



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Check out page 16 for the full story!



Pacific Skies District South American Adventure



Girl Guides
of Canada

Guides
du Canada

Southern Vancouver Island Area
Guide House, 938 Mason Street
Victoria, BC V8T 1A2
Website: www.svgirlguides.bc.ca

Table of Contents

From the Commissioners' Desk	Pg 3
Hats Off	Pg 4
SOAR update	Pg 4
OAL Training Recognition	Pg 5
Trip to Haliburton Community Organic Farm	Pg 7
Woodwyn District Goes to the Market....	Pg 9
Meeting the Royal Family ...	Pg 11
Knotty Adventures ...	Pg 13
World Partnership Walk ...	Pg 14
South America Independent Trip ...	Pg 16
The Trefoil Guilds of SVI Area ...	Pg 24
Keating Guides volunteering...	Pg 28
Woodwyn Remeberance Ceremonies...	Pg 29
Peggy McKeever ...	Pg 31

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Sheilagh Finnigan	Property Management Committee Chair
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Cassandra Herbert	Public Relations Adviser
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Linda Funk/ Sarah Serry	Raven
Meaghan Playle	Straits
Sharon Lohr	Woodwyn

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The Lamplighter will be published three times a year and posted to the SVI website. Go to www.svigirlguides.bc.ca, select Guiding in SVI, and choose Lamplighters from the drop down menu. The Lamplighter 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/Summer editions. Did you know you can still submit articles and pictures even after a deadline has passed! Any submission we receive after the deadline is added to the next edition!

FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK

By now you may have heard about council changes coming to your District. Some Districts may not notice the changes, as they already have comparable structures, and others may have to make adjustments. Whatever your role, whether you are a Unit Guider, District Guider or have a role on your Council, your voice will be heard on your team, and the girls will benefit from your generous volunteering. You don't need a vote to have this voice. If you had been a District Adviser, please consider sharing your interests and talents by joining up with the Area committee of your choice, where you can still do what you love, and take valuable information back to your District. We are all linked in a common purpose, which allows us to come together, share ideas, experience, and support decisions that are made for the greater good. This is the definition of a TEAM, of which you are a part.

We hope the rest of the Guiding year continues with fun, great activities and enriching moments for your girls and you.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." --Henry Ford

**Adrienne, Gillian and Wendy,
SVI Area Co-Commissioners**



Hats Off!

... to **Erlene Amero, Tracy McLeish-Schmidt, Colene Wood, Susan Zedel** for all their efforts planning and leading a successful Discovery Camp. Even after having to postpone the camp due to weather, the girls were still able to enjoy a fun and enriching camp at Jubilee.

... to **Nancy Pryce** for representing SVI Area at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the legislature



... to **Heather Nicol**, a former Guider who donated some song books and music resources to SVI training for future use within the area

ATTN: GUIDE & PATHFINDER GUIDERS

SVI SOAR patrols are looking for more girls to join them on their big adventure to Smithers next summer. If you have any girls interested in attending, and who would have the confidence to join girls from another unit, please send their name and contact information to svisoar2017@gmail.com

Submitted by **Lynda Ireland**
SOAR Area Liaison

Outdoor Activity Leader Training Recognition

Below: Brenda demonstrates pros and cons of this tent.

Outdoor Activity Leader, or OAL, is the Guiding training that teaches Guiders how to take girls to camp. It introduces leaders to a wealth of knowledge, tips and skills to enable them to provide great camping program for the girls.

Congratulations to these Guiders who previously completed the OAL Basic, completed the OAL Tenting training in April and have earned their yellow Enrichment Training pin:



Lesley Ruzicka (Chatham); Anne Gardam (Peninsula Shores); Harla Batinovic (Camas); Angie Zemanek (Bay to Bay); Erlene Amero (Woodwyn); Samantha Harder (Chatham); Jennifer Bouchard (Straits) and Linda Funk (Raven).

Congratulations to **Rebecca Sutherland (Harbours)** who worked on her own time this summer to complete the equivalency process for OAL Residential and OAL Tenting.

Would you like to join these woman who have their OAL designation? Any Guider who wants to:

- learn how to take girls to camp,
- formalize their girl camping experience,
- learn the “Guiding way” to camp,

- take girls to SOAR ,
 - complete the OAL Tenting training as a step to OAL Adventure Training
- ... should sign up for this year's OAL trainings: Residential Technical Jan 20-21, 2017;
Tenting Technical April 22-23, 2017.

