

the leader

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Celebrate Your Heritage!

'ROUND THE WORLD • STAY STREETWISE

Come Celebrate Canada!

by Andy McLaughlin

Flag Day (February 15), Heritage Day (February 17) and Citizenship Week (February 10-17) provide excellent opportunities for Scouting youth to learn more about their own heritage and culture. This year also marks the 50th Anniversary of Canada's Citizenship Act. When your group is celebrating these heritage events, don't forget to include cultural traditions from other countries.

Spaceship Planet Earth

Modern communications technologies and increased migration between countries mean a continually shrinking planet. Today, you can meet, and communicate with, people from all over the world through phones, faxes and the Internet. Countries are forming larger co-operative trading blocks, and many corporations operate in more than one country. Nations, including Canada, are populated by people from a wide variety of cultures.

Respecting and understanding different traditions are vital keys to success in this global village. Give youth in your group a head start by helping them understand the important Scouting values of peace, respect and tolerance.

Where do you begin?

Lynn Johnson provides some excellent program ideas in her article, "United We Stand... Tall!"

You could also surf the World Wide Web to discover vibrant and interesting cultures. The Yahoo!igans Around the World search engine (http://www.yahoo!igans.com/Around_the_World) links to many youth-oriented sites around the world. From this site, you can visit Australia's Capital City (Canberra), sing along with Japanese songs, and try mouth-watering recipes of Middle Eastern delicacies.

Peace, respect and tolerance: important Scouting principles.

Libraries and community centres can also provide excellent multicultural program ideas.

Along with hosting a world-wide cultural mosaic, Canada is home to many interesting and vivacious regional cultures. From the farms of the Prairies, to the First Nations Reserves of Northern Ontario, to the fishing

villages of the Atlantic Provinces, our country contains many unique cultures. This year, Heritage Day celebrates the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Learn more about the fascinating people of Canada's most eastern province by turning to page 4.

A poster/activity guide insert also contains many ideas to bring heritage alive for young people of all ages.

Street-Proof your Youth

Do your Beavers, Cubs and Scouts know how to react if they are confronted by a stranger? Do they know what to do if they come home alone and find the door slightly ajar?

Street-proofing is an extremely important skill to learn for all young people. Because of its delicate nature, it can sometimes be a difficult subject for adults to discuss with Cubs and Scouts. In her article, "Streetwise and Safe", Susan Albrecht provides excellent tips to help youth avoid some of the dangers and obstacles they face in the '90s.

Surf to WWW.SCOUTS.CA

Be sure to visit Scouts Canada's Official Web Site. You'll find the latest information on CJ'97 in Thunder Bay, 19WJ in Chile, Trail's End Popcorn, the great news concerning membership, and more. Also, check out the **Leader** home page, which features a searchable article index for last year's magazine, as well as current articles and highlights from upcoming issues.

Bookmark the site, and keep surfing back to it for future updates and improvements. ^

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Preserve your heritage!

page 4

CALLING ALL CHUCKLEHEADS

Time for a Newfoundland and Labrador Party!

by Leslie Forward

On February 17th, Canadians everywhere will celebrate Heritage Day. This year's theme focuses on the fun-loving customs and colourful traditions of Newfoundland and Labrador. John Cabot, the great British explorer, first reached this land 500 years ago. Here are some program ideas to celebrate in true Newfie fashion.

Linguistic Detectives

Before you can play like Newfies, you've got to learn their lingo. In the early days, Newfoundland and Labrador were populated by groups of fishermen from around the world including Portugal, Ireland, England, France and Spain. Communication was sometimes difficult. *Newfinese* developed on "the Rock" as a unique vocabulary drawn from these language groups.

Now that you know the history... males are all referred to as "my son", girls are called "young maids", and everything is "some good." A "mawsy" day means it's foggy or raining.

An "angishore" (poor, lazy fellow) might be "nish" (delicate) and walk in the "land-wash" (shoreline). He might wear "vamps" (heavy woollen socks) and a "Sou'wester" (fisherman's rain hat). He might want to go "up-along" (to Ontario) for a visit, but alas doesn't have any "coppers" (pennies) in his "pocket book" (purse). Whatever his circumstances, he's sure to hope there are no "nipplers" (mosquitoes) up-along — unless he's a "chucklehead" (someone who's soft in the head).

Depending on the community, some Newfoundlanders add an "h" to every word beginning with a vowel, while

others never pronounce the "h" at the beginning of a word. So, "egg" might become "hegg", and "house" becomes "ouse".

Now that you know the code, get your Cubs and Scouts to practise it. Can they use it to stump their buddies?

One last thing me son... You've got to speak as fast as yer tongue can move.

"Any Mummies 'Loud In?"

"Mumming" (or "jannying") is a famous Newfoundland custom enjoyed during the Christmas season. It's an old-time tradition brought by Irish and



Tie a life preserver toss into your program.

"Ugly Stick"



Boat Anchor



Tiddley



English settlers. Mummers dress up in old clothing or costumes and, with faces masked, go from house to house, knocking on the door and asking, "Any mummers 'loud in?"

If they're admitted, they must entertain their hosts with song and dance while their identity is guessed. When recognized, they must remove their masks. Fruit cake, cookies and syrup are then served.

Late fall isn't the only time to dress up in costumes. Your Scouting youth will enjoy another opportunity. Let them make colourful masks, or paint their faces with bright paints. Help stuff pillows under your Cubs' shirts to try to distort their outward appearance. It's Halloween all over again!

Cast the Anchor

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians still make many traditional items on their own. One is a small homemade anchor called a "killick", which is used in small water craft. This is simply a large stone placed in a pyramid-shaped frame of sticks. A killick would make a great spring or summer camp craft as either an individual or a patrol activity. Smaller ones would be excellent paper weights.

To make a boat anchor, gather at least three (and up to five) branches 120 cm long and three shorter branches 50 cm in length. Form a pyramid with the long branches, tying off the top with rope. Make a platform for the rock with the smaller branch-

es, place a rock in the cage, then tie it off in the pyramid. (See diagram) Your killick would be perfect for anchoring canoes, sailboats or sailboards.

Paper weights can be easily formed from straws, toothpicks or twigs, thread and pebbles.

Pancake Night

Many Newfoundlanders feast on pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, just before the Lenten season. Not only is it part of their preparation for Easter, but it's an important tradition tied into their English ancestry. In Newfoundland, these flapjacks aren't just *any* pancake. Each holds an item that predicts the future. A button in your pancake means you'll be a bachelor (or maid); a dime

CELEBRATE HERITAGE DAY!

by *Hélène Anne Fortin*

Keeping your heritage alive is vital.

It's a way to build self-confidence and self-esteem in youth. It helps connect us all to our roots, strengthens our personal identity, and provides a broader base to live our lives.

This year's Heritage Day celebrates the culture and people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Strength, resilience and strong community ties constantly reappear as themes in their traditions. Like the brightly-coloured wooden houses which cling (seemingly precariously) to Newfoundland's rocky shores, these hardy and heroic people share a *joie de vivre* and undaunted optimism. That's part of their heritage.

But what is heritage?

It's anything important that you wish to hand down to the next generation. It could be as mysteriously exotic as a ghost story, as simple as an old family photograph, as treasured as a family custom, or as important as your language. Each plays an important role defining who you are.

Though we're particularly celebrating Newfoundland's and Labrador's traditions this year, look for opportunities that explore your own, and those found in your Scouting group.

Try these ideas.

- Names form part of our heritage. Where did your name originate? What about the name of your community, school, streets and parks?
- First Nations people believe that a "healthy" community is one that is "confident". What makes a confident community? Does your town fit this definition? What would make your community more confident?
- Make a map of your neighbourhood. Walk around the area. As you see specific places, try to recall important memories that happened to you there. Make a key for your map and write these memories down to preserve for a long time. Speak to friends and family members to find out if they too share memories from your special places.

- Pick some aspect of your community's tradition or heritage to publicly celebrate. Help your Beavers, Cubs or Scouts to plan and carry out the event.
- Explore the heritage of your province or region. What makes it different from other areas?

In today's world of change and pressure, we sometimes forget the importance of keeping heritage alive. Let's rediscover the importance of traditions on February 17 — Heritage Day.

Get your free copy of the Heritage Day poster and teacher's guide by writing to Heritage Canada, P.O. Box 1358, Station "B", Ottawa, ON, K1P 5R4. Tel: (613) 237-1066; fax: (613) 237-5987.

— *Hélène Anne Fortin is the Director of Youth Services with Heritage Canada.*



This year's Heritage Day poster features a painting by David Blackwood, an artist from the east coast.

foretells coming wealth; a straw predicts you'll be a housekeeper.

Organize your own pancake night. Whip up a batch with Cub and Scout help, using flour, sugar, butter and eggs. A good place to eat them is around a campfire telling stories. (See listed resources.)

Luck 'O the Irish

Islanders are often a superstitious lot. Many believe a four leaf clover brings good luck, while crossing knives on a dinner table brings bad luck. If you enter a house by one door and leave by another, you're sure to bring trouble to either yourself or the home owner.

What superstitions do your kids know about? How many are tied into their cultural traditions? Tell some of these stories around your campfire. Get Cubs and Scouts to make them into comical skits to perform.

"Shake It Up Baby!"

Newfoundlanders love music. It often has an Irish twist, but the lyrics reflect the hardships, fun and humour of everyday life. Songs like "I'se the Bye", "Jack Was Every Inch a Sailor" and "The Squid Jiggin Ground" are traditional favourites. Find the words in a library.

Plan your own campfire sing-song. Perhaps parents can provide accompaniment with tin flutes, fiddles and an accordion. Youth can join in playing on spoons held between their fingers and tapped to the beat.



Photo: Alan Macgregor

Rocks are important to Newfoundlanders. First Nations people believe that if you listen quietly, rocks will tell you stories of past history. Hold up a rock from your neighbourhood. Let your imagination listen to its story of past days.

Every Newfoundlander needs an "ugly stick." Here's how to make yours. Nail metal bottle caps loosely onto a broom handle or long stick. The caps must be able to jingle as the stick is shaken. Onto the bottom of the broom, nail an old boot or shoe. (See diagram) Decorate with ribbons and bright paint. To 'play' your ugly stick, tap it (or hit it with a shorter stick) to the beat of the music.

Steer North by Nor'west

Place names in Newfoundland and Labrador reflect the humour and heritage of the people. With a provincial map, find these places: Confusion Bay, Newfoundland Dog Pond, Blow-me-Down, Nick's Nose Cove and Joe Batt's Arm. Some names like Port aux Choix and Bay de Verde reflect French ancestry, while the name Conception Bay originates from Portuguese explorers.

Make lists of places with French names and those named after people, colours and animals. Scouts could locate the longitude and latitude of each village or town.

With a map spread out before them, get your older Cubs and Scouts to follow various compass headings to find their way to a hidden cove where schools of capelin are a-plenty. Weave an interesting story line to capture their imaginations. Start your group at an inland town, identify several roads to take to the coast, then let them figure out the compass bearings to steer to the coast and the start of their adventure voyage.

The Fishing Admiral Race

During the 1600s the fishing admiral was the captain of a ship who first entered a harbour for the summer fishing season. He would rule as the commander of that harbour for the year. By law, everyone had to return to England in the fall as year-round habitation was prohibited.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- The first nonstop, trans-Atlantic flight was made from St. John's in 1919. The pilots' names were John Alcock and Arthur Brown. Their flight took 16 hours and 27 minutes. Charles Lindburgh flew the Atlantic solo several years later.
- Labrador and Newfoundland together comprise a land mass half the size of Manitoba. Their combined coastlines extend 17,000 km. If you walked the entire coastline, it would be like walking twice the distance between St. John's and Vancouver!
- Vikings (990 AD) were the first Europeans to visit Newfoundland and Labrador. They built a settlement at L'Anse Aux Meadows on the island's northern tip. Hundreds of years later, the Portuguese, English and French came for the rich cod stocks.
- The waters off Newfoundland's east coast are called "Iceberg Alley", due to the large number of icebergs that pass by flowing south each spring. In 1912, the huge luxury oceanliner Titanic hit one of these and sunk.
- In 1866 the first successful trans-Atlantic cable was laid between Heart's Content and Ireland.

Photo: Paul D'Elia



Strike up a little tune on the recorder. Add an ugly stick or two, some shakers, and you're set for a foot-stompin' good time.



Photo: South Canada archives

Celebrate your heritage!

To play the game, divide the children into teams. They should sit on the floor, one behind the other with their legs wrapped around the person in front. The teams race up the hall on their bottoms. The person in front of the winning team/crew becomes the new fishing admiral.

Tiddley

Here's a traditional game (related to cricket and softball) which uses sticks. Divide players into teams. The person at bat uses a long stick (about 1 metre) to flick a shorter stick (about 12 cm) up into the air. The shorter stick lies across two bricks or rocks. (See diagram) The batter must hit the smaller stick while it's in the air to score a point. If a player from the other team catches the little stick, the batter and her team is "out." The catching team also scores a point.

Each batter gets two tries. Expert batters can score two points by propping the smaller stick on an angle against one brick, flicking it into the air and hitting it.

Boil the Bibby

Most important events end with a "scoff" (or feast). Share a "boil-up" at your campfire by simply putting a "bibby" (flat bottom kettle) on the open flames for strong tea. Serve sweet bread, bologna, homemade bread and beans. Ahhh.. a proper feast!

Now you can roast dried *capelin* over the flames. Toast marshmallows only if you must.

Although true Newfoundlanders love cod tongues, mainlanders might prefer a delicious serving of "toutens"

or "gandies." These are small bits of bread dough, flattened and pan-fried. (Use a bannock recipe.) Spread the hot bread with butter and molasses, and eat with baked apple jam. Cherry, raspberry or orange Purity Syrup will make a lovely drink.

