

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Spring/Summer 2015

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Emily Carr Trex Conquer the Kludahk and so much more! Read about the Trex Unit on Page 18! Photo Credit: Susan Zedel



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of Canada

Guides
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SVI Area Council 2014-2015

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Christine Grist/Alicia Goluza	Portage Inlet
Brenda Lacharity	Raven
Meaghan Playle	Straits
Cathy Schofield	Woodwyn

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Amanda McIntyre	Layout/Design
Lynda Ireland	Proof-reader

From the Commissioner's Desk...

I have just spent a delightful weekend being in the company of girls – lots of girls - at the Portage Inlet District Round Up Camp. It was wonderful to be involved with young Guiding members that were camping, singing, crafting, exploring and having fun. It was an opportunity that I haven't had for a while and when it came up, I jumped at the chance to have some fun myself and help fill a much needed spot on their roster. We all met at Colquitz School to board school buses bound for Seven Springs in Parksville. For those that are SOAR attendees, this was where our camp was held in 2007. With close to 100 girls and lots of Guiders, we loaded the mountains of bedrolls onto the buses (I am sure the drivers were surprised that we could fit it all in!). After disembarking, coloured duct tape helped get the gear into piles for each level and we started pointing girls in the right direction for their weekend accommodation. The Sparks and their leaders went to the lodge, the Brownies were housed in little cabins, while the Guides and Pathfinders got to stay in chuck wagons. Scheduling must have taken quite a lot of skill as each girl participated in three separate day activities on the Saturday. Choices ranged from mini golf, the Tiger Lily Barnyard & North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre (which I helped with), to Horne Lake Caves, rappelling, Butterfly World, and Paradise Acres trail riding!! There were incredible opportunities to suit each girl and I loved being with the group that I had for the day, witnessing their excitement firsthand. This is what makes being a Guider wonderful!

Listening to all the happy girls as we made our way up Island (are we there yet?!), brought back great memories as did helping to dole out mountains of food to girls with big “camping outdoors appetites”, and sharing songs at the campfire. The older girls helped the younger ones, sharing the skills that they had built over years of Guiding. The Guiders shared their skills with the other volunteers that came along to experience what Guide camping was all about. Everyone from the youngest Spark to the oldest Guider seemed to leave with some new knowledge, a new friend and some great moments to treasure.

I would encourage you all to get outdoors, get the girls away for a weekend and let them experience what tends to draw us to Guiding in the first place – the fun, the friendship and the great outdoors!

Sharon Doty, SVI Area Commissioner



Hats Off



To those selected for nationally sponsored trips this summer: **Mira Kuroyedov** (Camas) chosen as an alternate for Sangam, and to **Shauna Stubbs** (Lakes) and **Katherine (Katie) Lee** (Peninsula Shores) off to the Sea of Cortez. Congrats as well to those travelling on provincially sponsored trips: **Kirsten Crisp** (Bay to Bay), **Molly Cheng** (Emily Carr Trex), **Teagan Connell** (Straits), **Jessica Moore** (Straits) and **Georgia Wark** (Harbours) who will be attending Colours of the World in Vancouver; to **Sara Herbert** (Straits/Peninsula Shores), **Isabella Lee**, **Meggin Crisp** (1st Victoria Rangers), and Guider **Colleen McKenna** (Raven) taking part in the Me to We excursion to Udaipur, India and to former Area Co-commissioner and Woodwyn District Guider **Brenda Fraser** who will take part in Adventure to the Capitals, visiting Ottawa and Washington D.C. for Canada Day and Independence Day. Save travels to all!

To SVI Rangers **Maryna Ell**, **Christina Martinusen** and **Mira Kuroyedov** as well as SVI Ranger/Trex Adviser **Kate Bourne** who were selected to attend the National Girl Guiding Greatness Conference, April 10th-12th in Toronto. Check out Maryna's inspirational article in this edition of *The Lamplighter*.

To Lakes, Straits and Raven Districts for their stellar job in organizing the AGM at the beautiful Songhees Wellness Centre, in particular **Ann Friesen**, **Tiffany Chartrand**, **Meaghan Playle**, **Jennifer Bouchard**, **Suzanne Steffler** and **Mary Ann Scott**.

To outgoing District Commissioners **Brenda Lacharity**, Raven District, **Cathy Schofield**, Woodwyn District, and **Sheena McCullough** and **Tamara Fraser**, Peninsula Shores District. Your leadership, commitment, experience and cheery dispositions

were a real asset to Area Council and you will be missed.

To incoming Area Training Adviser **Sherry Fortais**, for stepping up to volunteer for this challenging position.