For more information contact Sherry Fortais, Area Training Adviser, at
svitraining@gmail.com

Submitted by Brenda Fraser



Above: 1st Victoria - Trefoil Spring
at Kingswood in memory of Jean
Baluch

Right: Participants play "Oh
Deer"





The 1st Cordova Bay Girl Guides & 4th Bay to Bay Pathfinders'

Trip to Haliburton Community Organic Farm

Haliburton Community Organic Farm is located in Cordova Bay. The farm is run by community members and is aimed at using organic agricultural practices that coincide with the local ecosystems. They are very interested in restoring and enhancing the biodiversity in the area, while demonstrating the viability of sustainable small-scale farming. The 1st Cordova Bay Guides and 4th Bay to Bay Pathfinders were able to witness this on their field trip on September 26th. From the array of solar panels that heat the green houses to the abundance of pacific chorus frogs brought in for pest management, the Guides and Pathfinders got to see first hand these local and organic farming practices at work.

The purpose of the trip was to help the Guides earn their farming badge. They learned about the organic farming terminology and different types of farming equipment through a scavenger hunt, received a tour of the farm and assisted in moving mulch to help form a path. The night ended with a song based on life on a farm, 'Ms. MacDonald had a farm'. The song included various things seen around the farm including strawberries and caterpillars.

If you would like to know more about Haliburton Farms or to plan a visit, please contact them through their website: <http://haliburtonfarm.org/about-us/>.

**Submitted by Shayla
Brown, 1st Cordova Bay
Guides**



WOODWYN DISTRICT GOES TO THE MARKET



Woodwyn District decided to raise their profile over the summer in a bid to increase their registration numbers and be more of a presence in our community. For several years now, and with their knowledge and permission, we have been taking advantage of the Peninsula Recreation Centre's mobile Play in the Park Program, with its

inflatable climbing equipment, toys, games and face painting. For the month of August, we set up a display at two of their locations in Central Saanich, Pioneer Park in Brentwood Bay, adjacent to the Old School Hall where Guiding and Scouting hold their meetings, and in Rodolph Park on Tanner Ridge. Guiders were available to answer questions, sell cookies and direct interested parents to the online registration website.

Our district also took advantage of the free space offered to non-profit community groups at the Peninsula





Country Market, held Saturday mornings at the Saanich Fairgrounds between June and October. On two occasions, including Family Day in August, we set up a registration/information table. For the last two weeks of the market, 2nd Woodwyn Pathfinders, who had way too much fun creating two eye-catching drive-thru booths from refrigerator boxes, were on site to sell their mint cookies. On the first of the two dates, all ten girls were in attendance, and their enthusiasm and good spirits despite the rain were remarked upon by the market organizers. They sold twelve cases of cookies to help fund their trip to SOAR next summer. Well done girls!

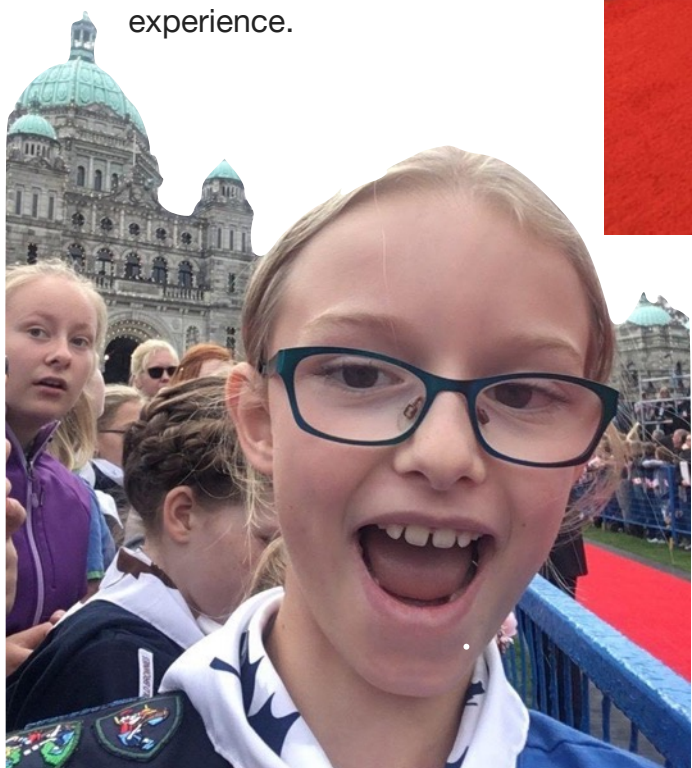
Although not the only factor, our commitment has paid off as our numbers continue to increase, up 16% from our low in 2014-15. We are proud to say that we are no longer the smallest district in SVI!