A rollicking Newfie night will brighten mid-winter spirits anytime, but remember... above all it must be loud, wild and fun-filled!

By the way, I'se gotta go hand get ha yaffle hof splits to light me fire. Some good, what?

Resources

- Tom Dawe's two books, *Angishore Boo-Man and Clumper* and *Alley-Cosh, Bibby and Cark* explain Newfoundland words in pictures and rhyme.
- *Down by Jim Long's Stage* tells in silly rhymes about fishing in coastal waters.
- *Songs of the Sea*, McGraw-Hill, 1977.

— Leslie Forward is a delightful Newfie who serves on the National Program Committee.



Photo: Mary Margaret Boone

Newfoundlanders are well known for their outstanding sense of humour. A games night would set the tone for a good time.

United We Stand... Tall!

Around the world in six meetings

by Lynn Johnson

Canada was built by pioneering immigrants. Whether they came from England, France and Scotland in the 17th century, Ireland, Italy and Russia in the 19th century, or Germany, South Africa and China in the 20th, all have contributed greatly to making this one of the finest countries in the world.

In January we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Citizenship Act in Canada, while in February we look forward to Heritage Day (February 17). Let's celebrate the rich cultural tapestry we enjoy by looking at some of the countries immigrants left behind to sink new roots into Canada.

Use these ideas as a base to build a series of programs in February. Adapt the ideas slightly to fit the age requirements of youth in your group. Make the program as adventure-oriented as possible.

Phineas Fogg raced around the world in eighty days because he couldn't resist a challenge. Over-achieving Cubs sparked our own interest in world travel. We used the program not only to get to know the lives and customs of other people in this world, but also to have a great time. In the process, our Cubs earned their World Cubbing and World Conservation Badges.

TAKE OFF, EH!

Did you know that hot air ballooning just celebrated its 200th anniversary?

Launch your around the world adventure by making some colourful hot air balloons. Get some giant ones from a hobby store and fill them with helium. Decorate them with a basket and

an intrepid Phineas Fogg character. Fluttering ribbons from the balloon and basket will lend a festive mood to your meeting.

Perhaps your Beavers and Cubs would like a more permanent balloon. Make it with paper mâché. Simply blow up a balloon, then cover it completely with thin strips of newspaper dipped in a thin flour and water paste. When it dries, brightly colour the balloon with paint and sparkles. Hang strings from the balloon to a basket dangling below.

Discuss how world travel has changed over the past century. Have people changed as much? Do we still need to work together? How can you tie in a spiritual theme?

AUSTRALIA

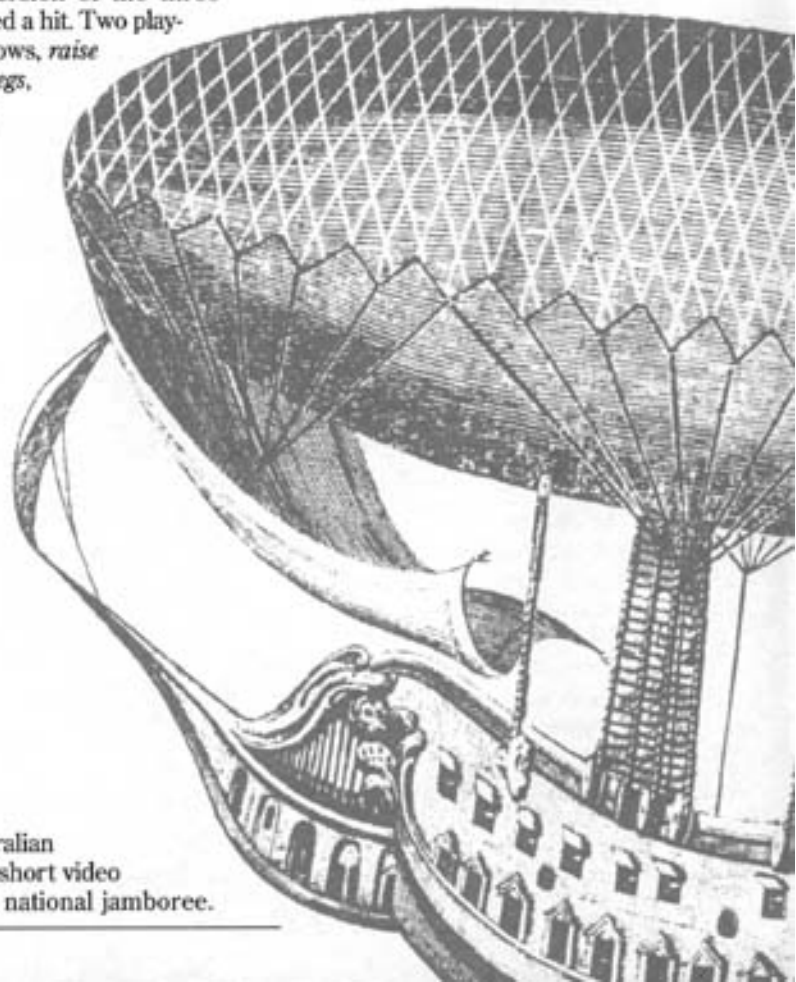
Our first stop (for two meetings) was the mysterious land "down under." An Australian version of the three-legged race proved a hit. Two players must link elbows, *raise both their inside legs*, and try walking on their two outside legs.

It's a real test of teamwork, balance and strength.

Another Australian game followed a short video of an Australian national jamboree.

This game involved placing your trust in several team members who called out directions as you walked blindfolded through a maze. At the end of the maze was an object to pick up and return to the starting point. Run this game as a race between other sixes — just so your team won't call out wrong directions.

"Swagman sticks" (a rhythm instrument) became a great 'hit' of the evening after our Cubs made the craft. All you need to do is nail bottle caps in two's and three's on sticks so the caps rattle together when the stick strikes the ground. The more caps, the better the sound. Our Cubs pounded away enthusiastically, each producing his own unique melodic creation. We sang an energetic (and noisy!) version of *Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport*, banging the sticks in time. It sounded



great. You might want to try singing Australia's national anthem, *Waltzing Matilda*.

A guest from our local zoo came to lead a discussion about Australian animals on our second night. (You might substitute the National Geographic video, *Australia's Improbable Animals*).

Pictures of platypuses, dingos, koala bears and a newborn kangaroo climbing into its mothers' pouch captured the attention of our Cubs. Next, Raksha improvised a game in which everyone had to imitate the movements and sounds of Australian animals — a great hit!

If you're going to run this program outside your group would enjoy a pogo stick (kangaroo) or stilts (flamingo) relay race.

Australia is a hot continent with deserts and lizards. Why not include a short discussion on warm weather first aid? Dehydration is a problem even during the winter. Spend some time talking about how to avoid it.

CHINA

Our meeting night and the Chinese New Year coincided. We completed our special activities in small groups. At one station, the Cubs identified their own animal in the Chinese horoscope, and cut it out of gold paper to paste with their horoscope on red paper. (See the *Leader's* January 1995 issue for Chinese New Year ideas.) At

another station,
our Cubs
cut out



Photo: South Canada archive

Dressing up is always fun. Ask a parent to teach swirling dances from her native country.

dragons designed to twirl on the end of a bamboo skewer when held in the wind (or hot air vent). They also listened to a Chinese legend called *The Dragon's Pearl*.

Chinese food is renowned for its great taste and popularity so at the third station, our Cubs cooked a delicious stir fry, put it on rice, and ate with chopsticks — a souvenir to take home. Later, as they left the meeting, everyone received red and gold envelopes similar to the type Chinese children get with lucky money inside. (Ours were filled with Chinese candy.)

ENGLAND

Great Britain was our next port of call. This meeting included two games — both incredible successes — learned from an English pack. In the first, our pack formed a circle, holding hands around a chair. Moving rapidly clockwise, Cubs tried to *gently* force others next to them to brush up against the chair. Those who touched the chair, or let go of another child's hands, were eliminated.

Line your pack up in sixes for the next game. Each Cub must put his left hand between his legs and grasp the right hand of the child behind. The Cub standing at the head of each line must now attempt to tag the Cub standing at the back of the next line.

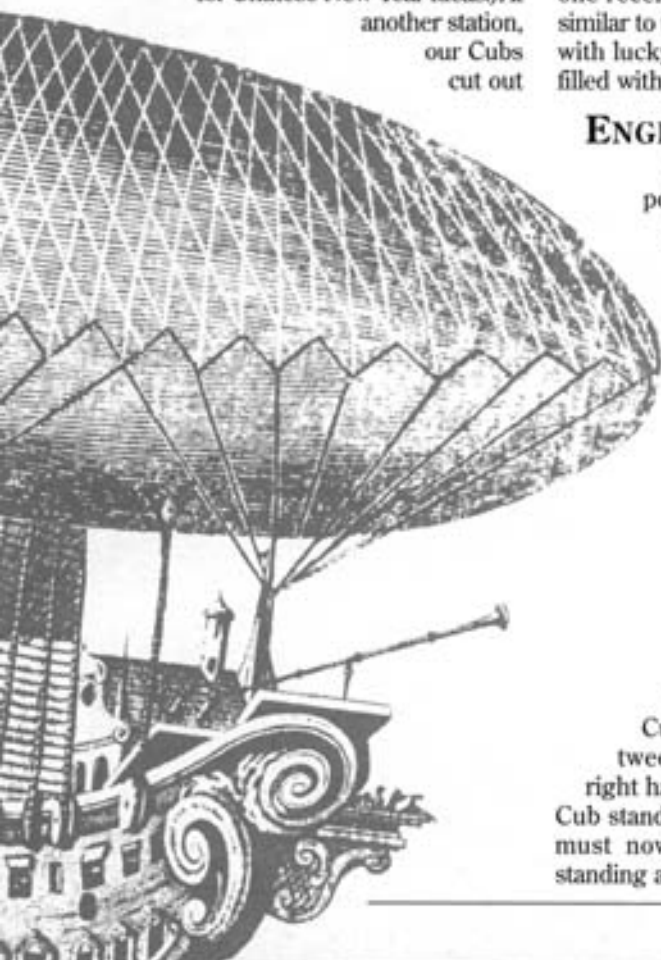
Include guessing games about British terms, such as lorry, brolly, pram, and jumper. A recent English immigrant may be able to provide you with more funny expressions. Great fun! We ended our evening with fish and chips.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- A Chinese explorer, Hui-Shen, may have been the first person to discover Canada in 499. His description matches British Columbia's west coast. Hui-Shen named this land "Fusang."
- In 1991, Canada's immigrants came from more than 150 countries.
- Britain almost traded Canada to France in 1761 for the tiny Caribbean island of Guadeloupe.
- The first known Portuguese settlement in Canada dates back to the years 1510-25. This was almost 100 years before Samuel de Champlain established Quebec City.

Use these ideas and facts to explore how other countries and nationalities have helped build Canada. Find the countries on a map; get to know something about them.

** *The Great Canadian Trivia Book*, by Mark Kearney and Randy Ray (Hounslow Press), has many interesting facts that you can weave into Scouting programs.



WORLD SCOUTING

After talking about the beginning and growth of Scouting at our World Scouting meeting, we played some games from the *Wolf Cub's Handbook*. (The earliest Cubs would have played these.) Next we talked about what we like best about Cubbing, and coloured posters illustrating our activities.

We made up a Kim's game using Scouting items from around the world, including U.S. Scout crests, a British Beaver uniform, badges from Hong Kong, and a woggle from a Welsh Jamboree.

Why don't you make flags from around the world and learn several words of greeting in foreign languages?

Do any children in your group know other languages? Perhaps they can teach you how to greet others (e.g. *Buenos Dias* means "hello" in Spanish, *Spah-see-bah* means "thank you" in Russian).

Before heading home we watched an excellent video called "Together" (available through council offices). It showed how World Brotherhood money supports Third World countries by funding literacy programs, paying for tree planting, and helping to save babies dying from dehydration. The video sparked many questions. Because the Cubs wanted to support this work, we agreed to send the week's dues to the World Brotherhood Fund.

West Indies

We started the West Indies evening by showing a film on Jamaica. It in-



Photo: Paul Dick

Dutch people are known for their skating prowess. How many events can you plan outside for a Dutch program?

cluded footage of a clamorous carnival with many beautiful costumes. Naturally our Cubs wanted to stage their own mid-winter carnival.

With calypso music playing in the background, we made masks and designed exciting costumes full of glitter, feathers and ribbons. It didn't take much prompting to start our boisterous Cub Caribana Parade. What a blast! We finished the evening by singing songs and eating Jamaican beef patties.

Plan your own around the world tour. Not only will it lift everyone's

spirits during winter's dark months, but it will underline the cultural richness found in Canada. ^

— Lynn Johnson is a very busy Cub leader in Greater Toronto Region, ON.

Program Links

Cubs: World Cubbing Badge, World Conservation Badge, Handicraft Badge, Canadian Heritage Badge, Aboriginal Awareness Badge, Team Player Badge, Purple Star.
Scouts: Modeller Badge, Entertainer Badge.



Photo: David Williams

A Mexican Night could include making a pinata and tasting zesty Mexican food. Wear campfire blankets for ponchos.

Mid-Winter YUK YUKS

Are January blues starting to get you down? Then, it must be time for a Joke Night!

Beaver, Cubs and Scouts all have favourite jokes or comical skits cooking in their minds. Now is the time to encourage them to dig their best ones out. Ask each child to tell one joke. Get a small group to tell one, but they must leave out the punch line. Then either the audience has to guess it, or the group must act it out.

Scouter Tim Leitch of the 10th Whitby Cubs, Ontario, says, "We run a joke evening almost every night. Several Cubs know in advance that they must share one. We use it to build up public speaking skills and confidence in our youth."

Your group could do the same. Here are some jokes and skits other Scouters have used in their program.

Q: "What's the difference between broccoli and boogers?"

