

THE LAMPLIGHTER

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SVI at SOAR 2014



Girl Guides
of Canada

Guides
du Canada

Southern Vancouver Island Area

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The Lamplighter will be delivered three times a year to your inbox in full colour, or for those of you without an email, to your mailbox in a black and white version. It will be dedicated to promoting celebrations, special activities and accomplishments and disseminating non-time sensitive material to Guiding members in SVI. Send your submissions by email to svilamplighter@gmail.com or mail to The Lamplighter, c/o Guide House by October 1st, February 1st and May 1st for inclusion in the Fall, Winter and Spring edi-

SVI Area Council 2014-2015

Area Council

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Eva Herbert	Secretary
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Sheila Fowler	Training Adviser
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Brenda Lacharity/Amanda Malthus	Raven
Meaghan Playle	Straits
Cathy Schofield	Woodwyn

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From the Commissioner's Desk...

Now that we are fully into the new Guiding year, I want to welcome back all of you that, like me, are lifers! A warm welcome as well to all new Guiders and girls in SVI. You will have a wonderful time learning new skills, songs, games and recipes (hopefully to cook over an open fire?). You will also learn more about yourselves. Each year September goes by in a blur, but by October we usually have a plan of how our year will map out – all the amazing camps and out-trips that we want to fit in and how many cookies we need to sell to cover the costs of these events. Chocolatey Mint cookies have been flying off the sales tables this fall so I am confident that many units will be planning some incredible adventures.

I am hoping that all girls and Guiders have had the opportunity to check out the listing of camps, workshops and international events that are happening this next year and beyond. From the Junior Ambassador Workshop in January through all the summer events, there is something for everybody. Please check out the 2015 Camp, PR & International Opportunities chart published in this edition of The Lamplighter.

I wanted to share how wonderful it was to see so many SVI people at SOAR this past summer. We filled numerous buses, arriving with full backpacks and bedrolls, ready for adventure and that was what we got! This was my fifth SOAR – this time in a new role in emergency and event management. It was wonderful to have so many great SVI Guiders on the security team (including our team leaders Nancy Pryce and Wendy Halpen) as well as many SVI Guiders filling roles in hospitality, food services, first aid, international, site services, environment, fine arts, crafts, Ranger out-trips, STEM, water activities, and service (hopefully I didn't miss any!). Then there were our girls – we had patrols of young Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers (and some mixed). They were led by dedicated patrol Guiders who volunteered their time to give them the camping experience of a lifetime.

From the arrival and setup, through the daily activities, the nightly entertainment, the trading, the cooking and cleanup for all those girls, the heat/rain/lightening/thunder issues, to when we all said our goodbyes to new friends, it was an experience to remember. The town of Enderby went above and beyond to show that we were welcome and supported us in the adverse weather conditions in a way that we will not soon forget.



Events such as SOAR are what provide stories that get retold again and again during a lifetime in Guiding...the people, places and memories. As Guiders, we know that SOAR is a good retention tool, helping to keep girls involved in our organization. But we also know that from our youngest Guiders, at just 19, to women in their eighties, SOAR is also a retention tool for us - we love being involved in something this big and meaningful in the lives of girls!

If you are new to our organization, no worries – there will be another SOAR in three years' time. In the meantime, to learn what it entailed (or to reminisce about how great it was!), why not check out the SOAR website and see the incredible slideshow that gives a glimpse of the amazing time we had in July at SOAR 2014... <http://bc-guiding.smugmug.com/SOAR-EVENTS/SOAR-2014/Slideshow/>.



Sharon Doty, Erlene Amero and Donna Cavan

SVI Area Commissioner, Sharon Doty



Hats Off...

To outgoing District Commissioners **Carla MacRae, Teresa Taylor and Eva Herbert** from Straits, **Heather Brass** from Chatham, and **Wendy Halpen and Adrienne Blandford** from Pacific Skies. Only those of us who have held that position can truly appreciate just how many hours the job takes, how much paperwork passes through your hands, and how many hats you have to wear. Thanks so much for all you have done to make your districts run smoothly!

To incoming commissioners **Neala St. Hilaire**, Chatham, **Meaghan Playle**, Straits and Co-commissioners **Michelle Winsor and Susan Christman** from Pacific Skies. **Hailey Finnigan** has joined Area Council as the senior outreach officer and social media guru and **Kate Bourne** has taken over the position of Ranger/Trex adviser. **Eva Herbert's** absence was short and sweet as she has taken over the position of Secretary. A warm welcome to all!

To all the **Guiders and families** who helped with the loading and unloading of the SOAR gear trucks. There was an original list of volunteers but in the end everyone pitched in and just got the job done. Great teamwork!

To the many Guiders who volunteered their time to organize and attend the very successful SOAR pre-camp: **Sharon Doty, Sheilagh Finnigan, Erlene Amero, Barb Currie, Teresa Howden, Darcy Wyllie, Suzanne Iverson, Jeannie Cosgrove, Barb Kerr, Jill Croft, Sohad Kadhum, Eva Herbert, Suzanne Iverson, Rose Kwaitkowski, Margaret Lidkea, Teresa Howden, Barb Currie and Lynn Bissel.**

To Guiders **Jill Wark, Kyla Beattie, Cindy Montgomery, Nicole Rae** and their daughters, assisted by Rangers **Maryna Ell, Kayla Curtis, Maggie Collins and Rachel Spencer**, for running the duck pond at the Sooke Fall Fair. Thanks for making Harbours District such a vital and visible part of the Sooke community.

To **Suzanne Iverson** who just happened to be dropping into the office and ended up helping put the new table storage carts together, IKEA style.

To the Guiders and girls who manned the PR booth at the Saanich Fair: **Sharon Doty, Charlotte Clar, Lisa Woodward, Heather Schiedel, Anna Dzuiba, Olivia Kearley, Natasha and Silke Staffeldt-Jost, Rene Landree, Lily McCartney, Chloe Faught, Tamara Fraser, Araina Golding, Nancy Fischer, Natalie Fischer, Merlane Quon, Cathy Schofield, Nathalie and Madeleine Earl, Rebecca, Sofie and Pippa Hof, Monica Du, Kris and Karly Walker, Grace McIndoe, Quinna Young and Carol Gamey.** Special thanks to **Sherry Fortais and Tia McDonald** who organized the volunteers and the displays. Many cases of area cookies were sold, we gained some new leaders and we handed out lots of cool stuff!

To **Suzanne Iverson and Tara MacDonald** for assisting at the Lady B-P Event at Langford Lanes, to **Jeannie Cosgrove**, for masterminding the event and arriving in costume as the lady herself, and to Area Commissioner, **Sharon Doty** who was also generous in devoting her time to come and congratulate the girls.

To the Guiders who helped with the planning and running of the Sparks Gold Rush: **Erlene Amero, Amanda Malthus, Jeannie Cosgrove, Barb Kerr, Brenda Lacharity, Samantha Quesnelle, Merlane Quon and Sheena McCullough.** A special shout out to the SVI Rangers who contributed their time, their ingenuity and their energy: **Jade Caldwell, Emily Crowley, Alanna Lacharity, Danielle Luzzi, Harriet Cawsey, Maryna Ell, Kyla Curtis, Rhylah-anne Thauberger, Courtney Hyde, Anna Podhorodeski, Mikayla Edmunds and Rachel Spencer,** along with Pathfinder **Claire Arts.**

To **Laura How**, former Chatham Pathfinder, for her excellent article "Volunteering at Sangam", published in the Summer/Fall edition of *The Pipeline*. It would (Continued on next page)

have been published in *The Lamplighter* if the Province had not beaten us to it. Check it out!

To **Jeannie Cosgrove, Hailey Finnigan, Heather Croft, Colene Wood** and **Stacy Newcombe** for serving on an ad hoc committee during the development of the new SVI website.

To **Jeannie Cosgrove**, who wins the award for the most mentions in this column and who modestly left herself off the list of those to be thanked for their contributions to the ad hoc committee for the website. By her own admission "*I find it hard to congratulate myself, publicly but yah, I did help!!!*"

Jeannie is the epitome of the tireless volunteer and the embodiment of the Guiding spirit, helping out wherever and whenever needed, invariably positive and cheerful. We are very lucky to have her.

