



THE LAMPLIGHTER



Program Adviser Jeannie Cosgrove, Area Camping Adviser Erlene Amero, Area Training Adviser Sherry Fortais, Area Co-Commissioner Adrienne Blandford, Guide House Office Co-ordinator and Pacific Skies Pathfinder Guider Darcy Wyllie, Area International Adviser Merlane Quon, and Area Bookkeeper Nancy Fischer unleashing their inner divas at the Giggles and Guide with Confidence conference held last fall.



Girl Guides
of Canada

Guides
du Canada

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The Lamplighter will be published three times a year and posted to the SVI website. Go to www.svigirlguides.bc.ca, select Guiding in SVI, and choose Lamplighters from the drop down menu. Arrangements can also be made with the SVI Area office for black and white hard copies to be mailed to your home address. *The Lamplighter* will be dedicated to promoting celebrations, special activities and accomplishments and disseminating non-time sensitive material to Guiding members in SVI. Send your submissions by email to svilamplighter@gmail.com or mail to The Lamplighter, c/o Guide House by October 1st, February 1st and May 1st for inclusion in the Fall, Winter and Spring/Summer editions.

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 & Gillian Hurwood

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FROM THE COMMISSIONERS' DESK

It is May already as we write this message, and we have sat at this “desk” for almost eight months. It has been quite a learning experience. As we reflect back on what SVI Area has accomplished this year and ponder what is to come, we also think about how many other Guiders are feeling at this time of year. When May comes around, many of us face a feeling of burn-out; a bit of dissatisfaction with our Guiding unit, our fellow Guiders and Girl Guides in general. Let's face it, we need a break. But, as we approach the end of the year, we are also greeted at meetings with smiling girls anxious to give us a personal thank you note, talk to us about District Camp next week or Brownies next year. These are the moments that remind us all why we are here! Whether you are a Unit Guider, Adviser, District Commissioner, Trefoil Member – we are here because we believe that Girl Guides is GOOD for girls and women. We believe that the opportunity for a Spark to sleep away from home for one night or learn to use a glue gun, is as important as a Pathfinder learning how to challenge herself with a weekend backpacking trip or learning to rock climb. We believe that the opportunity to challenge ourselves by rock climbing with the Pathfinder or learning patience with the Spark, is as important as the challenges achieved by the girls. It is that belief which keeps us coming back, week after week, and year after year. At the recent Annual Gathering of Members, we gave out membership pins totalling over 600 years of membership in Girl Guides of Canada – and that was just for the people earning 20 years plus. The combined experience of every Guider in SVI Area totals a massive 5090 years.

Despite the burn-out that we might be feeling this time of year, there is a reason we are here and a reason we have accumulated that combined total of 5090 years of camping, crafting, hiking, singing, and more. We are here because we believe. So, if you received your one year pin this year or your 65 year pin, you are contributing to the ongoing development, education, confidence and greatness of Canadian girls. One day, a young woman is going to come up to you and say “Hi (insert your Guiding name here) – remember me? You were my Spark/Brownie/Guide/Pathfinder/Ranger leader and I will never forget how you (select one) – removed a spider from our tent; carried my friend home from the hike; taught me how to use scissors; helped me learn how to look after my gear at SOAR.” Moments like these make all of the planning, paperwork, and hard work we put in, that much easier.

Be it big or small, we all have an impact on the lives of our girls and they have a huge impact on us. Guiding teaches all of us (both girls and Guiders) to be better, braver, stronger women. So, when May rolls around and you start to wonder why you are doing this, take a few minutes to remember those smiles and songs and the things the girls have taught you. Remind yourself that you are a better person because of your willingness to give of yourself. Then pack up the glue guns, the glitter, the camp gear and take the summer to rejuvenate, refresh and look after yourself just a little bit more. Because it all starts again in September, and we look forward to seeing you again!

Have a wonderful summer!

Submitted by the SVI Area Commissioner team, Adrienne Blandford, Wendy Halpen, Gillian Hurwood

Hats Off!



To **Carol Gamey** for all of her hard work and dedication to the Lamplighter over the years, in addition to all that she does for the SVI Guiding community. We will miss her on the Lamplighter team, and wish her all the best on her next adventure, enjoying more time with her adorable grandbaby! Thank you Carol!

