

Pacific Shores Area Annual Report 2017

Girl Guides of Canada
British Columbia Council

2017 Area Council

Area Commissioner

Barb Wood
- SOAR 2017 Liaisons
Marjorie Colebrook, Gloria Millar

Deputy Area Commissioners

Johanna Scott, Margaret Slater

Treasurer (committee chair)

Margaret Slater (acting) Marina Rispin
until June 30/17
-Properties co-advisors
Marian Davis, Cindy Popplestone until June 30/17
-Area fundraising approvers
Jana Erickson, Marian Davies, Jeanette Brooks
-Registration assistant
vacant (was Patti Salewski)
-Financial reviewer
vacant (Joan Morgan until September 30/17)
-International trip reviewer
Joan Morgan

Secretary

Cindy Popplestone

Broughton Strait District

Co-commissioners Nadine Gough, Heather Jones

Campbell River District

Commissioner Barb Baldwin (Karin McCune until
June 30/17)
-Deputies
Amanda Dunstan, Christina Corder

Malaspina Strait District

Commissioner Kate Boyd (Christine Boyd until May
31/17)

Comox Valley District

Commissioner Kelly Phillips
-Deputy Stephanie Carlson (Margaret Slater co.DC
until may 31/17)

Coastal Rainforest District

Co-commissioners Jayne Willie, Lorna Tetrault,
Heather Riddick
-Deputy Alyson Schmitz

Hurford District

Commissioner Jessica McIntyre
-Deputy Oona Barrera

Nanaimo Piper District

Commissioner Elenor Hurst
-Deputies Teri Wilson, Marjorie Colebrook

Nanaimo Arbutus District

Commissioner Brenda Maguire (Noreen Keen until
May 31/17)

Waters Edge District

Co-commissioners Kym Whitefield, Seija Laine,
Caitlin Morris

Camping Advisors

Kevin Breakey, Skip Marshall (Wendy Jackson until
June 1/17)
-Camp Crien Chair
Dana Wood
-Duncan Guide Hall Chair
Velma Bercier

International Advisor

Jill McCormack

Membership Advisor

(chair of committee) Ann Henkelman
-Awards Laurie Douglas
-Conflict management advisors vacant
-Trefoil representative vacant (Ann Henkelman until
Sept 30/17)
-iMIS Advisor Terry Newell
-Membership support advisor Margaret Slater

Program Advisor

(committee chair) Courtenay Wallace
-Link and Transitioning member advisor Casey
Darbyshire
-Special needs advisors Kevin Breakey, Shirley
Hickman, Carolyn Wood, Kathryn Turner, Carol
Smith
-Special Events Advisors Corinne Murphy, Teri
Wilson

Public Relations Advisor

(committee chair) Valerie Froom (Morgan
Darbyshire until May 31/17)
- Cookie Advisor Pat Mahon
-Website manager vacant
-Area Newsletter & Annual Report Editor Lynn
Reeve

Training Advisor

Stacy Newcombe (Margaret Slater until May 31/17)

Trefoil Guilds

– Ann Henkelman

Our Pacific Shores Area Trefoil Guilds continue to be an active and vital part of our membership.

179 Guild members in 14 Guilds live and work in our Area communities from the Malahat to the northern tip of Vancouver Island including Powell River and the Gulf Islands. Our members work with and for the girls in our units, Districts, Area and Province as well as our Canadian organization and WAGGGS.

In 2017, the Last Bastion Guild provided two bursaries to deserving Rangers who are continuing their education; and all of our Guilds support Guiding members and programming by selling cookies, organizing events, contributing to CWFF and working as individuals or as a group with units, councils, Districts, our Area and the Province. Many of our members worked as staff at SOAR 2017 in Smithers. Our membership generously shares their knowledge and expertise in many areas: geocaching, camping, and hiking as well

as crafting, planning and sharing the history and world-wide reach of our amazing organization of women and girls.

Our Guilds provide assistance in their home communities. Organizations like Haven House, local food banks, women's shelters, hospitals, Meals on Wheels and many local charities and service organizations have received help from our Guilds and members.

Our members can often be found in the outdoors; hiking, camping and sharing their outdoor skills.

Our Guild members enjoy the fun and friendship of getting together and participating in hikes, luncheons, dinners, trips, tours, and sharing their memories of Girl Guides and the benefits of staying connected.