And finally, to all the partners, spouses and families of Guiders and Guiding volunteers in SVI. You have taken innumerable phone messages, seen family functions delayed, disrupted or rescheduled to accommodate the demands of our volunteer positions and learned to take up the slack when we are multi-tasking and distracted. Thanks for your patience. We couldn't do it without your support.

Girl Greatness Awards

Girls in Guiding do amazing things every day. They leap into action, overcome obstacles, come up with brilliant ideas, and pretty much add a little bit of awesomeness to the world around them. Now it's time to be recognized!

Girl Guides of Canada's Girl Greatness Awards is all about applauding girl members who accomplish great things in their lives and in their communities. The awards recognize one girl per branch who has excelled in one of the following award categories:

- **Confidence**
- **Courage**
- **Resourcefulness**
- **Making a Difference**

These amazing girls and young women were profiled in the *Canadian Guider*, Fall 2014 edition. Check out all the Girl Greatness Award winners at girlguides.ca/girl-greatness-awards, and thanks to the editors for allowing us to share the following inspirational stories with you.

Meet the 2014 Girl Greatness Award Recipients from SVI on the next page...

Meet the 2014 Girl Greatness Award Recipients from SVI

CONFIDENCE AWARD - SPARKS

Seayena D., Harbours District

I am a third-year Girl Assistant with Sparks, and I've never seen anyone become as confident as Seayena. She is the only first-year Spark in our unit as well as one of only two girls that go to her school. That is hard enough, and all the other girls knew each other before Sparks! Seayena was quite shy at first, but over the meetings we've seen her speak up, join in, share happily and make a great friend! I have delighted in seeing Seayena experience brand-new things. The first time we used a glue gun, Seayena was terrified and didn't want to touch it. She was so scared that she was almost in tears, but she used the glue gun anyways! I was so proud of Seayena for her confidence that day, and every week I see her succeed and believe in herself more. Every week she is willing to try new things (even when they scare her)! Last week she was beside herself about leaving her mum, but she came in and participated anyways, smiling after only a few minutes. She was nervous about sleeping over at camp, but she ended up having lots of fun. Seayena also deals with a severe nut allergy and has to carry an EpiPen. The first few meetings we held on to them for her, but before long she was carrying them herself and doesn't mind answering questions about them. And even though she is quite shy and sometimes hesitant to speak up, she is never too shy to make sure everything she uses (including the hand soap!) is peanut and nut-free. I have never seen a Spark gain so much confidence as Seayena has. I'm so proud of her and I wish I had had the same confidence as she has!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE - SPARKS

Kaiulani R., Bay to Bay District

I have been going to BC Children's Hospital since I was three years old for treatments, procedures and surgeries because of a really rare vascular disease called Parkes Webber Syndrome. They don't know what causes it and there is no cure but my team of doctors is trying to get rid of the things they can like extra veins and diseased tissue in my leg which put extra pressure on my heart. In all my trips and stays at the hospital I saw a lot of kids who had lost their hair for one reason or another and I really wanted to help make them feel better. When I heard that they can get wigs I decided last summer to grow my hair as long as I could and donate it to Angel Hair for Kids. I had to have another surgery in October, so I got 12 inches cut off before going in. The wigs are also very expensive so I raised pledges totaling \$2,842 for the non-profit foundation. I hope whoever got my hair loves it as much as I did! I'm growing it out again, who knows how long this time; I have another surgery coming up in June so I'm sure I will see more kids who will motivate me. Everyone should do this at some point because the kids need hair and we have it to give.





BC GIRL GUIDES YOUTH COMMITMENT PIN

2014 was the first year that youth members who completed their final year of Rangers in Grade 12, and have been members for at least 10 years, were eligible for a new Youth Commitment Pin, in recognition and celebration of their long-term commitment to Guiding. Recipients do not need to have been in Sparks, nor does their membership have to be continuous. Next year the pins will be sent to Unit Guiders to distribute to the Rangers in their unit who meet this criteria.

Kimberly Jones from Peninsula Shores Rangers and Anna Podhorodeski from Westshore Rangers are SVI's first recipients. Congratulations Kim and Anna!

BC GUIDER APPRECIATION AWARD

Several very special Guiders were presented with a BC Guider Appreciation Award in June: Area Deputy Commissioner and Camas Treasurer Sheilagh Finnigan, Area Bookkeeper Nancy Fischer, Area Deputy Treasurer Mary Porterfield and former Chatham District Pathfinder Guider and Camping Adviser, Sarah van Nes. Sarah has moved back to her home province of Saskatchewan and will be greatly missed.

GIRL GUIDE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to former Area Link Liaison and Chatham Guide Guider Jenelle Yonkman, who was awarded the National Bayer Inc. Science Education Scholarship. Jenelle is a post graduate student in Geographic Information Systems at the University of Victoria. She was also presented with a Bronze Merit Award by her grateful district in June.

Guiding has strengthened my confidence and I am proud to be a part of such a fantastic organization.



Outgoing Area Council Ranger Rep, Kimberly Jones, was awarded the 2014 Margery Dumfries Scholarship. She wrote:

"When I think about Guiding, the word opportunities comes to mind. As a Spark and Brownie, this meant having the chance to speak to my peers freely before I had the courage to speak to them at school. As a Guide and Pathfinder, this meant having the chance to experience new things and open myself up to opportunities I previously thought impossible. Now, as a Ranger, Guiding has meant the chance to shape who I am and who I plan to be in the future. These past few years have provided me the ideal atmosphere to develop my own opinions and discover passions. Guiding has always been the positive and consistent influence in my life, and is responsible for the woman I am going to be."

One of the first recipients of the BC Girl Guides Youth Commitment Pin, Kim was a Girl Assistant with 1st Keating Guides for six years. Congratulations!, and we wish you the best of luck with your pre-engineering studies at the University of Calgary.



SVI's Hilda Leighton Award Winners

On a beautiful, sunny June evening two special Guiders, Wendy Kluge and Marilyn Maggiora, were awarded the Spirit of Hilda Leighton SVI award during Peninsula Shores' year-end celebration at Heritage Acres in Central Saanich. This dynamic duo truly *'reflect Hilda's innovative, pioneering and dedicated spirit'* and are very deserving of this special recognition.

WENDY KLUGE

Wendy Kluge has been a Guider, a Deputy Commissioner, a District Commissioner, an International Adviser, a Camping Adviser, and a Training Adviser, and is now a Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild member. Wendy and her "partner in crime", Marilyn Maggiora, have taken on the task of raising money to help with major upkeep of the Guide and Scout Hall in Sidney, as part of her involvement in the Hall Committee. Wendy has a special connection with the girls, especially the Sparks. From Fairy Camp to Jungle Camp, from traveling to scrapbooking, she shares her enthusiasm and sense of humour. We think it is a major reason why girls in her units have continued on in Guiding.

Wendy has given her time and her energy to Girl Guides for over 30 years. She has always been willing to step up when needed, and goes above and beyond to make her time with the girls memorable. Many girls and women who have been with her in Girl Guides know her to be a positive, caring and enthusiastic mentor, Guider and friend. She is always supportive and is a wonderful example of outstanding leadership in Girl Guides of Canada.



Area Awards Adviser Amy Fischer and Wendy

MARILYN MAGGIORA

Marilyn Maggiora exemplifies dedication to Guiding. She has been a Sparks Guider and Spark unit treasurer for nine years, Area Program Adviser for just over a year, a Guide Guider for two years, a Brownie Guider for two years, District Treasurer for six years, and District Commissioner for five years. She is also the Peninsula Shores District Cookie Adviser and sits on the Sidney Guide and Scout Hall committee. Along with Wendy Kluge she took a patrol of girls to Our Cabana in 2010, and has served at two SOAR camps and at Guiding Mosaic.

