

## Happy New Year!

Offices and Guide stores are now open. To shop online, [click here](#).

## Do you know someone that isn't getting E-News?

Perhaps she has her filter set too high on her computer and the E-News delivery is blocked. The Ontario Guider E-News is a bulk e-mail and therefore may be landing in the "Junk E-mail" box, so please suggest she check there!

Perhaps we have an out of date e-mail address for her in iMIS and she can update it as follows:

Unit Guider – contact the Unit Administrator in your Community

Trefoil or Link members – contact [adult.admin@guidesontario.org](mailto:adult.admin@guidesontario.org)

Member at Large – contact [imis.coord@guidesontario.org](mailto:imis.coord@guidesontario.org)

E-News is also readily available in PDF format from your Community Unit Administrator. This is great for those Guiders that would prefer to print the E-News and read it at their leisure rather than on-line. You may access the PDF form at <http://www.guidesontario.org/forquider/newspublications.htm>

## Having trouble opening PDF links?

Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF) is a universally accepted format that allows us to capture and view robust information—from any application, on any computer system—and share it with anyone around the world. If you are having trouble opening the PDF files included with E-News, please consider upgrading your version of Adobe Reader for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

## What's New?

### New Website!

Our brand new [website!](#) We've been working hard over the past few months to create a fresh new Provincial website that is user friendly, easy to use, relevant and up-to-date. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with it. If you have any suggestions, please email them to the Communications Coordinator at [communications.coord@guidesontario.org](mailto:communications.coord@guidesontario.org).

### Reminder!

Members-at-Large – Reminder to return your membership renewal information to Ontario Guide House immediately so that it will meet the January census cutoff.

### Marnie's Message

Happy New Year to All! Here are just a few of the projects and activities that are underway provincially –

- Congratulations to Yvette Farkas, our Communications Coordinator for her terrific work in developing our new website. Lisa Baxter, provincial Communications Adviser and many other staff and volunteers also lent their expertise to the site. Well done!
- Our first provincial Forum weekend is just a month away! The members of the Administrative Forum (your ACLs), the Operations Advisory Forum (your provincial Advisers) and the Girl Forum (watch for the announcement of our members in the next issue!) will be meeting together to share their views, to

learn new skills, to make recommendations to Ontario Council.

- Interested in a new Guiding opportunity? Watch the website for information on becoming an Elected member on Ontario Council. It will be posted by mid-January.
- The Provincial Annual Task Group is hard at work planning another exciting event for the weekend of November 21-23. Details about offering sessions will be available by the end of the month for trainers and others interested in presenting sessions.

Thank you to the Guiders who have submitted articles and photos for the Community Chatter section of E-news. Your enthusiasm is catching! Whether a Unit Guider, an ACL, a Trainer, a Trefoil Guild or Link Member, a Council member, a Member-at-Large, or a staff member, it is up to all of us working together to create the kind of movement that will best help our girls to grow. Best wishes as we embark on a new year together!

## What are Volunteers?

**V**aluable is the work you do.

**O**utstanding is how you always come through.

**L**oyal, sincere and full of good cheer,

**U**ntiring in your efforts throughout the year.

**N**otable are the contributions you make.

**T**rustworthy in every project you take.

**E**ager to reach your every goal.

**E**ffective in the way you fulfill your role.

**R**eady with a smile like a shining star,

**S**pecial and wonderful—that's what you are.

*Submitted by – Joanne Henderson  
Property Manager, Ontario Council*

## Task Group Member Opportunities – We Need You!

Task Group Members and a Task Group Chair are currently being sought for the following Program Resources events, programs and activities. These task groups will work collaboratively with provincial staff and volunteers to develop, implement and evaluate the following 2008 projects. To view a full listing of available positions, please [click here](#).

