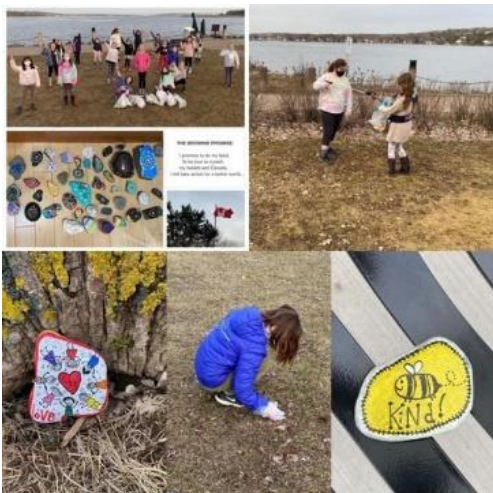


Every month your Provincial Council maintained their commitment to Guiding and continued to meet, virtually, to work on your behalf to ensure Guiding remained in the forefront for those members in NS.

And our Guiding members delivered as well, we'd like to share some of the activities that happened in Guiding this year.

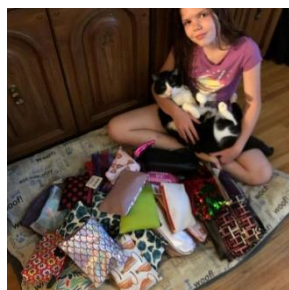
## SERVICE

The Pandemic couldn't keep Guiding down, Guiding continued to provide help and service to those within our communities.



(R) The 4th Bedford Brownies took action and cleaned up litter at DeWolf Park, then hid rocks (that they had painted) for others to find.

(L) The Maplewood-Colchester Rangers are working on making catnip pouches for their local cat rescue



Western District helped with the "fill a Tent" Food Bank Campaign

Cecille worked hard this year and earned her Lady Baden Powell award by leading a community service project that saw +30 puberty packs go out to 3 different schools. She also ran a meeting all about relieving stress.

## CAMPING

Camping is one of the highlights of Guiding and 2021 presented challenges for girls and Guiders as they desperately missed the opportunity to camp. That didn't stop the 1st Bedford Pathfinders. They were beyond excited to get back to camp in the Fall of 2021! They enjoyed a weekend that included a disco ball dance party, glow in the dark mini golf, compass skills, playing with fire, a mini-quest, chuck the chicken, paracord creations, lots of time to chill, poking at the fire and getting to know each other in the new Guiding year. Each slept in their own tent following Overnight 1 protocols.





## UNIT FUN

Guiders certainly stepped up and worked hard to make Guiding fun and engaging during our ever changing world.



(R)Bridgeview girls and leaders created some awesome scrapbook.

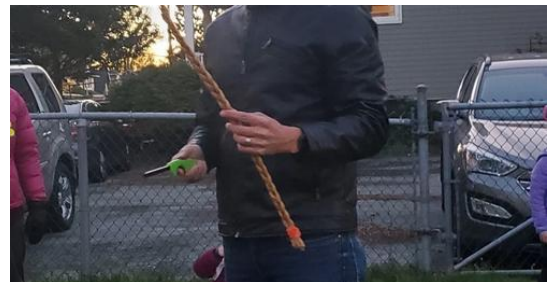
(L)Harbourside Pathfinders met (before the lockdown!!) and used an activity provided by Engineers NS and Engineers Without Borders to experience some STEM activities!



The Truro/Bible Hill Pathfinders completed the WAGGGS challenge! They finished by creating their Peace Promise Rainbows.



The 3rd Halifax South Sparks and 3rd Halifax South Brownies had a wonderful evening learning about Mi'kmaw culture/history with Jarvis Googoo



## COOKIES



2021 and cookies presented its own challenges, but again you all stepped up and made sure that the Guiding cookie reputation remained positive. Cookies were sold online, in person (wherever possible), at stores and also donated to various Food Banks around the Provinces.

## AWARDS

The following were acknowledged for achieving their milestone membership years during 2021:

65 years:

- Irene Rose: Dartmouth Shore Area

60 Years:

- Bertha Raoul: Ceilidh Area
- Gretchen McCurdy: Harvest Trail Area
- Eleanor Mason: NS Trefoil Guild

55 years:

- Jennie MacKenzie: Dartmouth Shore Area
- Goldie Chisholm: NS Trefoil Guild

50 years:

- Trinda Ernest: NS Trefoil Guild
- Ann Day: NS Trefoil Guild
- Barbara Desprey: NS Trefoil Guild
- Jane Herring: NS Trefoil Guild



We recognize that there are many Guiders also celebrating membership years with Girl Guides — whether it's one year to 80+, we thank you for your service and congratulate you all.



