

Girl Guides

Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

2022 Annual Report



Everything she wants to be.



Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council

11055-107 Street Edmonton, AB T5H 2Z6

girlguides.ca/ab

Sheri Graham

In February 2023 ANY Council was extremely saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Aurora Adventures Area Commissioner, **Sheri Graham**.

Sheri was from the Vancouver area but moved to Whitehorse in 2017 and quickly became an integral part of Guiding in the north and within Alberta Council. She spent a total of 22 years involved with GGC, selling cookies as a Guide, and later serving as a leader, role model and mentor to Guiding Units as well as holding additional volunteer positions including District and Area Commissioners.

Outside of Guiding **Sheri** was a baker, volunteered on school council and other assorted committees, loved gardening, time with her family, sewing, being crafty, and reading. When asked where she would want to live, **Sheri** said, "I'm happy to be where I am; the pace of life is slower, the outdoor activities are endless, we have everything you need (and whatever else you want can usually be ordered in!). Living here is not for everyone, but for me and my family, it works!"

Sheri was a doting and loving mother, instilling a love of learning, science and reading in her two daughters, **Emily** and **Sylvia**. **Sheri** was a great leader, a role model and friend to all. She will be missed by many.



Provincial Commissioner's Message

Tracy Burton

What a year 2022 has been! Our Guiders and Youth have been amazing with all of the changes that have happened this year. We started the year with being under restrictions and ended the year with being open for what our new reality looks like. Despite the many challenges and changes, everyone met these with a smile and a willingness to adapt to whatever the situation called for.

We started the year with the 50th Anniversary of Alberta Girls Parliament. We had young women participate from all over Alberta, Yukon, Northwest Territories and all across Canada. The participants learned debating skills, how to research and structure arguments, and had a fun time connecting with each other. There was even a fun debate held by the alumni.

Trainings continued to be well attended for the many different trainings – from Commissioner's trainings, to the new Leadership Learning Path, Outdoor Skills and Program trainings. We continued to train multiple members of our own council as well as having members from across the country join us. The trainers embraced virtual trainings yet again and provided amazing hours of training.

With regards to camping, we were fortunate that we were able to start opening up for more activities. We saw many day camps happen in the beginning of the year. We were able to hold our provincial camps again and there were amazing memories and friendships made. Girls from across the council were able to get together and learn new skills.

Membership grew across ANY Council. We have seen new members join us and current members continue to spread the word about how much fun they are having. New membership initiatives have helped grow Guiding in areas that have not had Guiding for some time.

Our social media presence continued to highlight the amazing activities that have been ongoing. We saw our website grow as well. The Youth Forum continued to learn new leadership skills and have developed the theme for our rally 2023 – The Four Seasons. Due to the timing, we had to postpone rally day 2022 for one year.

2022 saw the return of domestic travel. Groups from across the council travelled to many different places in Canada, from coast to coast to coast. We had our provincial trip go to the Maritimes. We also saw many more program activities happening in the communities, from service projects, to STEAM activities to getting outdoors. With all of this, we saw a steep rise in yellow and red Safe Guide activities, and our amazing assessor team helped ensure safe and fun adventures!

I am so proud of the whole team we have working in ANY Council. I am very excited to see what 2023 has in store!



Introduction

In 2022, we saw the return of in-person Guiding activities. The Standing Committees completed all 22 tasks set for the Operations plan at a joint virtual session with Alberta Council members in January. These committee reports include highlights of the Ops Plan activities and an added 22 activities that align with the national strategic plan priorities. These reports also share the successes and challenges of how the Operations Committee navigated returning to in-person events with new covid protocols. The Operations Committee includes:

- Deputy Provincial Commissioner (Chair)
- Girl Engagement Coordinator (supporting Camping, International, and Program Advisers)
- Member Services Coordinator (supporting Membership, Training, and PR & Communications Advisers)
- Risk and Compliance Coordinator (supporting Travel Support Leads, Girl Protection and Safe Guide Adviser(s))
- Treasurer (supporting Cookie Adviser)
- Youth Forum Coordinator(s)

This section also includes a report from the Archives Lead.

Alberta Council Youth Forum (ABCYF)

Youth Forum Coordinators *Jacquie Ahern (term May 2019 to 2022)*
Carly Biglow (term September 2021 to 2024)
Shannon Jaegar (term May 2022 to 2025)

The Youth Forum conducted the vision and mission of Girl Guides of Canada by participating, providing input, and carrying out the work of Alberta Council. Our aim is to retain youth members by developing their skills and preparing them for their future in a safe and engaging environment.

Jacquie Ahern's term as Youth Forum Coordinator ended in May. In March, a call went out to recruit her successor and in June, we welcomed the new co-coordinator, **Shannon Jaegar**. Our Youth Forum members also serve on Alberta Council committees.

Members of the Youth Form for 2022-23 were **Meghan Downes, Eva Pigeon, Hannah Li, Emily Patriquin, Eva Pigeon, Nyah Lupick, and Madeline Hawkins**.

Six of our eight members, as well as our coordinators, **Carly** and **Shannon**, attended the Welcome Weekend held at the Guide Centre in Edmonton from Oct 28 to 30. Over the weekend, we partook in team building activities, planned for the year to come, and went on a PR excursion to the Arkells concert Saturday night. We also completed the first Leadership training module (Self Leadership).

The Youth Forum provided an inspirational opening for their meetings, we scripted and created the 2021 Year in Review Video (which you can find on our [YouTube channel](#)), provided a theme and swag designs for ANY Rally Day 2023, submitted regular Blue-Print articles, we helped design the Plus One Challenge crest

One 2022 goal was for each member to conduct an outreach session with a unit. We created an outreach crash course document for our new members. The document had all the information needed to successfully conduct an outreach visit. We also revised our outreach survey and changed the questions for use during our unit outreach sessions.

We also like to take on special projects and events like a virtual Ranger Retreat, a virtual campfire, and



creating a challenge. We set a goal for 2022 to host a Rangers-only virtual event. We brainstormed theme ideas and decided on Exploring the Deep Blue Sea.

We held a virtual Youth Forum Fun Day since we have not had much opportunity to really get to know each other. This was an opportunity to spend time together outside of meetings. We completed the DEI Training Module 1, had a session with the Guiding Ambassador **Helen Cashman**, baked cookies, played trivia and had our regular monthly meeting.

“I joined the Youth Forum because it seemed like a great opportunity to build my leadership skills and step out of my comfort zone. With my position, I hope to be able to help make sure that other girls enjoy their time in guiding as much as I have.” **Hannah Li**

Girl Engagement

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Girl Engagement Coordinator | Bev Burton (term May 2020 to 2024) |
| Camping Adviser | Leslie Jones (term May 2020 to 2023) |
| International Adviser | vacant as of October 2020 |
| Program Adviser | Leslie Horton (term May 2020 to 2023) |

The Girl Engagement Coordinator supports Camping, International, and Program Advisers on Alberta Council. In 2022, there were a few special projects that needed particular support.

- The ANY Council Arts Challenge and 2022 World Thinking Day Challenges
- The Provincially Sponsored Trip to the Maritimes.
- Covered the vacant position of International Adviser at present.
- Participated on the National working groups on the strategic plan.
- Standardized Area Adviser Position Descriptions
 - Working on a template for Areas to recruit adviser positions.
- Created a Blue-Print article on how to get started in Guiding for programming, where to find resources, and planning a unit meeting.
- Worked with Member Services Coordinator to create standardized Area reports and reports for Districts with links to the information.
- Worked with Member Services Coordinator to have a clear place to see the overall plan for the provincial adviser committees for the upcoming year.