To **Danita Duguay**, who has agreed to take on Lamplighter editor position, in addition to her role as a Guider with 2nd Woodwyn Guides and Peninsula Shores Rangers. We are so thankful to have you as part of the team!

To the **girls and Guiders of Camas District** who are collecting school supplies for Syrian refugees.

To **Sherry Fortais** who liaised with the Victoria Royals organization and helped plan the very successful Scout/Guide night (over 500 members tickets were sold to members of Scouting and Guiding and their families), to Sidney Rangers **Carenza Stevens** and **Nicole Head** for their beautiful rendition of O Canada, and to **Merlane Quon, Cathy Schofield and Carol Gamey** who manned the info table in the lobby and sold all five cases of cookies before the puck was dropped in the first period.

To **Gillian Hurwood** and **Adrienne Blandford** for all the hours they spent pouring over standards from around the Province and presenting the draft to the January Area Council meeting for their approval.

To Guiders who have completed both the OAL Basic and OAL Residential Trainings and earned their green OAL Training pins: **Jennifer Elton** (Peninsula Shores) in November 2015 and **Christa Cowie** (Peninsula Shores), **Cheyenne Duguay** (Woodwyn) and **Danita Duguay** (Woodwyn) in January 2016.

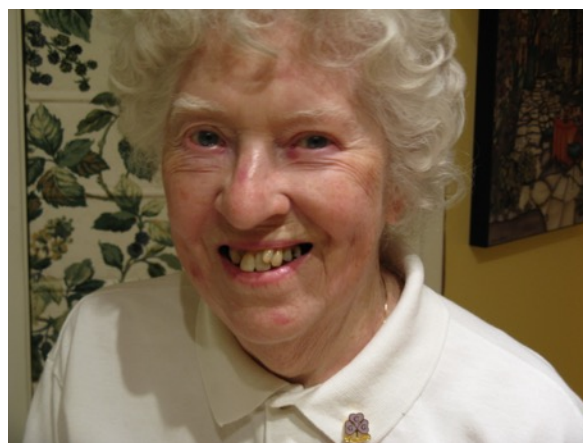
To **Portage Inlet Guides and Pathfinders**, who worked alongside Habitat for Humanity to make welcome kits for four families being housed in a new project.

To **Cassandra Herbert**, former Area treasurer, who we welcome back to council in her new role as Area Public Relations Adviser.

To Peninsula Pals Trefoil Guild Member and former Peninsula Shores Treasurer and Guider **Marilyn Maggiora**, one of six worthy recipients of the 2016 Hearts of the Community Award, presented by Beacon Community Services and the Peninsula News Review to some of the outstanding volunteers on the Saanich Peninsula.

Congratulations Marilyn - a well deserved honour!

To 1st Victoria Trefoil Guild member, **Marjorie Shaw (pictured below)**, who celebrated her 96th birthday on Thinking Day. It is very fitting that she shares a birthdate with Lord and Lady Baden-Powell as she has been involved in our movement since she first joined Guides at eleven years of age. Read about Marjorie's amazing longevity and commitment to Guiding in the Winter 2013 edition of *The Lamplighter*, available on the SVI website.



Marjorie wearing a replica of her specially commissioned first enrolment pin, presented to her on her 90th birthday in 2010, along with a long overdue Silver Merit Award.

2015 Canada Cord, Chief Commissioner's Gold & Commonwealth Award Recipients

Please join me in congratulating the young women who have worked diligently to achieve the Canada Cord, Chief Commissioner's Gold, and Commonwealth Awards in 2015. A Recognition Ceremony was held with special guests, the Mayor of Esquimalt, **Barbara Desjardins** and **Adrienne Blandford** on January 17, 2016 to honour these recipients. Well done to all!



Back - Katherine Strom-Trudel, Blair Zemanek, Colleen Schofield, Lily Steffler, Shae-Linn Davies, Miriam Sutherland, Sophie Cheng, Jamie Besteman, Mya Rivers, Lily McCartney.

Middle- Megan Poland, Sarah Pillion, Taewyn St. Hilaire, Antonia Kowalewski, Shauna Stubbs, Jessica Knowles.

Seated- Barbara Desjardins, Isabella Lee, Meggin Crisp, Mackenzie Rampton, Katrina Bosecker, Natalie Fischer, Macy Preston, Adrienne Blandford.

Absent from photo- Emily Hutcheson, Katherine Lee, Caribe Niemann, Charlotte Webster, Elizabeth Bright, Jordanna Peters, Maryna Ell, Charlotte Clar, Samantha Jones

Wishing each of you every success in the future.

