

News For You

Winter 2008 Issue



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Greetings Trefoil Members!

We are into 2008. Can you believe it?

From reports I have been receiving, guild members are busy at as wide a variety of activities as the imagination allows. From a CSI workshop at the university, to camping to travel. We are a busy group. Even a simple cup of coffee with a Guider or a hike with the girls - they all come under Trefoil activities. From the service list it seems our communities are richer for our energy and willingness to serve. From Christmas parades to blood bank registrations, we're there.

So what does 2008 hold for your group?

Thinking Day looms. Remember our founders and our friends in Guiding. Take time for that senior guider who cannot make it to a meeting through the winter weather... or the guider who has moved away. Buy a card, make a card, send an e-card. It is always nice to be remembered and to remember times spent with girls long grown up and busy with their own lives and careers. Take time for yourself.

Winter can be confining particularly for those with mobility or health problems. Set a few spring bulbs and enjoy their cheer. For those who can, get out there - even if it is for a short walk to enjoy the sparkle and the cold. Try a night walk along a trail - just look at those stars. Wow!

Winter is a good time to get together, cook, sew, knit, and plan for better weather. Get that skit underway for the annual gathering in June. Some guilds have interesting games. Ask around. March brings the 'March Hare' poetry speaks. Ladies it does not have to be a sonnet or of great literary merit. Just have fun writing it. Check the internet for the 'how to'.

It is a good time to support a member who paints, writes, or sings. Go as a group to concerts, exhibits or theatre.. Contact another guild and plan an event.

Baden-Powell was known to encourage his Scouts to "look wide". We as guild members need to do the same. Be curious, be daring, be reflective, be supportive - go the extra mile.

Around the Province.....

Our new Guild, **LOL**, is happy to report that their sixteen members are living up to their name. They scrapbooked, bowled, and tole painted their way to Christmas. They participated in Operation Christmas Child, filling shoe boxes for the less fortunate. Their favorite activity was the Halloween Amazing Race. Members arrived in costumes and grouped into teams of three or four. They raced around their community completing challenges and overcoming obstacles and raced back to the start. They can't wait to do it again next year and are looking forward to continuing activities in 2008.

Chickadee Trefoil Guild in Bay St. George celebrated Roxy Hudson's 95th birthday by attending the open house held at the Acadian Village. Members attended the provincial Gathering at Max Simms Camp, and Annie Coombs and May Lomond attended the National Gathering in Fredericton. This group served hotdogs and hot chocolate to the girls this year after they had their Mint Cookie Blitz. One member attended a Halloween party put on by the Guiders for all members of the Guide family. Members were also able to share in the celebrations when Sharon Callahan, our Provincial Commissioner, arrived in Stephenville. They shared in the celebrations of 50 years of Guiding in Stephenville held in October.

Sou'wester Guild of Stephenville continued to volunteer for Accelerated Reading Program in the primary school. Two meetings that were held at Pizza Delight and Hartery's ensured all members left with a full belly. This group sold Mint Cookies and gave money to the Dominica Project to help pay for the postage on the package sent by their Area. They took part in the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Guiding in Stephenville. The group attended the District Christmas dinner and exchanged gifts.

Crossroads Guild started their year reminiscing about the good time had by all at the Gathering in June. Two members contributed a pot of soup to the District training held at the hut in Gander in October. In November the meeting was centered around the theme of war and remembrance. A letter was shared from a soldier presently serving in Afghanistan who addressed the group last November. Several members shared their memories of living in England during the war. In December, members attended a get-together at a members house and made Christmas centerpieces.

Killick Guild has been working on a patchwork quilt to be donated to a woman's shelter. In November they walked around Octagon Pond as a fitness activity and donated money to the Sharon Callahan Membership Fund. After attending the Happy Tree concert in December this group went to the Press and Bean for dinner.

The **Golden Gems** reported that they filled 25 Christmas stockings for distribution by the telephone pioneers. They served 500 hotdogs and pop to the children participating in the Mount Pearl Santa Claus parade. They had a delightful fun dinner at a local restaurant at their last meeting before the holiday. They are looking forward to hosting a "Battle of the Brain" competition during the Mount Pearl Frosty Festival in February.

Fireside Friends have been busier than busy. They had a sleep over meeting in Ochre Pit Cove. Some members planted Spring bulbs at the Girl Guide Headquarters to add beauty and color to the grounds after a long Winter. This group returned again to Ochre Pit Cove in late September for an overnight and enjoyed picking berries, games, chatting, campfire on the beach and having fun. In October they dressed in costumes and had a hay ride at Lester's Farm. They completed the evening with a BBQ and hot chocolate. In November 18 members attended a CSI workshop presented by members of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at MUN. They finished this term with a Day of Remembrance of the Montreal Massacre combined with an annual Christmas gathering. Their remembrance program "Out of Silence" was developed and lead by Sharon Callahan. They finished the evening with exchanging Christmas cards and greetings followed by a Chinese supper at a member's home.

Heritage Guild in Grand Falls -Windsor, started their year by having a talk on Guiding in Japan. They had a display of clothes, dishes, Japanese dolls, Guiding emblems and projects that girls do during Guiding week. For Christmas they had a pot luck dinner with a silent auction to raise money for an under-privileged girl.

Remember that survey you did ... at the Gathering in June 2007?

Here are the results....

1.) Most people are reading it and are satisfied with the current format. One third are reading it via email, but some have no access to this technology. Paper copies are still important.

2.) Members wish to read about other Guilds in Newfoundland and Labrador, Guilds outside our province, meeting ideas and writings of other members.

3.) Several suggestions for renaming the newsletter were given.

Possible Recommendations....