To the talented and caring girls and Guiders of Portage Inlet's **27th Victoria Guides** for hosting a variety show to help fundraise for the Smith family who are dealing with the financial burden of caring for their Guide daughter Emma while she undergoes chemotherapy treatment. Check out the family's online fundraising page at gogetfunding.com/project/emma-grace-smith. With the church donations of just over \$400, and the girls' massive amount of help on the night, the unit managed to raise \$2,254.00!

To everyone who helped make Camp Skills Day such a fun event. Thanks to **Erlene Amero**, Area Camp Adviser, for handling all the complicated logistics before Camp Skills even happened, and to the Area Camping Committee members and Guiders who helped with the planning of this popular event: **Jeannie Cosgrove**, **Julia Pearson**, **Kaley Lewis**, **Raven Loucks**, **Karen Bill**, **Tamara Fraser**, **Donna Cavan** and **Jenn Bouchard**, Rangers **Michaela Pennell** and **Julia Fischer** (1st Peninsula Shores Rangers), the **1st Victoria Rangers**, and Pathfinder **Megan Vincent Robinson** (1st Colwood Pathfinders). Thanks go out to the **1st Colwood Pathfinders** who put together 120 kits handed out to all the participants.

To all those who helped with Just Gotta Camp: Guiders **Donna Cavan**, **Jeannie Cosgrove**, **Christine Grist**, **Jenni Woodcock** and **Araina Golding**, Junior Leaders **Christina Martinusen** and **Katherine Strom Trudel**. It would never have happened if **Erlene Amero**, Area Camping Adviser, hadn't decided that the older Guides needed a camp to challenge them

and teach them some enhanced skills so they could be proficient in helping others in their units. They certainly went home with better proficiency than when they arrived on Friday night.!

To the amazing Rainbow Revelry team. This colourful event at Fort Rodd Hill was a huge success thanks to all of you:

Administration - **Sherry Fortais** (Pre-registration), **Tanya Wyllie** (parcel prep and registration), **Rose Kwiatkowski** (Registration), **Suzanne Iverson** (Site manager), **Hailey Finnigan** (Media contact), **Darcy Wyllie** and **Wendy Halpen** (Traffic control), **Sandi Arts** (Mistress of Ceremonies), **Tamara Fraser** and **Tia MacDonald** (Roving photographers), **Brenda Lacharity** for stepping up to assist the 6th Victoria Brownies when they needed another helper and **Jeannie Cosgrove** (Overall planning).

Blue Station - **Kyla, Tim and Muirenn Fraser, Britney Allen, Rezia Khan, Lynda Ireland,** Pathfinder: **Claire Arts**

Red Station - **Sherry Fortais, Linda Callander,** Rangers: **Mya Rivers & Katrina Brittan,** Rangers: **Mattie Duddridge, Alanna Lacharity, Nicole Upshall**

Green Station - **Sharon Lohr, Barb Kerr, Erlene Amero,** Rangers: **Michaela Pennell, Rachel Spencer**

Orange Station - **Jessi Carr, Sheilagh Finnigan, Marilyn Maggiora, Wendy Kluge,** Rangers: **Danielle Luzzi, Stephanie Milburn**

Yellow Station - **Laureen Dye, Linda Coyle, Rose Kwiatkowski, Daphne McGregor-Greer,** Rangers: **Hannah Norris, Harriet Cawsey**

Purple Station - **Shauna Francis, Trudine**

Wilson, Donna Caven, Pat Carr, Rita Anderson and Jan Watson, all from the **Purple Shores Trefoil Guild.**

Special mention and thank yous to **Laureen Dye** who assembled all the yellow 'Bee Prepared' craft so the Brownies could construct their bees with ease, to the **Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild** who helped with craft preparation, and to those of you that also attended the preliminary planning sessions and prepared the orange goldfish.

Thanks to the **1st Pacific Skies Pathfinders** who decorated and appeared on the stage for our closing along with Pathfinder friend, **Claire Arts,** and to the **1st Emily Carr Rangers,** who helped at stations and with the physical set-up and cleanup.

To Sooke Ranger **Maryna Ell** for winning the BC Girl Guides BC Council Bursary and her fellow Ranger **Kayla Curtis** for winning the BC Girl Guides Margery Dumfries Scholarship. These two truly exemplify what Guiding is all about.

To the devoted members of the **Archives Committee** who work so diligently to ensure that the history of Guiding in SVI is recorded and maintained.

To **Darcy Wyllie,** our dazzling denizen of the desk, for manning the SVI Guide Office with such competence and efficiency. We would be lost without you!

