

THE LAMPLIGHTER



Pacific Skies Pathfinders Savannah Christman, Nya Elliott and Emily Winsor prepare to pour tea during the photos with the 'Queen' event on the lawn of the Oak Bay Municipal Hall. Their picture even graced the front cover of the September 16th edition of the *Oak Bay News*. For more on this story see page 14.

Photograph courtesy of Christine van Reeuyk, Oak Bay News



**Girl Guides
of Canada**

**Guides
du Canada**

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The Lamplighter will be published three times a year and posted to the SVI website. Go to www.svigirlguides.bc.ca, select Guiding in SVI, and choose Lamplighters from the drop down menu. Arrangements can also be made with the SVI Area office for black and white hard copies to be mailed to your home address. *The Lamplighter* 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/Summer editions.

Area Council

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Vacant	Raven
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FROM THE (OUTGOING) COMMISSIONER'S DESK

**Welcome to a new year of
Guiding in SVI!**

**To new friends and old,
welcome!**

As I reflect back on the past three years as SVI Commissioner, I also reflect back on my 23 years of adult Guiding in Southern Vancouver Island Area. I had the great opportunity over the last week to visit with a dear friend whom Sheilagh and I met for the first time in 2010 at Our Cabana in Cuernavaca, Mexico. We attended the Butterfly Session there in February, where

we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Guiding. Meeting Joan Klinck was one of many highlights of that trip. She was with a group from Ontario that plan trips together as adults to Guiding sites, camps and beyond. We continued that friendship and when Sheilagh heard that Joan's group was planning a trip to Sangam in 2013, took the opportunity to join them there for more adventures. This past week, Joan came west for the Western Regional Trainers conference so for a few days we caught up once again when we play host to her in our homes. We spent a sunny afternoon touring her around the great campsites that we have in SVI, sharing stories of camps from the past and looking forward to those in the future. Oh, how wonderful to have Guiding connections that last through the years and can pick up where they left off so easily!

Knowing that many of my current friends are women that I have 'Guided' next to for more than 20 years is also a wonderful thing. Wendy and Adrienne, two of the three new Area Commissioners for SVI have been at trainings along with me since I first started this adventure as an adult in 1992! I wish them all the best.

I have spent time over these past three years with many girls and Guiders. Joining with Portage for District camp, popping in on the Ocean Aware Challenge day at the Lakes' District Camp, being a guest at Raven's Snowflake ball and various Christmas parties and attending Chatham's Guider awards events to mention just a few, have all been positive experiences full of joyful memories and shared values. It has been great to be part of the bigger picture.



It is also rewarding to see girls that I have worked with over the years become confident, positive role models for younger girls. I have run into so many girls and had conversations about the positive aspects of our organization. Knowing young adults that have come up through Girl Guides and continue on to offer the wonderful opportunities to the ones coming behind them is very encouraging – our organization is in good hands with these young people. I have also had conversations with parents about the aspects of Guiding that have contributed positively to their daughters' growth, well-being and future. You never know where you will meet a former Girl Guide and strike up a conversation about how it impacted their lives. In fact, a year ago at a non-Guiding camp, I met a group of five transgender males, all of whom had been members when they were younger. They all had very positive memories of their time in Guiding and appreciated the positive role models and how they were accepted for who they were. Guiding taught them skills that they could carry forward to wherever their lives might lead them.

Another connection over the past week was going to a bridal shower for a young woman that I took to Scandinavia for a GGC adventure 11 years ago. She has an active Guide unit in Ottawa and still loves Guiding like she did when we met long ago and far away!

We offer amazing programs whether it be STEM, international travel or life skills. Designed to work with each level of Guiding, we build on those skills and abilities as the girls explore and learn new things. Guiders are encouraged to branch out and explore new things as well – working on a varied program that stretches your Guiding skills. Guiding has changed immensely over the years, as have we. Providing a bold and interesting year full of adventures keeps us all fresh and excited about the positive aspects of our organization.

In closing, I would like to give a huge thank you to Darcy Wyllie for all that she does as our office coordinator – she really was a great asset during our term, to Carol Gamey who answered so many iMIS questions, to Nancy Fischer and Mary Porterfield who were so helpful with financial matters, to Teresa Howden who has done such a marvellous job of keeping our camp properties well looked after and to all the other amazing Advisers and District Commissioners within SVI that contributed to successes in our Area.

Sharon Doty, SVI Area Commissioner

**Make new friends, but keep the old
One is silver and the other gold**

**The circles round, it has no end
That's how long I want to be your
friend.**

Photo: Margaret Lidkea showing 6th Victoria Sparks what can be found in a Garry Oak Habitat with Sheila Fowler.



Hats Off...



First and foremost, to the outgoing Area Commissioner team, **Sharon Doty** and her deputies **Sheilagh Finnigan** and **Gillian Hurwood**. Thankfully Sharon answered the call to serve in the fall of 2012, when we were leaderless, and brought her long-time Guiding sidekick Sheilagh into the fold several months later. Sharon brought a wealth of guiding experience to the table from her years as a Guider and District Commissioner in Shoal Bay District, augmented by her appointment to the Provincial International Committee, where she shared and nurtured her love of travel and adventure. Her *From the Commissioner's Desk* segments on that topic were a particular highlight. Sheilagh had a similar background in Shoal Bay district, as a long-standing Guide Guider and District Camping Adviser, with a term as secretary of the SVI Camping Committee. Gillian came along last year to offer her bookkeeping and financial expertise, and has now become an Area Commissioner herself. It is difficult to put into words just how challenging and time-consuming (often thankless) these positions can be, so thanks for putting so much of yourselves into the job. Sheilagh and Sharon will continue to be active members of the 1st Victoria Trefoil Guild, and Sheilagh remains a member of the Kingswood Camp Committee and the Contact Guider for 6th Victoria Sparks, so we will continue to see them at events around SVI.

To incoming Area Co-Commissioners, **Adrienne Blandford**, **Wendy Halpen** and **Gillian Hurwood**. Read about Wendy and Adrienne and their Spirit of Hilda Leighton award in this edition of *The Lamplighter*. All three have years of experience as District Commissioners, and there are not many adviser positions on the books that Gillian hasn't filled in Harbours District! Together this

tightly knit team will keep us on an even keel. Welcome!

To new Area Council Members, Woodwyn District Commissioner **Sharon Lohr** and Area Awards Adviser, **Daphne MacGregor-Greer**. Our good wishes to **Amy Fischer** who has had to step back from the Awards Adviser position for health reasons. A special shout out to **Suzanne Iverson**, for all her assistance and support.

