



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Check out page 19 for a full list of Award recipients!



Congratulations to SVI Area Award Recipients



Girl Guides
of Canada

Guides
du Canada

Southern Vancouver Island Area
Guide House, 938 Mason Street
Victoria, BC V8T 1A2
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Carol Gevers	Treasurer
Eva Herbert	Secretary
Daphne MacGregor-Greer	Awards Committee Chair
Vacant	Camping Adviser
Sheilagh Finnigan	Property Management Committee Chair
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Denise Howden	International Adviser
Vacant	Membership Adviser
Vacant	Program Adviser
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Sutherland	Harbours
Kelly Parkin	Lakes
Michelle Winsor/ Susan Christman	Pacific Skies
Carol Whitehouse	Peninsula Shores
Sheryl Roodenburg	Portage Inlet
Linda Funk/ Sarah Sterry	Raven
Meaghan Playle	Straits
Sharon Lohr	Woodwyn

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The Lamplighter will be published three times a year and posted to the SVI website. Go to www.svigirlguides.bc.ca, select Guiding in SVI, and choose Lamplighters from the drop down menu. The Lamplighter will be dedicated to promoting celebrations, special activities and accomplishments and disseminating non-time sensitive material to Guiding members in SVI. Send your submissions by email to svilamplighter@gmail.com or mail to The Lamplighter, c/o Guide House by October 1st, February 1st and May 1st for inclusion in the Fall, Winter and Spring/Summer editions. Did you know you can still submit articles and pictures even after a deadline has passed! Any submission we receive after the deadline is added to the next edition!

FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK

As the weather warms after a long winter (well for us anyway) we know all girls and Guiders thoughts turn to the best part of Guiding, camping! Whatever that means to you, hardcore backpacking or pitching your tent beside Kirby Creek or the cabins at Milnes, the outdoors is something we all look forward to. The peacefulness of a campsite can restore our thoughts and bring a calm to many of us. We here in SVI are fortunate to have our own properties. Camp Jubilee is a peaceful oasis where our girls are in a natural environment that they can be themselves in and relax knowing they are the only ones on the site. Kingswood offers a camp closer to the hustle and bustle of Elk Lake. The cabins at Milnes offer the outdoors without having to tent. We hope you all take a weekend, visit the camp that appeals the most to you, enjoy the outside, roast some marshmallows and gaze at the night sky.

Adrienne Blandford, Wendy Halpen, Gillian Hurwood
Southern Vancouver Island Area Commissioner Team

Hats Off!

...to Kingswood Trefoil Guild members, **Carol Gamey, Lynda Ireland, Wendy Smylitopoulos,** and **Darcy Wyllie** who helped at the SVI Area Canada Cord and Chief Commissioner's Gold award ceremony on January 22, 2017.

...to **Tanya Skriver** who took the individual and group photographs before the Canada Cord and Chief Commissioner's Gold award ceremony.

... to **all of the Guiders** who helped to make the Pre SOAR 2017 a hug success, we couldn't have done it without all of you

...to **Sandy and Alan Hulko** for getting the lawns mowed and prepped at Jubilee for SOAR Pre-Camp

...to **Erlene Amero** who was the Quarter Master for the SOAR Pre-Camp Core staff, keeping us all well fed, and for running the evening skills session



... to **Eva, Sarah & Cassandra Herbert** for baking the cupcakes and providing refreshments at the ceremony at SOAR Pre-camp - they were enjoyed by all!

...to the SOAR Pre-camp overnight Guiders, traffic control, registration and presenters: **Suzanne Iverson, Brenda Lacharity, Sharon Doty, Brenda Fraser, Amanda Malthus** and **Sheilagh Finnigan**

...to the SOAR Pre-camp station presenters for Saturday: **Jill Croft, Barb Currie, Judy Macquarrie, Darcy Wyllie, Carol Gamey, Denise Howden, Sharon Lohr, Lynda Ireland** and **Barb Kerr.**

SVI Area Pre-SOAR Camp 2017



Thanks to all the ladies that helped make Pre-SOAR camp a success!!

