



# THE BROWNSEA GAZETTE

## The Newsletter of Independent Scouting

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Each November, Poppies blossom on the lapels and collars of over half of Canada's entire population. Since 1921, the Poppy has stood as a symbol of Remembrance, our visual pledge to never forget all those Canadians who have fallen in war and military operations. The Poppy also stands internationally as a "symbol of collective reminiscence", as other countries have also adopted its image to honour those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

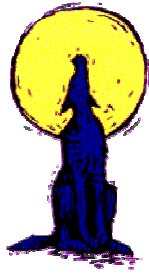
This significance of the Poppy can be traced to international origins. The association of the Poppy to those who had been killed in war has existed since the Napoleonic Wars in the 19th century, over 110 years before being adopted in Canada. There exists a record from that time of how thickly Poppies grew over the graves of soldiers in the area of Flanders, France. This early connection between the Poppy and battlefield deaths described how fields that were barren before the battles exploded with the blood-red flowers after the fighting ended.

Just prior to the First World War, few Poppies grew in Flanders. During the tremendous bombardments of that war, the chalk soils became rich in lime from rubble, allowing poppies to thrive. When the war ended, the lime was quickly absorbed and the Poppy began to disappear again.

The person who was responsible more than any other for the adoption of the Poppy as a symbol of Remembrance in Canada and the Commonwealth was Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian Medical Officer during the First World War.

Please take time this month to remember with your youth members those gallant Canadians who gave their lives so we could freely live in this great country of ours.



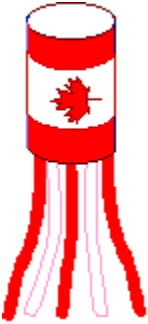


## Craft Corner for the Junior Sections



Cut the bottom off a cylindrical cardboard oatmeal box.

Cover the box with red and white construction paper to look like the background of the Canadian flag. Cut out a small red maple leaf and glue it on the white central part of the windsock.



Cut some red and white crepe paper streamers and glue or staple them to one end of the wind sock.



Punch four holes along the top of the wind sock.



Cut two pieces of string about a foot long. Tie the strings to the wind sock (tie the opposite ends of a string to holes on opposite sides of the cylinder).

Tie a longer piece of string to the smaller pieces - you'll hang the wind sock from this piece of string.

Hang your great Canadian wind sock from your window or porch.



## Otter Tales

### The Snow Birds

It had snowed very hard. Ralph and Edward, who were visiting Grandma in the country, had to stay in the house all day. When they went to bed it was still snowing, and every time they woke up during the night, they could hear the wind sighing and whistling around the house, and through the branches of the old pine trees.

But the next morning the sun was shining brightly. Such a glorious day! How the branches of the pine trees did sparkle.

"It looks as if they had been sprinkled with gold dust and diamonds," exclaimed Ralph.

"Oh Grandma! Please do hurry breakfast. We are going out to build a fort," cried the boys, bursting into the dining-room. Grandma smiled and told them to eat a good breakfast, for building a fort was hard work.

They were soon out in the snow, and what a splendid time they did have. The fort did not grow very fast, for they had to stop so often to snow-ball each other. When Grandma called them in to dinner they wondered where the time had gone since breakfast.

After dinner, Ralph was looking out of the window, when he spied two little birds cuddled up on a branch of a pine tree. "Oh, Edward! come here," he called. "See those poor little birds. They look half frozen and so hungry."

"Poor little things," replied Edward. "Doesn't it make you feel mean to think what a jolly time we had this morning out of the snow which has covered up the places where they get their food?"

"Let us get some food from Grandma and throw it out to them," said Ralph. "Perhaps they will find it." The little birds were soon chirping and flying about merrily and Ralph said it sounded as if they kept saying, "thank you."

Will not other little children be as kind as Ralph and Edward?



## Camp Recipe Corner

This month's recipe comes to us from the dark and dusty archives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Frontenac County Rovers Den.....this month's backpacking gourmets.

### **QUARTERMASTER'S STEW**

(recipe serves 6 to 8)

#### **Ingredients:**

- 2 lbs of hamburger
- 2 cans of mixed vegetables (save liquid)
- 4 large potato's - sliced and diced
- 1 packet of stew seasoning mix
- 1 can of stewed tomatoes
- Sliced fresh mushrooms
- Additional vegetables, such as beans, corns.

