



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Summer 2014
Volume 37, Edition 2

Southern Vancouver Island Area
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Girl Guides
of Canada
Guides
du Canada



Westshore Easter Bonnets



Read more one page 18

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The Lamplighter will be delivered three times a year to your inbox in full colour, or for those of you without an email, to your mailbox in a black and white version. It will be dedicated to promoting celebrations, special activities and accomplishments and disseminating non-time sensitive material to Guiding members in SVI. Send your submissions by email to svilamplighter@gmail.com or mail to The Lamplighter, c/o Guide House by October 1st, February 1st and May 1st for inclusion in the Fall, Winter and Spring editions.

Inside this issue...

Hats Off 3
From the Commissioner’s Desk 4
 Birth Announcements..... 6
 AGM Thanks to Guiders..... 8
 A look in on the AGM..... 9
 Adventure of a Lifetime 11
 Letters Home—Summer of 1962..... 12
 2nd Woodwyn Guides 14
 Hilda Leighton Award 15
 The Duct Tape Challenge 16
 Lakes and Straits Easter Bonnets..... 18
 Camping at Fort Rodd Hill..... 20
 Snowflake Ball 22
 Pillows for Cancer 28
 Two Snowy Hikes for Hunger..... 30
 Guide Profiles..... 34
 World Thinking Day in SVI 36

SVI Area Council 2013-2014			
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		Lynda Ireland	Proof-reader



Hats Off...

...To Nancy Fisher and Gillian Hurwood for doing such an excellent job in planning and conducting the new financial training for unit treasurers in March. Trainings are available for smaller groups upon request and the trainers are willing to do an in-service at a district meeting if that helps. Thanks for being so accommodating!

...To **Provincial Membership Records** Administrator Velma Trowbridge, who has been such a calm, warm, welcoming, humorous and sympathetic voice at the Provincial office. She has answered all of our questions, and solved our iMIS problems (and who among us has not had an iMIS problem in need of solving!) with great patience and goodwill. She is retiring at the end of June and will be sorely missed.

...To all those **Guiders who helped plan and run the Camp Skills Day**: Erlene Amero, Jeannie Cosgrove, Judy Macquarrie, Sarah Van Nes, Amanda Malthus, Donna Cavan, Genny Brewka and Karalee Tremblay. It was a great day and the girls enjoyed themselves thoroughly!

...To Harla Batinovic, the district contact for Camas District, who has taken on the position of Commissioner. Welcome!

...To new **Area council member, Peninsula Shores** Guider Amy Fischer, who has taken on the long vacant position of Area Awards Adviser. We are very pleased to have you join the SVI Area Council.

...To former **Area Commissioner team members** Mary Porterfield, Olive Brown, Lynda Ireland, Sherry Fortais, Marsha Richie, Brenda Fraser and Wendy Smylitolous, for stepping into the breach and organizing the AGM on such short notice. Thanks so much for all your hard work.

...To **Sooke Ranger** Maryna Ell, whose video won third place in the nationwide 6th Annual Juvenile **Diabetes Research Foundation's Youth Video Contest**, raising awareness about Type 1 diabetes. Well done Maryna!

...To the **Faded Blues Trefoil Guild members** who provided financial support to several of the girls heading to SOAR. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

HAVE A BADGE - NEED A BADGE? Kudos to Guiders in Chatham District who have set up a Facebook page to help facilitate the trading of badges and pins for tight deadlines. Search SVI Area Guiders: Badge/Pin Swap or try clicking on www.facebook.com/groups/svi.gg/badgeswap/.

From the Commissioner's Desk...

Why do we do this?? Do you ever get asked why you are involved in Guiding? Do you ever ask yourself why you are? It is a question that I am posing to you in this issue of *The Lamp-lighter*...

I started Guides as a girl of 12. Brownies was already full by the time my mother and I even realized they existed! I loved being a Guide! As I was finishing my All Round Cord at the end of grade nine (Guides were older in the 70's), I was told that it was the end of the line (Pathfinders started in Canada in 1979 but didn't reach Comox, BC until after I'd finished). What a disappointment to hear that there was nothing further!

As soon as my eldest daughter was of age I enrolled her in Brownies. A year later, I signed up my next one up for Sparks, thinking I would be a Sparks helper. But on the first night of Brownies the parents were told, "if we don't get anyone to sign up as a leader, this unit will have to close". How many of you were told that? Long story short, here I am, still involved. *But why??*

I think there are many reasons to get involved and to stay involved. For me, these have included some of the following:

- **Watching the wonder on the girls' faces as they learn a new skill.**
- Hearing parents express gratitude for all the skills that their daughters have learned from Guiding at all ages and stages.