Submitted by Carol Gamey, Woodwyn District

Meeting the Royal Family

On the afternoon of September 24th, a small group of Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers (and lucky leaders) from SVI area attended a once in a lifetime experience to see the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at their welcome ceremony at the legislature.

When the Duke and Duchess walked up the red carpet they stopped to watch the special First Nations welcome dance and as they continued up the carpet, the Duchess, who was really close to me, slowed down, turned, looked straight at me, waved and said, 'hi' and I waved back. I felt so amazing and lucky to have such an awesome experience.



**Submitted by Sarah Arndt
1st Sidney Guides**





Knotty Adventures

T'was a dark and stormy night in late October when several 'Knotty' ladies ventured out onto the downtown streets of Victoria in search of eerie apparitions and otherworldly spirits. We were regaled by our guides with many tales of old Victoria, and visited locations of several ghostly sightings – some very recent! To say that walking in these areas, in the dark, was a bit disconcerting would be an understatement. All ghosts aside, to hear some history of our city was very interesting and informative and we would highly recommend this tour not only at Halloween but at any time of year. To cap off the evening some of us warmed up with a delicious hot chocolate at the new chocolatier from Quebec, Les Chocolats Favoris , on Government Street. Deeeelicious!

.....

KNOTs members recently went on a creative adventure at the Paletteable Pottery and Arts Studio at Matticks Farm. Many of us had never painted any kind of picture before (well, maybe paint by number) and so embarked on this project with some trepidation. It turns out there was no need to worry, as our instructors were wonderful and walked us through each step of the process, and with great results! Each of our paintings were unique, and we all came away with a sense of pride in our efforts. It was a fun, social evening combined with an opportunity to flex our creative muscles. We shall have to go back and try different painting maybe the candy floss trees which look good enough to eat!

Submitted by Lynda Ireland

World Partnership Walk



On lovely Spring day in May, the 27th Victoria Guides had the privilege of helping out with the Aga Khan Foundation's World Partnership Walk. Before we got started, the girls were treated to a tour of the tents to learn what the Aga Khan Foundation is and what they do. They also got to get creative with a craft. The girls were enthusiastically set to cheer on the walkers to the finish line with their voices and their noisemakers! All-in-all, the girls truly enjoyed the experience.



As a memento of their participation, each girl was given a lovely participation gift (daypack/hip sack filled with bits-and-pieces, including a snack), from an anonymous donor who was so excited that the girls were willing to be a part of the day. As well, the girls were given beautiful pins from SVI. As a unit, we worked on the World Partnership Walk challenge, which was started in Edmonton many years ago. The girls learned a lot, while having lots of fun.

If you are looking for programme and service projects to do with your units, please consider joining the World Partnership Walk. This is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in a Global Service project! One could even make it into a Lady Baden Powell or Canada Cord Service option, should any of your girls be interested. It is held the last Sunday in May (in 2017, the 28th). We had a request from the girls last year to actually walk the route. We



will be working with the organizers so that the girls are able to be involved before and after the walk while getting to walk the route as well. Please note that we do no fundraising for this event – participation before and on the day is key!

If you would like more information or would like to be involved, please contact me at Tracy.Mcleish-schmit@viha.ca and I will send more information your way.

Submitted by Tracy McLeish-Schmit, 27th Victoria Guides



South America Independent Trip



On the 4th of July, 2016, nine Pathfinders and Rangers and 4 Guiders from Pacific Skies District, left for a 3 week adventure to Chile, Bolivia and Peru.

In Santiago, Chile we made a surprise visit to the Guide House and were received warmly and given a tour of the beautiful building. We visited markets and were given tours of the not so touristy areas of the city.

