

BOY SCOUTS OF CANADA  
CANADIAN COUNCIL OF B.-P. GUILDS.

September 1977.

NEWS LETTER # 3

We are happy to let you know that on July 26, 1977 Canada received full membership in The International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides as a result of an application from the Canadian Council of B.P. Guilds. We were pleased to have Frouida Baker of the 4th Canadian Guild represent the Council and receive our certificate of membership. Frouida has prepared a report of the 12th General Assembly held in Montreaux, Switzerland. The report is reproduced for your interest.

In opening this report I wish to quote the remarks of Mr. Claude Lehman, Chairman of the organizing committee:

"The Organizing Committee of the 12th General Assembly of the IFOFSAG 1977 is happy to welcome you to Montreaux in this year in which the Fete des Vignerons (the festival of wine growers and vintners) is being held. The team of Voluntary helpers who have offered themselves for setting up the Congress have spared neither time, trouble, enthusiasm nor energy in order to make your stay on the Banks of Lake Geneva a success and to enable you to spend some happy moments among friends."

Such a gathering of 5-600 people representing 17 European Countries and 4 Overseas Countries, certainly called for many hours of work and planning, and I'm sure all who attended appreciated the works of these good people the SWISS for their wonderful hospitality.

It was a special event for us three Canadians, who attended, to be there when CANADA was accepted unanimously into the Fellowship. As I had been appointed by our Canadian Council as Head delegate, (the other two delegates being Doris Coole and Cynthia Llewellyn) it was my pleasure to receive the Charter for Canada and so made the following little speech of acceptance: -

"Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with sincere pleasure that I acknowledge with thanks your acceptance of the Canadian Council of B.C. Guilds into the International Fellowship.

We will endeavor to fulfill the aims and objects of IFOFSAG to the best of our ability.

Canada is very young in Guild work, but our numbers are growing, and who knows, we may be strong enough one day to invite you to our vast Country."

The next General Assembly is to be held in the lovely and interesting City of Bergen in Norway, in two years time - 1979.

I was asked several times during the Conference when would Canada house a General Assembly? In fact the President, Mr. Tossijn, approached me for 1981, but NO WAY was I committing us to such an undertaking until there were more active guilds across Canada - however, it is something to think about for the future.



The theme of "THE QUALITY OF LIFE" proved interesting and thought provoking - the final 'paper' or 'declaration' summed it up as follows and I quote:

"Further, we seek to promote certain other aims which may contribute to a better quality of life, in particular:

- simple living, avoiding the excesses of the consumer society;
- an educational system which will teach HOW to live;
- better harmony between man and his natural environment, including savings in natural resources and energy;
- fair town and country planning and the protection of nature and historic sites;
- making work more humane, and improving social relations, including greater flexibility in the passage from education and training to work, and conversely, in the arrangements of working time and free time, not forgetting the passage from regular employment to retirement - seeking in all cases to increase opportunities for individual choice.

TO PROMOTE THESE AIMS, WE MUST ACT:

We urge members of our associations, groups of former 'Scouts & Guides', all authorities concerned, governments and international organizations to strive actively for anything which can improve the Quality of Life. Each of us will seek to contribute to this objective and to the achievement of the aims outlined above -

- by continuing to be inspired by the SCOUT ideal;
- by our own behaviour and actions;
- as citizens of our Countries and the world, and through associations having aims in accordance with our views, seeking to influence those in authority at all levels, local, national, and international."

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Doris and I had the opportunity of attending the performance of the Wine Growers Festival. This was indeed a thrill and a terrific undertaking for the City of Vevey, I am sure they are glad it only happens once in 25 years! The huge Market Square was turned into a stadium seating over 30,000 patrons. It was truly a sight to witness. Then the arena, alive with colour, costumes, dancing, a choir of 500 voices, a symphony orchestra, bands, brass trumpets (about 15 trumpets sounded from the top of the orchestra shell -the trumpeters being dressed in white & gold. Not only humans took part in the performance, but horses, cows, sheep and dogs, as well as showing all the motored equipment used in the wine growing industry.

Following the Conference we went on the tour, three days, which had been planned by the Swiss hosts, and what a wonderful three days it was. I would be writing pages if I continued in detail, the scenery was very beautiful. The tour included a visit to Tavannes -Sonceboz - home of retired horses, most interesting - a day in Kanderstag, visiting the International Scout Camping grounds and the Scout Chalet. To Aarborg for their August 1st celebrations of lanterns, lights and music. We heard some of the finest Swiss Folk Singers and Yodellers, also the long Swiss horns, three played in harmony was quite thrilling to listen to. We were wined, dined at banquets, luncheons etc. and every town we visited the Mayor or some dignitary welcomed us. The people

everywhere were most friendly, and from what we saw, Switzerland must be the cleanest country on earth.

it was a pleasure and a privelege to have attended the General Assembly of IFOFSAG in such beautiful surroundings. I sincerely hope that at the next General Assembly in Bergen, 1979, there will be more than three CANADIANS present to enjoy the fun and fellowship of such gatherings - as well as a birds-eye view of the international aspect of Scouting and Guiding.

Greetings to you all,

Frouida M. Baker

It is with regret that we report the following Guild members have "Gone Home".

- Doug Cooke - 2nd Canadian B.-P. Guild, Victoria
- Bernard Haskins - 4th Canadian B.-P. Guild, Vancouver.

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