



# THE LAMPLIGHTER

## Saris & Spices at Sangam

Read more on page 25



Girl Guides  
of Canada

Guides  
du Canada

Southern Vancouver Island Area  
Website: [www.svigirlguides.bc.ca](http://www.svigirlguides.bc.ca)

## Table of Contents

From the Commissioners Desk ...	Page 3
Hats Off ...	Page 4
'Arts & Glam' Guide Summer Camp...	Page 5
Pender Island Enrollment...	Page 9
1 <sup>st</sup> Portage Pathfinders Lab Tour ...	Page 13
Brownie Revel ....	Page 15
Staying Afloat at 2019 Dip-N-Swing....	Page 18
Marjorie Shaw...	Page 22
Woodwyn Holiday Skate....	Page 23
Woodwyn Fundraising ....	Page 24
Cover Story: A Special Sisterhood ....	Page 25
Margaret Lidkea....	Page 32
Guiders Take Training ....	Page 34
Annual Gathering of Members - Awards ...	Page 35
Rangers Can Sleepover ....	Page 39
Gone Home ....	Page 40

## Contact Information

### Area Commissioner:

Email: [bc-sviac@girlguides.ca](mailto:bc-sviac@girlguides.ca)

Emergency phone only: 250-590-0744

Public Relations: [girlguidespr@gmail.com](mailto:girlguidespr@gmail.com)

SVI Webmaster: [sviareawebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:sviareawebmaster@gmail.com)

Camp Adviser: [svicampadvisor@gmail.com](mailto:svicampadvisor@gmail.com)

Camp Bookings: [sviareacampbookings@gmail.com](mailto:sviareacampbookings@gmail.com)

iMIS: [svi.imis@gmail.com](mailto:svi.imis@gmail.com)

Training Adviser: [svitraining@gmail.com](mailto:svitraining@gmail.com)

Waitlist: [svi.imiswaitlist@gmail.com](mailto:svi.imiswaitlist@gmail.com)

Awards: [sviareaawards@gmail.com](mailto:sviareaawards@gmail.com)

Membership: [sviareaawards@gmail.com](mailto:sviareaawards@gmail.com)

## Area Council

Sharon Lohr & Deb Buckle	Area Co-Commissioners
Gillian Hurwood	Acting Treasurer
Denise Howden	Secretary
Ebony Bilawka & Shannon Wills	Awards Co-Specialists
Kathy Betts	Camping Adviser
Susan Zedel	Property Management
Carol Gamey	Committee Chair
Kay Smith	iMIS Support
	Membership Support / Wait List Manager
Danita Duguay	International Adviser
Meaghan Playle	Program Adviser
Vacant	Public Relations Adviser
Donna Wilner	Training Adviser

## District Commissioners

Rebecca Hof	Bay to Bay
Cyn Craig	Camas (Acting)
Heidi Fowler	Chatham
Katie Duff	Harbours
Sandra Budden	Lakes
Susan Plato-McLean	Pacific Skies
Anne Gardam	Peninsula Shores
Alicia Goluza	Portage Inlet
Renee McColloch	Raven
Eva Herbert	Straits
Brenda Matthews & Fiona Mosher	Woodwyn

## Lamplighter Team

Danita Duguay	Editor
Amanda McIntyre	Layout / Design

## SVI Area Office Information

Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Phone: 250-383-1712

Office Coordinator: Darcy Wyllie Email: [svigirlguides@shaw.ca](mailto:svigirlguides@shaw.ca)

*The Lamplighter will be published three times a year and posted to the SVI website. Go to [www.svigirlguides.bc.ca](http://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](mailto: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 Commissioners' Desk

It has been very busy these past few months, with the planning and organizing of everything in Guide House with the preparation for our move out date of January 30<sup>th</sup>. Many hands helped to make a lighter work load, and we really want to thank all of you who participated - we could not have done it without you! We especially want to thank the previous AC team of Gillian, Wendy, and Adrienne, who continued to liaise with the realtor until completion.



We realize that Guide House holds so many wonderful memories for many of you, and we can appreciate all the sentiments attached to this building. Change can be difficult at times, but the logistics of this move was not taken lightly, and this action to sell was deemed to be a timely one. The constant need for extra security of the building alone was a challenge in itself.

As we move forward, we anticipate some much needed improvements to our three beautiful SVI Area campsites. We look forward to another positive year, working with all of our amazing Area Council members. We hope to see many of you at SOAR!

**Submitted by: Deb Buckle & Sharon Lohr**  
**SVI Area Co-Commissioners**



# Hats Off!

...to the **KNOTS Trefoil Guild** for their thoughtful donation to the Area Guide Summer Camps 'Arts & Glam' and 'Dip-N-Swing' giving our girls the opportunity to experience learning new skills - cake decorating, paddle boarding, kayaking, canoeing and snorkeling (at the Saanich Commonwealth Pool).

...to 'Lifesavers' **Becky Hof** and **Elise Dryer** saving the Arts & Glam Guide Camp covering ratio and First Aider for the first 24 hours of our camp.



...to

**Kris Walker, Lauren**

**Marshall, Debbie Bertin, Araina Golding, Lori Polukoshko, Becky Hof and Elise**

**Dryer** core staff for the Arts & Glam Guide Camp and their amazing skills and talents, to **Veda Smith** showing our girls the art of decorating cupcakes into 'Sunflowers' and a 'Flaming Campfire', to **Erlene Amero** for having a pool emergency vehicle available for swimming and her support of the Arts & Glam Camp.



# 'Arts & Glam' Guide Summer Camp



The Area 'Arts & Glam' Camp was a three day residential camp at Kingswood Lodge at the end of July with 24 Guides (ages 9-12) from nine Districts. The Area Camp Committee's goal was to have a camp where girls could be creative in the Arts (crafts, music, drama and dance) with a touch of 'Glam' (hair and nail care), having fun, swimming and making new friends.

