

SBV3-4



Last Wednesday evening 13 Brownies, Sparks and Guides joined family and friends for their annual Fly-Up ceremony in the Chesley park. Seated in the back row (from left): Guide Krista Gardhouse, new Guide Raquel Martin, new Brownie Heather Ashby, new Guides Lacey Klages, Michelle Walker and Becky Reid. Standing is Commissioner Pat Manke. Seated in front (left) are April Lewis and new Brownies Tony Klages, Sarah Boucher, Jenny Lewis, Terri Lynn Fischer and Ashley Strucke.

(Photo by Sherry Elder)



Thursday evening was a special one for members of the Beavers and Cubs in Desboro and Chesley. Some of the Beavers moved up to become Cubs and some of the Cubs moved up to become Scouts when meetings resume in the fall. Gathered with their leaders following an evening of fun, food and games are (front row - left to right) Jamie Reid, Jason Fischer, Kyle MacDougall, Cody Cameron and Scott MacDougall. In the middle row are Travis Wagner, Trevor Golem, Adam Gillis, Matthew Fischer, Matt Guild, Brady Leifso and Jon McCready. In the back are leaders Debra Holness, Jim Wallace, Bob Walpole, Ralph Thompson, Pat Gillis and Henry Paliga.

One question that a Big Sisters' Case Manager gets asked a lot is "What is the typical Little Sister like?" I never know how to answer this question because there is no typical Little Sister. Their backgrounds, personalities, and challenges are as varied as the types of women who become Big Sisters. There seems to be a widespread misconception that in order to be a Little Sister the girl must come from a broken home or live in a low income bracket. This is a myth. In fact, many of the girls live in two-parent families and may appear to lack for nothing.

The Big Sister program is designed

to have a mature, responsible woman devote 3-4 hours per week to a girl who could benefit from this type of exclusive friendship. The reasons for a girl needing the special friendship could be many. It may be that she is from a large family and doesn't get a lot of exclusive attention from her parents because they both work and are trying to make ends meet. It may be that she is extremely shy and needs someone to slowly and lovingly bring her out of her shell and get her involved with new people and activities. It may be that she is from a broken home and needs someone to talk to about her life and feelings. It is up

to the Case Manager to assess the girl's needs and decide whether the Big Sisters program could benefit her or not. Anyone who is accepted does have a specific need, be it intrinsic or extrinsic and derives many benefits from having a Big Sister. It is not just a 'club' that anyone can join.

If you are interested in learning more about how the Big Sisters program is run or have specific questions you would like answered, please feel free to contact me, Pam Leudke. I can be reached at the office on Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. at 363-2282 or at home at 363-3282.

# Big Sisters welcomes questions about program it offers