- Caring for the world around us as a group and feeling like we are making a difference whether it be participating in litter chases to make our communities and beaches cleaner for everyone, making dog biscuits for the SPCA, singing at care homes, collecting coins for CWFF to help people in other countries, sending cheer letters to Armed Forces members overseas, honouring our veterans, collecting food for the food banks, making shoebox school kits for children in other countries, or by the many other actions undertaken to improve our world and the lives of others.

• Feeling joyful while creating a fire from a small pile of tinder, building it up to the point where a meal could be prepared on it, eating food prepared in the out-of-doors that tasted amazing; then when finished, erasing all traces of there ever having been a fire there.

- Singing around a campfire in the twilight with songs that everyone knows and loves and creating ceremonies filled with well-loved tunes and rhythms.
- Watching shy girls blossom into confident young women over the course of their time in Guiding.



- Taking girls on larger adventures ... from Sparks and Brownies hiking in the forest, Guides attending Area camps and SOAR, to Independent travel and selected trips to foreign lands.
- Being part of a Provincial committee where we organized International experiences for girls and Guiders, spreading the love of travel and learning opportunities that come with learning more about the larger world.
- Having girls locate me via Facebook ten years after finishing Guiding to share in their lives again now that they have young children of their own.
- Meeting with women I have known for twenty years and joining Trefoil together to keep the spirit alive, continuing to camp, sing, and work together as members of Girl Guides.



Why do YOU do this?? I would love to know!

If you want to pass on your reasons, please email svicommissioners@gmail.com with "Why do I do this" in the subject line and I will put the responses in an upcoming Lamplighter!

I wish to pass on my sincere thanks to the past Area Commissioner team members that organized and hosted the SVI Area Annual Gathering of Members:

Mary Porterfield	Olive Brown
Lynda Ireland	Brenda Fraser
Marsha Richie	Wendy Smylitopoulos
Marion Graham	Sherry Fortais



And also to Margaretann Jones Sander for the opening recollection included here in *The Lamplighter*, Sharon Fitch for sharing her recording of Lady BP's last speech, Joan Ruskowski and the ladies of the SVI Area Archives for the wonderful displays, and the many, many women that worked as hostesses, greeters, and in setup/cleanup to make this a spectacular AGM!

Sharon Doty, SVI Area Commissioner

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to all the proud parents all and welcome to your beautiful Sparks-in-waiting!

Chloe Faught and Chris McDonald are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Vera Lilley Skye McDonald, at 6:43 p.m. on May 15th, 2014, after a successful c-section. Vera (rhymes with Sarah) is a healthy 8 lbs. 9 oz. and (in the words of her new Dad), “**fortunately, seems to have few of her father's features**”. Mom and baby are doing well.

Chloe is the Emily Carr TREX Contact Guider and an SVI trainer.





Everly Lynne was born at home on February 5th, 2014 at 12:01 p.m., weighing 7 lb. 8oz. Proud parents Heather Brass and Nathaniel Vaandering.

Heather is the acting Commissioner for Chatham District, Contact Guider for 28th Victoria Guides and until last August was her district's Camp Adviser.



AGM THANKS TO GUIDERS

Read by Wendy Smylitopoulos



I would not be wearing this outfit if not for Guiding. An odd statement don't you think?

Four women were instrumental in giving me the opportunity to develop the skills, gumption and self-confidence to pursue my curiosity and go to Greece, first as a babysitter and five years later as a physiotherapist, willing and able to find a place to work and live in a foreign land in the 1960's! Three of them were Guiders. The fourth? Archeologist and mother of the kids I babysat. That Child Care badge came in useful!

My introduction to Greece and her people was to alter the direction of my life. My interest in history was always about the people and I leave the dates and names of generals to others. I saw a Greek mountain village in its last years of self-sufficiency. I experienced Philoxenia,

the deep cultural philosophy of hospitality, first hand. I got to spend hours exploring the old bones of Classical Corinth and Athens. I spent many Sunday mornings with Charles, my original "baby", now nine years old, wandering in the Plaka," the recent (only two to three hundred year old) section of Athens, marveling at the old houses, restaurants, streets and climbing on the Acropolis. You could do that before millions of feet wore the rocks down to dangerous levels.

