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 receipient of this year's basket raffle was Nanaimo

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

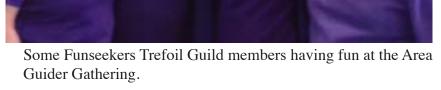


Kevin Breakey presented Elenor Hurst with an Area Award.





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



Getting to Know Area Council We hope to make this a regular feature.

Susan Zutz,

Ranger and Link Advisor, and more!!

Susan, who lives in Nanaoose Bay, is also Duke of Edninburgh Advisor and her District's Camp Advisor.

She got her start in Guiding when her mom registered her as a Brownie.She carried on to Guides and Rangers (Pathfinders wasn't invented yet) She left Rangers when she finished school and became a Leader when her daughter joined Guides. She is now in her 28th year in Guiding.

Camping and adventures are her favourite part of Guiding

Has there been a major highlight?

There have been many, Merritt SOAR, a trip to Our Cabana, meeting Guiders in the UK when I went in 2004, and then they came back to the next SOAR in Parksville. Watching my daughter achieve the highest awards in Guiding and Scouting simultaneously, Hands Across the Border, finishing my OAL Adventure Training

What do you do in your other lives?

I have two jobs, both administrative, and I have horses, dogs and a herd of cats, all black. I like to Dragon Boat, hike, camp, canoe, kayak, and photography.

Any advice for someone thinking about joining area council or becoming adistrict commissioner?

Don't bite off more than you can chew, but it's still a great experience I think, worth the effort, and fun people.

Anything else you want to tell us?

There is nothing better than helping youth achieve their youngest dreams and goals in life. Each Badge or Challenge is a taste of some-

Terry Newell, iMIS Specialist

Terry got started in Guiding as a Brownie in the 50s. She wanted to be a Guide but never got the opportunity. Like so many long time members, she came back to the organization when her daughter became a Brownie.

She says the answer to "what is your favourite part of Guiding?" is easy. She loves watching the girls grow, have new experiences, and realize "I can do this". Starting and cooking on a camp stove rock repelling, to learning how to canoe or kayak, plus many more adventures.!!!



Terry gets very excited when she is sent complete information to be entered into iMIS!!!

Terry lives in the Comox Valley but does

not admit to having any lives outside of Guiding!!! She has been a member of Guiding for more than 35 years so probably hasn't had time for anything else LOL.

Positions on Area Council can be very rewarding and you get to work with a truly awesome team, all dedicated to creating the best possible program and opportunities for the girls, Terry told us.

Another perk: the many friends "sisters in Guiding" she has across Canada and internationally!!! That is a perk she wishes for everyone.

thing new they might not have known they would like. Helping them lear to plan and be successful, and that failure is just practice experience for suc cess, as a youth is a great skill they can use their whole lives. Sharing com mon interests and teaching about the outdoors keeps you in touch with th youth and in focus with the experiences and opportunities GG's provides th youth today. I hope that I inspire/teach the girls to be capable achievers and independent, confidant young women in the outdoors.

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



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

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

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 liason 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 wuestions 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 knowledge. 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.

