

# SCOUTING MEETS HERE

## AND OUR COMMUNITY KNOWS IT!



For **thirty five years**, people who looked at Holleuffer chalet, and saw bobbing blue bucket hats in the windows on Mondays; Heard very loud roaring kids on Tuesdays; and Witnessed some fun project being built by a bunch of teens on Thursdays; And every time, kids were having loads of fun!

I am not sure what our group was like 35 years ago, but I know that for the past 15 years that I have been involved, the evolution has been amazing! Specifically for the last 4 years, we have come together as a whole to do build great Section programming and fun activities for the whole group.

**We identified 3 things that needed to happen to make our group healthier and better.**

**Starting with growth.** We have had our most successful year. Our group, since 2007 has increased its membership by over 30%. Significant growth went into our Pack and Troop. With these new found members came an increase of leaders. These wonderful dedicated people, I have to admit, have been one of the core elements to making our program such a great success. A big thank you goes out to the parents for helping spread the word about our group. I don't think this success would have been achievable without the trust that you give us in letting us participate in your child's lives. Even though growth is great it also comes with growing pains. Keeping up good quality programming can be challenging at times with large numbers. A solution that has presented itself is a new Scout Troop starting at Kirkland Southwest. This will give the opportunity for more youth to participate in Scouting and hopefully lighten some of our numbers.

With growth came a need to look into our stores and see what we can do to **improve in our gear**. Camping being the central activity of many sections, we had to replace our aging tents with new ones that would keep us dry!! With the research done by some of our leaders, we set our eyes on new tents from Mountain Equipment Coop. Over the last two years our group invested more than \$4,000 to purchase them. We also took the time to reinvent the way we store our kitchen gear and repaired many of our stoves and lanterns to make them more functional and able to last.. with our kind of abuse.



**OUR SCOUTS KAYAKING**



**OUR VENTURERS AT SURVIVOR CAMP**



**CUBS IN OUR NEW TENTS!**

Finally our group is part of a very active area called Ohiyo. In the past we were the quiet little brother sitting in the corner doing our own thing. That has changed over the last couple of years. Trust me; they now know who KNW is. It is important for us to share with other groups.. not only do we learn from them, they in turn learn from us.

I could not be more pleased to see how this group has changed. More kids, shiny new tents and fun with others set aside.. We can all truly feel like we are doing something greater and assume a more concrete role in our community. KNW is well sought out by our city for such events as tree planting, Salvation Army Food Drive, park clean ups and of course host a fun campfire on Kirkland Day!

**Our evolution** has been great, and what better calling does our program answer than aiding with the growth of today's kids. Scouting helps fulfill a youth's needs; more today than ever - community service, personal and leadership development, connecting with the environment, socialization and the chance to unplug from the electronic devices and just be a kid. We teach skills that will bring out the future leader in them, encourage accomplishments and challenge their bodies and minds. Helping them stand tall and be proud!

Speaking of being proud, this summer, our Scouting youth are embarking on another adventure - an ambitious one. They will be attending the **Pacific Jamboree at Camp Byng in British Columbia**. This two week trip gives our troop the opportunity to discover the rich ecosystem and aboriginal history of the west coast of our country, meet new friends, step up to new challenges, and come back with more lifetime of memories. As a testament to the success and growth of our Group, we have a contingent of 27 registered to take on this adventure including 20 scouts who will be accompanied by 7 dedicated volunteers. I can just imagine what they will experience out west!

**You can follow their adventures here on the blog site:**  
<http://knwatpj.blogspot.com>

Scouts Canada has also had a big year. It has been over 20 years since the Scouts Canada uniform was reviewed. The vision was clear – the uniform must reflect not only who Scouts have been, but also who Scouts Canada is today. The revitalized uniform respects the great heritage of Scouting and signals its bright future. Our group is not enforcing any changes of uniforms. Once your child outgrows their old uniform, they can graduate to the new one! The uniform was a key component of Scouts Canada Action Plan for Canadian Scouting. More to come!  
New uniform site:<http://www.scouts.ca/uniformlaunch/>



**OUR BEAVERS AND CUBS  
HAVING AN EASTER PARTY!**



**PJ CREST DESIGNED BY  
LIAM AND DEVON CUTFIELD**



**OUR ROVERS IN ACTION  
AT TREMBLANT PARK**

### Where do we go from here!?

Our group has already set up many of our common activities, and the sections will be gathering soon enough to create their program calendars for next year.

**Our group registration night will be held on September 6th, from 6:00pm till 8:00pm, at Holleuffer chalet.** Our fees for next year now stand at \$210. This is our first increased in a few years. This is because Scouts Canada has adjusted their fees for next year. They have finally eliminated registration fees for volunteer leaders and in doing so have amortized this cost into the registration. A small portion helps our group start the year – common group resources and invest in training for the leaders.

I truly hope that your child has enjoyed their time with us, we hope that there is value in the time your child has spent with us, and I truly hope you feel that it is time well spent. Though we can never be too perfect, we are open to any suggestions or comments you may have about our program. Feel free to get in touch with your section leader or myself for any feedback you may have.

On a final note, I would like to thank all our devoted leaders for their time they invested in our group. This very imaginative team of dedicated and caring volunteers helps make adventures come alive for our youth. We are truly grateful for the countless hours they give!

Hope you all have a wonderful summer,

Yours in Scouting,

*Marc Chamberland / Akela*

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**TRYING OUT THE ROPE BRIDGE AT THE GROUP CAMP!**



**OUR GROUP AT THE KIRKLAND PARADE!**



**CHECK OUT OUR ADVENTURES:  
WWW.KNWSCOUTING.COM**



**It starts with Scouts.**