I met lots of Greeks. I took Philhellenism, the friendship of Greece and Greeks, to personal extremes! This outfit is a replica based on the traditional celebration garb worn by my mother-in-law and grandmother-in-law in the area around Lamia and Levadia, northwest of Athens. What does all this have to do with anything today?

Traditions - cultural, national, personal and Guiding - we celebrate them all. We who fail to learn from the mistakes of history are doomed to repeat them. And we who celebrate and repeat what was right and good in our past are permitted to repeat them. Here's another tradition.

It is my honour to propose a heartfelt thank you to the Guiders of my youth, the Guiders with whom I camped, sang, laughed and grew and to you the Guiders of today and tomorrow.

Thank you.

Efharisto.

A look in on the AGM...



Above from left to right:
Area Treasurer Cassandra
Herbert, Commissioner
Sharon Doty, Deputy
Commissioner Sheilagh
Finnigan and Provincial
Deputy Commissioner
Helen Varga

Right: New member Samantha
Quesnelle with her Dis-
trict Commissioners Adri-
enne Blandford and Wendy
Halpen





Clockwise: Archives Display; Master of Ceremonies Lynda Ireland; Former Area Co-Commissioner Marsha Richie reading the opening remarks.



THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

In 1962, 2nd Victoria Trefoil Guild member Margaretann Jones was part of a troop of Canadian girls and Guiders selected to attend a massive Guide camp held in northern Denmark. Just to give some perspective, there were over 13,000 attendees; our provincial SOAR camps have a maximum of 3,000 girls and staff. She and her travel companions sailed for Greenock, Scotland on the Empress of England, leaving Montreal on June 28th, returning to Canada eight weeks later after visits to Edinburgh, Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen and London. They travelled by rail, steamship, ferry and bus. The cost - \$691! At last month's AGM Margaretann played a recording of Lady Baden-Powell's address and shared her recollections of that special event. Here is her story...

For some very fortunate 16 to 18 year old Canadian Girl Guides, the summer of 1962 was pure magic! That summer, there were so many amazing camps, near and far - Iceland, Norway, Holland and Denmark, to name a few. I was one of those very lucky girls who found herself at Hald '62, near Viborg, Denmark. We were 13,500 Guides in all! - overwhelmed international guests among a sea of friendly green uniforms!

We were divided into five 'towns' of 2,700 girls each. Each 'town' was supplied with its own mountains of potatoes, chopped firewood and even straw to fill mattress-cases. The organization of this camp was - phenomenal! The whole camp, all 13,500 of us, including a 'hospital troop' of severely disabled Guides, practiced faithfully, over and over again, marching into a huge horseshoe formation for the arrival of two very important guests. The first was Queen Ingrid, the patron of our hosts, the 'green' Danish Guides. She arrived by car, preceded by a noisy cavalcade of tough-looking security men on humongous motorcycles. The second guest, on another day, was none other than Lady B-P and she arrived by helicopter! As she stepped out of the helicopter, all the trumpets and drums and flutes of all the Danish Guide troops blared out over the flat Danish farmland and we welcomed Lady B-P with a rousing rendition of the camp song, especially composed for this camp.

The refrain goes like this: "Vi kan - vi kan - vi kan hvad vi vil - nar vi alle hjaelper til."

Or: We can - we can - we CAN do it - if we ALL help!!

That Christmas a Danish Guiding friend sent me a recording of the camp song and Lady B-P's speech. It gives me great pleasure to share it with all of you, since in Lady B-P's own words, we are all...

"Under the Guiding Hat!"

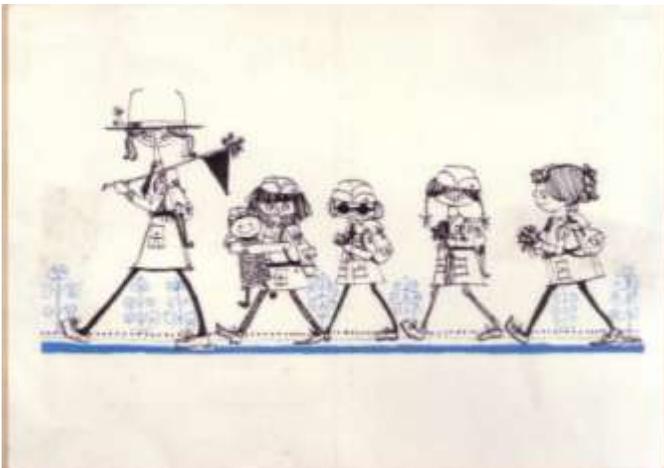


EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS WRITTEN HOME: SUMMER 1962



Edinburgh July 7

We met the Princess Royal & she spoke to each of us. She had quite a cold. She looks very much like the Queen. We all wore our Maple Leaf skirts & sang for her & I think she enjoyed it - especially the action song "Sons of the Sea"!



