

# ROVER VENTURER MAGAZINE

OCT~NOV 2017



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It starts with Scouts.

## **Adventures in Home Hospitality**

After enjoying my Home Hospitality experience in Finland last year, I decided that if I ever had a chance to give back I would. I heard that there would be about 12 Ventures (Explorers) visiting from the UK this summer and volunteered to host them. Being a very impulsive person (and not really that organized), of course I said “No Problem!”

### **What would your parents say?**

When you told them that you had invited a dozen Scouts from another country to stay at your house? Good news, my Scouter parents did not hesitate! They said to go ahead and do everything possible to help make this part of their trip memorable.

I met with my Group Committee and Hans Uhr, a local Scouter who belongs to Area, Council, and National. Group Committee wanted to know how it would be funded, so I would have to come up with a budget. Both were willing to help me with advice, but asked that I be Camp Chief of this project, and do a report afterwards.

### **Surprise!**

...Due to communication issues, we were thought the number of participants had risen to 18 at the end of May 28! Fortunately, Parents still okay.

### **Shock!**

July 28 it was confirmed that we would have 28 youth (13 males, 15 females ages 15-17 and 5 leaders) from Watlington Group, Maidenstone, Kent for a total of 33. Middle of July I found out that they would be arriving in Canada on and going right up to the Haliburton Scout Reserve, and then wanted to find a place to stay in this area on their way to Niagara falls, as they knew people in Holland Landing.

With only 2 weeks left, there was a lot to do. Finding them tents (and enough room to set them up), arrange food for an evening BBQ and breakfast the next morning, and run a Campfire and social activities. To complicate things, Simon (the UK Scouter contact) said that they really wanted hot showers after their time at Haliburton, and there was no way I could have 33 people showering at our house.

### **Forms! Lists! Plans!**

With haste

- contact GTC to see if any other forms or rules applied to this situation
- measure our back yard (for estimated 16 tents to see if they fit-yes, but no room for socializing)
- find out who was in charge of the recreation complex near our house, and write a request to him and the facility supervisor if we could use the showers and how much it would cost to use (they agreed they would leave the facility open, and they would support Scouting by making it no charge if the visitors brought their own soap);
- contact the by-law department to make sure it was okay to have that many in my backyard (yes, but quiet hours are 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. and said we should let the neighbours know);
- make up a notice for the neighbours (and pray that the grumpy one would not protest) and deliver it in time for them to have a say if it was going to bother them.

My parents also told me I had to have a list of rules for the Explorers to use the property and house and they had to approve it. My Advisors asked me to do a planning time table and then meet with them to go over it. I then made up a menu/consumables budget and gave it to Group Committee for approval;

sent an invitation out Ventures in Shining Waters Council and to Groups I knew in Whitby and Toronto to come to a pot-luck BBQ and to RSVP; made up a list of house rules; arranged to borrow tents and a 3 burner stove from another group; made a list of items to get from our Group's storage locker, made up a shopping list (checked with Simon for allergies and vegetarians) then and shopped over the 4 days in advance of their arrival.

From those coming from other groups I recruited people to make tossed salad, and punch, and extra desserts. I still had to make up a menu to post; sign-up sheet for the UK Vents to sign up for jobs (kitchen help/washing pots, dishwashing station maintenance, handwashing station maintenance, washroom maintenance, shucking corn, keeping juice/water jugs full , and "raccoon sweep".

### The Grunt

Once I had 20 borrowed tents, I had to set them up 4 days before so I could choose the best 16 and make repairs to those that needed it (these tents had just been donated to a local Group - who donates a tent that is **stapled** together?). I started this on the Tues. before and left them set up to see which leaked in the rain. All the inside floors of the tents needed washing as well. My neighbour told me I could also use his yard once he saw that I had no room left, so with Hans and my parents we moved half the tents into that yard on Friday night.

I got firewood and a fire bowl set up, cut the wood up, arranged to borrow lawn chairs, got Scouter Terri to bring giant Jenga and Giant Kerplunk from 5<sup>th</sup> Aurora, checked to see if we could book the soccer field behind our house for games, made up signs for the bathrooms, and updated/filled out the Outdoor Activity and Emergency plan before submitted. From the RSVP's I estimated 70 people in total would be needing food for the BBQ

### The Galley Slave

I started the cooking on Tues making from scratch 80 hamburgers, 16 veggie burgers, 10 lb of potato salad, 8 lb of curry rice salad and 140 butter tarts. Oh! I wish I had started earlier.