### **Camping Online Resource Task Group**

Program Resources is looking for a volunteer to act as a **Task Group Chair** to oversee the development and promotion of a new "Camping Online Resource". The Chair will work in conjunction with the Task Group members to create a user friendly resource to assist Guiders in holding a safe and fun camping and outdoor experience. The Chair will ensure a regular updating of materials to reflect the seasons, and changes in regulations. Term 1 year: 2008

Task Group members are also being sought to research and explore new methods of enhancing the camping and outdoor experiences through different publications and resources, assist with promoting the new online resource, participate in producing the new resource and keeping it updated, (not limited to), with relevant new and old techniques, skills enhancement and activities. Networking with the different departments as necessary in order to ensure high level of content and knowledge. Task Group members will actively seek out information to enhance the Online Resource to keep it current.

### **Nunavut/Ontario Sisterhood Challenge Coming Soon!**

This challenge encourages members to get to know our Guiding Sisters and where they live. Two parts of the challenge will be created - one for Ontario members to complete to get to know Nunavut and the second for Nunavut members to complete to get to know Ontario. Challenge outline and content for all branch levels will be part of this challenge. Task group members and chair will determine the content and format for this project.

If you would like to apply for any of the above Task Group Member or Chari opportunities, please complete the [Volunteer Application Form](#).

## Cookies

### Spring 2008 Classic Cookie Campaign - New Online Ordering Now Open!

By now all units should have received and reviewed a copy of [How to place your unit's Spring 2008 Classic Cookie order in 5 easy steps](#). This document is available through your Unit Administrator or by visiting [the cookie section under Ontario's Member Zone](#). It is extremely important that each unit guider review this document before placing their spring 2008 Classic Campaign Order.

Ontario's new online ordering website opens to all units will close January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30pm. Please note that the National website is not to be used when ordering cookies. Please contact Georgina Turnbull, [Cookie Coordinator](#) should you have any questions or concerns.

## Program

### Brownie Tracking Form

This form was developed by BC Guider Debbie Osborne. Use this [Brownie Tracking Form](#) to track completed program areas.

## Environment

### Greening Our Everyday Guiding Experience

Happy New Year everyone! While many people are making resolutions to improve themselves this year, let's think about a few simple things we can do to green our everyday guiding experience.

Here are a few little things to get you started:

- If there's no recycling bin at your meeting spot, bring along a bag and take your recyclables home with you at the end of your meeting
- Ask girls to bring their own re-usable mug or plate if you're serving snack at your meeting
- Take inventory of your unit's craft supplies and try to use what you've already got! It's so easy to run out to the dollar store each time we want to do a craft, but many units have a reserve of craft supplies that sit in storage for years. Put those supplies to good use by designing crafts that work with what you already own. Turn old candles into wax for buddy burners, donate unused yarn to a Trefoil Guild or unit that is knitting for charity, and let the girls use the leftover bits and pieces to make craft kits for kids in your local hospital.
- If you've got craft supplies you're never going to use, arrange a supply swap other nearby units to unload what you're not using and get some stuff you need.
- Instead of having parents meet you across town for a field trip, meet locally and take public transit to get there

For those of you who are already doing these things, spread the word! We can really support the messages in the guiding program by showing our girls the little things they can do to make a difference at every meeting. If you'd like to share some simple things you're doing to keep your unit green, email them to [environment.adviser@guidesonotario.org](mailto:environment.adviser@guidesonotario.org)

## Yellow Fish Road

Looking for a water-related service project for the spring? Consider taking part in Trout Unlimited Canada's Yellow Fish Road. This project involves learning about protecting storm drains and how what goes in them affect local bodies of water. Units use stencils to paint yellow fish near storm drains and distribute door hangers to explain that the yellow fish are there to remind them that anything that flows down the storm drain ends up polluting local water bodies. This is an educational and fun project that units of all ages can enjoy. For more information, take a look at the [Yellow Fish Road](#) website.