Oslo July 9

The Norwegian Girl Guides have their own trefoil-patterned sweater & silver trefoil buttons.

Other Guides can use any colour of wool to knit their own but blue & brown is strictly for Norway's Guides. I bought the pattern & buttons!

Copenhagen July 28

The final campfire was really terrific.

The party afterward was the most fun. We went to the 'big tent' & bought tea & pastries, everyone was singing like mad. At 11:30PM the camp 'police' came to end the gathering & they did so by starting to sing a very stirring Danish hymn.

Within seconds we all joined in & started the walk back to our tents. It was marvelous!



London August 5

I'm very proud of myself. I went into a Danish shop & said, all in Danish, "Good day . Cheese. That's fine. No. Yes. Thank you. Goodbye. "

PS Did I fail Math & Latin ?



London August 8

We're having a marvelous time ! Today, in a few minutes, we're off to Hampton Court to see Lady B-P. Oh my poor feet. They're utterly exhausted. I woke up this morning & they were stiff! Lynne has sprained her ankle so we all hobble around.

Montreal August 22

The parents were far more hysterical about seeing their daughters than the daughters were over seeing them! It took hours for us to disembark & one excited mother [desperate to catch a glimpse] kept shouting to her daughter, "Jump, jump !"



2nd Woodwyn Guides Visit Central Saanich Council



As part of the SVI Community Challenge, members of 2nd Woodwyn Guides wrote letters to the mayor and council of the Municipality of Central Saanich. We thanked them for their support of the Brentwood Bay Old School Hall where we meet and told them some of the things we like about Guides. We dropped off the letters and a box of cookies for each of them at the Municipal Hall. We were subsequently asked if we would like to come to a council meeting to present the cookies in person. We agreed and at the **April 22nd meeting “Presentation from Girl Guides” was the first item on the agenda. True to the finest traditions of Guiding, Mayor Bryson immediately opened his box and shared his gift with members of the public seated in the gallery.**

Submitted by Brenda Fraser, 2nd Woodwyn Guides



**SVI'S HILDA
LEIGHTON
AWARD WINNER
OLIVE BROWN**



From left to right, SVI Commissioner Sharon Doty, Olive Brown and SVI Awards Adviser Amy Fischer

gear to get to Vancouver Island via BC Ferries (no small task!). For Memories and More in 2010, you again used your organizational abilities to hire 19 buses to transport SVI Guides and Guiders to Vancouver. Anything you undertake is done efficiently, thoroughly and always with the Spirit of Guiding in mind.

Your joy for Guiding is contagious and inspiring. You give your time and energy selflessly to SVI Area and Guiding is richer for your contributions. You truly represent the values of Guiding which makes you an excellent ambassador of the Girl Guides of Canada movement. It is with great pleasure that you are awarded with the "Spirit of Hilda Leighton" SVI Award.

The Spirit of Hilda Leighton SVI award was given to a very surprised, deserving and humble recipient at the Annual Gathering of Members on May 4th. The following tribute to Olive was read by former Area Commissioner Lynda Ireland.

The "Spirit of Hilda Leighton" SVI Award is a tribute to Guiders in SVI who reflect Hilda's innovative, pioneering and dedicated spirit. The purpose is to honour and appreciate those Guiders who show the innovation, sense of pride, excitement and joy for Guiding that Hilda showed and brought to the Crystal Palace Rally, and maintained throughout her Guiding life.

