

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

NEWS LETTER # 2 - 4

November, 1978.

I thought you might like to read the report which was sent to the National Council, Boy Scouts of Canada for their meeting November 16,17,18, 1978.

"Since the National Council, Boy Scouts of Canada, recognized the B.P. (Scout) Guilds in 1944 and approved the formation of the Canadian Council of B.-P. Guilds in 1977 Canada has become a member country of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides.

There are 9 guilds of 220 members registered in Canada. The growth of guilds has been slow but their service to Scouting and the community has continued to grow. The Canadian Council of B.-P. Guilds would like to see guilds expand from Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario into other provinces. We know Manitoba has shown considerable interest as has Saskatchewan. We feel sure there must be great potential in the Eastern Provinces and with a bit of encouragement guilds could become established.

The services guilds perform are many, some are on-going, others are periodical: Responsibilities at camp sites relating to church altars, memorial stations, buildings, campfire circles, pellet gun deck shelters, etc.

Trust funds to assist individual scouts in various ways including attending camps and jamborees - funds are raised by various activities of guild members.

Acting as members-at-large on Provincial and Regional Councils, Camp Committees, Training Sessions, etc.

Assisting in Scout Troop and Regional Gilwell Reunions.

Taking an active part in collecting and processing stamps for the International Stamp Bank.

Assisting Regional Councils in raising funds in many ways including hikathons, Boy Scouts Apple Days, stapling, etc.

Assisting Regional Councils in many of their community service projects relating to the United Way, Christmas distribution of poinsettias from Eatons stores, Japanese Friendship tour games, etc.

Assisting District Council when possible, on request: fall registration of scouts.

Servicing scout archives at the Provincial and Regional level.

Reviewing records of inactive scouters as potential sustaining members.

Badge examiners and scouting display judges.

Cataloguing and indexing Regional Library.

Speaking to cub and scout groups on scouting matters - "how to conduct a campfire", "the life of Lord Baden-Powell", etc.

Assisting at "Gilwell" and "Basic" courses.

Community services include:

Conducting Sunrise Service at Easter,

Clerical assistance and ticket sales for Ice Stampede,

Organized United Way Walkathon.

Building and maintaining "Courtesy" benches.

Guild membership is not all service as several social events are organized by guilds for themselves and in conjunction with other guilds and the Trefoil Guilds. Social functions include annual dinners, carol sings, theatre outings, barbecues, dances and field trips.

Many service outings become service-social outings. Guilds have recognized their international aspect by entertaining visiting members of the International Fellowship. There are many men and women willing to help scouting and only need to be asked. Through guilds they are kept in touch with scouting needs; through guilds this "willing to help" is organized."

I hope I have included all of our service activities undertaken to date. If I missed some please let me know so I will have a special note to include them in any future report.

There isn't a great deal of news to report this time. Most of the guilds are well into their fall and winter activities and some have held their annual meetings but so far I've had little news. I hope that by the new year I'll have more to tell you. I do know that the 1st Canadian B.-P. Scout Guild has held a dedication service for the Memorial Station erected at Camp Byng at which time a memorial plaque to Bob Reid unveiled; also the cairn to Lord Byng had been partially rebuilt and was rededicated commemorating his visit on July 26, 1922.

We have received from the secretary of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides a Directory of Addresses of all members of the Fellowship. If anyone is travelling internationally and would like to have the address of any Fellowship member please let me know the countries you will be visiting and I will be happy to send the addresses on to you. Also from the Fellowship we learn that that XIVth General Assembly in 1981 will be held in France.

What we are concerned about this year is the XIIIth General Assembly to be held in Bergen Norway, August 5-11, 1979. The final date for registration is March 31, 1979. We are suggesting that those planning to go send their application as soon as possible in order to assure accommodation in as central an area as possible. We are short of application forms but at least one has been sent to your secretary. We hope to have additional copies available any day. Copies can be made of those on hand. Applications should be sent through Seymour Archbold, R.R. 1, (Site 118), Parksville, B.C. V0R 2S0.

Seymour has also sent out the Census '78 and Registration '79 forms. It is essential that they be returned early in the new year so be sure your fees for the Canadian Council and IFCFSAG are paid well in advance of this. We must get our fees to the Fellowship if we are to be properly represented at Bergen. We expect to have five or six members there. Won't you join them.

News letters have arrived from the 4th Canadian Guild and from Australia. There are a couple of items I would like to pass on to you. The 4th is reviewing the files for retired scouters who would be interested in the guilds and sending letters explaining the function of the guild and inviting the scouters to join or begin a guild of their own, with help. The 4th also has a member outline his or her scouting history so that each member can learn a bit more of its membership. Give some thought to this excellent idea. In the "VIC-GUILD NEWS" they are appealing for a Public Relations Officer to take care of their news letter and be responsible for public relations. Happy will be the day when we expand to this degree. Australian Guilds have also undertaken a Baden-Powell Retirement Home Project in association with a Church of England Retirement Homes Board Project. This will require a great deal of fund raising and would appear to be similar to the project of the B.-P. Guilds in England.

For your interest on page 63 of B.P.&P. you'll find a reference to "B.P. Guild in Canada". This will be my last news letter for this year so I want to take the opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Xmas, take care, and a Full, Servicing, Scouting, Guild New Year.
W.D. Touzeau, sec. Canadian Council of B.-P. Guilds, 1447 54th St. Delta, BC. V4M 3H6.