A: "Beavers don't eat broccoli."
— *Debbie Begin, 1st Stittsville Colony, Ontario.*

One evening during a winter camp, we were boiling water over the fire. A leader told a Scout in our group to put the water back on the fire.... So he did. The fire fizzled out!
— *Bob Sagers, Montreal, PQ.*

A Beaver colony was in the front row watching a "live" TV show. The announcer, seeing all the uniforms, came over with her cameraman to talk with them.

"What are you?" she said to the first.

"I'm a Beaver," came the reply.

"And what do Beavers eat?" asked the announcer.

"Oh, bark, twigs... that sort of thing."

Moving down the line, she asked the same questions to other brown-vested children.

At the end of the row, the announcer was surprised to find another child

(Keo) in a different uniform. "What are you?" she asked.

"I'm a Wolf Cub," answered Keo in a loud voice.

"And what do you eat?"

Glancing down the row with a surly grin, Keo shouted out, "Beavers!!"

— *Don Bell, 4th Kanata Scouts, ON.*

Our pack mascot, a large golden retriever, spent all weekend at camp chasing squirrels, chipmunks and raccoons.

"Why does he do that?" asked many Cubs. "He has his own dog kibble, biscuits, and lots of our leftovers."

"It's simple," one Cub said. "He just likes fast food!"

— *Andrew Bell, 4th Kanata Venturers, Ontario.*

The grandson of Lord Baden-Powell was meeting with young Scouts at CJ'85. After several minutes, one little chap said hesitantly, "I'm pleased to meet you, but... I thought you were dead."

— *Bob Sagers, Montreal, PQ.*

Until the age of fourteen or fifteen, a youth is a Boy Scout. Then, sometimes overnight, he becomes a determined girl scout!

— *Adrian Camfield, Kanata, ON.*

Q: What's the difference between Beaver leaders and wine?

A: Wine matures with age.

— *Lauri Cunningham, 7th Thornhill Beavers, ON.*

During a Scout meeting, three youth reluctantly admitted that they had not done their good turn yet that day. Their leader gently reprimanded them and suggested that the day still hadn't ended. The Scouts raced out of the meeting and returned out of breath minutes later, triumphantly.

"What did you do?" asked their Scouter.

"I helped a little old lady across the street," said the first. The second and third said they had helped carry out the good deed.

"Three of you to help a little old lady across the street?!" the Scouter questioned. "Why did it take all of you?"

"Well..." they said, glancing at each other nervously, "she really didn't want to go."

— *Adrian Camfield, Kanata, ON.*

Send Us Your Jokes!

If you (or your Scouting kids) have a good joke, comical skit or rap song, share it with us. We'll tell it to other Leader readers, giving you the credit.



"Hey. Did you hear the one about...?"

Photo: Paul Birch

Streetwise and Safe

Give your Scouting group a confidence boost

by Susan Albrecht

Today's young people are growing up fast. Eager to do more on their own, venture farther from home, and take on greater responsibility, some may unknowingly put themselves into dangerous situations. Here are some interesting, fun, positive reinforcement ideas to remind your Cubs to play it safe. Many activities are readily adapted for Scouts.

Focus your streetsmart program on developing strategies Cubs and Scouts can use to keep themselves safe. When presenting this subject, do so in a positive, non-threatening manner. Explain ideas clearly, so youth don't get overly concerned.

Young people must be allowed to react assertively when faced with situations that make them feel uneasy or uncomfortable. But, at the same time, they must learn to cooperate with adults (parents, teachers) in non-threatening situations. It's a tricky balance for children aged 8-12 to achieve. Role playing and practising will reinforce the appropriate times for each type of behaviour. These can help instill a healthy sense of control and power in your group members.

The following activities will also help youth take greater responsibility for their own protection when they find themselves in situations away from parents or other trusted adults. Knowing what to do, what not to do, and how to avoid getting into dangerous positions, will reduce risks to them.

Home Safe!

Before playing this game, brainstorm with your Cubs, getting them to name safe places in their neighbourhood. If they have trouble making a list, give several scenarios of possibly threatening situations. Then ask them:



Photo: Paul Ritch

Look for creative ways to get your message across. Let a puppet speak for you.

Where would the closest safe place in the community be? Write each answer down on separate pieces of paper.

After they have given you all their suggestions, add to it from this list: home, block parent homes (get a sign if possible), schools, churches, fire station, library. Discuss each choice. Then place the papers all around the Cubs, who sit in the middle. Call out the various places (e.g. home, doctor's office) and get your Cubs to race to the correct spot, shouting "Home Safe" when they arrive. After playing this game for a while, start calling out possible threatening scenarios. Now your Cubs must choose where they think they should go. There might be several correct answers for each situation; take time to allow Cubs to explain their choices.

Community Walk

Walk around your community and point out safe places. Identify Block Parent homes, stores, offices, doctor's offices, and all choices from the Home Safe game. Emphasize that these would be places they could go if they felt sick, had fallen, or needed other help. Don't over-stress the threat from strangers.

Making Cubs aware of all the "safe" places in their community will instill a greater sense of security in them. Even though they may be alone or with their friends, they know they will have access to a sympathetic stranger if they need it.

If you aren't able to explore your community, bring in a map of the neighbourhood and ask your Cubs to mark all the safe places. Doing this in sixes might make it more personal.

Latch Key Kids

A Cub living in either rural or city areas may arrive home and find an intruder in her home. Review what to do under these circumstances. Signs of a stranger might include:

- door left open or unlocked when it's usually locked,
- lights off when they should be on,
- a broken window,
- drawers or objects scattered around the room,
- items missing (television, stereo, computer)

Ask your Cubs: "If you think a stranger is in your home, what should

you do?" Stress that Cubs should *never* enter a home if they think an intruder might be inside. If they discover signs of an intruder after they're inside, they should *leave immediately*.

Tell them that if a parent is at home, to find him or her (e.g. in a barn/field/garden), or, if a parent isn't home, go to the neighbours. If Cubs live too far from a neighbour, they should stay out of the house and go to a shed/barn for shelter, or back out to the road to wait.

Seek ideas from your Cubs. Challenge them to discuss with their parents what they should do, and make arrangements with neighbours, if necessary. Follow up next week with a brief review.

Emphasize that Cubs should tell an adult immediately if they suspect an intruder is nearby. A Cub's job is to stay safe, so their parents don't worry about them.

Act It Out

Invite your Cubs to share stories of intrusions that they have heard. Discuss what others did right, and what they did wrong. (Make sure leaders have heard all the stories beforehand as a way to keep this part of the evening under strict control.)

Prepare small scenarios that Cubs can discuss and act out. Break into small drama groups so they can practise and perform their scenarios for each other. Make sure the scenarios are *not* violent. This can get out of hand quickly and scare everyone.

Phone Alone

Children should never tell a stranger on the telephone that they are alone. Cubs should always be truthful, but sometimes (for their own safety) they may need to withhold information. If they answer the phone and don't recognize the voice, children should say that their parents are busy, or in the shower, or making supper. Then Cubs should ask for the caller's name and phone number.

Another alternative: just let the phone, or doorbell, ring without answering it. But what if it's mommy or daddy calling? Children love secret codes. Tell them to devise a secret family telephone code. For instance, the parent could let the phone ring twice, hang up and then call back. When the Cub hears the special ring, he'll know it's a parent and that it's safe to answer.

Keep a list of important numbers beside the phone in case of emergency. Bring to your meeting several telephone

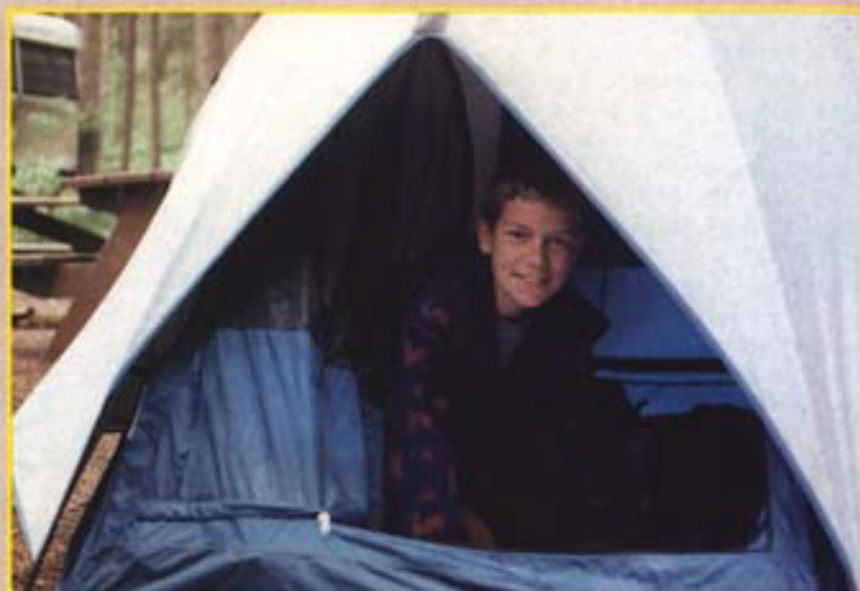


Photo: ©Dor Colquhoun "70" Ventures

Teach Cubs and Scouts to live safely in both urban and wilderness settings.

books; let your Cubs make out an emergency phone list. Not only will this give them practice using a phone book, but they'll also become familiar with the numbering system. Cubs might want to make their own emergency list to keep beside their home telephone. (See sidebar next page for ideas.)

Good Etiquette and More

Arrange for Cubs to receive a call from another parent or volunteer, asking to speak to the child's mom or dad (who isn't home). Make sure each Cub knows this is a practice session. Beforehand, review phone etiquette, and ensure each child knows what he's going to say. This practice will let Cubs gain experience and confidence if a real-life call occurs.

I Have the Right...

Without frightening anyone, talk to your Cubs about safe ways to deal with strangers. Strangers can approach them anywhere — at home, in shopping malls, on the street, in the playground. Cubs have to learn to trust their instincts in situations. If they feel uneasy or uncomfortable, then leaders should encourage them to deal with it as they think best.

Emphasize these points. Cubs have the right to:

- say no to unwanted touching or affection,
- say no to an adult's inappropriate demands or requests,
- withhold information that could jeopardize their safety,
- refuse gifts from strangers,

- be rude or unhelpful if the situation warrants it,
- run, scream, and make a scene if they think they are at risk,
- physically fight off unwanted advances,
- ask for help.

CHILD SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Never accept rides from anyone unless your parent okays it.
- Don't take unfamiliar short-cuts to, or from, school.
- Never enter your home if something looks wrong — door open, window broken.
- Call a parent as soon as you get home.
- Have a backup person to call in case of emergency. Know the person's phone number.
- Have clear instructions for answering the phone or door. Practise until you're comfortable with them.
- Post emergency telephone numbers near the phone.

(This list taken from a Canada Safety Council booklet called *Children Home Alone*.)

Scenarios: Take Your Pick

These scenarios will spark some interesting discussions. Read them aloud, then ask your Cubs to respond. Try organizing this activity in small groups, each managed by an adult leader. Cubs will feel at ease to answer and give more personal input.

1. What if an older child hangs around your school and tries to give pills to younger students. What should you do?
 - a) Tell your teacher.
 - b) Tell your parents.
 - c) Stay away from the person with the pills.
2. What if someone comes to you, saying that your mom is sick and has asked him to take you home (or to school, or to the hospital)? What should you do?
 - a) If at school, go to the principal or your teacher for assistance or verification.
 - b) If at home or somewhere else, call the emergency number previously decided upon, for assistance or verification.
 - c) Do not go anywhere without verification from someone in authority whom you have been told to trust.
3. You are walking to school in the rain. A car stops and the driver asks you if you want a ride. What should you do?
 - a) Stay away from the car. Don't get close to it to answer.
 - b) Unless you have your parent's per-



Photo: Jim Robson

Set your program up in a relaxed, non-threatening environment. The purpose is to educate, not scare.

- a) mission to ride with the person, say, "No, thank you!" If the driver persists, yell out, "NO!!" and run quickly away.
 - b) Tell your teacher when you get to school and tell your parent when you get home. Try to remember what the car looked like and the license number, but don't stick around trying to memorizing it either.
4. You are playing in the park. An adult comes up to you and asks if you would help find his lost puppy. What should you do?
 - a) If you do not know the person, stay away and go directly to your parents.
 - b) Even if you know the person, don't help. Adults should ask other adults for help. Before you help, you must get your parent's permission.
 - c) Tell your parent what has happened.
 5. While selling apples, chocolate bars or popcorn, a customer invites you into

Emergency Cub Phone List

Help your Cubs make up an emergency phone list. It could look like this one or you could devise your own. Ask them to keep it near their telephone at home.

My phone number is:	My safe neighbour is:
Dad's work number:	Police:
Mom's work number:	Fire:
Grandma's number:	Other numbers:
Aunt, or close relative:	
My baby-sitter's number:	
My address is:	

her home while she gets change. What should you do?

- a) Politely answer "No", and wait outside.
 - b) If she insists, leave quickly. Tell her you'll be back later when she has the correct change.
 - c) Tell a parent or your Cub leader.
6. While out shopping with your parents, you get separated from them. Who do you go to for help?
- a) Go to the information kiosk and ask someone there to page your parents.
 - b) Find a security person and ask him to help you.
 - c) Go to a cashier and ask for help.
7. What if you're home alone (or with your younger brother, sister or friend) and someone knocks on the door asking to read the electric meter, check your television cable, or service the furnace? This person is not wearing a uniform. What should you do? If the person was wearing a uniform, would your response be different? (Probably not.)
- a) Keep the front door or screen door locked.
 - b) Do not open the door to anyone without permission from a parent.
 - c) Tell the person to come back later when your parent can come to the door. Do not let the person know your parent is away.
 - d) Use the telephone to call either your parents or a neighbour for assistance.
8. What if you are walking down the street and someone comes up to you and wants to take your picture? The person then asks you to come to their house. What should you do?
- a) Stay away from the person and say in a loud voice, "NO! I don't want my picture taken!"
 - b) Do not ever go into someone's house without your parent's permission.
 - c) Tell your parents about the person.



