

# **Southern Vancouver Island Area 2021 Annual Report**



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## AREA CO-COMMISSIONERS' MESSAGE



2021 was another challenging year with the ever changing restrictions in place due to the pandemic. We want to recognize the agility of our SVI Guiders as they embraced the hybrid world of in-person and virtual Guiding. We all experienced a multitude of emotions this past year; some felt apprehension, excitement, joy and sometimes fatigue with facing the 'new normal' and another tricky year of Guiding. We were united in our goal to ensure girls were not missing out on Girl Guide opportunities though and we applaud you for that. In light of what we faced in 2021, we saw 2022 relaxing more and we hope the future holds many more opportunities for girl and adult members alike.

We want to thank all of our Guiders for their dedication, for thinking outside the box, for continuing to provide so many opportunities for the girls to complete their program, and for really making lemonade out of lemons! Thank you for pulling together to overcome the various challenges we faced. Your continued enthusiasm, ingenuity, energy and selflessness are our inspiration. We loved to see how innovative SVI Guiders were, while listening and learning from the girls and creating a safe space for all. We have much to be proud of, so WELL DONE to you all! We also want to acknowledge and thank your families for sharing your time to be with the girls.

We want to recognize and applaud our District Commissioners whose terms will finish at the end of this Guiding year – Fiona Mosher for Woodwyn, Renee McCulloch for Raven, Anne Gardam for Peninsula Shores, Sandy Budden for Lakes, and Alicia Goluzza for Portage. Special thanks go out to Susan Plato-McLean for keeping Pacific Skies District running in the absence of a district commissioner; it's greatly appreciated! Thanks too, to our Area Advisers whose terms are also nearing completion – Danita Duguay as our International Adviser, Donna Wilner as our Area Training Adviser, and Kelly Parkin as our Membership and PR Adviser, who also covered some Program work as well! A huge shout out to Susan Zedel for being our amazing SVI Area Properties Chairperson. We couldn't have done it without you all!

As our Area Commissioner term draws to a close, we want to acknowledge all that our SVI Guiders have done for Guiding, for empowering girls and for keeping the Guiding light shining strong for all. It's been an honour representing you at BC Council.

Sharon & Deb  
SVI Area Co-Commissioners

# AWARDS

Due to the pandemic, Guiders have been unable to complete follow-through for many awards nominations. As a result, this year's report will reflect a significant change in the information normally provided.

In a regular year, SVI Area holds an awards recognition ceremony to celebrate the achievements of girls earning their Canada Cord and Gold Trailblazer Awards. Such a recognition ceremony did not occur in 2021. Below is a record of our youth award recipients. In spring 2021, the Area Co-Commissioners, Sharon Lohr and Deborah Buckle, sent each youth a personalized recognition letter in addition to an area crest.

## Canada Cord Recipients

Ally Patterson  
McKechnie Bishop-Nicol  
Megan Davies  
Lauren Cove  
Katherine Leather  
Maggie Dyck

## Gold Trailblazer Recipients

Jocelyn Pereira  
Kirsten Crisp  
Hanna Scott  
Jordann Bradshaw  
Nya Elliott  
Katya Hasanen  
Emily Winsor  
Shannon Snead  
Gabrielle Pierce

SVI Area typically offers two education awards, The SVI Education Award and the Jean Goulson Memorial Education Award. Both awards were suspended in 2020 and were reinstated for 2021. Since the awards were suspended in 2020, Area Council provided approval for the Awards committee to present two (2) scholarships for each SVI Area education awards.

The SVI Education Award was presented to Celina Lessard and Jocelyn Pereira.

The Jean Goulson Memorial Education Award was presented to Caitly Robertson and Reisha Williams.

SVI Area presents membership pins to Guiders for 20 years of service and over.

## 20 Years

Margaretann Jones  
Jennifer Mayer  
Maryna Ell  
Heather Brass  
Julia Galisky  
Alissa Kinnis  
Alicia Goluza  
Sara Herbert  
Pauline Robertson

## 25 Years

Brenda Lacharity  
Donelda Wilson  
Vickie Maclloy  
Jennifer Ordze  
Denise Howden

## 30 Years

Mary Lelonde  
Marilyn Maggiora

**35 Years**

Marsha Richie  
Linda Callander  
Jill Marchand  
Brenda Fraser

**40 Years**

Linda Coyle  
Carol Whitehouse  
Janice Taylor

**45 Years**

Sheila Fowler  
Marion Graham  
Barbara Kerr  
Ann Scarfe  
Darcy Wyllie  
Donna Cavan  
Gail Graham

**50 Years**

Shirley Robertson

**55 Years**

Sharon Fitch  
Wendy Smylitopoulos  
Mary Myers

**65 Years**

Gail Hogarth

**75 Years**

Joan Glass

Many members were nominated for various awards over the year.

**Gold Thanks**

Sarah Schoeck  
Darlene Ell  
Heidi Fowler  
Sandy Budden  
Sheryl Woodward  
Lisa Ahmed  
Christine Grist  
Joanne Costas  
Eva Herbert  
Christine Jones  
Gillian Hurwood  
Cyn Craig

**BC Guider Appreciation Award**

Brenda Matthews  
Deb Buckle  
Kris Walker  
Darlene Tychansky

**Commissioners Award**

Susan Plato-McLean  
Heidi Fowler

**Spirit of Hilda Leighton (SVI Area Award)**

Susan Zedel  
Erlene Amero

**Bronze Merit Award**

Nancy Fischer  
Carolyn Pennell

**Silver Merit Award**

Eva Herbert

**Book of Honour**

Brenda Fraser  
Gillian Hurwood

**Team Award**

Gillian Hurwood  
Adrienne Blandford  
Wendy Halpen

Emma Wright  
Anna Sander  
Kay Smith

All Guiders in Southern Vancouver Island Area are thanked for their ongoing dedication to excellence and their service for helping to make Girl Greatness a reality.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Ebony Bilawka  
and  
Shannon Wills  
Area Awards Co-Specialists

## IMIS/ MEMBER SUPPORT

The trend towards centralizing responsibilities for inputting at the National Office has continued in 2021. While BC is still the only province with volunteer access to the database, iMIS support continues to troubleshoot, provide reports and advice, update records in those fields we have access to and redirect requests as required. After a lengthy period of time with no office staff in North Vancouver to liaise with, we welcomed Heather Reandy as BC's Member and Unit Support Co-coordinator with open arms last fall.

In a year over year comparison with the 2020-2021 census it is clear that SVI has begun the slow process of rebuilding after the devastating impact of the pandemic, which saw a 21% reduction in membership. Overall our numbers are up by 6% - but that figure is somewhat misleading. On the plus side, our girl and youth numbers have risen from 1,112 to 1,255, an increase of almost 13%. Unfortunately, our adult numbers have not only failed to rebound, but have in fact taken a significant hit, with 53 fewer members, a reduction of 13.6%. This decline can be attributed to a number of factors – among them concerns over COVID and the Provincial decision that any Guiders not in a 'girl facing' role would have to pay their own registrations, as many Guiders opted to let their membership lapse.

In the district sweepstakes, Bay to Bay has grown dramatically and is now the largest district in SVI with 212 members (180 girls and 32 adults), with Chatham nipping at its heels, with 166 girls and 45 adults, totaling 211 members. Woodwyn and Pacific Skies are tied at 153, followed by Straits with 141 and Portage Inlet, Raven and Peninsula Shores topping out at between 130 and 135. Lakes, Harbours and Camas Districts round out the list with 77, 89 and 105 members respectively.

In closing, a heartfelt thanks to all the Guiders, District Commissioners, Advisers, Area Council members and our amazing Area Co-Commissioners for their patience and continued support as together we navigated these rocky pandemic waters. I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge the wise counsel and expertise of Provincial iMIS Adviser, Sheralynne Muirhead. I rely on her remarkable memory and leadership, and so appreciate that she is only a phone call away.

I truly appreciate all my Sisters in Guiding as together we have kept the SVI boat afloat!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Gamey  
SVI iMIS Support

## MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Adviser position in the 2021 Guiding year continues to evolve as new membership contacts are predominantly being handled through the national website. While this is a positive step in the consistency of interviewing, there are two issues that need to be addressed. There is a serious processing time lag that has meant potential Guiders are not being placed in units in a timely fashion which impacts the unit ratio. Potential members who are not associated with or have a target unit are being placed in a unit without the needs of the District/Area considered.

Contact through our own website has been low, but those who have reached out have come with a variety of queries. This past year there have been requests ranging from general information about Guiding to one very specific plea for admission to a specific unit from a girl transferring in from another country. The majority of contact requests regarding youth membership have been about how to register and with which unit. The few adult requests that have come through our contact link on our website have been adults looking for the specifics regarding time commitment and role responsibilities in being a Guider.

Reaching out to those girls on waitlists for specific units has resulted in little movement. Suspension/closure of several units due to a lack of Guiders has been difficult to witness. My gratitude goes out to all Guiders, and most especially those who have worn more than one bucket hat this year to ensure units stay open and our youth members are able to continue their journey in the sisterhood.

Heartfelt thanks must be extended to Area Co-Commissioners Sharon Lohr and Deborah Buckle for such supportive leadership, Carol Gamey for her iMIS expertise, and all of the Area Council. It has been a pleasure to spend the past three years in your company/virtual company and to work as a team to provide the best experiences for our members both youth and adult.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Parkin  
SVI Membership Adviser



## PROPERTIES

The Year 2021 started with the continuation of GGC Covid-19 protocols that changed regularly through the year in the “Return to In-Person Guiding”. For most of the year, units in SVI were able to meet outdoors with COVID precautions and cleaning requirements in place. Milnes Landing and Kingwood Camps were opened for booking by units for regular meetings or weekend outdoor activities, with the allowance to use the indoor washrooms. For a short period, units were permitted to camp outdoors, with a restriction of one person per tent. Fees for use for all properties were adjusted to keep the cost to units as minimal as possible. GGC continued spending restrictions, so contractors could only be hired for essential utilities and maintenance. A core of volunteers spent hundreds of hours maintaining the properties during 2021.

### **Kingwood Camp**

Many SVI Area units used Kingwood Camp outdoor areas to get girls out doing camp skills and outdoor program work. Sheilagh Finnigan, Kingwood Camp Site Manager and a small number of volunteers kept up the property by keeping invasive plants within the camp under control, managing cleaning of washrooms and outhouses, painting in the cottage, painting the outside of the garage, reorganizing canoeing equipment and patrol boxes, doing security patrols, cleaning gutters and many more tasks. Contractors Greg Amero for plumbing and Ric Fisher for electrical were called upon periodically when their professional services were required. The 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria Trefoil Guild members stripped the old shingles off the A-frame structure and installed new cedar shingles, using shingles and supplies donated to the camp.



### **Milnes Landing Camp**

The outdoor areas near the upper and lower cabins were used mainly by Harbours District units during 2021 and the cabins were used for meetings with restrictions on the number of Guiders and girls allowed in each space. A few other SVI Area units booked the camp for outdoor weekend activities. Maintenance was accomplished with a small number of volunteers including Gillian Hurwood, Milnes Landing Site Manager, Trevor Ell and Randy Morriss. Contractors were called upon for a few urgent issues, dealing with septic tanks and heating systems.