**Submitted by Daphne MacGregor-Greer,
SVI Area Awards Adviser**



ATTN: POTENTIAL SOAR PATROL GUIDERS

We would like to get a rough idea who is interested in going to SOAR 2017. If you are a team of two Guiders who would like to consider attending, please email: svisoar2017@gmail.com with your expression of interest. Please note this is not an application – we would just like to know approximately how many patrols we might potentially be sending.

Please be aware that expenses for travel to SOAR 2017 are going to be much higher than last time. Make sure you plan your fundraising accordingly, and in particular we suggest that you order more cookies than usual for the next two campaigns – Fall 2016 and Spring 2017.



Ocean Aware Day

On the morning of Saturday, October 17th, girls from Peninsula Shores and Woodwyn Sparks, as well as other attendees from around SVI, had a fun and informative morning at St. Margaret's School being introduced to the fascinating life and world that is 'The Ocean'. The girls went to several stations and took part in food chain games, learning how deep the ocean is and discovering all about some of the life



forms that exist there. At each station girls from St. Margaret's provided assistance and at the end we earned our Ocean Aware crest and received a certificate and a fact folder. Snacks were provided and the school was very welcoming to all the children that took part. The challenge itself is well worth taking part in and as an adult and leader, I learned a lot as well.

This free event was co-sponsored by St. Margaret's School and the Ocean Network. According to the organizers the event's purpose was to "learn about our ocean, celebrate girls in science, find out about Ocean Networks Canada, all the while having some FUN!

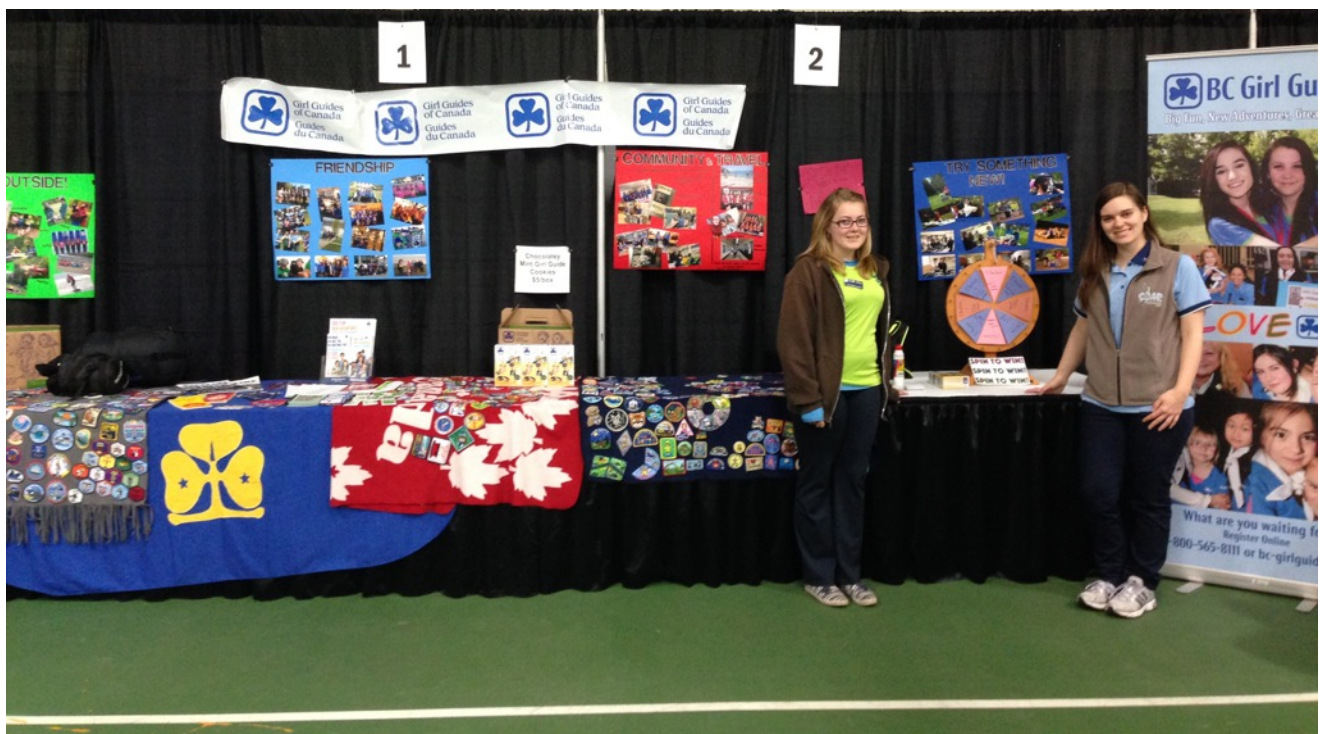
Mission accomplished!