We fondly remember our members who have "Gone Home". Go well and safely.



**Members of several trefoil guilds
enjoying The Dogwood Guild's
Halloween Party.**

Camp Adviser's Report

Skip Marshall and Kevin Breakey

We jointly adopted the position in June this year. During the summer we were able to help Coastal Rainforest District with a camping workshop at the request of their District commissioner. The workshop was held at Qualicum Beach on a glorious evening at the end of August and was well attended. Topics covered included camp stoves and lanterns, food, alternative cooking methods and knots and gadgets.

Following on from this Skip was invited to a Guide camp to teach the girls knots and gadgets. The girls were enthused by the structures they were able to create.

Kevin was also invited to visit a Pathfinder camp at Camp Creina.

This is a great way to get to know the Guiders and their girls, share knowledge, pick up new ideas and see what a great time the girls are having.

We are grateful for the SG forms being forwarded by our Area Commissioner, District Commissioners and the Guiders taking the girls away so we can see what great camping opportunities the girls are getting.

There have been lots of camping in our area from day camps, sleepovers through to tenting and girls participating in Nationally sponsored trips.

Plans and ideas:

Following some disappointing Ranger programmes at SOAR, we discussed putting on an adventurous activity at Area camp to encourage the Rangers to attend.

Also, with regards to Area camp we discussed targeting activities at level specific as well as bringing the levels together for some activities.

A proposal was put forward for an Area camp to be held at Sev-

en Springs in May and preliminary plans were made but due to unfortunate circumstances it has been postponed.

Food allergies and special diets are now a significant part of camp menu planning and require more complex planning and more expense. While appreciating that this is a major consideration to those concerned there may be a way to address this growing trend. Ideas from Guiders with more experience and further discussion and education would be appreciated. An idea for a Camp training.

With the help of our new training adviser, Stacy, 2 Residential Camp trainings for Guiders are planned for January in Ladysmith and Cumberland to make it easier for travelling.

A Tenting camp training was planned for March but has now been rescheduled for May at Camp Creina. Also a proposal for Adventure camp training.



Who says camping is only for summer? Not these girls from 3rd Wellington Guides who spent a weekend at Mt. Washinton this winter.

iMIS

Terry Newell

What are you especially proud of in your area of specialty over the past year?

A big shout-out to all Guiders who provide their unit, girl and/or their Membership Number(s). Thank you!! Thank-you for complying with the National and Provincial requests to review unit and district rosters, at various times, to verify girls attending unit meetings are registered.

Unit max numbers and start dates submitted by the March date set by National.

Ensuring A5Ps contain all information when sending to the Provincial Office prior to the 1st Count on 1 Dec. Our registered numbers for the Jan 2017 Count are:

2016-2017

Girls & Youth MBRs	1,483
Ranger & TMBRs	59
Adult Members	555
Total Members	2,038

2017-2018

Girl & Youth MBRs	1,386
Ranger & TMBRs	57
Adult Members	543
Total Members	1,986

This is a decrease from 2017 -2.55%

This was an increase from 2016 of 7.55%.

What has challenged your area of specialty the most over the past year?

Canada Cord and Chief Commissioner Gold Award presentation date entries in iMIS!!

Below, some happy cookies sellers from Hurford District



Training

Stacy Newcome

2017 was a transition year for the area training adviser and the position was vacant for several months.

Throughout the year, trainers held at least 5 Safe Guide trainings, with over 30 members participating. Unit Guider Stream modules were also offered on Salt Spring Island and in Cumberland.

Near the end of 2017, we were advised that Food Safe certification is now required for our camps. Also, the courses are now valid for 5 years only which meant many Guiders certification would expire in June 2018. With money still left in the training budget, Area offered to pay the \$35 fee for the online refresher course. We had a great response, and 35 Guiders took advantage of the opportunity to update their certificates.

As of the end of 2017, we have 5 qualified trainers and look forward to bringing on more.

PR

Valerie Froom

I only came on as area PR Adviser in October. My predecessor completed an order of Pacific Shores swag in 2017. For my part, I've taken on the social media aspect and tried to breathe a bit of life into our Facebook page (the public side of things). Website redevelopment stalled in 2017, so that is a goal for 2018. Pictures and events from around our area would greatly help in boosting our public profile.