SVI Area hosted our Pre-SOAR camp the weekend of May 26- 28th at Camp Jubilee. We were fortunate to have had a glorious sunny weekend to hone our camping skills, meet others going to SOAR, shake down our equipment and have FUN!

The 156 girls and Guiders arrived at staggered times to allow for off-loading of gear and removal of the vehicles to the neighbours' property. Owner **Janis Campbell** and Caretaker **George Pedneault** are to be thanked for the gracious use of the property for parking.

Once the registration process was completed it was off to see how 25 x 25 feet would accommodate all the equipment needed for a week in Smithers. Does everything fit? Does it all work? What can we change or improve? Thank goodness there is time to tweak our equipment and supplies!



Jubilee's New Bridge

Everyone was just getting organized when a loud trio of whistle blasts sounded and we needed to participate in our evacuation drill. After a brief drill in the dark and a few instructions, we were back to camp to finish our set-up and get to bed.

There were some weary campers in the morning as it was a late night after a busy evening setting up. It sure is a hike to get the water to get our day started. Up and over that lovely new bridge - again! - sometimes for water, sometimes for the lats or just to visit someone.

After opening and more instructions we started our stations. Rub a Dub Dub, Take it With You, Home Away from Home, Let it SOAR, and Bridge over Troubled Waters, were all

required to prepare the girls and Guiders for the rigors of a week away in Smithers. The stations were staffed by two of our SVI Area Trefoil Guilds, the KNOT's and 1st Victoria Trefoil. Many of the presenters have been to several SOAR camps previously and each person brings their own unique perspective to this incredible camping experience.

The day was warm and after a leisurely packed lunch to make it a more authentic SOAR experience, the afternoon sessions were completed. Many of the girls and Guiders had great questions and lots of information was shared.



Unveiling the New Bridge

Finally, we were done all of the stations which gave us lots to think about. However, there was one more thing to do, a “bridge opening”. We all gathered around in the Gateway parking lot to officially open our new bridge. There were a few dignitaries present and the ‘Silver Bridge Awards’ were presented to **Sandy Hulko and Teresa Howden**. These Guiding ladies, with the help of

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New Bridge “Opening”

many others, succeeded in getting our previous washed out bridge replaced. Kudos go to both these women for their perseverance and resolve in getting this project completed.

Peter Stepaniuk, our engineer from Scansa was our ribbon cutter, officially opening the bridge. Once the short speeches were done, the crowd was treated to refreshments. What



bridge opening would be complete without cake and drinks? We were treated to the most exquisite homemade-from-scratch cupcakes that I have ever seen. The Herbert family - **Sarah, Cassandra and Eva** - had made 180 cupcakes that were frosted to look like a campfire, complete with pretzel logs and a mini marshmallow and toothpick roasting stick. The girls were delighted as they got their afternoon sugar surge and some free time to follow.

After a bit of much needed down time, dinner prep was underway. The frequent staple of pasta was noted at many of the sites. After the dinner cleanup, a Q & A for Guiders was held focusing on the specifics of travel and sub-camp information. **Brenda Fraser** is a sub-

camp team member for Smithers and was able to answer many of the questions specific to the camp. **Lynda Ireland** is our SOAR Liaison for SVI and our organizer of transportation of people and goods to Smithers. They both answered what they could, and went away with a list of concerns to reply to when the information was available.

While the adults had our Q & A, the girls were offered a storm lashing review and other camp skills with **Erlene Amero** on the Gateway site. A number of the girls took this opportunity to 'nail down' the skills needed for SOAR.

As with all Guide camps, a campfire closed out our day. The girls had reviewed the songs earlier in the day at the Let it SOAR session, so now was our chance to practice. **Sharon Doty** was our campfire leader and did a great job of creating enthusiasm and getting some of the reluctant singers to participate.

Our second night was much quieter than the first. The stars were magnificent as they often are at Jubilee, away from the city lights.

Sunday after a quick breakfast, the task of dismantling our camp, transporting our gear over the bridge, again, packing up the vehicles and heading home was done quickly and efficiently. After a much deserved shower and sleep in our own beds, we will contemplate any changes we need to make for future SOAR Pre-Camps. I hope the weather is as beautiful in Smithers!