**Submitted by Jacky Stevens,
Guider, 1st Peninsula Shores
Sparks and Carol Gamey,
former Lamplighter Editor**



Teen Fest 2015

SVI was well represented at Teen Fest in November 2015 at the Pearkes Recreation Centre. Our large, colourful booth was full of things that represent what makes Guiding great. With camp blankets and photo boards on display, many teens (and adults!) asked questions about what Guiding is all about. Some even shared their own guiding stories with us. The highlight of our booth for many was our prize wheel. Everyone who spun it got at least one entry into the prize draw and a Girl Guide cookie, whereas lucky spinners got up to two cookies and five prize entries. Overall, this was a great way to have Guiding presented as a clear option for teens in Victoria.



Bay to Bay District Visits The Deep Bay Marine Station

Have you always wanted to do an overnight sleep-over at the Vancouver Aquarium, but there were just too many logistical issues? It's expensive; islanders have to take a ferry over, adding cost and time on top of it all. Additionally, the program runs late at night, which can be hard for Sparks and Brownies.

Bay to Bay District wanted to run a District event in spring 2015, and we really wanted to do something with an aquatic theme, but what? Well, after doing a bit of



research, I learned that there is a marine centre right here on Vancouver Island! And it runs an AMAZING overnight program!

Its called the Deep Bay Marine Research Centre, and its located near Qualicum Beach. They can accommodate groups of up to 60 overnight participants for either a shorter day-program or lengthier overnight programs.

We arrived on May 9th with our District represented by 31 girls and 7

leaders on a sunny Saturday afternoon, shortly after our lunch stop in Nanaimo. The Centre is an odd-looking steel tubular building, but once you get inside, it's an underwater paradise! There's a large aquarium right near the main entrance, and other smaller aquariums spread throughout the main floor. The lower level has a multitude of aquariums of various sizes, hosting a huge variety of Salish Sea and other marine life. Of course, what marine centre is complete without a variety of touch tanks?



The coordinator from the centre was extremely helpful, and the meals are all catered by staff who are in training with the Vancouver Island Culinary School; guided by the expertise of a recent graduate. Our meals were exquisite! And since the Sunday morning was Mother's Day, the "head chef" Melissa treated all the leaders to chocolate-dipped strawberries and perfect eggs Benedict! It was a very special surprise for us, since she knew we are all mothers.



The activities were amazing: we dissected squid and extracted the "pen" from them to take home as a keep-sake; we examined crustacean interactions by moving creatures from one tank to another; we fed the marine life; we tried "seining" to see what we could find; we dissected oysters, and then were treated with a



variety of cooked oysters (which many girls surprisingly really enjoyed!!).

The Centre also has a beautiful fire-pit area where we ran a Guiding campfire, overlooking scenic Deep Bay in the background.

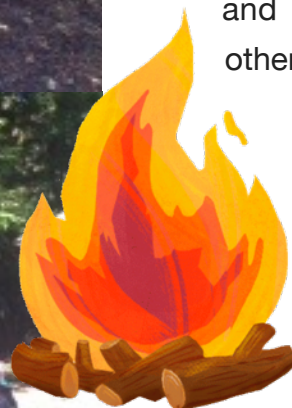
Overall, the girls were treated to an amazing experience that I had no idea existed here on Vancouver Island. The calibre of the program, facilities, meals, and staff was absolutely excellent, and I would highly recommend this facility to any Guiding group, large or small!





Harbours' Camp Skills Day

In September, Harbours hosted a district Camp Skills Day for Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers. District Guider Barb Kerr organized a wonderful day of activities designed to teach girls of all ages the skills needed for fun camping experiences. We had over 50 girls rotating through stations such as making bed rolls, fire starters, flag raising, tent pitching, buddy burners and trail laying. It was a great day to learn some valuable skills and to spend time with other girls in our district.