From there we flew into La Paz, Bolivia where the real adventure started. La Paz is a vibrant city of colour and motion and we were swept up in it. We loved shopping in the markets and seeing how the Bolivian people lived.



"The many colours of a traditional Bolivian market"



"We went on a 3 day tour of the Salar de Uyuni Salt Flats and it was an experience we will never forget"



Salar de Uyuni is the world's largest salt flat at 10,582 square kilometres at an altitude of 3,656 meters above sea level. We travelled in 4X4 vehicles over salt, sand, mud and snow to take in the sights of this magnificent area. Volcanoes were always on the horizon as well as llamas, alpacas and vicuñas in the desert. We saw valleys of red rock and an island of cactuses, as well as many fresh and salt water lakes and the birds that inhabited them. Through the Salar we visited seemingly empty villages, where the populations had left to work the mines. We stayed in rudimentary solar powered hotels made entirely of salt.

"Temperatures in this winter season were warm during the day and very cold at night."





"The Sol de Mañana is a geothermal field characterized by intense volcanic activity with boiling mud and plumes of pressurized steam shooting up into the sky."

"At the an altitude of

4,800-5,000 m and, it was a sight to behold!"



Leaving Bolivia, we traveled into Peru and participated in 2 cultural tours. The first one was to Sillustani, outside of Puno, to visit a school where we were able to drop off our collected sports equipment and school supplies.

"We participated in a language lesson of English, Spanish and also the native language of the area, Quechua"





"We sang songs and played games together and the children especially loved our Mascot, Chinook, who is a Vancouver Island Marmot."

"We travelled in fisherman's boats to visit the Sillustani archaeological site where we saw Inca and pre-Inca burial Chullpas"



"With the families of the Uros Floating Islands on Lake Titicaca"

On the second tour we travelled by boat on Lake Titicaca to the Uros Floating Islands where we were welcomed onto an island inhabited by 5 families. We were shown how the islands

were built with Totora Reeds, and watched as the women worked their handcrafts of colourful wool.

From there we visited and hiked on Taquile Island. The people there are known for the highest quality of handicrafts in Peru with the spinning and dying being done by the women, and the knitting exclusively being done by the men.

"Visiting Taquile Island on Lake Titicaca"



"Experiencing the magnificent Machu Picchu - what an experience!"



We took a fabulous scenic 10 hour train ride from Puno to Cusco and then on to the magnificent Machu Picchu!! For many of us it was a bucket list event crossed off!

Thank you to our friends and families, Pacific Skies District and SVI Area for your support of this once in a lifetime travel opportunity.

Submitted by Adrienne Blandford, Area Co-Commissioner



The Trefoil Guilds of SVI Area



Have you considered joining a Trefoil Guild but weren't sure what it was all about? The National website says the following about Trefoil Guilds: "Trefoil Guilds are for Guiders either active or retired who are 30 years old and older who wish to maintain a contact and association with Girl Guides. They are full Members of Girl Guides of Canada." In SVI Area, we are lucky enough to have 5 Guilds to choose from, each one being unique in its personality, so to speak.

1st Victoria

This Guild is the oldest continually operating Guild in Canada (registered in 1961). The approximately 25 members gather on the last Monday of the month at 11:30 AM at Guide House. Many of the members were Guiders in Chatham District but the Guild is not exclusively from that district. They enjoy the "company of other Guiders" for many pot luck lunches, craft meetings and a variety of other activities, with an occasional evening gathering. They have been part of the Chatham District Fall Tea for the last 15 years and love to host a luncheon in the Spring for all the other Guilds in SVI Area as a fundraiser which goes directly to the girls. Many attended the most recent Phyllis Dufton Trefoil Camp at Kingswood, this summer.

Contact: Pam Luco gluco@telus.net
250-721-0041





2nd Victoria

Meeting at Guide House on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM until noon, this group of 10 ladies focuses on “keeping connections with Guiding friends”. The meetings, sometimes with a speaker or maybe crafts, are a social time for a friendly group of ladies who have known each other for many years. They also organize outings such as a picnic lunch, IMAX show or restaurant lunch. Several members have been consistent attendees at the Phyllis

Dufton Trefoil Camp for its 30 camps staged on Vancouver Island each summer. They also contribute to a campership fund for girls travelling on selected trips.