Happy Camping, SVI SOAR Patrols!

You will have memories to last a lifetime.

Submitted by Sheilagh Finnigan,

1st Victoria Trefoil Guild

The Peninsula Rangers

Make Friends with Goats



In January, the Rangers got the chance to get up close and personal with goats! Maria Hilton invited the unit into her home, sharing with us how to care for goats, teaching us how to make goat cheese, sharing the science behind goat care & goat dairy products. Of course, the day wouldn't be complete without getting to visit the goats. The girls (and adults) had a great time playing with the goats, feeding them,

brushing them, and even getting to try our hand at milking them - it is so much harder than it looks! We got to try fresh goat milk, homemade goat cheese, and learned a lot in the process. It was such a fun day for the goats, and for the Rangers.

**Submitted by Danita
Duguay, Peninsula
Rangers**



Learning how to milk the goats



Above: Learning the science behind gathering and storing goat milk. Right: Making Ricotta cheese with fresh goat milk. Yum!



VITAL VITALS



Ever since my first year in Rangers I have thought about what I could possibly do for my final service project. It had seemed like such a large task to undertake. I thought long and hard about what I could pick to do to help the people around me and my community that would fit in with the twenty hour requirement. I have always loved working in the kitchen, cooking whatever I could, learning whatever I could but my love has always been baking. So in my first year when we got together to bake an estimated sixty dozen cookies for a small local lunch kitchen, I was sold. Our whole Ranger unit had so much fun just hanging out and baking what, at the time, seemed to be

an endless amount of cookies; it hadn't even seemed like work at all. After that it seemed that the Vital Vittles baking project was going to be passed down through girls working to complete their service projects.

This year we baked fifty-five to sixty dozen cookies in three different flavours (Chocolate chip, ginger snap, and good old fashioned sugar cookies). In the past I hadn't had the chance to actually give out the cookies myself. This year when I was at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, where the lunch is held before Christmas, it completely opened my eyes. The free lunch put on by the lovely volunteers at Vital Vittles welcomed people from all walks of life. I met some people who were having trouble finding homes,

someone having trouble finding work because of health, and of course people who just wanted to get out and meet other people in the community. So many people were pleased to see that the Girl Guides were there with cookies to spare. Many people thanked me, and more took extras to give to family and friends, even people who wouldn't have anything to open up at Christmas.

For anyone who is thinking of doing a project similar to this in the future I only have a few tips to give to you. 1.) Find a large kitchen that you can borrow for the most of an evening or a day. This year we used a single oven in one of our local cabins that had a tiny kitchen. I had to go home and bake three dozen more cookies myself after eight hours to have them all done in time. 2.) Get the other girls in your patrol to help you. If you're all working together, time flies, and someone might just decide that they want to do the same thing for their service project. 3.) Always, always, always, test your recipes. The one you found might be close to another one that you use all the time but it's always good to be prepared. 4.) Make sure that you like the work that you will have to do for your project. Twenty hours might seem like a lot of time, but while you're doing something that you enjoy, it goes by like nothing. So to all the girls out there getting their gold awards I say good work, and to all of you thinking about tackling it I say good luck.

Submitted by: Rachel Spencer, Harbors District



Sidney Brownies Stem Night



At one of our meetings, the girls were working on (and playing with) the Math part of our STEM challenge! We had so much fun with a card game of high-low-match, toothpick math magic, dance math, and body shapes and numbers!



We ran out of time for math tag but we read a book about pen pals where they learned about each other through math concepts: measurement distance, height, etc. We are even writing to a Brownie unit on the east coast to get our pen pal badges too!

**Submitted by Heather Carley,
Sidney Brownies**



1st Woodwyn Brownies Build Cardboard Structures



At our January 3rd meeting, the girls got to unleash their creative and building

skills as they worked together to make cardboard structures. Provided with cardboard, the girls got to work together to come up with a design, and then use the cardboard to bring their design to life. The girls worked in teams to create their structures, and



the variety of what they came up with was incredible to watch. The most unique creation of the night was a "unicopter" a unicorn, riding a helicopter. The girls had a lot of fun.