To **Hailey Finnigan**, outgoing SVI Senior Outreach Officer, who has moved to Vancouver for work. Thanks for all your efforts to keep us connected to social media and for managing the SVI tweets. Thanks to **Sherry Fortais** who has agreed to take on that task.

To **Teresa Howden**, outgoing Camp Properties Liaison. Teresa has gone above and beyond in her past five years in the position and her expertise and commitment will be sorely missed.

To those girls and Guiders who made interesting and often humorous presentations at International Night at Guide House on Friday Oct. 9th. Sidney Ranger **Laura Fraser**, talked about her Bowron Lakes canoeing trip, **Brenda Fraser** about her Adventure to the Capitals (check out the article in this edition), **Shauna Stubbs** (Lakes) and **Katherine (Katie) Lee** regaled us with their escapades on the Sea of Cortez, **Sara Herbert** (Straits/Peninsula Shores), **Isabella Lee**, **Meggyn Crisp** (1st Victoria Rangers) and Guider **Colleen McKenna** (Raven) shared their experiences (and they brought treats!) from their Me to We excursion to Udaipur, India and **Kirsten Crisp** (Bay to Bay), **Molly Cheng** (Emily Carr Trex), and **Jessica Moore** (Straits) gave us the highlights of Colours of the World in Vancouver,

amidst much giggling. **Charlotte Galbraith**, a transitioning member from Peninsula Shores, closed the evening with a talk and a display about volunteering at Our Chalet last winter.

To all the Guiders who helped with the Tetley Tea Tent: to **Sharon Doty** and **Jeannie Cosgrove** for their assistance with set-up, to **Fiona Crisp**, **Teresa Howden**, **Michelle Winsor**, **Susan Christman**, **Carol Gamey**, **Neala St. Hilaire**, **Jill Wark**, **Colleen McKenna** and **Cathy Schofield** who signed up for shifts, but most of all to the members of the International Committee, **Sara Kissinger**, **Nancy Pryce**, **Denise Howden** and last and certainly not least, the driving force behind the success of the enterprise, **Merlane Quon**. For more information on the Tetley Tea Tent, see the article in this edition.

To former Pacific Skies girl and youth member, now a Guider attending school in Vancouver,

Samantha Quesnelle, who has joined the BC International Committee.

To **Camas District** whose Guiders registered the most hours of training time last year. As their reward, the Training Committee helped serve and cleaned up at their year-end potluck.

To the girls from **4th Bay to Bay Guides** who earned \$21.72 per girl and won the 2015 BC CWFF Pizza Challenge. Well done girls!

To the organizers of the Lady BP Event held June 7, 2015: **Suzanne Iverson**, **Nancy Pryce**, **Sheilagh Finnigan**, **Jeannie Cosgrove (Lady BP)** and **Lynda Ireland**. Thanks also to **Gillian Hurwood** for attending in her role as Deputy Area Commissioner and to **Maryna Ell** as our special guest speaker.



Gone Home Shirley Siteman



Shirley Siteman, a longstanding member of Lakes District, passed away Thanksgiving weekend at the age of 68. Shirley was a former Deputy Commissioner, District Guider and from 1994 to 2003, an active Brownie, Guide and Pathfinder Guider. She served Juan de Fuca Division as their Public Relations Adviser from 1998 to 1999 and SVI Area as the Special Needs Adviser from 2005 to 2012. She received her 50 year membership pin in the spring of this year.

As a tribute to her vibrant personality, those attending her funeral were asked to “celebrate with as much colour as you can”. At the service there was a Guiding colour party, and On My Honour, Barges and Taps were part of the program. Our thoughts are with her family and her friends in Guiding. She will be missed.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mccallbros.com.

See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timescolonist/obituary-search.aspx?affiliateId=3129&firstname=shirley&lastname=siteman&stateid=6>.



the public eye and provides a fundraising opportunity for girls and Guiders selected for national, international, provincial and independent trips.

The amount of money raised depends on many variables, from the number of participants and the length and frequency of their shifts, to the weather. Prior to 2010, travelers could bring their own trays of squares and treats to sell,

The Tetley Tea Tent: An SVI Tradition



however health regulations have brought an end to that practice. Now Tetley and their parent company, Concord International, provides prepackaged baked goodies as well as the boxes and boxes and boxes of tea. In 2015, 750 cups were served!

A huge shout out to International Adviser Merlane Quon and her team who have organized and shepherded this process for so many years, and to her predecessors Sharon Doty and Teri Craig. These women were truly ringmasters – juggling paperwork (Safe Guide, VIHA food service permits, FR 1.s to name a few), purchasing supplies, preparing a schedule, liaising with company representatives and the Tea Party Society, trouble-shooting,

This year, as in every year in recent memory, Girl Guides have been volunteering at the Oak Bay Tea Party in the iconic Tetley Tea Tent. This longstanding SVI tradition puts Guiding in

overseeing the proceedings, providing on-site training, and coordinating all the volunteers into a cohesive team, not to mention calculating the profits and distributing the funds afterwards. And they made it appear so effortless.

In the words of the company representative who wrote to Area Commissioner Sharon Doty in June of this year:

I just wanted to take an opportunity to once again to commend Merlane Quon and her amazing Girl Guide team for the hard work, efforts and dedication working/volunteering at the Oak Bay Tea Party event this past June 6th and 7th. Merlane just seems to get better and better each year! The whole event ran like a fine-tuned racing machine! Although I was concerned about the great weather (and selling hot tea in it), they had tremendous success!

Like in past years, Merlane's team was passionate and focused and always smiling.

Many thanks – we look forward to next year! And please bring Merlane back – she is the best!

Best regards,

Art Curkovic, Key Account Manager - Vancouver Island, Concord National - Pacific Division



Our thanks go out as well to Tetley for their donation of supplies, as well as the rental of all the cups, saucers, tables, chairs, teapots, sinks, water vats, propane and cooktop.

So if you are out and about during the first weekend of June, be sure to drop by the big white tent at Willows Park, have a cuppa and support those lucky girls and Guiders in SVI who are setting off on adventures over the summer.

