

The LogJam

Summer 2015

Girl Guides of Canada Pacific Shores Area

Greetings from your Area Commissioner

A very delightful afternoon of fun and friendship was enjoyed by all who attended the Pacific Shores Area Guider Gathering/AGM on April 18. The food was delicious, the venue was a gorgeous setting at the Cottonwood Golf Club, the dining room and the decorations were so lovely. A big thank you to the ladies from Nanaimo Arbutus District who were this year's hosts. You did a terrific job putting it all together and making it an event to remember.

One of my special memories was the long, long line of Canada Cord girls who came up to receive gifts of flowers and special signed letters of congratulations from the PM office in Ottawa. There was a total of 31 Canada Cord recipients in 2014. Eight of the girls have since left guiding. Of the 23 still active there were 19 in attendance at the luncheon who came forward to receive their acknowledgement from Area.

Congratulations also to the recipients of the Pacific Shores Area Bursary. They are Alicia Lecompte, Angela O'Donnell and Jessica Lennstrom. We, as an area, are so proud of our girls and their accomplishments.

Well done to all the individuals who received awards at the luncheon. You are all wonderful, deserving members of guiding. Thank you for all that you do.

Recently, I have had the honour to be invited to a district meeting and a district camp. I do love to visit the districts and welcome the invitations. Though I may not be able to attend all that I am invited to, I like to make the effort. It has been expressed to me that the unit guiders appreciate

getting to meet me and putting a face to the title. Well, I'm happy to show my face anytime, anywhere. I want all guiders to feel that all of us on area council can identify with them and they with us. We are, after all, volunteers with the same purpose which is to provide meaningful, exciting and fun activities for our girls and to help them grow toward their full potential as members of the local and worldwide community.

When I was a guide guider I got particularly excited when this time of year rolled around because we could take our girls camping. The girls were always equally excited, maybe more! Girl engagement meant that they could be part of the planning and execution of a camp. Learning basic camping skills, camp cooking, outside games and singing around a campfire at night were always on the top of the "fave things to do" list. Have fun this spring as you camp. Be safe, enjoy your time with your girls. Take joy in the little things because those are the things a young girl will put in her memory bank. You are helping her grow into the woman she will become. Oh, and don't forget to take pictures of camp and share with us in LogJam too!

At the Guider Gathering, special guest Dawnette Humphrey, PC said "thank you is not enough". That is so true, but I say with all sincerity, thank you guiders, for all that you do for guiding in Pacific Shores Area.

Deanie Patten

2015 Area Guider Gathering



Deanie Patten, Area Commissioner, presented Area Scholarships to Alicia Lecompte, Angela O'Donnell, and Jessica Lennstrom.



Last Bastion 2015 Bursary of \$750. Jessica Lennstrom of Nanaimo Arbutus District was presented on behalf of our Guild by Kathy Brown at this Area event. Jessica went to Ladysmith Secondary School, was a Junior Leader with Cedar Sparks and is planning to go to Vancouver Island University in the Health Care Assistant program



Provincial Commissioner, Dawnette Humphrey, came to visit and was kept very busy helping Deanie Patten acknowledging the many girls (at total of 31) who attained their Canada Cords in Pacific Shores Area in 2014. 19 2014 Canada Cord recipients attended the luncheon.

This year's Guider Event was held April 18th, at Cottonwood Golf Club (just north of Nanaimo Airport) and hosted by Nanaimo Arbutus District.

Great job Ladies!!

This annual gathering of Guiders from Pacific Shores Area is a meeting place, an award presenting event, and a fun time for everyone. And the baskets raffled off are marvelous. The receipt of this year's basket raffle was Nanaimo

Arbutus District's, fully funded unit, The Black Diamonds



Kevin Breakey presented Elenor Hurst with an Area Award.



The Last Bastion Trefoil Guild brought a great gift basket for the raffle. Many other great baskets too.... each one donated by a different district or trefoil guild.



Members of the Dogwood Trefoil Guild at the Area Guider Gathering.



Some Funseekers Trefoil Guild members having fun at the Area Guider Gathering.

1st Annual National Conference Report

Hi my name is Darcy Darbyshire, (that's me on the left) I am a second year ranger with Nanaimo Piper Rangers. I was lucky enough to be chosen out of 50 Rangers from across Canada to attend the 1st Annual National Conference in Toronto ON. On April 10, 2015, I set out on my adventure to Toronto from Nanaimo BC. This is the first time I had never been on a plane by myself. As soon as we got to the hotel we registered and went straight to opening ceremonies. We talked about rules and a general idea of what was happening over the weekend. At opening ceremonies we were assigned tables to meet new people. There were 150 Guiders, National, and Provincial staff members and 50 Rangers. We were assigned table with a variety of people from all over Canada and all had different Guiding positions. We did a few ice breakers, such as we had to come up with ten things we had in common outside of Guiding, such

as, if we had a pet or we had all been on a plane. It was a lot harder than you would have thought and took quite some time. During dinner we had a couple speakers including messages from our Chief Commissioner, Sharron Callahan and Rachel Bonnetta (a tv host from the Zone). Rachel Bonnetta had such an amazing speech, it was so inspiring to see how much Guiding can change a person. It made me realize how many skills I have because of being involved with Girl Guides.

