



Coastlines

January 2015



NEWSLETTER OF GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA – NS COUNCIL

Caroling at St. Vincent's by Doreen Pilon, Timberlea-Prospect District

For the past 4 years Leaders from Timberlea-Prospect District (Harbourside) along with their Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders have come together to sing Christmas Carols for the residents of St. Vincent's Nursing Home in Halifax. This year was our best turnout of girls ever. With over 60 members of Guiding in attendance, even the residents who are no longer verbal, or mobile, perk up when they see the girls and hear the songs. They seem to especially enjoy the "Guiding" songs that we sneak in between the Carols. It does my heart good to see all the girls singing for the residents who may not have anyone around at Christmas time.



Pathfinders Spread Holiday Cheer by Alicia Gordon, Sydney Mines

Pathfinders

1st Sydney Mines Pathfinders were Santa's elves at the Northside Community Guest Home children's Christmas party. They began the evening helping the children make ornaments and then they moved onto making gingerbread houses. All were waiting the arrival of Santa. Our Pathfinder elves assisted Santa in his delivery of goodies for everyone in attendance. It was a great evening and they were such great little elves.



Brownies Adopt Christmas Family

by Betty-Lou Snook, Tri-County District

The 1st Tri County Brownies along with the assistance of the 1st Tri County Pathfinders participated in the Adopt a Family Project this Christmas and sponsored a local family in our area. The support from the girls and parents was amazing and we managed to get everything on the list provided to us by our local food bank, The Caring and Sharing. In total 8 boxes of food and gifts were dropped off for the family to provide them with a wonderful Christmas.

Community Service in Colchester District by Colchester District

Colchester District Girl Guides lent a hand recently at a Community Pack A Box for Operation Christmas Child. Girls from 2nd Bible Hill Pathfinders, 3rd Bible Hill Guides and Commissioners were stationed at various tables during the day event. They could bring items if they wished, but were encouraged to pack a box from one of the many tables of supplies. The girls managed two tables during the day, assisting the public where ever needed. The event was organized by two local community leaders who wanted to give the community the opportunity to participate and to increase awareness to the project.



Exciting Times for Guiding in Nova Scotia by Jo Swinimer, Membership Support and Community Development

As I have mentioned in previous membership articles, we have targets for growth, set by National. Girl Guides of Canada (and hopefully all our members) want to see Guiding grow and flourish. Our 2013-14 target was exceeded with a total of 4424 girls registered by January 31st, 2014. We were just under target (1072) with our adult membership of 1068. Our 2014-15 target is 4488 girls, and 1091 adults. Census (our final count) is January 31st.

At time of writing, we have over 4660 girls and 1130 adults registered.

There are many reasons for the increase of nearly 250 girls and 60 adults this year. We have Guiding in new places, like St Mary's and Ingonish. We have units that increased capacities to accommodate more girls. We have Districts such as Canal, Ocean View, and St. Margaret's Bay that knew after running projected membership numbers, they just had to add more units... these districts each added 3 or more units to deal with ever growing interest in their programs.

I love my job. I enjoy helping parents learn about our organization. I love watching our numbers grow. I love listening to parents tell me what Guiding has done for their girl! On the other hand, it is disheartening telling

parents that we have no place for their potential Spark or Brownie. I would like to think, in 2015, that we could find a space for every girl who wants to join us.

It is hard to believe that now, in January, I've already switched my mindset to Sept 2015, and how we can once again show such growth. In the coming months, we will be working with Membership Advisers and District/Area Commissioners to identify areas of potential growth. We will also be looking for more people at the grassroots level to help with our Membership Development. Talk to your Area Membership Adviser if you want to get involved.

SAVE THE DATE!

[2015 Guider Conference](#) - November seems a long way away; however, now is the time for units, Districts, Areas to start thinking and planning ahead.

Guider Conference 2015 will be held November 6 - 8, 2015 in Truro. Registration will be limited to Registered adult members, Rangers and Transitioning Members. Space is limited to 200, so keep watch for updates and registration information coming this Spring!

[Kanada 50th Celebration](#) - **Saturday June 6, 2015** Please come and help us celebrate! A day event is being planned.. stay tuned for more information!

Kentville Guides Community Service, by [Sonja Bent, Kentville Guides](#)

The 1st Kentville Guides in NS had a sleepover on November 15, 2014 where they worked on a project as part of their work toward earning their Community Service Badge of Going Global.

Each Guide brought in items that were all combined and sorted into gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child, a project that delivers much needed items to children around the world at Christmas. They helped to pack the boxes and then presented them to local Trefoil Guild Members who would then donate the boxes to a local church on our units behalf for distribution.



It was a wonderful experience for the girls to help recognize how little it takes for each of us to contribute and make a great difference in the lives of others.



Bridging Makes a Difference by Barb Joncas, Shoreline District

The Lawrencetown Guides joined the Shoreline District Rangers to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Rangers went to a local store to purchase items needed. With tables overflowing with items, they were able to meet their goal of twenty-five boxes, although some girls brought their own boxes to add to the pile. They put together bead craft bags, bags of candy, socks, hair accessories, tools, toys, etc. They filled boxes for boys and girls aged 5 – 15. Girls chose a box and filled the boxes while chatting, joking and enjoying the bridging time. Great job girls!