**Submitted by Carol Gamey,
Lampighter Editor**







Seuss On The Loose: Peninsula Shores District Camp

Once again, Peninsula Shores District unleashed their creative genius with their Dr. Seuss themed year-end district camp, held at Kingswood on May 5th. Inspired by the man himself and the 2015 Girl Guides of Canada National Service Project "Words in Action", the day was filled with songs, crafts, stories, some amazing props and costumes – and all things Seuss. Wendy Kluge and Marilyn Maggiora as Thing 1 and Thing 2, Sheena McCullough as the Cat in the Hat, and Tamara Fraser as a Star-belly Sneetch embraced the theme with their usual enthusiasm and verve. With their

amazing ingenuity and attention to detail, even the menu was in character with offerings such as Sneech and crackers, one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish snack mix, Wocket pockets, poodles noodles and Cat in the Hat kabobs. And to quote of one of the organizers: *"I have never seen more active words than at camp that day!"*

There is no better way to sum up the event than with poetry and a heart-felt thank you!

*Our Camp was successful, so what if we boast.
The best camp of all in the whole Western coast.*

We did crafts and some singing and played some wide games.

*We all can remember now each other's names.
The Sneetch, how she fed us, and fed us some more.*

*We ate and we ate til we went out the door.
Thing 1 and Thing 2 took our pictures – say "Cheese."*

The cat made us look for some words on our knees.

*So Thanks to you Girl Guides, Thank you a lot.
Such time with each other we could not have bought!!*

By the Cat in the Hat (a.k.a. Sheena McCullough, District Co-Commissioner)

To the team of critters who planned these fun days

Thanks for making Seuss great in the Girl Guide ways

Having fun and sharing and laughing a lot

We love Kingswood camp as our own special spot

One purpose we had on that fine sunny day

Was to share our good will and to all have a say

In giving to others the books that we've read

So they too could read before going to bed

Each pondered and puzzled and gave what she could

Thinking of children and doing some good

Two hundred and eighty seven books we'll donate

Filling boxes from cookies that everyone ate

Thank you one

Thank you all

Thank you short

Thank you tall

I loudly and proudly proclaim to be

A gratified Girl Guide in your company.

By Carol Whitehouse

Submitted by Carol Gamey, Lamplighter Editor.

Photographs courtesy of Tamara Fraser, Laura Fraser and Karalee Tremblay, Peninsula Shores District



Above: Thing 1 & Thing 2



Above and below: A word of walls activity.





Above: Jacky Stevens, Carol Whitehouse and Monika Pelz get into the spirit.

Right: More Seuss!

Below: Story time.



Celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Reign

On September 9th, Queen Elizabeth surpassed the record of her great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria and became the United Kingdom's longest serving monarch. To celebrate this auspicious occasion, the Municipality of Oak Bay held a noon-hour ceremony on the grounds of the municipal hall. After an address by Lt. Gov. Judith Guichon, praising the Queen for her years of service and dedication, the festivities continued with a proper English tea.

International Advisers Merlane Quon and Sara Kissinger, with the able assistance of girls travelling to South America in 2016, were on hand to serve over 200 cups of the most British of beverages, as well as sandwiches and treats to the dignitaries and members of the public in attendance. Afterwards there was a photo opportunity with Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria, their corgis and an English bobby.



Thank-you to the Oak Bay Council for asking Girl Guides to assist with their event.

Submitted by Michelle Winsor and Susan Christman, Pacific Skies Co-Commissioners

A Variety Show For Emma



This past May, it was my very great privilege to work with some immensely caring and compassionate individuals to create what was definitely a night to remember! St. Peter's Church Lakehill played host to Emma Smith and her friends, the 27th Victoria Guides, and some special guest performers. Together they put on quite a show!

Conceived out of the girls' desire to help their friend and her family when it was discovered that Emma was battling cancer for the second time, we brainstormed fundraising ideas. A bottle drive had already been held, and a variety show was suggested as an alternative. The idea was enthusiastically embraced. The

trouble was, how? In stepped St. Peter's Church with an offer to host the evening. They continued to be of immense help in its production. Even the girls that could not attend or perform put in lots of work, time and effort. There were numerous nights of rehearsals prior to the show as scripts were being developed, roles were solidified, and the program was arranged.

The girls have many and varied talents; musicality and musicianship were very much in evidence. The girls play several different types of instruments – we were treated to cello, violin and piano performances, both singly and in duets over the course of the evening.



The Victoria Annual Summer Choir, under the direction of Mr. Simon Chang and managed by Ms. Clara Chay, demonstrated the most amazing vocal talents during their performance. Their range and abilities are quite remarkable! A family friend of one of the guides also sang beautifully.

The girls have other talents as well. We had the most fantastic skipping demonstration by two of our guides along with one of their friends. WOW! I wish I still had that kind of energy.....

Not to mention the energy required to do a solo interpretive dance to your favourite piece of music, as one of our girls did.

In the true spirit of a variety show, we also had theatrical entertainments. The girls all performed in one of three skits: the perennial Scouts favourite, “Three Rivers”, a hilarious do’s and don’ts skit about cookie selling, written by two of our Guides and performed by one of them and her Guide friend from another unit (as an aside...the sisterhood of Guiding at its finest!), and finally, a skit sharing the story of how girls crashed the Crystal Palace Boy Scout camp in England and how Lord and Lady BP responded with the creation of Girl Guides.



To round out our truly eclectic evening, Cam the Magic Man, a Guide’s Dad, delighted and amazed us all with his awe-inspiring magical mysteries! How did he *do* that?

The girls did not limit themselves to performing; a bake sale and silent auction were held during the intermission.

At the meeting afterwards, we asked the girls “What was your favourite part of being involved in the show?” The answers were varied, as they would be given the age range of nine to eleven year-olds, from ‘*the bake sale*’ to many versions of ‘*seeing all of our talents*’ and ‘*helping/celebrating our friend*’. I think my





favourite came from Emma herself: *“support for her family filled her with happiness”*.

Thanks Emma – that was what we were all hoping for!



Submitted by Ladybug (a.k.a. Tracy McLeish-Schmit), 27th Victoria Guides, Portage Inlet District





Close up of a Golden-crowned Sparrow being banded.

Ann Scarfe, a member of the Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild, is also a very active volunteer with the Rocky Point Bird Observatory (<http://rpbo.org/>). Every year, from mid-July to mid-October, she travels several times a week from her Gordon

From mid-September to the end of October, Ann also spends some evenings helping to catch, band and release owls. Since the owls, mostly Northern Saw-whets, only fly after dark, it means the shifts start just before sunset during mid-summer and go

Bird Banding With The Peninsula Pals

Head home to Pedder Bay in Metchosin. In July, this means setting off in the dark at 4:00 a.m. so that she and the other volunteers can be ready to unfurl the catch nets 30 minutes before sunrise and start banding birds as the sun comes up.

for six hours, with an earlier start as fall draws near.