Olive Brown, you are superbly organized, thorough, diplomatic and dedicated. A good listener, you are not easily ruffled, always see the good in people and bring out the best in them. In all your positions, from cookies, to iMIS, to Membership, to PR, as well as Division and five years as SVI Area Commissioner, you ensured that SVI was well represented and well served, both here and at Provincial Council. You are a great asset, always working for the best possible outcome and keeping Guiding in the forefront. An eloquent and articulate speaker, you presented and defended decisions with resulting success. You always put your heart and soul into every task. As transportation coordinator extraordinaire, you organized the buses for Soar '98, arranging for participants and their camp



Carla MacRae, on the right, receives her 25 year pin

THE DUCT TAPE CHALLENGE



Really, just how strong IS duct tape? That was a question posed to the girls of Keating Guides at a meeting in March. They learned about the strength and versatility of this amazing product as part of a science night when they used just one roll to adhere a Guide to the wall! Thanks to Quinna for being such a good sport and 'volunteering' to be the guinea pig. She enjoyed just 'hanging around' for a bit, while the girls were really 'stuck' on their task of peeling strips of tape off the roll, and gleefully posting her to the wall - (not quite the same as posting to a Facebook wall!). The hardest part seemed to be getting Quinna down OFF the wall afterwards, but much fun was had by all.





Keating Guides also spent time assessing how conducive our meeting hall was to those who might have visual or mobility challenges. With partners, the girls took turns leading each other (while blindfolded) in, out and around the building and using a walker to make sure all access doors (and washrooms) were wheelchair accessible. It provided the girls with a bit of insight into what people with disabilities have to deal with on a regular basis.

Submitted by Sharon Lohr, Keating Guides

LAKES AND STRAITS EASTER BONNETS

On Sunday April 13th, 41 Sparks and Brownies and their leaders from 2nd Langford Sparks, 1st and 2nd Colwood Sparks, 3rd Langford Brownies, and 1st and 2nd Sangster Brownies got together to make Easter bonnets at Westshore Town Center. The paper plates, flowers, colored eggs, ribbons, yellow chicks, and other craft items were set out on tables and the girls had fun chatting and getting to know each other as they worked on their creations. When they were finished they paraded around the mall so everyone could see them in their Easter finery. Then they proudly lined up to have their hats judged by two members of Purple Shore Trefoil Guild and one of their non-Guiding friends. There were three winners from each branch, pictured below. All the girls were sent home with an Easter treat and with a smile on their faces. Thanks to the Westshore Town Centre for the use of their space.

Submitted by Trudine Wilson, Straits Event Planner

The Sparks from left to right, 3rd place winner, Lillie B., 2nd Langford Sparks, 1st place winner Lilly C., 1st Colwood Sparks, and runner-up Izzie P. from 2nd Langford Sparks.





Above: The Brownies from left to right, 2nd place winner Shayla N., 1st Sangster Brownies, third place winner Morgan H., 1st Sangster Brownies and in first place, Harley H. from 2nd Sangster Brownies.

Below: Girls showing off their Easter Bonnet creations!



CAMPING AT FORT RODD HILL

Group Bookings, Special Rates and Exploring our Local National Park

On Wednesday, May 21st, Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse held an open house to introduce their new off-season group camping program for chaperoned youth groups. Girl Guides had the largest contingent from one organization, with leaders and girls from Bay to Bay, Portage Inlet, Pacific Skies and Straits Districts checking out the new facilities. **1st Belmont Park Guides had a great time making s'mores, exploring the oTENTik cabins and visiting the Fisgard Lighthouse.**

One-night oTENTik group rates will be available during the winter season from September 2nd to November 15th, 2014 and from February 15th to May 16th, 2015. The cost will be \$90 per night for a heated cabin and includes breakfast. Amenities include flush toilets and access to a refrigerator. Each of the five cabins (one is wheelchair accessible) contains four bunks that can sleep eight to ten girls, depending on size and age. Participant crests are included with the group-booking rate. National park staff will be on hand as hosts and to offer guided tours, activities and programs; one based on the heritage badge is available for Guide units. More information is available from Parks Canada on their website www.pc.gc.ca/fortroddhill. For availability inquiries call 250-478-5849 or email fort.rodde@pc.gc.ca. Information packets in electronic form will be sent out through your camping adviser in the near future.





Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Sites





SAANICH PENINSULA'S SNOWFLAKE BALL

On Sunday March 4th, about 90 Guiding princesses in all shapes and sizes from around the peninsula met at the Brentwood Community Hall for an afternoon of glitter, glitz, glamour and magic. Most of the Disney heroines as well as a paper-bag princess (Sheena McCullough in an inspired costume) put in an appearance. The excitement was palpable!

