

Many guide, scout leaders not sold on integration

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haven't had the requests," said Beverly Verwey of the 7th Newmarket Scouts. "In the past five years, we've received only two phone calls asking about girls joining."

Karen Burrows, a Markham guide leader, agrees. "I'm not worried about the Guides losing girls," she said. "There's always waiting lists to get in and I can't see Girl Guides of Canada ever going co-ed, but I think it's a shame that we are losing traditional groups where boys can be boys and girls can be girls."

A regional scouting meeting held last Thursday confirmed that a lot of people are concerned about the issue.

"My feeling is that the group committee should be very cautious and make sure to bring female leaders in," said Lorraine MacLean, vice-president of membership and growth for Shining Waters.

"The scout age level (11-14) will be the telling tale. The age group is crucial for both boys and girls. It's going to take time to adjust and, unfortunately, our numbers are decreasing and I don't know if this will maintain our numbers. If we do gain the females, we'll probably lose the same number of males. It will probably balance out."

THE FACTS ON BOY SCOUTS

- Boy Scouts is an international organization, founded by Sir Robert Baden-Powell in London, England in 1909.
- Scouts Canada is one of the country's largest youth organizations with about 200,000 members, including youth and adult leaders.
- The movement consists of a national council presiding over regional, district and group structures.
- Programs are separated by age groups including Beavers (5-7), Cubs (8-10), Scouts (11-14), Venturers (14-17) and Rovers (17-16).
- The uniform costs \$100.
- Registration costs \$70 per child and is conducted throughout the year, but August to mid-October is the peak period for registration.
- For registration and information in your particular area, call the following:

YORK ROUGE DISTRICT

Milliken Mills: Georgia Ho 475-0271
Markham and Unionville: Scouting hotline (905) 294-2952.

THORNHILL SUMMIT

Thornhill: Dave Read 889-5835 or Susan Murray 886-4620
Southwest Thornhill: Marilyn Doyle 738-4362 or Chris Ainslie 738-0176.

SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE DISTRICT

Aurora: Rod Steward (905) 853-8916 or Cris Daniels 727-2899
Newmarket: Gail McDonald 895-3900; Brian and Ellen 953-0956
Sharon/Queensville: Beverley Watman 478-4423
Mount Albert: Mary Dack 473-6661
Georgina: Gay Maghie 640-7513
Bradford/West Gwillimbury: Rick Vye 775-4255
Holland Landing: Wray Hinan 836-7662.

RICHMOND HILL

Richmond Hill/Oak Ridges: Colin Norman 773-5724 or Dennis Rodgers 884-2249.

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