Saturday morning we learnt about all the researchers Guiding has hired to research about programming, girls and youth trends. This was important because it set us up for rest of the weekend. After lunch we had interactive breakout groups about "What makes Guiding, Guiding?" Where we talked about unique opportunities and experiences we have had in Guiding, also what we love about Guiding.

That night we had a trading session. I came to Toronto with about 10 crests and I left Toronto with one crest from each of the Provincial Commissioners and many, many more. We also had a social night, we had ice breakers, games, campfire mad-libs and a dance party. It was a lot of fun! When I saw campfire mad-libs in the program I was wondering what it was. Campfire mad-libs are when you take campfire songs and exchanging words with adjectives, nouns, pronouns, etc, like you do in the mad-lib books. It was a fun way to end the night.

When I woke up Sunday morning I was sad to see this weekend



Darcy on the left, our Provincial Commissioner on the right and 4 other participants at this National Conference

be done, I had met so many people and I did not know when I would see them again. However, as we all know when you say goodbye to a friend in Guiding you are not really saying goodbye, you are saying "see you when I see you".

The rest of the day was super packed there was so much to do before we got on the shuttle to the airport. We had a break out group of what are the most desired attributes and skills of a Unit Guider. We put our thoughts of what skills you need to be a Unit Guider and narrowed it down and put them on posters and shared our ideas.

The last breakout group we had at the conference was "I am a Girl, Hear Me Roar" where it was all girls and we broke into 5 tables of 10 girls and talked about our opinions of what should happen in Guiding, from uniforms to program. We talked about anything that came to mind in a 2 hour period. I spoke about my feelings of the "Transition Year" in BC and how much I worry about continuing in Guiding after I turn 18.

Sadly the weekend had come to an end, with a beautiful slide show put together with all the pictures we had been tweeting and posting all weekend. It was such an amazing weekend and I felt like my voice was important and was actually being heard. Everything that had been said was being taken note of with good hopes. Thanks to this conferences I feel more committed and excited towards Guiding. To all the Guiding friends I met this isn't good bye, I'll see you when I see you.

1st Cowichan Guides

Encounter Woolly Mammoth

at the provincial museum in Victoria!!!

We did a Victoria Sleepover that included the Royal BC Museum, dinner at the Spaghetti Factory, and a tour of Craigdarroch Castle. The girls truly enjoyed themselves. We broke them into 3 different groups and rotated through the three sections of the museum (as there was no feature). The girls were all excited about Craigdarroch for none of them knew that the island had a castle. Some girls counted doors (lost track at 47) and some counted stairs (gave up at 92). (picture of one group at the museum and at Craigdarroch)

We had Constable Kelly Rydholm the community liaison from North Cowichan RCMP detachment come to our unit and help the girls earn their Law Awareness Badge. The girls learnt about different laws, the difference between harassment and assault, and how they connect to bullying, and personal safety. Our girls had more questions than they did time. (Picture with the Constable, not to be shared on Facebook but is okay in our publications.)



Guides on Gabriola Island made dolls ...for the hospital

As part of our Supporting Your Community badge this year, the Gabriola girl guides made medical dolls for the Nanaimo hospital. Medical dolls are plain skin-toned dolls that nurses can use when explaining a procedure to a sick or injured child in the hospital. The child then gets to keep the doll, and decorate it. Children are often not allowed to bring their own stuffed animals or dolls with them in the hospital, so these dolls keep them company during their stay. The girl guides followed the doll pattern provided by the hospital, to pin and cut out the material. We then learned to sew using a sewing machine, which was a first for all of our girls. We had a lot of fun, learned a new skill, and helped our community - what guiding is all about.





The Port McNeill Guides received a grant to re plant some of the School House Creek area behind our local Guide/Scout Hall. With approval from DFO approximately 40 native trees and shrubs were planted.



Never underestimate the abilities Trefoild Guild members have to share!!! or the interest our girls have in their knoweledge. Knitting is just one of the many skills available.

Let's make the next LogJam all
about your summer adventures!!!
Camps you did.
Trips you took your girls on.

A Picture is worth 1,000 words, but a picture with a caption telling people
who? what? when? where? and even *why?* is worth far more.

Deadline for the next issue September 14th ...
the Monday after Labour Day.

Random Adventures

