

The LogJam

Spring 2022

Girl Guides of Canada Pacific Shores Area

A Message from Margaret Slater, Pacific Shores Area Commissioner

"So it is now 2022 and my term as Area Commissioner is into its third year - most of it under COVID. But we have survived! We have learned new skills, particularly computer skills but more importantly have learned that the girls enjoy being outside even if it is cold and a little wet.

We took a look back at our AGM at what we have accomplished and now it time to look ahead. Pacific Shores Area plans for 2022/2023 re: two day events - on in the south and one in the north and then a full Area Camp - all levels - in 2023. If anyone is interested in helping, please let me know.

Area would also like to open the communications between all Guiders but particularly with the Trefoil Guild and will be holding a ZOOM meeting to get this started.

But for all Guiders, here are the contact emails for Area Council:
Area Commissioner

Margaret Slater, bc-pacificshoresac@girlguides.ca

Deputies:

Karin McCune psa.deputy2@gmail.com

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A big thank you to Lynn Reeve and Pat Mahon for getting the Logjam published. Hope I get a chance to meet you sometime in 2022. Stay Safe!"

Duncan Guide Hall 100 years young.

I love learning. About anything and everything, one of the reasons I love being a Guider is that I truly learn something new everyday, and I love random pieces of knowledge.

This being said, I heard a rumor that the Guide Hall in Duncan is 100 years old this year and just had to find out. I started digging through old newspaper clippings, pictures, certificates, and old books that were stored at the hall (and are now in a bin in my Livingroom). I never knew that we were so rich in Guiding History.

In 1913 1st Cowichan Guide Company were sponsored by the Cowichan Valley's Women's Institute with Captain Miss Marjorie Palmer, and Lieutenant Miss Amy Wilson. (According to The Citizen in Feb of 1992 that cites "a local newspaper" issued in October 1913). We still have the certificate of registration that is signed and dated for May 10th of 1915 making it official.

They met at the Cowichan Agricultural Society, located near the railway tracks at the foot of Government Street/Trunk Road. Starting in 2021 a discussion for a Headquarters for the Guides started being discussed.

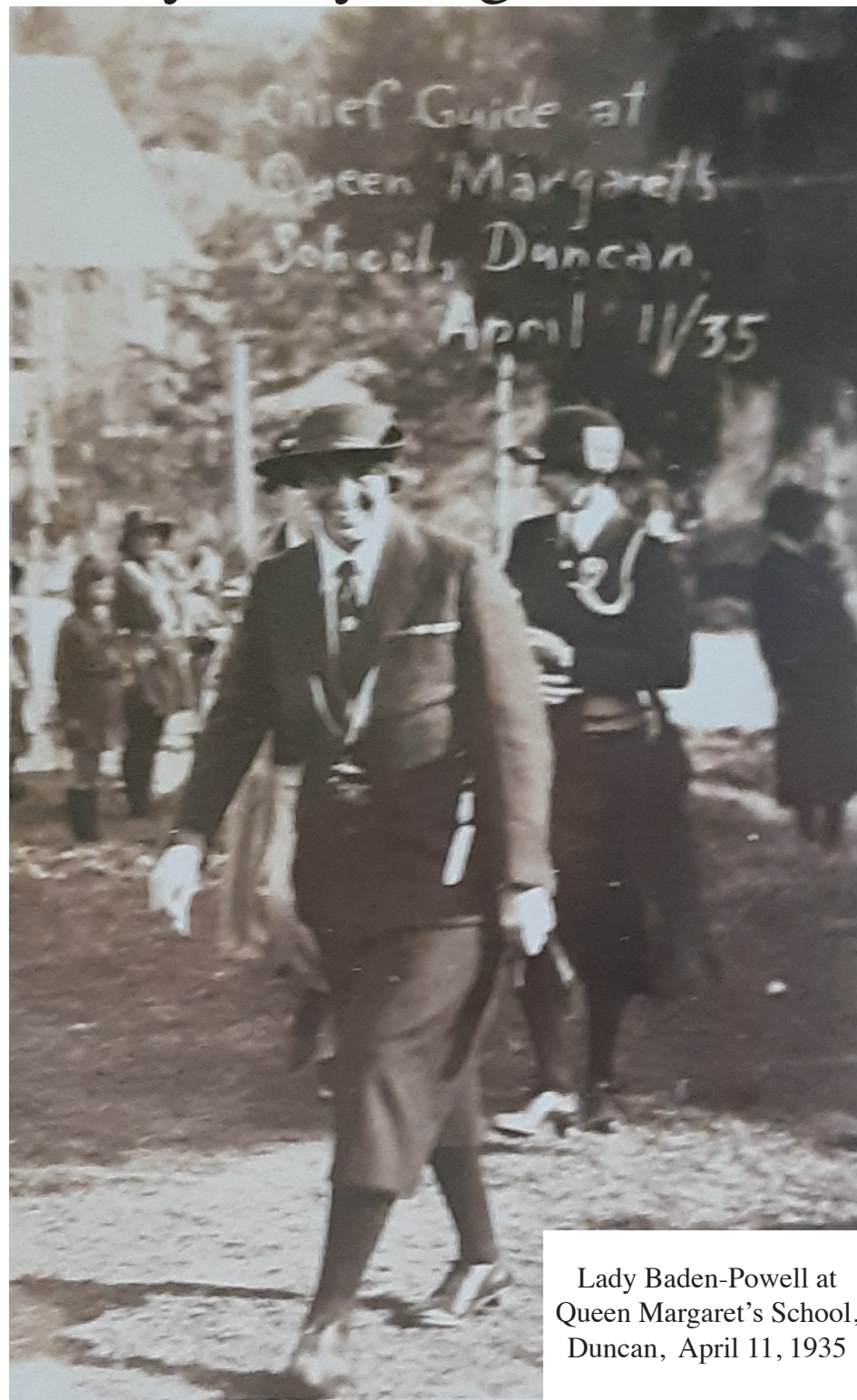
By February of 1922 the lot on which the Guide Hall now stands was purchased. Now a lot of us have heard that the two trees in the front of that hall were planted by Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, as in the picture taken in front of the Hall from there visit in 1923 clearly shows them in front of the trees.... But this is not true. Those two trees, as well as the 3 others between the road and the parking lot were there when the lot was purchased in Feb 1922. They are even older than the Hall itself!