To all the Guiders and non-member volunteers in SVI, thanks for a job well done!

And finally, to our admin team: Commissioner **Sharon Doty,** Deputy Commissioners **Sheilagh Finnigan** and **Gillian Hurwood,** and the financial gurus **Mary Porterfield** and **Nancy Fischer.** The hours and hours you have devoted to making SVI run smoothly are greatly appreciated. Enjoy your well deserved summer break!

At the AGM...

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Thank you to the many resource people who share their knowledge and expertise so willingly to provide dynamic programming for our girls – fire departments, police officers, search and rescue people, first aid trainers, ambulance attendants, and volunteers from other organizations - to name just a few.

Thank you to the many local churches, schools and community centres that provide rooms and spaces for our meetings and events.

Thank you to the many local businesses and organizations that enable us to provide so much for our girls through their continued partnerships, support and donations.

Thank you to the Unit Guiders and their wonderful helpers for giving your time which is so invaluable. You give it so freely and willingly each and every week – and it is only supposed to be one hour a week – right! Thank you to the spouses, families, neighbours and friends of our Guiders for your continued support, helping hands and being so willing to have us “pick your brains”, time and time again.

A special thank you is given to all of the daughters of the many Guiders in SVI. You have had to share your mom with all the other girls at meetings, outings and camps, been the first to arrive and the last to leave and are the ones who don't receive an earned badge or special something because we were one short. To all the adult members – THANK YOU! – for all you do. Whether it is in the spotlight or behind the scenes – you are all truly remarkable women. This organization would not be what it is without you taking the time out of your already busy lives to share your talents and passions with others. Unit Guider, council member, adviser, committee member, district commissioner or area commissioner – you are all important and help to create special memories and moments for our girls. We are truly “Sisters in Guiding” and we all need to be proud of who we are, what we have accomplished and look to the future to see what we might be able to accomplish if we just step outside of our comfort zone. Just look at what we have accomplished so far! I am proud to offer this resolution of thanks to all the organizations and individuals who continue to support Girl Guides of Canada – Guides du Canada to be the relevant and dynamic organization it is today.

Thank you.

Read by Sheilagh Finnigan and Gillian Hurwood.



Top: SVI Area Commissioner team with Provincial Deputy Commissioner Leslie Bush

Right: The Woodwyn District Contingent

Below: New Area Training Adviser Sherry Fortais, Former Area Commissioner Olive Brown and Tia MacDonald





Top: Right: Nancy Pryce receiving her 25 year pin. Bottom Left: Araina Golding receiving her 55 year pin. Bottom Right: Sheila F. and Sheilagh F

At the AGM...





Top Right: Former Spirit of Hilda Leighton Award Winner Peggy

Morfitt receiving her 40 year pin. Bottom Right: Merlane Quon receiving her 20 year pin.



THE SPIRIT OF HILDA LEIGHTON AWARD

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.

The first of the Spirit of Hilda Leighton Award winners to be profiled in this edition actually received her award at the Raven District Advancement Day in June of 2013, but Teresa Howden is so modest and unassuming that she never complained that her award had been overlooked by The Lamplighter. In true Teresa style, she also wanted to give credit where credit is due. She wrote that although her tribute “goes on about me dealing with the 2009 bridge disaster at Jubilee, when in fact I was more of the sidekick and moral support while Sandy Hulko was the ringleader in the project.” The other three recipients, Carol Gamey, Jeannie Cosgrove and Sheila Fowler, received their award at the 2015 Annual Gathering of Members on April 19th at the Songhees Wellness Centre.

Following are the presentations for each of them:



Teresa is pictured here in June of 2013 on the far left, with Area Commissioner Sharon Doty, Raven District Co-Commissioner Suzanne Steffler, Raven Commissioner Brenda La-Charity and Area Deputy Commissioner Sheilagh Finigan.

Teresa receiving her 30 year pin at the 2015 AGM.



“**Teresa Howden**, you are always cheerful, helpful and you bring a calm confidence to any task that you undertake. You enthusiastically share your camping expertise, orienteering/compass knowledge and naturalist abilities with all levels of Guiding. Supporting camping in SVI is a ‘Labour of Love’ for you. After the devastating winter storms of 2009 when the rain caused mudslides and the creek flooded the property and bridge, you made it your mission to ensure that the camp was restored and enhanced beyond its previous condition. You

dedicated hundreds of hours of your time doing everything from liaising with Government staff to coordinating contractors and physical labour to rebuild Camp Jubilee and the flooded latrines. As Camp properties liaison, you implemented the use of the SVI website for showing the availability of camp properties.