Marilyn always has the best interests of the girls and of Guiding at heart. She is there when you need her - at district cookie blitzes and district events, serving as the district and Spark units' treasurer and mentoring new District Commissioners and new Spark Guiders. She continues to fill in at unit meetings when needed and as a District Guider she helps plan and participates in all District events. Her calm voice and extensive knowledge help us all. This self-described "Spark at heart" is an integral part of Guiding in Peninsula Shores.



Amy and Marilyn



Marilyn and Wendy

The Gold Rush Returns To Milne's Landing

The BC gold rush returned to Milne's Landing on My 25, 2014, accompanied by eighty-two Sparks, fourteen Rangers, two senior Pathfinders and a group of unit and staff leaders. The constant drizzle through the day didn't dampen the Sparks' spirits as they rotated through eight themed stations staffed by Rangers from around SVI. The rainy day presented a few challenges. Some stations were moved under the trees for more protection from the weather. We had a last minute venue change for the lunchtime sing along, moving all the Sparks into the Upper Cabin. It was a tight fit but didn't stop the giggles and smiles during the songs they found particularly amusing.

Highlights of the day included chasing a Ranger bandit through the forest near the Upper Cabin to find the gold coins she had dropped, having their picture taken at the photo booth, panning for gold, washing clothes on a scrub board, taking part in a snow ball fight, playing games and making crafts, plus so much more. The Sarsaparilla Saloon offered ice tea served in jelly jar glasses, much as would have been found in a restaurant of the mid 1800's. The Story Time Tent was another stop that offered a slower pace with the girls listening to a story inside a canvas ridge tent while having an orange for a snack. Part of the magic of the day was looking out at the Sooke River from the lower Milne's Cabin veranda and imagining where the boats carrying the gold miners had docked and where they had panned for gold.



Planning for the Sparks Gold Rush happened over a period of seven months. The Gold Rush theme was chosen for the ease of obtaining crests through the Sparks Camp in a Box kits offered on the GGC BC website and because of the local Sooke history. Milne's Landing was approached to host the camp as a large day event was something new for the property and hadn't been done in quite a few years. As soon as we had the theme and venue, Gillian Hurwood, who was on the organizing committee, suggested including Rangers in the planning and staffing. The course was set. At the first meeting with 16 Rangers in attendance the girls chose the themes for the stations mostly from their own ideas, created the timetable, organized themselves into who was doing what, helped write the letter to the units and set the fee for the day in coordination with the organizing committee. The Rangers were allowed to do as much of the planning as they were comfortable with and showed an amazing amount of creativity in their planning efforts. It was somewhat different than working with a group of adults who take on a station theme, ask for a budget and reconnect shortly before the event. As the Responsible Guider I got some strange looks from girls and leaders when I mentioned at the first meeting that we could probably find most of the craft materials and equipment for the day with little or no cost just by

asking around. Finances and paperwork were left to the leaders.

At our second meeting with the Rangers, the girls finalized who was doing what and completed their equipment lists after they had reviewed the items we would need. We were able to borrow gold pans from the Sooke Museum. A donated bar of fool's gold was broken up and used at the panning station. Adults and girls took on final projects such as making the poke bags, name tags, constructing props and finishing the items to be given away. The evening before the event, the Rangers had a one-night camp at Milne's Upper Cabin and made signs, organized their equipment for the day and put the finishing touches on their stations.

Post event I have received requests from both Spark and Ranger leaders for future girl-lead events at the Area level. The Sparks were so involved with what they were doing it was hard to get them to stop their activities long enough to take a picture. The evening after the Sparks Gold Rush one of the leaders contacted me to ask if one of her Spark's bag of gold rocks could be replaced. The Spark was distraught as she couldn't find her "diamond" and "gold" aka dollar store plastic diamond, pieces of pyrite (pyrex as some girls called it) and collection of rocks painted gold. When her mother stopped to pick up the bag, she mentioned that the girl was convinced they were real diamonds and gold. She'd had a wonderful time and was still talking about her experiences. Let's hope her enthusiasm continues for Guiding and takes her all the way to leading an event as a Ranger, as her older Guiding "sisters" have done with great success.

Submitted by Erlene Amero, SVI Camping Adviser

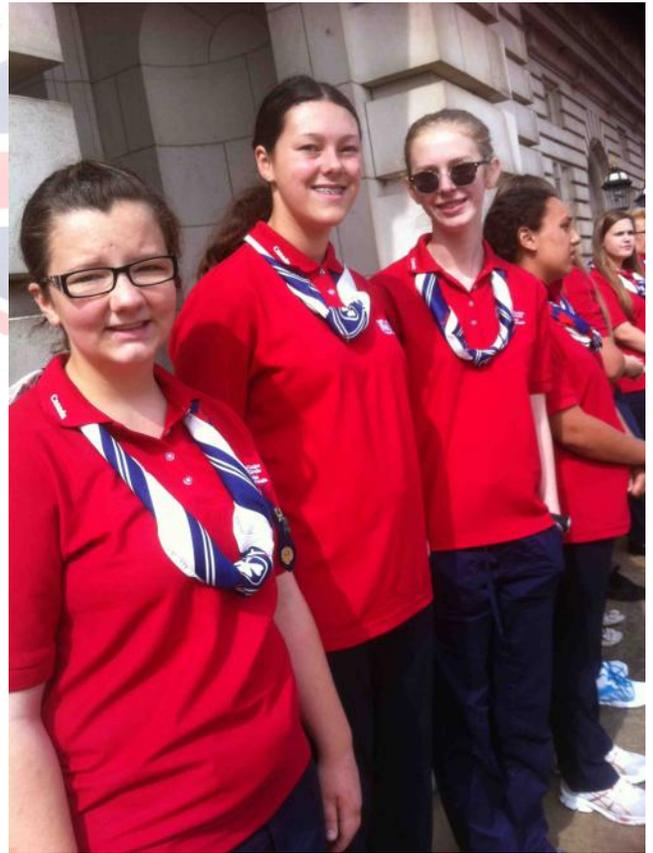


Journey Through London 2014

I decided to apply for this trip because I have always wanted to travel around the world and because my sister had previously been to England and had enjoyed it very much. It wasn't what I'd expected. Before I went, the world around me seemed like a dream; I knew it was there but it wasn't at the forefront of my mind. Now that I've returned, my understanding of our global community has broadened.

I was amazed at the effect that Stonehenge had on me. It became one of the highlights of my trip. I was in awe of how it came to be and I just stood there for the first five minutes and stared. It was mesmerizing and I'd never known that anything could do that to me.

My trip to London broadened my view of the world and my understanding of various cultures - how we differ and how we are the same. I learned to be more independent and to be adequately prepared for whatever challenges each day may reveal. I have always thought that I've relied too heavily on the guidance of others and it turns out that a



trip across the ocean was just I needed. Now I am a more self-reliant and self-confident person.

I will never forget the undeniable bond that formed within my trip patrol and the friendships that grew and flourished so quickly. In a matter of days we turned from near-strangers into close friends. We learned so much about each other in that short time; it was as if we had known each other for years. It was one of the best experiences of my life.

**Submitted by Laura Fraser,
Peninsula Shores Rangers**

Above: Laura, (pictured far left) with her patrol. Top: Laura (third from the left) with her trip mates.

Peru Adventure 2014



Machu Picchu!

This August I was given the fabulous opportunity of travelling to Peru on a nationally sponsored trip – Peru Adventure 2014. I was one of 16 girls (and four Guiders) across Canada who were chosen to share in this adventure. On August 6th I left BC for the great and wild city of Toronto where we met up with all the other girls and began our journey towards Peru and lifelong friendship. There were four girls and two guiders from BC – two of us were from here in SVI Area! After a few orientation sessions in Toronto, we were on our way.

A few days were spent in Lima – the country’s capital – learning about Peru’s culture, food, and people. Then we headed out to our main destination – the District of Mato. It took 11 hours to get there from Lima but it was very much worth it! During our week-long stay there with host families we provided service to the community, immersed ourselves in their culture, heard a few different languages, enjoyed the local – sometimes interesting – cuisine and made lasting friendships and memories.