### **Camp Jubilee**

Camp Jubilee was closed for all of 2020 and up until September 2021, with maintenance and security checks done periodically by SVI Area Properties Committee members. During the summer of 2021, a dedicated crew of volunteers cleaned and painted the outhouse interiors, scrubbed a lot of dirt, moss, algae and pollen off structures, regularly mowed and trimmed the fields and got the camp back in shape for rentals starting September 2021. A new woodshed was built on the Kirby site and the old one removed. The gravel ramps to the bridges were improved and plans made to replace the bridge to the Bridges site.

## **Bowker Hall**

There was a period of indoor use by some Chatham units when permitted, with restrictions on the number of Guiders and girls allowed in each space. Neala St. Hilaire, Bowker Hall Site Manager, looked after keeping the building in good shape and managed the renewal of the complicated lease with the Municipality of Oak Bay.

## **Camp Bookings and Finances**

Camp bookings were a challenge with the stages of "Return to In-Person Guiding" changing throughout 2021, but Adrienne Blandford kept the system going and adapted as needed. Carolyn Pennell and Gillian Hurwood kept track of billing, expenditures, etc., as the new GGC centralized banking system for SVI Area and Properties presented challenges.

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Thanks to the volunteers on the SVI Area Properties Committee for keeping the properties secure and outdoor sites available for use by girls and Guiders in 2021:

Kingswood Camp: Sheilagh Finnigan  
Milnes Landing Camp: Gillian Hurwood  
Bowker Hall: Neala St. Hilaire  
Camp Jubilee: no site manager, Susan Zedel  
Camp Bookings: Adrienne Blandford  
Properties Treasurer: Carolyn Pennell

Also, many thanks to some of the members of 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria Trefoil Guild and the KNOTS Trefoil Guild for volunteering their time with maintenance at Kingswood Camp and Camp Jubilee.

Thank you to the following:

Greg Amero – Plumber  
Ric Fisher – Electrician  
Van Isle Water Services (donation to Camp Jubilee)  
Vancouver Island Propane Services (donation to Milnes Landing Camp, in memory of Karen Borden)

Submitted by:

Susan Zedel  
SVI Area Properties Chairperson

2021 presented many of the same challenges as 2020 with online unit meetings and few camping opportunities. However, the website continued to provide up-to-date information for Guiders, parents and the general public in the Southern Vancouver Island Area (Sooke to Sidney) for Girl Guides of Canada.



Once units were able to return in-person meetings with COVID protocols in place, the use of the website increased, particularly in the area of camp bookings.

The graph to the right reflects the increased usage before the end of the 2000-2021 Guiding year in June and again in October 2021 when protocols were relaxed for a short period of time, allowing for day camps. Although a day camp is not quite the same as camping overnight, the girls learn valuable skills which can be applied when overnight stays are possible.



SVI Area pays for the use of our domain name ([www.svigailguides.ca](http://www.svigailguides.ca)) and the WIX platform for editing the material.

Respectfully submitted by Jeannie Cosgrove and Sara Kissinger  
SVI Area Webmasters

This report covers January - December 2021. As I'm writing this on May 28, 2022, still dealing with the pandemic, I find it ironic that I am recovering from having COVID during my last days of being the SVI Area Training Adviser. This will be my last report as my three year term is up.

2021 was a very quiet, frustrating year for Training. The SVI Training Team met a few times online to try to get things started again. There was interest, but a lot of burn out with no follow-through, including from me. What I wrote in last year's report (written mid-2021) sums up the latter part of 2021 as well:

"It's been a fluid and tricky 18 months. I have struggled to find momentum for this role. With the transition of the BC Training Adviser Spring of 2020, and everyone in the same storm with different boats, support was thin, both from BC Training to ATAs and from me to the SVI Training Team and SVI Guiders. It was not for a lack of wanting to support people. But rather for COVID fatigue and budget constraints set out by Area from Province and from National." (June 2021)

My personal life also shifted dramatically with me starting school again, leaving my career as a travel agent and starting in adult education. The time I had available to give to the ATA role decreased significantly.

## **SVI Training Team Summary**

The Training Team as of December 2021 consisted of six Trainers and two Trainer Candidates for eight trainers in total.

**Trainers:** Brenda Fraser, Sheila Fowler, Araina Golding, Colleen McKenna, Jill Marchand and Donna Wilner

**Trainer Candidates:** Tiffany Chartrand and Christiana St-Pierre

**Trainers who left in 2021:** Nancy Fischer, Brenda Lacharity, Shirley Robertson. Thank you for all of your time, support, effort and passion for Guiding. You will be missed.

## **Trainings Completed in 2021**

Plans were underway for an Area Training Day in 2022. We had booked all of Kingswood and set the date for March 5/6, 2022, but ongoing uncertainty about in-person meetings resulted in its cancellation in December of 2021.

## **Upcoming for 2022**

We are looking for a new SVI Area Training Adviser! As of today, there is still no-one place. Brenda Fraser will be monitoring the svitraining@gmail.com email and I will be available to help as needed. I plan to stay on the SVI Training Team as a trainer.

Submitted by  
Donna Wilner, SVI Area Training Adviser

## RAVEN DISTRICT



2021 started and we were determined in our goal that Guiding in Raven District would continue to thrive, we would have fun and we'd get through another crazy year together (inside, outside, Zoom, Teams, vaccinations and regulations, oh my!). Our girls were now used to some of the adaptations we needed for programming. We managed to keep up some Guiding traditions in spite of meeting online most of the year. A big thank you to the families at home who helped us make it happen.

We started the year with one of our Guiders adding a future Spark to her family. We said a goodbye to Joanne Costas, our District Treasurer for many years. She stayed on through the start of the pandemic and then the Unified Banking start up so that we wouldn't have to add "find a new treasurer" to those crazy times. Jocelyn Pereira received an Area Scholarship and the BC Trades Girl Guide Scholarship.

It was difficult asking the girls what they wanted to do when we knew we couldn't do some of those things but this was the year the girls figured it out too and they were able to find creative ways make things happen by modifying activities with restrictions. Many day camps and camp skills days have kept them wanting more.





Managing the outdoor program required some additions like buckets to keep supplies in (and to sit on) or making more durable sit-upons since meetings moved throughout the community.



Our



Guiders became the masters of finding many terrific online resources. Changes to the way we could and did offer program was a constant and Guiders managed to still make it wonderful (if the girls really knew how crazy it can be behind the scenes). Girls visited the World Centres and learned about preparing for disasters, dental hygiene and geology. They took art classes and did lots of science experiments.



Sometimes we needed to balance our personal limits and abilities which sometimes led to cancelled meetings and lots of fill in Guiders. Guiders realized too that the girls, especially the older girls, needed the Guiding support and interactions in these critical times. We looked forward to the reports from the Pathfinders on the Virtues project activities they were doing. It was a very fulfilling program. Pathfinders prepared, planned and delivered a bridging meeting for third year Guides. We still had Bring-a-Friend nights and our numbers increased although still not at the high they were before the pandemic.



Service opportunities leaned to the outdoor variety with beach, neighbourhood and farther afield litter chases. We did neighbourhood accessibility assessments and storm drain marking. We also collected goods and textiles for people and animals in need and even ran in the Secret 3K Marathon as a way to give back. Public Relations were harder; instead of a Christmas tree in the Village we learned about our family trees and how we are all the same and different. We adapted some of our long standing traditions like attending the Remembrance Day ceremony to learning more about those veterans through the CBC Kids Veterans interviews. Families talked together about what they learned.



There was a bit of a scramble when the online cookies weren't sold and they were sent to the district but we took to social media and offered a drive through option to get them all sold. In the fall we had units that didn't open so those cookies were shared with other units who were eager to sell more.

To end on a high note... literally.... we are allowed to sing again!!! I think this was the best notice we received all year. Everybody was talking about it.



It is a credit to our Guiders that even with many unknowns our units continued to grow. We were so impressed by the creativity of the virtual meetings and by how our Guiders were so patient with the ever changing landscape of policies and rules. We hope that all our Guiders know how much they are appreciated. You are Super!





## PENINSULA SHORES DISTRICT

### 1st Sidney Sparks

We had a full unit this year - 16 girls; 11 first years and five second years, and two leaders. Cookie sales were a big success in both the spring and fall. Both times we participated in in person sales and had no challenges selling at least two cases per girl. In lieu of dues every week girls were encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the local Sidney food bank (ongoing service project). Throughout the course of this year we made five large donations consisting of at least two full box loads of goods each time. As part of our Take Action theme we did a night discussing literacy and each girl brought a minimum of two books from home that they were ready to pass on – we set up a library throughout the meeting and each girl got to choose two 'new to them' books to take home. All books that were left after the meeting were donated to Beacon Community Services – 1000 by 5 project. As part of our Take Action theme we did a beach cleanup night at Sea Glass Beach in Sidney.



### 1st Peninsula Shores Brownies

This year we had 18 active Brownies and four dedicated leaders. We were all new to Brownies with one leader brand new to the organization and one former Ranger transitioning to become an adult member. We enjoyed learning and developing our own special opening and closing, learning about Circle Groups and reading the Brownie Story. Our enrolment was a special Glow Stick Dance Party theme chosen by the girls that incorporated some of the traditional Promise stepping stones and a special rhyme and peek into a mirrored pool.





We were lucky to be invited to a bridging craft night with our Pathfinder group where the girls enjoyed making winter crafts. We also had two Brownies represent our unit at a much scaled down Remembrance Day Ceremony at the local Cenotaph.



In December we focused on our Be Well program and the girls enjoyed making their own fidget toys, doing some yoga and guided meditations, and playing active games as part of My Physical Self. We celebrated the completion of our badge work by trying a new sport: BOWLING! The girls had a blast and enjoyed being active together. We also gave the girls a couple of opportunities to join our District cookie blitz. Those who participated really enjoyed themselves and sold a lot of cookies.



For World Thinking Day (and most of February) we focused on learning about Brownies around the world. We played games from other countries and invited girls to bring in objects that represented their family heritage or places they have travelled to. Two of our Brownies have mothers who grew up in Mexico and they were able to share some of that culture with us. We also had a special guest from a Woodwyn District Guide unit who, along with her Guider and mother, presented a special slideshow on her home country of India as part of her Lady Baden-Powell award. The girls were each given a bindi to wear and some bangles from India to take home.



We rounded out our year with an exploration of the Into the Outdoors program. Girls participated in a beach cleanup near Tulista Park, did some experiments to see how pollution can be hard to clean up and enjoyed making a variety of upcycled crafts including shrinky dink chip bags, Eye Spy Bottles and Brownie Owl Planters. We have planned to participate in the Forest Friends Day Camp organized by BC Provincial Council where we will spend from 10am to 5pm on May 29th at camp following trails, lighting fires, making forest friends crafts, and learning how to Be Prepared! We have invited the 1st Sidney Brownies and Peninsula Shores Sparks to join us for that event as well. It's been a full year and we are thrilled to be able to enjoy indoor meetings alongside our outdoor meetings again.