1.) Guild Presidents need a paper copy of this newsletter to reprint/share with members who do not have computers.

2.) Members should continue to send in poems, writings, reports, ideas or requests. Printing remains at the discretion of the committee due to space, time, applicability, etc.

3.) Suggestions for newsletter renaming will be brought to members at the 2008 Gathering in June.

Yvonne Lewis's Spring Tour of New Zealand November 2007

I arrived in Auckland 15th November (after a week's stay in Sydney, Australia with friends to get over the jet lag) to start this 2 week tour designed for Trefoil Guild members and friends. The first night meet and greet introduced me to the other tour participants ranging in age from 54 to 84 years old, we were 8 Canadian, 10 British and 12 Australian guild members plus 2 Australian husbands (to help with our bags), our New Zealand tour director Jennifer Mayer and bus driver John. We were guaranteed 14 days of fun, friendship, sightseeing and memorable times and that's exactly what we got plus great weather with temperatures in the low 20c range.

After a day of sightseeing in Auckland city with two beautiful cathedrals (the old and new beside each other) we visited Otimai the Girl Guide camp headquarters for afternoon tea with scones and cream which we enjoyed in buildings much more palatial than any campsite that I've ever seen.

Leaving Auckland the largest city in NZ, we went south to Rotorua the cultural centre to experience Maori traditional food and entertainment, alongside a unique geyser land with mud pools and thermal spas. The highlight here for me was meeting up with Andrea a former Girl Guide from my unit in Pasadena, who is now working in Rotorua.

Further south we stayed in Wellington the capital city of NZ. Here we took a cable car ride up to The Botanical Gardens. The stroll down through the local trees, shrubs which were in full bloom and the abundance of roses was just spectacular. Spring is definitely the best time to appreciate the beautiful flower gardens on both islands.

Leaving the North Island by ferry boat on a three hour trip across Cook Strait to the South Island was a very pleasant scenic journey entering Marlborough Sounds enroute to our next stop Christchurch on the east coast. Christchurch is a beautiful city with lots of British connections. Here there was another cathedral to visit, a punt along the Avon river and the circular scenic tram ride around the city followed by a visit to Girl Guide Headquarters shop for souvenir badges etc.

The four hour Tranz Alpine train journey through scenic Arthur's Pass to the west coast was a pleasant change from the bus travel to reach our next destination Hokitika. Here we visited and supported the many local artisans producing greenstone/jade quality work on our way to the beachfront hotel where we were able to dip our toes in the treacherous Tasman Sea.

On the way down the coast to our next stop at Haast we stopped at Ross for a gold panning demonstration, passed Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers and walked into the viewing area of the former but I would have loved to continue the 4k walk in to touch the base of the Franz Josef Glacier, (next time)!

Our stay in the central scenic area of Queenstown was highlighted by the gondola ride for a buffet dinner in The Skyline Restaurant and watching the bungy jumpers below while we were dining. The filming of "The Lord of The Rings" took place in this area and there was an option to tour the film sites by jeep. Instead I opted for the flight in a 12 seater plane into Fiordland National Heritage Park of Milford Sound for breathtaking scenery and the chance to co-pilot the plane on the return trip! Here we also took a steamship trip on scenic Lake Whakatipu to visit a working sheep station where we had afternoon tea with more scones and cream!

On our return trip to the east coast we viewed the snow covered highest peak in NZ, Mt. Cook at Lake Pukaki and stopped at Mrs. Jones' fruitstand to stock up with delicious fresh and dried fruits (healthy option after all the favourite NZ dessert pavlovas that we had consumed). We overnighted in the quaint little town of Geraldine which has the entry in The Guinness Book of Records for the largest knit sweater, not surprising in a country with all those wool producing sheep!

Last day on our way back to Christchurch we stopped to shop at The Tin Shed which claims to have the best priced knitwear due to their low overheads. In Christchurch we gathered by The Town Clock for a group photo of all 32 participants, and photos of the individual countries represented (I was the only one from Newfoundland)!

Later that night we gathered for Happy Hour in the hotel before our farewell dinner to celebrate our fun time together and exchanged email and snail mail addresses of all our newfound friends. Five hundred photographs later I'm still trying to decide which fifty to get printed off for my souvenir album.

Jennifer Mayer (Ex-Asst. chief commissioner), our tour director, usually operates similar tours of NZ twice a year and advertises them in TG News or she can be contacted at: <pet.jen.reyam@xtra.co.nz>

I would highly recommend making this trip especially now that Air NZ has commenced a direct flight from Vancouver to Auckland and Air Canada from Vancouver to Sydney cutting down on the travel time, which is long but well worth it.

Yvonne Lewis, Killick Trefoil Guild.

When I asked Yvonne what struck her most as a Guider during this trip she answered, “ the friendliness of the people and their determination to keep their environment green.”

We throw a bouquet to the **Northern Lights Guild** in Labrador City. When contacted by Florence they reported being busy and active ‘keeping the spirit alive’.

Gone Home in December 2007, Phyllis Reid of Centennial Embers.

From a Heritage meeting came this group poem:

They think we are old...the Trefoil Guild
But we’re not old, we are really thrilled.
On Tuesdays monthly, come join our bunch.
Keeping the spirit alive is our aim,
Reminiscing, business, and spirited games-
our Guiding life continues to be fulfilled.

Fireside Friends sends:

That crazy old lady from the Guild,
Almost got herself and her family killed.
When the snow came in Spring,
It burried everything ,
And a rent in the tent got them chilled.

*

Reminder: Applications for this year’s Annual Gathering “Weaving Friendships Cruise Line” are to be in by March 2nd, accompanied by a \$25 down payment.

Brought to you by: Jane, Florence and Christina