**'Red and yellow and pink and green**

**Purple and orange and blue**

**I can sing a rainbow'...**

**I can paint a rainbow...**



### Having fun exploring creativity

The weather was gorgeous and the girls enjoyed canvas painting outside in the shade with their palettes of colors having only three primary paints (red, blue, and yellow) and white. They learned how to blend colors making secondary colors and adding white paint to make shades of pastels.

In the lodge, Veda, a third year medical student, shared her cake decorating skills with the girls showing them how to decorate cupcakes creating a 'Sunflower' and a 'Flaming Campfire' with mini marshmallows that everyone enjoyed at snack time (every girl received a decorating tip to take home following the camp).



Cupcake decorating.

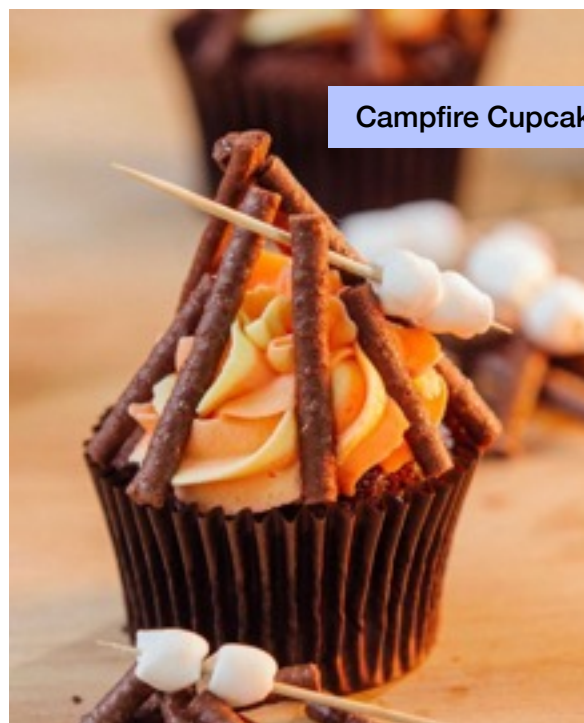
The girls organized their own lip sync groups, selecting songs and making up choreography to 'Shout' and 'YMCA' with presentations before campfire (very talented young ladies).

Over the three days we creatively worked with 'The Passport to the Arts', a BC Program Challenge, covering 'five regions' of Guiding plus Around the World with crafts, music, dance and drama. Origami was a girl lead activity by Ako and Karley, making mini peace cranes. Other activities included wooden worry dolls, weaving bracelets, learning pantomime, World Tour charades, and dance. Guider Lauren worked with the girls in

'how to build a campfire' including songs from the five regions.

The girls loved 'shucking corn' before a 10km hike (total) to and from camp for swimming at the Saanich Commonwealth Pool. The girls were disappointed when the pool was evacuated losing the last half an hour of swimming due to a 'code brown' in the pool (a camping memory).

Sunday was 'Glam Day', after packing up gear and camp cleanup, with hair braiding, making decorated hair clips, learning nail care, using emory boards and painting their nails.



Campfire Cupcake.



Manicure time!!



Our closing included 'Two Stars and a Wish' with the 'shining star' being making new friends and their 'wish' that the camp was longer!

A grateful thank you to our 'LifeSavers' Elise Dryer and Becky Hof for saving our camp for ratio and First Aider on Thursday 6pm to Friday 6pm, a special 'Guiding Bouquet' to Kris Walker, Lauren Marshall (First Aider), Debbie Bertin, Araina Golding and Lori Polukoshko for organizing, planning and sharing QM duties. A special thank you to Ako and Karley (leading the girls in origami) and Karley for baking 'muffins' for our camp, and to Erlene Amero for joining us on Saturday with the pool emergency vehicle, her camping enthusiasm and support of the Arts & Glam Camp.

