

Parent - to - Parent

A plug for Girl Guide cookies

By Sharon E. McKay
Special to HHTW

In my continuing efforts to keep parents abreast of new information, I attended the launch of Girl Guides new cookie, dubbed 'The Taste of Adventure', a.k.a. 'Chocolatey-Mint'.

Don't panic. I know exactly what you're thinking, "But what about the old cookies?" Fear not - this new minty, crunchy, almost sophisticated cookie will take its place along side the new legendary vanilla and chocolate Girl Guide cookie.

Phew.

Girl Guides wouldn't dare take away our vanilla and chocolate cookies. Given that more than 5.6 million boxes are sold in Canada each year, 2,952,000 in Ontario alone (that's an average of six cookies per person), more than a few of us have a few pounds of attachments, and memories, to these tasty treats. Here is but one story.

My grandma and I have been known to do serious damage to a box of Girl Guide cookies. This particular morning we were huddled in front of the fire in a drafty old house on Lake McDonald in Quebec, munching and dipping, dipping and munching. I was about 10 years old when



Sharon McKay

she said, "You can tell a good match by which one eats which cookie."

Huh?

Wise words, I'm sure, but I didn't understand them.

"Well now, if both yer'mon (your man) and yerself (yourself) likes the chocolate ones, you'll spend the rest of your lives fighting over a cookie. Since you like the vanilla-flavored cookie, look for a boy who likes the chocolate," so said my granny.

I was 18 when I came home with a long-haired, guitar playin', physics student. With trepidation, we passed my new beau a box of Girl Guide cookies.

Need I tell you that "the boy" picked the chocolate Girl Guide cookies? Yes! That was 29 years ago. The

marriage continues.

Take away our old Girl Guide cookie? We think not. Not after 32 years of sales. Why, there would be riots in the street. Besides, this largest female organization in the world uses these cookies as their major yearly fund-raiser. But now a new tradition is hitting Ontario streets as we speak. What would my grandma say?

Bon appetit.

It's a brave little book that is bound to rankle a few confused adults. The title is Ping & Pong. It's based on a poem by Dennis Lee, adapted and illustrated by David McPhail, produced by Caterpillar Press (Harper Collins).

It's a story about two babies - a bear baby and a human baby - who were switched at birth. It's a delightful little tale and it's all about (at least this is my interpretation) unconditional parental love and friendship - mostly it's about parents loving their babies.

This is the book for parents who want their little ones to know that no matter where they come from, they are loved. Now, lest this book is only adopted by adopted families - take note. This is a charming little book for every family and every child.

My personal fave.



Acton Branch 197 Royal Canadian Legion senior Remembrance Day picture, poem, and essay contest winners include, at front, from left; Mary Beth Robertson, Corey Brock, Robert Kemp, Tanya Tonkovich, Erin Montgomery, Michael Barrelli, and Corey Rivers. At back, from left, Bronwyn Marshall, Amanda Swartz, Shawn Brown, Michael Lenizky, Tom Robertson, Melissa Pawlak, and Susan Lehman.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Poppy campaign contest winners

Winners of the Poppy Campaign Contest for Branch 197 Royal Canadian Legion, Acton are as follows:

Color Posters - Grades 4, 5 & 6: 1st - Marko Tonkovich; 2nd - Bronwen Jones; 3rd - Cheryl Kingsmill.

Grades 7, 8 & 9: 1st - Tanya Tonkovich; 2nd - Corey Brock; 3rd - Robert Kemp; Honorable Mention - Mary-Beth Robertson.

Black and White Posters - Grades 4, 5 & 6: 1st - Darren

Selihar; 2nd - David Albano; 3rd - Jasson Mota.

Grades 7, 8 & 9: 1st - Mary-Beth Robertson; 2nd - Shawn Brown; 3rd - Melissa Powall.

Grades 10, 11 & 12: 1st - Tom Robertson (This was the only entry, in any category, from the High School).

Essays - Grades 4, 5 & 6: 1st - Marc Borrelli; 2nd - Jonathan LeBlanc; 3rd - Sarah Vitale; Honorable Mention - Courtney Smallwood.

Grades 7, 8 & 9: 1st -

Susan Lehman; 2nd - Bronwyn Marshall; 3rd - Corey Rivers; Honorable Mention - Aislinn Jones, Michael Lenizky.

Poems - Grades 4, 5 & 6: 1st - Lindsay Parkinson; 2nd - Marko - Tonkovich; 3rd - Greg Barends.

Grades 7, 8 & 9: 1st - Amanda Swartz; 2nd - Chris Seeds; 3rd - Susan Lehman; Honorable Mention - Kevin Dick, Michael Borrelli, Mary-Beth Robertson, Tanya Tonkovich and Erin Montgomery.



Acton Branch 197 Royal Canadian Legion junior Remembrance Day picture, poem, and essay contest winners include, at front, from left, Marc Borrelli, Jonathan Le Blanc, Courtney Smallwood, Susan Vitale and David Albano. At back, from left, Darren Selihar, Greg Barends, Marko Tonkovich, Bronwen Jones and Lindsay Parkinson.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Multicultural pot luck dinner

Caring for young children in a home environment is both a demanding and a fulfilling career. Children's Services Division of Halton Region has planned free monthly network sessions open to all persons providing child care in a home, not just those registered with the region or an agency.

The last session before the new year is scheduled for Dec. 2, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Burlington Family Resource Centre, 1525 Mountain Grove Ave., Burlington. In the form of a pot luck dinner, this session will focus on seasonal activ-

ities and crafts shared by workshop participants.

Each participant is asked to bring:

- one dinner dish commonly served in their household over the holiday season (either main course, salad, or dessert)

- plate, cup and cutlery
- examples of seasonal activities or crafts from family traditions

"This year's annual pot luck dinner should be most interesting as it takes on a multicultural focus. We should have a rich mix of cultural traditions from which we can all learn and

celebrate together" reports Mary Fenn-Dunbar, Purchase of Service Supervisor of Halton Region Children's Services. "As child care providers, we need to celebrate the holiday season, too."

To register for the pot luck network session, please call Jo Parkinson, Halton Region Children's Services Clerk, at 825-6000, 878-8113 or 853-0501, Ext. 7175. For further information, contact Marian Williamson, Network Facilitator, at 905-336-7289.

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