Look for more information about Yellow Fish Road as well as some tips to make this project easy and successful for your unit in next month's newsletter! If you've participated in Yellow Fish Road and would like to share some tips with other guiders about what you did to make this project successful, please email them to [environment.adviser@guidesonatio.org](mailto:environment.adviser@guidesonatio.org)

## Think About Water! Resources for Guiders

This year's thinking day theme is WATER! Let's think about the role water plays in our lives and also look at the challenges some of our sisters in guiding around the globe face. This is a great opportunity to focus on the Going Outside Keeper, Key to the Living World, Water badge, or Our Environment Module. Let's reflect on the role water plays in our lives and think about what we can do to protect this precious resource.

Looking for more ways to work this theme into your program? The [Thinking Day website](#) provided by WAGGGS has program ideas focused on providing access to clean water, the health benefits of water and water conservation. The ideas line up very nicely with our Canadian Guiding program requirements and can really get the girls thinking! Check it out!

The Safe Drinking Water Foundation has some environmental education programs that might interest you and your unit. There are materials and resources from Operation Water Drop, which is a program offered to schools across Canada. The information and lesson plans available are geared at a gr. 4 – 8 and 9-12 level. There are free lesson plans available online. There are also water quality kits (available for a fee) which allow the girls to test the safety of their drinking water, and then compare their findings to Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines. Visit the [Safewater](#) website.

## International

### Dominica Fund Raising

I wish to send a great big thank you to all who contributed to the Dominica Fund Raising effort by Members of the former Northern Area. Some of you contributed through purchases at our "Garage Sale" in June at the Area Dinner and some contributed through a donation at the Celebrate Camp.

We were able to raise a total of \$1,816.98. This money was sent to the Ontario Council and they in turn will send Carolyn Gray a cheque so that a purchase of camping equipment can be made and sent to the Girl Guides in the Dominica by the Girls and Guiders of Northern Area.

Just imagine the fun these girls will have enjoying camping events as we do. Congratulations for a great job!

*Submitted by - Kay Dubie*

### Planning an Independent Trip?

There are many units or groups across the province planning an independent international trip for an upcoming summer. With these adventures quickly approaching, Guiders and girls are anticipating wonderful experiences. In order to help trip Guiders have the amazing experience with their girls, it is necessary to remind you to please follow the timelines laid out in the IT.1 (International Group Trip Planning Timeline). IT.2 (Intent to Travel) forms and the necessary attachments are required to be submitted to the Program Administrative Assistant at least 1 year prior to the trip taking place. Then, 5

to 6 months prior to the trip taking place, the IT.3 (International Group Trip Application Form) and the necessary attachments are required to be submitted to the Program Administrative Assistant. Meeting these timelines is essential if the International Safe Guide Assessors are to have sufficient time to review your trip paperwork. Trip paperwork that is received late may not be assessed in time to provide final approval for the trip to take place. Please do adhere to the required timelines so that the trip will be enjoyed by all. (Just a reminder that Guider-only trips are also required to complete trip paperwork and adhere to the same timelines.) Happy travels!

## **World Thinking Day 2008 - February 22, 2008**

The theme for World Thinking Day 2008 is Water. Are you looking for an activity to help your unit or Community to celebrate World Thinking Day? Why not check out the WAGGGS [Thinking Day](#) website or try the Water for Life Challenge posted on the [Newfoundland Council](#) - Girl Guides of Canada website. Their crests are available to order by using the form at the bottom of the challenge page. Their website also has a list of appropriately themed songs and other water themed activities available too.

Have your unit collect their loonies and toonies for the CWFF and Dominica Twinning Project as part of Thinking Day activities this year. Send your donations in to Ontario Guide House, attention International Coordinator.

## **Community Chatter**

### **Community 2**

[Click here](#) to see photos of our local Santa Parade.

Check out our special [Camp Peco Dah Quah Cookbook!](#) Cookbooks can be ordered by contacting [Jayne Burritt](#) .

*Submitted by: Shirley Newman, UA 2*

The Chatham Girl Guides float won *1st Prize* in the Non-Commercial Category of the Chatham Sertoma Santa Claus Parade in December. Thanks again to Province for the monies to help with decorations and hope next year we can count on your support again. Guiding was very visible in Chatham with our float theme "Girl Guides Light up Girls Lives".