Always giving your best to Guiding in your various roles as Camp Liaison, Camp Adviser, Jubilee Camp Committee member, Pathfinder Guider etc., you are never afraid to take on challenges and make them doable. Your endless dedication, enthusiasm and knowledge of Guiding and camping make you an excellent ambassador for the Girl Guides of Canada movement. It is with great pleasure that you are awarded with the ‘Spirit of Hilda Leighton’ SVI Area Award.”

“**Carol Gamey**, always positive with an easy going manner, you make everyone around you feel comfortable and worthy. Your sense of humour and fairness always prevails. You have been instrumental in many Guiding activities for your District, such as: Snowflake Balls, Winter Wonderland skating, the successful Vancouver Aquarium sleepover and it is hard not to smile thinking of you



awash in a sea of Brownies at Memories and More. You never hesitate to lend a hand when needed (even if it is camping related!).

Always willing to learn something new, and at a great time of change, you took on the iMIS role with gusto and quickly became known as the Area iMIS guru. When issues arose (and there were many issues!) you were a terrific liaison with Province and you developed strategies to streamline the process. Your cheerful manner makes it easy for Guiders to contact you with any MemberZone or iMIS queries. As Lamplighter editor extraordinaire, you generously contribute much of your time and energy. Your tireless efforts are evident in everything you do and you are very much appreciated.

Your innovative Guiding spirit is infectious. Always willing to go the extra mile, and combined with your strong work ethic, you truly represent the spirit and values of Guiding. It is with great pleasure that you are awarded with the "Spirit of Hilda Leighton" SVI Award."

"**Jeannie Cosgrove**, you are cheerful, resourceful, hard-working and knowledgeable. Always thinking of the girls first, you never hesitate to take on projects or to lend a hand where-ever and whenever needed. ie: accompanying Trex on various adventures, being a Guider at many Discovery Camps, spearheading the Lady B-P event (and dressing up as Lady B-P herself), attending several SOAR and Guiding Mosaic camps.

You have held just about every position in our organization: Brownie, Guide, Pathfinder and Trex leader, District and Division Commissioner for Saanich Shores, Awards Advisor, Area Program Advisor, Trefoil Guild and Webmaster extraordinaire. Innovative and an extremely hard worker, you are the go to person that we rely upon for special projects. You exemplify what makes Guiding special by being reliable, selfless, thoughtful, imaginative, community-minded, but above all, dedicated to providing a fun and safe environment for girls to experience the best adventures that Guiding has to offer.

Jeannie, you epitomize the spirit of Guiding. Always giving above and beyond in everything that you do, you are a strong presence in Southern Vancouver Island Area and it is with great pleasure that you are awarded with the 'Spirit of Hilda Leighton' SVI Area Award."





“**Sheila Fowler**, you are cheerful, approachable, organized and are always willing to share your knowledge and experience. You have a quiet, positive, tactful way of sharing information. As Area Training Advisor you have provided many training events, such as: Safe Guide, OAL (Outdoor Activity Leadership) and Guider Module trainings which has kept Guiders updated and current. You have twice successfully organized Area Training for SVI Guiders and Guiders from all over Vancouver Island. This training day provides leadership for all levels of Guiding, empowering Guiders new and experienced to share and learn new songs, crafts, outdoor cook-

ing, technologies for communication and navigation, and strategies for dealing with bullying.

You are always willing to go that extra mile in everything that you do and are continually giving your ‘all’, sometimes forfeiting you own plans to accommodate the Guiding calendar. You willingly volunteer when you see a need and have the ability to contribute, as in stepping up to take minutes at the Area meetings when we were in need of a secretary. You embody and exhibit the true spirit of Guiding by sharing and promoting Guiding through leadership training skills. It is a pleasure to award you with the “Spirit of Hilda Leighton” SVI Award. “

Camp Skills Day 2015

What a popular event! Camp Skills 2015 for 3rd year Brownies and 1st year Guides attracted 146 girls from 22 units. With Guiders and presenting staff that meant a total of 191 Girl Guide members and volunteers at Kingswood Camp on Sunday, April 12th.

As you can imagine, this volume of people created a traffic jam on the dead-end road, Linnet Lane, but once the event got rolling it was a great success, starting with an opening and colours by 1st Raven Pathfinders.

