



# Dinosaurs Roar!

by Judi Wijngaarden

**The T-Rex went over the mountain,  
The T-Rex went over the mountain,  
The T-Rex went over the mountain,  
To see what he could see...**

And all that he could see were the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leamington Beavers on their annual fall camp in search of dinosaurs. The camp takes place at Camp Henry Community Camp inside Point Pelee Park, Ontario, and is part of our annual Good Turn service to the park by taking part in their fall beach clean-up.

## Planning

After talking to the youth about their favourite things, dinosaurs were the main choice. Using the JUMP-START program, past issues of *Leader Magazines*, and web sites, plans began to unfold.

The most ambitious task was to prepare dinosaur eggs for part of our "dig" on the beach. Everyone saved their coffee grounds, and each week throughout the summer, another batch was made. (See sidebar.)

Several crafts were found; each had a trial run. By the end of August, plans were in place for the big event. In the first newsletter home, parents were informed of the camp and what was expected.

## Dinosaurs Roam

The leaders arrived at camp Friday evening to prepare the environment. A large freezer box became a prehistoric cave with inflatable dinosaurs roaming outside. A curtain was made from precut dinosaur shapes and hung across the windows. A large sheet of brown paper painted with mountains, lakes and trees became the mural background for the gathering activity.

The Beavers arrived early Saturday morning. Their gathering activity was to colour dinosaur shapes and place them on the mural. Entering the cave, they traced dinosaur cutouts on the walls of the cave, just like prehistoric cave dwelling people!

At 10:30 everyone headed to the beach for our annual clean-up. Armed with latex gloves and garbage bags, we swept the west end of the beach gathering all kinds of garbage that didn't belong. Meanwhile, back at camp, our two activity leaders designed a grid on the beach and buried the dinosaur eggs for the afternoon excursion.

## Dinosaur Eggs

After lunch we had our official opening and invested our new Beavers and Colony Scouter. Then it was off on a hike to look for dinosaurs. Of course, we ended at the beach where the eggs were buried. Each Beaver was assigned a space and instructed on the techniques that archeologists would use. The Beavers excitedly got to work and discovered most of the eggs. They were able to uncover 80 of the 90 eggs we buried. Carrying the eggs back to camp, we opened them by cracking them on the table. The Beavers learned an important lesson about sharing as they traded doubles and tried to collect their favourites. What was amazing was they knew the names of all the dinosaurs!

After snack it was time for crafts – outside. Each Beaver was given a clean meat tray, 500 mL (two cups) of potting soil, and mixture of white

Photos: Judi Wijngaarden

glue and water. They molded the dirt into a ball and then flattened it. Using broken macaroni and other pasta, they each created a dinosaur skeleton. The "fossil" was then given a coat of Mod Podge™ and put in a warm place to dry.

The rest of the afternoon was free time to play outside. Balls, hoops, scoops, etc., purchased by the Beaver Fever Project of Essex/Windsor, can be borrowed by any colony for use as an outdoor activity. (See March 2006 *Leader Magazine*.)

After supper it was story time, while parents handled the kitchen duties. Afterwards, each Beaver was given a glow stick and went for a night hike around the campsite. At a campfire prepared by the activity leaders, the Beavers sat around the fire and sang songs for 40 minutes. Then the youth changed into pyjamas and met at the lodge to watch a movie –

The Land Before Time. As the Beavers tired out, parents took them to their cabins for a restful sleep.

### Visions of Dinosaurs

After breakfast on Sunday, Pastor Larry (of our partner/sponsor) joined us at camp to share Scouts Own. While the Beavers made dinosaur necklaces as charms for a hike later, the parents cleaned out the cabins. Everyone enjoyed one last hike together – to the cemetery with their dinosaur necklaces to protect them from harm. Back at camp, there was time for a quick closing before parents and youth headed home with visions of dinosaurs on their mind.

We'll have to do some great planning to top this camp! X

– *Judi Wijngaarden is a colony Scouter with 2nd Leamington Beavers (ON). She just had to share this great dinosaur theme with other Beaver leaders.*

## Dinosaur Eggs

625 mL (2 ½ cups) flour  
625 mL (2 ½ cups) used coffee grounds  
375 mL (1 ½ cups) salt  
250 mL (1 cup) sand  
Up to 250 mL (1 cup) of water.

Mix the dry ingredients. Gradually stir in the water until the mixture holds together. Make an egg shape around a small toy dinosaur (purchased at the dollar store). Use as little water as possible to speed drying. Let air dry for a week.



I found another one! With 90 eggs to discover, there was lots of excitement.



Ready, Aim, Smash! I see it. I found a triceratops!

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