The girls made tiaras and wands, had their picture taken on a throne, decorated snowflake cookies and took in a magic show by accomplished teen magician (and Ranger heartthrob) Jason Verners. All royalty needs to be regally fed, and so there was an impressive array of veggies and dip, fruit, finger sandwiches, cookies and squares, with the highlight the hugely popular chocolate fountain. Among the more unusual culinary experiments – not to be repeated - were cauliflower and ham and cheese on gluten free bread au chocolate!



Peninsula Shores Guider Jacky Stevens

Peninsula Shores and Woodwyn Districts co-sponsored the event and part of the admission fee was a donation of small toiletry items and socks for Our Place. In addition over \$800 worth of new socks, toothpaste, deodorant and toothbrushes was purchased to make hygiene kits. Several weeks later we received a beautiful signed card from the Our Place staff that read:

Thank you for your wonderful gift of socks filled with toiletries for the people we care for. It means so much to so many. We are grateful to all of you for taking the time to care about people and their well being.

Many, many thanks to Peninsula Shores Guider Liz Lamothe, her husband and her parents for the delicious food (and of course the piece de resistance, the chocolate fountain) and for sharing their truly impressive collection of Christmas decorations – including trees, illuminated polar bears and string upon string of sparkling lights. Thanks to all the Guiders who got into the spirit of the event and dressed in their finest frocks, to Gillian Hurwood for the





loan of the huge silver snowflake that was the focal point of the room, to Woodwyn District Commissioner Cathy Schofield for sourcing out the magician and to SVI Deputy Program Adviser Lauren Dye who scored a zillion snowflakes in various sizes from a dollar store that had donated their stock to the Compassionate Warehouse. They have been added to the snowflake ball kit available at Guide House, so any other districts that are interested can create a magical event of their own.

Submitted by Carol Gamey, Woodwyn District.





Above: Dynamic duo Marilyn Maggiora and Wendy Kluge

Right: Poster from Out Place







Peninsula Shores
Co-commissioner Tamara Fraser



PILLOWS FOR CANCER



On May 14th, 40 girls and 13 leaders from 1st Colwood Pathfinders, 1st Lakes Pathfinders, 1st Belmont Guides, and 1st and 2nd Colwood Guides, got together at the Church of the Advent in Colwood to benefit a very worthy cause. The Pillows for Cancer program links those with time, skill and heart with women who are recovering from breast cancer surgery.

Twenty five sets of pillows and bags were completed while a further 89 pillows and 60 bags required some minor additional sewing. It was the first time many of the girls had used an iron and a sewing machine. They were all very pleased with their efforts and happy to be providing comfort to a cancer survivor. They were all given a pink ribbon to wear in honour of their contribution.

We would like to thank Gail Hogarth, better known as Hoagy, for arranging the event and spending an entire day doing the set-up. Thanks to Naomi Ridout, 2nd Sangster Brownies, and to Tammy from the quilting club for bringing their sewing machines and lending a hand. Thanks to all the leaders who assisted at the various stations and helped to make this such a successful event.

Submitted By Trudine Wilson,
Straits Event Planner







TWO SNOWY HIKES FOR HUNGER

Top: A Snowy Send-off on the peninsula

Left: The Westshore Hike for Hunger

Opposite page, top: Peninsula Shores District
group shot

Bottom: Peninsula Shore Rangers

See the story on the following page.



In the midst of a very unusual and highly inconvenient snowstorm, about 80 hardy girls and Guiders participated in the annual Saanich Peninsula's Hike for Hunger on Sunday, February 23rd, a Thinking Week tradition. To coin a phrase from the U.S. postal service, "neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds"; in our case collecting food for the Sidney Food Bank.

Participants from three districts, Woodwyn, Peninsula Shores and Bay to Bay gathered at Bayside School in Brentwood Bay and walked the short distance to the Old School Hall where Woodwyn District Guides hold their unit meetings. Upon arrival they were served hot chocolate and cookies by members of the Peninsula Shores Rangers. Close to 150 kilograms of food was weighed and loaded onto the Food Bank van by many willing (and cold!) hands. Woodwyn and Peninsula Shores Districts alternate in hosting this very worthwhile service project – next year it will be held in Sidney.

Submitted by Carol Gamey, Woodwyn District



This page, top: Peninsula Shores Guider Jacky Stevens and her Canadian Mittens

Middle: The Weigh-in
Bottom: Ready, steady, slog!

Opposite page, top: A Woodwyn Spark and her flag.
Bottom: At the Goldstream Food Bank

Meanwhile on the Westshore...