**Submitted by:**  
**SVI Area Camp Committee**



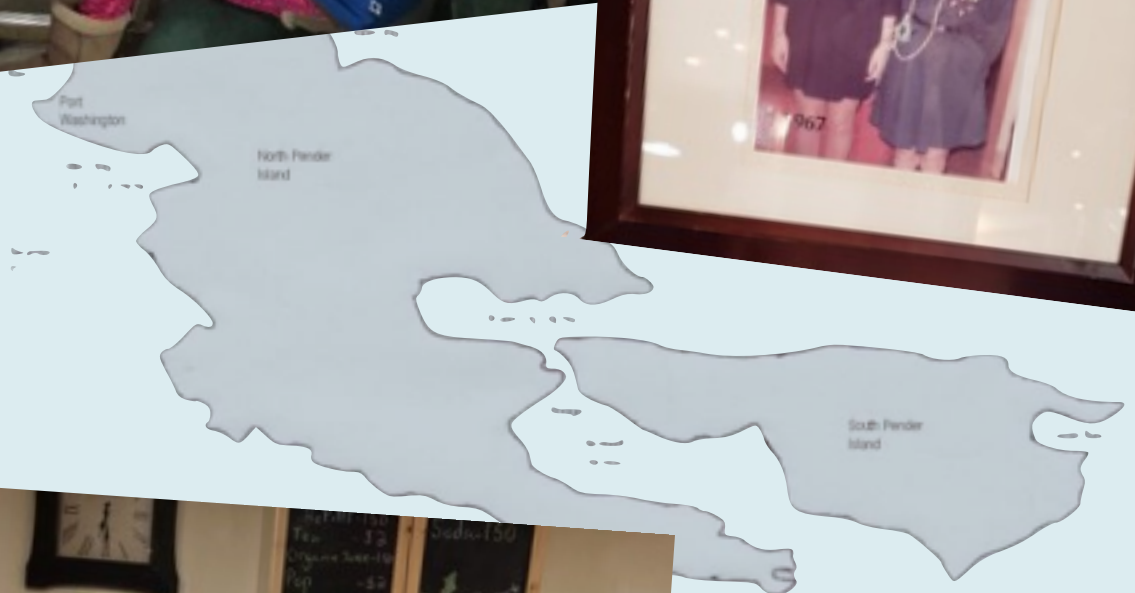


# Pender Island Enrollment

The newest unit in Peninsula Shores on Pender Island hosted a fun filled enrollment! The girls had a blast at the enrollment and over 30 parents attended the special night! The theme was 'enchanted forest', and after the girls said their promise, they walked through the 'magical waterfall' and put a virtue stick in the fire. They were excited to get to wear their uniforms for the first time, and received their sashes. The girls were so excited to receive their first 2 badges, as well as crests and pins. It was such a special night, enjoyed by all.

**Submitted by: Carol Whitehouse**  
**District Commissioner**  
**Peninsula Shores District**













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



## Lab Tour

**June 2019** - As a first for the Royal Jubilee Hospital laboratory, the 1<sup>st</sup> Portage Pathfinders had the opportunity to take the inaugural tour!

It all started when Catriona Gano, Island Health Laboratory Director, kindly lent support for our request, after we had visited a super cool research lab at UVIC and an interest in what a laboratory does was kindled. Wilson Louie, Chief Technician (HR), (and his family!) volunteered his evening so that he could tour the girls around and chat about what transpires there on a daily basis.

We split into two groups, as 17 seemed a bit much to hike through all at once! While the tour was on for one-half of the girls, the other half hung out in the conference room doing a lab research worksheet on types of cells and their uses.

The girls were awed and amazed at the varied duties in the lab and were most engaged, paying close attention to Wilson as he explained the various machines and their uses. He also explained the diverse departments within the lab and how they are utilized to help patients.

Comments were made about the size of the lab and how busy it was (and this was between 7 and 8:30 in the evening). They also asked questions about the different kinds of jobs, encompassing the amount of education required, pay scale and job security.

We watched blood samples being zoomed around analyzers and being redirected to the correct machine for each kind of test. We were told about the blood bank and the work that it does for patients. We spoke about blood test turn-around-times and their importance for quick interventions.

Some of the staff were able to speak about the work that they were doing and then show the girls a few of the tools of their job. A lovely lady in Microbiology was showing the girls the Petri dishes with growths that she was analyzing, as well as some pictures on her computer of other kinds of specimens. Another showed the girls the types of cells that she was counting and how to tell what each kind of cell was (size, shape, colour, etc.)

In histology, a technician was opening a specimen for fixation and the girls were fascinated by the technique and the tissue itself. They looked rather wide-eyed at all the various specimen trolleys awaiting processing and were unsure how they felt about the limbs in the limb fridge, but then were super thrilled to see a finger in a container! Somewhat macabre, perhaps, but maybe the harbinger of a career to come? (The lab industry currently is experiencing a shortage of techs!)

All in all, an informative and engaging evening of learning. Perhaps someday one of the girls will be back for a career and will remember being shown the various parts of the lab and its duties!

Our humungous thanks to all of the evening shift people that cheerfully put up with their work spaces being crowded and disrupted by gaggles of teenaged girls; their patience and graciousness were greatly appreciated by us all! Also, thanks to Wilson and Catriona for supporting this amazing opportunity for the 1<sup>st</sup> Portage Pathfinders!

**Submitted By: Tracy McLeish-Schmit**

**Aka: Ladybug :Ö: , 1<sup>st</sup> Portage Pathfinders (and Anatomic Pathology Transcriptionist, RJH Laboratory)**



# Brownie Revel

On April 7, 2019 Southern Vancouver Island held a very successful Brownie Revel. 118 Girls and their Guiders registered to join us. The theme for the day was international Travel. As they traveled stations they warned their Brownie Magic Around the World challenge crest.

Six Dedicated Guiders

volunteered their time to organize an activity for one of 6 countries. The girls made a Scoubidou Doll in Japan. Then they traveled to Australia and made a flower planter that looks like a Kangaroo. They then traveled around Africa, learning about the traveling World Centre, Kusafiri. While there they learned to play Mancala and had a look at some different examples of clothing. The girls needed a refuelling stop for lunch and took a moment for a campfire led by Rangers. After lunch they moved on to Mexico to

learn some dance moves. Then on to India where they learned about Sangam and heard all about an older girl's adventures traveling with Girl Guides. They also got to try their hand at walking while carrying a water jug on their head. The last station was Switzerland where the girls got to make an adorable paper Swiss hat to wear and learn all about Our Chalet and about how some of these travel opportunities may be available to them when they are older. At the end we all gathered for a 'Grand Howl' for all the Guiders who made the day possible. Everyone home with a smile on their face.



**Submitted by: Meaghan Playle**  
**SVI Program Advisor**











# Staying Afloat at 2019 Dip-N-Swing

Summer days floating on the lake just can't be beat. Dip-N-Swing 2019 was three such days in August at Kingswood Camp for 20 Guides (ages 9-12). The SVI Area Camp Committee typically organizes a summer camp the year before SOAR so girls have a chance to add to their tent camping nights and build on their camping experiences. This time we chose paddling as the theme to showcase what Kingswood Camp has to offer, and to prepare Guides and Leaders for water sports at Camp Barnard next SOAR.

The Kingswood Camp Committee has been busy reinvigorating our SVI Paddling Program, adding a new canoe and 6 youth paddles, several PFDs, and leader training this year. Dip-N-Swing was designed to provide two on-lake canoe paddling days, along with other water sports – Stand Up Paddleboarding, kayaking, and snorkelling at Saanich Commonwealth Pool – as well a variety of crafts, land games, outdoor cooking, and a “non-flame” campfire. Of course, we ordered perfect weather, not too hot and no rain.