In September, Ann gave us a glimpse into her birding world by inviting the Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild to see all aspects of the bird banding activity. Nine of our members

carpooled to the banding site near the Pedder Bay Marina where we spent several hours, starting with a walk to the capture areas, where thin nets are hung to catch the birds. After the birds are carefully removed from the nets, they are placed in soft cloth bags and taken to the banding station.

There, an experienced bander goes through the routine of identifying the species of bird and collecting data. It is fascinating to watch, as he or she examines



At the banding station with Guild members Ann Scarfe, Gillian Lightbody, Mary Mitchell, Diana Hocking, Rose Kwiatkowski, Elaine Eastman, Wendy Kluge and Sue Johnson

the bird for age and sex, fat deposits, and wing length before tagging them with a lightweight numbered band. The data is then entered into a computer by a volunteer ‘scribe’, who gets an “up close and personal look” at all the birds, and ensures that all the relevant information has been



Jeannie Cosgrove with a Hermit Thrush, about to be released (photo by Rose Kwiatkowski)



taken. The birds are then weighed and gently released. The day we visited, the bander, Brian, who has been coming from Ontario for six years for this three month job, recorded and banded his 10,000th bird at Pedder Bay (a very small Pacific Wren).

Rocky Point Bird Observatory, a non-profit society, relies on donations, grants and many volunteer hours to keep the 20 year monitoring program running. They are also looking for groups, like Pathfinders or Rangers, to sew up the bags that hold each captured bird. Since the bags are specially constructed to avoid anything that can snag on the birds’ feet or bills, there are instructions on making them at: rpbo.org/how_to_make_a_bird_bag.pdf.

If your unit or Trefoil Guild is interested in a visit to the Pedder Bay site, or if you want more information about volunteering,

please email Ann at rams@pacificcoast.net. The best times to visit the banding site are mornings (8:30 to 10:30 a.m.) or after 8 p.m., with evenings the best time to see the owls.

**Submitted by Jeannie Cosgrove,
Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild**

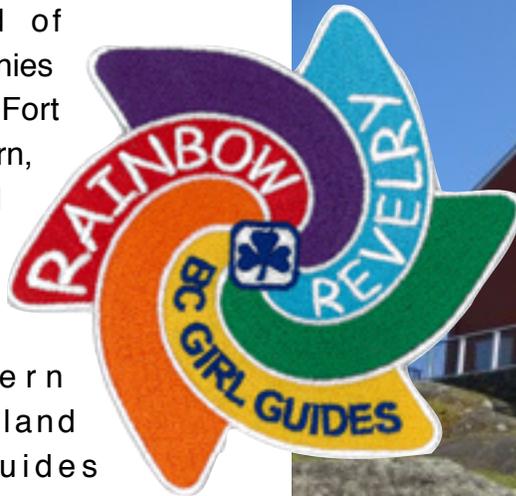
Above photo: Ann (in Tilley hat) prepares a bird bag before untangling a bird from the net

The Rainbow Revelry

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, the first weekend of May, 105 Brownies converged on Fort Rodd Hill to learn, be creative, and make noise, but most of all, to have fun.

The Southern Vancouver Island Area Girl Guides hosted a Brownie Revel, an event specific to Brownies, at the Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse Historic Site. It proved to be a perfect venue for running around, sharing snacks, making crafts, and learning about marine animals and invasive species.

Brownie Revels are designed to be a large scale celebration that inspires girls and volunteers to think about how they are part of a larger organization. Girls can get to know others in their community who also share a love of Guiding. Revels date back to 1923, where the first documented event took place in Cheshire, England. The earliest gatherings would have themes like Mother Goose or Peter Pan but revels in 2015 take on different topics, such as ocean literacy and environmental stewardship.



In addition to the Brownies there were 63 Guiders, Trefoil Guild Members, Pathfinders and supporters in attendance to lead the Brownies through different stations. Each station adopted a colour of the rainbow so that throughout the afternoon each Brownie unit got to learn and have fun as they made their way through the spectrum of colours.

As you would expect, the blue station was located near the beach. There, the girls met three scuba divers from *Rockfish Divers*, who had just “borrowed” some sea creatures and marine vegetation from the Esquimalt Lagoon. There was a beautiful sea star, a jumpy crab, a slippery sea cucumber and a hermit crab. The girls really enjoyed having the opportunity to see live animals up close along with the chance to speak to the scuba divers who had collected them.



The girls didn’t have to walk far to go to get to the red station which was located at the historic Fort Rodd Hill lighthouse. Each unit hammed it up for a group photo in the row boat, which rests in front of the lighthouse on the rocky beach. An awesome Pathfinder led them in playing a Ships and Lighthouse game. It was then into the lighthouse itself to make bracelets using beads to visually represent the Morse Code.



Back towards the main site, at the green station, girls walked along an “UnNature trail,” spotting litter and recyclables that didn’t belong. While some of the sparkly litter was obvious, other pieces that didn’t belong in the park

were a greater challenge as they were



After a run up the hill to the Upper Battery at the yellow station, girls solved riddles and puzzles using a tarp, and fashioned bumble bee traders. The “Bee Prepared” traders were not only cute to look at, but inside the body of the bee was a space to stash first aid supplies! The tarp puzzles were a real brain teaser, and girls worked cooperatively amongst themselves to reach solutions.

harder to spot. Girls also helped the enthusiastic invasive species expert, Bob, who works at Fort Rodd Hill. Bob shared his knowledge of English Ivy, and the harmful effects it can have on local plants and trees. Girls leapt into action and soon piled up a massive heap of ivy to be properly disposed of. There was even some friendly competition over who could find the longest piece!

Most girls wanted to stay and pull more ivy but to keep the schedule running, they moved to the orange station where they crafted bright fish windsocks and delighted in a water relay. Cheers from teammates to whoever was running with the brimming cup of water were heard echoing throughout the park. Special thanks to the Rangers who helped out, got wet, and managed very competitive girls.



It was fitting that the Trefoil station was the purple one, and there girls played a listening game, received their Fort Rodd Hill crest, designed by a Trefoil member, and ran free with oversize bubble wands. There were huge smiles as the bubbles caught the wind and soared high into the air for all to see.

After the girls had rotated through all the stations there was a closing ceremony. Pacific Skies Pathfinders performed a skit about embracing differences in one another, using the colours of the rainbow to illustrate the story. Darcy Wyllie, the SVI office coordinator, made a fantastic cameo

as a raincloud which prompted outbursts of giggles. After a selection of group songs, the Brownie Revel came to an end. It had been the first in many years on Southern Vancouver Island, and we look forward to enjoying many more.