Royals' Scout & Guide Night



Above: Rangers Carena and Nicole, sing the National Anthem before the game, with the colour party of Darcy (Brownie), Natalie (Guide) and Charlene (Pathfinder).



Girls pose with Royals players Matthew Phillips (above) and Tyler Soy (right). All photos used with the permission and cooperation of the Victoria Royals Hockey Club.



The 6th Victoria Sparks Visit Bowker Hall & the Oak Bay Fire Hall





Calling All Camas Princesses!

Camas District held a Snowflake Ball on January 18th, with girls from James Bay Sparks, 6th Victoria Sparks, and the 6th and 79th Victoria Brownie Units in attendance.

With help from all the leaders who attended and three parents from the 6th Victoria Sparks the work load was shared by all. Everything was in ready for the girls when they arrived. Following a grand opening with each unit participating in their



unit opening, the evening was filled with activities. The evening ended with each unit doing their closing ceremony.

The girls moved in snowman groups from station to station. They enjoyed making tiaras and had the opportunity to have their photo taken alone or in groups at our photo booth. Lots of crystals and glue resulted in lovely tiaras!

The next station was the games station where three activities offered fast paced fun. The girls participated in a snowball fight using over 70 pairs of donated socks that were collected as a service project for the Single Family Resource Center. Who would have thought that little girls in party dresses would be so enthusiastic for a snowball fight! It as great

seeing the girls having such a good time, and for such a good cause. Check out the action at this dropbox link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/oo45irxaer6cxbm/AAC8L_IZOdnGfRzH2XyYQnjBa?dl=0&preview=MVI_4822.MP4

There was a 'Blow the Snowball' relay where the girls blew a cotton ball with a straw over a short distance. The next activity was 'Pin the Nose' on the Snowman.

The final station was decorating large snowflake shaped cookies. Lots of pink, white and pale blue icing were spread on the cookies which were decorated with a wide variety of sprinkles and decorations.

To close the evening there was time set aside for dancing. The volume of the music was an issue so we reverted to a last minute plan B. Thanks to **Neala St. Hilaire** who earlier had suggested using the “Thorn Rosa was a Princess Fair”.

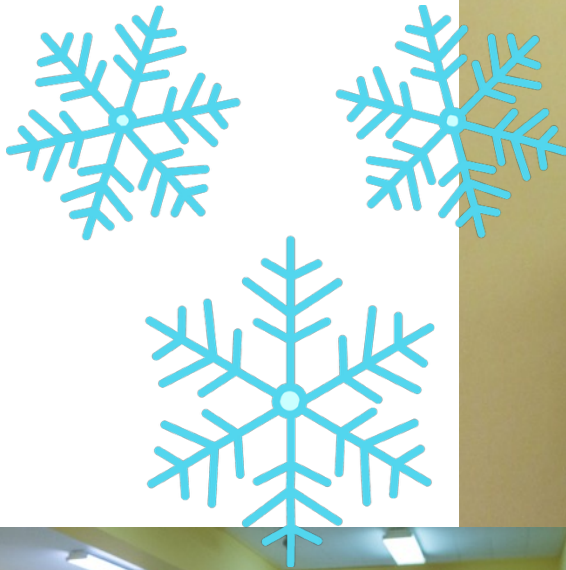
All too soon it was time to close the event and say good night. We are grateful to Chickadee (**Sharon Doty**) who was our Master of Ceremonies and kept us on schedule for the evening.

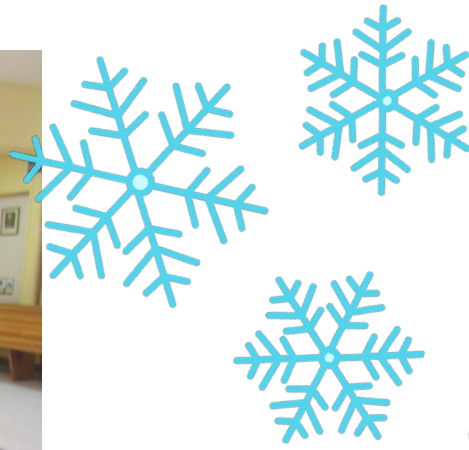
Will we do a large event like this again? In a heartbeat! The leaders all pitched in and the work load of set up and take down was shared. Thanks one and all for your contributions to our Snowflake Ball.