### The Finish Line!



The UK folk were late leaving Haliburton and would not be stopping lunch. They said not to worry, but how can you really welcome people who have empty stomachs! As my Mom said. Tired, dirty, and hungry teens makes for disaster. A quick family council and we re-arranged the menu and timing and my Dad did a quick shop. The bus took us over to the rec. complex, and an hour later, we walked back to find their snack all laid out. It felt good to welcome them with Bay Bread and a cream cheese (a whole meal in itself I had made up for an upcoming canoe trip), watermelon, fruit, cheese and crackers, granola, and then junk food and juice. Everyone was really nice. I had set up 3 linked shelters in case it rained (which it did) and my Dad found me a huge tarp to put out for everyone to sit on. We had a "Find The Loonie" competition using Our Canada/More Our Canada magazines that everyone liked, and used the magazine to learn more about Canada, looked at maps of Canada and calculated flying times to places in Canada vs. flying from here to London, and played Giant Jenga and Kerplunk. The rain stopped and we were able to take the shelters down for the BBQ. Final count was 78 plus us for the BBQ and campfire and everyone had a good time. I was released from duty to go out and get to know our visitors. We played Frisbee, basketball, tossed around a football, and had campfire games. I put out a computer for the UK youth to make up and print thank you cards to the neighbours, town and donors, and everyone signed them, as well as a charging station. All the exhausted youth were either in bed or at least quiet by 11 p.m.

### **The Finale**

I was up at 6 a.m. the next morning to organize for breakfast, and set up the lunch making station with the left overs. Everyone went away with lunch and snacks for the day. Our Awesome guests left us with nothing but tent prints and great memories. We had a closing ceremony before they all left at 11:30 a.m. for Niagara Falls (only 1 hour late), we were presented with group with shirt, neckers and badges.

Still lots of work to do, but the most important thing was thanking the people who helped make this happen. The experience we gave Waterringbury would not have happened without the hard work of Scouters Cheryl, David and Hans.

### **The payoff**

They came as strangers and left as friends. Everyone was thrilled with this group. They were all polite, clean/tidy and helpful. My family and Scouters have 33 invitations to visit England, and personal guides to Brownsea and the 5 major Scouting historical sites in England, as well as an invite to complete my Adventurous Journey (for Duke of Ed. Gold) with a 4 day/night hike. Best of all was the feeling I got from all of their thanks. They believe that Canadians are the friendliest people in the world!

Sandy Atkins  
3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora Venturer Scouts

# Photo Journal – World Scout Moot 2017



View of Scout Centre from Top of Climber Tower



Brittany, Jack and Emily at Volunteers and Leadership Frame



Inge, Emily, Brittany and Jack at Hafnarjordur Campfire



Hiking at World Scout Moot

Photos provided by:  
Brittany Ives



### **Soper River Canoe Trip on Baffin Island, Nunavut**

Canada's Arctic is a special and often unfamiliar place to most Canadians. Look at a map and see just how vast the land north of our southern provinces really is. North of 60 has always attracted me and I have canoe tripped, solo backpacked, dog sledded and camped in the wilderness of the 3 Canadian territories for several years. It's in my blood.



I flew to Ottawa this past August with First Air and then on to Iqaluit where I stayed in a local B&B overlooking Frobisher Bay for several days. I walked the unnamed and unpaved city streets and tried to feel the rhythms of southern Baffin Island and this new capital city of the Nunavut Territory. I enjoyed hiking on the Trans Canada Trail in the Sylvia Grinnell Park in the beautiful, heavily glaciated rolling land, just outside of the city. Another wonderful hike was the Apex Trail- a traditional Inuit path along the Frobisher Bay connecting their community with Frobisher Bay as it was called when the US air base was created there in the '60's. The highest tides in the bay, called "king tides" can be an amazing 12m. On Day

1 of the trip, the trip participants of the Black Feather Wilderness Expeditions company flew into to a flat but rough, gravel section in the mountains by the river. The canoe trip was 7 days long in SOAR canoes.



These inflatable canoes are less expensive to transport by small plane and although they wallow about in the river, they handle rocks in the white water and ledges nicely.