Preheat Dutch oven on fire, add small amount of cooking oil, and brown hamburger. Drain off grease.

Stir in stew seasoning mix, add a bit of water, and cook for 5 to 10 minutes.

Add vegetables with liquid. Chop up potatoes into small chunks and add to stew. Add small quantity of water if need to cover contents.

Place oven on bed of charcoal - 8 to 10 briquettes (more in winter) on aluminum foil, shiny side up. Cover with lid and put 2 to 3 times as many coals on top. Cook about 15 minutes.

Add tomatoes and mushrooms. Cook until potatoes are tender and stew is bubbly and hot through- 15 to 20 minutes depending upon heat level.

Stir occasionally.

This recipe is finger lickin' good and gets 5 stars from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Frontenac Rovers QM.





## **The Backpacker's Corner**

Last week I was getting all excited about getting out into the woods during my favorite time of the year, fall. As I began making plans for the coming long weekend (Thanksgiving) in my local Provincial Park, I was reminded that there are potential issues with getting into the woods in the late fall, particularly if you're looking at hilly regions. Here's a couple of things to keep in mind to make sure that you have a good experience:

If you're sleeping outside, make sure that your sleeping bag is going to be warm enough. If your sleeping bag is not rated to be able to deal with cold enough temperatures you can either go get a better bag or you can double them up. Putting on additional clothing might not actually keep you warmer (it might just do the opposite in fact).

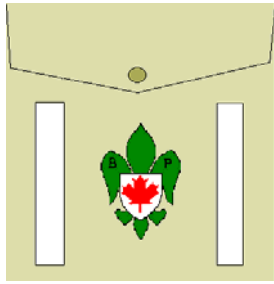
Watch the weather forecasts. Mountains contain very erratic weather and can create some very unexpected situations. The night can go down to 10 degrees. There's nothing like shivering the night away to really kill a fun trip.

Keep an eye out for bears. As fall approaches, they're trying to finish fattening up for the coming winter siesta so they are out eating almost all the time (close to 20 hours a day). Don't sleep with any food in, or near, your tent. In fact don't have any food anywhere near your tent. Make sure you hang your food safely, high in the trees, and about 100 metres from the campsite well before nightfall comes.

Finally - stay dry. As the temperature dips to highs in the single digits you have to treat your getting wet to be a very big problem. If you can help it, don't wear cotton at all, and certainly never wear jeans. Cotton retains water and if it's right on your skin you could run into problems as the sun goes down.

These are just a few things to keep in mind if you're heading into the woods as the weather cools. Planning ahead can help keep a fun time fun and safe.

Remember, Be Prepared for anything.



## Patrol Leaders Corner

### **Patrol Spirit**

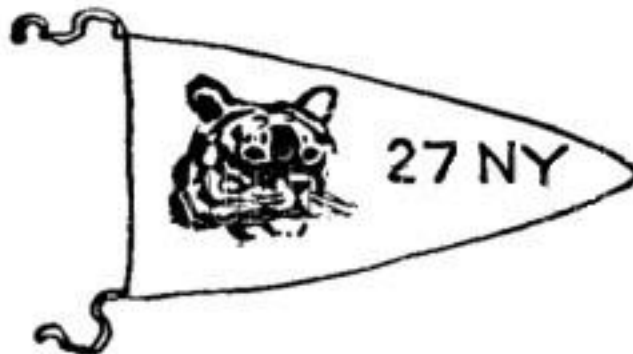
Patrol spirit is the glue that holds the Patrol together and keeps it going. Building Patrol spirit takes time, because it is shaped by a Patrol's experiences—good and bad. Often misadventures such as enduring a thunderstorm or getting lost in the woods will contribute much in pulling a Patrol together. Many other elements also will help build Patrol spirit. Creating a patrol identity and traditions will help build each Patrol member's sense of belonging.