This service trip was a partnership with Canada World Youth (CWY) who in turn was partnered with Brigado, their Peruvian counterpart. While living in Mato, we worked hard constructing bricks out of dirt, water, and hay which we made into ecological stoves; painted several murals at the local kindergarten to brighten the playground and courtyard and held a litter chase across the community (and collected close to a dozen bags of garbage!). We created

Continued on next page.

Group shot after completion of the ecological stove.



awareness posters (in Spanish) to put up around the community warning the public against such things as littering, drunkenness, fighting, drugs, and rowdiness; made bread and served it for breakfast to the local school and donated soccer balls. For my absolute favourite project, we walked to the neighbouring community and did activities and games with the local youth.

During that visit we met all the local children and taught them Duck, Duck, Goose (but in Spanish of course) and played soccer. We also had the opportunity to give them treats and care kits. I didn't

know any of the children's names and I had extremely limited Spanish at that point so could not communicate with them, but it didn't matter. One of the girls we were playing soccer with grabbed my hand and pulled me along, yelling and laughing to "Corre, corre! (Run, run!)" Whenever we were separated she would find me and grab my hand again. At one point she stopped, looked at me, and – in limited words as we shared very few – she and I figured out that we both had braids in our hair and shorts on our legs so we were practically twins!

I learned so much during those few hours. It made me even more certain that I wanted to work with children in my future career. I also learned that you can communicate everything you need to say without using words or even actions – a simple smile can be enough. The children in all the communities we visited while staying in Mato were very excited that we were Canadian and different from them. We would always catch them looking at us and smiling, and very quickly they figured out that if they sat near us we would give them things from Canada (nothing too special - things like stickers, flags, pins, pencils, and a few hats) – they were over the moon!

Community service is a fabulous thing and nothing can compare to the feeling of helping people. This was especially proven the day we built the stove – it was for a woman who had raised her niece and nephew alone and until then had been cooking on an open fire. She was so grateful that we had done this for her that she couldn't stop thanking us. Service projects should be a part of everyone's lives! I loved being able to make a difference, however small, in this world – but I also loved touring Peru! We visited about six Incan ruin sites (including the world-famous Machu Picchu!), a llama and alpaca farm, as well as a few cities such as Caraz and Cusco where we were able to visit markets and learn even more about Peru. On our last day we were also able to visit the Guías Scouts del Perú – the Peruvian Girl Guides. It was absolutely lovely to be able to meet girls in a country so different from our own and to know right away that we were connected through WAGGGS - that we were Guiding sisters.

Playing Duck Duck Goose (Pato Pato Ganso) at the neighbouring community.



After 17 days in Peru it was time to head home. We were off to Toronto where we were debriefed and prepared to head back to our various provinces. Saying goodbye to everyone at the airport was one of the absolute hardest and most emotional things I have ever had to do and probably will ever have to do. We experienced so much together – I don't think I will ever have such a deep connection with anyone as I do with those girls. We were put into home stay pairs – I was with a girl from LaSalle, Ontario – and during our entire stay in Mato and quite a lot of our stays in other places we lived together, learned together, laughed together. Because of that, our friendship is incredibly strong. I know that I'll see them again someday – we're planning a reunion trip in a few years! – and although we'll never have those particular experiences again, I know that we'll all remain friends for many years to come.



Local children who were very excited that we were Canadian!

Maryna and her roommate with their host family.



I didn't realize until I had been home for a few weeks how much this adventure changed me. Who knew that three weeks could completely change who you are? My self-confidence has skyrocketed! I've become more open, more passionate, more experienced, better at communicating, more accepting, more grateful, more patient, more driven and dedicated, and way more outgoing! I've developed new skills, new relationships, new friendships, and new appreciations! This trip gave me so much; not just things to put on a resume, but things that have changed and will continue to change my life and who I am for years to come.

When I applied for this trip, I could not have imagined how much it would affect me. I could not have imagined how much I would experience, how much the people I travelled with would mean to me. I never realized before just what Guiding means to me and what an important part of my life it is. I am so grateful to be a part of this organization and to have had the opportunity and privilege to participate in this trip.

Thank you, Girl Guides of Canada, for offering so much to young girls – Girl Greatness truly does start here.

Submitted by Maryna Ell, Sooke Rangers

Maryna is a third-year Ranger in 1st Sooke Rangers, Harbours District. She is willing to come to Units, Districts or Trefoil Guilds to talk about her adventure – she can be contacted by email at hi_itsme@shaw.ca or by phone at 250-642-7555.



Meeting the Guías Scouts del Perú.

Girl Guides of Canada Travel, Camping and Opportunities

National	Level	Deadline for Application for all Nationally sponsored international trips is November 9, 2014 to m1683@telus.net	https://www.girlguides.ca/GGC/Programs/International_Guiding/Travel_Opportunities/GGC/Programs/Opportunities/International_Guiding/Travel.aspx	Approximate cost Check fact sheets for all information
North Vancouver Island (Bluewater Adventures)	R	August 5-15, 2015	8 girls 15-18 years old as of August 31, 2015 2 Guiders	\$2900 after National subsidy. Provincial & Area subsidies are also available
Ottawa/Montreal/Quebec City (EF Tours)	R P	June 29-July 7, 2015	16 girls 14-16 years old as of June 30, 2015 4 Guiders	\$1500 after National subsidy. Provincial & Area subsidies are also available
Sangam World Centre	R	August 1- 18, 2015	8 girls 15-18 years old as of August 31, 2015 2 Guiders	\$2500 after National subsidy. Provincial & Area subsidies are also available
El Salvador (Habitat for Humanity) Check for confirmation on National Website	R	August 1-9, 2015	8 girls 15-18 years old as of August 31, 2015 2 Guiders	\$2000 after National subsidy. Provincial & Area subsidies are also available
Sea of Cortez (Panterra)	R P	July 2- 11, 2015	16 girls 14-16 years old as of June 30, 2015 4 Guiders	\$2250 after National subsidy. Provincial & Area subsidies are also available.
Australian International Jamboree	R P	Sept 21-Oct 5, 2015	8 girls 14-16 years old as of June 30, 2015 2 Guiders	\$2500 after National subsidy. Provincial & Area subsidies are also available.
BC International		Deadline for application is November 9, 2014 to m1683@telus.net	http://www.girlGs.ca/BC/Program/International/International_Trips.aspx	
Me to We Udaipur, India	R		8 girls aged 16-18 years as of August 31, 2015 2 Guiders	\$3000 after Provincial subsidy. Area and District subsidies <i>may</i> apply
Adventure to the Capitals Ottawa/Washington DC	P	approximately June 28 to July 15, 2015	8 girls, 13 to 15 years of age at the start of the event 2 Guiders	\$700 after Provincial subsidy. Area and District subsidies <i>may</i> apply
Colors of the World Vancouver, BC	G	July 4 to 11, 2015	20 girls from all over BC, ages 11 and 12 at the start of the event	\$450. Area and District subsidies <i>may</i> apply

BC Camping		Check Website for Application Deadline	http://www.bc-girlguides.org/BC/Program/Camping/Provincial_Camps/BC/Camping/Provincial_Camps.aspx?hkey=20589b56-1244-448d-a8de-e507c86e0e5d	
Bowron Lakes	R P	August 4-12, 2015	10 girls - 3rd year Pathfinders or Rangers at the time of the trip. 2 selected Guiders	\$400 after subsidy. Area and District subsidies <i>may</i> apply Deadline January 5, 2015
Island Roam 2015	P	July 11-19, 2015	12 girls - 3 rd year Guides and 1 st year Pathfinders at the time of the trip. 1 selected Guider	\$500 after subsidy. Area and District subsidies <i>may</i> apply Deadline January 5, 2015
OAL Adventure Module 8 Guiders only- check prerequisites	A	July 23 – 26, 2015	8 Guiders who have started their OAL Adventure training	\$100 Deadline February 28, 2015
BC Public Relations				
Junior Ambassador Workshop Vancouver, BC	R P	January 30 – February 1, 2015	1 Pathfinder from SVI Area 1 Ranger from SVI Area 1 Guider from SVI Area	Fees are paid by SVI Area, Travel paid by BC Girl Guides
SVI Area (non-subsidized)	Please contact SVI Camping Adviser for more information svicampadvisor@gmail.com			
Space Academy 2016 NASA, Huntsville Alabama	G P	March 19-29, 2016	17 girls will be chosen from SVI aged 12 to 14 years of age as of June 30, 2016 1 Guider Application Deadline: November 15, 2014	\$2400/girl before fundraising \$1600/adult

Please note:

Application does not automatically mean acceptance on any trip. Girls may apply for additional subsidies from Area and District once they are accepted for a trip or event. Any subsidy beyond the amount posted on the fact sheet is not guaranteed.