Thank you to all the Guiders and Council members who've worked hard over the past year. You are what makes Guiding a success, and your commitment to Guiding is a testament to how wonderful our Guiding community really is.

As you read through the reports below, you will see that your Provincial Council Teams were also working hard during 2021.

## **Girl Engagement Team**

Debbie Mellish- Acting Lead

Although 2021 offered unique challenges, Guiding in Nova Scotia was able to pivot and continue, no matter the circumstances.

Winter Kwahee was held virtually in Feb 2021 where Guides from around the province gathered to enjoy all that camp has to offer.

Provincial Arts and STEM events were held, virtually, where members could join and show their skills or try something new.



Here are some pictures of how the virtual process works and the end results.



As pandemic measures continued to shift, units met virtually and outdoors with physical distancing, making sure that girls were able to continue meeting in ways that they and their families were comfortable with.



The Provincial Challenges Crest program was relaunched in 2021 and provided additional programming support, with many units also participating in the WAGGGS Challenge.

While International travel was, once again, postponed girls and Guiders started dreaming of the adventures they could have once travel began again. We look forward to our members being able to travel and explore our country and beyond in the future.

## **Member Services Team**

Carrie Hunter

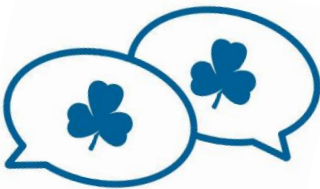
2020-2022 has been extremely challenging in a variety of ways. Just before the world began to change (2019) our provincial girl membership was 3,713 members with a national membership of 68,050.

Not surprising our girl registration dropped in 2020 to 2,972. Fast forward to 2021 and we registered 3,234 girls, a 1.09% increase from 2020, with a national girl membership of 51,912.



Overall, we have done well gaining and retaining membership with strict public health measures and constant change of in-person to virtual meetings.

Virtual Training was well received and offered an opportunity for Guiders to connect and learn. During this time, you may have learned a new skill or honed an old one, you may have met new friends or rekindled friendships of days gone by, or you may have experienced some personal growth and surprised yourself. Regardless of what 2021 had in store for us, in true Guiding spirit we pushed on and for that we are forever grateful!



The PR Team took on the challenge and promoted Guiding on all Social Media channels with the focus on FaceBook and Instagram. Link members and Trefoil Guilds across the province also weathered the “virtual world” and met whenever the protocols permitted. All in all, we made it through 2021 and all are looking for a better 2022!

## Youth Member

Youth Member of Council: Hannah Kosick



The Youth Forum planned and hosted six virtual Youth Recognition Ceremonies. These were very well attended and received positive responses from all areas and participants.



We were also pleased to advise that NS awarded 4 Provincial Council Bursaries to:

- ✓ Abigail H: Tri-Waters Area (youth)
- ✓ Madeline H: Tri-Waters Area (youth)
- ✓ Sophie B: Harvest Trail Area, (youth) and
- ✓ Kiana B: Tri-Waters Area (adult)

The Areas have also been supporting Guiding this past year and we are also excited to share their Annual Reports.



## **Ceilidh Area**

Elizabeth Buffett & Gail Leighton

Ceilidh Area survived another year of Covid restrictions and is certainly looking forward to getting back to 'in-person' fun in 2022. 2021 saw our Area go through the process of making the decision to put Camp Cairdeas up for sale. The Board has passed the motion approving this sale and it is now on the market. Our Area PR Advisor led us through a focused PR campaign utilizing social media tools. After doing our research we focused our PR on the specific identified needs of various parts of our districts and region. We were able to recruit 18 new leaders into units. We presented numerous awards to our Guiders in May, including 60 year pins to two of our HMBRs.