Camping

Leslie Jones

In 2022, the Camping Committee created 1-minute videos on camping related topics published to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and posted on the Alberta Council website. We worked with Veronica, PR & Communications Adviser. Some of the topics covered are dressing for the weather, outdoor cooking, fire safety, fire starters, SG4 considerations etc. Guider responded positively to the videos. We made plans to continue the camp-themed videos for social media into 2023.

We created and posted the “camp in the box” to the website.

At our May meeting, we started planning our “Connect to Camping” virtual trainings for the fall and posted a schedule on the provincial website. It was so successful, we decided to run additional virtual Connect to Camping trainings in March and April 2023 to encourage Guiders to take their units camping.

The camping committee ran several week-long camps last summer.

July 10 -16, 6 Guiders and 26 Pathfinders and Rangers from around Alberta spent a week tent camping in

the foothills of the Rocky Mountains at Camp Jubilee. While there they advanced their camping and outdoor skills by preparing and cooking their own food, learning how to use a knife, start a fire safely, and how to identify different animal tracks. The youth participated in activities which taught them basic investigative techniques like fingerprinting, DNA extraction, ink analysis and blood splatter identification. They enjoyed outings like hiking and swimming and had fun with special activities like an 80's Party Themed murder mystery, archery and a water gun fight. They also painted some picnic tables as a service project.



August 7 - 13, 10 Guiders and 63 Guides from Alberta and NWT spent a week tenting at Camp Mockingbird. It was a Guide skills-based camp and the youth did all their own patrol cooking and dishwashing. The Guides participated in many activities like making journals, hot dog roasters, and campfire toasters. They learned knife safety and whittling, first aid skills, axe safety, compasses and knots. The Guides also had a session in archery and went canoeing, geocaching and hiking. After the hike, they returned to camp and had a fairy tea party. They also painted out houses at Camp Westover as a service project. The Guides learned a lot of new skills and refreshed some others.

August 14 - 20, 2 Guiders and 10 pathfinders and Rangers (max for backcountry camping) from around Alberta and Yellowknife participated. The youth spent three days at the Calgary Guide Centre learning and preparing for their backcountry camping trip. On day four they rode a bus to the Galatea Day Use area in Kananaskis Provincial Park. They hiked to Lilian Lake and set up camp. The next two days the youth took part in day hikes to Lower and Upper Galatea Lakes and then to Guinn's Pass. The final day they hiked back out to the Galatea Day use and rode a bus back to the Guide Centre. It was a great way to introduce the youth to backpacking after two years of limited camping.

The camping committee met in September. Joining us were two new Area Camping Advisers and a new Youth Forum member. Work began to look for Responsible Guiders (RG's) for our 2023 summer camps: a week-long Guide camp, a week-long Pathfinder/Ranger camp and two 3-day Ember camps. We would host one Ember camp in the Edmonton area and one in the Calgary area. We also started planning for Hodge Podge, September 22 to 24, 2023.



International

Bev Burton

The committee continued to bring international options into our program.

- The **ANY Council sponsored trip** endured many changes due to COVID and more protocols. The trip travelled to the Maritimes in July 2022.
- **World Thinking Day 2022**
 - o We created the World Thinking Day challenge to help units do the WAGGGS challenge which can be done in-person or virtually.
 - o For World Thinking Day we created an international kick-off with instant meetings for all branches about what is happening in Guiding around the world.
 - o WAGGGS Country of the Month – Each month we presented a 10-minute activity for units to connect to a different WAGGGS country.
- **Pen Pal Challenge**
 - o Started the Pen Pal project as a way for individual girls and units to connect for domestic and

international pen pals. As a challenge, this project can be done across Canada.

- **Connect Through Campfire**

- o Will start making YouTube videos of Canadian songs. We will teach one song at a time.
- o We hope to make connections with Guiders in other countries and ask them to make a video teaching a song from their country too.

- **Standardized Kit List**

- o Will start on a standardized kit list for International and Domestic travel that units can use as a resource. Guiders could start with this kit list and add items specific to their trip.

- **New ideas working on**

- o Travel report database
- o Trip trainings
- o Trip presentations to encourage travel (from those who have travelled, on a virtual platform)
- o International resources for units



Program

Leslie Horton

Initiatives and Updates

- 2021 Arts Challenge “MAKE NEW FRIENDS” posted mid-August as the 2022 Arts Challenge after a delay while national restructured the challenge program.
- Worked on Meeting in a Box for enrollment for the fall.
- “I’m a STEMInist” Challenge – We received positive feedback on the recent STEMInist challenge. This is an amazing challenge; it is easy to use for everyone. It is also available in French.
- There are many challenges on the ANY Council website. Please encourage your units to have a look at and complete other challenges and once they complete the challenge be sure to buy crests.
- Provided input to national regarding a future partnership with Duke of Edinburgh.

2022 Events

Hoping we could go forward with all events in-person, we still made backup plans for virtual events. The decision to go with virtual events depended on what the Covid-19 restrictions were at the time.



- **Alberta Girl’s Parliament (AGP)** – Virtual event, March 23 – 27, 2022.

- o For Rangers, Trex and Pathfinders aged 15 to 18 at the time of the event. It was a success again this year. No non-GGC members attended this year. This year we added an Alumni debate which everyone enjoyed. Participants shared positive comments about the event and supported the virtual event. Although the virtual event was not the same as being together in-person, everyone had fun and met some youth members from other provinces.

- o Thanks went to everyone attending to the participants, their guests, the alumni, the wonderful leaders who gave their time, skills, and the all the support of Alberta Council.

- **Link to the Future** – An in-person event for Rangers and Link members at Tangletrees Girl Guide Camp, Pigeon Lake, Alberta June 3-5, 2022. Sadly, with only six registrations, there were not enough participants to run the event, so it was cancelled.

- **Arts Camp** – an in-person event at Tangletrees Girl Guide Camp, Pigeon Lake, Alberta July 17-23, 2022 for second year Guides to second year Pathfinders. Born between 2008-2011. Covid restrictions reduced the participants from the usual 60 down to 24 girls and 8 Guiders. We had girls from every area except Woodsmoke. There were so many art projects and activities over the week, with the bonus of the visit from the Trucksicle, two service projects, campfires, scavenger hunts and so much more, and of course making new friends. The camp was a great success. Joining the Responsible Guider **Dana Wagner**, the Guider team for the week was: **Caroline Lobban, Tania Prucyk, Natasha Wagner, Julie Perras, Lindsay Richardson, Leslie Heinz and Kylee Semenoff.**



Lones

Meribeth Barclay

- The Lone Guides and Pathfinders used Microsoft Teams for their virtual meetings. The Lone Guiders also supported youth members who want to do program by email or even snail mail.
- There continues to be a need for more Lone Guiders for Sparks, Embers, Guides and Pathfinders.
- From January to May, membership increased in all branches except Rangers with total Lone membership growing from 38 to 44. The fall membership numbers for Lones were down substantially with a total of 15 which was inline with pre-covid numbers. The biggest change was with Pathfinders and Guides which respectively dropped from twenty to one and nine to four. Rangers remained consistent. By the end of 2022, three new members joined in Sparks, Guides, and Rangers bringing the total to 18.

Member Services Committee

Member Service Coordinator

Shannen Hoffman (term May 2019 to 2022)

Amanda Saigeon (term May 2022 to 2025)

Membership Adviser

Dana Wagner (term May 2020 to 2023)

PR and Communication Adviser

Veronica Hoffman (term May 2020 to 2023)

Training Adviser

Rose Ward (term May 2020 to 2023)



The Member Services Advisers found creative and out-of-the-box ways to continue to cultivate committees with the lingering pandemic restrictions in early 2022. Our Advisers and their committees supported our members with new ideas, social media campaigns, and various events for Members across the ANY Council. Member Services impacts the youth to the adult, and our committees have exemplified the Guiding Spirit with their efforts.

