

by Eileen Hocken  
Port McNicoll Parents' Group Committee met at the Community Centre on Oct. 21 and again Oct. 22. Both meetings were quite spirited with the largest attendance in the last couple of years.

The first meeting was a regular one and dealt with the business at hand. The financial report was read. At the time there were still 300 chocolate bars remaining and a few mothers agreed to take some home to sell.

Donations have been received from the Port McNicoll Legion, the village Council, the Port McNicoll Lions Club, Dr. Talbot and Reverend Al Farthing who allowed the Girl Guides to use the Church Hall for nothing.

A bottle drive has been set for Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. The volunteer drivers are asked to meet at 528 Finlayson St., Port McNicoll.

One of the mothers' biggest concerns brought out at the meetings was that their six year old Brownies were expected to go out on different fund raising events and they felt the girls were too young to take part in such activities.

They argued that the girls don't know what to say when they call on people, that they are too young to make change when this is necessary and also that the girls think the money they make is their's to spend.

The mothers were also concerned about the dangers, be it dogs

or people, their little girls might be subjected to when they go knocking at strangers' doors.

The Chairman of the Group Committee, Mrs. Rosemary Thompson, explained that the young Brownies never go out on their own, that there is always a responsible adult driving the girls on their fund raising events and who are also expected to drive the girls safely to their homes afterwards.

If possible, an older Girl Guide accompanies the younger Brownies door to door. Another point that should be made clear is that the girls are not forced to call at a home where a sign "Beware of Dog" is displayed.

They can give that particular house a miss and go on to the next one. No pressure is put on the girls to come back with any particular amount of money.

The girls are just asked to do their best and are thanked afterwards for the job they did.

Many of the mothers present at the meeting have young daughters registered for Brownies for the first time this year and they admitted to knowing nothing about the organization or the purpose of the Parents' Group.

They asked the chairman to send a letter to each of the parents explaining the reasons for the fund raising, where the money goes and what it is used for.

Mrs. Thompson

agreed to do this and will be sending copies out with the girls at their next meeting. For those parents who might not receive the letter for some reason or other or for those parents who might be thinking of registering their girls next year, Mrs. Thompson has agreed to give me a copy of the letter to put in this paper.

**Dear Parents:**  
"There is some question over the necessity of fund raising in our Organization. Therefore, we feel it is necessary to explain this function in further detail.

"We understand that your girls seem to be working very hard with one fund raiser after another. We are also aware of their age and capabilities.

"However, fund raising is done for one purpose. That is, to put the finances into our account to enable the leaders to give your girls the full benefit of the Organization.

"It consists of such events as ticket sales, bottle drive, selling of chocolate bars, calendars and cookies. It does seem like a lot for your girls, but we have 72 girls in this organization and it is a necessity.

"After November, the fund raising falls into the hands of you - the parents. This will include Euchre parties, bake sales and raffles.

"It should be pointed out that every cent is used on your girls - the Committee and the Leaders do not receive

any payment. It is all done on a strictly voluntary basis.

"The money is used to take your girls on various outings connected with sports in accordance with the season. Also for other outings such as camping and their end of the year trip.

"It must also be taken into consideration the cost the leaders need for badges, materials, etc. We do hope that this will clarify some of your questions and we hope we can depend on your co-operation.

"If further information is necessary please phone 534-3545. On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Rosemary Thompson."

The second parents' meeting, following so closely on the heels of the first one, took place the next night. The purpose of that meeting was to acquaint the parents of the Girl Guides to the fact that the Port McNicoll Girl Guide Company is in serious trouble and threatened with closure.

The District Commissioner, Mrs. Shirley Rooney, was there to address the parents and their girls. She explained that the Port McNicoll Girl Guide Company must be disciplined - they will not be allowed to be

rude or objectionable to the volunteer leaders nor will the leaders be subjected to any more disrespectful behaviour from the girls.

As Mrs. Rooney pointed out, not all the girls are causing trouble. There might only be a handful, but that handful of girls are preventing the meetings from being conducted properly.

"There must be discipline", Mrs. Rooney stated emphatically, "and any girls refusing to take part in the program or causing trouble in the group will be told that their presence is not required in the Girl Guide Company".

Mrs. Rooney went on to say that those girls will be black-listed - unable to join other Girl Guide Companies in the area.

The Port McNicoll Girl Guides miss their three old leaders and the new Guider, Darlene Lowrie, seems to be the one to suffer the brunt of the girls' disappointment. This is not fair and she must be given the chance to prove herself.

The parents could be a big help in resolving this problem if they would speak to their girls and ask for their co-operation. I must repeat that there is only

a handful of ring-leaders or trouble makers and that the rest are genuinely interested in the Girl Guide Company continuing in the village.

Mrs. Thompson also reminds us that the 50-50 draw will take place this Saturday, at 2 p.m., at the Lucky Dollar Store. There is over \$100 as a prize. Good luck!

Garbage pick-up and removal has already started up in Port McNicoll and things will soon be back to normal. The store pick-ups and Paradise Point area pick-ups took place on Monday as usual and

the rest of the village can put their garbage out at the road on Thursday.

Reeve John Moreau wishes to express his thanks and appreciation to the villagers for their patience and co-operation during the disruption of services in Port McNicoll.

The Hallowe'en Teen Dance is taking place this Friday at the new Community Centre. The Port Recreation Board is putting it on and the dance is for 10 to 17 year olds.

It will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission price is \$1 per person.

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