

A year in the life of the Scouts and Guides

by Mark Rowe

If someone asked what 1976 meant to you, everyone would naturally have a different answer. But many young girls and boys in Acton might mention some fun activities they engaged in as Scouts or Guides. A few happy memories will probably be evoked by this account of what Acton Scouts and Guides did since 1976 Scout and Guide Week.

That special week last year saw the annual banquet at the Legion and the district Church parade in Georgetown. That last Sunday was also the official unveiling of the work of many men and women—the new Scout Hall.

March began with a sleepover at the hall for the Cubs. The following weekend the Cubs went to the annual resources conference in Georgetown. The third Saturday the district Scout Chess tournament was held at the hall. Later that week both the first and second Guide Companies went to the Ontario Science Centre. The month ended with another sleepover at the hall for the Scouts.

The Scouts had a hike to Terra Cotta in April but little else in extracurricular activities happened.

Jim Saxon honored On the first of May the Guides and Brownies held cookie day. That evening Jim Saxon was the first North Halton Scout to receive the Chief Scout Award. He was presented with it by the Honourable Pauline McGibbon in Barrie.

The following weekend the Scouts went on the gruelling Explorers hike while the Brownies went camping at Camp Wyoka. On the weekend of May 15 the district Cub camp was held at Rockwood Conservation area. Scouts from Acton and Niagara Falls camped the Queen Victoria weekend in Nassageweya.

The many camps in May concluded with a camp for the second Brownies at North Halton Park. The second Guides had a picnic to end the month.

June events June began with a wiener roast for Acton district Guides and Brownies at Sir Donald Mann Park. First Acton Guides also held a father and daughter banquet. The Decoration day parade was held on a hot June 6 and the second Acton Guides went camping at North Halton Park the following weekend. At the same time Scouts held their district camporee near Orangeville. Meanwhile at Blue Springs Scout Reserve the Beavers planted wild flower seeds. On July 3 and 4 the Beaver colony held a father and son campout in Nassageweya.

From August 3 to 13 Brian Hogan and James Saxon served at the Olympiad for the disabled in Etobicoke. They both returned with very different ideas as to the things an invalid can do. At the end of August the Scout Court of Honour went on a canoe trip up the Chippewa River, near Niagara Falls.

Fair days September opened with a training camp for new Scouts. The middle of the month was the Acton Fall Fair at which the Scouts had a display. All sections participated in the parade.

From September 24-26 Patrol leaders and seconders attended a training camp at Woodland Trails near Speyside.

October opened with the Scouts' annual "Oktoberfest" camp in Nassageweya. That same weekend saw the venturers at a Green Acres regional Venture in Oshawa at Camp Sumac.

The 23rd was the annual Apple Day which Actonians faithfully supported.

We honoured those who had died for King and country at the Remembrance Day Parade on November 7. Later that month the Scouts went on a hike to caves near Silvercreek while the first Acton Guide company went to camp No-Na-Me with a company from Downsview.

4-H Club sews

The Ballinfad 4H club continued their course in home sewing last week.

The club, known as the Nightie Night Gals, discussed various types of hemming, and demonstrated stay-stitching. Everyone tried out their sewing ability on sample material.

Jingle bells Santa Claus was escorted into town December 11. Before Christmas, many groups brought the Christmas spirit to many aged and immobile people in Halton and Wellington county.

The Acton district Guides honoured veteran Guider Bea Ginger at a party in December.

The Scouts and Guides held a Christmas party at the hall three days before that hallowed day.

After Christmas, Cubs and Scouts swam for their badges at the Lions Club Pool. The Scouts opened the new year with a short hike to Nassageweya followed a week later with a winter camp with first Georgetown Scouts at a camp near Guelph. The second Acton Guides held a toboggan party

that month as well. February was district camp time for both the Scouts and the Venturers. The Scouts went to Orangeville while Venturers ran the camp at Guelph.

Another first was the district sharing session for Beavers at the Acton hall.

That brings us once again to 1977 Scout and Guide Week. Events for this year's week included the town church parade last Sunday at Knox Presbyterian Church. Both Scouts and Guides participated in the inter-denominational service.

On Tuesday, almost 400 people sat down to a delicious banquet at the Legion hall.

This Sunday will be the district Church parade at Holy Cross Church in Georgetown.

So ends the cycle as we begin another.



SCOUTER STEVE THOMPSON gets several cubs singing to his music during a Friday night sleep over in the scout hall.

Birth of Scout hall took years of devotion

by Mark Rowe

For 61 years the Boy Scouts of Canada have been serving the town of Acton. For 27 of these years we have met in the Acton Scout Hall, provided by the kindness of our fellow Actonians. That is a privilege that few other troops in our county enjoy.

The Scout hall or Hodesawnee, as it is officially known, was built in 1949. Acton's churches, Beardmore and the Y.M.C.A. were among the meeting places we used since 1915. But we wanted a place of our own and so the work began.

J.J. Goy chaired the committee with William Middleton as secretary. A 24' x 40' cottage roof design was chosen for the new clubhouse. The fireplace was built free by Al, Louis and Kelly. The mantel was courtesy of W.J. Coon of Ajax Engineers Ltd. The walls of the new hall were donnaconna board with

panel strips of fir. The floor had alternate red and blue rubber tiles. An oil space heater was donated by Len Lovell. The completed hall was built at a cost of \$2,034.21. A kitchen and basement were later added at a \$1,200 cost.

The grand opening under Scoutmaster David Dills and Cubmistress Esther Taylor was held on October 28, 1949. The new clubhouse was dubbed Hodesawnee which is Iroquois for "people of the long house."

Twenty years later the hall was renovated by the Acton Rotary Club. They repainted, refloored and put a new ceiling on. That is how the hall is today.

In the winter of 1976, the Acton Scout Association realized that Hodesawnee was getting too small. In July, construction began after Beaver Lumber donated a 24' x 40' pre-fab house. By January with the installation of

electric space heaters, the Beaver colony began meeting there. Donald McDonald had chaired the enterprise. Finally on February 22, 1976, Hodesawnee II was officially opened by Donald McDonald of the Acton Scout Association, Barbara Murchison of the Scout and Guide Mothers Association and Grant Schultz of the Acton Rotary Club. The evening of thank yous was organized by Frank Goulding and Mark Rowe.

To date the new hall has cost us \$6,000, all of which is paid. To complete the interior of the hall and its basement a further \$1,500 is needed. The two halls are presently being used a total of nine times in a week with Sunday being the only day of total rest.

The Acton Scout hall, Hodesawnee, is truly a valuable asset both to our town and to the Scouting and Guiding movements in it.

Thanks - for helping us grow



Scout - Guide Week February 20-27, 1977

Many, many years have passed since Scouting's inception in Acton. The town and people in it have changed dramatically. Even the Scout movement has changed. The famous image, uniforms of Scouts, have also been replaced with modern versions. But the lads in those uniforms are the same.

Some psychologists and others may disagree but all leaders will tell you definitely that the ideals and programs as suggested by Lord Baden-Powell in 1910 are just as valid today.

The numbers of boys and men that can say they were in first Acton Scouts are quite astronomical. The halls changed frequently as well. From St. Alban's and the Knox to Beardmore and finally the golden day when we had our own hall.

Please join us in celebrating Scouting's 61st year in Acton by supporting our events and groups. No one in Acton has ever been paid financially to join or lead Scouts. Goodwill and selfishness have always been important to us and we hope it will be so for you.

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