Check the National and Provincial Girl Guide websites for the fact sheets and download the required forms for International travel off the Girl Guide website. Any questions on where to find application information online please contact: the SVI office svigirlguides@shaw.ca, International Adviser m1683@telus.net or Camping Adviser svicampadvisor@gmail.com.

The application deadline for all events is November 3, 2014 to Area International Adviser, Merlane Quon, m1683@telus.net - Subject line - GCC: International Trips 2015 - name of the trip. The references, to be submitted confidentially to the SVI Area International Advisor, can be dropped off during Guide House office hours, double sealed and marked Attn: Merlane. If your references are going to email their references, please advise accordingly.

Check out this link to a summary of the international travel changes to the Safe Guide:

<http://forms.girlguides.ca/SafeGuide/Shared%20Documents/safe-guide-change-expl-international.pdf>.

***Would you
please write me
a reference?***

A girl from your unit has just approached you for a reference. She says she wants to apply for next summer's Provincially sponsored trip. You agree.

A week later, you sit down with a cup of coffee to work on the reference. But you aren't sure what to say or how much detail to go into. What should you do? Writing a reference for a girl in your unit, a girl whom you have camped with, or a fellow Guider, is a big re-

sponsibility. Whether the applicant is applying for an international trip, a volunteer position at a World Centre, or an interprovincial camping event, the selections committee for that event is relying on you to provide an accurate picture of the applicant. The selections committee won't know the applicant's name or know what she looks like, but they will form a picture of her based in large part on your words.

The first thing you should do if asked to give a reference is to find out about the event or position for which the applicant is applying. The activities at the event, or the responsibilities of the position, may affect what you say, or even your decision about whether to act as a reference. For instance, if the event is a camping event, but you have never attended a camp with the applicant, you may not be an appropriate reference for the applicant. Her needs may be better served by finding another reference, and you should not be afraid to say so.

Once you have learned about the event or position, sit down with the applicant and review the reference form together. Make sure you understand what the questions are asking. If the reference is for an international event, review the form "Reference Guidelines – Girl" or "Reference Guidelines – Adult", depending on whether the applicant is a girl Member or an adult Member. Both forms are available at www.forms.girlguides.ca. These will give you very specific instructions about how to complete the forms.

The applicant should provide you with a copy of the required reference form to work with. If you are providing a reference for an international event, you will have to complete Form STG.2 (or STA.2, if the applicant is an adult). Answer each question completely and give specific examples of each behavior. For instance, for the question, "How does she get along with her peers?", you could answer: *"She gets along well with her peers."*

Although this technically answers the question, it doesn't assist the selections committee in forming a picture of the girl. A better answer would be: *"She gets along well with her peers. She has a cheerful and friendly personality and listens carefully to what her friends have to say. She does not need to have her own way all the time and is willing to make compromises. She is not usually the leader in the group but is a team player."*

It may help you to make a draft while you are thinking about how to answer each question, and only complete a final version once you have decided exactly what you want to say.

Please be sure not to mention the applicant's name in your reference. For international events, if the applicant's name appears on the reference, the selections chair must delete it everywhere it appears before providing the reference form to the selections committee. This is a lot of work! The selections chair will be very happy if she does not need to do this.

For both camping and international events, the most important question on the reference form is, "Do you fully believe the applicant is a suitable candidate for this event?", or a similar question. Please answer truthfully, and think about the specific event that the applicant is applying for. If you have any doubts as to her suitability for that particular event, please answer, "no". The reference is confidential so the applicant will not know how you have answered this question.

What should you do if you are asked to give a reference for someone who you really do not think is suitable or who may not be ready for the experience? In that situation you have two options. You can suggest to the applicant that you may not be the best person to give the reference, or you can agree to give the reference but be honest about the applicant's shortcomings. The choice is yours, but please remember



that if an unsuitable participant is selected for an event, it can affect not only that participant, but all those around her and the success of the event as a whole.

After you have written the reference, you should not return it to the applicant. It must remain confidential. If you are submitting the reference in paper format, you should place it in a sealed envelope, sign your name across the flap, and send it directly to the selections committee at the address provided by the applicant. If you are submitting the reference in electronic format, you should e-mail it directly to the selections committee at the address provided by the applicant, but do not copy the applicant on your e-mail.

Writing a reference can be a very rewarding experience, especially if the applicant is selected for the event! We encourage you to take on this challenge and help create amazing experiences for your Guiding sisters.

***Submitted by Jennifer MacGregor-Greer, Provincial International Adviser,
and Cindy Popplestone, Provincial Camping Adviser***

The Lady Baden-Powell Recognition Event

The Lady Baden-Powell Challenge is designed to retain girls in the Guide level program through their 3rd year. It has many components covering all the program areas, but if a girl is consistent about her attendance during Guides, she will have completed a large number of them. Some additional requirements are focused on developing the girls' understanding of the role of Olave Baden-Powell in the development of Guiding, 100 years ago. This year, 49 girls in SVI Area completed the challenge during their time in Guides. Congratulations to all those girls.

Twenty-four girls arrived on Sunday, Oct 5, 2014 at Langford Lanes to celebrate their achievement of the Lady B-P award. They played two games of bowling, watched a video and then enjoyed a slice of cake. Thanks to Chloe, Grace, Mary and Samantha (2nd Woodwyn Guides) who filmed the video about Lady B-P's life. And, congratulations to Kaya, the top scorer at bowling.





Group Photo: First row (sitting): Cailyn, Kiersten, Silke, Lena. Second row (kneeling): Annabelle, Amelia, Chloe, Olina. Third row (standing): Mary, Mackenzie, Tamara, Sydney, Tessa, Emma, Goldie, Lady B-P (a.k.a. Jeannie Cosgrove). Fourth row (standing): Grace, Camryn, Aurora, Cassidy, Arianna, Lexie. Back: Hailey, Kym, Kaya. Missing: Shona, Kendra

Opposite Page from Top: Lady B-P, Sharon, Tamara and Mackenzie; Tessa, Grace and Amelia; Lady B-P & Madame Commissioner.; Cake!
 Below: Langford Lanes (L) and Annabelle (R)





Guiding Out & About In Metchosin

On September 7th, 85 Straits District members and their families shucked 75 dozen corn for the Metchosin Fair, a fun day and free community event held annually on the first Sunday after Labour Day. Afterwards, 1st and 2nd Colwood Guides served at the Metchosin Tea. When the work was done, many stayed on to check out all the great community displays and activities that included a pancake breakfast, pie contest, entertainment, pet show and children's events, vendors, and lamb and salmon BBQ dinner.

On Oct 5th, 1st and 2nd Colwood Guides served tea, apple carrot soup, baked apples with honey and pie to a large group of people out to learn everything you every wanted to know about apples. They also worked the old apple peelers while helping people make their own pies to take home and bake.

Submitted by Trudine Wilson, Straits District



Above: Olivia H., 1st Sangster Brownies

Right: A Spark-in-Training, Kairi P. and Kitara R., 2nd Colwood Sparks



The Harriett Hatch Bequest

At our Annual Gathering of Members many Guiders learned about how some of the Harriett Hatch bequest monies were spent. But who was Harriett Hatch? Guiding has been receiving the interest from her initial bequest for a great many years. How sad that we really didn't know anything about her. What had this lady hoped when she gave the money? What were her interests? How could we honour her wish?