### 1st Sidney Guides

After a year of COVID and online meetings having in-person meetings felt wonderful. In spite of being outdoors, attendance was high right from the onset. We had a number of Brownies move up to Guides which brought a whole new level of energy to the group and had us focusing on learning the names of the other Guides and learning about each other for the first few meetings. We also had a new Guider, Denyse, who joined us and Jen who joined us as a unit assistant.

Before the questions of vaccination status came into effect everything COVID seemed quite easy. Everyone was great about adhering to the "COVID rules" and protocols which made it easier for the Guiders. Physical distancing was hard but we all tried our best.

Fall cookie sales were hot! The Guides could have sold many more cases; it is so great to see the community support and the Guide's enthusiasm to sell them.



Our first meeting of the year had us focus on learning about each other and enjoying some tin can fondue on the Hall grounds.

As we were outside for the first portion of the Guide year and the Hall yard only holds so many opportunities we tried to move around the community. In October we did some Plein Air gratitude painting at Glass Beach. The Guides were encouraged to paint a message of thanks, something they saw or how they felt on small canvases. The second part of the activity was to wrap their art and label it with a note stating, "free art" and distributing them throughout the community in hopes that they would find a lovely new home.

As fall progressed, it was getting cold and very dark on our Monday nights, so we were very excited when we were given the ok to move inside; although we committed to holding outdoor meetings on weekends in case we had Guides that weren't comfortable participating indoors. Being inside also meant that we lengthened the meetings to an hour and a half.



Liquid Metal Marine invited us to their workshop for a fun evening of learning about boat building and trying out some of the tools. Christy, the owner, had a super fun night planned where we bent metal to make cell phone holders and crawled around boats that they are building and designed our own boats. This was a wonderful example of a member of the community opening up their business to us!

Thank-you Liquid Metal! [https:// www.liquidmetalmarine.com/](https://www.liquidmetalmarine.com/)

In the fall we had a night of fun and games. All of the girls came in costumes. We had everything from a "soccer mom" to a witch and a princess. We started with painting wood pumpkins for them to take home. In our effort to continue to get to know each other, the Guides worked in teams to complete the various challenges- a candy toss, a mummy roll, and candy corn transfer and more. Of course all activities were COVID friendly.





Not surprising but our bowling activity followed by a trip to Dairy Queen was a major hit. These Guides love being active and enjoy treats! They have great energy for everything they do!

Using found materials such as sea glass and donated frames, the Guides created some wonderful gifts for their loved ones. The variety of creations is always amazing. The Guides also took some time to build a helpful robot with recycled materials. Again, the creativity was wonderful to see. There is definitely a need for a room cleaning robot!

As we hadn't been able to have an in-person enrollment last year we were excited to host a Tea Party themed enrollment. We invited the District Commissioner who helped keep the traditions alive as this year's Guiders are not that familiar with some of the Guiding stories and traditions. The Tea Party theme that the Guides chose was a ton of fun, made all the more special by enjoying their tea in proper china tea cups!



Our welcome back meeting in the new year had us learn about and explore commonly used tools. The leaders had picked up a number of free amphibious vehicle building kits from Home Depot which came with pre-cut shapes and instructions to build the kits. The Guides had a ton of fun (and no injuries) and expressed a desire to build other things and use tools more frequently.



Due to COVID we were trying to have some outdoor meetings as well as the indoor ones to ensure everyone felt safe and comfortable participating in Guides. Our Horth Hill hike was enjoyed by all. One of the 3rd year Guides combined her love of photography and a leadership role by taking macro pictures of things she saw and then asking the group to guess what they were looking for. We also hid painted rocks that one of the other 3rd year Guides had created ahead of time as an activity for the group. Some even tried climbing a tree for the first time! The chatter during our snack at the viewpoint confirmed how much they enjoyed it.



In February we started the first of a series of Saturday meetings at Sandown Regenerative Agriculture Centre. We learned about the history of the land, vision for the future and how we would help with building the vision. We planted dogwoods and willows in the wet areas to help soak up the moisture and provide filtration. We also visited and petted the pigs that are helping to clear the land. We picked rocks from one of the 'fields' so it will be easier to get a tracker in and used the rocks to ring an apple tree as a way to help prevent the roots being damaged by equipment being used to close. One of the Guides said a highlight of the day was having pig mud on her boots which was new to her!

A Ranger, Grace, reached out and asked if her and her friend could come for a number of sessions to do a craft with the Guides at the start of our meetings. We were thrilled to have Grace and Lily over for four weeks. While "Exploring identities" we saw the girls showcase their artistic talents. They drew portraits as they saw themselves and then teamed up with a partner to draw portraits of them. They then talked about the differences that they might see in themselves versus others. We have some very talented artists and some very self-aware Guides! They also created appreciation jars and filled them with things they loved about themselves and also shared what they appreciated about others. They had a ton of fun creating messages for their fellow Guides!

We had a couple of meetings focused on money sense. The Guides all had different levels of comfort and experience dealing with money. In March we were back at Sandown working with them on a variety of projects. We painted place maker signs for the various areas at the Farm - the forest, community garden, wetlands, research plots etc. which will be part of our legacy. We had a chance to explore more of the property and learn what the various areas would become.



We headed out to see the Blue Bird boxes which are trying to encourage the endangered blue bird to come back and ideally nest in the area. On the way we found little frogs and lizards. We also learned why geese are not great squatters on the land and helped to chase them off. We also went to check the status of the dogwood and willows we planted in the wet area last time. They seem to be growing well! We were also lucky to have a new leader- Olivia - join us!

March 14 - Grace and Lily joined us again to do a hat craft with the girls. We also did some fun activities to finish off our Money Sense badge. We created a tree with money rubbing as the leaves or flowers and then added up the value of our trees. We also had a chance to finish off Exploring Identities- Being You. Olivia closed off the meeting with some of the Girl Guide traditional songs.

Again, cookie sales were hot. We could have sold significantly more than we ordered!

Working on our World Stage badge we talked about the conflict in Ukraine and the need for peace building. We played some cooperative games in the big group, tried a conflict resolution skit and played three legged soccer. We had lots of laughs and hopefully learned how much fun (and success) we can have when we collaborate.

We were back to Sandown to plant Apple trees and paint signs that identified the variety. It was hard work but the Guides got down to business and did a great job. They also got to bend down and really immerse themselves in some of the smells of farming. We took our time bathing in "thyme." Two of the Pathfinders also joined us for this trip!





Jen at Sandown has been amazing! The girls find her very engaging and she is a wealth of knowledge about farming practices, plants and the land. She has been a wonderful addition to our year!

In preparation for our June tent camping trip to Kingswood, we spent a meeting planning and learning some camp skills. We brainstormed activities we might like to do at camp, we did some meal planning, and we talked about what to pack (and not pack). We worked in pairs to pick items that we needed to pack and others to



leave at home. We then learned how to put up a tent. We know that this occupancy is way above the required COVID two per tent!

Our final trip to Sandown was in the forest. We hadn't been there yet this year so it was great to see another piece of the property. As a means of learning about forest bathing, we used all of our senses to enjoy the surroundings. We did a big ivy pull to try to allow the native trilliums to thrive and we had a tea party to close off our sessions with them.



That brings us up to now. So to finish off the year- we have some evenings planned with Peninsula Streams doing community work such as the "Yellow Road Fish," our Camping Basics weekend at Kingswood and then some end of the year close up activities. We hope that our 3rd year is able to finish all the badges and is able to finish up her Lady Baden Powell as well which is a great accomplishment.

Final thoughts- It has been quite a year! We started with four leaders, went down to three, back to four and then down to three again. Unfortunately, the two we lost were both first aid certified, unlike the rest of us. Having Jen as a Unit Assistant has been wonderful; her "classroom management skills" have come into use many times and she has had some great ideas for engaging the Guides. COVID was ok and the protocols were quite straight forward and other than the vaccination status requirement and a few getting caught up in that process for various reasons, it was "easyish" to navigate as a Guider. It was hard during those times when the Girl Guides protocols were different than provincial recommendations. Getting ready for camp with so little (recent) experience has been a bit of a chore. The application website was easy to navigate however, I didn't know about it. I am sure I must have missed an email introducing it and it has been a long time since I took the Safe Guide course. Unified banking is working quite well although some families are finding it difficult to navigate, which means trips to the bank for our Guider treasurer.

Submitted on behalf of 1st Sidney Guides and leaders Shelley, Denyse and Nadine



## **Pender Island Sparks/Brownies and Guides Pathfinders (two units; combined report)**

This is the annual report for the Units on Pender Island. In the fall the girls were taught the words to their opening songs for each level. One of our Sparks picked up on it quickly. She also made a video advertising the sale of the Girl Guide cookies which her mom sent to us. Here is a snapshot from the video.



They enjoyed learning the lyrics to popular campfire songs. Around wintertime Jo's place donated tickets to the local pantomime so that the girls could enjoy the form of theatre arts in the community before we ended for winter break. We started back up in January where the Guides learned how to put up tents and the hard part of getting everything back in the bag. This was an important skill for them to learn for when we can take them camping. In February we had a joint meeting for Thinking Day. The Guides ran stations in a Round Robin format for the Sparks and Brownies as they learned about the World Centres. In March the Guides played games that fit into the program. April the Guides requested to cook in box ovens again as that was a favourite activity from last year. They also did some gardening and they got to take home some fresh vegetables. Living on an Island and being near the water they got to see the whales go by from the shore, and one of the leaders was able to explain the behavior they were exhibiting. On that same day, they got to see an otter and a great blue heron. We had one of our meetings moved by a week due to a power outage and nasty weather. The girls visited the Pender Island Museum to learn the history of their community with a bit of a scavenger hunt put on to see what things looked like many years ago. The girls had many guest speakers come in that covered various topics and one of them is willing to come on as a part time leader. We have not finished meeting for the year as the girls have decided to end the meetings a week before school lets out for them. We also plan on asking them what they would like to do next year for activities.

## **Saturna Island Guiding Unit**

The 2021/2022 Guiding Year was full of challenges, successes and an amazing amount of resilience and adaptability on the part of both the girls and the Guiders. This year our unit saw an increase in membership from last year -we had six girls sign up in September and an additional two join in through Try Now Join Later in April. We have had a good mix of just a few virtual meetings, which was a nice change from last year, several really fun outdoor meetings and many indoor meetings, too. Our year started outdoors, with a fireside meeting featuring walking tacos and a Northern Lights rock painting project. We got messy with a fun game of Cheetos toss, and many activities centred around the traditions and sisterhood of Guiding. We hosted a virtual meeting with a Zoologist from San Diego through the Skype a Scientist Program. Our enrollment this year was "Spooky Fall" themed, and involved the magical transformation of Brownies to Guides and Guides to Pathfinders. We tackled a much more hands on fireside meeting including fire safety, milk carton hot dogs and s'mores! We took on the Canadian Women of Valour Challenge. We made festive winter decorations and wrote winter cards to members in our community and other organizations. We hosted a festive winter party that was enjoyed by all. We took on the Mighty Minds Challenge. We worked together virtually on a Where is Carmen Sandiego? Challenge which was really fun. We took on this year's World Thinking Day Challenge. We hosted two very successful cookie campaigns selling all of our cookies and then some! We hosted a movie night (screening the film Troop Zero!) and a fun bracelet making workshop using Girl Guide oriented kits from Beading Buds. We invited other non-member girls to sign up and join us to learn about Girl Guides. We took on a "Gross Science" meeting, conducting many yucky experiments. We took on the Clothing4Climate Challenge using many fun activities to learn about the impact of clothing in the environment. We took on the BC Girl Guides "Bee Aware" Bee Week Challenge learning more than we ever thought possible about bees. We resurrected our favourite meeting theme, Spa Night @ Saturna Girl Guides and it was a roaring success. We will host just a few more meetings, including a big end of year party and advancement! We did not get to do any camping this year, but are keenly looking forward to the likely possibility of camping next year! We are looking forward to a big end of the year soiree and advancement ceremony, to celebrate these amazing kids, and the amazing year they have put in with Girl Guides!