Photo: Paul Koch

Safe, happy, well-adjusted youth. That's what we want.

Seek Professional Help

Don't forget to involve professionals like police or child care agencies. Many schools too may have special counsellors willing to speak to Cubs and Scouts. Contact the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (see resources below) and ask about their "Stay Alert, Stay Safe" video series. Libraries might have similar videos available for loan as well. Look for ones that teach this subject in a child-friendly manner. Screen them before playing the video to your young audience.

Encourage your Scouting youth to play it smart and play it safe. If your program seeks to educate in a positive, up-lifting (rather than threatening) manner, you'll achieve your goal. ^

Resources:

- *The Cub Handbook*, pp. 206-208.
- "Stay Alert, Stay Safe" video available through the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. Call Alexia Roure at 613-233-1106.

Program Links

Cubs: Home Safety Badge, Family Helper Badge, Blue Star, Tawny Star, Blue Star.

— Susan Albrecht works in Program and Volunteer Services at the National Office.

GET PARENTS ON BOARD EARLY

Inform parents that you are planning to run a streetwise theme evening weeks before running it. Invite their questions. Ask them to come to a short information meeting where you share the games and activities. Seek their input and address their concerns. Some may even want to attend, or participate, in the program. *Great!*



SCOUTING'S MISSION STATEMENT



To contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities through the application of our Principles and Practices.

Host a Citizenship Ceremony

by James Wall

For the past several years Scouts from the 29th Dunbar Point Grey Group, BC, have taken an active role welcoming new Canadians to our country through local citizenship ceremonies. Unexpectedly, last year it really got exciting. Here's how it happened.

Because we'd always wanted to involve our Scouts in a Canadian citizenship ceremony, I called up the local court clerk and asked if we could play some minor role. He agreed, we took part and really enjoyed the experience. Just as we were preparing to leave the court building, the judge asked us if we would like to host one!

Excitedly we said, "Yes!"

Planning began almost immediately. But where do you begin for an event like this? One of our first steps was to seek district support for the project. Of course they were thrilled. Our leadership team decided that we should honour those Scouts who had completed their Gold Citizenship Award by letting them participate. This eased the adult work load.

Inside Out

Next we had to choose whether to host the ceremony inside or out. After consulting with the court clerk, we decided an indoor event would be easier. An outdoor ceremony would require setting up tents, stages, electrical outlets and flooring for chairs. After all, sometimes it rains. Inside ceremonies

involve a little more paper work (licensing, insurance and permits), but the weather is no concern.

Fundraising can pose a problem for some groups but the cost of hosting a citizenship ceremony isn't great. Approach your group sponsor or district for help and ideas.

Ask Everyone

Start sending out official invitations several months before your ceremony. As outrageous as this sounds, send them to everyone! We asked the Queen, the Governor General, the Premier, the Lt. Governor, the Mayor, the Chief of Police — everyone. To our surprise the Mayor and Chief of Police agreed to attend, as well as a Member of Parliament and a Nobel Prize-winning chemist! (All had been Scouting members in their youth.)

Working with us, the court clerk arranged a seating plan, printed programs, 'booked' the RCMP, and set the day's protocol. Rick Hansen agreed to be master of ceremonies. What a treat! We had a smile on our faces that lasted a week.

Tell the World

We wrote a press release next. In yours, be sure to include time, date, place, location, list of dignitaries, and reason. Send it out twice: a month before the ceremony, and a week before.

The day prior to the event, all we had to do was arrange chairs, check the sound system, set up the coffee urn, then cut the fruit and cheese for the reception. Next day we welcomed our guests, served them refreshments and schmoozed with the new Canadians and dignitaries.

Are your Scouts looking for new ways to serve others? Host a citizenship ceremony. It'll renew everyone's vision for Canada.

SET THE STAGE

Perhaps your Cubs or Scouts aren't ready to take on a project as big as this one. Test the waters of their enthusiasm with these activities.

- Organize a citizenship affirmation ceremony in your pack or troop. Speak to a local court clerk for ideas.
- Host a public campfire filled with rousing Canadian songs, stories and fun skits. ("This Land Is your Land" and "Farewell to Nova Scotia" would be popular.) Link the campfire to Klondike Gold Rush celebrations by letting Cubs and Scouts recite some Robert Service poems.
- Honouring the first Canadian passport in 1947, design the image of the stamp you think Canada should place on visitors' passports.
- Organize a "Good Citizen" contest in the community. Youth could design the certificate and publicize the event through a poster campaign.

Program Links

Scouts: Citizenship Badge,
Troop Specialty Badge.

— James Wall is an ADC (Scouts) in Dunbar Point Grey, BC.



MORE CANADA — Take It to Heart Ideas!



Could you use another poster like the one found in this **Leader** magazine issue? Phone the toll free number below. You can also request colourful bookmarks that any child would love, as well as a 32-page bilingual activity guide that offers more excellent activities. (Available while supplies last.)

Call 1-888-241-9439, then launch your celebration! Canada — *Take it to Heart.*

During the winter, Scouting groups like to build things. Here are several projects suitable for all ages.



Carpenter Ants? No... Beavers!

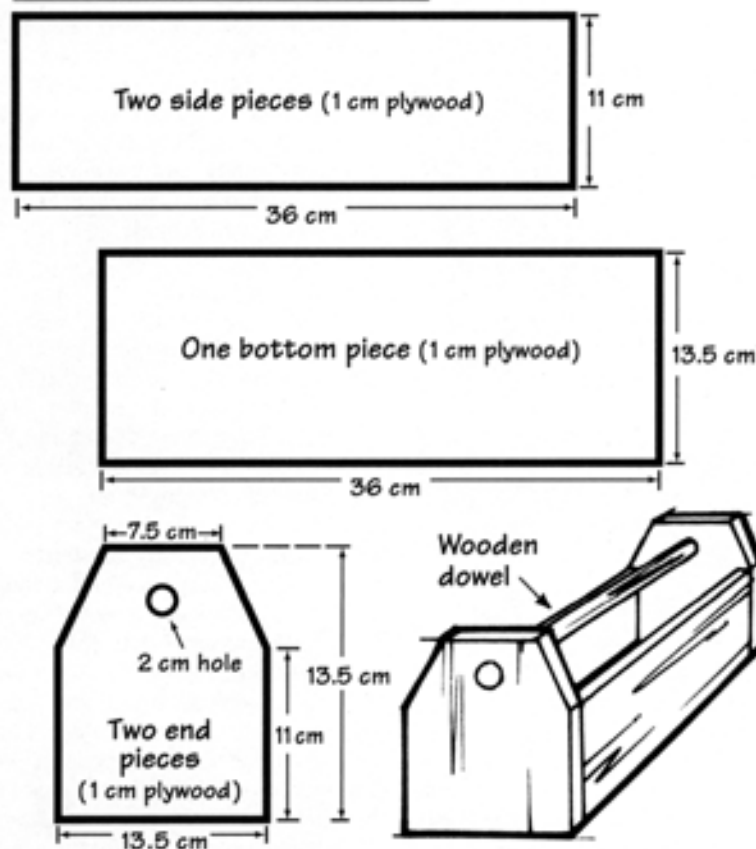


Beavers from the 182 Brander Gardens Colony in Edmonton, AB, made tool boxes from plywood (1 cm thick) and dowel (2 cm). The boxes were perfect for holding favourite toys, craft supplies, even tools.

Leaders cut the plywood sections (see diagram) and drilled a hole in each end piece for the dowel handle. Then Beavers assembled the pieces with 20 finishing nails (2.5 cm long) and glue.

— Tom Burke, Edmonton, AB.

TOOL BOX CONSTRUCTION



Got any small carpentry jobs needing work? We're ready for them!

Photo: Tom Burke

CAMP MEASURING STOOL

Scouts from the 1st Waterloo Troop, ON, built camp stools which are also perfect for measuring short distances.

Starting with a strip of wood for the leg (30 cm x 32 mm x 32 mm), the Scouts drilled a hole at one end and glued in a 13 mm wide dowel, leaving 16 mm protruding from the end. About 4 cm from the base, they drilled a hole to accommodate a bolt with a washer and wing nut.

Using 16 mm plywood for the seat, the Scouts cut a 26 cm circle for the seat, and drilled a 13 mm hole in the centre.

After sanding everything smooth, they added marks around the edge of the seat at 5 cm increments, up to 80 cm. When they place the seat on the dowel end of the leg, they've got a camp stool; by attaching the seat to the leg with the bolt and rolling it along the ground, the stool is transformed into a measuring tool.

— Bruce Hughes, Waterloo, ON.



"In Your Face" PR

by John Rietveld

Unprecedented success!

These words summarize BC/Yukon Council's efforts to increase membership last year. Youth participation climbed by nearly 11%!

Some of the credit is due to very aggressive PR activities launched in the fall of 1995. As a direct result of a grant from the BC Broadcaster's Association, west coast Scouting was able to bombard the public with messages on both television and radio. All councils committed themselves to finding a place for every boy or girl wanting to join.

But this fall, without the benefit of the Broadcaster's Award, the Provincial Communications Committee and various regional communications committees decided to become even more aggressive in their recruitment efforts. They had to if they wanted to match (or exceed) the high level of Scouting awareness raised the previous fall.

Here are some of the ideas Burnaby Region has tried. Each one is a simple, yet effective tool to raise public awareness of Scouting in your community.

Restaurant Tray Liners

It's easy to spot the familiar McDonald's golden arches in most communities. McDonald's is a very community-conscious supporter, and often provides space on their tray liners to promote coming events. Last September over 200,000 specially-designed Scouting tray liners were used by McDonald's restaurants in BC. This is a favourite restaurant for Scouting-aged kids (and families); have you approached your local McDonald's for support? Scout-Guide Week, Scoutrees and CJ'97 fundraising activities are all events that might benefit from this kind of publicity. Make sure you include a phone number on the ad. People need an easy way to respond to your invitation.

Newspaper Supplements

British Columbia's Burnaby Region decided to build on the enthusiasm sparked by the tray liner program. Volunteers approached the editor of their

local newspaper, *Burnaby NOW*, to help put together a two page insert. Local advertisers helped defray the cost of this very informative promotion which was positioned on pages 18 and 19. The supplement included a map of the city (all groups were marked), and a list of contact names and phone numbers. The insert explained each section program clearly; a special appeal for leaders accompanied the ad. Scouting members and the public found the supplement both very interesting and helpful.



See an article entitled, "Advertising and Promotions Campaigns: Tips and Ideas" in last January's *Leader* for more excellent "how to" suggestions. Most local newspapers *want* to publicize your Scouting events. Make it easy for them.

Street Banners

In conjunction with the *Burnaby NOW* supplement, the region placed "Come Join Us" banners at strategic public locations; these included pedestrian walkways, over major thoroughfares as well as the train overpasses. Street banners are inexpensive, reusable communications vehicles. Call up a local sign company for information regarding price and design.

Special School Materials

Burnaby Region also produced a pamphlet entitled, *Scouting for Families*. It was distributed to 6,000 children in

kindergarten and grades 1,3 and 4. The pamphlets targeted first and second year Beavers and Cubs. Burnaby Region focuses much of its attention on the multicultural community. Because of this, the pamphlet included articles in both Chinese and Korean. The response was very encouraging. During the first week this publication generated over 100 inquires; many came from Chinese- and Korean-speaking families.

Television Too

Scouters also promoted Registration Week on UTV — a major independent station. Registration Week dates and a 1-800 number were aired 5 times a day for one week on the station's "Calendar of Events". Sixty people used the 1-800 number to find out more about Scouting on the Lower Mainland.

And the Internet

A BC/Yukon internet web site records three "hits" per day and requires no special advertising. While only a good starting point, the internet is a great place to promote Scouting. Why not visit the BC web site at vanbc.wimsey.com/~silott/index/html?

Recruiting University Students

The Provincial Communications Committee developed a poster directed at college and university students. Its title, "Do Something To Stand Out", is a call to action, urging students to volunteer as Scouting leaders. It also points out that volunteering is an excellent way to round out their resume and help in their job search after graduation.

What a great idea! Again a 1-800 number was prominently displayed on the poster. Counsellors and placement officers were asked to hang the poster in public locations. Response has been very positive.

From special Scout nights at BC Lions' football games to radio public service announcements, Scouting in British Columbia is very much "in your face." It's highly creative and sure to increase membership this year. Congratulations BC/Yukon!

Why not launch your own campaign? It doesn't have to be difficult, and can be lots of fun. ^



Plan to Attend Indaba at CJ'97

by Mickey Thomas

“What is Indaba?”

Lord Baden-Powell used the term “Indaba” to refer to a gathering or conference of Scouters. The 6th Canadian Jamboree introduced Indaba as a series of informal workshops for leaders attending the jamboree. Indaba has been a part of every national jamboree since then, though it has grown and developed greatly.

Plan to attend Indaba at CJ'97! There, adults will be able to relax for an hour or so while gaining new insights and skills. These can be applied to programs back home. While many workshop topics are intended for leaders who work with Scouts and Venturers, other sessions will appeal to adults who are working at CJ'97 as Offers of Service.

Each and Every Day

Indaba sessions will run throughout each day and evening at CJ'97 in Thunder Bay. Workshops will be held in, or near, the high school located adjacent to the jamboree site. Your Portage Pass (admission ticket) will indicate the time and location of each workshop. A complete list of Indaba topics, along with descriptions, times and locations will be publicized. To guarantee your spot, register early during the jamboree at the Indaba office tent in the Thunder Dome.

If you are a unit leader attending CJ'97 with youth members, you may wish to participate in Indaba while your group is enjoying a unit-directed program period. Or, you could double up with another unit, allowing each leader to attend an Indaba workshop at different times.