*Submitted by: Cathy Reaume, Chatham Girl Guides*

Once again a group of dedicated Guiders teamed up to build the annual Girl Guide float for the Sarnia Kinsmen Santa Claus parade. Bill McKnight, former Brownie-dad, generously provides flat bed, truck, driver and heated garage for construction and tear down of our float. Quite simply, without his support, there would be no float. It's a night time event so each float is required to display a minimum of 10,000 lights. Not a problem for our eager Guiding team and their "bright" ideas. Each year our planning team develops the parade theme and manages to showcase Guiding. This year's theme was Christmas Around the World and it was easily translated to "Guiding Around the World". Safety and comfort are important so we anchor benches for maximum seating and tack weld the lighting framework to the deck so it's a smooth, worry-free ride for our girls. Custom CD's provide the theme music (stereo system protected in a pup tent) and all cords are out of harm's way. The Sparks and Brownies all cozy and bundled up in blankets on the float are adorable and the crowd loves them. The confident and smiling Guides, Pathfinders, Trex and Adults parade our flags and banners and greet the crowd with an energetic, "Merry Christmas!" and children and adults respond back with gusto. It's a great way to kick-start the Christmas Spirit for everyone. Once the parade route is completed, the participants are herded into the warmth of a local high school cafeteria for hot chocolate and fresh donuts, served up by the Kinsmen who sponsor the parade. Once all the floats have been judged, the winners names are announced and trophies given out. This is the first year in the last five that we haven't won either Best Youth or Overall Best Float award so we can't complain! For me, this is Guiding Alive and Well in my home town and I'm counting down the days until we can do it all again in 2008.

*Submitted by: Marian Kelch, 1st Camlachie Pathfinders*

## Community 12

[Click here](#) to see photos of the 1st Stoney Creek Sparks visit to the fire station. The girls loved the challenge.

*Submitted by: Mary Devereaux, 1st Stoney Creek Contact Guider*

## Community 13

Seven girls - Hayley Allen, Kate Crans, Carly McHugh, Karthryne Forbes, Lauren Miles, Natasha Seifred and Christine Shermet . . . all received their Canada Cord this past Fall at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Burlington. [Click here](#) to view photos from the event.

The guest speaker was Hilary Matte Brown, a professor in the Faculty of Education at Brock University. She teaches Foundational Methods of teaching and learning to elementary and secondary pre-service teachers. Following Hilary, the girls each wrote a piece on what Guiding means to them. Then they were presented with their Cords and the certificates from our MP Mike Wallace as well as their Canada Cord Certificates. They also each received red and white roses.

Cam Jackson, Mayor of the City of Burlington, arrived shortly after and spoke about his experiences as a cub, a scout, a venturer and a Scout leader. He then presented the girls with a certificate from the Mayor's office and the Ontario pin. Since the ceremony, we have also received and distributed certificates from Dalton McGuinty and Stephen Harper.

*Submitted by: Catherine Allen, 32nd Burlington Pathfinders & 1st Burlington Rangers*

## Community 23

A Canada Cord ceremony was held in Oshawa on Nov. 4th at Kingsview United Church. Amy Porteus was our special guest from Province and brought us greetings from Province. She also had her picture taken with each girl that was receiving her cord certificate and spoon. We had over 80 girls in attendance and our special guest speaker was Lisa Sharko, who gave us an inspiring look into what Guiding has done for her over the years. We would like to take this opportunity to extend special thanks to the Silver and Trefoil Guild members that spent many hours in the preparation of a very successful Canada Cord ceremony for Communities 21,22,23 and 30 as well as a few girls from surrounding communities.

*Submitted by: Melanie Le Blanc, ACL 23*

## Community 26

[Click here](#) to see a photo of Ottawa-Orleans MP Royal Galipeau with girl members from Community 29. They are planting a tree in the community of Blackburn-Hamlet, in honour of Maple Leaf Day.