Membership Committee

Dana Wagner

The Membership Committee includes the Area Membership Advisers and four sub-committees:

- **Awards Lead** - *Henny Smit Neilson*,
- **Connecting People and Resources (CPR) Team Liaison** - *Pat Guillemaud*
- **Link Liaison** - *Lauren Gee*, and
- **Trefoil Guild Co-Liaisons** - *Beverly Simpson Headon and Glenda Metro*

Committee Projects:

- Created a Hat Craft Recruitment document having a list of hat crafts which could be used at recruiting fairs. This was a task identified in the brainstorming session at 2022 Standing Committee Workshop (SCW).
- The Plus One Challenge crest inventory was low. The committee decided to update the crest before reordering and asked the committee and Youth Forum members for crest design ideas. The Youth Forum designed the selected crest.
- Sent emails to all public and separate school divisions asking if they could share our recruitment advertising with their elementary schools and caregivers
- Another task identified at SCW was to create a business card for members to assist with recruiting. The committee made business card templates and sent an issue brief to council. Unfortunately, Council did not feel funds were available for this project at the time.
- Updated FAQ document, Pocket Pals, and the Membership pages on Alberta Council website.
- For 2022-23 Guiding year the Membership Monday post on social media will change to Thankful Tuesdays. The Membership committee will focus on ways to show appreciation to each other.
- Continued to redirect Guiders who email any-membership forms, iMIS updates, screening, etc. to the correct person for these.



Awards

- We distributed the Award deadlines but there were many late applications which the committee did their best to complete in time for presentations.
- 10 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals were awarded.
- New Awards Process • National created an awards online portal using Survey Monkey. The link to the portal website was announced in the January 24, 2023 Guidepost.

CPR Team

- Worked with Guiders in Chinook Area to open a unit in Taber.
- Worked with Guiders in Chinook, Prairie Rose, and Tamarac.
- Wanted to grow team with other Guiders eager to help the Areas with recruitment to assist Pat.

- Ideas for public events.
- Idea to celebrate coronation of King Charles from Pat.
- Campfires in public spaces across the council.

Link

Planning started for a virtual Link to the Future and date set for in-person at Tangletrees (June 3-5, 2022). The virtual Link to the Future was canceled because there weren't enough session facilitators. Due to low registrations, the in-person event was also cancelled.

Trefoil Guild

Alberta has 382 Trefoil Guild Members of which 139 of them are Guiders and 72 of them are Unit Treasurers. We have the third highest number of guilds across the country. There are a total of 3043 guild members across the country with 810 of them who are Guiders and 408 of them are Unit Treasurers.

Many members of our guilds struggled during the past year. A big part of being in the Guilds is the friendship, connections, and getting together. It is nice to see everyone getting out again.



- We challenged our guilds to send us pictures and information on what they are doing for 2-22-22 Thinking Day.
- Recently, we received an email from England from a TG Chairperson who was looking for an old friend which was great because we were able to connect them.
- The Liaisons across the country collaborated to update our position description for consistency and guild management.
- Guidepost has a Trefoil Guild component now. It has been fun working with the other leads across the country as we figured out how we can communicate and engage our members.
- ANY Guilds have been busy with projects such as cleaning camps, assisting with area projects, participating in online sing-alongs, as well as local service projects. The one thing I noted that many have been doing is making sure the guild members are connected. It's the best part of being in a guild.
- The budget and project proposal to have a Link meets Trefoil Event in spring 2023 was approved. For that event, we will request participants bring Band-Aids for the Owie Project which was started by a boy named Elias in the Stollery. He thought that the kids who get Band-Aids need to get ones with cartoon characters on them instead of plain brown ones.
- Plans are underway for the Trefoil Gathering in Manitoba in 2024. The cost is approximate at this time but is in the area of \$700 to \$800 not including flights/accommodation etc.
- Pot Lucks are a favorite of most guilds it seems and sometimes it is connected with a campfire and some singing.



- A Guild planned and executed a youth award ceremony, another visited the Lacombe museum recently to view their exhibit on Botany and Medicinal Uses of Plants as well as the early history of medicine in Lacombe.
- Guilds encouraged each other to stay active, get out and enjoy life! A few members went to the Rocky Mountain House National Historic site and stayed in a Mad Trapper tent for four nights. A great time was had by all.
- Another Guild had members aiding their area with organization of a garage sale where funds raised were to benefit the camps.

PR & Communications

Veronica Hoffman

Blue-Print Editor – *Finley Rogers*

Updates and Highlights



- The PR Committee planned the Alberta Council “Light It Up Blue” Thinking Day event. For this event, various buildings and structures across Alberta Council were lit up blue the evening of February 22, 2022. We had 28 buildings and structures across Alberta Council lit up blue for the event! Our various social media channels announced the locations taking part. We also held a photo contest to encourage Guiding members to show their Guiding pride either by decorating their home or wearing their uniform on Thinking Day. We ended 2022 by gearing up for our 2023 World Thinking Day Campaign “Guiding Lights Across Alberta Council.”
- 2022 Alberta Council PR social media campaigns were:
 - **Shout Out Sundays** – this campaign showcased various service projects and good deeds that our members performed this year.
 - **Membership Mondays** – worked with **Dana** (Membership Adviser) on this. The focus of this campaign was to showcase useful Guiding resources for Guiders.
 - **Wellness Wednesdays**
 - **Alberta Council Archive Throwback Thursdays** – worked with **Janet** (Archives Lead).
 - **Alberta Council Camping Video Project** – worked with the Camping Committee for this campaign. They created short videos to teach various camping skills that showcased on all Alberta Council social media channels on Tuesdays and Fridays starting in February.
 - **Registration and Recruitment** – promoted both youth and adult member registration through both social media and in-person methods (flyers, PR booths, articles, etc.).
- Created a Digital PR Kit for Areas, Districts, and Units to use for promoting Guiding in their communities as National did not create new promo material.
- The Area webpages are still being transitioned to the Alberta Council website.
- We published four Blue-Print editions for this Guiding year in February, April, October (which was delayed to November), and December. **Finley** received a lot of neat articles for the editions.
- Over the summer the PR Committee promoted Guiding through parade entries; volunteering at festivals; and showcasing various travel adventures, camping fun, and service projects our members participated in over the past few months.
- The PR Committee in the fall worked hard to promote registration for both youth and adult members through social media posts, local PR booths, flyers, and writing newspaper articles. Simultaneously, the PR Committee so also promoted the Chocolatey Mint Girl Guide Cookies as cookies arrived as early as the first week in September in some locations!
- This year the PR Committee started creating a PR Challenge with a crest to increase the number of photos and articles we receive from our members, and to teach members more about public relations and how to promote Guiding in their local communities. We created the general outline of the challenge and brainstormed activity ideas that are inclusive to all members.

Follow us on social media!

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  | Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta | |
|  | @GGCAlbertaCouncil | |
|  | @GGC_ANYCouncil | |
| | |  GGC, Alberta |

Training

Rose Ward (May 2020 to 2023)

The training committee consists of:

Ingrid Carleton (**Trainer Records and Development Coordinator**).

Pat Istead (**Training Events Coordinator**).

Diane Werely (**Webinar Planning Coordinator**).