Submitted by Brenda Matthews, 1st Woodwyn Brownies

2nd Woodwyn Guides

Learning About Our Community

In December, the girls were working on a community service project on homelessness and poverty, collecting donations for Our Place, a homeless shelter in downtown Victoria run by the Victoria Cool Aid Society. We spent several weeks learning about issues surrounding homelessness and poverty, how it affects girls their age, and how the girls can help. We read a couple of books (one written by a young girl, Hannah Taylor, who started her own charitable foundation, the Ladybug Foundation, when she was just 8 years old). We also created skits on the subject of homelessness and poverty. Richard Leblanc, the founder of Woodwynn Farms, came to talk to the girls about the farm and his experiences working to find solutions to homelessness and addiction. The girls made posters and collected donations from friends, family and the general public, focusing specifically on winter needs for Our Place. We had an open house drop-off night (which was also our Christmas party and a bring-a-friend night) for the general public. One of the girls, Susannah Woodward, wanted to do more to help, so she sold a bunch of her own toys and earned \$60. She spent half of it on donations for Our Place and half on donations to the food bank. Inspiring! The girls collected a substantial amount of donations (my entire car was packed full of blankets,

winter jackets, toiletries, and so forth), which I dropped off downtown at Our Place. The shelves had been quite empty at the shelter, and at least a couple of them were now stuffed full! I am sure the supplies were be given out to those who needed them. We wrapped up the project with a reflections ceremony, which gave the girls a chance to reflect and share with the unit what they learned from the project. It was wonderful hearing the girls talk about how thankful they were for what they have, discussing ways they can continue to help others in need, and sharing what they learned from the project.

Submitted by Liz Bennett, 2nd Woodwyn Guides

Ranger Service Project

To earn the Chief Commissioners Gold Award, all Rangers must complete a Service Project. The Service Project must include 20 hours of volunteer work, and can include the planning and executing of the project. For my Ranger Service Project I chose to collect books to donate to the Westshore “1000x5” Project and the Sooke Literacy Program. I love reading and I want to share my passion for reading with everyone. I also want many people to be able to have access to books. I am very lucky to have a family that is able to afford the many books I have stacked throughout my room. I reached out to the Guiding Communities of Harbours District and Lakes District. Everyone was very supportive and excited to help. To reach out to girls, I created a poster to send out to Guiders and girls' parents. At the Brownie enrolment, I explained my project and why I was doing it to make it less virtual. I collected about 700 books to donate to these organizations. I collected all sorts of books ranging from children’s storybooks to adult novels. I left boxes at meeting places for girls to leave books. I also reached out to the Gordon United Church, asking community members to donate books as well. People from the Westshore and Sooke communities will benefit from these books as it will help young children read 1000 books with their families before they’re five.

**Submitted by: Mattie,
1st Sooke Rangers**





4th Victoria Guides

LEARN ABOUT VOTING!

We were very fortunate to have BC's Chief Electoral Officer, Keith Archer, come speak to us about how elections work in BC, the importance of voting, and women's right to vote. He's the one responsible for executing the election across the entire province, so it was an incredible opportunity! The girls learned a lot and asked some fantastic in-depth questions. His job is a completely non-partisan role (he and his two deputies are the only three eligible people in BC who are not allowed to vote). Having the meeting ahead of the Provincial Election, it was a fun way to educate and engage the girls about voting.

During the same evening the girls earned the Famous Five Challenge. One of our Guiders put together some fabulous materials that she'd be happy to share with other interested units.

Submitted by Bianca Wallace, 4th Victoria Guides

SVI AREA AWARDS

Congratulations to the following members who were presented with membership pins for 20 or more years of service to Girl Guides of Canada at the AGM on April 22, 2017. A short précis of the Guiding service for each member was also read.

Certificates signed by the Provincial Commissioner were also presented for membership over 25 years. There were several members who were not present who will be presented with their pins and certificates in their districts or Trefoil Guilds during the year.

20 Years - Cynthia Craig, Pam Luco, Danita Duguay, Gillian Hurwood, Eva Herbert, Susan Zedel

25 Years - Sharon Lohr

30 Years - Helen Kirk, Vreny Mathis

35 Years - Deborah Buckle, Ann Friesen, Wendy Kluge

45 Years - Daphne MacGregor-Greer

60 Years - Rie Van Der Veen

The following Guiders were recognized at the SVI AGM for their special contributions to Girl Guides of Canada.