On the morning of February 23rd it seemed like spring had come early. The sun was shining, the birds were chirping **and there was a warm breeze....** Ok, not really. There was snow on the ground and it was chilly, wet and very slushy, but that **didn't stop about 80 members** of Straits and Lakes District Girl Guides as well as 3rd Arbutus Cubs from participating in our annual Hike for Hunger. Everyone geared up in boots, mittens and toques to brave the weather. The RCMP escorted us from Westshore Town Centre, up Jacklin Road as we made our way to the Langford Legion where the Goldstream Food Bank is housed. The snow ended up being the highlight of the hike. The kids had a great time collecting snowballs, kicking up the slush and even sliding down the odd hill. The 350 lb. of food and \$182 in cash donations were proudly presented upon our arrival. The Goldstream Food Bank, as well as all the leaders, were very proud of the efforts of all the Guiding and Scouting members who participated.



The Purple Shores Trefoil were waiting for us at the Legion. While we were trudging through the snow they prepared hot dogs and hot chocolate to warm everyone up. The Pathfinders were a fantastic help in serving the refreshments. After that it was time for some more fun. While the Pathfinders went down-



stairs to help put away all the food, the younger kids got to try something new. Some UVIC students from Science Ventures came to give an interactive science workshop. The kids toured a series of stations - some highlights were dissecting a diaper to see how liquids are absorbed, building circuit boards to discover electricity and making magic rainbow art.

All in all, we had a great day taking action for a better world. Well done Girls and Cubs !

Submitted by Meaghan Playle,
Happy Owl of 2nd Sangster Brownies

Guide Profiles



Eleven-year-old **Anastasia Bird** enjoys all her Grade 5 subjects at Ecole Millstream elementary equally. She played on the school basketball team and will soon try out for track and field. She's very busy with Girl Guides outside school and is a Sparks leader within that group. She loves to camp and has attended several regional Guides gatherings. She recently received a scholarship to St. Margaret's, where she'll attend school in Grade 6 this September.

VICTORIA NEWS • OAK BAY NEWS • SAANICH NEWS • GOLDSTREAM NEWS GAZETTE - Wedne

Milestone Women Victoria's women through the decades **40s** Laura Walsh



Don Denton photo

A graduate of the University of Victoria and Moscow State University, and a Certified Fundraising Executive, Laura Walsh has received both the Leadership Victoria Distinguished Alumni award and University of Victoria Alumni Who Make a Difference award.
Currently the Director of Development for Victoria's Our Place Society, Walsh previously served as Vice-President, Philanthropy & Engagement at Metchosin's Pearson College and spent 10 years in senior fundraising positions with BC Cancer Foundation. She serves on the board of Leadership Victoria, Pacific Parkinson's Research Institute and is a member of an international fundraising advisory panel for the Guiding movement.

Black Press: What do you like about being a woman?

Laura Walsh: Most of all, I love being a mom. I also like achieving goals and exceeding expectations. I enjoy this quote from Ottawa's first female mayor, Charlotte Whitton: "Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult."

BP: What have you learned as you mature that you would like to have been able to share with a "younger you?"

LW: I would tell myself to always be learning, take a class or acquire a new skill – no matter how demanding work and family might be.

BP: How do you find balance in your life?

LW: I don't believe in the 'work-life balance' myth. Instead I believe in healthy integration – and knowing what I have the capacity to handle.

BP: The one thing you'd like to do better?

LW: Speak Arabic (I am learning...)

BP: Your guilty pleasure?

LW: Wine. And buying books. But I don't actually feel that guilty about either of those.

BP: What does relaxation look like to you?

LW: Reading a book in the sunshine on the Dallas Road beach.

BP: The one thing you'd never be without?

LW: My library card.

BP: Your proudest achievement?

LW: Two amazing daughters (ages 16 & 18) who each have exciting futures ahead of them.

BP: Most unforgettable experience?

LW: Living in the Soviet Union during the 1991 coup.



Milestone Women

Victoria's women through the decades

60s Margaret Lidkea

"Raised in Victoria as a free-range child," Margaret Lidkea is well-known to local families for her 22 years of teaching at the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary and her restoration efforts in local parks.

Armed with a zoology degree from the University of British Columbia and secondary teaching certification, Margaret has aimed "to encourage children to be outdoors, learning and loving their natural world and finding their sense of place."