Every Patrol needs a good name. The Patrol chooses its name from an animal. A Patrol might choose an animal for its outstanding quality. For example, sharks are strong swimmers and buffaloes love to roam. Polar Bears love to sleep out in cold, and

A Patrol flag is the Patrol's trademark, and it should be a good one. Have a competition to see who comes up with the best design and who the best artist is. Make the flag out of a heavy canvas and use permanent markers to decorate it. In addition to the Patrol name, the Patrol flag should have the Troop number on it as well. Mount the flag on a Staff, which also can be decorated. Remember, the Patrol flag should go wherever the Patrol goes.

Every Patrol has a Patrol yell, which should be short and snappy. Choose words that fit the Patrol's goals. Use the yell to announce to other patrols that your Patrol is ready to eat or has won a Patrol competition.

Other Patrol traditions include printing the Patrol logo on the Patrol box and other Patrol property. Painting the Patrol Box in your Patrol colours. Many Troops designate Patrol corners somewhere in the Troop meeting room; Patrols may decorate their corner in their own special way. Some Patrols like to specialize in doing something extremely well, such as cooking peach cobbler or Quartermaster Stew.





## The Patrol System

This is the first instalment of five articles from the booklet entitled “*Working the Patrol System*”. Written by E.E. Reynolds for the UK Scout Association, it describes how the Patrol System should be used, and why. Highly recommended for all Troop Scoutmasters to read and use.

B.-P. said

*“The dividing of the boys into permanent Patrols of from six to eight and treating them as separate units each under its own responsible Leader is the key to success with a Troop.*

*Through emulation and competition between Patrols you produce a Patrol spirit which is eminently satisfactory, since it raises the tone among the boys and develops a higher standard of efficiency all round.*

*The Patrol System is the one essential feature in which our training differs from that of all other organizations, and where the System is properly applied it is absolutely bound to bring success. It cannot help itself!*

*The Patrol is the unit of Scouting whether for work or for play, for discipline or for duty. An invaluable step in character-training is to put responsibility on to the individual. This is immediately gained in appointing a Patrol Leader to responsible command of his Patrol. It is up to him to take hold of and to develop the qualities of each boy in his Patrol. It sounds a big order but in practice it works. With proper emulation established between the different Patrols, a Patrol esprit de corps is developed and each boy in that Patrol realizes that he is in himself a responsible unit and that the honour of his group depends in some degree on his own efficiency in playing the game.*

*Expect a great deal of your Patrol Leaders and nine times out of ten they will play up to your expectation; but if you are going always to nurse them and not to trust them to do things well, you will never get them to do anything on their own initiative.”*

“Scouting for Boys”

### **WORKING THE PATROL SYSTEM**

#### **I. THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE PATROL SYSTEM**

The Patrol System is the distinguishing mark of the Scout method of training. It is not something added for decorative purposes like the twiddly bits on a wedding cake, nor something called in for use in an emergency, like the Fire Brigade; it is *the* Scout way of doing things. If a Troop is not run on the Patrol System, it is not a Scout Troop — it may be excellent in many other respects; it may be bursting with First Class Scouts, and a pattern for camping and pioneering, yet, without the Patrol System as the motive power, it is not a Scout Troop.

This may seem a surprising statement, but experience shows that no other single aspect of Scouting is so difficult to understand, or to apply in practice. This can be explained by the fact that it is not the obvious way of doing things. When we first think of training a number of boys we naturally assume that the traditional methods — mass instruction by lecture, practice by numbers, and so on — are the best. Even after more than a generation of Scouting, this customary method has such a hold that we are apt to use it without realizing that we are casting aside the unique means of character development which Scouting provides.

First and last Scouting is a method of training character. But what kind of character? What qualities do we want to develop? How is it done?

B.-P.'s conception of character was based on his profound belief in the importance of the individual as a unique personality; he therefore put self-reliance and self-discipline high on his list of desirable qualities. This independence he combined with the ideals of personal honour and of selflessness. All these he regarded as the essentials of good citizenship. On the negative side he was opposed to mass methods of training as these, he felt, stifled initiative and the development of individual ability.