Indaba Interest Survey forms, which are completed and submitted with the unit registrations, indicate which topics Scouters prefer. They tell

us which sessions are popular enough to be repeated. Choices for Indaba topics will include outdoor gourmet cooking, First Nations culture, environmental projects for Scouts and Venturers, and much more.

What a Choice!

About 60 Indaba workshops will take place during the jamboree. Participants in the Indaba sessions will have the opportunity to share the expertise of outstanding workshop leaders as well as fellow Scouters from across the country.

Each adult participating in a workshop will receive a useful handout. In addition, we hope the handouts will be combined as an Indaba set which may be purchased for \$5 and mailed out at the end of the jamboree. This will allow Scouters to share their knowledge and skills with members who did not attend.

The Voyageurs will be looking for you at Indaba during CJ'97. Don't miss it! ^

— Mickey Thomas is a member of the CJ'97 Indaba Committee.



Photo: Wayne Bennett

Escape to Indaba for some quiet sharing time with other leaders when you crave adult time.

Fun at the Pond

by Lena Wong

Happy New Year!

Is it cold in your part of the country? At this time of year it's easy to appreciate our warm, comfortable North American homes. Have your Beavers ever thought about homes in other parts of the world? Have they ever considered the kinds of homes some animals build for their families? Let's discuss and explore these questions. Start by getting as many library books as possible about animal and human homes. Talk about how people live together, how animals live together, and how both people and animals live together.

Animal Homes

Let's start with beaver lodges. Not only do beavers build their own lodges, they also build dams to ensure a stable pond environment for their colonies. A beaver colony is like a human community; it consists of several families, all living in their own lodges. Otters dig a home (called aholt) in river banks or under tree roots. The entrance tunnel is underwater and slopes upwards into a dry chamber lined with moss and grass.

Social weaver birds virtually build cities in the trees. They weave grasses together in the branches of a tree to form a large roof. Pairs of birds build their bottle-shaped nests under the common roof. Each year, new pairs build nests under those built the previous year. Sometimes the social weaver birds allow other species such as red-headed finches, pygmy falcons and love birds into empty nests in their communities.

A water spider really faces a challenge when building a home. It spins a bell-shaped web around water plants under the water. Then, it collects air bubbles on its hairy body and brings them into the nest, making many journeys before the home is comfortable. The water spider lives and sleeps in this underwater home using the oxygen brought down in the air bubbles.

Puffins are birds that live most of their lives in the sea. They build their homes on land, however, by using their beaks and feet to dig long tunnels and a nesting chamber in cliffs.

Many animals live underground, some in colonies and some in solitary comfort. Prairie dogs build underground towns; rabbits build underground warrens. While each family occupies its own chamber, all family units are joined by connecting tunnels. Snakes, moles, badgers and many other creatures live underground too.

Human Homes

Different types of Canadian homes will be familiar to your Beavers; these include apartments, single family homes, townhouses, farm houses, log houses and variations within these categories. Similar homes are found in Europe. Do the Beavers know much about homes in other countries? The following little story tells about two houses built in two very different cultures. Read it aloud and discuss the differences and similarities between the homes.

On the shore of Cumberland Sound in Canada's Arctic, twelve-year-old Jessie Oonia slid a block of clear blue ice up the side of the unfinished igloo.

"Here comes the window," he called to his father.

"Testing my strength, are you?" grunted Mr. Oonia as he heaved the ice block into position.

"It wasn't that heavy, was it?" smiled Jessie, as he handed his father the next block — this one made from snow.

Halfway around the world, the Cho family searched the Mongolian plateau for a good place to put their tent, called a yurt.

"This looks like a flat, dry place," said Mr. Cho.

"Hardly any rocks too. We'll sleep well," said his eight-year-old daughter, Ta Yi. The family began making their home following a familiar routine. The yurt's walls came first. Made of willow branches tied together to form an accordion-like lattice, they were unfolded and tied in a circle. Atop the walls was tied an umbrella-shaped roof. Pointing at the naked shelter, Ta Yi giggled, "Our home's a skeleton."

"Let's give the poor thing a skin," added Mrs. Cho as the whole family stretched large woollen felts over the yurt's willow frame.



Though Jessie and Ta Yi live worlds apart, their homes reflect similar adaptations for life in a cold climate. Both are round; round shapes shed rain and snow, and deflect frigid winds more easily than square ones. Round shapes also have a smaller surface area and need less fuel to keep warm, than squares and rectangles. Both yurts and igloos are built with materials that insulate well: wool and snow. Under heat, humidity and pressure, wool fibres will mat together to form a tough warm felt. Lanolin, a natural oil found in unwashed wool, helps keep the felt water-resistant. Wool also retains heat, even when soaked. Hard, deep snow is another excellent insulator. Heat from a candle or a small blubber oil lamp will keep temperatures inside an igloo at a comfortable 0°C.

Experienced hands can assemble a yurt or an igloo quickly — very important for people who must create a warm, safe shelter in a short time. Though it's not uncommon to see Mongolian people still living in yurts, it's now quite unusual to see Inuit in the Canadian Arctic living in igloos. (But some families still prefer them for winter hunting trips.)

Check in your local library for books with pictures of homes from oth-

er countries and cultures. As you look at them with your Beavers, discuss why people in different cultures and environments have developed their own styles and types of homes. Look for an excellent book called, *Homes Around the World*, published by Evan-Moor Corporation. It includes colouring pages.

Our theme perfectly suits various arts and crafts projects. Here's an idea for several really unusual murals your colony can make for a display during Scout-Guide Week (February 16-23). Set some time aside each week to work on it.

ANIMAL HOMES MURAL

Use a long sheet of brown wrapping paper to paint grass, hills, sky, clouds and sun. Cut ponds, trees and bushes from brown and green construction paper, and glue them into place. Cut, glue and paint different styles of animal shelters in the trees, on the ground, under the ground, as well as in and under the water. Try to find pictures of the appropriate animals, and match them with the shelters. If you can't find pictures, ask your Beavers to do their best to sketch animal portraits. It's okay if your mural shows animals from different ecologies living in the same area.

HUMAN HOMES MURAL

Once you've made an animal mural (or maybe at the same time) make one for human homes. Add cutouts and paintings showing the many different types of human homes you've discussed at your Beaver meetings. Include pictures from magazines. "Build" a town by putting together clusters of buildings, stores, restaurants and other town structures. "Build" other types of human communities using drawings and pictures of houses from other cultures. See if you can get pictures of homes built directly into cliffs and mountains — *National Geographic* magazine might be an excellent place to look. Include these pictures in your mural, too. Once more, it doesn't matter if a North American style town ends up next to an African village; that will only help to highlight the building differences.

Encourage your Beavers to be as creative as possible. What other arts and crafts projects would they like to add? ^

Animal Homes

Beaver lodge



Puffin nest

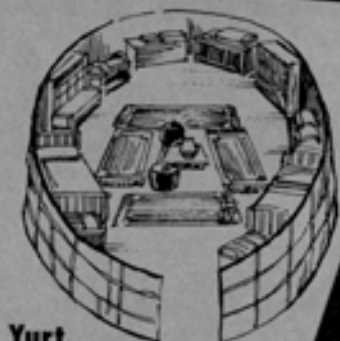


Otter home



Human Homes

Yurt



Yurt interior

Lapp tent



Winter Sleepover Ideas

by Blair Rice, Catherine Walsh and Paul Dugas

Many Beaver and Cub groups hold sleepovers during the winter months. (Perhaps Canada's cold climate triggers a genetic hibernation response in us!) Try out some of the interesting Beaver sleepover ideas below. If you plan a sleepover during January or February, you could tie the theme into citizenship, Flag Day (February 15), or Heritage Day (February 17).

Family Trees

Beavers from the 25th Assumption Colony in Saint John, New Brunswick, emphasized a heritage theme by making personalized family flags. On a piece of paper children created their flags by including images that were important to their families. These might include Friday night family times by the fireplace, building snow forts, visiting grampa and grandma, or climbing in a big maple tree. When completed, the flags were stapled to straws.

Each child brought along family tree drawings they had made with parental help. (Included were photos and full names.) The Beavers had a chance to tell everyone about their family history: when they came to Canada, what their grandparents did, what activities their family loved best.

"Next, group members looked for common names shared by many family members," said Scouter Catherine

Walsh. "Then, they tried to find links joining all of them together into one large family." Later, the colony took a field trip to a local Jewish Historical Museum.

One leader also gathered flags from each of the countries the Beavers' ancestors immigrated from, and related details of life in those countries now.

Northern Light Sleepover

A year and a half ago, ninety Beavers from northern British Columbia gathered in Prince George for a memorable sleepover. After dividing into colour groups, the youth took turns at various activity centres, including, kite-making, creating a pencil holder from a soup can, watching a scuba demonstration, making a stool from stuffed paper bags, and flying rocket balloons up a long fishing line.

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Photo: Allen Macintyre

For co-ed sleepovers, make sure you have adequate female supervision and facilities. End the day with a quiet movie or craft activity.

Later, the fire department demonstrated rescue procedures. Then, with a crowd of enthralled Beavers watching and sirens blaring, firefighters raced up to the top of a ladder truck and sent a wide spray of water arching into the sky.

"Neat!" several Beavers whispered excitedly with eyes wide.

A puppet show followed with songs, jokes and ventriloquism. The puppets spoke about taking care of the world.

During the campfire, Enor (a real moose) visited the group. What a surprise! Several Beavers snickered when Enor left an odorous gift behind on the ground near the fire.

"Why is there a large TV screen in the corner?" one child asked Scouter Blair Rice, after all ninety children spread their sleeping bags out on the floor. It was the evening's grand finale: a restful movie.

Freshly cooked pancakes and sausages greeted everyone the next morning. After clean-up, more singing, and good-byes, parents arrived to take the contented children home.

Name that Footprint

Paul Dugas helped organize a popular sleepover for 5th Digby Colony Beavers, NS. After a pizza supper on Friday night, a guest spoke about the lives of wild animals in the area. Part of the presentation included a "Name that Footprint" quiz where youth had to identify animal prints from drawings. (You might want to take this one 'step' further by making plaster casts of prints you find out on a hike.) Then everyone watched a video about

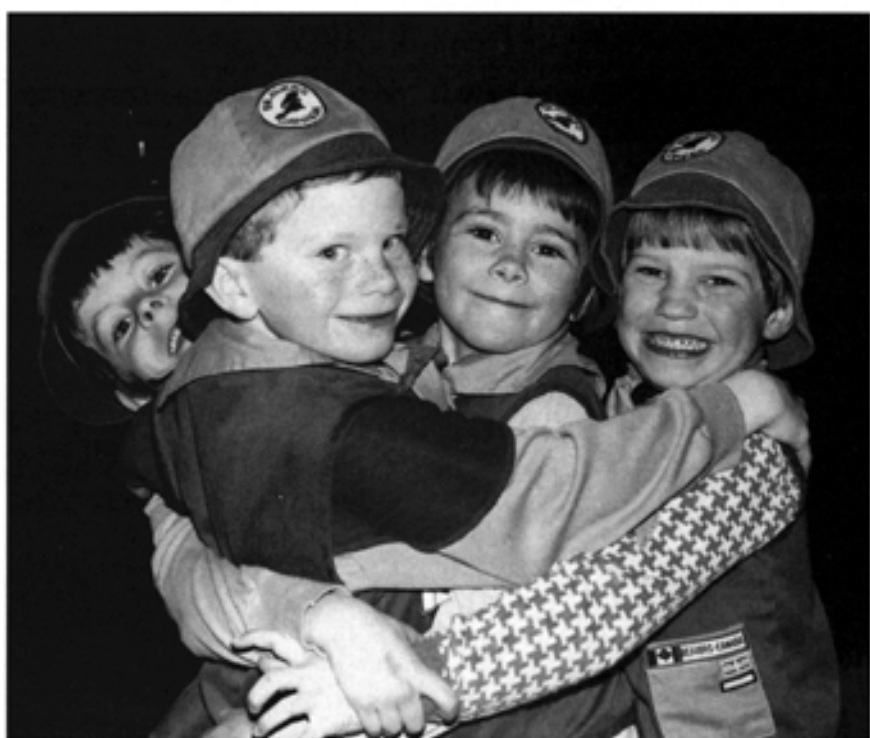


Photo: Scouts Canada archives.

Sleepovers offer great "bonding" opportunities.

what to do if you're lost in the woods. A short discussion followed.

A campfire finished off the evening with a sing-song and marshmallow roast. Back in our meeting hall everyone settled into sleeping bags then watched *The Jungle Book* movie.

Next morning the Beavers made a variety of crafts including,

- puppets (from old socks, yarn and felt),
- a beaver tail book (from paper shaped like a tail and stapled together at one end),

- painted scallop shells (after all, Digby is known for its world-famous scallops).

Setting up a large coloured box and rows of chairs, the children made a quick puppet theatre for a short performance. It was soon time to head home.

Λ

— Scouter Blair Rice comes from Mackenzie, British Columbia; Paul Dugas comes from Digby, Nova Scotia; while Catherine Walsh lives in Saint John, New Brunswick.

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Calling all Winter Weed Detectives

by Susan Albrecht

Looking for an interesting twist for an early winter hike?

Turn your Cubs, Scouts and Venturers into winter weed detectives. It's easy after the flowers are gone. Here's how to start.

Any plant that is not a shrub or a tree, is herbaceous — meaning that its living parts die at the end of the growing season. Three kinds of herbaceous plants exist:

- *Annual plants* die entirely (including roots and plant).
- *Perennial plants* are those whose underground parts survive and send up new shoots in the spring.
- *Biennial plants* have a two-year cycle; the first year they produce a rosette of leaves close to the ground, which die down. The second year they send up a flowering shoot, then it dies.