Contributed by Sheila Fowler, Camas District







YELLOW ASSESSORS REPORT FOR 2015

After one year in the Yellow Assessor position, I thought it would be interesting to look at the information collected on our assessor spreadsheets and see what we can learn about the yellow events that are happening in SVI.

For January to June of 2015, both Judy Macquarrie and I were assessing events; Judy did 65 assessments before her term ended and I did 56. From July to December I added another 68 for a grand total of 189 for the year. As a Guider may send yellow assessments to any yellow assessor in the province, we have no way of knowing how many, if any, SVI yellow events were sent elsewhere but I suspect there were a few. Only three of the assessments we did in 2015 were from out of area.

Yellow level activities are defined in Safe Guide as out-of-the ordinary activities with an elevated level of risk that require more care in planning and preparing participants and a higher level of supervision, i.e, those that require you to “*slow down, plan thoroughly, record, check-in and go!*”; For this category of events, the Guider must provide parents/guardians with an Activity Plan and a Parent/Guardian Permission form, and a yellow assessor must acknowledge the event after reviewing the SG 1 Activity Plan, SG 3 Activity Notification and SG 4 Emergency Response Plan.

It might be useful to highlight the most common mistakes made when yellow forms are being submitted. The most common hold up for acknowledgment of forms is First Aid qualifications. Either the Guider designated as First Aider does not have her credentials entered into iMIS so I must ask for a scan of her certificate to be sent to me OR her First Aid has expired and she hasn't re-certified. The First Aid ratio for yellow events is 1:25 so that any event with more than 25 participants must have a second First Aider. Thus for something like a District camp with 100 participants you need four First Aiders. The other two common mistakes are using outdated forms (in some cases 4 or 5 years out of date) and using the former Area Commissioner Sharon Doty's number for the Provincial Emergency Contact. The new Area Commissioner team's emergency number is 250-590-0744.

Guiders should ensure they are up to date on their Safe Guide Training and that activities that require the acknowledgment of a yellow assessor are being submitted two weeks in advance. If you are a new Guider and uncertain about filling out the forms,

please feel free to send them to me with your best first try and I am happy to coach you if you can't find a mentor in your District.

The chart summarizes the types of yellow events by District. I have a suspicion that that day events with yellow risks are not submitted for assessment as diligently as overnight events. I do not know how SVI compares to other Areas as regards the number of yellow events per capita. I assume we are offering at least adequate opportunities for our girls but there is always room for improvement. If we take the 186 yellow events and add up the number of anticipated youth participants we get 3,487. With our SVI girl registration at approximately 2,000 - this suggests to me that our girls are getting multiple opportunities to experience camp or other challenging activities. As you can see from the photo montage, there is a wide range of activities on offer in SVI. Our Guiders continue to be creative, fun-loving and inventive. If you see an activity that is of interest please investigate further. We need to share our expertise and experiences – and The Lamplighter is the perfect place to brag about your successes!

District	2015-- All Yellow Events	Weekend	Overnight	Longer	Day - unit transport	Day - Outdoor Cooking	Day- EMS 30 min +	Day-Specialized Equipment	Day- portion unsupervised
Bay to Bay	18	10	7			1			
Camas	10	6	4						
Chatham	22	14	8						
Harbours	20	10	8			2			
Lakes	6	6							
Pacific Skies	12	6	6						
Peninsula Shores	14	6	7					1	
Portage	18	15	2					1	
Raven	12	7	5						
Straits	21	13	7			1			
Woodwyn	10	7	1		1		1		
SVI Area	3	1		1 (b)		1			
Trex	11	1	3			3	3		1
Rangers- Area, District, multi - District	9	5	3		1				
Out of Area	3		2	1 (c)					
TOTALS	189	107 (a)	63	2	2	8	4	2	1
a- includes District Camps with mixed weekend, overnight and day options for different ages.									
District camps held by Peninsula Shores, Pacific Skies, Harbours, Bay to Bay, Raven, Camas, Portage, Lakes.									
b- three night Brownie event									
c- week long residential event									

If any member of SVI Area has further questions about yellow assessments or is interested in more detailed information, I would be happy to answer. Send your questions to yellowassessor@shaw.ca.

Submitted by SVI Yellow Assessor Brenda Fraser



R.S.V.P. by.....