### 1st Sidney Pathfinders

This year our unit spent a fairly large amount of time doing small art projects such as painting, drawing, etc. and it was quite enjoyable. They are a very artistic and creative group. They used their artistic and leadership skills to host a Brownie unit in a crafting station meeting. Our group went to a play of Beauty and the Beast at the McPherson theatre which was fabulous. One of our local Girl Guide alumni was performing and this made it extra special.

The Pathfinders were very engaged in cookie selling and also participated with the Guide unit in some outdoor service projects. The Pathfinders have reported that they looked forward to being together each week because they like each other, and it feels like a safe place to laugh or be quiet and just be themselves. They really led the meetings and sometimes that meant that they could sit and talk or be silly together or go on community walks and do interesting activities. Regardless of the level of planned activities, they had fun and felt safe together. One Pathfinder said, "it feels like a tiny loving community of five." We worked on learning about and supporting our mental health, we talked a lot about diversity and kindness and ways we can make a difference in our communities in big and small ways. We did a bit of work on budgeting and money and also learned about Guiding around the world.

They are hopeful that we can go on farther or more exciting adventures like going to Vancouver to stay at Guide House and exploring, going to local museums and historical sites, taking part in a city-wide escape room style game with an Alice in Wonderland Theme in the fall, and planning an independent trip to Ottawa.

We did have some unplanned breaks due to leader illness and suspected COVID exposures and this meant we didn't cover as much of the program as we were hoping. We really want the Pathfinders to have the opportunity to earn awards and badges while having a really great time. This group is sensitive and just so kind and loving. As leaders we felt that each meeting the kids really filled each other's and our buckets and it was beautiful to see them giving each other those gifts, especially when someone had a bad day. They were very supportive of each other's ideas and were really good at collaborating and figuring out how to include each other's ideas in planning, even when the ideas were surprising.

Next year we are hoping to stay together in a Pathfinder/Ranger combined unit. We were planning to move to Fridays, but we have alumni from our district who are willing to come on board as additional leaders if we stay on Mondays. These younger leaders could really benefit our unit and we are excited to have them coming on board.



## CHATHAM DISTRICT

In spite of the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19, units in Chatham District had a busy year and took advantage of the loosened restrictions to get back to camps, hikes and outings. Units participated in provincial challenges and programs, such as camp skills for Brownies and Guides, Mighty Minds and Bee Aware, and had members in attendance to greet the Governor General of Canada in May for her first visit to British Columbia.

New District Co-Commissioners looked to re-engage with adult members. This was achieved through several activities identified by members in a survey. This included sharing minutes from district meetings with all members, hosting an in-person Guider social, and planning an in-person AGM where members will receive awards for the contributions, service and training.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership grew at all levels in Chatham District units this year, and many were able to open additional spaces to ensure that youth were not on the waitlist. The increase in membership included many youth new to Guiding, particularly at the higher levels (Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers). Here is a summary of the units in Chatham District:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lansdowne Sparks
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Victoria Sparks (reopened with new leaders)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Chatham Brownies (increased capacity)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Victoria Brownies (remained closed)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria Guides
- 4<sup>th</sup> Victoria Guides (closed due to lack of leaders)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Victoria Guides (increased capacity)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Victoria Pathfinders (increased capacity)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria Rangers
- 1st Emily Carr Trex

Based on projections for youth and leaders, Chatham District will continue to operate with one Brownie unit in the coming year and with two Guide units. These units have enough leaders to accept youth from the waitlist and increase capacity if necessary. Due to the large number of members in Pathfinders, Chatham District will be opening a new Pathfinder unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chatham Pathfinders, in the coming year.

### ACTIVITIES

Chatham District units were very active this year doing service projects and volunteering their time. Here are some of the activities we got up to:

- Removal of invasive species at Anderson Hill Park and Uplands Park
- Ocean / beach clean-ups at Willows Beach, Cattle Point and Cadboro Bay – Gyro Park
- Service project at Camp Thunderbird (YMCA/YWCA)
- Food drive for Mustard Seed Food Bank
- Painting markers/fish for Friends of Bowker Creek





Units got outdoors and Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers and Trex units went camping several times this year, allowing members the opportunity to achieve their camping badges and crests for the first time since the pandemic began. Day trips were also popular as units went on walks and hikes on Vancouver Island and beyond.

3<sup>rd</sup> Victoria Sparks removing invasive species and exploring Uplands Park



1<sup>st</sup> Victoria Guides playing wide games during Camp Firefly Jubilee – Camp Skills Day for Guides





Members from Chatham District units (multi-units) on hand to greet the Governor General of Canada.

# CAMAS DISTRICT

## Introduction

Camas District was small this year, with only four units open to registration (our Sparks unit remains closed). We had two Brownie units, one Guide unit, and one multi-level unit of Guides and Pathfinders. Enrolment for most units was high, with all but one being at capacity, and one unit still has a waitlist.

## Highlights

We were very fortunate that we were able to secure indoor rental space for all of our units, particularly on such short notice, right as the weather turned sour. We are currently working to secure more space for next year's units.

Two of our units were able to take advantage of provincial programming in the form of the Firefly Jubilee (7th Victoria Guides/Pathfinders) in the fall, and the Forest Friends program (79th Brownies) this spring. Having these ready-made plans and resources took a huge load off our already overstressed Guiders, and the materials provided were very popular with our young members.

Every unit was very busy, and the members all had a very enjoyable year. Some activities included visits to the swimming pool, going to Butchart Gardens, completing the Math BC STEM Challenge, running the Secret 3K and learning about women in Afghanistan, helping clean up the Selkirk Waterway, and many urban and wilderness hikes. Several units were also able to plan overnight tent camps for the first time in several years, which was much anticipated and enjoyed by all members involved.

Due to the cookie shortage, all units were able to successfully sell all cookies, and all have sufficient funds for the end of the Guiding year. Additional funds previously fundraised for SOAR are being transferred to Bay to Bay district to be spent there for the Pathfinders who initially raised the funds in 2020.

This was the first year in some time that our district has had a multi-branch unit. We learned a lot from working with the Pathfinders, and hope to continue growing the unit next year in the hopes that we may eventually have enough volunteers and members to run a standalone Pathfinder unit. For the next Guiding year we will have three Guides advancing into Pathfinders, one of whom is eligible for her Lady BP Award.

## Challenges

We struggled this fall (and still now) with a serious shortage of Guiders. The new ratio numbers mean bigger unit sizes, which is great for the youth members, but not great for the adult volunteers. We had to try to bring on quite a large number of parent helpers, and with no clear process in place for onboarding them, many applications fell to the wayside (we were told multiple and conflicting ways of how we were meant to onboard new non-member volunteers. Confusing. Several Guiders had to leave part way through the year due to job changes, pregnancy, and financial hardship (one Guider had to move out of Victoria due to rising housing costs). Although we managed to gain one or two new volunteers just in the nick of time, we were extremely stretched in terms of Guiders, and more than one unit had to cancel meetings due to Guider illness and having no available backup. This is an ongoing concern in an inner-city district where many members work multiple jobs and/or are raising young families.

We are also engaged in an ongoing search for suitable storage for our camping and unit equipment, since none of our rental venues allows storage. Our previous Quartermaster was not considered for a free registration, and so has regretfully decided to discontinue her role in our district, despite the fact that we have thousands of dollars' worth of



equipment in her garage. We will be sorting through the equipment this summer in preparation for moving it, and will be purchasing more appropriate equipment for the fall (four-person tents, new Coleman stoves, etc.).

Guider burnout is very high in this district. With so few volunteers, nobody is able to take on any additional roles, so besides the District Commissioner and Treasurer, there are no more members of district council. This means that planning district events is a huge challenge, and even now we may have to cancel a hoped-for district advancement simply due to lack of time for planning on the Guiders' part.

## Conclusion

This year had many ups and downs, and many changes to routine, protocol, and health restrictions. Our Guiders were extremely nimble, flexible, and patient with the ongoing uncertainty, and made every effort to provide top-rate programming and fun to the members in their units. It wasn't an easy year, but with camping finally on the horizon, it certainly was a memorable one!

Submitted by Katherine Campbell  
Camas District Commissioner



The 7th Victoria Guides practicing tent building at the Firefly Jubilee



6th Victoria Brownies enjoying a hike



The 7th Victoria Pathfinders making a tinfoil oven (that later caught fire!)



The 6<sup>th</sup> Victoria Brownies visited Butterfly Gardens



The 7th Victoria Guides/Pathfinders visit the Provincial Legislature on Thinking Day

The 6th Victoria Brownies getting inventive with s'mores baking







The 7th Victoria Guides learn to cook on buddy burners (in the pouring rain!)

The 6th Victoria Brownies visiting the Shaw Centre of the Salish Sea



## STRAITS DISTRICT

Our District has remained active and engaged despite all the challenges COVID rules have thrown at us. At the beginning of 2021 the majority of us were still meeting virtually. In September we were gradually able to come together again and have had to relearn how to have in-person meetings while keeping each other safe. Our units all kept active learning and playing together. We even came together as a district for a Virtual Hike for Hunger.

Our Sparks were completing challenges, doing crafts, and learning new ways to play together while apart. Some of the Spark highlights of 2021 were the online Ocean Aware Challenge, the Plastic Challenge, looking closely at finger prints, learning about Guiding around the world in WAGGGS and participating in a virtual sleepover that had their whole families setting up tents around the yard or house and playing together.

Our Brownies used the opportunity of having to meet online to invite guests from afar to our meetings. We met with a puppeteer from Rock the Arts. We met with Yoga instructors and learned new ways to destress. We learned beading from Guiders in other areas of Canada. We learned drawing and painting from real artists. We completed the Ocean Aware Challenge with real ocean scientists. We held a virtual CSI sleepover. When we were able to come together but only outside we used the opportunity to explore so many places in our community. We visited the beach, the forest, wild play, and many neighbourhood parks.

Our Guides completed program work together while on line. They also tried their hand at puppeteering with Rock the Arts. They held a virtual camp with many crafts and activities; the highlight was cake decorating. When we were able to begin meeting in person they held a fun Cowboy adventure day. They made elastic band blasters, lassoed a sawhorse, had horse races, and gunny sacks and of course they were all dressed for the theme of the day. They held a k-pop glowing dance party, and learned about Guides around the world with WAGGGS escape room.