First you practice and then you do it!! Ist Powell River Brownies learned how to put up a tent!!

Broughton Straits

Nadine Gough

What an exciting and busy year it was for Guiding on the North Island!

Excitement in Port Hardy, as their meeting room was flooded early in the spring – the challenge of finding meeting space and having to pack up supplies, made for some creative meetings and ceremonies.

Sparks/Brownies held their 4th annual Mother Daughter Sleepover in June at the Guide Scout Hall in Port McNeill and did the WOWZA challenge badge.

They were sad to see the end of the year as many of the Brownies advanced to Guides.

The Guides started the year with a change in leaders, welcoming someone brand new to Guiding! They held an evening beach enrollment, on Thinking day – light by luminaries the girls had made. In June the Guides held a one-night camp out which was the first time sleeping in a tent for many of the girls. They had lots of fun Geocaching and learning new skills. September started with many new Guides and the group doubled in numbers and had a large enrolment ceremony in the Fall.

A small but mighty group in Port Alice, had a challenging year with losing 2 girls and only having 3 in a mixed group. They enjoy regular meetings of program, baking and crafts

All levels of Guiding in Port McNeill held their annual Advancement Ceremony. 3 Pathfinders received their Citizenship Awards. 2 Rangers received their Chief Commissioner Gold Awards. 2 Rangers received their Chief Commissioner Bronze Awards.

Guides had a Canada 150 Cluxewe camp, a Chocolate Challenge sleepover, did the Great Canadian Shoreline cleanup and finished their program for the year.

The Pathfinders and Rangers were very busy throughout the year. With many bridging activities with the Guides. They worked the luminary booth at Relay For Life. Some attended SOAR, Mardi Gras, and Iron Chef challenge.



Our First Nations Pathfinders and their families organized a trip including an official welcome to Alert Bay, tour of the island, traditional dancing and making cedar bracelets in the big house, hiking Gator Gardens, Indian Tacos for lunch.



The highlight of the year for the Rangers was a July Europe Trip to Pax Lodge in London, England and Paris, France. Participated in an international event with units from the USA, explored London, completed the Harry Potter Challenge Hampstead Challenge; saw Wicked at the theatre, visited with UK Guides they had met on a 2015 trip to Our Cabana, did environmental service in Hampstead Heath. Took the Chunnel to Paris and explored the city.

Malaspina Strait

Christine Boyd

2017 was a busy year for Malaspina Strait District, with a wide variety of activities and events going on. We had a number of girls finish their Lady Baden Powell Awards, 7 complete their Canada Cord and 2 complete their Chief Commissioner's Gold Award. One girl also achieved her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Our units participated in a number of hikes and camps, completed challenges badges and visited a variety of community services. Our Kelly Creek Multi-Branch Unit had a significant rise in both girl and guider members, which was wonderful to see. Our District participated in a number of service projects, including carolling at seniors' residences, Valentine's for Vets, cards for Meals on Wheels, community clean-ups, community face-painting and adopting a family for a Christmas hamper and gifts. We continued our Annual Bulb Planting with the Powell River Parks and Recreation Department. Malaspina District also joined the Remembrance Day Parade and

the Santa Claus Parade. We held a variety of District and Bridging Events such as Thinking Day, SnowBall, challenge badges, hikes, and campfires. One patrol attended SOAR and the girls enjoyed the variety of activities that were available and meeting new people. One girl went on the Nationally Sponsored trip to IGGNite in Ireland. Her highlight was meeting and talking to the Chair of the World Board for WAGGGS, Nicola Grinstead. We also had an independent trip of Pathfinders and Rangers travel to Switzerland. They participated in the Swiss Challenge at Our Chalet and then moved to the Kandersteg Scouting Centre for the second half of the trip. They enjoyed hiking, meeting people from around the world, exploring Swiss culture and sampling lots of chocolate and cheese. It was a busy year for Malaspina Strait, but it was full of challenges and adventures at all levels, thanks to the dedicated Guiders.



Powell River Brownies learned how to weave with cedar bark thanks to a local weaver.

Campbell River District

Barb Baldwin

Campbell River has had a busy year!

We had a patrol attend SOAR and they had a blast. Our Pathfinders also attended Mix it Up. The girls really enjoyed trying new things and getting to meet many new people at both of these events.