A very special thanks to all the Brownies who came to learn, share and have fun. And a special thanks to all the organizers who worked hard to make this event a reality.

**Submitted by Hailey Finnigan, SVI
Senior Outreach Officer**



Thank you notes...

Thank you SVI Area for giving us crests to use as traders at Girl Guides' 2015 National Conference. As we all know, trading encourages friendships, and this was no exception. We had an incredible experience and were honoured to represent SVI Area. Thank you so much for the crests and also for continuing to encourage our Guiding spirits!

Thank you,

*Mica Kuznetsov, Maryna Ell, Christina MacIntosh
Kate Bourne*



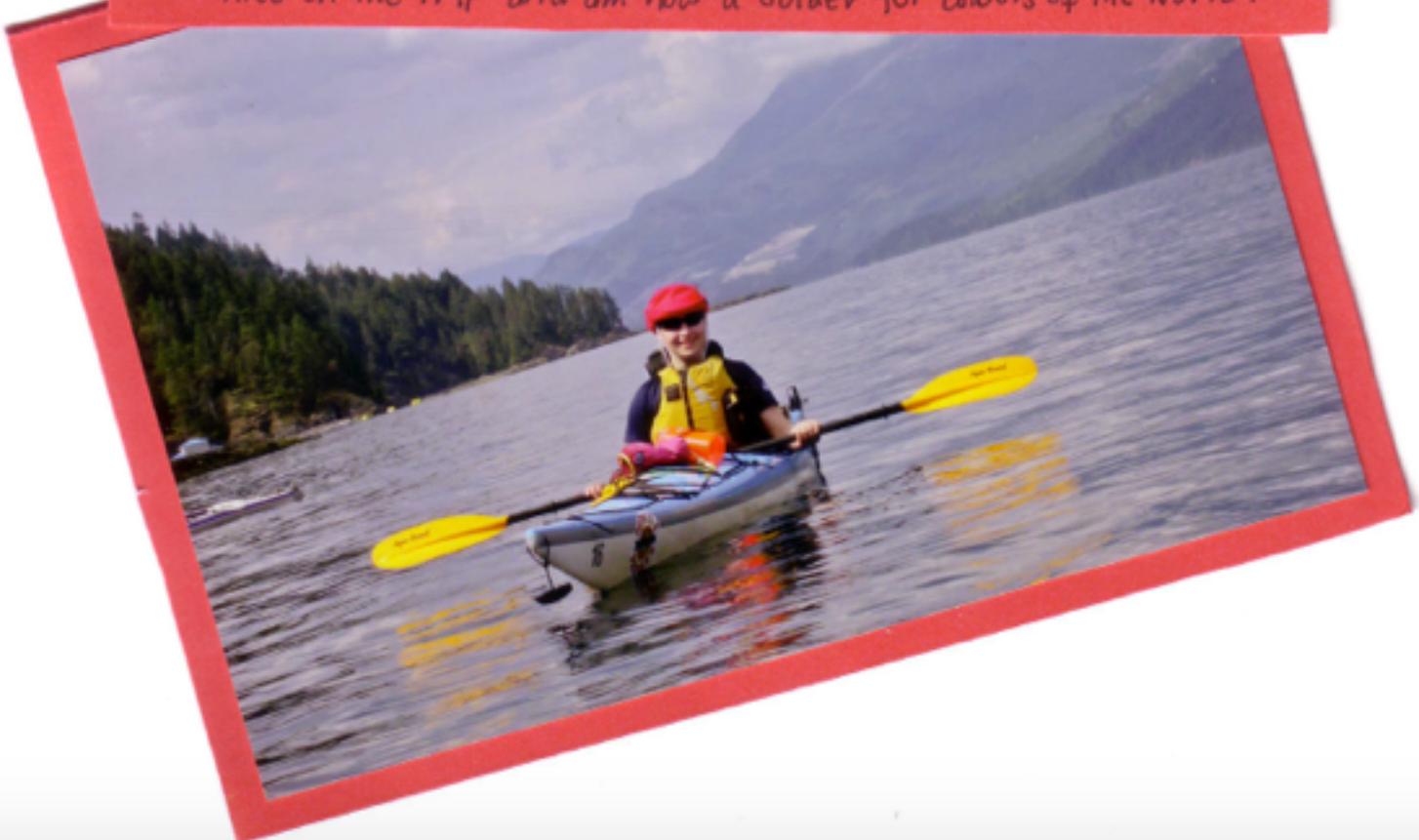
May 2015

Dear SVI Area Council,

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for funding my Kayak module 8 training with West Coast Area. I was very grateful to receive this assistance and I definitely wouldn't have been able to participate without your help! The trip was outstanding and I have learned many new tripping skills that I can take back to Trex. I am also very excited to continue furthering my kayaking abilities while working towards my trip lead qualification so that I can lead SVI girls on kayak expeditions in the future.

Thank you again,
Kate Bourne

PS! As an added bonus I met a member of the BC International Committee on the trip and am now a Guider for Colours of the World!



Rally In The Valley

On June 7th, 2015, Guides and Pathfinders from Pacific Skies District travelled along with girls and leaders from Woodwyn District to the second annual Rally in the Valley for some fun in the sun. **A very hot sun.** Their destination: the Cloverdale Fairgrounds in Surrey.

Rally in the Valley is advertised as a “*Trade and Shout day* - trade crafts, crests, and pins in the morning, and enjoy a sing and shout with your new Guiding friends after lunch.” The brainchild of “*a group of Girl*

Guides of Canada Guiders that had a dream”, this event is hosted by Fraser Skies Area who wanted to fill the void left by the cancellation of Hands Across the Border in 2013. This year the Rally brought 4,000 members from around the Province together to celebrate our ‘oneness’, meet new friends, make some crafts, play some games and get some really cool traders into the bargain. The focus is definitely on the latter. According to the organizers,



some girls brought 150 last year and traded them all!

Last year's event was at the same site but in the 'Stetson Bowl' which prompted the local newspaper to produce the headline 'How many Girl Guides can you fit in a bowl?'. The answer, apparently, was 1,500. This year, it moved to the much larger Bill Reid Millennium Amphitheatre - more grass, less dust and enough space for groups to put up a pop-up shelter to protect themselves from the relentless heat.

We had so much fun that the girls have asked to go again next year!

Thank-you Fraser Skies Area for a great event!

With contributions from Carol Gamey, Brenda Fraser, Susan Christman and Michelle Winsor.