Our Pathfinders braved the elements and held many of their meetings in a neighbourhood park as well as online. The highlight of their time online was trying out some baking and visiting all five world centres with the help of our Area International Adviser. The girls got creative for their enrolment and made a movie to be shared with their families. Thank you to the City of Colwood and The Lions Club for supporting our District.







## WOODWYN DISTRICT

Woodwyn District is lucky to be surrounded by farm fields with the ocean on two sides. It's a perfect place for Girl Guides to explore and be active. 2021 Started off with Fiona Mosher as DC and Jeannie Cosgrove as Deputy DC. In September 2021, Chantell Lee stepped in as Deputy DC.

In our district this year we have two Spark units, two Brownie units, two Guide units, a Pathfinder unit and a Ranger unit. During the course of 2021 we were able to find new Guiding leaders through local markets, new parents in Guiding and previous Guiders that moved to the district.

This year was a mix between in-person and online meetings. Woodwyn was very grateful to have an outside covered area near our Guide hall. The Municipality of Central Saanich let Woodwyn District use the performance stage in nearby Pioneer Park for unit meetings so we could still be socially distanced but sheltered from the rain. Many exciting meetings were held here which we'll outline with some photos below.

THINKING DAY 2021! It was exciting to see all the blue from the road and lovely teamwork from our volunteers to make this all happen. Cookie case boxes were used to create blue lights with trefoils cut out in them. Bulbs were changed in the hall to give blue light from inside. Strings of blue light were also twisted around the tree! Way to go Woodwyn District honoring this important day!







We always enjoy asking local authorities to show us what they do! How exciting to explore a police car and hear how our police keep us safe! You never know who our future protectors will be!

Vision Boards made by Guides



Photo of our Junior Leader and Brownies lining up for “Predator vs Prey” game. It’s great getting our older unit girls involved in other meetings so they can be ready to lead units after Rangers.



Another event that took teamwork to another level was the Guides Firefly Jubilee Camp. What an amazing day with Guides learning about making fire, playing games, surviving in the wilderness, cooking their lunch and even got to sit around a fire and 'sing' songs. Perfect day and memories made.



So much creativity is being explored! Here we see our Sparks enjoying a pottery class!





Singing might've been on hold for a bit but that doesn't mean the music needs to stop. Various units enjoyed Lummi stick lessons with our District Commissioner Fiona (Song Owl). They caught on fast and had a blast! Bonus, we had a stage to perform on!



Did someone say yes to CAMPS! Music to Girl Guider ears! Units took the opportunity to gather outside and have a few camps with crafting and hiking!

Here we have Sparks crafting and Brownies playing around the campfire.







On the left Brownies are constructing their fire!

Another exciting adventure camp was when a local Marine Biologist came to show the Brownie unit how scientists capture photos in the ocean and how they use it to save animals.



Woodwyn District sure loves going out and helping the community! This year we were a bit restricted to what we would've loved to do but we found things we could do!

Like pulling out Ivy! A few of the units spent their meetings at a local park where the invasive Ivy wants to take over. Woodway District Points 1- Ivy 0...well hopefully zero one day!





Our Pathfinders did a drive through Cookie stand and almost sold out!

They had so much fun!

Another community service was creating and placing wreaths for Remembrance Day.

Our Pathfinders were also able to read the poem in front of the selected audience. Although we could not attend as units like most years, we showed our appreciation by placing wreaths in the windows of our hall. Our Sparks unit also got up early and did a ceremony of their own by the cenotaph before anyone arrived. Well done Woodwyn District!





Online meetings have been quite an adjustment but as with most things we turn it into a learning experience. In many cases there were meetings that are harder to do in person which made it easy online.

Pathfinders got to cook together online!



Guides made homemade ice cream and coral reefs!



Many professionals were able to come and teach the units about their professions where they might not have been able to in person!  
This Girl Guide finished off her Lady Baden Powell Badge by arranging a local beach cleanup.  
What better way to receive her Lady Baden Powell Award than with 'Lady Baden Powell' in the midst.





Sunny blue skies call for the beach and for Guides learning about microorganisms.



We appreciate the members of our district and acknowledge when they go above and beyond.

We were happy to pin the 'Gold Thanks Pin' to Jeannie Cosgrove and Carol Gamey for cleaning out, labeling and organizing our hall over the summer break. This makes the planning for leaders so much easier and saves lots of money by not buying excess supplies. (Photo Left Fiona, Jeannie and Carol)



Brenda Matthews and Kris Walker received their well-deserved BC Guider Appreciation Award. (Photo Right Brenda and Fiona)





A local Guiding parent made and donated a sign for our Wall of Honour.



Some photos from our District advancement and enrollment. Look at our amazing 'badge' cookie given at advancement!



**Acknowledgement of local businesses for 2021:**

Municipality of Central Saanich

Thrifty Foods

City Scribe Printing

Amanda's Cookie Creations

Jeune Brothers Tent and Awning

Central Saanich Lions Club

Report brought to you by Fiona Mosher and Chantell Lee. Thank you for reading!

## LAKES DISTRICT

Lakes District saw our Guiding year start off mid-September with all units able to meet indoors again but the Brownies and Guides took advantage of the nice weather and had a couple meetings outdoors to accomplish some of the outdoor program work.

Our district grew this year even from the start with about 20 more girls than the previous Guiding year. Over the course of the Guiding year our numbers increased another 12 for youth members and two for adult members.

We had one little hiccup with meeting spaces for our Guide unit that had to go back to a couple of online meetings after the winter break and then had half the group meet in a space and the other half online. The meeting space was not big enough to accommodate the group size. One of the Guide parents stepped up and offered a work space which was a perfect fit and just down the road from their original meeting place.

Last year we had purchased blue light bulbs that didn't arrive in time for last year's Thinking Day so this year we handed them out for Thinking Day for each girl/family to light up a room in their house blue.

Our Spark group has been able to accomplish a lot of program work having a smaller unit again and with the youth being eager to learn. Even with some fluctuating attendance after the New Year they worked on building skills including using hammers to pop bubble wrap and the Bee Aware challenge where they tasted honey and made soda. They like to act out parts of stories and have done a few scavenger hunts and bingos within nature discoveries.

The Brownies saw their numbers double in size this year and have had to adapt to more noise and chaos with that. They did a hike at Goldstream Park, worked on Guide Together before their enrolment, had a snowball fight in their meeting space (out of recycled papers), made snowflakes that they decorated the meeting space with (with permission), had a meeting with the Guides where they made toques out of polar fleece they had left over from a previous craft and challenged their girls to find the owls along the trail at Westshore Parks and Rec. They have worked on Be Well with the Bell Let's Talk, money sense by making piggy banks and showing different currencies from around the world and did a paper bag princess activity. They have also worked on the Bee Aware challenge and the girls enjoyed the nectar relay and the honey tasting, they had a hike at the Esquimalt Lagoon where they briefly met Paul Lewis who created the bird sculptures and they collected rocks to make a bee bath. The group also has planted seeds and plants in Home Depot planter kits they were donated with, learned about Canadian women and worked on local communities and had a bridging night with the Guides where they were challenged with creating new chip flavours.

The Guides started their year outdoors where they worked on openings and closing, made some crafts and played games. They have worked on finishing the work the third-year girls needed to complete the program which included bits and pieces from Build Skills, Different Together and Into the Outdoors. They had a day camp at Kingswood that was not too bad weather-wise until the end when it down poured during fire making skills and clean up time. The Guiders were soaked by the time they left! The girls created a theme of underwater pirate for their enrolment which was a big hit and then made origami stars that were a challenge, but most got it done in the end. They met twice with the Brownies where they made toques and new chip flavours and also had to have a few online meetings when meeting spaces were not available or too small for the unit size. They worked on body image and self-esteem, the Mighty Minds challenge and Bee Aware Challenge where the girls loved making Kool-Aid playdough for mighty minds and the honey soda for the bee aware. The biggest hit for the honey soda was a ginger lime flavour. They also worked on World Thinking Day activities, sewing activities with a sewing machine where they sewed and made a magic heat bag, password safety and Guiding around the world including learning about New Zealand - they liked the games from there. They have a couple of sleepovers coming up and another day camp for their year-end.





2<sup>nd</sup> Langford Guides preparing Kool-Aid Playdough

The Pathfinders and Rangers have worked on the program including Guide Together, Build Skills and Be Well. They made fleece toques as a service project for the Rangers, had a day camp at Kingswood where they made candles with surprises in them and bath bombs and attended the Victoria Grizzlies hockey game. They worked on the Mighty Minds Challenge and like the Guides made playdough with Kool-Aid. They did program activities from Our Guiding Story and challenges from the platform and made Swedish hearts as a craft. The Rangers planned a baby shower for one of the Pathfinder Guiders who had a baby boy a few weeks later and they worked on some money sense and science activities. One of the science activities was with density and they made some layered drinks which looked really cool. They also planted some seeds and painted clay pots to put their plants in. They have another day camp planned for June for each unit where they hope to finish off program work for one of their third year Pathfinders.



2<sup>nd</sup> Langford Guides building creations from recycled materials

Guides working on the Bee Aware challenge – pony beads bees and honey soda making



3<sup>rd</sup> Langford Brownies with their snowflakes



One of the Brownies on the trail with owl sculptures





One of the Brownies with their spring scavenger hunt challenge



One of the Brownies with their Thinking Day blue light



The Guides and Brownies Bridging Night  
Pathfinders at their day camp



Pathfinders and Rangers planting



Rangers and  
Pathfinders at  
their Day Camp







One of the Rangers at the day camp



Rangers at the baby shower

Pathfinders and Rangers with their Guider's baby



2<sup>nd</sup> Langford Sparks



## HARBOURS DISTRICT

The 2021 calendar year was still full of challenges as we all continued to learn how to deal with COVID, but the Guiders in this district overcame these obstacles with amazing spirit!

Overall, the district's numbers increased this year as parents became more comfortable with COVID protocols.

Harbours is a very fortunate district in that we are able to meet at Milne's Landing Camp. As we were mandated outdoors for most of the year, some units moved their meetings to Sunday afternoons in order to alleviate meeting in the dark, which was very successful. Other units continued with an online program during the dark season. Unfortunately, some girls opted out of the online activities, but continued their participation when their units transitioned back to outdoor, in-person meetings. All of our units embraced the outdoors and online activities where some amazing and ingenious meetings were conducted.

Online cookies sales were not as successful as originally hoped and the district as a whole helped to sell the outstanding cases. Both girls and our community alike were very happy to continue with the traditional cookie selling in the fall.

Harbours District normally holds a district-wide activity to celebrate Thinking Day, but unfortunately this year we were not able to due to COVID restrictions.

We did have the opportunity for two of our girls to meet with the Sooke Mayor, Maja Tait, for a photo at the Municipal Hall.





### 1<sup>st</sup> Sooke Pathfinders built chairs over Zoom



### 2nd Sooke Sparks



The 2nd Sooke Sparks spent 2021 almost entirely outside and had a blast! We started with some Life Stuff virtual meetings where we learned some important household tasks, and as soon as we were able, we got back to it all together. We had lots of messy rainy meetings involving paint and exploding pop bottles (three times!) and the girls loved it.