Meanwhile, a little closer to home. All of units have been working hard on their program and earning many badges. From our Sparks and all the way up to Pathfinders, everyone helped out local community. Many units collected food and comfort items for the local food bank or for the Knights of Columbus Hamper project.

Our Thinking Day celebration was a great success. Many girls and Guiders attended. We celebrated the theme making an impact and growing Guiding. We

had the girls plant seeds, create a paper tree with leaves from each girl to show our local Guiding family and had donations brought for the local food bank.

We held a District Sleepover that included the Night Owl challenge. We discovered echo location, made mobiles, played games and had a very special guest from the Mountain Aviary Rescue Society (MARS); A small owl that was rescued by the society and travels to many community groups.

There are many exciting events being planned for the rest of this Guiding year and into next year. We have a pathfinder that will be attending Guide Jubilee in May, among many other camping trips. We have a Pathfinder who be attending ROAM. As well, we have some international trips being put in the works.





Comox Valley's Trex group took Scuba lessons.

Hurford District

Jessica McIntyre

Hurford District has had a year full of fun & excitement! Our sparks have been busy out and about in their community on adventures and cookie sales, having community speakers come into their meetings to teach topics such as safety and healthy living as well they've been building fantastic bridges in the guiding community, meeting with multi levels in guiding from brownies up to pathfinders to participate in games, crafts and even campfire! Our brownies have been discovering fun & friendship, doing a wide variety of crafts, games and of course lots of badge work! These girls have been getting creative, learning about themselves and others and getting to enjoy new things such as clay making, swimming at a new pool, touring local businesses and being a pen pal to American Girl Scouts! Our guides have been entrepreneurs, scientists and campers this guiding year! They have been really getting outside the

box and discovering new avenues in the field of STEM and have adventured to many incredible places like the Sidney Aquarium and Qualicum airport! Our pathfinders have been working on their Canada Cord, they have tent camped in the fall and will again in the spring and they assisted in planning and facilitating our Districts Thinking Day Event. The 9 travelling pathfinders have been busy fundraising in their community and researching where to go and what to do on their 2018 Summer Rocky Mountain Roadtrip. Our Ranger unit has grown and they have carried out many fun and exciting activities. One Ranger is working towards completing her Chief Gold Commissioner's Award. We have been fortunate to welcome 5 new Guiders this guiding year. The 2017-2018 guiding year has been going great with many spring campers ready and raring to go.

Coastal Rainforest District

(Port Alberni) Lorana Tetrault

All units in Port Alberni had a very busy 2017. Sparks earned their keepers by going to the fire hall, the Port Alberni Aquarium, Buy Low foods and Coombs Country Candy. In February they attended the community Snowflake Ball. They participated in the Hug a Tree program at the Search and Rescue hall and held a scavenger hunt in Rogers Creek Park. They held a Sparks Go Wild in the Jungle day camp, made memory books, made lots of crafts and learned many new songs. The unit participated in the Cookie All stars and two girls earned cinema gift certificates. In the all the unit grew by 4 girls and moved meeting locations. They learned their Promise and made rainbow decorations for Enrolment. In October they had a Halloween party. They attended Remembrance Day, Candlelight Ceremony and decorated a Christmas tree at Rainbow Gardens. In December they held a Christmas party and a cookie exchange. Girls went home with two dozen cookies.

Brownies earned many Brownie Keys by making a time capsule, autograph books, Valentine's for the senior's in Echo Village and doing a compass scavenger hunt. They earned the 1st Tofwood Chocolate and geocaching challenges. They worked on an earned the Memories, My Hero, Which Way, Winter Outside, Money Counts and Cookout interest badges. They attended the community Snowflake Ball, held a bring a friend night and a year end activity. Out trips included our Regional Library and the Port Alberni Aquarium. Lots of singing took place as well as a few crafts. In the fall they held a Halloween themed Enrolment ceremony and attended the Remembrance Day service. They also participated in Candlelight Ceremony and decorated a Christmas tree for the residents of Echo Village and sang Christmas carols to them

Guides went to Science World and the Vancouver Aquarium with units from Nanaimo and Duncan in March. They made phone chargers as part of their STEM activities. They hosted the Pathfinders and Ranger when their Guider went on vacation. They completed the Canada 150 and Girls count challenges with them. Much of the spring saw the girls attending cookie blitzes to sell their unit, fundraising and SOAR cookies. In July our Port Alberni Patrol (consisting of 5 Port Alberni Guides, our 1 Port Alberni Pathfinder

along with 2 Pathfinders from Parksville) attended SOAR which they thoroughly enjoyed. In the fall they earned the Guide Element – Air and some Program badges. They held a sleepover in our lighthouse, held a Halloween party with the Rangers, attended the Remembrance Day ceremony and earned the Guides Remember challenge. In December they held Enrolment and attended Candlelight Ceremony.