Each paddling session consisted of 5 canoes with one adult and two girls in each canoe, 10 Guides per session. You would be amazed at the range of sizes of the Guides (unless you are a Guide Leader), so we paired smallest with largest Guides. Some had previous experience, but all first went through on-land safety training – weather check, on-land observer, whistle signals, communication, proper PFD fitting, communication, paddle use, communication, emergency procedures, and did we mention communication? Colene led the instructions and used her inflatable kayak as a means to maneuver quickly on the water if someone needed some specific assistance. We practiced regular forward and backward

***My paddle's keen and bright;***

***Flashing with silver;***

***Follow the wild goose flight;***

***Dip, dip and swing...***

strokes, sweeps, pry and draw, and on the second day the girls tried the J-stroke for steering. Paddling ended with a fun ball game, wind on our face and backs, and a whole pile of confidence. For the adults, this was an excellent chance to practice their skills, as several had just taken Level 1 Tandem Canoe training.



Day 1 not only included the first paddling opportunity but also a 10 km walk to and from the Saanich Commonwealth Place for more water sports (and a shower!). Guides and Leaders slept well that night. Day 2 most of the Guides decided to try Stand Up Paddleboarding, after we explained the CRD water advisory and insisted everyone rinse off after paddling. Colene provided back-up on the water with her inflatable kayak, in case anyone fell in – no one did – as the Guides realized how well-balanced they are on the boards. Shore activities included tie-dying an individual T-shirt, to be washed and dried at home after camp. We can only imagine what a photo would look like with all those colourful shirts lined up on the Guides. More fun followed in the form of an 'Amazing Race', a wide game of "Vanishing Post Box", and a BBQ chicken dinner. A flameless campfire was led by Bay to Bay Guides under the tutelage of Trickster Raven (Becky), ending another perfect day.

Day 3 started with packing up, then more canoeing, this time with a challenging breeze. On shore, Guides conducted some camp maintenance and finished packing, wishing they could camp longer. Their confidence shone in their faces, which perked up as parents collected their paddler Guides and listened to their stories.

Food was planned and arranged by an experienced team, with Meaghan at the helm complete with her helper (Brownie daughter) Arya, who became the camp mascot. We won't let on that Meaghan is well along in her pregnancy, which meant we all wanted to rub her back to make her smile. Guides had several meals to prepare and cook, which they did with style in their tent patrols.



In between cooking and eating, Guides and Leaders from almost all of the SVI Districts, met new silver friends and kept the old gold ones. If you see a Guide/Leader in a gorgeous handmade tie-dyed T-shirt, she may have been at Dip-N-Swing 2019.

Heaps of thanks to *Jeannie Cosgrove* (her new camp name should be Eveready Battery Bunny) as RG, *Erlene Amero* (planning, inspiration and paddling), *Susan Zedel* (for arranging the Leader Paddling training and guidance with the myriad of Safe Guide forms), *Carol Gamey* (many iMIS enquiries and entries), *Sheilagh Finnigan* (camp service), *Marilyn Maggiora* (tie dying), *Lynda Ireland* (Amazing Race), *Anne Cotter* (geo-cache setup),



*Meaghan and Ayra Playle (QM with food, food and food the entire camp), Dorothy Scott (menu planning and shopping), Colene Wood (Paddling Instruction), Becky Hof (First Aid physical and mental, and Paddling), and the Paddling Guiders – Ebony Bilakwa, Deb Clark, Araina Golding, Linda Funk, Amy Miller.*

**Submitted by the SVI Area Camp Committee**



**Leaders – if you would like to organize a canoe paddling session, please contact Susan Zedel at [sviareaproperties@gmail.com](mailto:sviareaproperties@gmail.com). We have many qualified Guiders who can help with your event.**

# Marjorie Shaw

Marjorie Shaw shares a birthday with Lord and Lady Baden Powell, and celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday at our annual Thinking Day Potluck lunch. Marjorie has been a member of Girl guides for most of her life, having just achieved her 74<sup>th</sup> year of Guiding membership!

**Submitted by:**  
**Sharon Doty**  
**1st Victoria Trefoil Guild**





# Woodwyn Holiday Skate

Amy & Quinna from



A very happy group of girls at the holiday skate!

Woodwyn District Commissioner Sharon Lohr enjoying the skating festivities.



# Woodwyn Fundraising

Woodwyn host a bottle drive to fundraise for their international travels with Guiding in 2020. The rainbow is surely a sign of many good things to come. Good work girls!

**Submitted by: Amy Bussanich  
Woodwyn District**





# A Special Sisterhood

This story starts six years ago, when I was volunteering at Our Chalet, with 12 other Guides from around the world. My roommate was Betsy, from Hong Kong. That summer was special beyond words, and the incredible women I got to spend it with were like sisters by the end of our time in the Alps.

Betsy, Sam, & I at the Hong Kong Girl Guide HQ



In January 2019, I got a message from Betsy – “I’m getting married in October! I know it’s far, but it would mean a lot to me if you could be there”. It took me 0.2 seconds before I started looking at flights to Hong Kong. I had found the answer for where I would be travelling next.

I found out that I would be joined by 3 more of the volunteers from my summer at Our Chalet, who would also be travelling from across the globe to be at Betsy’s wedding. I could not be more excited for our reunion – to see them all again.

Soon I was not just travelling to Hong Kong, but also to Taiwan, as one of the other Our Chalet Volunteers attending the wedding asked me if I would like to join her in Taipei for a few days before the wedding.



The international Guiding contingent at Betsy's Wedding!