We spent several weeks hard at work on a service project - we made scarves for kids to keep them warm. The Sparks each made up to seven scarves each and they were well received by the community resource team.



We took two trips around the world to learn about Global Guiding, and we made friends in the BC interior to whom we sent cards, badges, and butterflies.



The Sparks learned a lot about the world around them and how to help it - we made beeswax wraps, reusable party decorations, and wool dryer balls!

We held two day camps - fairies and jungle - both of which were a hit, and a treasure hunt enrolment where the girls learned compasses and map work and earned their navigation challenge! We also spent lots of time on community walks, including a visit to the Sooke museum grounds which included a story walk.



We learned a lot about ourselves and our world, and how to share and be a friend. And we are very excited for more fun and games in 2022!

### 1<sup>st</sup> John Muir Brownies

1<sup>st</sup> John Muir Brownies did a combination of outdoor and online meetings. In order to keep the girls engaged we sought activities we wouldn't normally consider. One evening we met with a zookeeper and were introduced to so many fascinating animals. The girls were so engaged and had an endless supply of questions. Another evening we met up with an astronomer who with his computer took us on a journey from our community and throughout the Milky Way. The girls loved travelling through the ice forming the rings of Saturn! A Science day camp was a great success with so many fun experiments, but the highlights were the slime, exploding pop and tie dye t-shirts.





## 1<sup>st</sup> Sooke Pathfinders

The Pathfinders were very busy with numerous activities. The girls planned their own enrolment and had a blast doing so! By the end of 2021 the girls were planning and leading over 50% of the program content. In collaboration with Wild Wise Sooke, the Pathfinders virtually made bat boxes as their community service project. Due to COVID, Sooke did not host a Remembrance Day Parade this year, but the community still paid their respects by laying wreaths. The girls painted poppies on rocks and laid them at the Cenotaph.







**1<sup>st</sup> Sooke Rangers hiking the Coast Trail in East Sooke**



# BAY TO BAY DISTRICT

## 1<sup>st</sup> Cordova Bay Sparks

Program: From Zoom, to various outdoor locations, to finally moving inside, 2021 was another year of having to be flexible and make the most of the situation! Over Zoom, our attendance was usually about seven out of our nine enrolled Sparks, plus our junior leader Sophie, and two leaders. We generally weren't providing supply kits except for one meeting. The rest we have used supplies readily found around the house or just stuck with plain paper and colouring supplies. Over Zoom we managed to finish off or work our way through Canadian Connections, Different Together, Design Space (with the Venture Science program sent out by McMaster University) Nature Discoveries, Science Lab (with special guest Trickster Raven), Our Shared Planet (the Ocean Aware Challenge with special guests from Ocean Networks Canada). At the end of February we moved to outdoor meetings and covered Global Guiding (World Thinking Day WAGGGS challenge), Camping Skills & Adventures (including the Hug-a-Tree program), Gender Power, Local Communities, BC Eco Pak Challenge, Your Voice, My Physical Self and the BC Colour me Healthy Challenge. It was great to see some of the Sparks that didn't participate over Zoom again! We finished the Guiding year with a small advancement ceremony at Beaver Lake Filter Beds.

The Guiding year started mid-September, our meetings shuffling between Beaver Lake and Kingswood. We had a very soggy enrolment ceremony after our Fairy day camp in October. We eventually found a new indoor meeting spot at Cordova Bay Elementary School where we met until winter break as our regular meeting spot. We worked our way through Our Story, Spirit of Guiding, and Being You, My Healthy Relationships and Art Studio.

Unit News: In April 2021 we had three new Sparks and a new part time leader (the mom of one of the new Sparks) join our unit. One of our TNJL Sparks wasn't quite five yet and doesn't start kindergarten until the fall so there were definitely some program adjustments to accommodate the new age spread.

The new Guiding year started with 11 Sparks registered (two of them 2<sup>nd</sup> year), a Junior Leader (returning for the second year), two full time leaders, and a casual part time leader. We also had a support person attending each meeting for a Spark with challenges. Every month we had a new Spark join the unit so we had several subsequent small enrolment ceremonies and by December had 14 Sparks.

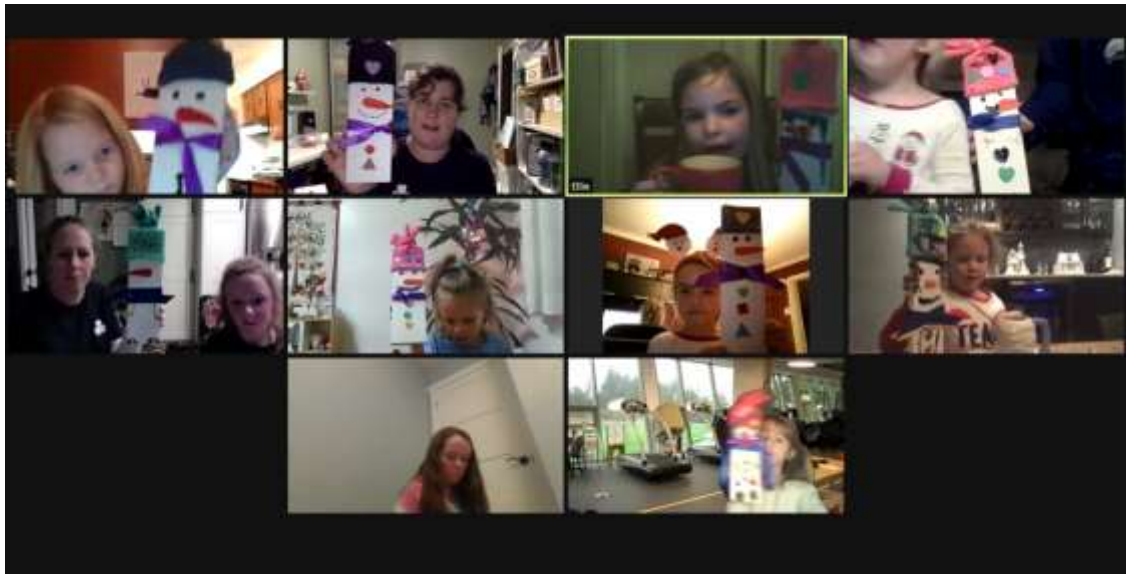
Camping: With the first part of the year being virtual, and the rest of the year no overnights allowed for Sparks, our camping was limited to day camps. We held three of them in 2021, all outside McKeivitt Lodge at Kingswood Camp:  
March – Camping Skills and Adventures  
May – My Physical Self  
November – Fairy Camp

Service: For Global Guiding we wrote to Daisy Scouts in New York and Guides in Ireland!

We completed a in Pitch-In Canada cleanup and collected a disturbing amount of garbage from the school yard at Northridge Elementary, and continued collecting on our walk to Colquitz Creek – much discussion about how the garbage gets blown into the waterways that lead to the ocean and how it's not good enough that we are just cleaning it up, but that we need to find ways to stop it from happening in the first place.

Community Connections: The Sparks were all invited to attend the BC Virtual Events, but there was little interest and we only had two attend the BC S'mores and More Event and one Spark attend the BC Event for Art Studio. We made lanterns to display in our windows/porches for the community to see on Thinking Day. We had an elderly lady picnicking while we had one of our outdoor Spark meetings and made a beautiful connection with her. She told us about camping near Shirley as a Guide herself, and she loved seeing the Sparks and watching them make capes for the Your Voice badge.





Super Spark Charlotte in her cape after the meeting.

**1<sup>st</sup> Cordova Bay Brownies**

Program: From Zoom, to various outdoor locations, to finally moving inside, 2021 was another year of having to be flexible and make





the most of the situation! Over Zoom, our attendance varied, averaging about 12/20 Brownies. We generally weren't providing supply kits but offering the option to pick up specialty supplies (like yeast), instead using supplies readily found around the house. Over Zoom we managed to finish off or work our way through Canadian Connections (Quebec Maple Syrup Challenge, Different Together, Design Space (with the Venture Science program sent out by McMaster University), Nature Discoveries, Science Lab (with special guest Trickster Raven), Global Guiding, Your Choice and Money Sense. To combat Zoom fatigue we opted to pay for some special guests: we blasted off into outer space with Astronomy in Action and Urban Safari joined us to tell us about their rescue society and introduce us to some exotic animals. We met on Zoom until mid-April at the request of parents.

We moved to outdoor meetings for the remainder of the year (except for one last Zoom hurrah for those who still weren't comfortable in person), with our locations changing regularly – Mt. Doug Beach (Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up), Kingswood Camp and Beaver Lake. We completed the BC EcoPak Challenge, Local Communities, How To, Our Shared Planet, My Physical Self and the BC Colour Me Healthy Challenge.

The Guiding year started mid-September, our meetings shuffling between Beaver Lake and Kingswood. We had an outdoor enrolment ceremony after our unicorn day camp in November. We eventually found a new indoor meeting spot at Cordova Bay Elementary School where we met for a few weeks before being able to move back to Cordova Bay United Church after 20 months of being homeless. In the fall, we worked our way through Our Story, Spirit of Guiding, Being You, some of Canadian Connections, My Healthy Relationships, and started My Mighty Mind

Unit News: Even though our attendance was low in Spring 2021 (sometimes only ten out of 20 Brownies per meeting – got to love that ratio with three to four Guiders!), our registration for the fall was AWESOME with 11 out of 12 eligible Brownies re-registering for next year within the first day of opening! In the fall, with the unit full at 20 Brownies, but still seven on the waitlist, we opted to increase our unit cap to 24. With 24 Brownies (and increased attendance!), five leaders, plus being joined by a Junior Leader from 2<sup>nd</sup> Woodwyn Pathfinders, we all of a sudden had a very big, busy and loud unit!

Camping: With the first part of the year being virtual, and the rest of the year no overnights allowed for Brownies, our camping was limited to day camps, and with the reluctance from parents of in person in the spring, we even limited the amount of those. We held two of them in 2021, both at Kingswood Camp:

June – Brownie Fun

November – Unicorn Camp

Service: For Global Guiding we wrote to Haditas in Mexico. We participated in the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up.

Community Connections: The Brownies were all invited to attend the BC Virtual Events, but there was little interest in online events from this group. We made lanterns to display in our windows/porches for the community to see on Thinking Day. We made a fully biodegradable wreath to lay at City Hall for Remembrance Day and had a female Lieutenant Commander from the Canadian Navy as a special guest.



Our Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup



## 1<sup>st</sup> Cordova Bay Guides

Program: Nature Discoveries into the Outdoors. The girls also learned about Discovery Badges and one girl presented her “Foodie” Discovery Badge while another presented her “Volunteering” badge - My Physical Self Design Space.

Unit News: we had a “Holiday Lights” themed meeting where girls sent photos they had taken of holiday light displays to a Dropbox site, and our Unit Assistant Robyn Ennis put together a fantastic PowerPoint presentation. We also made a craft and enjoyed a hot drink and some amazing games, all via Zoom. We learned about semaphore and Morse code as a means of communication on May 3rd. The girls also prepared letters and cards for their “pen pals”, which are in a unit in Vancouver we are matched up with. For Thinking Day, we had a virtual party right on February 22<sup>nd</sup>! After an “Origins of Guiding” action play, the girls showed the lanterns they had made, and we made a “Word cloud” using the theme of peace-building and ended by singing “Happy Birthday” of course!