He was faced with this question of individual training quite early in his army career when he took to scouting as his special sphere as a duck takes to water. In training young soldiers (at that period mostly illiterate and raw) he had to evolve new methods; the standard barrack-square drill of the time discouraged individuality and more was thought of spit and polish and precision in mass movement than of the qualities of character being developed. By a process of trial and error, B.-P. found he could get what he wanted by using small units, each of six men, with an N.C.O. in charge with full responsibility for training that Patrol. Efficiency and keenness were raised by one Patrol competing with another. When B.-P. took over the command of the 5th Dragoon Guards in India in 1897, he had an opportunity of trying out this Patrol Method on a larger scale; he trained a body of Regimental Scouts — an innovation in itself — and further developed his Patrol method by introducing a Badge scheme to encourage the individual to make himself efficient. One result of this experience was his book *Aids to Scouting*. Here will be found many of the ideas he later adapted to the training of boys, including such games between Patrols as Spider and Fly, and Lamp or Flag Stealing.

Years afterwards he summed up his army experiments in the following words:

“1. The giving of *responsibility* to the N.C.O.s (down to the Lance-Corporals).”

“2. Making the training *enjoyable* to the men.”

“3. Keeping the men in permanent *small units*, and these units in competition with one another, whether in the field or in barracks, roused their keenness and raised the level of efficiency all round.”

The key words here are RESPONSIBILITY, ENJOYABLE, and SMALL UNITS, and these were later to be the key ideas of the Boy Scout method of training through the Patrol System.

This brief sketch of the origin of this method brings out an important fact; the Patrol System was applied to boy training because it had already proved its value in practical experience. It was not a theory evolved from a Professor's brain as he sat in his study contemplating the problems of training men or boys from a safe distance. It was a method developed in the field by a very practical man with some of the toughest material possible — the young soldier in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.



When B. -P. came to extend his ideas to the training of boys, he did not realize the difficulty Scoutmasters would have in grasping the possibilities of the Patrol System; to him it seemed so natural after using it for many years.

In *Scouting for Boys*, the system is described in the following words:

“Each Troop is divided into Patrols of six to eight boys, and *the main object of the Patrol System is to give real responsibility to as many boys as possible with a view to developing their characters*. If the Scoutmaster gives his Patrol Leader real power, expects a great deal from him and leaves him a free hand in carrying out his work, he will have done more for that boy’s character expansion than any amount of school training could ever do.”

But in spite of further notes and suggestions, few realized that here was the key to success. The grouping of the boys in Patrols was of course done, but some Scoutmasters were content to leave it at that. So in May 1914 B.-P. wrote in THE SCOUTER:

“Many Scoutmasters and others did not, at first, recognize the extraordinary value which they could get out of the Patrol System if they liked to use it, but I think that most of them seem to be realizing this more and more. The Patrol System, after all, is merely putting your boys into permanent gangs under the leadership of one of their own number, which is their natural organization whether bent on mischief or for amusement. But to get first-class results from this System you have to give the Leader a real free-handed responsibility — if you only give partial responsibility you will only get partial results. *The main object is not so much saving the Scoutmaster trouble as to give responsibility to the boy, since this is the very best of all means for developing character*. It is generally the boy with the most character who rises to be the leader of a mischief gang. If you apply this natural scheme to your own needs it brings the best results.

It is the business of the Scoutmaster to give the aim, and the several Patrols in a Troop vie with each other in attaining it, and thus the standard of keenness and work is raised all round.”

Even to-day, Scoutmasters sometimes fail to make full use of the Patrol System. Various reasons may be suggested for this failure; some men do not like parting with authority — they want to be the only BIG NOISE; others doubt if boys are really capable of using responsibility; some have not thought out the implications of the idea; some may have made half-hearted experiments, and then timidly drawn back; it may be that a few are, by personality, not suited to this way of training and would be happier in work which does not involve using the Patrol System. For let it be again emphasized; SCOUTING is not SCOUTING without the PATROL SYSTEM.

In the chapters which follow an attempt will be made to show how this method can be put into practice in the Troop. It is not applicable to Wolf Cubs — to quote from *The Wolf Cub’s Handbook*, “A Sixer is *not* a ‘Junior Patrol Leader’ and should not be looked upon as capable of taking charge of, or of training, his Six.” Nor is the method vital to the running of a Rover Crew where the natural unit is “the gang for the specific job.”