I went to the Guide House Archives, and thanks to Rosalie Frampton, former member of the Archives Committee and others, was able to find some minutes that referred to the bequest. Sadly in the years that followed it was never mentioned again. I wanted to know more so was encouraged to go to the BC Archives. Here is what I found:

Harriett Hatch was born in Wolverhampton, England on October 20, 1870. She lived on Barkley Terrace in Oak Bay for 36 years. Harriett's will included bequests to the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Queen Alexandria Solarium for Crippled Children, the Victoria Order of Nurses, the Fairbridge Farm School and the Girl Guides of Victoria (\$10,000). That sum was to be invested and the interest income to be paid in perpetuity. We received a lump sum when the bank that dealt with her bequest each year was no longer administering it.

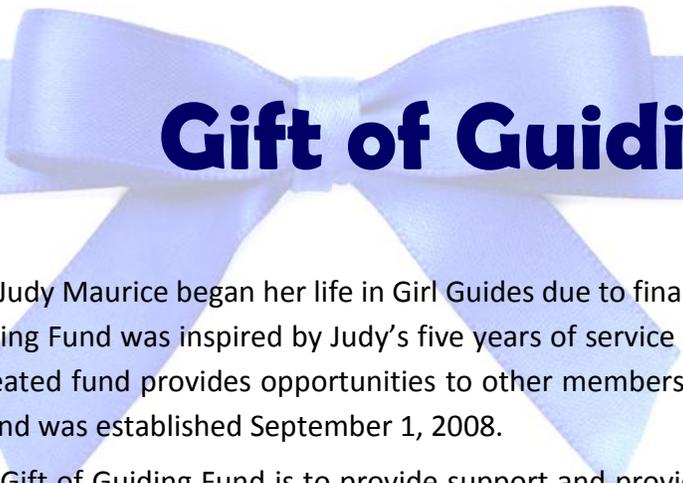
Mrs. Hatch had lived in China for 20 years before moving to Canada in 1913 and had many relations in Australia. Her specific gift to the hospital was to be used "extending the x-ray equipment" which I believe shows an interest in technology. The only possible connection I found to connect Mrs. Hatch with Guiding was a Mrs. Kendridge who was a commissioner in Vancouver at about the same time. There were Kendridges in Harriett's family tree although I wasn't able to find the connection if there was one. Perhaps she was simply excited about the possibility of developing these young women in an all-women's organization.

I believe that Harriett would be pleased to know that a laptop computer and an LCD projector were purchased with her bequest. They will be used for many years to train Guiders who in turn will help develop self-reliance in the girls who join our movement.

Our legacies are often what we have shared of ourselves with the girls and Guiders, and if we also leave a bequest of money it is my hope that every care will be taken to consider the woman who gave it.

Thank you Mrs. Hatch.

This article was written by Olive Brown, former Area Commissioner, over a decade ago. This summer, the auditor of the Area finances requested information on the rules governing the bequest, and it is reprinted here because it is such an interesting piece of SVI Guiding history.



Gift of Guiding Fund

Giving the Gift of Guiding

At the age of seven Judy Maurice began her life in Girl Guides due to financial assistance provided to her family. The Gift of Guiding Fund was inspired by Judy's five years of service as Provincial Commissioner (2003-2008). The newly created fund provides opportunities to other members by providing financial support. The Gift of Guiding Fund was established September 1, 2008.

The purpose of the Gift of Guiding Fund is to provide support and provide the best Guiding experience to those girls and women who require financial assistance. The fund also enables active recruitment of girls and women who could benefit the most from Guiding - those who otherwise might be excluded from all that Guiding offers due to financial constraints.

This fund is not intended to replace the Unit, District and Area assistance currently in place. It provides the pro-active assistance necessary to support existing units in financial distress or to create and assist new units. The Gift of Guiding also helps individual girl and adult members.

Gift of Guiding application forms are available from your Area Commissioner, the Provincial Office and on the BC Girl Guides website. The Gift of Guiding Fund is held and administered at the Provincial Office.

Guiding Councils and individuals who would like to contribute funds may wish to donate to the Gift of Guiding in honour of Judy or another Guider who has inspired or mentored you. A specially created Gift of Guiding card will be sent to the Guider being honoured in recognition of the donation.

How to make a donation:

Write donation cheques to "Girl Guides of Canada - BC Council". Note that the donation is for Gift of Guiding on the memo portion of the cheque. A letter should be attached to the cheque designating the donation to the Gift of Guiding and noting the name and address of the individual who is being honoured.

Cheques and attached letters should be sent to:

Financial Manager
Girl Guides of Canada – BC Council
1476 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V6H 1E1

Cheques can also be given to any branch of Guiding throughout BC as long as they indicate "Gift of Guiding". The money is then sent to the Provincial Office where a charitable donation receipt will be issued.

Trudine Wilson: Helping Colwood girls to be confident, resourceful and courageous...

You can't really talk about girl guides on the West Shore without hearing about Guide Leader **Trudine Wilson**.

As a girl growing up in Colwood, Trudine started Brownies at the Colwood Children's Hall in 1962, then continued as a Guide and then a Ranger. Understanding how powerful it can be for girls to learn leadership traits and valuable skills within the supportive framework of strong friendships, she volunteered as Junior Leader for the 1st Colwood Guides. Her leadership skills and passion for the guiding program led her to become the unit's Lieutenant and then the Captain. Trudine continues to be the contact leader today.



Nurturing positive leaders

Throughout its history, Girl Guides of Canada has prepared girls to meet the challenges that they face in their lives head on. Whether it was girls learning to bandage wounds during the First World War or girls today working on their anti-bullying badge, Guiding continually evolves to reflect the needs and interests of contemporary girls and women. Today, Guiding's innovative programming is helping the next generation of Canadian girls become confident, courageous and resourceful leaders.

"I love working with the girls even after all these years and the many changes to guiding (uniforms, Promise and Laws, and the program)," says Trudine. "The girls are still the same - they want to learn new things, have fun, camp in canvas tents with no floors, and make new friends. If I can teach them to be kind, polite, to share, to realize that we are all the same, and to respect themselves and others I feel that I am preparing them for a better future."

If that sounds serious, rest assured that fun is a major part of every activity. Trudine recalls a time she let a bunch of guiders haul her up a zip line and let her go. "I screamed all the way down," she laughs.

Fostering a spirit of community service

Trudine is proof that the mission of the Girl Guides of Canada works - that it "makes a positive difference in the life of every girl and woman so she can contribute responsibly to her community". She has certainly made a difference in the Colwood community, as someone who is always willing to lend a hand and to listen. She has a special talent for making community connections and planning community events. Her work has encouraged many girls in our Colwood community to become leaders in their own right.

Fourteen year old **Shauna Hunze** is one of the many Girl Guides Trudine has led over the years. "Anyone who knows Trudine is lucky. She is not just an amazing leader, she's also an amazing, selfless person," says Shauna. "I am in Pathfinders now and I still feel a connection with her and love helping with her unit. I hope she's in it for a lot longer because she is a great example for girls."

We are not the only ones who recognize Trudine as a community leader. She has received many awards during her Girl Guide career, being honoured with the Commissioner/ACL, Gold Unit Guider, BC Guiders Appreciation Award, Medal of Merit, and Silver Merit. She was also thrilled to receive her Honorary Lifetime Membership in 2007.

It feels good to give

When she's not working with Guides, she can be found volunteering with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion, helping out at community events or spending time with her husband Wil working around the house and yard. It all adds up to being a giver, not a taker - which Trudine considers the best compliment anyone could give her. She hopes everyone will see how good it feels to help other people by giving of yourself.