On June 2nd 1922, the Guide Company invited the Committee to an opening party on June 9th. June 9th was the opening day and our 100 year anniversary!

July 4th, 1922, the fourth Provincial Rally of a Conference of Commissioners was held in Duncan at the Guide Hall, before it even had windows installed! In September of 1922, they had 6 windows installed, and had boarded up 6 others.

During the visit of the Baden-Powell's on April 25th, 1923, to the Guide Hall Lady Baden-Powell laughed at the remaining gaping windows but wrote in a letter that "Duncan struck me as being one of the most 'alive' Guide centres that I have met within my whole tour through Canada.

In 1935 when Lady Baden-Powell visited again on her way to a rally in Victoria for both Scouts and Guides, she was greeted at the hall by 354 people from our Area alone!



Lady Baden-Powell at
Queen Margaret's School,
Duncan, April 11, 1935

More from Duncan Guide Hall

In 1942 the Hall became First Aid Post #1, organized by the Canadian Red Cross, B.C. Women's Service Corps, and the local Air Raid Precautions (A.R.P.). It was used this way until the end of the war.

In 1944 The Duncan Consolidated School Board moved into the hall, using it Mon-Fri until 2:45pm until the early 1950's. In 1952 the property changed hands... from the Cowichan Valley to the National Council, Girl Guides of Canada. In late spring early summer, Lady Baden-Powell once AGAIN came to Duncan and a Rally at the Hall was held in her honour. In our Hall it was the first time that the Chief Guide had heard "World Song" sung by a large group.

In 1982 when the hall was getting restored and a "face lift", several inquiries were sent out asking National

to confirm that the Guide Hall in Duncan is the oldest Hall bought by Guiding in Canada. Guess what? In one of the scrapbooks in the hall was a response from National on January 6th, 1982. Yes, Yes, Yes. Yes the Guide Hall in Duncan has been owned and used by Guiding longer than any other building in this country.

That is my shortened form of an early history of The Guide Hall in Duncan. June 9th, the first party at the Hall for its Grande Opening is the birthday of the hall technically, but July 4th, the very first documented official meeting inside the Guide Hall, without windows, is to be treasured as well. Reading so many different books and papers, there are 2 things that have not changed about the hall in all these years. The windows are big, awkward, and have cold drafts when windy, and the heating has always been temperamental LOL. Who knew we had such amazing history hidden away in boxes, pictures, scrapbooks....

I wonder what else is hidden away in those random old cupboards?

Sandra High.



The Official Opening April 25th, 1923

References:

The Guide Hall Duncan BC A History 1922 – 1982
Copyright 1982 for Cowichan Trefoil Guild (G.G.C.)
Various Articles in The Citizen newspaper.
Various Articles in The Cowichan Leader newspaper.
Various Letters/Scrapbooks as well as Pictures and Framed Certificates in the random cupboards in the Guide Hall itself.
Divisions of British Columbia. A random book in our cupboard that has a brief (1-4 pages) history of all the Divisions in BC. Not dated, but the last dated reference in the Cowichan Valley Division section is for April of 1960.