The Trainers were challenged to provide programming for Girls and Guiders on-line and any time. They worked with Guiders at District, Area and unit levels to help them navigate the Platform. Early in the year, Guiders reached out and asked for trainings. The trainers worked hard to accommodate them. National offered trainings in February and March called "Winter Wonder Learn". In the fall, the Leadership Learning Path replaced the administration stream, and geared towards Guiders who wanted to expand their experience in Guiding. Trainers posted session date and times on the ANY training calendar and the National training Calendar. We had trainers working with National on many of the Webinars offered at the National level.

Trainer Challenge – to reach out to as many persons in their Area / District as they can via snail mail before the April Workshop meeting. Work with their Area Commissioner and Membership Advisers, trainers sent letters to all guiders in the Area via snail mail.

Our Trainer Records and Development Coordinator collaborated with Area Trainer Advisers to collect and collate yearly reports from all trainers. We should have some numbers to report at the next meeting.

National supplied us access to a Zoom license which our Webinar Planner managed. Our Webinar Planning Coordinator supported trainers with access to Zoom. Although we are now able to meet in person, virtual sessions still are very popular. **Diane** will be stepping down at the end of the Guiding year and will work with the incoming coordinator for a smooth transition.

Events

Multi-Faceted 2022 – March 18 to 25, 2022 – although we planned on an in-person training weekend, COVID had other ideas. We made the tough decision to move to virtual for another year. We scheduled sessions twice, where possible. The cost was \$25.00 which allowed us to send something special out to all who attended.

Trainers Workshop 2022 – April 1 - 3 – the sessions were virtual, and fee was \$25.00.

Safe Guide Refresher - The Alberta Council Training team committed to 100% compliance for Safe Guide training to all adult members. Alberta Council Training teams offered this refresher course through webinars and when possible, face to face.

Awards - Trainers prepared a training module called Understanding Awards.

Commissioner Workshop – we had great signup and attendance for the winter session and scheduled a fall session for August thru October 2022. These sessions were well attended, and many guiders completed their Admin streams and the new Leadership Learning path. We plan to host these sessions again in 2023.

OAL - Adventure camp training – March 12 and 13 at the Calgary Guide center. This training was an opportunity for Guiders to complete their training for backpacking and canoeing. Participants made their own sleeping arrangements due to Covid restrictions. **Anna** and **Laurie** had 10 participants.

OAL expedition training held at the end of October, had 10 persons attend. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed all the sessions and are excited for the final sessions in the spring.

Multi Facet: 2023 – March 17 to 19, 2023 Planning started to host an in-person event.

Trainers Workshop 2023 – April 1 - 3 – Session planning and scheduling started for a virtual workshop. Fee once again will be \$25.00 which will allow us to send something special out to all those that attend.

Operations

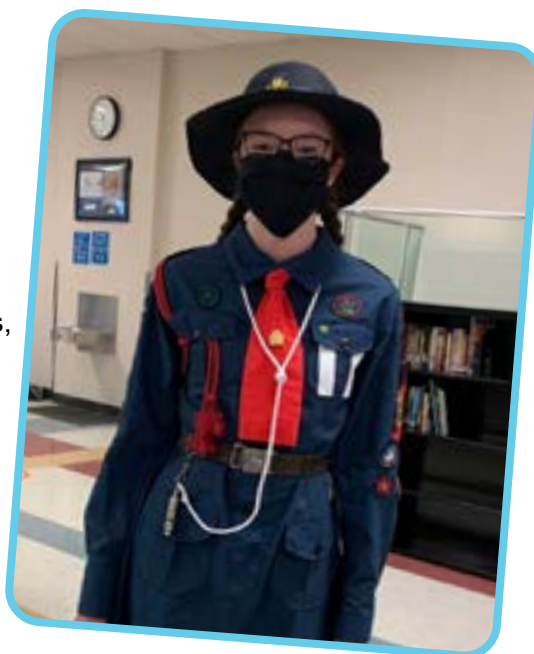
Archives

Janet Allcock

The archives kept my husband **Geoff** and I quite busy right from the start of 2022. Through the summer we worked at the Guide House on average for one day a week. Into the fall, we worked in the archives for two days every two weeks, though we also did some work at home.

Building the archives

- Incorporating the Edmonton Area archival material into the Alberta Council was most of the work for 2022. The Edmonton area material included documents, photo albums, clothing and 3D artifacts. We checked for duplicates and then accessioned and recorded what we accepted. To give you some idea of the magnitude of this task, we numbered, scanned and archived 746 photographs, sorted, numbered and archived 1571 documents (many were multi-paged), 38 books, 26 scrapbooks, 6 audio-visual items, 9 framed arrangements of program badges, innumerable crests and badges, and many bound copies of minutes and newsletters.
- We also received donations from other sources. For example, we received a donation from the Parkland Area Office. A former Brown Owl from Thorsby and the daughter of a long-time Guider sent us her collection of clippings from the 1950's.
- With the addition of the Edmonton Area material, our storage space reached capacity. The document storage alone added 12 more boxes to our shelves and the artifact storage boxes overflowed into the museum area. Supply chain issues and back-ordered items resulted in delays in getting the archival storage material we needed. As a result, we made some hard decisions on discarding duplicate books, uniforms and artifacts, some of which we planned to keep for future unit program activities. By November, we improved our storage space and transferred more of our records into archival quality storage boxes. The next challenge will be to assess what among our non-accessioned artifacts we can dispose of as we have no room for new donations.
- Storage wasn't the only challenge we faced in 2022. We had problems with the computer we use for the archives. As a result, we began investigating a replacement system.



Exciting Finds

- With the Edmonton Area material, we discovered a Sea Ranger hat, a bosuns whistle and a tie with an SRS Lanark crest on. There were also some of the original style proficiency (later "interest") badges. These were white background with blue embroidery and were only in use until about 1921.
 - o **Geoff** was intrigued by the amount of detailed material we acquired on the 1st Edmonton Sea Ranger Crew. There was a week-by-week log of their unit activities and accounts of their trips. A student helper scanned two of three scrapbooks/log books which gave a very detailed account of their meetings and activities. We also received a considerable collection of photographs, slides, films and artifacts relating to the unit. A relative of the Skipper donated many of the photographs several years ago. It's a bit like a detective story as the clues come to light and fit together. It's proving to be a very interesting part of Alberta Guiding history.

- Another treasure we found were leather pennants that Embers used to carry instead of flags. In those days Embers were ages 7 to 10 and were not considered physically capable of carrying a flag! I never expected to see examples of the whistle, pennants, or badges.

Sharing Archive Stories

- I continue to write articles for Blue-Print and have had some very encouraging feedback from these and about the photos I supply for PR's Throwback Thursdays on social media channels.



"Wow the Girl"

- I helped Pathfinder organize a meeting on a "historical uniforms" theme. She borrowed a box of uniforms (Brownie (now Embers), Guide, Pathfinder and Guider) and I supplied her with information explaining what all the badges and insignia were. She reported that the evening went very well and that the girls were fascinated.

- In April 2022, we hosted our first unit since March 2020. Sparks from Stony Plain visited for the morning of day trip to Edmonton. In the morning, they visited the Guide House where they learned the history of Busy Bees and Sparks, a bit about Embers, saw examples of the early uniforms, and some of the fun things produced over the years for

Sparks and Embers such as dolls in uniforms. Then they played games using old program badges before having lunch and going on the LRT to the Royal Alberta Museum.

Cookies

Tanya Morin (term May 2019 to 2022)

Cynthia Zuidema (September 2022)

Emma McDonald, Deputy (June 2021 – 2024)

Thank you, **Tanya**. Alberta Council recognizes your strong leadership through the selling, ordering, manufacturing and delivery storms brought on by the covid pandemic. We also recognize the supportive role **Emma** assumed as Deputy Cookie Adviser. Thank you, **Emma**, for remaining in the role to support the new Cookie Adviser.