Although all herbaceous plants die in winter, they do not entirely disappear. Tough woody stalks, rosettes and assorted stages between remain visible; some may contain seeds or fruits. Most bear little resemblance to the growing plants they were in summer.

This is where your detective powers of observation will be important. Use the following clues to make your identification much easier.

Smell the Plant

Crush the fruit, dried up flowers, stem, root or leaves. Does it smell like mint or parsley? Does it smell smoky or like burning rubber? You can often identify a plant's family by paying attention to its smell.

Look at the Leaves

Even dead leaves can help with identification. Check the stalk for still-remaining leaves. If there's no snow on the ground, look for the rosette of leaves at the stalk's base. Even if all leaves have fallen, stalks will still show scars where the leaves grew. The

arrangement of the scars provides an identification clue. (E.g. Were the leaves growing in a staggered pattern up the stalk or in regular, parallel rows?)

Look at the Stem

Is the stem (stalk) smooth, fuzzy, shiny or thorny? Is it square or round? If it's square, the plant probably belongs to the mint family.

Where Is It Growing?

Is the plant growing in a swamp or on a hilltop? Is it in a grove of evergreens or in a hardwood forest? Alongside a road or in a vacant lot? Many plants only grow in very specific places.

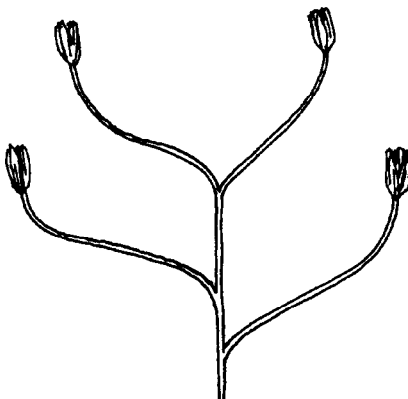
Pick Only When Necessary

Protect our environment by only picking when necessary, and only take a few. If your group takes too many, it could wipe the plant out and affect local wildlife that depends on it for food.

After you have identified each plant, take another hike in the spring or early summer to make sure you added all the clues up correctly. During your next hike, watch for the following common weeds.

CANADA LILY (WILD YELLOW LILY)

This plant often has candelabra-like branches. Growing up to two metres tall, Canada Lilies thrive in meadows, clearings, woods and thickets throughout the Northeast. It's a perennial plant which grows from a bulb.



If you find some fruit capsules, you'll notice they are in three parts and have a slightly oblong shape. Inside the fruit you will find flat, papery seeds. The Canada Lily has leaves that grow in whorls around the stem. Unlike many plants, the veins in the leaves run parallel, not in a feathered pattern.

QUEEN ANNE'S LACE

You'll find Queen Anne's Lace growing up to one metre tall in meadows, roadsides and waste places. The stem is grooved and slightly hairy. Its fruit is borne in what appears to be an upside down umbrella. If the plant still has fruit, you'll find it ribbed; each rib is lined with a row of bristles.

The leaves of Queen Anne's Lace are very finely divided. (The plant comes from the carrot family.) It's a biennial, and in winter you should find the rosettes of lacy, fuzzy leaves that will send up flowers next summer.

Smell the leaves. If the aroma is similar to a mixture of carrots, parsnips and parsley, then you've found Queen Anne's Lace. Dig up one rosette and you will find a yellowy-white carrot, which is edible if boiled and rinsed two or three times. Don't eat this plant if you find it in wet, marshy ground. It will be Poison or Water Hemlock — both poisonous!



detail of fruit

A Day Pack for All Seasons

by Ross Francis

Here's a simple day pack that Cubs can make quickly and easily in about two hours.

For 12 packs, get the following materials and tools: 3.5 metres of light canvas (150 cm wide); 20 needles 6-8 cm long; 1 spool upholstery thread (137 metres); 1 package dressmaker's pins; 18 metres of 2.5 cm wide nylon webbing (150 cm per day pack); 12 fastex buckles (2.5 cm); 100 leather rivets with 1 cm heads (or 100 bachelor buttons — 8 per day pack); 11 metres of nylon cord for drawstring (90 cm per bag); and 12 cord locks.

From home, gather 6 pairs of scissors; 6 measuring tapes; 6 hammers; 12 pencils; 2 glue guns.

Step 1

Working in pairs, get Cubs to measure, mark and cut the material. Each day pack will require one piece of canvas material 100 cm x 37.5 cm (main pack) and a second piece 18 cm x 20 cm (lid). Cut these as shown in diagram 1.

Now cut the webbing: 1 piece 20 cm, another piece 10 cm, and another piece 100 cm. This last piece is for shoulder straps and may need to be longer or shorter, depending on the size of each child. Try cutting one piece, pin it in place and allow a youth to try it out. Then cut this Cubs' piece for a custom fit. When you've cut the webbing, use a glue gun to weld the ends to prevent fraying.

Step 2

Fold the larger piece of material in half with the good sides facing each other and the fold on the bottom. Use the dressmaker pins along each side to pin the bag in this position. Tie a large knot in one end of your thread; thread the needle and start sewing approximately 4 cm down from the top and about 1/2 cm in from the edge. Sew all the way down, then come back up again offsetting the stitches just made. Repeat on the other side. (See diagram 2.)

Step 3

Fold the top 2 cm edge of the bag over; pin in place. Knot and thread your needle again and sew across the bag

about 1/2 cm from the bottom edge of the fold and back again; repeat this procedure on the other side of the bag.

Now, decide which side will be the front, locate the centre of the bag on the fold and make a 1 1/2 cm vertical cut to allow the draw string through. (See diagram 3.)

Step 4

Feed drawstring through the hem you've just completed, pulling it out the centre cut. Put the cordlock on; tie a knot to prevent the cord from coming loose. (See diagram 4.)

Turn the bag inside out, hiding all seams on the inside. Now the good side faces out.

Step 5

Pin lid in place, 8 cm down the back of the bag with the centre of the lid lining up with the centre of the back of the pack. Place a 100 cm strip of webbing on top of the bottom edge of the lid with the 50 cm point on the webbing lining up with both the centre of the lid and the centre of the pack. Pin in place. Measure 5 cm on either side of the centre point and fasten webbing over lid

to the pack using either the bachelor buttons or the leather rivets. If you use the leather rivets, a nail will help make a hole for the rivet to pass through. (See diagram 5.)

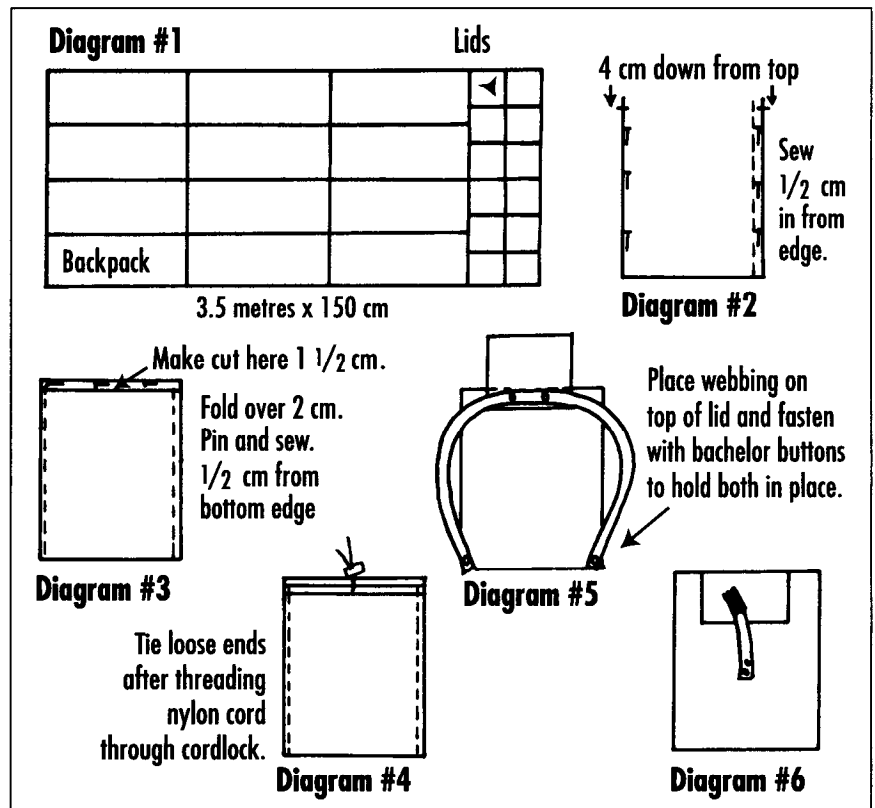
Step 6

Use two more bachelor buttons or rivets to fasten the bottom 3 cm length of a 20 cm webbing piece onto the front of the pack. Fasten it 20 cm up from the bottom, centred on the bag. The remaining 17 cm should be loose and pointing up. Feed a three pronged piece of fastex buckle onto this piece. (See diagram 6.)

Step 7

Feed the remaining 10 cm piece of webbing through the open piece of fastex buckle. Place 3 cm of webbing on each side, and in the bottom centre, of the lid. Fasten in place using the bachelor buttons or the rivets. Finish off by letting your Cubs use fabric paint to personalize their packs.

Congratulations! You've just completed your day pack and also a number of requirements for badges in the Creative Expression Activity Area. ^



Paper Paper Everywhere

by Karen Yukich

Everyone is going "green" these days, and the training world is no exception. Environment-conscious meeting planners are finding innovative ways to practice the 3 Rs; often they are saving money at the same time.

Whether you are organizing a large-scale conference or an internal workshop, here are some tips on how to make your next event a little greener.

It's Reuseable

Meetings thrive on the spoken word, but they can also consume huge amounts of paper. Advance notices and promotions, registration packages, session notes and handouts, follow-up reports; it all adds up. At every stage, paper use can be kept to a minimum.

- Print on both sides of the page.
- Send invitations and agendas by electronic mail for internal meetings.
- Use recycled stock (preferably recycled from post-consumer waste).
- Provide clearly-labelled bins to collect recyclable paper (including separate bins for newspapers).
- Make scratch pads out of discarded stock or let people bring their own notepaper.
- Consolidate and condense handouts.
- Encourage speakers to use overheads or white "wipe" boards instead of flip charts.
- Require people to take some action if they want more detailed versions of promotional material, session notes, etc. Don't automatically provide copies to everyone.

Refreshing Alternatives

Meals and coffee breaks offer many opportunities for reducing waste.

- Eliminate "styrofoam" cups by providing ceramic mugs whenever possible.
- For internal meetings, BYOM (bring your own mug) can become a company standard.
- Instead of individual packages and plastic stir sticks, use sugar bowls, cream pitchers and reusable cutlery.
- Offer cold beverages in returnable, or recyclable, containers without straws. Better still, buy larger sizes and provide reusable glasses.
- Provide jugs of ice-water and glasses.
- Ask for cloth napkins and tablecloths instead of throw-aways.
- Avoid single-serving packaged snacks; a fresh fruit or vegetable platter can be a healthy, low-waste alternative.
- Make sure bins are readily available for all returnable or recyclable containers.

Other Opportunities

Paper materials and refreshments aren't the only areas that offer 3 R opportunities.

- Provide name badges in reusable plastic holders. Collect them at the end of the event.

- If gifts and prizes are required, choose items like dinner/theatre tickets or shopping certificates, rather than gifts that people may not want.
- Select conference mementoes with long-term usefulness (e.g. reusable mugs or T-shirts).
- If you must provide binders, use removable/reusable labels.
- Use generic, undated signs that can be reused at meetings.
- Save empty packing boxes for post-conference use or break them down for recycling.

Getting the right materials into the right collection bin is a new skill that not everyone has yet mastered. Timely reminders, strategic locations and clear labels will help considerably. Humour can also work well; perhaps a cartoon figure or a mini-basketball hoop above the recycling bin will provide extra inspiration!

If you are holding an event in a hotel or convention centre, discuss waste-reduction with your customer service representative. Many hotels are already taking steps to address environment concerns. ^

— Karen Yukich is President of K.R. Yukich & Associates, a consulting firm specializing in employee communications and benefits. This article is reprinted with permission of the Ontario Society for Training and Development.

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B.-P. Lake *Here We Come!*

Last July, Venturers Jamie Mickle, Christopher Henhoeffler, and Dan Vandenberg, as well as their advisor, Wayne Henhoeffler, accepted a national challenge to find a log book at B.-P. Lake in Algonquin Park, ON. The 1st Ayr Venturers spent four days canoeing into the lake. "We weren't the first to reach the log, but we did it," said one of the team. (See page 4 of the December *Leader* for a story about another trek to B.-P. Lake.) Photo: Kevin Swayze. Courtesy of Cambridge Reporter. Thanks to Wayne Henhoeffler.



◀ **Friendship Involves a Close Shave** When two Cubs from the 1st Haney Cub Pack in Maple Ridge, BC, were undergoing serious operations in Vancouver hospitals, twenty-two Scouting youth and 10 leaders had their heads shaved to show support. One child, Kyle Baker, was undergoing chemotherapy for leukaemia, while Derek Wilkinson underwent open heart surgery. Unfortunately, Kyle passed away shortly afterwards. The fundraising event raised almost \$9,000 for the cancer and heart wards in British Columbia Children's Hospital. Photo: Jonathan Smyth

The Seat of Power ▶

Last year, Scottish members of the 24th Glasgow (Bearsden) Group stopped off at Ottawa's Parliament Buildings during their tour of Eastern Canada and the United States. Here they met the Deputy Speaker of the House, David Kilgour. Every second year the group organizes a major trip. The youth must plan it almost entirely on their own. Great training! Thanks to Alec J. Spalding





Parading a Good Message Philip and Adam Wright of the 2nd Beaver Bank Group, NS, helped decorate a mini-float for their town parade. Their float, which took part in a "kiddie parade" that preceded the main parade, won first prize! The message on their float said, "Join Scouting and Be a Leader." Photo: Maxine Wright



Setting Off For Adventure Eleven-year-old Dereck Braumberger of the 7th Regina Troop, SK, buckles up his snowshoes as he gets ready to take part in the annual winter Klondike Hike. The event, which drew youth from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota, trains young people in winter survival and Scouting skills. Photo: Bryan Schlosser. Courtesy of the Leader-Post. Thanks to Scouter H. Thomas. ^

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How Beavers Prepare for Winter

by Ross Francis

Each fall beavers become very busy preparing for winter. They must gather and store enough food to last through the cold winter months while the pond is frozen. Beavers usually wait until the leaves have turned colour before cutting; this ensures that a good supply of sap stays in the tree and branches — very important, because the sap will help keep the tree 'fresh' for a longer time. If a beaver cuts a tree too early, the wood will go sour and begin rotting sooner, making it unsuitable for food.