*Submitted by: Lisa Gillis, UA 26*

## Community 27

After getting off to a bit of a panicky start, the "Fairies in a Magical Winter Forest" float that the 32<sup>nd</sup> West Carleton Brownies submitted for the 2007 Santa Claus Parade won FIRST place!!! Although a simple but pretty float, the Brownies had their singing voices on and were belting out "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" for the judges. In combination with the decorations and the Brownies spirit, EVERYONE loved the horses. The hay wagon, hay and the horses were brought and driven by Allan and Eileen Childs from Carp. Their daughter and her employers also brought two riding horses all dressed up with red Christmas bows and included red painted hoofs. The riders were dressed up as Elves and rode behind the wagon. [Click here](#) to see photos taken by Dominique Gravill.

## Community 34

[Click here](#) to see a photo of our local Pathfinder unit that appeared in the local newspaper in thanks of our community effort of preparing ornaments for the Tree of Remembrance.

## Community 36

Units are in full swing and bursting with girls, guiders and activity. Taking part in the many Santa Claus Parades, service projects and just having fun. In the New Year there will be a First Aid and CPR course in Thunder Bay for all interested members to attend. Time, date and place to be announced. We are looking forward to more training opportunities in our community.

We are very excited to announce that we have our first ever Trex unit. The girls and their leaders will be travelling to two world centres in August of 2009 and visiting other countries in Europe along their way. They are all working very hard towards their goal and are planning future events.

In Community 36 we have a very special group of leaders that live in a remote town called Armstrong. These four very dedicated leaders went above and beyond the call of volunteers and went out to the residents and promoted guiding. We are very proud to say that we have an excited group of girls involved. The guiders pick them up and drop them off at home every Wednesday night. They also have gone out to the community to have the girls sponsored to purchase uniforms, books and supplies for their girls. These ladies are what guiding and volunteering in our organization is all about. Thanks for all of your very hard work and dedication.

*Submitted by: Yvonne DeBruyne, ACL 36*

The rural "KAM" Units helped design and organize a float in this year's Santa Claus parade and won 1<sup>st</sup> place for their "Camping Theme". Sponsored by the Rotary club of Thunder Bay in the division of Best Community Organizations. Thanks to all who participated.

*Submitted by: Arlene Green, 1<sup>st</sup> Slate River Pathfinder Leader*

## Community 39

Our community which is in London has been very active. In August we had a "meet and greet" night which was very well attended. At this time we asked the Guiders how often they wished to get together as a community and what sort of things they would like to do. Several said every two months or so to get together and also many wanted a Pot Luck Supper and Information Night. As a result on December 5 we had such an event. It also was well attended (especially for this busy time of the year) and everyone seemed to have a great time, if all the smiling faces and laughter are an indication. The food was awesome; Guiders organized themselves to work the kitchen and set up and decorate. We had an informal gathering time with light refreshments as well as a get acquainted activity. Membership pins were presented to those present, starting with a 50 year pin and finishing with 1 year pins. The Guiders received handouts with information as well as a community directory. As ACL I have a team of Guiders helping me with a variety of tasks and these were introduced and also the contact Guider in our community to help them with Learning and Development, Camping, Arts and International and Communications. Several Guiders mentioned they wanted to know what was happening in other units in our community so we have the Communications specialty with a coordinator who will receive information and share in the form of a newsletter for the community. Wishing everyone best wishes in 2008!

*Submitted by: Janette Newcombe ACL Community #39*

## Ontario Guider E-News Feedback

We hope you enjoyed our third edition of Ontario Guider E-News! As it is our intent to produce this publication monthly, we're seeking feedback. Please tell us what you liked, disliked or would like to see in future issues. Drop our [Communications Coordinator](#) an e-mail and share your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Would you like to feature something in next month's issue of Ontario Guider E-news? If yes, please send your article to our [Communications Coordinator](#) no later than Monday, January 21st for consideration.**