## Mini Our Chalet Volunteer reunion at Hong Kong's Big Buddah



Then I got a message from Becca, one of the Guides I met at Kusafiri last winter – she (jokingly) sent me the link to some of the upcoming Sangam programs. I quickly glanced over the programs and the dates, and wouldn't you know it if one of the sessions was offered after the wedding, in the exact timeframe I was looking to do some other travelling. And just like that I was going to Sangam! We planned to do a week-long tour of Northern India before going down to Pune for our Sangam program.

And then when I thought this adventure I was planning couldn't get any better, Betsy asked what my plans were after I left Hong Kong. I told her about how I was going to travel in India and attend a programme in Sangam. Imagine my surprise when she asked if she could join us!

After

months of planning, it felt like I was dreaming when I got on my plane to Taipei. I met my friend from Our Chalet, Samantha (from Australia), in our hostel in Taipei, and we spent the next few days exploring northern Taiwan together. We were soon travelling together to Hong Kong, to see the bride-to-be, and our other Our Chalet friends. Betsy met us at the Hong Kong airport, as we shared a series of hugs, laughs, and tears. The first time I met Betsy, it was in the Vienna, Austria Airport arrivals section, when I walked up to her and said "Are you our Betsy? Let's go, we have a bus to catch!". We laughed at the memory, and at how it was now reversed, with her ushering me to a bus this time. She took us to the main train station where we would meet Janka (from Slovakia). Then, all together Betsy led us to



Enjoying Indian afternoon at Sangam





Namaste - arriving at Sangam

our hotel where we reunited with Emma (from the USA) to round out our party. We spent that evening enjoying a traditional Hong Kong supper together, eating, smiling, and laughing, sharing stories of life and travels. It had been 6 years since we had all been together, but it truly felt like no time had passed at all. It was incredible. The following day the 4 of us set out on our own to explore Hong Kong, as Betsy was off preparing for her wedding the following day. It was such a fun day, as we reminisced old memories, and enjoyed making new ones.

And then on October 26, the special day had arrived! We all got up early, and travelled by bus to a stunning seaside hotel, which would be the location of the traditional Chinese ceremony that Betsy had invited us to. The Chinese ceremony was incredible, while we didn't understand all of what was happening (the bridesmaids and groomsmen helped us by translating and explaining when they could), it was clear to see how in love the soon to be wed couple was, regardless of language. After the Chinese ceremony and pictures, we met with Haruka (from Japan), who was one of the participants at Our Chalet during our summer there, and all travelled with the wedding party by bus to the venue for the Church wedding. There we also reunited with Suki (from Hong Kong) who was a volunteer at the Kandersteg Scout Centre the same time we were volunteering at Our Chalet. The ceremony was beautiful and touching, and an experience so special, I will never, ever forget it. After the ceremony, Betsy and her new husband, Kevin, led us out to the reception, which was such a fun party featuring custom cocktails representing different memories of the couple, a very delicious and adorable snack selection, and even an ice cream bar! Then Betsy



Exploring Laxmi Road in Pune with the Sangam volunteers



and Kevin surprised the guests with an adorable dance number that they had learned in secret to share with us! As the reception wound down, our international Guiding group rejoined the wedding party, Betsy and Kevin for a tradition Hong Kong hot pot supper. It was the perfect evening with delicious food, friends and laughter, to end what truly was a perfect day that I will never, ever forget.

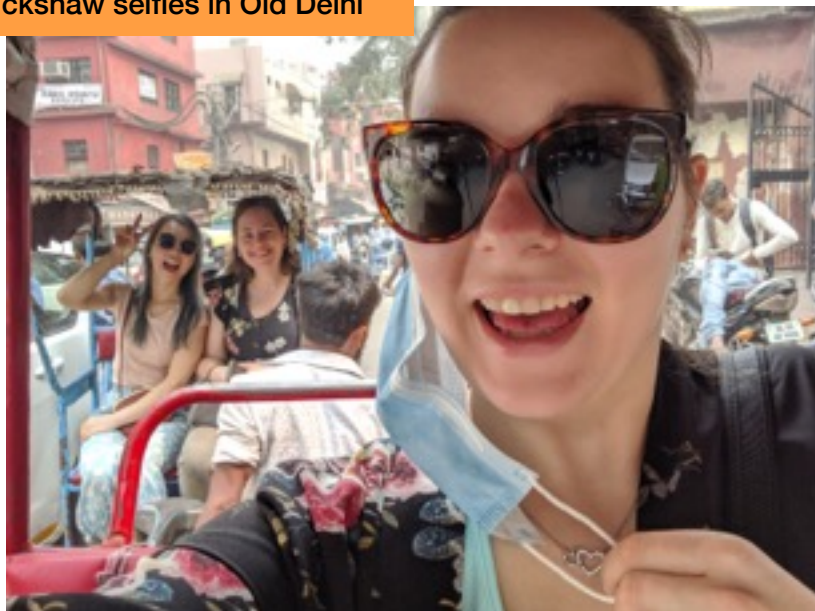
I spent the days following the wedding exploring Hong Kong with my friends, as one by one the others left to continue their adventures. I had such a wonderful time exploring Hong Kong and enjoying all that it had to offer.

Before I knew it, it was time for the next adventure to begin. I met Betsy at the airport early in the morning, and we set off together to Delhi, where we would meet Becca and then embark on our Golden Triangle tour. Though Becca and Betsy had never met before, after a brief airport

Betsy, Becca, & I at Jama Masjid Mosque



Rickshaw selfies in Old Delhi



introduction (much to the confusion of our tour guide) we were on our way to explore India together. We spent a day and a half in Delhi where we toured new Delhi by car, and Old Delhi by rickshaw, both of which were thrilling experiences none of us will soon be forgetting! We visited Mosques and temples, national landmarks, and even had Guinness world record book samosas. From Delhi we travelled to an elephant

sanctuary, where we got to learn about their important work, and visit with some of the rescued elephants. We continued on to Agra, where we toured the impressive Red Fort, and experienced the Taj Mahal. Visiting the Taj Mahal was an experience like I've never had



before. We were all completely awe-struck by the sheer magnificence of this symbol of ever-lasting love.

