

SPRINGFORD MOUNTED BOY SCOUTS

1st Springford Mounted Boy Scouts Troop



SPRINGFORD, ONTARIO

AL. BLACKMORE, Chairman—Burgessville 329-R-5
L. POWERS, Secretary—VI 2-2839

SCOTTY CARROLL, S. M.—VI 2-4410
AL. RICE, A. S. M.—VI 2-3959

It all began in May of 1957 in a small village of Springford, in Oxford County, 35 miles east of London Ontario. Springford was a small village and had never had a Scout Troop before. Any boys interested in Scouting had to drive to Norwich which was eight miles away.

Scott Carroll, a young farmer, three miles north of the village was an Assistant Scout Master at Norwich and was looking for recruits from Springford. He also was looking for someone to help with the troop and had asked me to help him. My son Ken and two or three other boys wanted to join the Norwich Scout Troop. So, I would take these boys to Norwich. I owned and operated a school bus and there were times when I could not attend the meetings. The boys would ride with Scott, Ken and two or three others, on their ponies, to Scout Meetings. When these boys were in uniform and on their mounts they were very attractive, especially to their parents. This made more boys interested and before long there was enough boys to start a troop in Springford. Scott and I decided to start a mounted troop. As interest mounted in boys and parents we had no trouble in forming a committee. We soon got the Otterville and Norwich Lions Club to sponsor us. Since I was a farmer's son and worked with a horse trainer for years it was agreed that I would be the one to look after the mounted troop.



The above sign was proudly displayed at all four entrances to the village of Springford.

Scott was Scout Master and would have the regular meeting one night a week, and I was Assistant Scout Master and we would meet with the horses on Sunday afternoons. Any boys without horses could come and watch and soon most boys had horses. As we trained for parades and drills, first aid, skits, baseball, basketball, hide and seek and many more things that we enjoyed, a large audience, anybody driving by, would stop and watch us practice. In July of 1957 Otterville