Our Pathfinder and Ranger units had a busy year as both girls were going to SOAR but in different patrols. Both girls were busy selling both unit and SOAR cookies. Our Ranger went with a Kelowna patrol and our Pathfinder went with the Port Alberni patrol. In July the girls went to SOAR and had a fantastic time. They worked on program and attended many community cookie blitzes. In the fall both girls were Rangers and a new girl who moved to town from Prince Rupert joined the unit. They went to the break out room in Nanaimo and held a Halloween party with the Guides making a haunted house. They attended Remembrance Day and Candlelight. In December they also made a beaded Christmas craft.

Unfortunately we had no one sign up to be a Pathfinder so the unit was closed. We hope to reopen it in September 2018.

Our September 2017 registration saw an increase in number by 10 girls.



Nanaimo Piper District

Elenor Hurst

2017 has been a busy year for our District.

We unfortunately had to cancel our February Guider Getaway due to snow, but managed to get the year underway despite it. Units have been getting out and about in the community with visits to the Police Station, Fire Halls and the Military Museum and craft night at Starbucks. Most of our Units took part in the Remembrance Day Parade in Lantzville and some did Postcards for peace. The Units going to SOAR all participated in the Pre SOAR camp at Creina and in July girls, Guiders and Core staff all found their way to Smithers. A great time was had by all and many happy memories were brought home. We've also done a lot of Bridging activities between unit levels and trefoil guilds. Our Sparks took part in a multi district science event and fun was had by all. We were joined by a few

members of Boomers Trefoil at our guider getaway in August and we hiked the Kinsol Trestle. Most of our units completed the Mighty Minds Challenge. We also had units take part in Iron Chef. Our biggest hurdle this year has been finding alternative meeting space for the 3 Units and District that met at Brechin Church. With the assistance of our Area PR advisor and a Facebook post she did for us we were able to get space at the

OAP Hall for our Brownies unit and Wellington Hall for our Sparks. A decision was made to split the Pathfinder unit into 2 and meet at the guiders home on two different nights and district secured the community meeting room at Country Grocer on Bowen Road. A big thank you to Val for the post and for everyone for sharing.



Above, some of the girls painted a mural at Camp Creina. Below, the girls enjoy the Christmas Craft Camp.



Nanaimo Arbutus District

Brenda Maguire

Nanaimo Arbutus District (NAD) is made up of eighteen units located in southern Nanaimo. The District has 200 registered girls and 60 leaders. 2017 marked a memorable year for NAD. The girls in the district enjoyed dressing up in their finest for the Snowflake Ball and tried Canadian themed food and crafts to celebrate Canada 150+. Smaller bridging activities included Halloween Bowling Parties, Skating Parties, and attending camps or sleep overs together. One unit bridged with a Maple Ridge unit while staying in the Victoria Guide House, while another became pen-pals with a unit in Northern BC.

After two years of planning, selling cookies and dreaming of the possibilities, thirteen Chase River Pathfinders and Rangers and four leaders traveled to the United Kingdom in August. The favourites for the group included being able to participate in Pax Lodge's pinning ceremony, seeing the Half a Six Pence musical, visiting Warner Bros. The Making of Harry Potter, the Cadbury Chocolate Factory, castles and art galleries, along with many other things.

NAD enjoyed many camps and sleep overs this year. Themed camps included Guiding Elements (Earth, Air, Water, and Fire), Science Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Zoe's Trek Around the World (France, Kenya and New Zealand), Mom & Me, Dr.

Seuss and much more. One Guide unit was fortunate enough to take a patrol to GUEST in Victoria. Many of our units had visitors including the Nanaimo Astronomy Club, Who Speaks for Wolf, and Nanaimo Search & Rescue.