Our tour continued to the Ranthembhore region, where we visited the national park hoping to see the elusive Bengal tigers, and taking in all of the other wildlife and nature that thrives on the protected lands. As we continued on toward Pushkar, we could tell we were getting close by the increasing number of camels we saw along the road – we arrived in time for the Pushkar festival; yes there really were 10,000 camels! As we continued our journey, the camel sightings along the road gave way to elephant sightings as we neared Jaipur, where we toured the incredible Amer Fort and took in a Bollywood movie at one of the most popular movie theatres in the world. After an incredible, action packed week, our tour was over, and it was time to travel to Pune, where Sangam awaited us!

As soon as we walked through the doors of Sangam, we felt at home. Despite a long day of travelling, we were energized to be at Sangam – a dream for all of us that was now reality! We were so warmly welcomed by the Sangam staff and volunteers, so much so that we were immediately invited to join the bachelorette party they were hosting for one of the staff whose wedding was



Watching the Sunrise after climbing the watertower at Sangam



We were invited to attend a Holy Basil ceremony with a Pune family



upcoming! We joined in for games, food, and dancing, in what was an absolutely perfect beginning to our time at Sangam. Once again, that power of the Sisterhood was apparent, as we felt like family right away.

Our programme at Sangam was 'Saris and Spices', which was the perfect dive into Indian culture for us. We toured the neighbourhood of Pune that Sangam is in, learned how to cook classic Indian dishes with the very talented (and patient) kitchen staff, visited markets, restaurants, shops, and even tried taking the Pune public transit buses. We learned about Pune and India, and about the history of Sangam. We attempted learning Hindi, went sari shopping, mastered travelling by rickshaws, learned traditional stick dancing, and of course some had fun with some Bollywood dancing.

We watched Bollywood movies, made friends with the staff and volunteers, we tried crafts, we swam in the pool, did yoga, and climbed water towers to watch the sunrise. We were very lucky to be invited for supper with Indian families, which was such a special experience as they opened their homes to us. We sang songs, we shared stories, we drank chai (so much chai!), and we even played badminton while wearing our saris (a much harder task than it looked!). We also got to visit some of the community partners that Sangam works with, getting to see first-hand the powerful work that they are doing. We got to visit national monuments, historical sights, religious buildings, and more! As I reflect on it, I'm amazed at all that we saw and did in our 6 days at Sangam; it was such a special experience. I am



Seeing the Taj Mahal was a dream come true



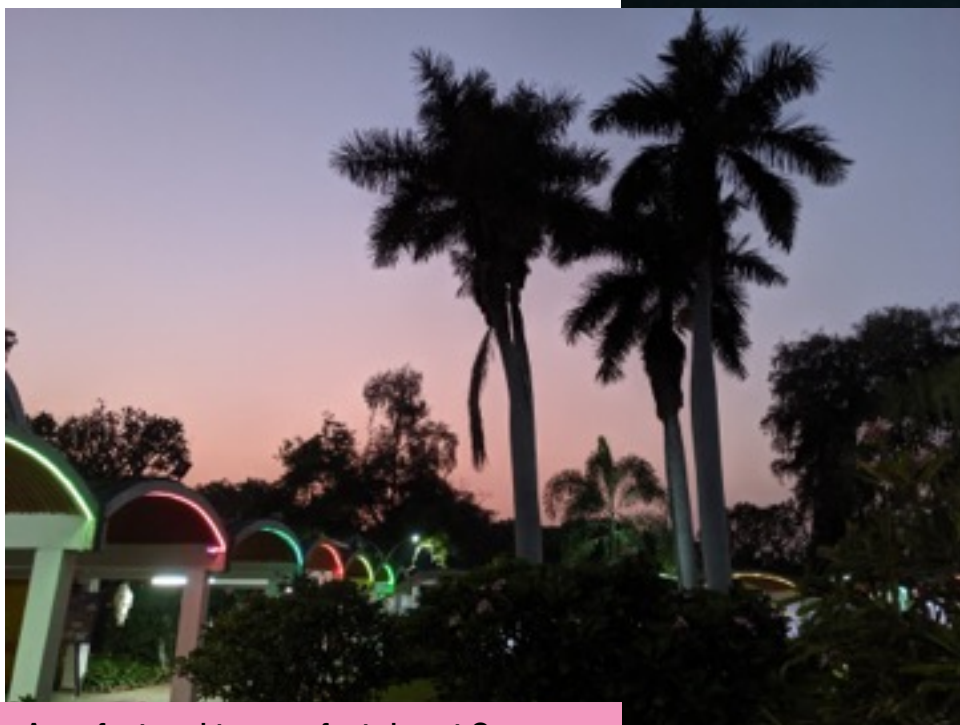
thankful that I was able to make my dream of experiencing Sangam, a reality.

As with any journey, it must come to an end, something that is never easy. Saying goodbye to Sangam, to our new friends, and to my wonderful travel partners Becca and Betsy, was hard. But we all vowed not to say goodbye, but rather to say 'Phir Milenge', Hindu for 'we will meet again', promising one another that there would be a next time, someday, somewhere. And as this trip with its many Guiding reunions proved, next time will happen. I can't wait to see where in the world Guiding takes me next.