2022 Spring Classic Cookie Campaign

- Area Cookie Advisers placed Cookie Orders by January 10. **Emma** and **Tanya** reviewed the allocation numbers for accuracy and confirmed that Cookie Receivers could accept all the cases assigned to their delivery locations.
- Spring Cookie Distributions:
 - o Used AMJ Terminals in Edmonton, Calgary and Grand Prairie for Cookie Distribution to surrounding Areas and Districts on the weekend of March 19 to 20
 - o Deliveries to all other Cookie Receiver locations were between March 1 to 31
- Contingency plan for classic 2022 cookie campaign -- With the many changes we witnessed regarding COVID guidelines and protocols across the country, National developed a contingency plan for the spring campaign if another lockdown similar to the spring 2020 campaign occurred.
- Approved Travel Units – concern regarding 25% policy -- Many Trip Units did not have sufficient access to cookies this campaign to meet their 25% fundraising goal as required by the fundraising approval policy in place. National recognized these concerns and brought them to their Senior



Leadership Team for review and next steps.

- Cookie Contacts and Treasurers received their Cookie invoices in early May with the payment date of May 26.

Fall 2022 Chocolatey Mint Cookie Campaign

- Area “pre-order” amounts and ANY Council committee orders were due by May 3, 2022. Area Cookie Advisers placed all cookie orders between May 30 and June 19 while the Cookie Order Form portal was open. The official national campaign launched October 1, 2022 and ran until December 1, 2022
- Cookie delivery to the AMJ Terminals in Calgary, Edmonton, and Grand Prairie was earlier than usual. Cookie Distribution Weekend was September 10 to 11.
 - o Calgary – over 15,000 cases distributed.
 - o Edmonton – over 5,000 cases distributed.
 - o Grande Prairie – over 800 cases distributed.
- ANY Council had 40 Home Delivery locations this mint campaign that received cookies between September 6 and 20

Cookie Ordering Moving Forward:

- National will not require final pre-order case numbers on future campaigns. The Classic 2023 Campaign will return to pre-COVID ordering procedures, in which ANY Council provided a 6-month estimated pre-order amount (based of budget, historical orders, enrollment numbers, etc...). This means that when it comes time to ordering, Units/Districts/Areas will be able to order the amount they want.

Risk and Compliance

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Coordinator | - Betty Slater (term Sept 2020 to 2023) |
| Safe Guide Co-Advisers | - Chris Haydon and Twyla Jenkins (term May 2020 to 2023) |
| Travel Support Advisers | - Enidd Issac and Pat McWilliams |
| Girl Protection | - Donna Leonard Robb |

We began 2022 with 31 Assessors. Between January and the beginning of April, the assessors received 179 sets of forms. As expected, the number of forms increased in the spring then decreased substantially over the summer and increased again into the fall. April assessors received forms for 143 events; May, 202; June, 48; July, 13; August, 29; and October, 79.

Our Guiders and their units enjoyed outdoor winter activities such as skiing; sledding, snow boarding, luge, outdoor cooking, hikes and horse back riding. As it got colder events moved inside where the girls challenged themselves on climbing walls; axe throwing, archery lessons, fencing, discover Scuba; and visits to a Police Interpretive Centre, the Strathcona Wilderness Centre and the Wolf Centre.

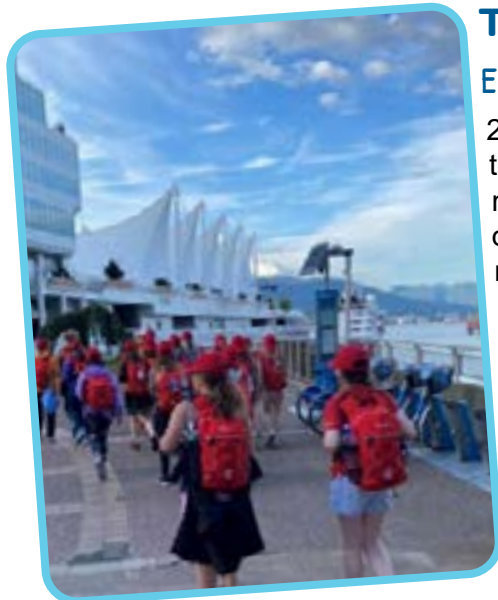


As spring approached more Guiders planned events. However, we noticed that many of these Guiders had not completed event forms for months or even a year or more due to Covid. A couple Guiders commented that they forgot how to complete the forms. Numerous sets of forms need substantial help from assessors. For example, forms came in late; some handwritten; the supervision ratio was often wrong (Guiders overlooked the supervision ratios updated in fall 2021) and many Guiders had expired First Aid.

To help Guiders, we submitted issues/topics that needed attention to the Guide Post and checked or updated all our resources on the Alberta Council website.

Covid Restrictions and Returning to In-Person Guiding:

- Assessors allowed units to reschedule the dates of their events when required by Covid restrictions.
- With the easing of overnight sleeping arrangements in January to allow Pathfinders and Rangers 8 participants per room (with additional distancing requirements), some units returned to overnight camping.
- Our thanks to Risk and Compliance Adviser, **Betty Slater** who was most helpful summarizing and simplifying the Return to Guiding requirements.
- A thank you to the Calgary and Edmonton Camp Facility Chairs who mapped out each of their camps/buildings noting the capacity during Covid for each building. By doing so Guiders knew which building would fit for their girls.



Travel Support

Enidd Isaac and Pat McWilliams

2022 began with trips on hold due to travel restrictions. Eleven of the cancelled trips from 2020/21 had not yet declared any plans for rescheduling. In January, all trip Guiders were notified that while domestic travel in 2022 may still need to be cancelled, they could make financial commitments to these trips. By spring Guiders began rescheduling those cancelled trips as domestic travel opened. By year-end, jubilant Units started planning trips into 2025. In 2022, we had 53 domestic trips planned (sg.8 approved). By year-end, we had 43 domestic trips and 21 international trips planned for 2023. We even had seven international trips planned for 2024 and two for 2025.

Throughout 2022, Travel Support communicated the changing protocols and stages to all 2022 trip Guiders regularly. Guiders also received the updates in Guidepost. Travel Support also sent all questions about the restrictions raised by Guiders to the national travel department. Answers were forthcoming and relayed back to the Guiders. Travel Support paused the Trip Planning Orientations for both domestic and international trips given the frequency with which the level of protocols changed and resumed the planning orientations by October.

In January, we didn't know if domestic trips for spring and summer 2022 could proceed. The travel team at National worked with the Risk Team to address areas of concern for travelling units, such as:

- accommodation restrictions must allow more than 1 participant in a room, as hotels will not let rooms to one minor.
- TPSP vaccine check requirements -- In January, all TPSP staff and volunteers interacting with our Members had to be fully vaccinated, which could not be met while on trips.
- Supervision on trips when a participant had to isolate and only two Guiders on the trip.

The March 17, 2022 Return to In Person Guiding protocols allowed travel in Canada over 72 hours with specific restrictions. One of these restrictions was that the destination(s) must be at an Overnight stage. As of April, not all our planned trip destinations were at an Overnight stage.

As of September, Domestic Travel (in Canada) for 2023



was a go and the GGC travel ban to the USA (travelling to and stop over on route to another country) was lifted; however, international travel for 2023 did not have the go ahead yet. As of November, all travel (Domestic and International) was allowed 2023.