The SVI Area Camping Committee pulled out all the stops, supervising six stations with a wide range of activities. Fire starters seemed to be the most popular choice, if the grins when the girls were able to use a match to start a fire and roast a marshmallow were any indication. They also enjoyed Tracks and Trails (following a path with trail signs), Camp Baking (using box ovens), Creative Camp Gadgets (building tripods





and making mini-tripods as a craft), Ceremonies (highlighting campfire, graces, and Guides Own activities), and Sleeping Bag Strategies (to wrestle those bed rolls into submission!).

After a busy morning, the girls and Guiders welcomed a break at lunch time. The favourite site was under the trees

near McKivett Lodge where they enjoyed hot chocolate and swap trading. After lunch, the girls moved to finish the second half of their stations, before a closing at the Bill Reith lower site.

Part of the success of this event was the inclusion of Rangers and Pathfinders who took on leadership roles by teaching skills and running games. Thanks to all involved in making this event run so smoothly.



Submitted by Jeannie Cosgrove, SVI Area Program Adviser







Emily Carr Trex is one of the largest units in SVI, with one of the most ambitious and varied itineraries. With 29 girls, eager to get outdoors and experience new adventures, it has been a very busy year. So far, in addition to their unit meetings, held every second Tuesday at Guide House, they have biked to Saltspring Island, canoed at Kingswood and camped at French Beach. They have had rock climbing lessons at the Boulders Gym and sailing lessons at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. They have attended the Trex Rendezvous at Camp Jubilee in Port Moody and gone on the NiteHike in Vancouver (which included taking public transit from the ferry to Pacific Spirit Park and staying up all night!), They went night orienteering in a rain and wind storm, hiked Mount Work and participated in environmental service projects (ivy pulling at Braefoot Park and invasive cattail removal at Rithet's Bog). Using their resources wisely, they used the ivy they had pulled to weave baskets! Unfortunately, the two winter camps they planned had to be cancelled because of poor conditions, but snow put in a surprise appearance on their hiking trek to the Kludahk at the end of April. And this is not an uncharacteristically ambitious schedule. In previous years they have taken first aid and firearms training, gone horseback riding, hiked at East Sooke Park, backpacked to Mystic Beach and the Juan de Fuca trail, gone cross-country skiing at Hollyburn Chalet in Burnaby and cycled around the Cowichan Valley.

It is obvious from the range of activities on offer, that Emily Carr Trex is a unit unlike any other. While some of their members are registered only in Trex, others also attend Pathfinder or Ranger meetings. They are pivotal to the planning process and opt in or out of the various activities as befits their schedule and interests. In addition to learning the skills required for an activity, Trex members gain valuable leadership and teamwork skills as they test themselves

physically, mentally, and emotionally in a safe and supportive environment. Although they need a few essential items to participate, like hiking boots, a rain jacket, and layers of non-cotton clothing, everything else can be borrowed, rented for a nominal fee, or collected gradually over time. Trex girls learn about the qualities of good gear so they may purchase their own items if they choose, but the group has a stash of old clothing, backpacks, and other items that can be borrowed. Larger items such as tents, kayaks, and rock climbing gear are provided.

So if you know of a girl, between the ages of 12 to 17+, who is excited about getting outside and having a great time, laughing with others as she cooks her dinner under a starry sky, and learning skills she can use out in the 'wild', (or if you are an adventurous Guider who wants to expand her horizons), please contact:

kathleenbourne@gmail.com.

A huge round of applause to Kate Bourne, Katherine Brandt, Louise Callbeck (their amazing treasurer), Corina Fischer, Helen Kirk, Nicole Vagle and Susan Zedel, who have so admirably filled the void when Chloe Faught took some time off to devote to baby Vera. Special thanks to Chloe who has remained an invaluable mentor and resource, and continues to provide great guidance and advice.

Submitted by Lamplighter Editor Carol Gamey, with able assistance from Kate Bourne, Susan Zedel and Chloe Faught. Photo credits: Kate Bourne, Corina Fischer and Susan Zedel.









Raven District's Snowflake Ball



On February 21st, the 1st Emily Carr Rangers planned and hosted a Snowflake Ball in celebration of Thinking Day. The girls organized a variety of events for all of Raven District to enjoy. The activities ranged from active games, the making of sock snowmen, tiaras and wands, to a service project for the Victoria Women's Transition House. The event was a huge success for a number of reasons – over 100 girls and Guiders from Raven District attended and the Area Commissioner, Sharon Doty, popped in for a visit. As a service project they created 35 "Welcome Kit" bags for women and five children's kits for the local women's shelter. Through a coin donation \$135 was raised for the Canadian World Friendship Fund. The Rangers also had a special guest, Beatriz, a Girl Scout from Brazil, assisting them with the event activities. The ball was very much enjoyed by Sparks, Guiders and everyone in between! This was great bridging activity and a sunny time was had by all.