## **Harvest Trail Area**

Crystle George

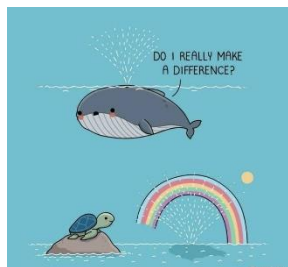
Like everyone else, the Area has had another challenging year ... but we made it and we are stronger! With another year of bouncing between virtual and in person meetings, Guiders have acted in true Guiding fashion and continued to show what they are truly made of when it comes to supporting our youth members, each other and sharing in the sisterhood of Guiding. As we made our way back to in person Guiding this year, we have brought back so many of the things that we have missed over the last couple of years... in person service projects, visits to museums and community events, and seeing our friends face to face, even if it is only their eyes sometimes; one Trex unit has been downhill skiing and scuba diving and are now preparing for canoe and backpacking trips this summer. As we begin a time of regrowth, and planning for the future, we will put the difficulties behind us, use our newfound skills and continue to make a difference.



South Shore District members

## **Dartmouth Shore Area**

Beth Spencer



It has been my pleasure to be Dartmouth Shore's Area Commissioner over the last four years. I am proud that DSA Guiders have found their way through the uncertainty and have continued to offer our youth exciting opportunities to find empowerment and have fun.

I lead with both my heart and my head, so I have had the opportunity to listen to Guiders as they have shared their struggles, confided their secrets, and expressed their frustration. There have been challenges, but I promise you that your presence, your smile, and your effort have made a difference. Never doubt that what you do changes lives and creates ripples that will have a lasting impact.

It has been said that "leaders do not force people to follow, they invite them on a journey". Thank you for sharing this journey with me. I know the road has been full of potholes and there has been uncertainty around every corner, but you stayed the course. The road will level out from here and I hope the corners you must navigate lead to camp, singing, celebration, and magic. Thank you for a memorable four years. And thank you for the magic.

## Harbourside Area

Lashauna Smith

Harbourside Area units found many ways to stay connected during 2021 including through virtual meetings, anytime Guiding and of course lots of outdoor activities. In Halifax South District, several units went on an excursion to George's Island where they took a tour, did a scavenger hunt and had a picnic lunch. 3rd Halifax South Spark and Brownie Units had visits from Jarvis Googoo and Kevin Penney from Accessible Adventurers.



Cookie sales also continued during 2021 - many units sold out within days in Fall 2021!

## Maplewood Area

Jennifer Boyce

Our units have shown amazing resilience and flexibility this year, moving between online, indoor and outdoor mandates. One unit in particular went above and beyond by holding almost all of their meetings out of doors, in order to maintain consistency for their members. Everything from crafts to games were done outside and our youth members rolled with it.



The public has been really missing our cookies and it was never more apparent than in Pictou, this April. On a cold rainy, windy day, the unit sold 17 cases of cookies, in 3 hours, in the parking lot of their local Home Hardware.

## Tri-Waters Area

Jennifer Thornton

2021 has been another year of challenges in many ways for girls and Guiders alike, however as always, the Guiders in Tri-Waters Area have risen to the challenge. Words are not enough to express my thanks for this. Units have continued to be visible in their communities with service projects, cookie drive-thru events, as well as many outdoor activities like hikes and campfires. A few even managed to squeeze in a camp when permitted.



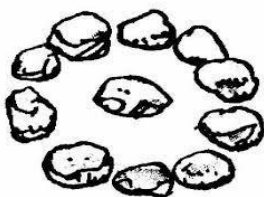
(R) 6<sup>th</sup> Carter Sparks  
Mighty Mind  
challenge

(L) Boomwhacker  
Training –  
Bridgeview Ranger  
and Guiders)





As we bring this message to a close, we want to acknowledge those members who passed during 2021 we send our warmest of wishes and heart felt thoughts to their families and friends.



On behalf of all Guiders in NS, we want to thank your Provincial Council, they also had to make changes and adapt to our changing world and still represent Guiding as best they could.

To your Area Commissioners, who have supported you as Guiders and work tirelessly on Provincial Council to make Guiding vibrant in our Provinces, we say thank you to Elizabeth Buffett & Gail Leighton (Ceilidh Area), Beth Spencer (Dartmouth Shore Area), Lashauna Smith (Harbourside Area), Crystle George (Harvest Trail Area), Jennifer Boyce (Maplewood Area) and Jennifer Thornton (Tri-Waters Area).

To Anja Clyke (Risk Management), Andrea Griffin (Treasurer), Carrie Hunter (Member Services) and Hannan Kosick (Youth Coordinator) we also send our sincere thanks on behalf of the members in NS.

And finally, to our Deputy Provincial Commissioner: Mary Louise Johnston, thank you for helping us and Guiding remain strong and for moving us forward into 2022.

**Debbie Mellish & Cindy O'Hearn**  
NS Provincial Co-Commissioner