During the summer of 2022, ANY Council led the country in negotiating the covid hurdles and had a successful travel summer with 29 amazing trips. In July and August 2022, over 360 Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers and Guiders explored all corners of our great Country and demonstrated that Members of Girl Guides of Canada are resilient, creative, adventurous and resourceful. Travellers took planes, buses, cars, trains, tour boats and ferries. One group even rode in a limo when their taxi service bailed on them. They rode horses and bikes, swam in hotel pools, at beaches, water slides and hot springs, kayaked and canoed, went white water rafting, explored museums, went whale watching, and saw puffins to name only a few of the exciting activities on their itineraries. They slept in hotels, hostels, in a train car, on hall floors, under the stars and in tents. All travellers learned loads more about Canadian history and our diverse Canadian culture than they ever could in the classroom. Some of our travelling groups shared that they were approached by the public wanting to know more about Girl Guides of Canada! What a great recruitment tool to excite 5- to 110-year-olds.

When plans to travel internationally were derailed because of Covid (2020, 2021 and 2022) many of these members demonstrated their strength and tenacity by planning travel to alternate domestic destinations. Some groups who had planned for domestic travel in 2020 and 2021 worked hard to change their itineraries for 2022. Guiders worked diligently to make their exciting unit trips a reality through the ever changing 'Covid' times. They kept working even when it didn't look like travel would open up, demonstrating that you have to be prepared and have hope ... and it paid off! What valuable life skills they modeled for our youth.

GGC made special accommodations to allow participants who had 'aged out' (turned 18+) to still go on 2022 trips as their earlier trips were cancelled due to Covid. We have no doubt that many of these travellers will return as Guiders in part because their unique situation was recognized and addressed.

Trip participants sold a "zillion" cases of Girl Guide Cookies (25% of trip fund raising needs to come from cookies) and held many other creative fundraisers while ensuring they kept true to the GGC and local covid restrictions. Travellers who fundraised for a trip which was cancelled due to Covid were allowed, for this one time only, to use those funds for other epic GGC activities. Kudos to GGC for this demonstration of understanding and sensitivity. We know many girls had great local adventures because of this.

Special recognition to



- all of the travellers whose hard work, courage and strength made these 29 amazing trips a reality.
- the National Trip Department and National Risk Department personnel for their support and direction
- the ANY Council travel assessors who navigated the changes, supported the travel groups and advocated for the trips
- the caregivers of the travellers who had faith in GGC and their Guiders to make this a safe experience for their children

To better support planning of future trips, in fall of 2022, we launched a sharing initiative to build a data base of trip itineraries (with the

Guiders' permission) to assist girls and Guiders with planning

activities for their own trips. We also asked the contributing Guiders to buddy up with a group planning trips to share ideas and tips and tricks. Share and be a friend.

Aurora Adventures Area

Sheri Graham – Area Commissioner

Report submitted by: Tracy Burton



Guiding continues to be alive and well in Aurora Adventures Area. Yukon District has been busy with doing district camps, sleepovers, and day events. Everyone is excited about getting back to camping and being able to enjoy Sprucewind Camp!

Yellowknife District has been busy with all of their units running in person this year. They are busy doing exciting projects and learning new skills. Unfortunately, a wind storm took down some trees at Camp Dechinta, but these have been removed and camping

continues for all units! Yellowknife units participated in a community event to showcase Girl Guides.

Hay River District units have been running and Guiding is growing in Fort Smith. The two communities are coordinating events together and Guiding is feeling fresh and new with new communities having Guiding in them. Hay River units took part in the “Make the Connection” night.



Calgary Area

Michelle Harding – Area Commissioner (2019-2022)

Sarah Brazeau, Rose Crowley, Christie Courtland – Co-Deputy Area Commissioners



Winter

Calgary Area began 2022 by hosting a virtual Area Council Day for our DCs and Advisers. This annual event is designed to create space for learning, collaboration, and connection. Throughout the day, participants engaged in diversity and inclusion training and team building activities before breaking into smaller groups to share best practices around recruitment, retention, and succession planning, managing district funds, and planning events and activities for their respective districts.

The Area Council Day enabled the Area Commissioner team to better understand the needs of our Commissioners and Advisers and to develop foundational plans to better address these needs.

Calgary Area participated in a BLUE Thinking Day with many of our local buildings displaying their support for Girl Guides.

The Public Relations team partnered with Let’s Talk Science on STEM programming for youth members. They also worked with Rocks & Rings on an indoor curling program to help kids learn about the sport.

Tall Trees District led the way towards awareness and reconciliation by changing their district name to one that promotes Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion. They shared their process with Calgary Area DCs, and we have since welcomed Aurora Sky, Mountain Avens, and Glacier Districts



Spring

The first centralized cookie pickup was a success in the Calgary Area. Over the course of 7 hours, we distributed 12,643 cases of cookies.

Prior to Spring camping season, Calgary Area hosted a Brownie (now Ember) Camp Academy, Sparklefest and a Guide Skills event. These large-scale camping events are great for Guiders and youth to experience the outdoors, connect with other units, and strengthen their camping skills.

An intro to backpacking training was offered in the spring and gave great ideas for packing, food, and safety. We also launched an Archery Program that meets units on site at camp.

The Training committee did an exceptional job building capacity within our Guiders in finances and unified banking, programming for all branches, and leading others.

Calgary Area hosted a Garden Party at Camp Jubilee to celebrate and thank our Guiders for their hard work and commitment to Guiding. The Garden party created opportunity for Guiders to mix and mingle while playing lawn games and enjoying a variety of booked goods. Many Guiders dressed in their garden party best and we saw a great display of hats.

Calgary Area was fortunate to have a casino in April which provides financial support for our campsites and facilities. Thanks to all the Guides, caregivers, and volunteers that helped in organizing and executing this casino!

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all Guiders for giving recognition to each other through award nominations and celebrations.

At the end of June, we said goodbye to **Michelle Harding**, Area Commissioner and Michelle Kromplak, Deputy Area Commissioner. We thank them for their time on council and commitment to Guiding.



Summer



On July 1st, Calgary Area welcomed Rose Crowley Kampel to the Area Commissioner Team as Deputy taking on the Facilities portfolio. In addition to her passion for camping, she brings some amazing tech knowledge, and she quickly got us set up with automated phone technology. While that may not sound exciting, it positions the AC team to be more accessible to Guiders and the public.

The Deputy Commissioner team collaborated to share the role previously held by an Area Commissioner. We identified ways to increase efficiency, streamline communications to DCs, Guiders, and youth members, and found opportunities to have fun while building our team. Together, we are committed to building an inclusive team, which focuses on Guiders and youth, and leverages the strengths we each bring to Calgary Area Council.

It was an amazing year for travel, with Calgary units traveling across Canada. In total, 29 groups went on domestic trips to Vancouver, Victoria, Montreal, the Yukon, all to all the Maritime Provinces.

Calgary Area was excited to participate in the Provincial summer camps at Jubilee and Mockingbird.

Pathfinders and Rangers from Calgary Area were excited to once again participate in the Stampede Parade. We also had adult and youth members participate in the Pride parades in both Calgary and Cochrane.

In August, we paid our respects to Guiders that were called home with a lovely celebration at Jubilee's Memorial Grove. This event brings together families, friends, and Guiders to share their memories and is truly a wonderful tribute to our sisters in Guiding.

Fall

Calgary Area hosted our first in person awards ceremony for youth since Covid at the Calgary Central Library. Special guests included **Mayor Jyoti** and **Danaye Maier**, creator of A Woman a Day With Danaye (@awomanadayyc) and host of the morning show on Virgin Radio in Calgary.

Area Camping activities were in full swing in the fall with our first ever Camp Cook Off Challenge, canoe training, a Winter camp event for third year Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers and Trex units, Nite Trek, and a second Ember Camp Academy due to high demand for participation.

Our campsites received some TLC with new roofs required on a few buildings. We also received support in the form of work parties at every campsite! We really appreciate everyone that comes out to help ensure that these facilities are safe and well maintained.