Contact: Sharon Fitch shfitch@telus.net 250-381-1166

KNOTs (Kingswood Night Owl Trefoil)

This group usually meets on the second Thursday of the month in the evenings, sometimes at Kingswood’s McKivett Lodge, at Guide House, or they gather for the selected activity. Most of the 21 ladies in this group are working during the day so it might be a fit for Guiders who are not retired from the work-a-day world. The mandate of this group is to “keep the fun in Guiding” with activities selected & organized by the group members. Tentative planning is underway to do some service for SVI and for the girls of SVI Area.

Contact: Marsha Ritchie
richiemarsha@gmail.com
 250-361-3228





Peninsula Pals

Although its name might suggest that Guiders in this group are from the Saanich Peninsula, there are a number of members who live in Victoria. This group of 20 plans activities for the mornings of the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Some of the activities are active such as orienteering, mini-golf or low tide explorations while others would suit those who are less inclined to be out in the wilds. Such activities might be board games or a guest

speaker at the Holy Trinity Church on Mills Road in North Saanich where most of the 'meetings' are held. The focus of the group is "to retain Guiding friendships through fun and varied activities".

Contact: Ann Scarfe rams@pacificcoast.net 250-477-1986

Purple Shores

Most of the members of this Guild live on the Westshore or Sooke but others are certainly welcome to join. They meet on Wednesday evenings about 7:00 PM at a community space or member's homes from View Royal to Port Renfrew. This group of about 12 ladies "supports the Guiding units in the Western Communities" by helping with larger girl events or being available if extra hands are needed. They are still active with girls to share their ideas and skills. Past events have included Christmas parties, Thinking Day dinner or Carnival. They also like to go camping, theatre or trying something new (either active or quiet).

Contact: Jan Watson
guiderjanlwatson@msn.com



Each of these Guilds contributes a different flavour to the concept of Trefoil. From a historical viewpoint, here is a quote from an article by Mrs. G. Pepler found in a 1960's era *Guider Magazine*:

“What Part does the Trefoil Guild play in the Girl Guide Family? The Trefoil Guild is rather like the elderly Aunt! Always ready to help in an emergency!”

Most of us don't consider ourselves to be 'elderly' but hopefully we can be counted on by Guiders and units in an emergency.

The BC website provides some guidelines for Guilds to follow, since women join Trefoil Guilds to:

- keep the spirit of Guiding alive
- provide for fellowship, learning and fun
- give service to Guiding and the community.

Kay Dubie, the National Trefoil Guild Specialist mentioned service to Guiding in her recent newsletter, “I would like to challenge every Trefoil Guild in Canada to make an effort this year to work with a girl unit for at least one event. It is important for girls and young women to see that we are a viable group, that we like to interact with units, and that we have a lot to offer to the Guiders in the way of resources and information”.

If you are interested in reading more about Trefoil Guilds in Canada, Ontario council developed a Guild Handbook in 2014 which you might find interesting: <https://ont.guidesontario.org/index.php/adult/trefoil-guild>

For those SVI Area Guiders considering their future in Guiding, you are most welcome to attend any meeting/gathering at any of the Guilds to see for yourself what happens in that Guild. Just contact the person listed for the Guild to find out the particulars. Some members attend all their Guilds' events, while others only come to those of interest to them.

As with all things Guiding, we share the leadership for the different activities. That way, no one person is stuck with organizing all of the events. Just as the name of the Too-

Many-Hats Trefoil Guild in Rivers North Area suggests, we are all busy ladies but there's nothing like a few hours spent with your sisters in Guiding.

Hope to see some of you at a Trefoil Event.

**Submitted by Jeannie Cosgrove,
Member of Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild**

Keating Guides volunteering at the Sidney Lions food bank (October 2016)



Woodwyn Remembrance Ceremonies

It was a great turnout once again, from Woodwyn District, for the annual Remembrance Day ceremony held at the Saanichton Municipal Hall. We have been so fortunate in the past to have decent weather for this special event, and were blessed this year too, to **not** get the rainfall which was predicted. We all met at Centennial Park, then (proudly wearing our

poppies) marched en mass with our unit flags to the Municipal Hall. We had been asked this year to participate in the reading of a poem and Eve Blakley, of 2nd Woodwyn



Pathfinders, proudly recited 'In Flanders Fields'.