Gourmet Delights

What's the tastiest food for beavers? They're after the bark. Poplar, willow and birch are favourite trees. The little animals will cut down an entire tree (a trunk 12 cm thick will take about 30 minutes), cut off all the branches, cut the main trunk into smaller lengths and then take each piece (their winter food supply) out to the lodge.

Beavers will use their mouths and front feet, which are much like our hands, to carry branches and twigs. They'll use their webbed hind feet for swimming. Beavers are well equipped for underwater travel; a transparent membrane which covers their eyes offers protection when swimming or diving, while small flaps seal water out of their noses and ears. Beavers also have special lips that close behind the front teeth; this keeps wood chips and water from getting in their mouth when cutting and gnawing underwater.

"Timber!"

To cut a tree down, a beaver holds its base with his front feet, balances with his tail and cuts with his teeth. These teeth are extremely sharp, hard and strong. They grow continually because the constant work wears them down. When cutting large trees, a beaver often takes short breaks to sharpen his teeth. He does this by grinding the top teeth against the bottom so they stay chisel-sharp.

As beavers gather their favourite woody foods they place them in a clump in deep water close to the lodge. This winter food supply often looks like another small lodge. Beavers pile lots of small leafy branches on top of their favourite foods which lie underwater. The leafy branches collect snow, which insulates the pile and keeps it from freezing around the food.

Fluid Dynamics for Young Engineers

When beavers select a pond to build their lodge, they must find one that is deep enough so water will not freeze all the way to the bottom during winter.

That's why some beavers must build dams. These raise the pond's water level until it is deep enough that beavers can travel under the ice. This lets them swim to their underwater food pile and search for other winter food, such as delicious plant stems and roots. The water must also be deep enough to keep the lodge door submerged and safe from predators.

Lodges are made from sticks, twigs, mud and stones placed in a large pile. Then, beavers carve out their entrance and chambers in much the same way we build a winter snow fort.

Playing in the Mud

As the weather gets colder, beavers start plastering their lodge with mud. This will harden and form a solid outer shell that will keep them safe from predators. (Remember: when the pond is covered in ice, wolves, cougars or other hungry animals can walk right up to the lodge. A hard mud shell keeps them from getting at the beavers.)

Inside the lodge, beavers eat their food in a feeding chamber (usually about 15 cm above the water level). The beavers sleep and nest in a second area found well above the water level. Lodges have one or more underwater entrances (called "plunge holes") and an air hole that provides fresh air for the sleeping area.

Beavers select one mate for life; January or February is mating season. By May or June the female gives birth to three or four kits.

When spring arrives the beavers are anxious to find fresh new woody stems, grasses, leaves and other aquatic plants for themselves and their new kits. Then the cycle begins anew.

Visit a beaver pond with your colony this winter. Look closely at a lodge roof for a plume of vapour — a sure sign that beavers are home. ^

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The Uniform Is Activity Wear

by Ben Kruser

When B.-P. designed the first Scout uniform, he modelled it after his own experience as a camper: broad brimmed hat, neckerchief for neck protection, sturdy shirt and pants, and hiking boots.

Over the years, however, B.-P.'s uniform evolved into a ceremonial outfit — wonderful for standing in front of parents, but not designed for camping. Our own organizational culture got the best of us. More and more members started asking, "Why even bother with the uniform if it's so useless for most active and outdoor activities?"

Last year Scouts Canada found a new supplier of our uniform. Before starting to look, we first evaluated the long list of complaints that had been received from our customers and the Scout/Venturer Review. Members wanted a uniform that was practical and had good quality for outdoor use, but still retained a professional image. We looked at a number of occupations that use a uniform for outdoor work, such as National Park rangers. Then we addressed the next questions: Who would provide these uniforms? What specifications did they use? How were these specs derived. In the end, we identified Canada's top uniform supplier who, unknown to us, used to provide Scouts Canada's old green shirts through a subsidiary.

Now We Have It

Uniforms on the shelf today are better designed and have improved quality; we've also maintained their reasonable price. The pants were modified with kids and camping in mind: double stitched knees, ample hip pockets, D-rings on wide belt loops and an elastic waist band for a better fit on growing children. Kids are now coming into our Scout Shops asking for the pants, while parents (who usually balked at spending extra money) are now happy to get a decent pair of pants that children can wear every day. Pant sales have increased two and a half times; the response has been *that* positive.

Our uniform shirt is also rugged. Made in Canada (like the pants out of a beefy 4.5 oz. polycotton fabric), it meets the same rugged specifications as those demanded by Provincial and National Park rangers. Added value improvements to the collar, cuffs and cut give members a great shirt to wear, not only to meetings, but also while camping year-round.

Do you need a terrific pair of pants for either everyday use or camping? Go to your local Scout Shop.

No Sweat!

If you always worried about ruining your uniform shirt on a camping trip, relax. The uniform isn't intended to take up space in your closet. So, the next time someone mentions a need for activity wear, tell them to check out the Scout uniform's improved quality. It's the most basic activity wear Scouting has. λ



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Your Review: Introducing the Program Outlines

by John Witham

Did you see the October **Leader** (pp. 28-29) which provided updated information on your Scout-Venturer program review?

Provincial/territorial councils then prepared more detailed recommendations relating to program goals and the Scout and Venturer approved frameworks. These reports formed the basis of program outlines which were approved in principle at the National Program Forum last November. Now we can start developing detailed programs.

SCOUT PROGRAM

The 1993-1995 surveys reached a broad cross section of Scouts and leaders. Respondents were generally happy with the activities in the existing program. Some people expressed concern about overlaps in the achievement badge scheme; others thought parts were similar to school programs. One thought expressed frequently by leaders concerns the time it takes to learn and deliver the current program. ("Time" is becoming an increasingly important issue with volunteers.) Even experienced and fully trained Scouters had difficulty using the existing program. (One seasoned Scouter commented that he had a good three-year program. It took him *seven* years to develop it!)

This program outline responds to the feedback gathered during our review. Activities will be similar to existing programs. We've made only minor changes to respond to the new program goals and to capture fresh areas of youth interest. Real changes will become evident in the way volunteers organize activities.

Proposed Scout Core Program

1. *Investiture*. Youth must know and understand the Promise/Law/Motto. An epaulette is given as recognition.
2. *Pioneer Level*. This consists of four Activity Areas:
 - *Outdoor Skills*. Outdoor skills will incorporate the B.-P. Woodsman Badge requirements and other basic outdoor and camping skills.
 - *Citizenship*. The Citizenship Activity Area will include community service.
 - *Leadership Skills*. Teamwork will be reinforced in the Leadership Activity Area.

- *Personal Development*. The personal development Activity Area will include spiritual development and healthy living.

The Pioneer level will include a clear set of learning requirements in each Activity Area. As well, the detailed program will offer different options for delivering each learning outcome. Particular emphasis will be placed on the Outdoors and Leadership Activity Areas. To further emphasize personal interests, there will be a link to the Challenge Badge program (earn a minimum of two Challenge Badges). Scouts will receive recognition for completion of each Activity Area, and will wear them on the sash. A Pioneer Award (worn on the uniform) will be presented upon earning all four Activity Areas in this level plus two challenge badges.

3. *Pathfinder Level*. This consists of four Activity Areas:

- *Outdoor Skills*. Outdoor skills will enhance environmental awareness and cover more advanced outdoor and camping skills.
- *Citizenship*. This Activity Area will help youth develop a greater understanding of individual rights and responsibilities.
- *Leadership Skills*. Individual leadership skills (emphasizing younger member training), will be reinforced.
- *Personal Development*. This Activity Area will help youth understand how to live a healthy lifestyle.

The Pathfinder level will include a clear set of requirements in each Activity Area which will build on the attitudes, skills and knowledge acquired at the Pioneer level. It will emphasize the Leadership and Personal Development Activity Areas. To further encourage a broad range of new skills, youth will need to earn three additional challenge badges. Scouts will receive recognition for completion of each Activity Area; these will be worn on the sash *along with* the Pioneer Activity Awards. A Pathfinder Award (worn on uniform) will be presented upon achievement of all four Activity Areas in this level, plus 3 additional challenge badges.

4. *Senior Scout Options*

The final stages of a Scout's program will consist of one (or a combination) of the following programs:

- a) *Chief Scout's Award*. Requirements:
 - completion of Pathfinder Award,
 - be active in troop for at least one year, and be currently registered,
 - demonstrate adherence to Mission and Principles,
 - 50 hours of community service,
 - work with another section,
 - additional challenge badges,
 - World Conservation Badge,
 - World/Canadian Scouting knowledge.

b) *Enhanced Leadership Program*. This program will include a set of clear learning goals which will build upon the attitudes, skills and knowledge of the leadership Activity Area at the Pathfinder level.

c) *Personal Challenge Awards*. Scouts will earn these individual awards for acquiring a number of challenge badges from different challenge badge categories (see Proposed Challenge Badge System). A Scout doesn't have to wait until third year to get an award.

Note: Each level of programming, (pioneering, pathfinder and senior Scout options) should satisfy a typical Scout for approximately one year.

Proposed Challenge Badge System

Challenge Badges will be organized into seven categories, each consisting of a number of Challenge Badges. To earn a Challenge Badge, youth must show an increased level of achievement, skill or activity. These categories, and the badges under each, include:

1. *Athletics Category*: Team, Individual, Winter and Water Sport, and Swimming Badges.
2. *Environment Category*: Naturalist, Recycling, Fish/Wildlife, Water Management, Forestry, and World Conservation Badges.
3. *Personal Development Category*: Collector, Communicator, Interpreter, Life

Saving, Individual and Troop Specialty, First Aid, and Religion in Life Badges.

4. *Outdoors Category:* Pioneering, Exploring, Winter Scouting, Paddling, Tripping, Sailing, Powercraft, Advanced Camper, and Year Round Camper Badges.

5. *Home and Family Category:* Home Repair, Cooking, Builder, Family Care, Pet Care, and Safety Badges.

6. *Science and Technology Category:* Weather, Computer, Engineering, Aerospace, Inventor, and Science Badges.

7. *Culture/Society Category:* Arts, Artist, Entertainer, Music, Photography, Handicraft, Canadian Culture, Heritage, Special Needs, and Cultural Awareness Badges.

These badges will cover skills in the current achievement system not incorporated in the Core Program. Recognition (the badge) will be worn on the sash.

Personal Challenge Awards

Some type of recognition is planned for achievement of a number of challenge badges which come from a variety of categories (i.e. a certain number of challenge badges from four of the above categories).

VENTURER PROGRAM

Venturers and advisors were generally happy with the activities in the existing program. Opinion was split on the need for a badge program. Most people want more activities that Venturers can do, and be recognized, as a group. Based on feedback, few Venturer program changes will be made, though we will provide greater opportunity for recognition of group activities.

Proposed Venturer Core Program

1. *Investiture.* Youth must know and understand the Promise, Law and Motto. An epaulette is given as recognition.

2. *Core Program.* All activities within the core program will be organized into four Activity Areas:

- Exploration
- Teamwork/Leadership
- Lifestyle
- Social/Cultural

A clear set of requirements will be established for each area. All current awards will be incorporated into one of the four Activity Areas, and worn as they are now. The program will emphasize the following badges to reinforce teamwork: Outdoorsman, Canadian Trails, Amory, and World Conservation.

In order to allow for greater flexibility around requirements, the program goals may be completed by:

- a) following requirements set out in handbooks,
- b) attaining outside agency badges which fulfil equivalent requirements in each area (where appropriate),
- c) developing and attaining company-specific requirements which fulfil equivalent requirements in each Activity Area.

3. *Queen's Venturer Award.* Requirements:

- hold one of Outdoorsman, Venturer or Duke of Edinburgh Award (silver),
- be active in the company for at least one year and be currently registered,
- hold a St. John Ambulance or Red Cross standard first aid certificate,
- hold an award for service skill or equivalent,

- 50 hours community service time,
- act as an activity leader, SIT (or equivalent),
- serve a full term on the company executive,
- keep record of Venturer activities,
- meet with provincial commissioner or designate,
- worn on uniform.

From Here to the Beginning

With the approval in principle of these program outlines (at the November 1996 National Program Forum), work on developing the details is underway. Alberta Council has agreed to develop the content (learning outcomes) of the Scout core program. Ontario Council will work on the Challenge Badge program, including the development of requirements for new badges needed to replace achievement badge requirements. These tasks will be completed by early February. The Scout/Venturer Review Committee will then meet to finalize program details; its final report will be provided to provincial/territorial councils for review in early March. Pending National Council approval of the program changes (May 1997), it will take about 15 months to prepare all materials necessary for full implementation.

What you can do!

Please read the program outlines carefully. Send your comments to the Scout/Venturer Review Committee *no later than mid-February*. Our address is P.O. Box 5151, Station LCD-Merivale, Ottawa, ON, K2C 3G7. Fax: (613) 224-3571.