Above: On Washington's National Mall

Adventures To The Capitals 2015

This year I was fortunate to be chosen to take part in the Adventures to the Capitals, a BC sponsored, selected trip that is offered by Province every few years. The participants were from all over BC: Pathfinders from Dawson Creek, Williams Lake, Kelowna, Kamloops, Honeymoon Bay, Langley and Vancouver; a Guider from New Westminster and myself from the Island. We all met up for the first time in

Vancouver. The girls were all open and welcoming and became good friends by the end of the trip.

The trip is named for two highlights: spending Canada Day in Ottawa and Independence Day in Washington, D.C. We spent the morning of Canada Day on Parliament Hill taking in the ceremonies and concert. In the afternoon we started



Above: The Parliament Buildings as a backdrop.

out at a festival/fair in a park next to Parliament Hill but unfortunately we were drenched by a huge thunderstorm and had to beetle back to the hostel to dry out. We did take in the concert and festivities in the evening though, along with tens of thousands of others. The iconic scene of fireworks over the Parliament Buildings is what I have always thought of as Canada Day in Ottawa - and I was there in person!

While in Ottawa we also toured the Parliament Buildings, the Canadian Mint,

the Canadian Museum of History and several other attractions. We met up with a group of Pathfinders from Ottawa and they spent the afternoon with us being tourists in their own city. It was amazing how fast the sisterhood of Guiding worked its magic and in a few minutes it was like they had always been a part of our group. Then it was off to Washington to see the sites that you always see on television: the Washington monument, the Lincoln memorial, the White House and the Capitol Building. One thing I learned was that the Smithsonian Institution Museum is actually seventeen separate buildings, so we chose



Above: At the Smithsonian Natural History Museum

to visit just two: the Natural History Museum and the Air and Space Museum.

Naturally, as it was a Girl Guide trip, we always wore identical shirts, either uniform, international or the ones we designed and decorated ourselves. Many people talked to us either because they recognized the trefoil or they were curious about our group. We had been told that we would be ambassadors for Girl Guides of Canada and all the girls gained confidence speaking about themselves and sharing their experiences in Guiding. We had taken a case of cookies with us and had divided

them up into everyone's luggage. We tried to have someone carry a box with us each day and we looked for situations to give them away as a thank-you. Waiters, hostel staff - anyone who had been especially kind or helpful to us - got a box of cookies.

One time, cookies and talking to people intersected. On the morning of July 4th, we went for breakfast at the nearby Lincoln's Waffle House (so named because it is across the street from Ford's Theatre

where President Lincoln was shot). There were lots of restaurants near our hotel but surprisingly few open for breakfast. There was a long line up to get in and it was very crowded once we got seated. The girls at the end of our table struck up a conversation with a family from California who were asking about us. It had started to shower while we were waiting outside but by the time we finished breakfast it was pouring.

We carried on with our plan to walk to the parade route to claim a spot on the sidewalk. While waiting at a traffic light, one of the girls, Joyce, was struggling with the hood of her jacket, trying to stay dry. (Note to travellers: umbrellas should not be an OPTIONAL kit list item.) Our breakfast companions were crossing the street just then and the mom gave Joyce one of their extra umbrellas. Joyce was particularly struck by this kindness, but we had already given our box of cookies to our waiter at breakfast. When we got our place on the parade route, Joyce asked if she could run back to the hotel, only a few blocks away, to get another one. We told her the chances of running into the family again, in a city full of hundreds of thousands of tourists, were slim, but she still wanted to 'be prepared'. So off she went with another one of the girls from the group.



Above: The Lincoln Memorial

Independence Day was full of adventures, from the wonderful parade to seeking shelter in a museum (an in-vacuation just like at SOAR 2014) when the National Park Service cleared the National Mall during a thunderstorm. Late in the afternoon when we were walking to the Capitol grounds to join the crowd for the Capitol Fourth Concert, who did we run into but the family from California! Joyce was so pleased to be able to say thank you and the family was surprised to see us, shocked at being given cookies and touched at Joyce's gesture. **Never underestimate the power of cookies!**

Our adventures were not over. After Washington we flew to Montreal for several days, then set off by train to Quebec City.



Our time in Montreal and Quebec was far too short, so we had a whirlwind visit of the major sites. The highlight of Montreal was a four hour 21 km. bicycle tour. With a guide from the bike rental shop to show us the way and give us some great commentary on the places we were passing, this was the favourite activity for most of the participants.

All too soon our adventures were over and we flew from Quebec back to Vancouver. We made wonderful new friends and had action-packed visits to four great cities. I am very grateful for the opportunity Guiding gave me to go on this wonderful trip.

Above: Montreal Bike Tour

Submitted by Brenda Fraser, SVI Yellow Assessor, Trainer and former Area Co-Commissioner



Above: At the Quebec National Assembly
Left: The Ottawa locks.

More Thank You Notes...



Dear SVI area,

Thank you for your generous contribution for me to attend Colors of the World. The memories I made there will stay with me the rest of my life. All of the many activities were so fantastic that I can't choose a single favorite. I made many friends who I would like to keep in contact with. Thank you again for the opportunity.

From,
Kirsten Crisp

Dear Southern Vancouver
Island girl guides,

Thank you for Supporting
me on my trip to
Colours of the World.
I had a great time.

After my trip to Colours of the
World, I feel more open and
free spirited because I accompli^{shed}
something I didn't think I could
do before. Thanks so much!

- Georgia Wark



August 2nd, 2015

Dear SVI Area Council,

Thank you so much for your generous support towards my trip to India with Girl Guides and Me to We. It was a most remarkable trip--an adventure of a lifetime--and I will never forget the joy that I felt working alongside the local children as we lay the foundation and built bricks for a new anganwadi (local medical clinic) in the town of Barind. It was such a rewarding experience that was so much fun at the same time! I also enjoyed getting the chance to dance to live traditional music in our handmade, personal sarees on our last night in India. I have included some of my favorite photos of the group along our journey, I would also like to let you know that I look forward to making a presentation along with some other girls from my trip at the SVI Area International Night in the fall. Thank you so much again for helping to make this incredible experience a reality!

Meggin Crisp

Meggin Crisp.



BC Guider Appreciation Award

At Area Council’s year-end celebration held at Camp Kingswood in June of this year, two very special Sandys, Sandy Hulko and Sandy Shumka, were presented with the BC Guider Appreciation Award, for “measurable service beyond the expectations of their position held in Guiding”. Both were honoured for their years of service and their pivotal role in maintaining and improving our camp properties.



