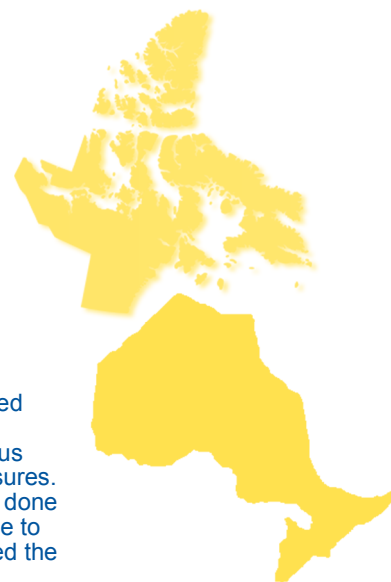


ONTARIO & NUNAVUT

2015 Provincial Commissioner's Report

Submitted by Marcia Powers-Dunlop



2015 has been a year of consolidating some provincial changes as well as working with the National Board and other Provincial Commissioners in designing a somewhat more consistent structure and way of work for all provincial councils.

Our new provincial office is a large open space where all our staff can be together in one place. We moved in December 2014 and it took many months until most of the renovations and unpacking was done. Staff collaboration has increased and the office is a hive of activity. We discovered that Guiders are very serious about not wasting anything and there were boxes and boxes of "treasures" that turned out not to be treasures. Our wonderful Archive committee members, other volunteers and our staff Archivist, Katey Watson have done a superb job of working through what really should be kept and what could be let go. If you have a chance to visit our Archives please do so. It is a real testament to our past. In October, Ontario Council was awarded the Toronto Heritage Award for the work that was done. Well done to all who were involved.

In reorganizing some department functions at our office, we developed a Marketing/Communications department. You may have seen some of our ads at Tim Horton's or in Owl and Chickadee. We are becoming more strategic in targeting our marketing to get the best results for the costs involved. Twice a week, Guiders receive GuideON, a weekly eNewsletter with general news on Tuesdays and Events news on Fridays. Parents also receive their own version every other Thursday. This was in response to comments we heard from Guiders about the number of emails they receive. By standardizing the publishing time, we hope Guiders will watch for their weekly eNews and not be inundated with separate mailings. An online Advisory group was started to get feedback on topics of interest and the response has been fantastic. As well, our Membership department is moving quickly to move our PMBRs (Potential Members) to full status as Guiders and placed in units. Our partnership with Access Alliance gives a Guiding experience to girls who otherwise would not be able to participate.

Our units have been busy. Many participated in the Goodwill challenge to provide clothing and items they were no longer using to others who could use them. With Mosaic coming in the summer of 2016, many units engaged in fundraising activities. Our unit at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto, received the Chief Commissioner's Bursary to help fund the unit so young people in the hospital could participate in programming during their stay.

As at every Annual General Meeting, we say goodbye and thanks for a job well done to some volunteers and welcome new ones to the team. This year we said goodbye to Laurie Forbes, Deputy Provincial Commissioner, Administration. Laurie had been on the Council as an Elected Member before assuming the role of Deputy where she did a outstanding job working with the ACLs, Community Guiders and staff. Retiring Council Members were Barbara Nott, Jillian Ashick-Stinson, Michelle Donaldson Rouleau and Sarah Chadwick (who moved to the United States). Many thanks to these Guiders for all they have done to promote Guiding in Ontario and Nunavut. We welcomed Kris McGee as Deputy Provincial Commissioner, Administration and Elected Members Paula Sanderson, Sabrina Francescut and Jackie Adams. Michelle Donaldson Rouleau was re-elected to finish Sarah's term.

In November, we had another inspiring Super Program event for Sparks Guiders and Trainers. As Disney no longer presents sessions, we had Mark Collard, one of Australia's most experienced and qualified experiential consultants in the world as our keynote presenter. His topic was "Serious Fun: a step-by-step guide to leading fun programs". Laughter and a positive buzz permeated all his sessions.

We had an increase in membership with many new members. Unfortunately, we did not meet our goal of retaining 70% of our girls. We did have a number of girls on a waiting list as many units were filled to capacity. We certainly are the activity of choice and are known for our inclusive programming. This has brought some challenges as costs to support some of our girls increased and some Guiders felt they did not have the necessary training to provide the help and modification of activities that was needed. In response to this need, we developed an Accessibility task group who are consulting with Guiders and providing resources.