Camping: The girls practiced their campfire building skills on May 10<sup>th</sup> with each girl building her own campfire and tending it to keep it going so that she could roast a marshmallow and enjoy a S’more!

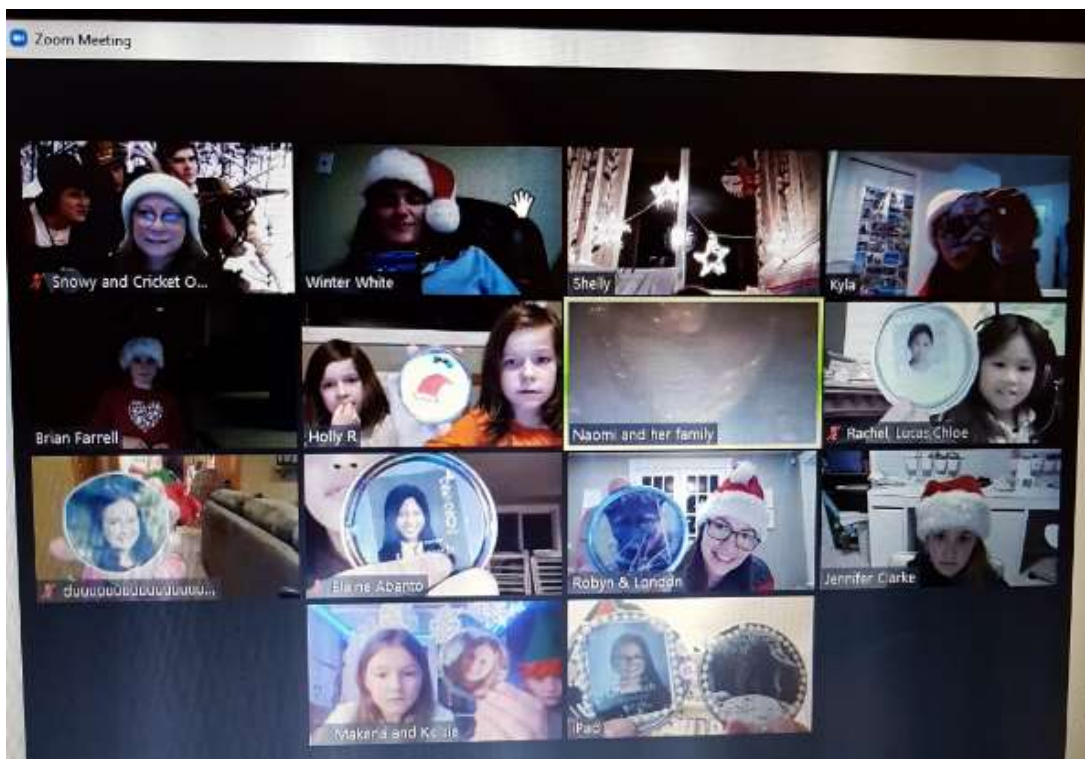
Service: Shoreline Clean-up on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Mount Doug Beach.

Community Connections: Three girls sent “Virtual Holiday cards” to senior’s homes through an online activity. One girl donated food to a food bank. The girls have also continued to work on “Your Voice” by brainstorming ideas about how they can spread the word about helping the “Mountain Forest Road” project. We covered the “Master of Disaster” activity and the girls got to take home a “Grab and Go” bag.



Our

December 14<sup>th</sup> Holiday Lights meeting: A successful craft! (Note Cricket’s background is the Czech Republic’s “Three Wishes for Cinderella”, a lesser known seasonal video – highly recommended, Cinderella demonstrates that Girls Rock!)



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Glanford Guides

Program: Be Well, My Healthy Relationships Oceans Aware challenge Build Skills.

Take Action Our Story – Badge in Box Guide Together - Our Story - patrol selections, be you.

Unit News: We have 25 girls registered – we’ve still been meeting virtually as not all of our leaders feel comfortable meeting in person. However, we’re getting at least 22-23 girls attending weekly; Enrolment ceremony of 15 girls on March 8 - Pandora (like) bracelet craft together; helping 2 girls finish their LBP Award; we held a craft afternoon at Brentwood Hall on December 11 from 11:00-3:00; Talked about cookie rules, sales and safety, Promise and Law Scavenger Hunt; did a blue light craft.

Camping: Buddy Burner Dessert Quesadilla’s for one in person meeting; we did the province wide Firefly event at Kingswood; we did an urban hike where we turned our sidewalks into trails and discover the site and sounds of our community.

Service: Cards for vets.

Community Connections: Bird Seed for girls to take a walk on the long bridge/walkway and feed the ducks Truth and Reconciliation activity - Nature mobile/dreamcatcher; met some animal caregivers to discover who supports the community’s critters; looked at various historical spaces or objects in the community such as statues, gardens, memorial spaces and old buildings and structures (examples such as: Craigdarroch Castle, Government House, Butchart Gardens, Memorial Gardens in Esquimalt)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Bay to Bay Sparks

Program: Art Studio; camping badges complete; Ocean Aware Challenge.



Unit News: We learned to use hammers, screw drivers and drills to create faces out of wood, nails, screws and art supplies. We participated in the Oceans Network Canada Ocean Aware challenge and Thinking Day challenge. The Sparks made paper lanterns that were displayed on St. Dunstan's lawn. Some of us went over to see them in person, and we sent the photo around as well.

Camping: in-person year-end event on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Kingswood Camp earned their camping badge before the holiday break.

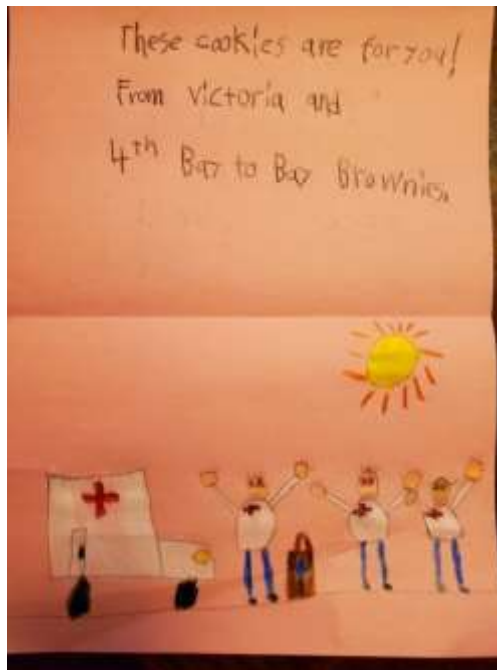
Service: holiday cards

Community Connections: sent cards to seniors and they were some of the cards delivered 2,037 seniors in 20 different languages; our Sparks were part of the 317 people who participated in this event.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Bay to Bay Brownies**

Program: We met virtually from January to June covering topics such as astronomy, constellations, completing the Ocean Aware Challenge, completing a Maple syrup challenge, and learning about mug cakes, women in service, nature discoveries and community connections.

Unit News: We did several crafts over Zoom once the Brownies either picked up or were delivered their craft kits. We started the fall Guiding year by learning all about cookies and safe cookie selling. We had a hectic first meeting when cookies were distributed (not something we will do again!). Sixteen new Brownies were enrolled October 16. We celebrated fall when the 4<sup>th</sup> Bay to Bay Brownies hosted a spooky party for us. A favourite was making memory bracelets as a year-end activity. We had a paramedic visit the unit with his ambulance.



Camping: We wrapped up the Guiding year with a field trip to Kingswood camp to see the camp and do a "walk about" in the hopes that camping could happen in the fall. We had a fun evening at Kingswood completing "in the dark" activities. Brownies learned a bit about camp and the importance of having something dry to sit on as we made sit-upons. .

Service: sending kindness letters to friends and kindness letters to those who may be alone.

Community Connections:

We wrapped up the fall term with a tour of Butchart Gardens, which contributed to our nature discoveries program area and community connections.

**4<sup>th</sup> Bay to Bay Guides**

Program: We started the Your Voice program area by exploring action and advocacy. We looked at our own values and how those passions and values can translate into advocacy and into action. We also have been working on self-care which is in multiple program areas. This includes making a worry jar and a love jar, mindfulness activities (including dance party and meditation) and self-reflection activities. Before the return to online only Guiding we played a night game called cities with flash lights and Morse code in the pouring rain. It was tremendous fun.

Unit News: We have returned to virtual Guiding! Our attendance varies from about 65% to 90% for each online meeting. We have not yet had our enrollment as we are struggling a little to decide what it will look like virtually. (We had a distanced in-person one planned but it was moved online) We worked on Our Voice badge work and My Healthy Relationships. As part of Build Skills Badge work we made mug cakes, wooden model cranes from Home Depot, had a paint night, and had a first aid night. We had super fun virtual sleepover just before Christmas break. We had a hike and enrollment ceremony at Swan Lake.

Camping: We had a start of winter break virtual sleepover! Sleep over packages with a craft, colouring, snacks and drinks (of course according to GGC guidelines) and a crest were delivered to each girl's mailbox. We hung out, chatted, watched some short animated films, and ate our popcorn. The next morning we ate our breakfast together, did our craft, and finished our sleepover camp just like we always do – two stars and a wish!

Service: We made holiday cards and sent them to long term care facilities virtually.

Community Connections: We made tin can lanterns and invited the community to see the display at St. Dunstan's. We had a series of women come and talk to the girls one evening about careers. It was such a success that we extended it to a second night.



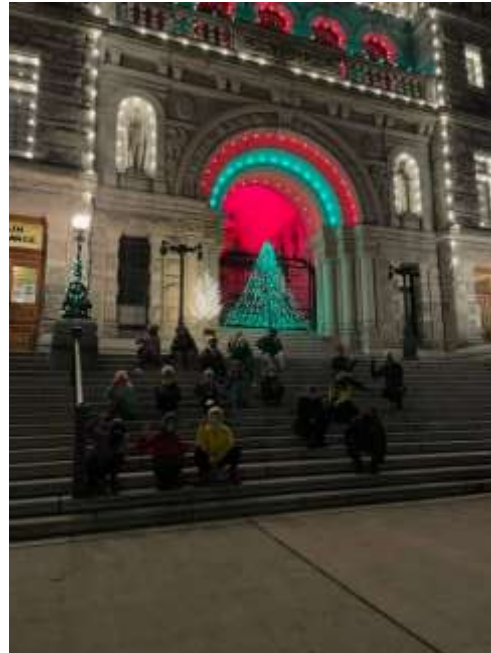
## 5<sup>th</sup> Bay to Bay Guides

Program: We started the Your Voice program area by exploring action and advocacy. We looked at our own values and how those passions and values can translate into advocacy and into action. We also have been working on self-care which is in multiple program areas. This includes making a worry jar and a love jar, mindfulness activities (including dance party and meditation), and self-reflection activities. Before the return to online only guiding we were able to do some inside activities and the girls started making and planning items for a time capsule.