Submitted by Danielle Luzzi and the 1st Emily Carr Rangers.





Girl Guides Plan an Oak Bay Blitz

First Chatham Brownies Savannah Newton and Emily MacMillan are set to blitz Oak Bay Avenue and head door-to-door with the traditional vanilla and chocolate Girl Guide cookies this month.

Savannah Newton actually lights up in excitement as she anticipates her first cookie blitz in Oak Bay.

"I like selling cookies," said the second-year Brownie with 1st Chatham Girl Guides who only sold door-to-door last year. "This year I'm doing it with Emily."

Emily MacMillan, for her part, has a great story about last year's cookie sales.

"The mayor came along and bought lots of cookies," she said with a grin.

Selling a lot of cookies means more camping for girls from the local level to international travel.

"They are our main mode of fundraising for Girl Guides across the country," said Neala St. Hilaire, a Pathfinders leader and Chatham District commissioner. "We really try to make it so parents, they pay the fee, they sell the cookies and that would be all they need to do (financially)."

Registration, and the fall tea, provide some of the maintenance of Bowker Hall where 1st Chatham meet, along with other incidentals.

"The cookies go more toward the events the kids are doing," St. Hilaire said.

For example, this year one unit bumped its cookie order to 95 cases, the norm is 65, to help fund an overnight trip at Vancouver Aquarium.

"They are going to be out in full force," St. Hilaire said.

The cookies also support every level, from local groups to international work, and at the Oak Bay Girl Guide hall there are at least two girls slated for international travel this year – to Mexico and India. They fund the provincial and national websites and other administration tools that make the volunteers' jobs easier, St. Hilaire said.

The young ladies will also sell their classic chocolate and vanilla sandwich cookies in a one-day blitz of Oak Bay Avenue. They plan to set up stands March 28 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. along Oak Bay Avenue between Wilmot Place and Monterey Avenue. The girls usually spread out along both sides of the street, making sure that they do not interrupt the flow of pedestrian traffic or block businesses.

Girls will do door-to-door sales as usual, covering the realm of Oak Bay.

By Christine van Reeuwijk - Oak Bay News cvanreeuwijk@oakbaynews.com. Reprinted courtesy of the Oak Bay News and posted on their website, March 17, 2015. Image credit: Christine van Reeuwijk /News Staff.



Just Gotta Camp, held at Camp Jubilee over the weekend of April 24 - 26th, was designed to teach camp skills to two Guides per unit in SVI, in hopes that they would share their newly acquired expertise with others in their unit. Friday night

saw 33 girls and six committed Guiders plus two awesome Trex members gather at Kirby site.

The most challenging and interesting portion of the camp was the cooking, with meals ranging from sausages and pancakes cooked on propane or white gas stoves, to English muffin pizzas wrapped in foil and warmed with waxed burlap which was set afire. For many of the girls it was their first time light-

ing a match. The beef stew made on an open fire was challenging for all. Be-

cause of the rain on the previous day, most of the wood in the area was damp so keeping a fire burning long enough to cook stew was a strenuous activity. But the girls succeeded in keeping themselves fed, even if it did take longer than planned. Lunch was topped off with a chocolate fondue melted by tea lights under a soup can buddy burner and scooped up with pieces of fresh fruit – yummy.

A team effort by the girls produced some amazing shelters, constructed with tarps, rope and poles. One group of four girls succeeded in staying the whole night in their well-built “home sweet home”. They earned a Camp Academy crest for their accomplishment.

Along with leading several games, the older girls provided an impromptu yoga session for anyone interested. Each patrol was also challenged to invent a game for the other patrols using a mystery box of items. Scavenger hunts were a popular option, some more complicated than others.

JUST GOTTA CAMP!





The real success stories of this camp were the girls who thought at the outset that they couldn't make it through the weekend and then realized that they were doing 'okay'. There was a great deal of smiling as the camp progressed and the girls realized what they had achieved.



Submitted by Jeannie Cosgrove, SVI Area Program Adviser





Guiding Girl Greatness NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2015

A few weekends ago, I was offered one of the most amazing opportunities that Girl Guides has ever given me. I was selected as one of 56 girl delegates from across Canada (and one of three SVI delegates!) to attend the National Conference of 2015, the theme of which was Guiding Girl Greatness.

It was an incredible experience. Two hundred girls, Guiders, and Provincial and National staff travelled to Toronto, Ontario, to learn new things, share ideas, and have their voices heard about the future of Guiding. Collectively, we had 3,175 years of Guiding experience, so the ideas came from a strong base!