Paddling this ancient Inuit travel route, hiking in the barren scoured-rock mountains with tangled, Arctic willow and birch, finding sun-bleached caribou antlers, jaw bones with teeth intact and thigh bones was a real treat. The land is ancient with evidence of tent rings from past peoples of the north. Warnings on our InReach emergency satellite communicator from the park warden about the presence of a polar bear which was moving up the valley towards us kept us ever alert.





Night-time vigilance was a must and we were relieved to find 2 electrical fence, polar bear-proof compounds situated well up from the river where we slept in the constant and powerful valley winds. It certainly made the daytime August temperature of 10C feel colder.

One night, without a compound, we took 2-hour shifts and did a bear watch with the shotgun we carried. Fortunately we did not have a polar bear encounter. These mammals are at the apex of the food chain and humans would make for a tasty dinner. Spending part of our last day in the Inuit village of Kimmirut gave us the opportunity to explore the contemporary side of First Nation's life in southern Baffin and watch small children playing on their bikes on the unpaved roads while we swatted the hordes of mosquitoes. The beauty of the sheltered harbour was amazing and reminded me of Newfoundland. Some of us bought stone carvings created in the town.



Flying back in a small plane and surveying the land and waterway we had just travelled helped put our Artic experience in perspective and made me want to return to Canada's north once again.

Lewis Williams  
National Program Advisor/Outdoor  
Whitby Area DAC Senior Sections  
9<sup>th</sup> Whitby Venturer Scout Advisor

# Photo Journal



21<sup>st</sup> Oshawa Venturer Scout Company on a 5 Day Canoe Trip in the Haliburton, Ontario

Photo Submitted by  
Lewis Williams



## Alders Challenge 2017

Rain or Shine the Alders Challenge has taken Scouts and Venturer Scouts out on the Brue Trial for over 30 years! This year the hike centred on the area around Balls Falls, near Beamsville, Ontario. Over 100 Scouts and Venturer Scouts hiked the 25 km route in the Scout and Venturer Scout categories, and this year the 1<sup>st</sup> Binsbrook Venturer Scouts Company took home the Coveted Golden Backpack.

Thanks to Stephen and Carl and their Team for putting on another excellent Hike. We will definitely be back again next year!



J. Kirby McCuaig  
6<sup>th</sup> Willowdale Venturer Scouts

# Out & About

Number 47

## Humber Valley Heritage Trail



In conversations with both members and advisors, when I've asked "where would you recommend to hike or backpack", overwhelmingly, the same answer has come up, the **Bruce Trail**. I've been just as guilty as the focus of my last **Out & About** column was one it as well. The object of this column and the magazine is to present as many opportunities and choices to the Rover/Venturer Community as possible. I will endeavour to widen my coverage of trails in the future.

A trail I had known about, but hadn't hiked was the **Humber Valley Heritage Trail**. In fact I had walked right by it on past hikes with the Toronto chapter of the Bruce Trail when hiking along the Caledon Rail Trail. An opportunity came to explore the HWHT, when **Tessa Shelvey (photo above)**, a hike leader for the BTC asked me if I would like to hike the trail. She wanted to hike the trail, and check its current condition for a potential future addition to the BTC hike schedule. She had concerns about sections of the trail being closed for maintenance and whether these sections were now open.

The HWHT runs from Bolton to Palgrave, Ontario, a distance of kilometres of approximately 25 kilometres, northwest of Toronto. It is now part of an ever growing and connected system of trails including: the Bruce Trail, Oak Ridge Trail, Caledon Rail Trail, and Guelph Radial Trail that are now interconnected.

To my surprise, in some sections the grass was over 6 feet tall. I know we had a lot of rain this year in southern Ontario, but I've never experienced grass this tall on a hiking trail.



The membership of the HWHT is considerably smaller than many other trail organizations such as the BTC or even ORTA. The smaller trail associations in your area need volunteers to help maintain and improve their trails, consider volunteering. Our Venturer Scouts and Rovers Scouts have contributed to the Bruce Trail by partnering with them in their Bluebird and Wood Duck nesting boxes programs.

Partnering with other organizations in your service projects may give you more “Bang for your Buck”, allowing you to be a pilotable part of a larger project than your group could run yourself. Partnering with a small Trail Association may put your group on the ground floor of the next service project.

The HWHT is in transition over the next few years, from being a hiking trail only to becoming a multi-use trail. Expect sections to be closed. Ensure your next hike is a success by checking for closures ahead of time.