Calgary Area would like to thank our District Commissioners and Guiders for embracing the branch name change and creating space for their leaders and youth to share their ideas on how to make Guiding more inclusive. It is an honour to be on this journey with you.

Chinook Area

Tania Prucyk – Area Commissioner (2020-2023)

We are starting to come back from the pandemic in full force! There was a membership event held in Coaldale in July which included girls for Coaldale and Taber. Good interest was generated for starting a multi-branch unit in Taber, however, there has not been any traction yet with getting new Guiders to join in. Coaldale Sparks and Embers had to raise their unit cap twice to accommodate all the youth members who wanted to join. Claresholm Guiding Unit had to raise their unit cap to 40 this year. Cardston Guiding Unit, Pincher Creek, Cardston and both Lethbridge Districts have all increased in membership this year. Raymond Guiding Unit are back up and running with 9 girls registered. We are in great demand for new Guiders.

Speaking of demand, we were sold out of mint cookies Area wide within days! Cookie drive- thru's were very successful with both Clarke-Hall and McCready districts. Camp Okeekun is getting more bookings (relative to before) but could always use more! We are getting bookings from all over ANY, as well as from scouting. Clarke-Hall held their first district camp in 3 years! Outdoor Fun Day was held in early October, with good weather. We had 21 girls, and 12 Guiders enjoy a fun day doing outdoor activities at Camp Okeekun. They participated in: Geocaching and compass, STEM Outside, Outdoor Cooking and making a knot tying bag; along with Wide Games and Campfire. A hotdog lunch was served, and participants received several crests from the activities. OAL Tent Training was held simultaneously. 4 Guiders and 2 Trainers took part in the OAL tent training overnight at Camp Okeekun.

Arts Day was held in January 2022. The Guides, Pathfinders and Ranger session combined the Alberta Arts Challenge and the STEMinist Challenge. Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers made loom toques and participated in a music/drama session. For the STEMinist Challenge, they explored catalysts, enzymes, future renewable fuels, rockets, Hot and Cold.

Cypress Hills Area

Stephanie Lindstedt – Area Commissioner (2019-2022)

Crystal Watson – Area Commissioner (2022-2025)

In 2022 our area events were to build skills for youth and guiders, community service and promote guiding in our community.

Camp skills took place in two parts, with camp skills day focusing on



compass skills, outdoor cooking and outdoor survival. Outdoor cooking methods explored were campfire, camp stove and buddy burners. The youth had a stations with activities to learn compass skills and made some camping themed hat crafts.

The second event was a canoeing event where the youth and adult members learned skills and safety.

We held an archery day for the youth members and a qualified archery leadership training for the adult members.

Some of our youth and adult members learned about and removed evasive species at an event organized by seawa.

The adult members had the opportunity to learn about the equipment available in our area at an enrichment weekend.

Our members participated in both the Redcliff days and Medicine Hat stampede parades promoting girl guides in our communities.

We lit up a local landmark blue for thinking day and invited to public to join us for an event unfortunately the temperature was very cold that day.

Edmonton Area

Maren Bolstler & Rachel Foley (2020 – 2022)

Co-Deputy Area Commissioners: Leah Betker, Sharlet Zaretski, Tanya Watts (2022- present)

2022/2023 has seen Edmonton Area members partake in many events out and about in the city and surrounding area!

Taking in an Elks game with a sleepover and pancake breakfast with over 300 members early in September was an exciting start to the year for many. Movie screening for Strange World saw many members dressing up in costumes and a full theatre of Girl Guides! Our annual New Year's Day Oil Kings game made a return with members singing the National Anthem and partaking in the puck drop.

Our committees and teams have been busy supporting our membership:

- Girls' Awards Ceremony was well attended and held at West Edmonton Mall in the fall.



- Dog Daze by the Camping Committee has delivered 3 events – encouraging folks to get outside and explore parks in Districts they normally would not visit! Outdoor games, crafts and activities have been enjoyed in all types of weather by 150+ at each event.
- Get the Scoop is in full swing from the Training Committee – both on line and in person trainings have been offered on a wide variety of topics, allowing our adult members to earn the new Area training crest – an ice cream cone topped by scoops of ice cream!
- Facilities has been busy conducting Camp Orientations at our sites so our units can enjoy our facilities to their fullest.
- We had a Fall Arts Revel with 150 registered learning fun songs,



dances and crafts.

- Music is Fun Camp was back for its 8th time – creating lasting memories as new songs were learned, ukuleles were played, tinikling was taught and campfire etiquette was high on the agenda.
- We have Friendship Camps on the go with the Ember one selling out in 30 min and the others still to happen.
- And our Area Council had a great bonding day where we discovered that it is okay if someone moves our cheese – we can adapt and change and roll with it – we are Guiders and we can do it!

It is safe to say that Guiding is On the GO in Edmonton and our members are out and about having a good time!

Parkland Area

Tara Neilsen – Area Commissioner

After almost 3 years of altered Guiding in Parkland Area, due to COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions, 2022 saw a renewed excitement and spark for Guiding in Parkland Area. Although the year continued to look different than we had hoped our members are as enthusiastic as ever.

Thinking Day celebrations were in full swing in Parkland Area with Red Deer, Rimbey, Olds, Sylvan Lake and Rocky Mountain House participating in the “Light It Up Blue” campaign.

In the fall Parkland Area hosted Night Trek Camp for Pathfinders and Rangers. The response was great and there are plans to continue this as an annual event.



In September members from Crimson Star and Golden Poplar Districts took place in the “Girls in Aviation Day”. Girl Guides ran a booth at the event with a “Take It Apart” activity learning to take apart small appliances and household objects to discover what’s inside and how they work.

After a few years of fundraising and planning members from Yankee Valley District went on a train trip through the Canadian Rockies to Vancouver. Many other groups continue to fundraise and plan for independent travel in the upcoming year.

Day camps were very popular with units – from sewing to science experiments, there is never a dull moment. One unit even planned and took part in a virtual sleepover.

Members were excited to take part in all the “normal” Guiding activities such as program work and cookie selling. Guiding in Parkland Area has continued to serve the local and greater communities with service projects.

Cheers to 2023 and an amazing year ahead!

Peace River Area

Bev Lipon – Area Commissioner

January 2022 saw a relaxation of Covid restrictions and thus an increase in Girl Guide activities throughout the Area. Girls and Guiders were excited to get out and about their communities again.

In the start of the year, many units went out to visit local sites such as the dinosaur museum and creative arts centre to take part in learning opportunities provided there.





Units celebrated Thinking Day outdoors, as the weather was warmer for a change, and several landmarks in the area were lit up in blue to recognize Guiding week.

As the weather got warmer, almost all units held day camps. Making crafts, doing experiments, and getting outside to do fun things. Several units made their way to Camp Kupasiwin for the day to work on building fires and their outdoor cooking skills.

June brought advancement, with larger districts holding this as a district event.

Summer did not bring an end to Guiding activities, as a group of 14 girls and 5 Guiders from the Area joined with a group from

Ardrossan to explore Ontario and Quebec in July. The girls had a chance to experience a part of Canada they had not previously visited. A rushed, but very fun time was had by all.

In the fall, units were busy getting their meetings organized, learning their promises, and doing enrollments. It also saw the return of mint cookies, to the delight of many loyal Girl Guide cookie customers.

Units participated in their school and community Remembrance Day ceremonies in November, and also continued to give back to their communities through service projects. There was baking of dog treats for local shelters, making and hanging of bird feeders along walking trails and even a "Stuff a Tent" event for a local food bank.

2022 was a good year in the area, and we look forward to 2023 being even better.