Unit News: We have returned to virtual Guiding! Our attendance is steady at about 85% to 90% for each online meeting. We have not yet had our enrollment as we are struggling a little to decide what it will look like virtually. (We had a distanced in-person one planned but it was moved online) We also held our enrollment ceremony where the girls planned the decorations and we made special Girl Guide themed bracelets. We had a paint night and then watched our leader Maddie's live stream of her High School's production of Shrek the musical!

Camping: We had a middle of winter break virtual sleepover! Sleep over packages with a craft, colouring, snacks and drinks (of course according to GGC guidelines) delivered to each girl's mailbox. We hung out, chatted, watched some short animated films, and ate our popcorn. The next morning we ate our breakfast together, did our craft, and finished our sleepover camp just like we always do – two stars and a wish!

Service: We made holiday cards and sent them to long term care facilities virtually. We made tin can lanterns for the Thinking day ceremony as part of the Provincial Guiding lights. One of our Guides made the back ground for the invitation (see above)



### Community Connections:

Thinking day lights at St. Dunstons. At the end of December we had a super fun virtual sleepover.



## **4<sup>th</sup> Bay to Bay Pathfinders**

Program: We have completed the following badges: Our Story and Spirit of Guiding for the Guide Together Program Area; How To; Art Studio; My Mighty Mind and My Physical Self for the Be Well Program Area; and Canadian Connections.

Unit News: Our unit has been meeting on Zoom at our regular meeting times, once a week for 1.5 hours. We utilize breakout rooms often, but having enough leaders so as to have small groups in each room can be a challenge. On March 6th, at a distanced ceremony at a local public park, we enrolled nine Pathfinders who had been new back in fall 2020. We currently have 20 girls and four leaders. We made tin-can lanterns for the District to display for Thinking Day.

Camping: we have had weekend hiking events and one weekend scavenger hunt in a local park. (We vary the weekend meeting time, Saturday or Sunday, morning or afternoon, in the hopes of “catching” the biggest number of girls at least one event.) Those of us who are able and feel comfortable doing so have been masking up and walking through local nature areas and learning about what parts of those parks are natural and what parts are person-made or person-managed. The parks include Swan Lake and Christmas Hill, Mount Douglas/Pkols, and Elk Beaver Lake.

Service: We did two of the eight pieces of the Citizenship Award.

Community Connections: see above for how we are connecting to the community

## **1<sup>st</sup> Bay to Bay Rangers**

Program/Unit news: Hanna & Kirsten have completed all work for their Gold Trailblazer (the first ones in our District to do so!) Becky presented a Fluorescent Microscopy session for our Rangers via Zoom.  
Piper & Emily have completed all work for their Silver Trailblazer  
Maddie, Ama, Naomi & Elecia have completed all work for their Bronze Trailblazer  
For completion of Gold Trailblazer, all completed the Cookie Campaign Challenge  
Had fun doing origami and other paper friendship activities for our Thinking Day meeting

Service: Shoreline clean-up at Cadboro-Gyro Park.

Community Connections: At Swan Lake we made lotus flowers. We didn't float them though we discussed how animals could choke on them – a good learning experience about how humans can impact wildlife, even in small ways.

Report respectfully submitted by:  
Ebony Bilawka, Bay to Bay District Commissioner

# 1ST VICTORIA TREFOIL GUILD

September 2021

Saw us take a walking tour at Butchart Garden.



We planted Camas bulbs at Kingswood in remembrance of Guild members who had recently "Gone Home": Peggy Ackenclose, Louisa Russo, Donna Sawyer and Marjorie Shaw.



Many of the Guild worked to remove old shingles from the former Chapel at Kingswood and spit them into kindling.



October - Was a scary fall gathering with treat bags from Peggy Morfitt.



November

Sharon and Shelia both participated in the 'Let's Sing a Long' November 4. We took part in the weekly events of the online Sisterhood Challenge. At our monthly meeting we recognized Margaret Lidkea for having received the Wall of Fame award from the Oak Bay Municipality for her restoration and education work in Uplands Park. Members wrote postcards to serving members of the Canadian Military.

December

We gathered for some holiday fun masked and socially distanced. Everyone brought individually wrapped goodies to share. A funny skit was performed and

centerpieces were created using holly, fir, cedar and ribbons.

January 2022

Saw us outside taking part in a historical walking tour of the Gordon Head neighborhood and eating our lunch outside.



February

Eight Guild members took part in the virtual Thinking Day celebrations. For our monthly meeting we played board games.



March. At Camp Jubilee we took a tour of the property and performed acts of service by pulling invasive Tansy, cleaning the Kirby cook shelter and removing branches in preparation of mowing.

April / May

A planning meeting was held in preparation for the Rendezvous in a Box, Down Memory Lane. A member brought her baking of the original Girl Guide cookies. Yummy!

Monday May 2 saw eight Guild members give two hours of service each at Soap for Hope.



Saturday May 7 five of us removed invasive species at Anderson Hill Park.



Monday May 9 Sheilagh hosted a fascinating scavenger hunt for us in the Willow Beach/Estevan part of Oak Bay.





Tuesday May 10 Sheila Fowler cut and serged 24 pieces of cloth that we then dyed at Erlene's house to create our own Guild scarves.

Monday May 16 Pam Lucco led us on a historical walking tour of the Gorge neighborhood.



Friday May 20; We used three methods of transportation. Six of us walked to the bus and rode to Fisherman's Wharf where we caught a ferry to the Inner Harbour followed by coffee before the return trip by transit.







Saturday May 21

Margaret led a walk and invasive species removal in Uplands Park.



Wednesday May 25

We gathered to remember those Guild members who have Gone Home. To honour those that came before each of us we took turns reading every past member's profiles.



Saturday  
May 28

Two brave souls met at Henderson Park for a walk and use of the outdoor fitness equipment



On Monday May 30 we met outside in Firefighters Park for sharing and reporting on our activities for the past month.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> VICTORIA TREFOIL GUILD

After meeting on Zoom for close to two years, 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Trefoil Guild returned to in-person get-togethers. We have been enjoying meeting in restaurants for lunches. For our May 2022 meeting we met at Olive's condo for lunch and to do some activities from Rendezvous in a Box. Due to mobility issues for several of our members, we no longer do outdoor activities.

We have ten members. We happily welcomed a new member to our Guild in January. The average age of our Guild is 80. We enjoy keeping up with Guiding news, locally and provincially. Some of us took part in Thinking Day singing on Zoom. We keep in touch with two British Trefoil Guilds through holiday cards. Several of us have plans to attend the next National Gathering (may it be so!).

Yours in Guiding,  
Sharon Fitch, Guild President

From left: Mary Porterfield, Lynda Delaney, Beth Jasper, Judith Williamson, Valerie Boyer



From left: Olive Brown, Mary Porterfield,  
Lynda Delaney



## KINGSWOOD NIGHT OWL TREFOIL GUILD

Our membership of over 30 women has been somewhat stifled for the second year in a row as we typically enjoy activities out in the community and interacting with others. Needless to say we found creative ways to engage throughout the year anyway.

Zoom was our go-to meeting method for the first part of the year. We held our Zoom AGM in February and were delighted that Darlene Kent, our Provincial Liaison, could join us. Many of us took part in the BC Rendezvous which was held online in lieu of our in-person event that was to take place here in Victoria.

The BC Singers put on a wonderful workshop for us and inspired many to join them for their weekly gatherings. We held a Breakfast Mug-Up event where everyone zoomed in their PJ's and made different recipes "in a mug" while we shared ideas and stories. Everything from eggs, to muffins to cakes to omelets were on the menu!

Finally in July we were ready to meet in person (as the National Guidelines were loosened a bit) and we gathered at Saxe Point Park on a blustery early evening. It was wonderful to see everyone again "live".

September brought us together again at Kingswood Camp for a work party and follow-up bring your own supper outdoors. Several of us went to Butchart Gardens for our annual viewing of the holiday lighting in December, followed by dinner.

Another way that kept us connected is our new practice of sending birthday cards to everyone throughout the year. In addition to these local organized activities, some of us participated in events coordinated from afar. There was a cooking session sponsored by Our Cabana where we made a delicious Mexican dinner and dessert. BC Programming hosted a paint night activity where we were able to create a "work of art" with expert direction from our artist Guider. Mine actually looks like a campfire in the forest, with one eye closed!

Many of us undertook the BC Trefoil to Guiding Challenge and met independently to organize and plan what we would be doing. Several members are regular volunteers for work parties at the camps. A new Facebook page has been created for KNOT's this year and it is fun to share what we are all doing with photos and comments. We welcomed several new members over the year and hope that 2022 will allow us to all get together in person more often.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynda Ireland  
KNOT's Lead



## PENINSULA PALS TREFOIL GUILD

As we all tried to find a new normal with COVID, our Guild spent the beginning of 2021 visiting with each other on Zoom. We tried to spice it up a bit by having an activity planned rather than just chatting. Anne, a naturalist educator in her real life, entertained us with some nature activities during our Zooming. She also brought along some old party games like guessing the names of BC towns. At another Zoom meeting, we discussed food we ate as children and would never eat again as well as food that we loved as children and still made at home.



Once the weather was more predictable, the Peninsula Pals met several times at a local park and practiced social-distancing from our chairs. Twelve members of the Guild met at the Beaver Lake Filter Beds and enjoyed a very energetic and uplifting 90-minute campfire sing-a-long led by Nancy. A few members stayed and had a bag lunch following the singing. It was so nice to be able to see and enjoy each other's company as well as exchange some books.



Our Peninsula Pals Guild was saddened by the loss of two of our long-time members. Karen Borden was a member of Girl Guides since childhood, here in Victoria. She was a Guide leader for many years and also served as Saanich Camp Advisor and District Commissioner. Being very interested in history and photography, Karen provided many photographs of Guiding events for the SVI Area, including camp displays and the SVI archives. Karen was a founding member of our Peninsula Pals Guild.

Sue Johnson was well known to many in the SVI Area when was Area Commissioner. She was an enthusiastic Guide and Ranger leader in Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Victoria. She also sat on the Provincial Program Committee for many years and was instrumental in Guiding and launching the Pathfinder program in BC. We remembered and honoured Sue with beautiful flowers and candles arranged on a small table. Several members read poems or shared wonderful memories of her life with us.



Our Guild is responsible for the maintenance of a community flower garden at Heritage Acres on the Peninsula. Some of you may be aware of the Girl Guide Garden which was planted in 2005 at the Saanich Shores Division's 95<sup>th</sup> celebration of Girl Guides of Canada. This year, the rhododendrons were budding up and getting close to being in full bloom. The heathers had grown so big that they were sprawling over the rock wall all the way down to the ground. We gave them a much-needed trim so the mower could cut the grass without crunching the heather. We'll be back twice a year to keep the garden looking great.



In the past, our Guild has enjoyed several orienteering meetings which Diana has organized for us at local parks. This year, she developed a Street Orienteering sheet where a number of members walked Gordon Head to find the marked points on the map.

Our members finally gathered indoors for a December meeting. Everyone brought their own lunch but we all shared in the companionship at the warm, dry Sidney Guide & Scout Hall. We repeated a popular theme with members bringing family memorabilia and sharing the story behind the treasured object.

Submitted with contributions by Jeannie Cosgrove, Anne Cotter, Marilyn Maggiora and Ann Scarfe.