I'll never forget my time at Sangam



**Submitted By:**  
**Danita Duguay**  
**SVI International**  
**Advisor & Lamplighter**  
**Editor**



A perfect end to a perfect day at Sangam

# Margaret Lidkea



## B.C. Community Achievement Award

Margaret Lidkea is a member of 1st Victoria Trefoil Guild and has been a Chatham District Guider for many years. She started the program to remove invasive species from Uplands Park when she was a Guider for the 4th Victoria Guides in Chatham District.

Her work with the invasive species removal program has been so significant that she has been nominated for one of the 2019 B.C. Community Achievement Awards.

“It’s humbling to get this award, just like it has been so humbling to have so many volunteers put their time into Uplands and Anderson Hill” Margaret said.



Councilor Hazel Braithwaite wrote a letter nominating Margaret for a B.C. Community Achievement Award. The longtime Oak Bay resident remembers accompanying her daughter in Brownies over to Uplands Park in the 1990s where Margaret, as a Girl Guides leader, led an interactive session about invasive plants in Uplands Park.

It's a battle that continues today said Margaret, president of the Friends of Uplands Park.

"We're still trying to restore the grassy lands that are some of the most diverse in the country, in one of the most unique ecosystems [Garry oak] in the country," she said.

Today she manages Friends of Uplands Park, with a volunteer mailing list of over 550 people.

Margaret is most deserving of this award. She gives generously of her time but more than that, her engaging personality draws people in and inspires them. She has a unique manner when teaching adults and children that shares knowledge and captures enthusiasm. When Margaret teaches she changes people for the better. She is outgoing, fun, positive, inclusive, energetic, has a big laugh, and her personality is bigger than the room she is in.

**Submitted by Jeannie  
Cosgrove  
With Contributions  
by: Brenda Jagdis &  
the Oak Bay News**



# Guiders

# Take

# Training

The SVI Training Team, small but mighty, has been busy since September training Guiders who want to learn things. There have been over 35 Guiders who have taken Safe Guide.

The following people earned their red Training pin by completing Safe Guide AND New Guider Training:



Josephine Roberts- *Woodwyn*; Darlene Tychansky- *Straits*; Chantell Lee- *Woodwyn*; Tami Mruk- *Straits*; Carol Ramsey- *Portage Inlet*;

Jessica Wyatt- *Portage Inlet*; Ruby Routledge- *Lakes*; Sandra Gonzales- *Harbours*; Jessica Tegar- *Woodwyn*; Nicole Hannah- *Woodwyn*; Carolyn Pacheco- *Straits*;

These Guiders took OAL Residential and earned their green Training pin:

Pauline Robertson- *Bay to Bay*; Shona McLaren- *Camas*; Donna Gilberstad- *Bay to Bay*; Laura Stewart- *Camas*; Christiana St-Pierre- *Harbours*; Carol Ramsey- *Portage Inlet*; Jennifer Maclean- *Raven*.



**Congratulations to all Guiders who took the time to take training this year!**



# Annual Gathering of Members - Awards

Congratulations to the following Guiders who were recognized for their special service to Guiding at the Annual Gathering of Members on May 10, 2019.

*Brenda Fraser- Gold Thanks pin*

*Sheilagh Finnigan- Book of Honour*

*Jennifer Ordze- Bronze Merit Award*

*Alissa Kinnis- Bronze Merit Award*

*Jeannette Andrews- Bronze Merit Award*

*Daphne MacGregor-Greer- Spirit of Hilda Leighton Award*

*Sharon Lohr- Gold Merit Award*

*Mary Porterfield- Honorary Life Award*



Sheilagh Finnigan is presented with her page in the Book of Honour



**Mary Porterfield is presented with her Honorary Life Award**

Congratulations to the following members who were present at the AGM and presented with membership pins for 20 or more years in Girl Guides of Canada. Certificates signed by the Provincial Commissioner were also been presented for membership over 25 years.

### **20 Years**

*Nancy Fischer- Area Finance Team*

*Meghan Playle- Area Program Adviser/Straits District*

### **25 Years**

*Erlene Amero- Woodwyn District*

*Kelly Parkin- Lakes District*

### **35 Years**

*Dorothy Scott- Bay to Bay District*

### **50 Years**

*Mary Porterfield- Area Finance Team*



These Guiders have also been presented (or will be early in September) with membership pins and certificates in their districts and trefoil guilds for twenty years and over of membership.

## 20 Years

*Amanda Malthus- Raven District*

*Julie Neill- Straits District*

*Shelby Thornton- Raven District*

## 25 Years

*Anna Dzioba- Chatham District*

*Samantha Harder- Chatham District*

*Valerie Stephen- Raven District*

*Alice Thomas- 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria Trefoil Guild*

## 30 Years

*Carla Charles- Straits District*

*Nancy Pryce- Kingswood Trefoil Guild*

*Darla Simmons- Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild*

## 35 Years

*Louise Callbeck-Chatham District*

*Jeannie Cosgrove- Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild*

*Gillian Lightbody- Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild*

## 40 Years

*Barb Currie- 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria Trefoil Guild*

*Joanne Dohm-Smidt- 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria Trefoil Guild*

*Martha Moore- Purple Shores Trefoil Guild- presented posthumously*

## 45 Years

*Diana Hocking- Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild*

## 50 Years

*Mary Mitchell- Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild*

*Kay Smith- Raven District*

## 55 Years

*Beth Jasper- 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Trefoil Guild*

## 65 Years

*Molly Whan Tong- 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Trefoil Guild*

The following Guiders have also been recognized in their districts and at the Area windup:

*Carol Whitehouse- Commissioner Award*

*Linda Funk- Commissioners Award*

*Kelly Parkin- Commissioner Award*

*Denise Howden- Bronze Merit Award*

*Colene Wood- Bronze Merit Award*

*Kay Smith- Spirit of Hilda Leighton Award*

*Gillian Hurwood- Spirit of Hilda Leighton Award*

*Jill Wark-BC Guider Appreciation Award*

*Kyla Beattie- BC Guider Appreciation Award*

*Katie Duff- BC Guider Appreciation Award*

Many thanks to all Guiders in SVI Area who dedicate countless hours to Guiding helping girls to be everything they can be!