When I was selected to attend the conference as a girl delegate from BC, I was beyond excited. Not only was I going to be able to visit Toronto – basically a whole new world for me – but I was going to meet up with old friends, make new friends, and be able to have my voice heard. As it turned out, 56 of the country's most dedicated Rangers showed up, and it was incredible to be able to share ideas about programming (both current and future), what we love about the organization, and a few things that maybe need a bit of improvement.

Throughout the weekend four girls presented Girl Greatness moments – personal speeches about confidence, courageousness, resourcefulness and making a difference. I was selected to present on confidence, and let me tell you – I did not feel confident enough to do it! But, knowing that it would be in front of a room full of Guiding members, I took on the task. My Guiding experiences have given me a lot of confidence, but none quite as much as this one. I have never before felt so outgoing or as confident in who I am and what I do. Thanks almost entirely to Guiding, I was able to talk in front of the largest group of people I have ever seen about something that is very close to my heart. And who knows, maybe I inspired someone else to be confident. The other Girl Greatness moments were incredible – inspiring, motivating and emotional, to say the least! I will forever be grateful that these girls found the confidence to step up and speak about their experiences – Guiding brings out the best in all of us.

Girl members were called upon at many times during the weekend. At the opening ceremonies, speeches were made, stories were told, and songs were sung; I do think that it helped the crowd to realize what a valuable resource Rangers and other youth members are in this organization. During the same opening ceremonies, Rachel Bon-



**Above: SVI delegates Christina Martinusen, Kate Bourne, Mira Kuroyedov and Maryna Ell.
Right: We were from all across Canada!
Below: A joyful Peru Adventure 2014 'mini-reunion.'**



netta – a former Girl Guide and now an on-air host for Major League Soccer and KICK TV – spoke to us about what Guiding has done for her, why it’s so important, and why we should never give up. It was an inspiring speech and an excellent way to kick-start the conference!

On Saturday morning, after a night spent catching up with friends both old and new (I mean, who sleeps at events like this?) delegates were engaged in a session focused on the current research aimed to improve future programming. Girls presented moving and hard-hitting skits, and participants were informed about what girls want in a youth program. Important and current information was presented and I am sure that some of what was gleaned from that will be taken back to units and have an impact.



After getting the science-y stuff out of the way, we discussed the core values of Guiding. What makes us who we are? What are the themes that we need to make sure we stay relevant and what are the themes that perhaps need some updating? In breakout groups we discussed what makes a Guiding experience a Guiding experience and were once again given the opportunity to share ideas and thoughts. Each group came up with a top-five list of



Girls' Ideas



Guiders' Ideas

themes and all the delegates voted on which we thought were most important. Leadership, friendship, the outdoors and 'it's okay to be you' ranked fairly high– it will be interesting to see the collaborated results of that session!

A social on Saturday night had us all in knots – literally! Organized by girl

members, we played games such as human knot, charades, and this-is-who-I-am-if-you're-like-me-please-switch-chairs. It was an evening of friendship, fun and getting to know one another. Sad that it was our last night, but excited to see what tomorrow would bring, we headed off to bed – well, to our rooms at least!

My favourite sessions were those held on Sunday. After breakfast we discussed why Unit Guiders are so important to our organization and why they are central to who we are. In breakout groups, we discussed the most desired attributes and skills of the Unit Guider, splitting them into categories of head, heart, and hands. In a room so full of people I never would have thought that my words would have any impact – but when discussion was encouraged, I spoke up. We talked about how Rangers have experience that needs to be valued, how we should be listened to, and how the meaningful engagement of girls is one of the most important goals a Guider can strive for. Although essentially we created our ideal Unit Guider – someone who is respectful, organized, flexible, passionate, supportive, innovative, a team player and good at communicating – our session leader said something that stuck: “Guiding does not need an ideal Guider. What Guiding needs is an ideal *you*.” This led me to thinking – maybe the world doesn’t need a perfect me, maybe I don’t need to be awesome at everything. Maybe I just need to do the best I can.