Prairie Rose Area

Lisa Penzo and Noella Brisebois

Co-Area Commissioners

It has been a very unique and busy year in Prairie Rose Area. We saw a rollercoaster in our membership numbers with Guider and participant numbers for 2022, and we continue to rebuild and have seen a growth in membership across the area throughout the year. Here are some of our 2022 celebrations and highlights...

Many districts and units in our area worked to complete badges and challenges and participated in kindness for local seniors and Veterans, outdoor activities, the Prairie Rose Area Winter Challenge and Chocolate Challenge, WAGGGS Thinking Day challenges and activities just to name a few.

One district was joined by **Carolyn Harley**, a local songwriter and Famous Five enthusiast who shared her knowledge of the history of Pink Teas and the role they played in the suffrage movement.

Our Prairie Rose Area Pathfinders and Rangers headed outside for some fun in the country! Spending the day at Granary Road, where there were opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, interact with farm animals, participate in Goat Yoga, play mini-golf and play at the active learning park and made thinking of you kits for those in need.

There were many overnights, day camps and camping throughout the year! From drive-in movie camps, where Sparks became movie stars with sunglasses they designed, and they painted their nails and made

their cars to drive to the movie. Super advocate, arts around the world and superhero themed camps. Spa day camps, where participants enjoyed yoga, face masks, painting their





nails and some physical activity. To hostels and hiking, bunk beds and tenting. Campfires and friendship. You name it, we did our best to do it! Locally, district and area wide we went outdoors and brought the outdoors inside too!

We had several 3rd year Pathfinders complete and receive their Canada Cord Award and several Rangers achieve their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Trailblazer Leadership Awards with distinction! We ended the guiding year on a very positive note looking forward to what the next guiding year would bring.

A second year Ranger from the 1st Langdon Rangers is in her second year as part of the National Youth Council. She has been attending virtual meetings monthly with youth from across Canada.

In our area and districts, guiding continued to serve our local and greater communities with good deeds and service projects. We had districts and units participate in community clean ups, write seniors and Veterans for thank you's, thinking of you and winter holiday messages, collected food for Veteran and local food banks, participated in Remembrance Day services, collected items for a winter clothing drive, women's shelters and more. We learned our guiding promise and laws and found creative themes for enrollment celebrations.

It has been a year of adaptability, creatively and resilience. We worked hard this fall to keep our youth, guiders and units connected, and continue to help them grow in the sisterhood of guiding together. We are looking forward to what the new year brings!

Tamarac Area

Roxy Pedersen – Area Commissioner

Tamarac Area has been busy so far, this guiding year, hosting Guiding in the Park events, sleepovers at the zoo, sleepovers at the Telus World of Science and travelling through Edmonton on the LRT. Our members viewed some light displays, enrolled some sparks in a rainbow fashion, shopped for items to fill Kinette hampers and played bunnock.

Our travel groups are fundraising in full force, travelling to the Maritimes, Vancouver and Europe. They have

done several bottle drives, obtained donations from the Knights of Columbus and started selling their cookies.

Tamarac is busy planning their Rally Day, which will be held in Westlock in the hopes of continuing to grow guiding!

Woodsmoke Area

Kim Higdon & Diana Szaba-Mansfield – Co-Area Commissioners

Woodsmoke Area units and members have been very busy and have jumped wholeheartedly back into regular activities. Woodsmoke Area Senior Branches Camp was held in September with Pathfinders & Rangers from units throughout the Area for a weekend filled with fellowship, games, good food and woodworking crafts. Woodsmoke Area Training was held in and Guiders were updated on Safe Guide changes, learned songs & games, made hat crafts and were provided many resources to use at their



meetings. Our Area Winter Camp in Feb had Guides, Pathfinders & Rangers meet for a Choose Your Own Activity themed camp. Members chose from activities such as soapstone carving, yoga, pierogi making, snowshoeing, sewing, skating, making traditional Filipino noodles, and many more.

Bonnyville units in Sak-A-Guna District have been trying their hand at a variety of science experiments and have visited the local library and food bank. They hosted a family movie night with awesome snacks and made diamond art stickers as multi-branch activities. St. Paul units have been busy as well, with the Pathfinders & Rangers enjoying an art and fondue day as well as an awake-over with board games and nighttime park fun. They have partnered with the library to make crafts and FCC to make cards for Seniors. Guides also made cards for Seniors and have started writing letters to extended care residents once a month. They have worked on science experiments like making slime, volunteered at the library for Family Literacy Day and painted snowmen at the Visual Arts Centre.



Lloydminster District is full of busy girls and Guiders with the Sparks learning to use hammers and other common tools, making "I love Sparks" keychains and building bird houses with Home Depot. Sparks have been learning about the 5 World Centres including making an India hat craft and tasting churros. Embers have embraced their new name and have made up a new Embers song. They completed a book drive and then donated them to the women's shelter and spent time reading to seniors for literacy week. They also enjoyed a sleepover and a field trip to the library. Guides have been learning how to use sewing machines by making first aid kits and potholders. The Guides had a two-night sleepover where they did sugar shack activities including making maple fudge. Pathfinders & Rangers had a science themed weekend sleepover where they made mocktails, Oobleck and colored volcanoes. All units are participating in A Fiver for Friendship to raise funds for CWFF.



Lakeland District units had a magic themed enrollment and joined in the Remembrance Day parade. Units have enjoyed many science activities like making Alka seltzer rockets and a glowstick campfire. Everyone has been working on their camping and carpentry skills and enjoyed a Winter Wonderland sleepover, a night hike and a District fall party with gourd tic tac toe and apple painting. They made military boxes for those serving overseas and worked on many program areas including peace, leadership and money sense. They joined Scouts for a Thinking Day banquet.

Battle River units have been very busy too. Provost units worked on the WAGGGS Thinking Day pack activities, learned the World Centre songs, collected for CWFF, and held a Thinking Day family potluck. Units are covering Be Well, Mighty Mind, Guiding Together and more program work. They have also worked on the Fill a Purse service project, participated in the local music festival, and are working on

a new Ember story. Wainwright units held a joint night hike and Thinking Day party that was great fun. Sparks learned about growth mindsets, computers, and the World Centres. Embers had a day camp where they did campfire cooking, hiking, snowshoeing and a scavenger hunt. Guides finished the Free to Be Me program, enjoyed a keynote speaker and had a spa sleepover. Pathfinders and Rangers worked on the Master of Disaster program, made sock dragons and planned the Thinking Day party.



Gone Home

Jacqueline Moors (Chinook Area)

Eleanor Claydon (Edmonton Area)

Eileen Stannard (Edmonton Area)

Honorary Patrons

The Honourable Salma Lakani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta

The Honourable Margaret M. Thom, Commissioner of Northwest Territories

The Honourable Angélique Bernard, Commissioner of Yukon

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Lissi Westergaard Margaret Utgoff

Donna Leonard Robb Beverly Simpson Headon

Chris Burton Kathy Batty

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Heather Monahan

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Donations and Grants

We are grateful and thank each individual and organization for the generous support towards Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council. This support helps us offer girls quality programming and expanding opportunities.

Alberta Government Grant

Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women

Yukon Government Grant

Community Services, Sports and Recreation Branch

Donors

Margaret Atkey

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Bryon & Heather Grundburg

Donna Pope

Shannen Hoffman

Kathy Batty

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Wei Jian Tang

Patricia McNair

Edmonton Community Foundation

Anonymous



Many donations are received in support of Guiding by the Areas, Districts, and Units, and are not recorded here, but are recognized at those levels.

Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council extends our appreciation to all supporters of Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon for the contributions so she can be **everything she wants to be.**