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**YOUTH: Ballantrae group taking year off**

## Tradition of scouting lives on in Stouffville

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
sbolan@yrmg.com

The 1st Stouffville Scouts had no actual scout troop for three years and now the 1st Ballantrae Scouts don't have enough 11- to 14-year-olds interested in learning about the great outdoors.

"We probably won't run scouts this year," said Doug McDougall, group commissioner for the 1st Ballantrae Scouts. "Next year we'll be OK because we'll have a feed from the cubs — it's a wave effect."

The 1st Ballantrae Scouts started back in 1956, two years after the 1st Stouffville Scouts.

The 1st Stouffville Scouts could not get enough boys and girls interested in their scout group from 2005 to 2007, but last year they started the group up again with six members and this year the troop has eight.

"Just before we lost our scouts, we had 23 and divided them into two groups because it was too much to handle at once," said Marg Daigle, registrar for the 1st Stouffville Scouts.

While the scout numbers are rising, those interested in being a Rover, 18 to 26 years old, is on the downward slide to the point where that group will not run in Stouffville this year.

Scouting was created for boys

### TROOP TIME

► The 1st Stouffville Scouts meet once a week in the basement of Stouffville United Church. For more information, contact Marg Daigle at [fmdaigle@rogers.com](mailto:fmdaigle@rogers.com), 905-640-7642.

The 1st Ballantrae Scouts meet weekly at the Ballantrae Community Centre. For more information, contact Doug McDougall at [ballantraescouting@hotmail.com](mailto:ballantraescouting@hotmail.com), 905-642-3240.

For more information on Scouts Canada, go to [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca)

aged 11 to 14, by England's Robert Baden-Powell, but over time, programs have been created for other age groups. These include Beavers for kids aged five to seven, Cubs for kids eight to 10, Venturers for kids 14 to 17 and Rovers for people 18 to 26.

Camping and other outdoor activities remain at the core of today's scouting.

"If you don't like camping, don't join scouts," Mr. McDougall said. "We go in the winter; it doesn't make any difference."

However, scouting also focuses on teaching children about co-operation and leadership, while helping the youngsters gain self-confidence.

Scouting is also no longer just for boys. In 2001, it became the policy of scouting organizations around the world to allow girls.

Scouting was founded in the late 1800s by Lord Baden-Powell to complement education received in school and the family dynamic by teaching kids about life beyond those confines.

As a young boy, Lord Baden-Powell was a self-taught outdoorsman. In order to trap, skin and cook rabbits, he learned how to silently creep through the woods, find his way around via landmarks, notice tracks and decipher their meaning and use dead dry wood to create small, smoke-free fires so as to not give himself away to hunters or prey animals.



Stouffville scouts Dean Scharo (from left), Spencer Allen and Luke Scharo canoe in the Millard Street reservoir.

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