Gold Thanks Pin: Nancy Fischer, Pam Luco, Peggy Morfitt

SVI Spirit of Hilda Leighton Award: Sharon Doty, Sheila Finnigan, Mary Porterfield

Silver Merit Award: Neala St. Hilaire

Gold Merit Award: Adrienne Blandford, Gillian Hurwood

BC Guider Appreciation Award: Sherry Fortais

Commissioner Award: Harla Batinovic, Meaghan Playle, Neala St. Hilaire

Book of Honour: Jeannie Cosgrove

Many thanks to all Guiders in SVI Area who dedicate countless hours to Girl Guides of Canada and Girl Greatness!

Remember, any Guider may nominate any other Guider for an award!

Submitted by: Daphne MacGregor-Greer, Area Awards Adviser

Adrienne Blandford - Gold Merit Award





Cynthia Craig - 20 year pin



*Daphne MacGregor-Greer -
45 year pin*



*Deborah Buckle
- 35 year pin*



*Gillian Hurwood
- Gold Merit
Award*

Helen Kirk - 30 year pin.



Jeannie Cosgrove - Book of Honour



Nancy Fisher - Gold Thanks Pin



Rie Van Der Veen - 60 year pin



Sharon Doty - SVI Spirit of Hilda Leighton Award



Sharon Lohr - 25 year pin



Sheila Finnigan - SVI Spirit of Hilda Leighton Award



Sherry Fortais - BC Guider Appreciation Award



Suzan Zedel - 20 year pin



Vreny Mathis - 30 year pin



MORE AWARDS...

Maryna Ell has been awarded the 2017 BC Trefoil Guilds' Education Grant.

Congratulations to Maryna!

Southern Vancouver Island Area congratulates **Teresa Howden** who has been awarded the 2017 Governor General's Sovereign Award. **The Governor General Sovereign's Award recognizes the exceptional achievements of Canadians across the country who selflessly offer their time and effort to contribute to their communities.**

The following is an excerpt of a letter written to nominate Carolyn Pennell for a well deserved 'Glider Appreciation Award'.

I first met Carolyn when her daughter joined our Guide unit back in 2008, at which time, Carolyn had already been involved with Guiding for 24 years! Carolyn was quick to become a parent helper, as she already had lots of experience as a leader with both Sparks and Brownies, and had dedicated herself to acquire a great deal of training to add to her 'resume'.



Not only did she provide a great deal of help with the Guide

unit, but took on the role of District Treasurer in 2009, and held that position until just recently.....when she took on another role....treasurer for the SVI Properties Committee!

In the Commissioner's role, I have had the pleasure of working with Carolyn twice now, and her attention to detail truly is remarkable. Her dedication to help unit treasurers be the best that they could be was inspiring - she never hesitated to hold mini trainings and help them all transition from paper spread sheets to on line accounting. Her persistence (and lots of time), led to the collection of some outstanding cookie money for one of our units, and she did it so politely! In her role as 'reviewer' for unit's financial reports, she was able to help the treasurer's 'fine tune' their accounting skills, and brought a high level of standards in to play. She is highly competent with numbers (and people!), and worked out a lot of important details in our annual budgets. She is a huge asset to our team as she continues to mentor our new District treasurer. She will truly be missed, however, our loss is SVI Area's gain!

Over Carolyn's 45 years of Guiding, there have been so many contributions that she has made, often going above and beyond the call of duty (taking a patrol to SOAR, pitching in with many District activities...the list goes on!)

I truly believe that Carolyn is worthy of this B.C Guider Appreciation Award, having her efforts (and countless hours she devotes to her volunteer work) recognized. She is a valuable member of our organization, as well as our community!