**Submitted by: Daphne MacGregor-Greer**  
**SVI Area Awards Specialist**



Dorothy Scott, Bay to Bay District, receives her 35 year membership pin and certificate



# Rangers Can Sleepover

On 25 January,  
2019 twelve brave  
Rangers set out to  
make new friends

and learn some fun and useful skills. They spent the night at Guide House. The night started with a presentation from 'Chocolate Owl' on the fun you can have with 3D Printers. She taught them about the possibilities of what you can do with a 3D printer as well as brought in her own so that they could see it in action. The girls were fascinated and had many questions. Then, with lots of pizza and snacks to fuel them, they stayed up late playing board games and getting to know other rangers from around SVI.

After a delicious breakfast of more pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage than they could eat, we were off to Camosun College for a day of hands on learning. We toured the Trades classrooms and heard all about the Women in Trades program and some of the options that will be available to them after high school. The girls got to try their hand at a small construction project. In small groups, with the help of a current Camosun student, they each built and took home a Bee Box to hang in their garden.

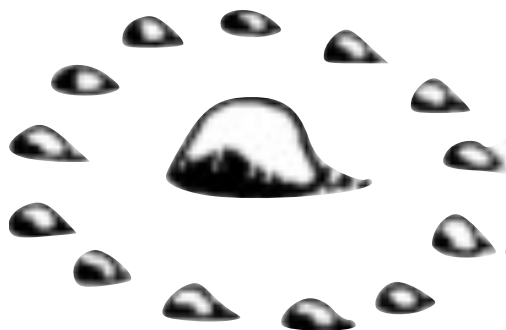
After a quick lunch break we were off to the automotive classrooms. As some of these girls have recently earned a learner's driver licence and many more will be very shortly, it was great timing for them to learn some roadside skills so they can better 'Be Prepared' for anything that comes their way. They got to try their hand at changing a flat tire, jumping a flat battery, checking oil and other important engine fluids and learning how auto electrics work. They also had a chance to look around the shop and ask questions about mechanics and how the program works from the current students who spent their Saturday helping us out. Proving to the girls that even adults still have lots to learn, 'Groovy Owl' took the opportunity to change her first tire.

To finish off the day, 'Chocolate Owl' taught the girls how to wire an LED light strip. They learned what components were necessary to make the light strip work. They had to strip wires, figure out where to connect negative and positive ends and then how to connect it all together in a safe way. Thanks to the assistance of Lee Valley each Ranger was able to try all the aspects of wiring her own light strip.

It was a very fun and successful weekend overall. Each Ranger earned the Girls Can Challenge as well as several components of their Ranger Program. Thank you so much to Dorothy for keeping us all fed and happy, to 'Chocolate Owl' for sharing her knowledge and toys and to 'Groovy Owl' for keeping us all in line.

**Submitted by: Meaghan Playle, SVI Program Advisor**

# Gone Home



## **Hannah Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sooke Guides (May 12, 2019)**

Hannah touched many hearts. She is missed, and remembered.

## **Eleanor Riddell, previously of the Faded Blues Trefoil Guild & 22<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Guides (May 30, 2019)**

Eleanor was a long time member of Girl Guides, having been a part of the Faded Blues Trefoil Guild as well as previously having been Captain of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Guides. She will be remembered for her upbeat personality, her love, and her support.

## **Martha Moore, Purple Shores Trefoil Guild (May 7, 2019)**

Martha was one of the founding members of the Purple Shores Trefoil Guild. She was a pillar in her community for years. She was an important player in the Sooke Fall Fair where she received an award for her countless years of dedication to the community. Her love of baking led her to volunteer baking buns and bread for numerous Sooke functions, from Guiding or church potlucks, to the weekly Meals on Wheels program. Martha was always talking about the positives of the Girl Guide program, be it at the Royal Canadian Legion where she volunteered or in the grocery store as she met someone new to Sooke with a young girl. Martha was more than just a Unit Guider to the girls she worked with. She became a real role model for them, taking them into her home to teach basic life skills of cooking and baking, as well as, providing a safe place for them to gather and talk. Martha helped many a young girl to grow and develop into strong, stable, and healthy young women eager to face the challenges of the future. Martha was always a welcoming soul, open to engage with anyone. As she attended a presentation in her late seventies it was wonderful to see how quickly she found herself surrounded by a group of Guides and Pathfinders, just wanting to spend time with her talking and laughing. Her love of songs and an exceptional devotion to the girls in the Sooke area provided her with many opportunities to give outstanding service during her years in Girl Guides. Martha was full of stories, of both laughter and tears as she walked through life with the girls and guiders in her District. Martha never walked away from a challenge and used both humor and song to get to the



best possible outcome. It is with these outstanding skills that we saw Martha live her life. Be prepared that if you spent any time with Martha she would have you laughing and singing before you even knew it!

In lieu of flowers, Martha requested that people do a kindness for someone – what a perfect way to remember a remarkable woman who has shown so much kindness to others.



***Thank you to everyone for their submissions, we can't do it without you!***

***We rely on your submissions to be able to prepare new editions of the Lamplighter to share with SVI. We are always in need of more submissions - the more the merrier (and the more regularly we can produce new editions). Please encourage anyone you know in SVI who has pictures or stories to share to send them to us at: [svilamplighter@gmail.com](mailto:svilamplighter@gmail.com). If you have an idea for a submission, but don't know where to start - let us know! We are here to help.***