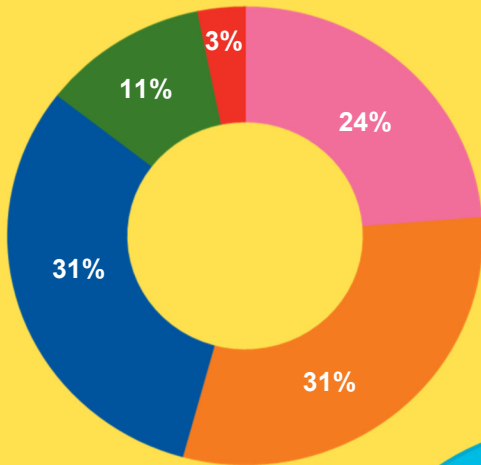
Our financial viability continues to be a concern. It necessitated a reduction in staff. This was an extremely difficult decision to make and it was handled by our Executive Director and HR Manager with sensitivity and respect. It impacted all staff and they are to be commended on how well they handled the changes, hurt and anxiety. Our camp properties and remaining buildings are aging and we are constantly faced with costly repairs. A Beyond 2015 task group has begun a study of the viability of our camp properties. More families are requesting subsidies for membership and camping. Costs are increasing for most things and more cut backs in expenditures will be needed. Increased membership and cookie sales can help to offset this, but creative sources of more funding are needed.

Over the past year, the National Governance Review Task Force (GRTF) has been working on ways to make the structure of the Organization more consistent across the country and to be more efficient. A volunteer led-staff managed model has been adopted and work has begun on defining what this means. At the provincial level, there will definitely be some changes to our way of work. We discussed this at the Fall Forum where we looked at different structural models. All admin positions will now have a three year term beginning in June 2016. For Ontario it means we can have up to 3 Deputies, 1-3 Elected Members (one of whom is designated responsible for Youth), a Risk Management and Compliance Adviser, a Girl Engagement Coordinator (overseeing Program, Camping and International) and a Member Support Coordinator (overseeing Training, Membership and PR/Communications) and Area Commissioners (not in Ontario). The Treasurers elected annually and oversees Cookies. In the new model, the role of Deputy is being redefined. We are working on transitioning to this model.

Our Girl Forum has been very active. I cannot sing their praise loudly enough. Ashley Hughes, our Deputy Provincial Commissioner, Girl Forum has been a great supporter, adviser and mentor for the girls who run the Forum. Our future is in great hands. Our team of ACLs, ACL Advisers, Advisers and Council Members give so much of their time, energy and passion to the administration and operations functions. Our Unit Guiders provide dynamic programming for thousands of girls on a weekly basis and spend many extra hours providing enriching experiences in camping, travel and extra events. Our Guiders who do not have a unit, contribute much to support Guiding in a variety of ways. Our staff go above and beyond on a daily basis to ensure things run well. Many, many thanks to all of you for making Guiding run so well in Ontario and Nunavut! Together we are a strong diverse team, delivering Guiding in many ways to many members.

Turn over to check out 2015!

Our Members

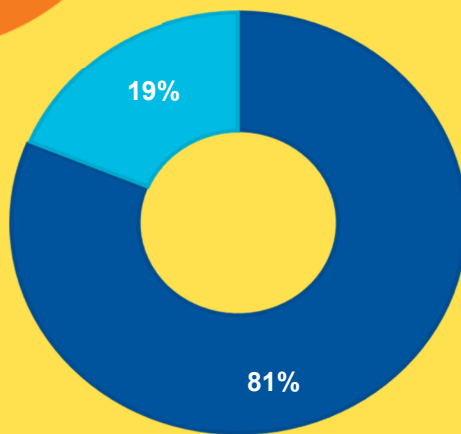


30,815
Girl Members

Sparks	7,312
Brownies	9,405
Guides	9,634
Pathfinders	3,476
Rangers	981

8,186
Adult Members

New	1,537
Returning	6,649



Our Programs

Cookies

SPRING

105,110 cases sold by 30,000+ girls
Average 3.43 cases/girl
Average 48.89 cases per unit

FALL

91,189 cases sold by 30,000+ girls
Average 2.96 cases/girl
Average 43.32 cases per unit

Camping

Summer Residential Camps: 1,658 girls
Summer Day Camps: 690 girls
Other Seasonal programs: 213 girls

Campership

Summer Residential Camps: 267 girls
Summer Day Camps: 63 girls
Other Seasonal programs: 58 girls

Events

LOCAL GIRL EVENTS

83 events, 7,169 girl participants

ADULT TRAININGS

172 trainings, 1,165 participants

Travel

INTERNATIONAL

239 girls and 68 adults

INTERPROVINCIAL

73 girls and 21 adults

Subsidies

4,537 girl recipients

Scholarships

4 girl recipients

1 adult recipient

Our Units



2,102
Units in Ontario

Trex/Extra Ops Units	26
Ranger Units	102
Pathfinder Units	255
Guiding Units	235
Guide Units	513
Brownie Units	506
Spark Units	465