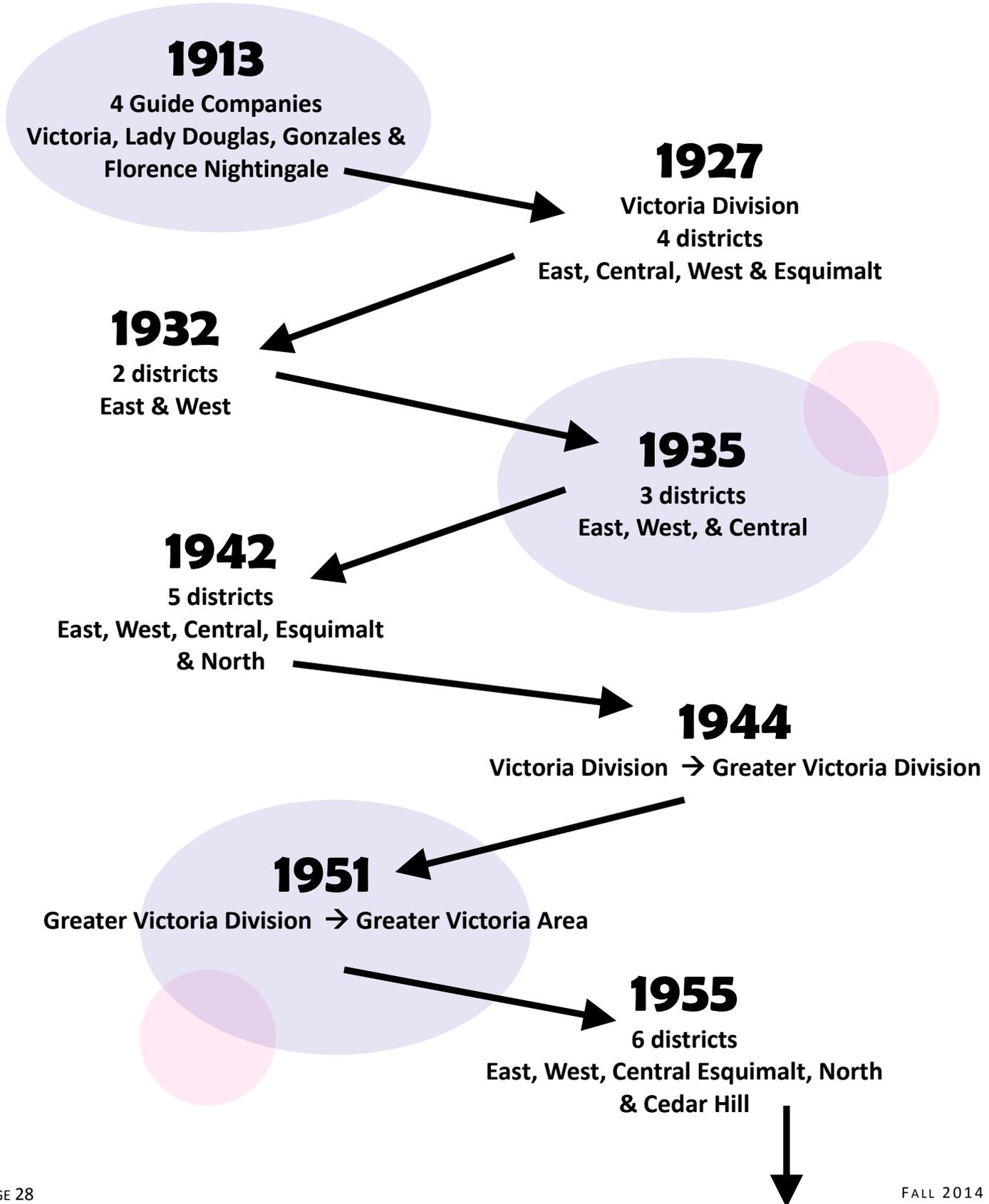
Note: This article, by City of Colwood Communications Manager Sandra Russell, originally appeared on their website and is reproduced here with their permission.

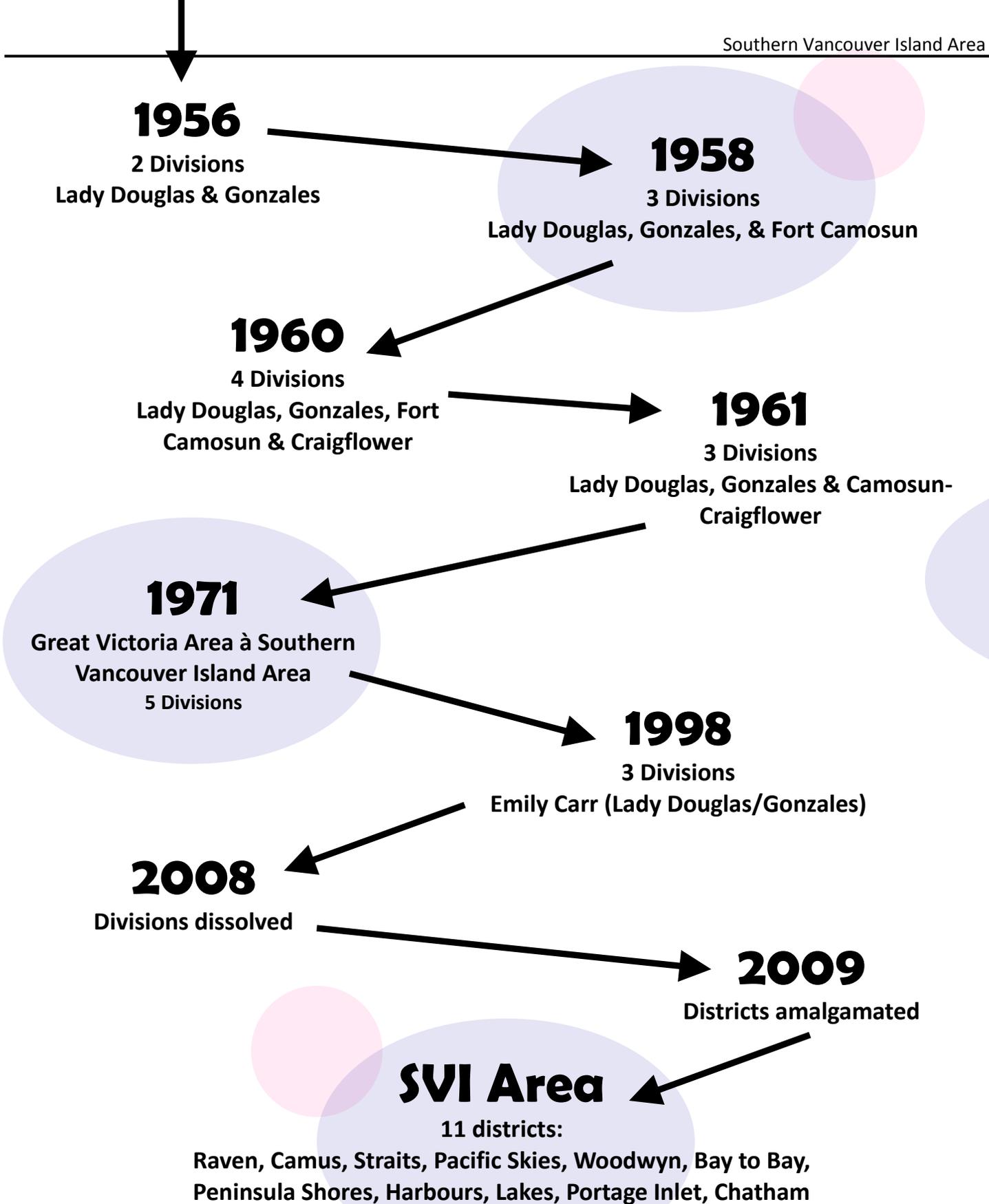


The photo above shows Colwood Girl Guides enjoying a horse drawn carriage ride at the [St. John the Baptist Centennial Celebration](#) in August 2013, where they volunteered to serve food to over 200 guests including Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon, Mayor Carol Hamilton and many other honoured guests.

A STEP BACK IN TIME... by Lynda Ireland

Here is a look back at our local history to show how SVI Area evolved over the last 100 years. If you follow the vertical timeline you will get a fascinating picture of our growth, decline, more growth, etc. - illustrating the cyclical nature of the Guiding organization and how it affected us right here in Victoria.





In 2014 the configuration of SVI Area remains stable, and for the most part has proven to be effective in better utilizing our human resources, improving communication and providing more efficient distribution of girl and adult members according to their geographic location. We must, however, always be prepared for change, as the last 100 years have shown.