- *re-constructing the steep driveway to the Lower Milnes Cabin*
- *installation of a new septic system at Kingswood*
- *keeping in contact and meeting with contractors, engineers, architects and draftspersons*
- *dealing with the furnace, trees, roadway and roof replacement for Upper and Lower Milnes cabins*
 - *inventorying and sorting patrol boxes*
 - *applying to Province for grant money*
 - *getting your husband, Alan, to help with the lawn mowing, among other things.*

Dear Sandy Hulko:

Thorough and detail oriented, your attention to “the small stuff” make you an invaluable resource. You are efficient, organized and able to handle any challenge that comes your way.

Over 30+ years you have held many positions; Guider, Commissioner, Area Camp Adviser and Camp Properties Liaison. You are always on the go, doing whatever needs to be done and never hesitating to roll up your sleeves. A few examples and accomplishments are:

- *varathaning walls and bunks, scraping and painting the lats*
- *instrumental in the building of the sleeping quarters for the upper Milnes site*
- *overseeing the installation of flush toilets and the septic field at Milnes*

You are amazing! If there is a problem, you know right away who to contact. Whatever job you take on, it is always done to completion and with efficiency. When the major flood happened at Camp Jubilee, you took things in your capable stride, dealing with the insurance company, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, Biologists, Engineers and the contractors.

Over the years, you have given your time selflessly and have made a huge impact on our camp properties. Your knowledge of the camps, commitment (countless hours!) and leadership in keeping the sites functioning for the benefit of the girls has been noticed and very much appreciated.

Southern Vancouver Island Area is proud to present you with the BC Guider Appreciation Award.

Dear Sandy Shumka:

Calm, pleasant, reliable, competent and patient is how you are described. You quietly work behind the scenes in many capacities, giving immense support to Guiding.

You have served Guiding for many years as Guider, Commissioner, Trainer and Camp Adviser and have been on two camp property committees for well over a decade. As treasurer, you keep the finances in order, send contracts to Province for non-girl renters and track the GST. You correspond with the renters when the camp is booked and you are the primary contact for any Camp Jubilee enquiries.

Quartermaster extraordinaire, you have catered many Area camps and are always willing to share interesting recipes, applicable to the theme of the camp. With your knowledge and resources, you provide the most interesting content for the girls. And let's not forget your 'bag of ugly hats' for those girls who forgot to bring one.

Known as the 'Pitch and Purchase' person, you continually make extra trips out to Sooke with deliveries, such as mops and toilet paper in bulk! Your efforts and attention to detail keep our camps running smoothly. You have put in hundreds of hours at our camps, either camping, at clean ups or seeing to the smooth functioning for our girls and Guiders.

Always good natured, helpful and loving to laugh, you have given your time selflessly and have made a big impact on the camp committees. Your positive outlook on the ever changing face of Girl Guides, your passion and commitment, are admirable.

You are currently an active member of Trefoil, keeping the sisterhood of Guiding alive, attending Trefoil events and participating in service projects undertaken by your Guild.

Southern Vancouver Island Area is proud to present you with the BC Guider Appreciation Award.



Education Award Winners

Congratulations to Fiona Mosher (pictured right), former Saanich Shores Trex Guider, currently a District Guider and Sparks Mentor in Woodwyn District, selected from hundreds of applications to be the recipient of a \$1,000 2015 CIBC National Part time Scholarship. She also received this year's SVI Area Jean Goulson Memorial Award for women age 25 and over, working on furthering their education. Fiona is completing her Special Education Post Degree Diploma while working in the Saanich School District as an Integration Support Teacher. She works with students with special needs by helping them integrate into their classroom and by making programs for them that are enriching and meaningful, as well as providing learning assistance in reading, writing and math. According to Fiona, "It keeps me very busy, but I love it. In teaching, there is nothing more amazing than to see a child's mind open up with understanding when they finally 'get it'."

Jean Goulson was an Honourary Life Member of Girl Guides of Canada and Training Chairperson for SVI Area. At the Provincial level she held a number of positions, including Provincial Camp Adviser and Provincial Training Commissioner. This award continues her legacy of support for educational opportunities for Guiders.



Congratulations to Maryna Ell (pictured left on the following page) of Harbours District who received the SVI Area Education Grant for 2015 for women under age 25 working on furthering their education. Maryna is currently attending Camosun College as a University Transfer Science student. She is entering the Nursing program next year and plans to graduate from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She hopes to become a pediatric nurse after specializing at BCIT. She would like to thank Girl Guides for their support and for helping her to discover her passion!

Maryna wrote in The Pipeline: "Guiding has been the most important thing in my life for many years. Through the program and the



Congratulations to Kayla Curtis (pictured below), former girl and youth member in Harbours District, who was awarded the 2015 Margery Dumfries Scholarship. Kayla wrote in *The Pipeline*, “I don’t know who I would be without Guiding. I use skills that I learned in Guiding every day of my life. My academic achievements would never have been possible without the responsibility and organization I learned as a Pathfinder and Ranger.

It was here that I learned how to make a commitment and how to follow through, and without that my dreams of getting into mathematics would be far out of my reach. Guiding has more than enriched my life; it’s helped to shape it. I’ve gained enough confidence and trust in myself to make decisions about my future, and through Girl

experiences I’ve been lucky enough to have, I discovered myself and my world. The thing that has most enriched my life is the confidence in both myself and others that I have gained through Guiding. My future plans lie in pediatric nursing and although my interest in medicine is not new, my love of helping people was discovered through the numerous service projects I have completed over the course of my Guiding career. My passion for working with children is something that I only came to understand through my work as a Junior Leader with Sparks — work that would never have happened without Guiding.” Maryna received her BC Youth Commitment pin in 2015, and is currently volunteering with the 2nd Sooke Sparks.



Guides I've been exposed to countless possibilities. I will be forever grateful for the role that Guiding has played in my life."

Kayla, who also won the Governor General's Academic Medal for top Grade 12 student at her high school, received the BC Youth Commitment pin in 2015, and is studying mathematics at the University of British Columbia. In her spare time she maintains that Guiding connection volunteering as a Transitioning Member with a Sparks unit in West Point Grey District.

The Margery Dumfries Scholarship was established by her family and friends in memory and recognition of her many years

of service to Guiding as Provincial Secretary, Provincial Cadet Coordinator, member of provincial committees and her untiring involvement in training and local Guiding. It is awarded annually, and preference is given to applicants who combine a background, interest and /or prospective career in science, engineering or agriculture programs and a commitment to service in her school and community.