Scouts were represented by Calvin, who read a poem written by a 12 year old girl entitled 'I am a Poppy'. Two of our girls (Maddy Redman and Anna Littkemann of 1st Keating Guides) were invited to escort Mr. Dale Ratzlaff (representing both Queens Own Rifles and United Nations peace keepers – Blue Berets), to the cenotaph and assist him during the wreath laying portion of the service. Following the laying of wreaths by local service men and women, all others were invited to come up and lay wreaths. Our units were well represented and laid their wreaths (some of which were beautifully hand crafted) as we respectfully remembered those who fought for the freedom which we enjoy to this day. This local service of remembrance first started a number of years ago, with an 'audience' of





**Submitted by Sharon Lohr, Woodwyn
District Commissioner**

about 8. It has now grown to approximately 400 in attendance! Following the service, many local businesses provided coffee, juice and cookies for all. I know that the girls often have Remembrance services at school, however, I feel that when they participate in this type of event, it helps them to appreciate even more, the sacrifices our Veterans have made. We will remember them!





Peggy McKeever Gone Home

November 25, 1918 - September 21, 2016

Guiding History

- 1929 Enrolled in Guides, Dublin, Ireland
- 1957 Guide Lieutenant (September)
Guide Captain, (Oct)
- 1959 District Commissioner, Newly formed Lakehill District
- 1962 Deputy Division Commissioner, Fort Camosun Division
- 1963 Deputy Area Commissioner, Greater Victoria Area
- 1966 Area Commissioner, Greater Victoria Area
- 1968 Received Medal of Merit
- 1969-78 Social Secretary, Area Council
- 1985 Received Life Membership from Lieutenant Governor Rogers
- Recent Member of 2nd Victoria Trefoil Guild

The following are the highlights of Peggy McKeever's term as Area Commissioner, (1966 – 1969) taken from information shared with Darleen Jubb:

1966 March 1st - Laying up of Guide Flag in Christ Church Cathedral. The flag was presented by Mrs. Midgley and had been used in Victoria for 50 years. There were over 200 people in attendance.

March 20th - Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, came to Victoria to lay the corner stone at the Provincial Museum site. Brownies and Guides were present.

May 16th - The Provincial Commissioner, Mrs. May Kendrick visited the area.

1967 Centennial Year - The Area put on a huge rally at the University of Victoria with over 900 members of Guiding taking part, during the month of May. We raised money to buy

equipment for Pearkes Clinic for Handicapped Children (currently named Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health).

During this year we received \$9,693 from the estate of Mr. Thomas McPherson. It was agreed that we would use this windfall to build a new Guide House. This involved buying the lot and finding a building contractor to get things started. Finally, all was finished and Guide House was opened on November 26, 1967 by the Mayor of Victoria, Mr. Hugh Stephen. Also present were Mrs. May Kendrick, Provincial Commissioner and Boy Scout officials.

Princess Alexandra and her husband came to Victoria to open Centennial Stadium, so we had a huge gathering of Brownies, Guides and Rangers in Pioneer Square to greet them as they left Christ Church Cathedral on the Sunday morning after they had attended church services.

1968 Mrs. Clydesdale, National Commissioner visited the Area this year and while here presented Peggy with the Medal of Merit.

1969 Victoria Area held a Walkathon – 20 miles – and the \$2,000 made by the girls was spent improving our two campsites. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip visited Victoria. Rangers, Guides, Brownies and leaders gathered on the lawns of the Empress Hotel to greet them.

Peggy McKeever - a most gentle lady.

Words used to describe Peggy have consistently been: classy, kind, compassionate, friendly, inspirational, caring, appreciative and a positive role model to all. She always carried herself with poise and dignity, no matter the situation.

Clearly, this was evident on Sunday, October 2, 2016 at the Anglican Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Esquimalt, where there was the unanimous "nodding of heads" as the officiating Clergy referred to Peggy, using many of the above words. This was the Peggy we all knew and loved. We were privileged to have called her our Guiding sister and friend.

Her family was very important to Peggy, who always spoke fondly of them. Peggy's Guiding family offers their heartfelt condolences to all of her family and friends.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Porterfield and Olive Brown, 2nd Victoria Trefoil Guild