SOAR 2014 WRAP-UP

I am happy to report that all the SOAR travel and patrol organizing went very well for the most part. I can't say the same for the weather while the event was going on!! We had some concerns with the bus drivers going to Enderby but those were mostly addressed and I am told the trip back was much better. I will be passing along to the Steering Committee as well as Lynch Bus Lines all the details, concerns and suggestions given me by the Bus Bosses.

Here are some stats:

- Guiders and girls attending: 191 (41 Guiders and 150 girls)**
- Core Staff attending: 25** **TOTAL.....216**
- Buses: 4**
- Trucks: 2**
- Gear misplaced after arriving home: 6 or so pieces (3 from Pacific shores Area)**
- Gear/girls left at the Spectrum parking lot on return: 0**

It was quite amazing to see how quickly the Spectrum parking lot went from Zoo to Zero in the space of half an hour on the 26th.

Financially we did well too with a deficit for Area of less than \$1000.00 – much lower than we had predicted. This event was pretty close to sustainable, which was the goal from the beginning.

Thank you to all who helped make my job easier with rapid responses to my multitude of emails and especially to the Bus Bosses for volunteering for a job that turned into something quite a big bigger than they bargained for. Special thanks to **Sheilagh Finnigan** and **Linda Callander** for their part in keeping communication open to me via cell phone and text throughout the week, as plans were changing daily for the return trip.

Thanks for the opportunity to be a part of this exciting event – even if from afar.

Submitted by Lynda Ireland, SVI SOAR Liaison

Security Team Leaders
Nancy Pryce and Wendy
Halpen





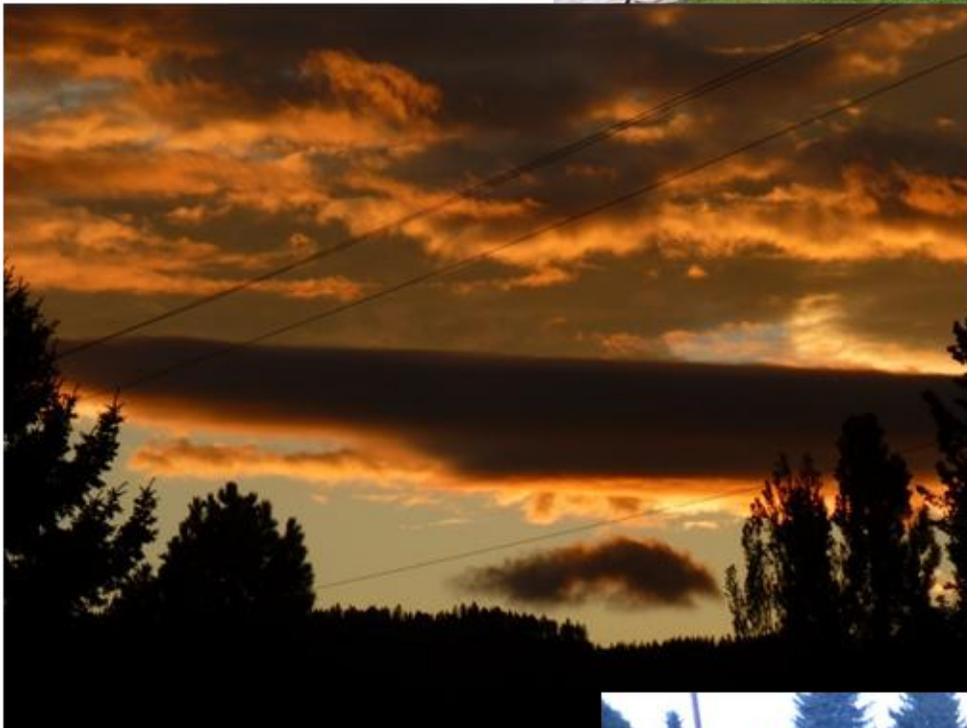
Deputy Area Commissioner Sheilagh Finnigan helping girls complete comfort bears as a service project— also pictured below.



SVI patrols arrive at SOAR after a LONG bus trip from Delta to the Okanagan. Core staff made the same long trip only days earlier!

Darcy Wyllie and one of several pop-up tents that did not survive the wind!

Ominous clouds!!!!



The colourfully dressed patrol is from Grenada – The Spice Islands

SVI at SOAR

Despite the official nickname of the camp being chosen as SPOT, the group I was with was all for STORM. First we were too hot, then we had wind, then just a few storms blew through, then it rained and then it rained a little more. In all the crazy weather we still had a great time and everyone is ready to go again.

Erlene Amero, SVI Camping Adviser





TRADING! Girls from the 4th Victoria Pathfinders's patrol make sure to trade their specially designed crests and other handmade crafts .



Soaring above SOAR! A photo of the camp from above thanks to Salmon Arm's flying club.



Camp wasn't all work and no play for the CORE staff! During their half-day off, Sarah van Nes (L) got a break from food distribution and Amanda McIntyre (R) took a break from Public Relations to go on an out trip with the girls to a local dairy farm.



Three cheers for a wonderful SOAR!

Camp Corner

Your Campsite Committees strive to make our SVI Area Campsites great places, but without a lot of use, it is difficult to keep them running the way we would like, with the sorts of up-dates that Guiders and girls alike would appreciate. For one thing, if our camps were brimming with bookings, lots of girls would be having a great time and the camps would have more revenue to do more maintenance and development.

Check out this link - <http://bccamping.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Shantz-Presentation.pdf>. Maybe it will spark the imaginations of Guiders to camp more, or offer ideas for them to pass along to reluctant parents. Camping is a fabulous experience for the girls and the basis of many of their fondest memories of their time in Guiding.

Submitted by Teresa Howden, Camp Properties Adviser

Congratulations to Shauna Stubbs

Jubilee Camp Committee would like to congratulate Shauna Stubbs, a Langford Pathfinder who won the Violet Richardson Award from the Westshore Soroptomist Club and had them donate \$200 to Jubilee Camp. Many thanks Shauna!

Submitted by Sandy Hulko, Jubilee Camp Committee

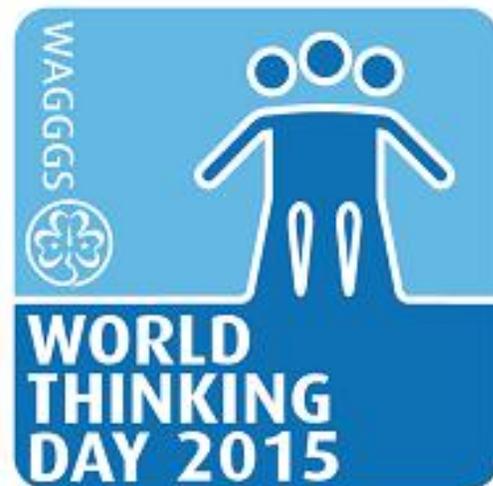


World Thinking Day 2015

4 September 2014

Since 2008, World Thinking Day has explored the themes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as part of WAGGGS' Global Action Theme (GAT), "together we can change our world". For six years, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world have worked hard to help achieve the MDGs and end global poverty.

[See our GAT and MDG 500 Days 500 Stories push](#) to learn more about how far we have come, what more needs to be done, and to share you stories!



This is the last year of the Millennium Development Goals, which means we have come to the ultimate Millennium Development Goal and this World Thinking Day 2015 theme- **MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development.**

Our mission is: "To enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world." In order to achieve this mission we are creating strong partnerships at all levels (local, national, regional, global) that empower girls and young women to take action and make the world a better place. Learning about the power of partnerships is a great way to celebrate our worldwide Movement. We also reflect on how, together, we have changed our world by working on this Global Action Theme, both on World Thinking Day and all year round, since 2009.

Get ready to have some fun while learning about MDG 8 and celebrating World Thinking Day. **The WAGGGS MDG 8 World Thinking Day resource will be launched at the end of October 2014.** While you wait, why not explore our other Global Action Theme resources?

While you are waiting for the World Thinking Day 2015 pack, why not check out:

[Be the change toolkit](#)

[World Thinking Day 2014 pack: MDG2 Universal Primary Education](#)

[GAT Badge Curriculum](#)