Salt Spring Island Pathfinders Back at Crafting

As with most Girl Guide communities, the units on Salt Spring Island have a long history of doing service projects for our islanders. For over 40 years, we have been making table centres for our retirement homes and seasonal cards to be sent out with Meals on Wheels throughout the year for Thanksgiving, Hallowe'en, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. We were stopped with Covid 19 for one year, but returned to our crafting this fall to once again put some bright colours on dining tables and pretty cards into eager hands.

We added wall decorations to our repertoire this year and the 1st Salt Spring Island Pathfinders created beautiful live greenery swags to adorn the walls of the lounge at Greenwoods Care Home. Each was unique and they were well received. As the girls had to give these creations away, the following week, we invited any parents who could join us, to come and make a fresh greenery centrepiece with their Pathfinder - complete with a candle, baubles and bows - for the girls to take home to enjoy with their families. Everyone had a wonderful time and the room smelled heavenly with balsam and fir.

Submitted by Gail Temmel - Salt Spring Island Guider

Photo credits: Mary Rowles & Ann Marie Davidson



Girls Guides are Alive and Well in Port Alice ... well, Sparks and Brownies are!

Port Alice didn't have a unit last year (due to Covid concerns, and lack of interest by parents in having a virtual unit...), and then technical difficulties with the GGC on-line registration system slowed down the start-up for 2021 (somehow Port Alice ceased to exist on the Find A Unit page!) BUT persistence prevailed and it's a GO again, thanks to the various Guiders and GGC National Tech team for sorting out the problem. Also thanks to Guider Ashley for not giving up on it all, new Guider Emily for joining the team, and to parents for being patient. The photo below (taken by Ashley Boese) is from the Spark and Brownie Enrollement in Port Alice.



River City Girls Trefoil Guild Powell River



Sorry, but this is an old photo.

Jean Baldock is 102 now!!

But thanks to Covid her Guiding sisters in the River City Girls Trefoil Guild had to settle for just sending her flowers this year. Jean has been a member of Guiding for more than 65 years

The ladies have been visiting the various parks in the Malaspina District. We enjoyed trying disc golf, and walking some of the trails.

We visited the "Our Living Languages" exhibit at the Tla'amin Native Centre. This exhibit was design by Michelle Washington, a member of the Tli'amin nation, and the Royal BC Museum. It tells the stories of the native languages in BC and the work that is being done to preserve them.

Some Adventures from 1st Ladysmith Guides

We recently had an LGBTQ2+ night where our guides learned about safe spaces and the history of LGBTQ2+ community, as well as how to be an ally!

Topright is a pride flag trader/ hat craft. The colours represent those of the original pride flag made by Gilbert Baker in 1978. The key talks about what each colour meant on the original pride flag. Those same meanings are what the girl wrote at the bottom of the rainbow strips on their safe space cloud sign. The little flags, top center, are various flags that have represented gay pride over the years. Centre the current flag, key chain sized made with melty beads.



We also had a month long activity where the guides decorated happiness jars and then we (guiders and guides) left happy messages in all their jars for a few weeks before they got to take them home and open them!

Broughton Strait District

North Vancouver Island

We are a fairly small District, with about 30 girls and 10 Guiders spread between the three largest North Island communities. All the units are multi-branch. Happily, we have retained several experienced Guiders in all communities, plus added four new Guiders this year; this has meant up-dating for “old Guiders” and learning curves for new Guiders to adapt to the Girls First program, Unified Banking and of course to Covid protocols.

The early days of Covid dealt a blow to the former Pathfinder/Ranger girls in Port McNeill who had to shelve some travel plans, and who have now moved-on to university or jobs. It also caused the shutdown of Sparks and Brownies for the entire District in 2020/21 when parents were unenthusiastic about a switch to virtual meetings; also several Sparks/Brownie Guiders moved out of the District, had new job or family commitments or were reluctant to hold meetings with unvaccinated kids. Happily, things picked-up 2021/22, with a re-start of the younger branches in Port Alice and Port McNeill. The next challenge is to find Guiders to get Sparks and Brownies running again in Port Hardy in Sept 2022, after what will have been a two-year hiatus. By then some of the former Brownies will be old enough to join as Guides, so possibly a stand-alone Guide unit will be preferred. And it has been too long since we’ve all been able to gather for a District camp, so that’s another goal.

