

# Girl Guides Membership Increasing



Laura Sharpe and Andrea McConnell, both Pathfinders in the Debert Girl Guides, held a fundraiser for the SPCA, then spend the best part of a day, working at the shelter. (Submitted)



Members of the Debert Girl Guides enjoyed a day at Ski Wentworth. Pictured above are (L-R): Laura Sharpe (Pathfinder), Carolyn McConnell (Ranger) and Andrea McConnell (Pathfinder). (Submitted)

By Rebecca Taylor

The 1st Debert Brownie unit has been very busy since September, working on their program and having lots of fun. At Christmas time, the Brownies and Sparks went to the Shannex nursing home in Debert and sang some Christmas songs to the residents there. This is always something the girls and the residents enjoy! In February, the girls held an outdoor snow fun day at Forever Memories Equestrian Centre where they got to ride and groom a horse, learned how to snowshoe, had fun with coasting, snow painting, and a craft.

The Brownies always enjoy getting together with the other Debert units too, and had an opportunity to participate in a World Thinking Day event on February 22, where all the girls learned about the Girl Guides World Centres in Mexico, England, India, and Switzerland, and a little about the culture in those countries. Also to celebrate Thinking Day, the Debert Brownies participated in the Thinking Day Variety Show at C.E.C. where

they had fun performing the new folk dance and song that they learned, "Tzena". More recently, the girls have had fun with science experiments and looking forward to a camp weekend in April.

With the growing membership to the Debert Girl Guides community, the Pathfinder unit was re-opened after being closed for a few years. Pathfinders is a program for girls aged 12 - 14, who plan their own exciting opportunities to try new things, have fun, and take action.

During a snowy, icy weekend in January, the Debert Pathfinders joined forces with the Bible Pathfinders, the Bible Hill, Truro and Hilden Guides to take over Gittens Lodge in Manganese Mines for an International themed camp. The girls traveled the globe from Argentina to Zimbabwe through games, crafts, costumes, stories, activities and of course food!

"AWESOME!!!!!" was how Pathfinder Laura Sharpe, who lives in Great Village, described the weekend she spent at Engineering Quest in Halifax. Engineering Quest is an annual opportunity for 12-

18 year old Nova Scotia Girl Guides to learn about the satisfactions and challenges of an engineering career. Over the weekend, the girls attended a series of hands-on workshops led by women who are studying or working in engineering-related fields. Robot building and a visit to the Discovery Center were highlights. Keepsakes from the weekend included rockets, badges, puzzle pens and even treasured rare pieces of the original Bluenose II. Fun, friendship and science provided a memorable weekend for all who attend.

Pathfinders believe they can make a difference through community service. The unit chose two projects this year - The Food Bank and the SPCA. The Debert Pathfinders created a challenge working with the Debert Guide unit to collect 110 lbs. of food for the Colchester Food bank - 5 lbs. per girl. The girls were enthusiastic and exceeded their goal to gather more than 160 lbs. The Pathfinders delivered the food during November's Joy of Giving Food Drive and stayed behind to help sort the 49,000 plus pounds food collected that day. The smiles lasted through the pouring rain sore arms. The SPCA was less physically challenging but just as rewarding. In February, the Debert Pathfinders joined with the Bible Hill Pathfinders to collect pet food and kitty litter for the Colchester SPCA. The girls delivered their donations one Saturday and spent the afternoon learning about the SPCA and socializing the animals. The girls were surprised to learn the SPCA is most in need of kitty litter. A new donation challenge and more visits are sure to happen. Cute and cuddly animals along with helping others warms the heart.

Pathfinders find fun in new experiences. Ski Wentworth provided the perfect conditions for a day on the slopes. Geared up with rental equipment and helmets, the girls first participated in a ski lesson learning how to snowplow, stop, turn and most important of all how to get up while laughing uncontrollably after you've fallen. Plans were already being made for next winter's ski excursion during the car ride home. Over next few months, the Pathfinders will be visiting the RCMP to learn about forensics, they'll join other girls from across the province to participate in an International Cook-Off, they'll hone their skills while tent camping, and they'll be

# Calling on Students to Celebrate Their Place in History

The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board invites students to participate in the annual Regional Heritage Fair on Friday, May 6, 2011 at the Truro Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College. The fair is open to all students in Grades 4 to 9 throughout the region, including students enrolled in CCRSB schools, those who are home-schooled, and those who attend private schools.

"Heritage Fair projects inspire students to celebrate Canadian history and explore connections between the past and present," says Ken Henderson, fair coordinator. "At the regional level, we have had

excellent participation, with students presenting about 200 projects each year for the last number of years." Many CCRSB schools hold fairs from which projects are selected to be exhibited at the Regional Heritage Fair. Students can also participate as an individual at the Regional Heritage Fair by making arrangements through their school. During the Regional Heritage Fair, students have the opportunity to participate in workshops presented by local museums, and heritage and cultural groups.

Prizes will be awarded for projects that display particular excellence in a variety of subject and presentation areas, and a number of the projects will be selected for presentation at the

Provincial Heritage Fair in Halifax on May 27, 2011.

For more information, or to obtain the judging criteria and the Intent to Participate form, students, teachers and parents are encouraged to visit [www.ccrsb.ca](http://www.ccrsb.ca) and select "Heritage Fair 2011" from the Quicklinks list.

The Heritage Fair program started in 1993. It encourages students across the country to explore Canadian heroes, milestones and achievements; and it provides the opportunity for students to present their projects on Canada's heritage in a public forum.

**For more information, contact: Ken Henderson, Heritage Fair Coordinator at 902-895-1352 or [ccrsbhfair@gmail.com](mailto:ccrsbhfair@gmail.com)**

continuing the honoured tradition of cookie selling.

Spring marks the eagerly awaited arrival of the classic vanilla and chocolate Girl Guide Cookies. Girl Guide cookies are more than a tasty Canadian tradition. At only \$4.00 a box (tax included), Girl Guide cookies are a delicious way to make a difference in the lives of girls in your neighbourhood. Each box of cookies sold supports dynamic Girl Guide activities - everything from community service and environmental projects, to anti-bullying and self-esteem programs, as well as camping trips and international events. This important fundraiser helps to provide girls with the tools they need to be confident, courageous and resourceful - capable of achieving greatness in every area of their lives.

The Pathfinders will be at Mastown Market on Saturday, April 2nd from 10am to 2pm selling cookies. On Tuesday, April 5th, the Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders will hold the annual door-to-door cookie blitz in Debert, Onslow, Great Village, Londonderry, and surrounding communities. Sometimes we hear "no one ever comes to our house". If we've missed you and you'd like to purchase cookies, please email us at [girlguide-cookies@hotmail.com](mailto:girlguide-cookies@hotmail.com) or call Jackie at 662-2933.

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