A disturbing trend has been developing in SVI Area over the last few years and we would like our members to be aware so that we can hopefully put a stop to it. When organizers plan an event in our Area or anywhere else, typically they ask for a registration form to be submitted by a deadline date. What has been happening here is that people are registering late, sometimes even just a day or two before the event, or worse simply showing up at events not having registered at all!

This is extremely disrespectful and inconsiderate to the Guiders who have spent immeasurable amounts of time planning, shopping, gathering materials, creating crafts and props, preparing for the venue, etc.... In addition, there are often crests, gifts or pins ordered or purchased for a specific number of participants based on the information received by the deadline. In the case of a late registration, this leaves the organizers scrambling for additional materials to accommodate these Guiders so that the participants will not be disappointed. When people just show up at an event, as happened at the Lady Baden Powell ceremony last June, some girls did not receive the same items as the other girls. This is so unfair – to the girls particularly, but also the Guiders who responded on time, and most certainly to the organizing team. They work hard to make every event and occasion special for the participants and don't need the added stress that comes with worrying about last minute additions.

We request that when an event is announced, please respond by the deadline and do not expect that registrations can be accepted beyond that time. Please do not just show up at an event unannounced – girls and their Guiders and parents might not be able to be accommodated. Imagine if you had a dinner party, planned for weeks, and one of your guests brought along a couple of unannounced guests; after all of the food is bought and prepared and your table is set. How would you feel? Guiding events where so much detail and planning are required are not the kind of occasions where one can just “go with the flow”.

We realize that Guiders have a lot on their plate with paperwork, juggling planning and meetings, camps and sleepovers, notices to parents and all the other myriad jobs in being a Guiding leader. But please help us out by observing the announced deadlines, and being considerate of the work involved by the Guiders who organize any event in SVI Area.

Lynda Ireland

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We come together at our Annual Gathering of Members to celebrate the sisterhood of Guiding and to acknowledge the dedication and long service of many special individuals. In particular we owe a debt of gratitude to our outgoing area commissioner team, Commissioner Sharon Doty and her deputies, Sheilagh Finnigan and Gillian Hurwood, for piloting us through some choppy waters and we welcome with open arms the new dynamic trio, Co-commissioners, Wendy Halpen, Adrienne Blandford and Gillian Hurwood, who have taken up a similar challenge for the next three years.

We are very lucky to have the support of so many community groups, churches, libraries, schools, resource people, retailers and businesses. Many helping hands and kindred spirits make light work.

Guiders are the ultimate multi-taskers. Thank you to our children, spouses, partners, friends, colleagues and employers who support us in countless different ways. Most importantly, they encourage/tolerate/endure when we are somewhat distracted and pulled in too many directions. I am constantly amazed at the selflessness and dedication of all of our Guiders. But in particular I want to single out those of you who struggle to find a balance between work, family and Guiding. That is a lot of balls to keep in the air. Your juggling skills are worthy of the Cirque de Soleil and deserve just as much fanfare.

It is very timely that Sunday June 8th marks the beginning of Canada's National Volunteer Week with its campaign slogan - "*volunteers are the roots of strong communities*". With great pleasure and pride I tip my Guiding hat to all of you, both former and current commissioners, deputy commissioners, advisers, committee members, unit guiders, district guiders, Trefoil Guild Members, area and district council members, unit assistants, and staff both, here and at the Provincial office. You are the lifeblood of this organization and the countless hours you dedicate to improving the lives of girls, instilling in them a sense of community, an appreciation for the great outdoors and an independent spirit, at a time when volunteers are an increasingly scarce commodity, are what makes the 'strong Guiding community' we have created here in SVI so special and unique.

We are a credit to Olave and she would be proud.

Submitted by Carol Gamey, SVI iMIS Specialist

Note from the Editor

I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing patience as I transitioned into the role of Lamplighter Editor, these past few months. I would also like to thank the Lamplighter Team, for welcoming me with open arms, and helping me as I learned the ropes. I would also like to thank former Lamplighter Editor, Carol Gamey, who has been an incredible mentor.

Now that I have my first Lamplighter under my belt, I hope to return to a more 'normal' publication schedule. There will be a Spring/Summer 2016 edition of the Lamplighter. The deadline for submissions for this edition will be Sunday July 24th. Please continue to send your pictures and stories to us at svilamplighter@gmail.com.

I am very excited to continue in the role of Lamplighter Editor, and look forward to many editions to come!

Danita Duguay
Lamplighter Editor

