

Her oldest son completed Scouting while her two other sons have been with her Cub pack at different times and are currently enrolled as Scouts in 5th Belleville. Her husband, Scott, helped out with her Cub pack four years ago and is currently Scout troop leader for 5th Belleville.

"Scouting does take up a lot of our family time because we're all in it. We don't have a lot of spare time because there's always something on your plate to do," she said.

Born in Belleville, Berry studied for a career in the outdoors. After graduating from Quinte Secondary School, she enrolled in the two-year fish and wildlife technician program at Sir Sandford Fleming's college campus in Lindsay.

"My grandmother always said to do what you really want to do and these were the things I always wanted to know about," Berry said of her chosen field of studies.

She graduated in 1975 and spent a year doing "seasonal work" with the Moira River Conservation Authority. She decided to look for more permanent work and spent several months at Belleville General Hospital. She got married in 1978 and shortly thereafter joined the accounting department at Bata Engineering. She was employed for four years until decided to stay home after the birth of her first son. She also stayed home with her two other sons.

When they were old enough, Berry started volunteering at their school, Prince of Wales, filling such roles as parent-teacher association president, library assistant and breakfast club helper.

Last year, she also started supply teaching and filling in as an educational assistant for the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board.

Berry joined the ranks of Scouting in 1992 "because they needed the additional help in the Cub pack." Her son was one of 27 boys in the pack at the time.

She spent five years as assistant Cub leader and moved up to Cub leader, or Akela, two years ago. She's now responsible for 16 youngsters ages eight to 10.

Berry acknowledged it was difficult for her sons to 'share' their mother with the other members of the Cub pack during regular weekly meetings and outings.

"It's something they have to learn that in Scouting you're not just their parent, but everyone's parent."

Still, Berry wouldn't have traded the past seven years in Scouting for anything in the world.

"I like the camping. I like the kids. I like to see them discover things. And I like watching them grow up as individuals.

"It's been really rewarding for me and it's also a lot of fun," said Berry.

Intelligencer, June 25/100-199