Fifty-five Year Pin

Straits Guider Trudine Wilson receives her 55 year pin from District Commissioner Meaghan Playle on May 15, 2015 at the Straits District Advancement Evening.

A Richly Deserved Gold Merit Award

At the Kingswood District year-end leaders' get-together at Camp Kingswood last June, Susan Zedel was presented with a surprise Gold Merit Award, to recognize her outstanding contribution to Guiding on the peninsula and in SVI Area. The following letter was read by Area Commissioner Sharon Doty.

Dear Susan Zedel:

Wow, you are a rock! You are a dedicated member of the Guiding community who puts the organization in the forefront of your life. Your heart, your dedication and your compassion are evident in everything you do.

You came to Guiding with a great love of the outdoors and have always given the girls fantastic outdoor opportunities, such as taking patrols to SOAR, caving with your Pathfinder unit or hiking and kayaking with Trex units. Continually you promote the outdoors and camping through your position as District / Area Camp Adviser and as a Safe Guide Yellow Assessor. Going above and beyond, you have taken outside kayak and canoe training in order to facilitate trips and train participants in the skills needed to provide adventure opportunities, like the Ranger Kayaking out trip for SOAR 2014 and to mentor other leaders through Outdoor Adventure training at the Provincial level.



Serving as a Provincial Red Assessor for Water Activities, you have ensured that every consideration for the safety of our girl members is made while they are provided wonderful adventures on the water. Paperwork is not glamorous or fun but it is very necessary and a vital component of Safe Guide. You have provided this important service to Guiding for many years now.

As Leader, Council member, Trainer and Assessor, you have given the best opportunities to girls and Guiders and have made Guiding a large and important part of your life.

Words from some of your girls:

- I joined Trex as a shy, nervous, un-athletic girl and under your leadership that all changed. With never ending patience and

enthusiasm, I canoed across lakes, hiked up mountains, cycled over islands, skied across and down hills, mastered setting up a tent, learned how to cook outdoors, and made memories and friends that I will treasure for a long time.

- during any kind of activity, whether it was backpacking, kayaking, skiing, biking, etc you gave me confidence and the passion for the outdoors.

- you will dehydrate just about any food in preparation for an adventure and are a blast to camp with.

- activities like tree planting, cross country skiing, bike trips around the Gulf Islands, but my favourite were the kayak trips. These outings inspired me to go into the environmental technology program at Camosun College.

Susan Zedel, you are a caring and fun individual who puts so much time and effort into ensuring that the girls learn and have fun in Guiding. Constantly amazing with your camping abilities and knowledge, combined with your high level of physical fitness and adventurous spirit, you have kept girls interested in Guiding.

Southern Vancouver Island Area is proud to award you with a Gold Merit for outstanding service to Guiding.



Above: Susan, hiking in the Kludahk with Emily Carr Trex

The Spirit of Hilda Leighton Award



alongside Gillian Hurwood, received their surprise Spirit of Hilda Leighton awards at the Pacific Skies district camp in May.

Wendy, normally the stoic one, struggled to keep her composure as the presentation was made. Adrienne, ever serene, was equally moved.

May 23, 2015

Adrienne Blandford, you are creative, amazing, supportive, fun, level-headed and have a calming effect on girls and Guiders alike. A great listener, you see the good in everyone and bring out the best in them. You are always willing to support your 'Sisters in Guiding' through any situation. With your positive

The “Spirit of Hilda Leighton” SVI Award is a tribute to Guiders in SVI who reflect Hilda’s innovative, pioneering and dedicated spirit. The purpose is to honour and appreciate those Guiders who show the innovation, sense of pride, excitement and joy for Guiding that Hilda showed and brought to the Crystal Palace Rally, and maintained throughout her Guiding life.

Adrienne Blandford and Wendy Halpen, former District Co-commissioners and now part of the Area Commissioner team

attitude, you find ways to turn situations around and provide assistance, support and leadership to anyone willing to learn. You have a special way of providing reassurance, giving others the confidence to overcome their own fears and meet Guiding’s challenges.

Extremely organized, always willing to step in and help, you have expanded horizons for both girls and Guiders by sharing your knowledge and skills. As District Commissioner, you spearheaded a 'spirit of

giving' event every year. The entire district participates in a service project, for example, hygiene kits for Disaster Aid Canada or making Little Dresses for Africa out of pillow slips. Whether you are taking girls to camp, hiking Cape Scott or the Westcoast Trail (with that downpour!), attending SOAR as Patrol Guider or Core Staff, skating in Wonderland or organizing special Thinking Day events, you give the most of your time, energy and abilities. It's all about productive fun!

Positive, cheerful and extremely dedicated, with a kind, big heart and great arms for hugging, you truly believe in Guiding and the opportunities it provides, and represent its best values.

It is with great pleasure that you are awarded with the 'Spirit of Hilda Leighton' SVI Award.

Wendy Halpen, a fabulous mentor to new and experienced Guiders, you are always available to provide advice, direction and leadership. To you, nothing is impossible. Rather you think 'how can we make it happen?' As District Commissioner, you handled amalgamation and the dissolution of divisions with aplomb and respect for all parties involved. One of your greatest talents is how you can 'voluntell' someone to do something and make them think it was their idea to begin with. You are very persuasive!



Described by your Pathfinders as awesome, magical, patient, crazy, extraordinary and Ninja, you always have their best interests at heart, and work hard to ensure that any activity, whether it be travelling, applying for events, fundraising or giving a presentation, is a positive learning experience. As a veteran world traveller, you are a role model for all who aspire to go on a great adventure, embracing a “go where no Guider had taken girls before” philosophy. You regularly share your love of travel with groups of girls and Guiders, taking them on hikes to the Westcoast Trail or to unusual locations around the world, including Russia, Denmark, China and Korea. You have attended every SOAR, in a variety of capacities, from Patrol Guider to steering committee member.

With your big heart, always willing to support your 'sisters in blue', you put the good of the organization at the forefront by giving exceptional service to Girl Guides of Canada, giving freely of your time, energy and abilities.

It is with great pleasure that you are awarded with the 'Spirit of Hilda Leighton' SVI Award.



WELCOME BACK!

As we launch ourselves into another action-packed year it seems only fitting to recognize the hours and hours of work, the dedication and the ingenuity of the volunteers who do so much to make Guiding in South Vancouver Island Area special. In their own inimitable style we will let the 1st Sidney Sparks have the last word.



Photograph courtesy of Nadine McIntyre,
Peninsula Shores District