As a Girl Guide leader, the mother of three daughters launched an environmental project in 1993 teaching girls about the Garry oak ecosystem, and helping restore from

Uplands Park and Anderson Hill. Margaret helped to organize the first Broom Bash at Uplands Park after the municipality of Oak Bay gave permission to remove the invasive Scotch broom in Uplands Park and Anderson Hill.

She has received awards from Girl Guides, the CRD and Saanich for her environmental initiatives.

Since retirement, she co-founded the Friends of Uplands Park with Kathleen Matthews, offering opportunities for stewardship, education and inspiration.

"Volunteering offers me opportunities to meet other interesting and passionate people and to contribute to my



Don Denton photo

community," she says.

She lives in Oak Bay with her husband and two cats and participates in two quilt groups of supportive women.

Black Press: What is your proudest achievement?

Margaret Lidkea: I am very proud of this volunteering project in Uplands Park, connecting kids to nature and having my three daughters become teachers and love the outdoors too.

BP: Your most cherished words of wisdom from another woman in your life?

ML: From my sister-in-law: "Trust in God."

BP: Your most unforgettable experience?

ML: Teachable moments in nature, like a rowdy group of Grade 3 boys mesmerized by a saw-whet owl grasping a vole in its claws, sitting on a branch only one metre away. The

boys were quiet for more than 20 minutes and very respectful for the rest of the program.

BP: How do you find balance in your life?

ML: By involving my friends and family in the many aspects of my work/volunteering, and by setting boundaries to allow time for myself to "live in the moment" outdoors, especially with my two grandchildren. And by trying to learn the word "NO."

BP: For what traits would you like to be remembered?

ML: Being passionate, positive, kind, inclusive, understanding, joyful and fun, and especially for encouraging families to let their children play outdoors.

WORLD THINKING DAY IN SVI

World Thinking Day is celebrated over many days and in many ways in SVI, in addition to the two Hikes for Hunger profiled in this edition. On February 22nd, The Reverend Penelope Black led Peninsula Shores' 3rd annual Thinking Day Service at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in North Saanich. The girls learned about the WAGGGS World Thinking Day theme of "Improving Child and Maternal Health, sang songs and promised to do a healthy activity. The event ended with a tea (and a healthy snack!) in the church hall.

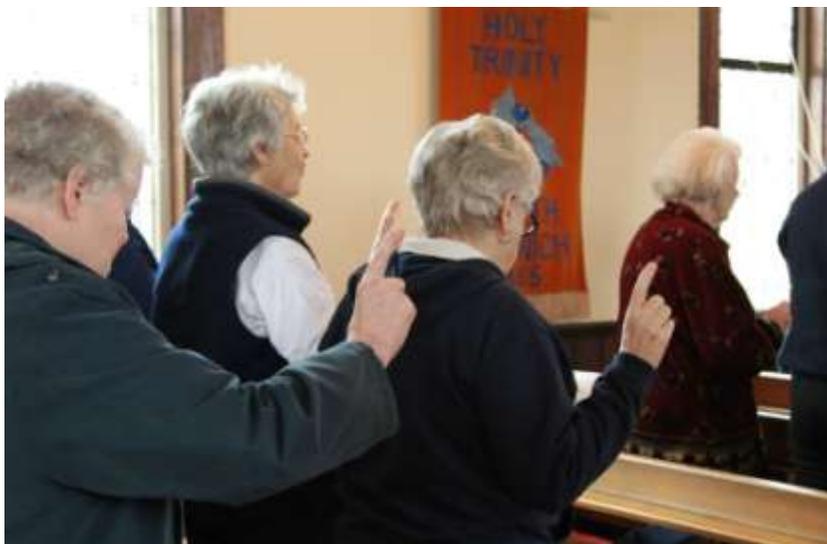
On the same day, the 1st Victoria Trefoil Guild hosted a safari-themed luncheon. Attendees, many of whom were dressed in their finest safari gear, shared information on their pre-assigned WAGGGS country and its flag and led a song during the campfire.

A huge round of applause goes out to all the Guiders in our area who each and every year find such unique and ingenious ways to honour Lord and Lady Baden Powell on their special day.

Submitted by Carol Gamey, Lamplighter Editor







If you are planning a craft, camp, event or a child's birthday party these very neat looking plastic shields may be just the thing for you. They come in many different sizes and patterns and can be used for non-Guiding events. If you are interested in any of these or anything else on my shed list just let me know at tandwcampandcomish@shaw.ca.

Submitted by Trudine Wilson, Straits District

Craft Corner