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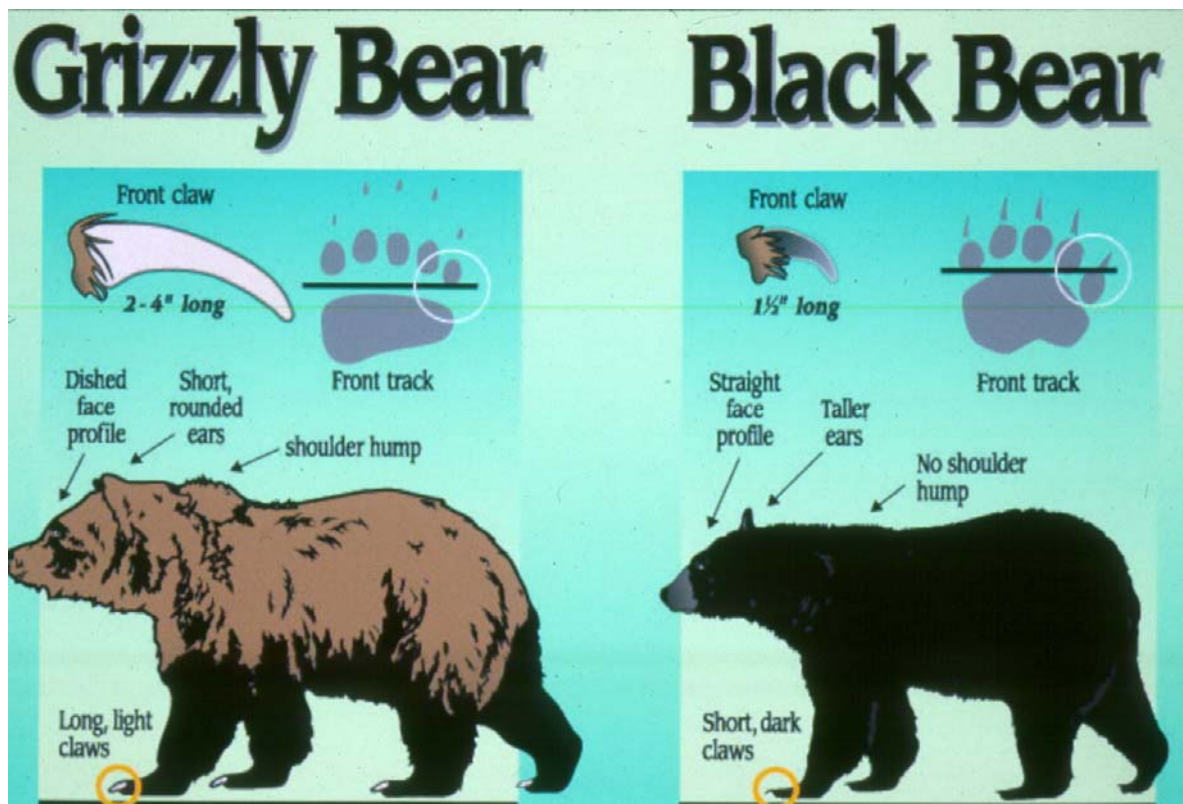
## Scouters Five

### Learn Some New Tricks

There was a small bear that lived in the woods with his mother. His mother had taught him to find food: grubs in logs, berries on the bushes, salmon in the stream etc... One day a traveling circus was camped near the woods and they trapped the small bear and took him away in a cage. Now the trainer was a very good person. He taught the bear many interesting tricks. Every time bear properly performed the tricks he was rewarded with treats. The little bear loved the children that came to see him. He learned to love his new life. One day the trainer accidentally left the cage door unlocked and the little bear wandered off. The little bear lay down and slept for the night.

When he awoke the circus was gone. He discovered that he was right back in the woods where he was born and he was hungry. So he stood on his head and waited for food, but nothing came. He tried rolling over, but still nothing. He tried all the tricks he had learned but nothing. The other animals of the forest watched all this with quite some amusement. Finally a squirrel asked him what he was doing. The little bear told the squirrel that he was hungry and was doing tricks for food.

The moral of this story is that while growing up we all learn stupid tricks that don't serve us in our current situation. We need to recognize them and let go of them.



Submissions for the next edition should be sent to:  
[BPSA.01@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BPSA.01@GMAIL.COM)

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**YOUR** submissions and articles.

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TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAMPS OR HIKES.....WE WANT TO READ  
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