NAD reached out to the Nanaimo community by participating in multiple garbage cleanups, being in the Remembrance Day parade, collecting supplies for the women's centre and singing Christmas carols at a senior's home.

NAD is particularly proud of the success of its older units. This year, the 1st Chase River Pathfinders reached 25 girls, and enjoyed many exciting activities. In Victoria, the Pathfinders received information about camping supplies at Mountain Equipment Coop, and toured Fort Rodd Hill. At the Survivor themed camp on Horne Lake, the Pathfinders went caving and participated in girl led team activities. Two Pathfinder patrols attended Iron Chef. The 1st Chase River Rangers enjoyed a trip to Vancouver, which included a visit to the wind turbine at the top of Grouse Mountain. Two Rangers also attended the Ranger Revolution in Vancouver. We have amazing Rangers who are enjoying participating and delivering programs to some of the Brownie units in the District.

As I reflect back on the year, I am appreciative of all the hardworking, kind, creative leaders that lead our district. Our leaders continue to support each other during times of need. It makes me proud to be part of a great group of Girl Guide leaders, and I look forward to many new adventures.



Waters Edge District

Kym Whitefield, Seija Laine, Caitlin Morris

Waters Edge District is located at the Southern end of Pacific Shores Area – It spans from the Malahat to Ladysmith, includes Lake Cowichan to the West, and Salt Spring Island to the East. The communities within our District include: Ladysmith, Chemainus, Duncan, Lake Cowichan, Cobble Hill, Shawnigan Lake, and Salt Spring Island. In 2017, Waters Edge District had 32 units, almost 100 Guiders, and approximately 360 girls.

One of the wonderful things about our District is our love for bridging. We had a few opportunities in 2017 to come together in large groups, starting in January with our yearly District Family Skate. This event is open to all girls within Waters Edge, as well as their immediate family members. It's a well-attended event, that brings our girls, their siblings, and guardians together for an hour of skating, followed by hot chocolate, and Tim Bits.

Later that month, our Sparks were treated to a magical day at our annual District Snowflake Ball. The girls dressed up like Princesses for this special event, where they engaged in arts and crafts, played games, and were even visited by some "real-life" princesses.

In February, we held our annual Guide branch pool party and sleep over in Ladysmith for 100 of our District's Guides. With a Disco theme, the girls dressed in fun, bright colours that represented the 70s Disco era. While still in costume, each unit got to perform a lip-sync to a Disco song, with the best performance winning their Unit a swimming night at the pool! Fol-

lowing the performances, the Guides spent the evening swimming and having fun together in the pool, followed by mug-up and a movie on the big screen in the gym. It was a late evening and an early morning, but the girls had a "groovy" time at this much-loved event!

The Brownies also had a wonderful District branch event, too, as 75 Brownies were treated to an amazing Mad Hatter Tea Party at Camp Creina in April. They enjoyed a morning and afternoon of whimsy, which also included a spectacular tea party with Alice! Following the tea party, Princess Belle joined us for some time with the girls. It was a magical, memorable afternoon for our Brownies!

While the younger branches were engaged with program and District events, many of our older girls spent the first half of the year focused on SOAR. In total, we had almost 9 patrols attend SOAR, which meant that many girls were busy with cookie sales and fund raising for this extraordinary adventure! The trip to Smithers was an incredible experience for our girls, Guiders, and those that attended as Core Staff.

In the Fall, many of our Pathfinders and Rangers attended the Area Iron Chef Camp at Creina. This, too, is a much-loved event, as the girls are required to work together in new ways to create original, delicious meals! A lot of fun and many laughs were had throughout the weekend!

These wonderful opportunities for bridging wouldn't take place without our incredible volunteers.

We have an amazing group of women in Waters Edge, who go above and beyond to create and hold these amazing events for our girls. Thank you to our dedicated Guiders for all that they give to Guiding and to our girls!

photo: The Mad Hatter's Tea Party.





Service
is a big part of Guiding:



Above, girls from Hurford District manned a water station during the Cops for Cancer ride.

Left, SOAR always includes service projects ... these girls are raking an area in a park during the 2017 SOAR in Smithers.

Below, some girls from Nanaimo Arbutus District plant trees in Hawthorn Park.