Sparks Enjoy Cheerleading! By Lynn Parsons

2nd Carter Sparks having fun trying cheerleading. Caitlin Juntermanns, Spark leader, is a member of Elite cheer. She made bows for the girls hair and the girls made Pom poms for a craft and we said Gimmee an "S" "P" "A" "R" "K" "S"..... GO SPARKS!!!



A Special Thanks by Trailblazers Trefoil Guild

Lynn Baltzer receiving a beautiful dolphin brooch and large chocolate bar for "Keeping The Spirit Alive" in Guiding. Presented to Lynn by Evelyn Hannam, acting president as our president was away on vacation.



Program News by Mary Louise Johnson, Provincial Program Adviser.

CWWF(Canadian World Friendship Fund) - Does your unit collect money for CWWF? How do you keep the girls engaged when discussing where CWWF monies go? Do you collect all year long, or just in February? Provincial International and Program Advisories have a challenge for you, just in time for Thinking Day!! Submit pictures, write ups, etc to Program@girlguides.ns.ca of your unit's involvement in CWWF fundraising, and we will reward the unit with the most imaginative initiative with some INTERNATIONAL SWAG!!!! Remember, we aren't looking for most money raised, but the most creative fundraising effort. Deadline for submission is March 1st, 2015. Good luck, can't wait to see what you come up with. We will be sharing your ideas on our website so next year everyone has lots of CWWF fundraising ideas from which to choose.

Winter Fun - Don't let the cold weather and snow get you down! Why not take the girls snowshoeing as a fun, outdoor activity? Not only does it get everyone into the fresh air and enjoying nature, but it also counts towards many interest badges and program content. Don't have snowshoes? Guide House, local schools, recreation departments all offer lending of snowshoes, as well, on the Hike N.S. webpage there is a listing of other organizations willing to lend or rent them. Can't wait to see pictures via facebook and twitter of girls across the province enjoying snowshoeing. Here's the website: www.hikenovascotia.ca . [@GGCNovaScotia](https://www.facebook.com/GGCNS)



Ontario Super Guide Program by Mary Louise Johnson and Caira Clark

In November, we attended Super Program for Guide Guiders, a conference hosted by Ontario Girl Guides in Toronto. Here are some ideas that we learned that you might like to try with your Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders, or Rangers!

Arts & Crafts from the Four World Centres: Try to make peace cranes using origami, which could tie into the International Day for Peace on September 21. Another idea, which was the one that everyone seemed to enjoy the most, was using henna to make tattoos.

Camping ABCs: Learn the best clothing choices for wet and cold weather. Try testing different materials with the girls: cotton, jean, polyester, wool, and splash pants material; lay them over the edge of a shallow pan partly filled with water. Wait 10 minutes and see which materials were the wettest. Girls can do this one, or leaders completing OAL.

Community Service: A great resource for community service projects (and other program work) is Youth & United Nations Global Alliance (<http://yunga-youth.weebly.com/>). They have seven challenges for girls to take action on biodiversity, climate change, food security, forests, the ocean, soils or water. The badges are available from WAGGGS.

Cookies: Build a giant board game to learn safe cookie selling practices. On index cards or sheets of paper, write practices like “You take an adult with you. Move forward 3 spaces” or “You go into a stranger’s house. Move back 1 space.” Then lay them out on the floor so that the girls can be the game pieces.

Environmental Awareness: Try making sound maps. Go outside and have the girls spread out with pencils and paper. Have the girls mark an X at the centre of the page to represent where they are sitting. Have them close their eyes and listen. When they hear a sound, they mark a symbol on the page to represent where it happened. For example, they could draw wavy lines for the wind. After 10 minutes, talk about what they heard.

Leadership Development: Remember the Triple Try Rule: you try, have a friend try, then ask the leader. Always praise their efforts but don’t give the expected answers. If they ask “Where should I put my garbage?” say “That’s a good question. Where should we put garbage?” You can also give them responsibilities like taking attendance for themselves, having them in charge of opening activities, and assigning tidy up tasks.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math: Here’s an easy activity to show girls how cool science can be without needing a lab: using regular alkaline AA batteries and a string of Christmas lights that are cut apart so that everyone has two bulbs, you can make the bulbs light up. It creates lots of discussion and questions about electricity.

Outdoors: The focus of this session was getting girls active outside without special equipment. Foot tag or finger (sword) tag are great warming up exercises that don’t need special equipment. Inuit Games are especially good for this time of year and covers cultural and historical programming if you provide the girls with some history.

Added bonuses were the two sets of key speakers. First, Amy from the Disney Institute spoke about how we can make a difference as leaders. One of the best tips that she gave is the necessity to focus on the details that make Girl Guides different and that are most important to our success. For example, if we emphasize elements like communication, preparedness, and the sisterhood, we’ll be better as an organization and as Unit Guiders.

Second, Canadian female Olympic hockey players and double-gold medalists Cheryl Pounder and Becky Kellar shared their experiences and successes. They spoke about how, as leaders, we form a team that must work well together to deliver great programming to the girls. Trust and determination go a long way with any goal in our lives, not just in Guiding.

Thank you to Nova Scotia Provincial Council for sending us on this great learning opportunity, and Ontario Provincial Council for inviting us. We look forward to sharing more programming ideas with you in the future!