**“Keep the Shiny Side of the Canoe Down”**

**John Kirby McCuaig  
6<sup>th</sup> Willowdale Venturer/Rover Scouts**

## THE FIVE-PIECE CAMP AROUND NOVA SCOTIA AWARD



### Purpose:

To encourage the exploration of NS, as well as the better utilization of our Scout Camps. Though it is not a requirement to camp on a Scouts Canada property, the NS Council has a number of really great camps!

### Requirements For Each Piece:

- Camp for at least one night within the area with your section or group (Camps before Feb 1, 2017 don't count);
- Take a picture of participants earning the crest, with a landmark of the sight, i.e. a sign, lodge, lake or cabin;
- Send this photo into the Maritime Service Centre along with the quantity of crests you'd like. It's important to note that multiple sections of the crest cannot be ordered at one time.

### Scouting Properties Within Each Piece:

#### Southern Camper:

Mush-a-Mush, Pierce Park [Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg]

#### Valley Camper:

Connell Lake, Lower Lake 60/Camp Hiawatha, Sunken Lake [Annapolis, Kings, West Hants]

#### Central Camper:

Scout Island, Harold T. Barrett, Camp Lone Cloud, Camp Harris, Camp Nedooae, Malagash, Camp Impeeza [East Hants, HRM, Colchester, Cumberland]

#### Northern Camper:

Camp Rodrick [Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough]

#### Cape Breton Camper:

Camp Carter [All of Cape Breton Island]

### Cost & Size:

Each section of the crest will be sold for \$2.50 from the Maritime Service Centre and will be a whopping 12" by 4" in size.

For more information visit: <http://nsc.scouts.ca/youth-awards>



# CANADIAN WJ'19 CONTINGENT CANADIEN



Bechtel Summit Scout Reserve

West Virginia, USA

July 22 – August 2, 2019

[www.facebook.com/wj2019Canada](http://www.facebook.com/wj2019Canada)

# BSSR – Rube Goldberg Machine Contest



**Attention Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts**

**Blue Springs Scout Reserve is Sponsoring a Rube Goldberg Machine Contest as a S.T.E.M. event**

Register: Send \$20 (per team) to David Wiebe 360 Torrance Street, Apt 610, Burlington, ON, L7R 2R9 by November 1st 2017 and then send a video of your machine in action to [wiebedavid66@gmail.com](mailto:wiebedavid66@gmail.com) by midnight 12/31/2017 Eastern Time (all submissions will receive a confirmation email)

Bonus Points if your machine includes

1. Tennis Ball
2. Cheese Grater
3. Milk Jug
4. Candle (UNLIT IS OK)
5. Picture Frame
6. Pipe Wrench

Super extra bonus points if your machine includes an accordion

The video/machine must be at least 2 minutes long and must end with a flag raise.

Find inspiration anywhere but all video must be 100% created by contestant team.

Judging will take place in January of 2018 and prizes will be awarded by January 31st 2018

If you have any questions feel free to email [wiebedavid66@gmail.com](mailto:wiebedavid66@gmail.com)





# Zoo Moot Saga

## Episode 9: O.W.L



**November 10-12, 2017**  
**Open to Rovers, Venturers, TREN and Rangers**

Facebook Group [Zoo Moot](#), join now  
Facebook event [Zoo Moot Saga 8: WEEVIL](#)

**What:** Theme is **The Law**

**When:** November 10-12, 2017

**Where:** Kitchie Lodge & Lakeland Camping Area - Balsam, Scouts Canada Camp Samac, 275 Conlin Road East, Oshawa, Ontario.

**Why:** You will be dazzled by the prizes at closing, accumulated by participation in a wide range of theme activities and scavenger hunt. The pot luck Saturday dinner and following musical social at Council Hall are not to be missed for any better reason!

**How Much:** Pre-Register for \$25.00 and pay a deposit online, or after Nov 4<sup>th</sup> for \$25 at the gate. Dance only (no camping or dinner), \$8 at the door.

**\*NEW\* Indoor bunks:** reserve now \$10.00 per person, space limited. (Kitchie Lodge, heated cabin for 60 people.)

**Saturday Lamb BBQ and Pot Luck Dinner:** prepare your favourite or most successful dinner dish to add to the feast at Council Hall. (Why lamb? Because the first Zoo Moot theme animal was Ewe. Why let it go to waste?) Pies, pies and more pies!

## Contact:

John Wettstone, Camp Chief: [John.Wettstone@gmail.com](mailto:John.Wettstone@gmail.com)