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



2016 Canada Cord & Chief Commissioner's Gold Award Recipients

Please join me in congratulating the young women who worked diligently to achieve the Canada Cord and Chief Commissioner's Gold awards in 2016. A Recognition Ceremony was held on January 22, 2017 to honour these recipients with special guests, **Deputy Provincial Commissioner Darlene Kent**, the SVI Area Co-Commissioners, **Adrienne Blandford**, **Wendy Halpen**, and **Gillian Hurwood**. The guest speaker was SVI Area International Adviser **Denise Howden**. Well done and congratulations to all!

Back – Deputy Provincial Commissioner Darlene Kent, Navinder Hundal, Annika Weir, Michaela Pennell, Mya Rivers, Carenza Stevens, Alanna Lacharity, SVI Area Co-Commissioner Wendy Halpen

Front- SVI Area Co-Commissioner Gillian Hurwood, Victoria Shandley, Jaime Slocumb, Celina Lessard, Katie Costas, Julena Batinovic, SVI Area Co-Commissioner Adrienne Blandford

Absent from photo- Antonia Audette, Grace Carmichael, Alyssa Federico, Devon Heathcote, Ashaya Martin, Lauren Prill, Holly Tremblay, Kennedy Tuggle, Charlotte Clar, Julia Fischer, and Kyra Tuggle.

Girl Guides of Canada members in SVI wish each of you every success in the future!

Submitted by Daphne MacGregor-Greer, SVI Area Awards Adviser



Above: Peninsula Rangers - Canada Cord Recipients Julia Fischer, Kyra Tuggle, Michaela Pennell

Left: Peninsula Rangers - Canada Cord Recipients Carena Stevens, Michaela Fennell

An Open Letter to SVI Area Guiders

Recently, my name was added to the BC "Book of Honour". It certainly is an honour to be included and I am in lofty company with the other SVI Area Guiders with pages in that book.

I wish to thank all those Guiders who made donations for me to receive the Book of Honour as Area funds are not used to purchase this award. The funds are used to support the BC Bursary of Honour for post-secondary education of youth members.

Also, in accepting this award, I am aware that I would not have been able to even think about organizing events without the help of many, many Guiders and older girls in SVI who happily stepped up to the plate when I asked them.

We have an amazing group of ladies, young and old, in SVI with so much heart and enthusiasm. Thank you for your support. You are the ones who make Girl Guides of Canada a superb organization.

***Yours in Guiding,
Jeannie Cosgrove***

INVITATION TO JOIN 2nd VICTORIA TREFOIL GUILD

Are you female and over age 30? Were you a Girl Guide in your youth? Or did you ever wish to be in Guides but never joined? If you believe in the Promise and Law, want to keep a connection to Guiding, or have friends who are in Guiding and want to join the fun, then Trefoil Guild could be for you.

We are looking for 'new blood' and fresh ideas.

Don't like going out at night? 2nd Victoria Trefoil Guild meets during the daytime. Our programs vary, but often are based around a lunch. Do you like to do crafts? We do that as well. We invite interesting speakers, such as police to talk on home safety. We keep connected with Trefoil Guild friends around the province and throughout Canada. Some of us even camp!

We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month, generally 1030-1200 hours, at Guide House 938 Mason St, between Quadra and Vancouver streets, one block north of Pandora St. We invite and welcome you to join us.

If you would like to try us out, contact Sharon Fitch, 250-381-1166, shfitch@telus.net



Mailis Beazley (1943-2017)

Gone Home

Mailis was a long time supporter of Guiding and was a Guider for her daughters in Ontario. Mailis lived the Guiding Law. She enjoyed hiking and sharing her love of the outdoors with the girls.

Mailis retired to Victoria with husband Bob, and answered a newspaper ad for Camp Chair for Kingswood Camp. During her 7 year tenure she researched and oversaw the construction of the lats at the Freeman King site as her biggest project. She organized new flooring for the lodge, metal roofing for the Bill Reith site and new windows for the cottage, along with many other necessary repairs and maintenance.

Mailis had a reputation as a ‘planner’ and Kingswood benefited from her efforts a great deal. After her time as Camp Chair she served as a committee member for a few years, but then resigned to allow time for more travels with Bob. Guiding in Victoria appreciates the energy and enthusiasm Mailis willingly gave to Kingswood Camp.

Submitted by Sheilagh Finnigan & Barb Currie