All three towns have signed on to light up their municipal building with blue lights on Thinking Day!

By Heather Jones, DC for Broughton Strait District



It was a pleasure to present out-going District Commissioner Cathy Griffith with her Commissioner Pin to recognize her years of service which included several terms as DC through the years. She has stayed on in the District as a mentor to the three new Port McNeill Guiders, as well as acting, yet again as Cookie Receiver.

Left, enrollement in Port McNeill

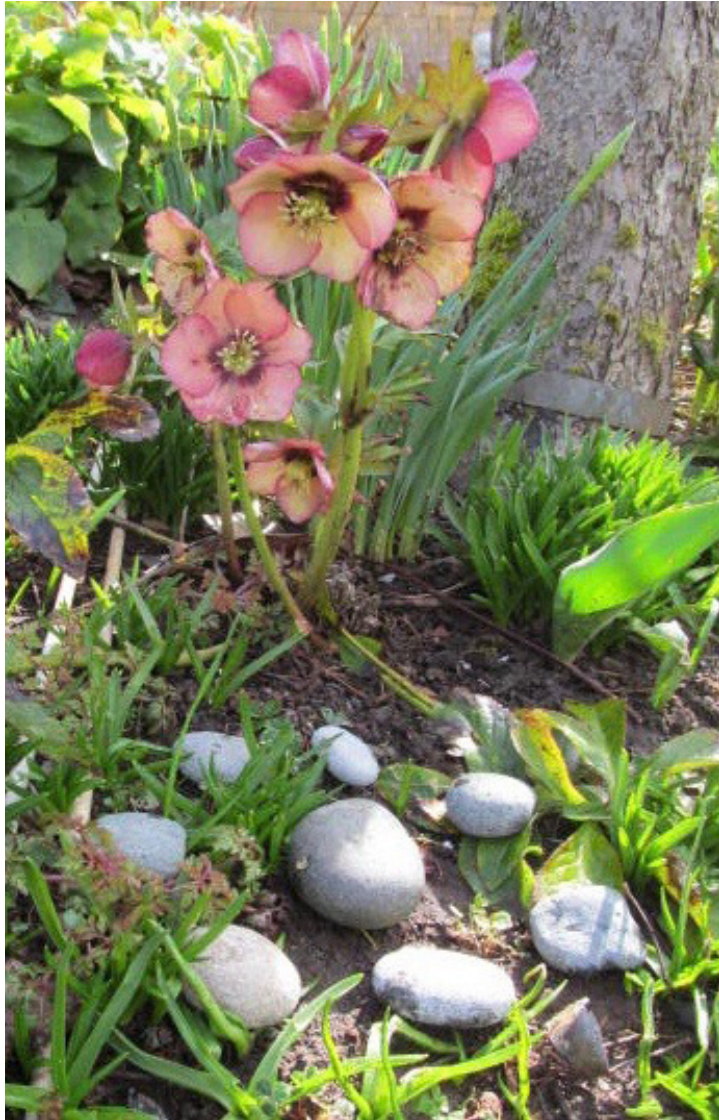


Deadline for the next issue of LogJam will be April 30th.

In this next issue we hope to feature the many Trefoil Guilds in our area.

Send your submissions to:
lreeve@telus.net
before April 30th

Gone Home



Donella Smith 2 May 2020
Mary Sheil - 26 Nov 2020
Johanna Anne Beltgens 14 March 2021
Dawnette Humphrey 20 Mar 2021.
Beryl Fleming March 2021.
Michelle M Farlane June 26, 2021
Shamim Rampuri August 31 2021
Helen Tulip February 2022
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Boomers Trefoil Guild

Every Monday for the past two Covid years the Boomers Trefoil Guild has put out the invitation to whoever can, to join at the sign at 10:00 am for a “walk-about” around Westwood Lake Park. This gem of a trail in central Nanaimo is a 6.1km trail, mostly flat with one “killer” hill which we generally choose to tackle first. The trail is a loop, so either way, one has a short aerobic workout. The scenery is beautiful, and usually we have managed to walk in sunshine, though we’ve been surprised a few times. But Girl Guides don’t melt, as we’ve proven a few times!

Our numbers vary, but there is a core 3 – 5 members that usually look forward to walking together. The conversation is lively and since we are outside, we do not wear masks. The walks are cathartic and we look forward to our walks every Monday. We walk at a leisurely pace, and usually find someone who has the same stride. With the Covid restrictions being eased, and the weather improving, we’re hoping that more will join. That’s Mondays, 10:00a.m. at the sign, just inside the entrance.