Thanks for your help. ^

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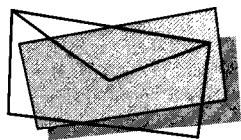


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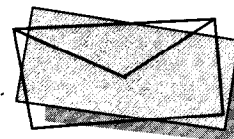
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Pen Friends



Brazil

A 23-year-old Cub leader whose interests include reading, music and guitar playing, would like to make friends with a young Canadian adult to exchange badges, pins, crests and program ideas. Write to Robson Alexandre de Moraes at Rua Aurelia 419, Villa Romana, Sao Paulo, CEP 05046-000, Brazil.

Britain

The 6th Horley Troop is working on a project that involves Canada. They would like to swap photos, Scouting news and ideas on a long term basis. Write to them through Alan Taylor, 10 Manor Dr., Horley, Surrey, RH6 8SB, England.

Canada

Mohammed Z. Islam is a Scout leader from Blue Mountain Scout Group. He would like to write to leaders in other parts of Canada and around the world to exchange Scouting ideas and souvenirs. Write to him at 9950 St. Laurent, Apartment 108, Montreal, PQ, H3L 2N7.

Devin Barley, a 16-year-old Venturer interested in camping and the outdoors would like a pen pal. Write to him at P.O. Box 2139, Tumbler Ridge, BC, VOC 2W0.

Cub leader Brain Mole would like to explore the possibility of setting up a Scouting pen pal club in Canada. Interested? Write to Brian at 447-13th Street A West, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 3X3.

Ghana

Both parents of Felica Dimpson (a young girl of 14) are dead. Felica loves Scouting because it has helped her make friends and learn interesting skills. Now she would like to make friends in Canada. Write to Felica at Achimota Anglican Primary School, P.O. Box 5, Achimota, Accra, Ghana.

George Cofie, a 20-year-old Scout and art student, would like to contact Canadians to exchange ideas. Write to him at c/o Ankle College of Arts, Box 11892, Accra - North, Ghana.

David Mensah is thirteen; he would like to get to know other Canadian youth. Write to him, c/o No. 1 Oueshie V.A., Forces Pay Office Burma, Camp Accar, Ghana.

Ireland

An Irish girl called Geraldine Harvey would like to write to Canadian youth. Her address: Geraldine Harvey, 8 Conlin Road, Killybegs, Co Donegal, Ireland.

Korea

Three Korean youth would like to know more about Canadian Scouting:

- Yi Jong Kya is a 15-year-old male who loves skiing and music. Write: 1639-4 Seocho 1 Dong, Seocho Ku, Seoul, Korea.
- Kim Dong Hyun enjoys playing on the computer. He's 13 and lives at 7-806 Samic Garden Apartment, Myong-II 1 Dong, Kangdong Ku, Seoul, Korea.
- Mun Sun-Pil is 14. He likes playing basketball and ping-pong. Write to him at 103 Keumpyong Yeonrib, Inwho 2 Dong, Chunju City, Jeonbuk Province, Korea.

New Zealand

The 1st Wanganui East Cub Scouts has about 18 co-ed members (aged 6-8). The group's special interests include outdoor activities and soccer. To write to these Cubs, address letters to their leader, Cheryl Bissit, 101 Ikitara Raod, Wanganui, New Zealand.

Nigeria

Mohammed Umaru would like to exchange badges, crests and Scouting ideas with others. Write: P.O. Box 641, Maiduguri, Borneo State, Nigeria, 23/9196.

Aliyu Mohammed Dutse is very active in the Nigerian Scouts. Write to him c/o Jigawa State Headquarters, Boy Scouts of Nigeria, P.O. Box 107, Dutse, Nigeria.

Zimbabwe

Zivanai Mutsuangwa, a 23-year-old Scout from Zimbabwe would like to exchange cultural information and ideas. His interests include inventing, reading adventure novels, travelling and athletic games. His address is Kuwadzana I Primary School, c/o Town House, P.O. Box 990, Harare, Zimbabwe. X

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Please Note

The Leader provides the Pen Friends column as a forum to exchange addresses between pen pals. **The Leader** does not conduct any investigation prior to listing these names and assumes no responsibilities with respect to contacts made.

SCOUTER'S 5

The Life In Us

by Kathryn Russill

That's what life is...
a slow race against time, a journey in and out of experiences, challenges and relationships.

That's what life is about...
a measurement of how well we can make use of each moment we are given.

That's what life involves...
a choice of where to go, what to do, who to spend our precious seconds with, and what to learn along the way.

That's what life asks...
a question about whether or not we've completed our goals, followed our dreams, cherished our loved ones.

That's what life decides...
a destiny in the distance that we may or may not be a part of, but that we always have the ability to change.

That's what life offers...
a chance to become who we want to be, to change and renew our attitudes, our faith, our love.

That's what life entrusts...
an opportunity for each of us to create and live our own personal happiness, our own peace.

That's what life provides...
a heart to love all people, a smile to beam pure sunshine, a mind to think clear thoughts, a soul to sing empowering praises.

That's what life possesses...
a light inside each one of us, burning always, waiting to be acknowledged, ready to guide the life in us.

— Kathryn Russill, Nepean, ON.

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.773

Jan. '97

SKITS

This skit is aimed at Scout and Venturer-aged youth. It's perfect for an evening performance or a winter camp. (Thanks to Brenda Beckett, Owen Sound, ON.)



The Burger 'Pit'

This skit requires a chair, a piece of black spongy rubber (or something similar), a chef's hat, and an apron. The chef should *not* wear a shirt.

Narrator: "The scene opens at a table in Ben's Big Burger Pit, a fast food, greasy spoon restaurant."

Customer: (Enters and sits down) "Boy am I ever hungry! I'm really looking forward to something great after all that camp food."

Waiter: (Walks up to table) "Yes sir. What can I get you?"

Customer: "I want one of Ben's Big Burgers with the works on it, and a big cold drink."

Waiter: "Right away sir!" (The waiter exits. The customer looks around and notices the type of place he's in. He picks up a fork and inspects it for dirt. Facial expressions show his disapproval.)

Waiter: (Entering) "Here's your burger and drink sir." (Exits)

continued...

Skits, p.171

Jan. '97

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the leader

Customer: (Starts to eat burger, stops abruptly as he finds a hair in the meat. With exaggerated gestures, he pulls it out.)
"Waiter! Waiter! Come here!"

Waiter: "What's the problem?"

Customer: "There's a hair in my burger. Please get me another one."

Waiter: "Certainly sir." (Exits and returns with another burger in a moment) "Here you are sir."

Customer: (Starts to eat new burger, finds another hair and pulls it out disgustedly)
"Waiter! Come here quickly!"

Waiter: "What seems to be the problem?"

Customer: "There's a hair in this burger too. I want to speak to the chef."

Waiter: "Certainly!" (Exits and returns with chef)

Chef: (Speaks while pumping his arm against his side to squeeze pieces of black spongy rubber against armpit) "Yeah? What's the problem? I'm busy pressing burger patties!"



Skits, p.172

Keep the Spirit Alive!

A professor once asked me, "How do you keep the Spirit of Christmas alive all year long?"

"Give me a gift every day," I replied.

"That might be a little expensive," he said.

"Oh, I didn't say anything about buying me a gift. That's something entirely different," I said.

What is the most important thing we can give our youth? Perhaps it involves recognizing them as individuals, letting them know we understand who they are, appreciating the character that goes with each name, and encouraging the gifts that each person possesses. That kind of "gift-ing" is something we can give year round. Our youth need these gifts.

— *From BC-Yukon Scoutlook.*

Closing Prayers

Thank you for our Cubbing time,
Thank you for the stars that shine,
Bless us God while we're apart,
Keep us serving with all our heart.

— *Rev. Ed White, Surrey, BC.*

Thank You God, for the snow
It makes our cheeks and noses glow.
It turns the world all clean and bright
And gives the plants a long, safe night.
It lets us slide and skate and ski
And build our snowmen 1, 2, 3.
It sparkles under moon and sun,
Thank you God, for so much fun.

— *Hazel Hallgren, Red Deer, AB.*

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.774



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LETTERS

Vision for All of Us

Starting my eleventh year as a Scout leader several months ago, I wondered for a moment why it appealed to me so much. What keeps me coming back, I reflected.

The answer has many parts. I wanted a chance to "bond" with my own son and watch his growth. I also wanted to teach him (and other youth in the Movement) something about the outdoors that I enjoy so much. As well, I wanted to return, or pay back, something to Scouting.

But, eighteen months ago something happened that made me think my Scouting time had come to an abrupt end. Overnight, I found myself blind!

After the surgery, terror and "blues" that accompany such a sudden loss, I felt I couldn't contribute anything else to the troop. What could I give now? Reluctantly, I decided to resign. The next meeting would be my last.

When that night arrived several Scouts and leaders confronted me. (They had heard about my intention.) They didn't want me to leave, and felt I had as much to offer, if not more, than before.

Their most persuasive argument was indisputable: "Just because you can't see doesn't mean you have nothing to contribute. You've always led by example; you still can." They asked me to look at it as new challenges: the same as I've always told them!

The emotions and pride I felt surging inside for these people was indescribable. From my Scouts I was hearing the maturity that had developed as their knowledge and expertise in outdoor skills had grown over the years. From the leaders I was discovering the true bonds of friendship that had developed. They showed me that my leadership, my knowledge, expertise and abilities were important to them. They showed me that being blind made no difference.

Sure, I had to change my delivery somewhat, as well as how I managed at camp and during hikes. But I was able to manage! Everyone helped me adapt. I realized that I was learning as much from the youth as they were learning from me. My ability to continue without giving up gave them assurance that they too could face big obstacles and overcome them.

I owe those Scouts and leaders of St. Mary's Troop of Kirkland, Quebec, more than I can ever imagine. They not only gave me their true friendship and trust, but also the strength to face a dark world with confidence.

Eight months ago I moved to British Columbia. This has presented new challenges and opportunities, as well as a new understanding of leadership. I find no greater joy than watching a youth come into the Movement and grow into a confident, mature young adult. Leaders like you and I have helped these young people grow. What an honour! ^

— William Thow, 1st Cobble Hill Troop, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

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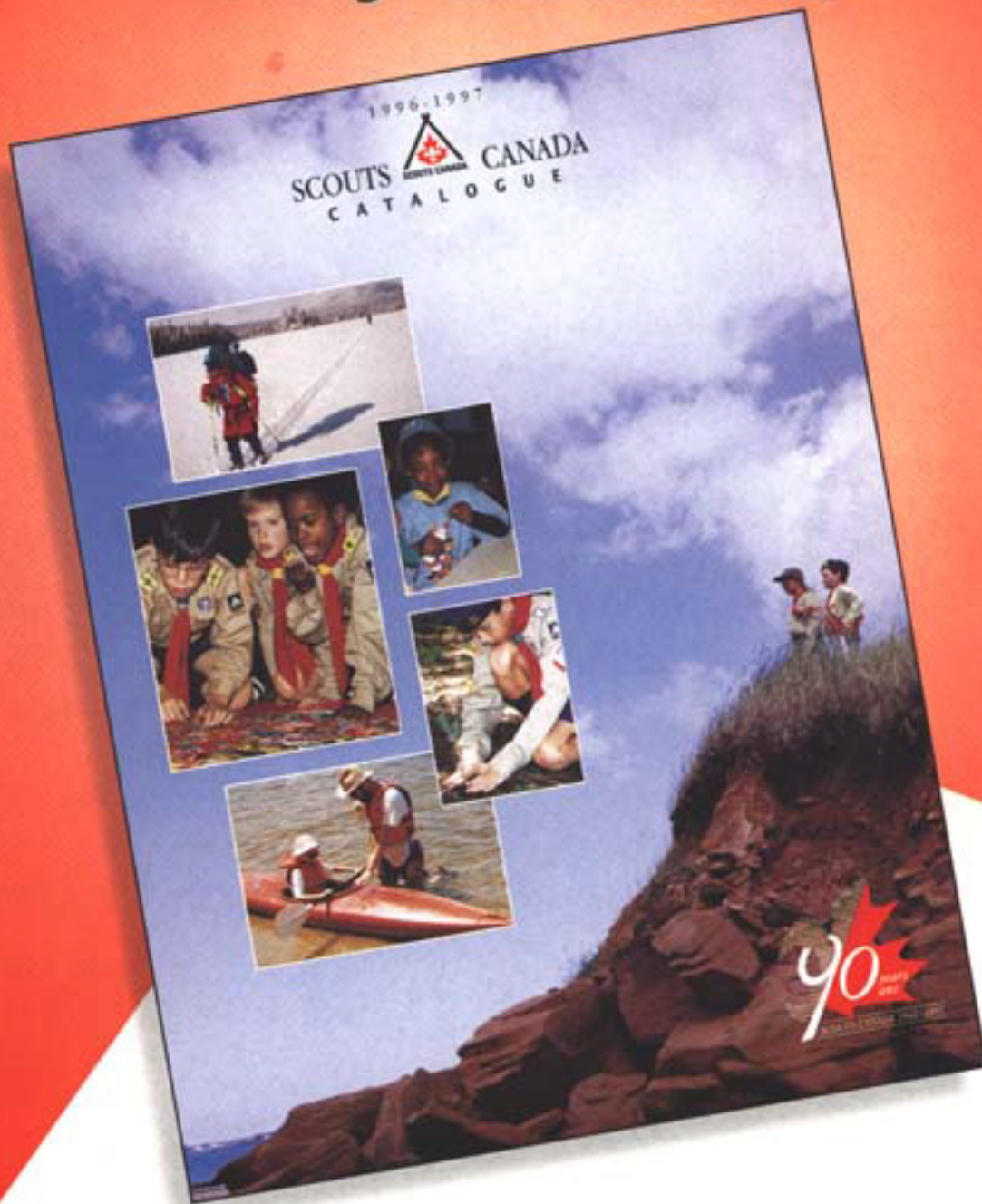
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