Many of the girls commented that it was great to be able to share ideas with Guiders who have so

much experience – and it was – but as soon as the adults left the room, we could not stop talking! During the last session – I am girl, hear me roar – girls alone were asked to comment on the best ways to engage them in decision-making within the organization. (Guiders and staff were directed to their own private sessions where they discussed the engagement of girls and the importance of working together, respectively). We were given the opportunity to comment on things we love about Guiding, things that need improvement, and things that should be added to the program. We were put into breakout discussion groups, and my group filled up six pages with ideas for the future of Guiding! Afterwards, when each group presented their ideas, it was incredible to see how similar our thoughts were. Great minds think alike, obviously! Part of what made this experience so amazing was our diverse Guiding experience – some Rangers, some Junior Leaders, some who are new to Guiding, and all who are dedicated to the cause. Many girls had trav-



elled internationally, whether with Guiding or not, and all were eager to share their ideas and gain insight from other girls. Of course, the Guiding spirit is always strong when Rangers come together, and coming together from all different parts of Canada helped us to realize how individual we all are.

We cheered when we heard that there are plans in place to establish a National youth council!

The closing ceremony was melancholic – having to leave is never easy, especially when the weekend had been such an incredible whirlwind. Girls, Guiders and staff presented a summary of their discussions from the previous sessions, a farewell slideshow was put together, thank yous and closing remarks were made and delegates were given a chance to assess the conference.

Tears were shed at the farewell – meeting so many people from such diverse Guiding backgrounds was amazing, and it was hard to leave. With 55 new Facebook friends and plans to bring our new knowledge back to our districts, areas, and provinces, we headed home. I learned more than I could ever have imagined over this weekend, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity. Never before have I been privileged enough to take part in something so significant, and the fact that I was able to contribute to the future of Guiding – the future that my daughters will be taking part in – means more to me than almost anything else.

Thank you, Girl Guides, for hosting events like this and for providing these opportunities; they do not go unappreciated.

Submitted by Maryna Ell, Sooke Rangers



Christina Martinusen and Maryna Ell (third and fourth from the left) and their Peru Adventure travelling companions.



CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS

In April, thanks to the efforts of so many in the SVI Area Guiding community and their friends, George Jay Elementary School was a most grateful recipient of 4,400 Campbell's Soup labels. Very well done!! We received the following heartfelt thank-you from the Parent Advisory Council President: "Thank you and your Girl Guides for all the labels! Boy, was I surprised – so many and all counted and organized – we really appreciate that! This year we were able to purchase two digital cameras for our new Yearbook Club. We wouldn't have been able to do it without your wonderful generosity. Thanks again." So, please keep bringing your labels to Guide House as they most definitely help to enhance the students' school experience. I greatly appreciate your efforts to keep the labels flat and not rolled up, as it really reduces the time it takes to cut them down to just the Campbell's Soup picture and the bar code. Many thanks.

Submitted by Sue Woods, former member of the Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild.

MONEY MATTERS

Summer provides a break from Guiding for our units and districts but as we wind down and plan our year-end events, there are guidelines for what should remain for startup funds in the fall. Just a reminder that units and districts should be spending down their money *for the benefit of the girls*. In our National Governance Policies it states that each council should have no less than three months and no more than 12 months of their annual operating budget in their account. Typically if rent is not a factor for a unit, (i.e. district pays) about \$500 is more than adequate. Any money in excess of \$500 should have a purpose such as international travel or SOAR. Show the girls a good time or give them new experiences with the funds they have earned!

Submitted by Sheilagh Finnigan, SVI Area Deputy Commissioner

PENINSULA SHORES DISTRICT VISITS THE WORLD CENTRES

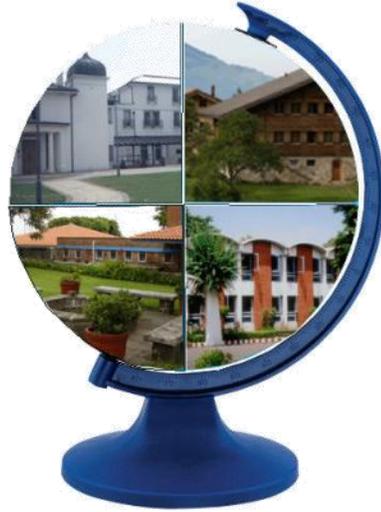


Peninsula Shores Rangers hosted an international night for the 1st Peninsula Shores Brownies at the Sidney Guide and Scout Hall on March 5th. The Brownies learned about the four world centres and talked with Rangers who have been to some of them! Thank you to Colleen Schofield for helping with the Sangam station, to Carol Whitehouse, Wendy Kluge and Marilyn Maggiora for sharing their international experiences and to the many Guiders for loaning their international souvenirs. Sheena McCullough gets a special thank you for making passports for the Brownies to fill out as they went from station to station.

Submitted by Tamara Fraser,

Peninsula Shores District Co-commissioner.





Peninsula Shores Cookie Blitz

