Kootenai Konversations

Girl Guides of Canada
Guides du Canada

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE WEST KOOTENAI AREA SPRING 2006

Step our of your comfort zone...you may be surprised!

I had been your new West Kootenai Area Commissioner for less than a week when I was informed that the next issue of Kootenai Konversations was fast approaching and by the way, you need to write something to submit. Yikes! Should it be inspiring? Rousing? Or maybe even thought provoking?

After a few days of reflection, I realized that this was just another opportunity to step out of my comfort zone. If you can muster up the courage to step up to the plate and take on a challenge that Guiding presents, you are given a great opportunity to learn by doing and to stretch and grow all those hidden talents and abilities that you never knew you had!

I recently attended a Membership Workshop in Maple Ridge last month and was advised that I would be driving 6 Guiders from the airport to the camp in a rental van. My first thought was Oh My God!!! No Way! The last time I drove in that neck of the woods was at least 15 years ago on a family vacation to Vancouver Island. With the support from a fellow Guider I managed to suck it up and repeated under my breath over and over and over again…. you can do this.

We all managed to get from the Airport to Guide House, then out to Maple Ridge (the scenic route mind you) to attend the Workshop. On the way back we had to turn around only once, made stops at IKEA, China Town and Richmond and managed to get the rental back to the airport on time and was only honked at once. PHEW! So the moral of my story is what's the worse thing that can happen to you by stepping out of your comfort zone? You may have to turn around and someone may get honked at but in the end you learn from those experiences. The next time Guiding gives you an opportunity to step out of your comfort zone I urge you to give it a try.
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Teresa Jansen
West Kootenai
Area Commissioner
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Editor: Deb Melnyk

Contributions are always welcome and should be sent to:

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What's Grow Guiding?

Many of you that attended trainings last fall in the West Kootenai Area or the recent AGM in Rossland have heard about Grow Guiding and have your Grow Guiding jelly bracelet, for those that don't have them yet, don't worry the rest of you should be receiving them in the near future. If you would like to have a Grow Guiding presentation done at your next District Meeting or Training contact your Area Membership Adviser at tjansen@telus.net

Some of the strategies we are using to help increase and retain membership through Grow Guiding are:
National Registration Week and tool kit check it out at www.girlguides.ca/default.asp?id=760
New 1-800 answering process
New Guider Orientation
Mentoring Program

Check out the national website at www.girlguides.ca/default.asp?id=761 for more information, or contact national at growguiding@girlguides.ca.

Let's Get Ready to Welcome New Members

As you do your planning in 2006, please start to anticipate an increase in membership. As a Unit Guider you have a unique opportunity to talk with parents, members of your community, your friends and co-workers to find potential leaders so that we can open new units and identify new meeting spaces.

We also need you to talk to the girls about bringing their friends to join either an existing or a new unit.

When you do find potential members be sure to give the contact info to your District Commissioner who can then complete the screening process in a timely manner.

Guiders why not consider inviting a friend to one of your meetings or outings. It is an excellent way to start "Grow Guiding" in your community

Grow Guiding — Coming to a District Near You!

As a Guider, you play a vital part in membership recruitment and retention. You know better than anyone that our programs help girls to become empowered adults, ready to take their rightful place in this world.

But while you know this well, the larger public is not always aware of the good work we do at Girl Guides of Canada. As an organization, we need to be more visible to girls across the country so that each and every girl has the opportunity to benefit from the programs we offer.

Together, We Can Do Great Things!

What you do in your unit helps each and every girl member to grow and learn by encouraging her understanding of the world around her; and the difference you make doesn't stop there. Guiding gives girls the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to go on to make a positive difference in the lives of those she comes into contact with. The more girl members we recruit, the bigger the difference we'll make. We are here to help you Grow Guiding in any way we can. Together, we can do great things.

Contact your Area Membership Adviser, for assistance with Grow Guiding initiatives that you would like to plan for your unit and/or District. She would love to hear from you. When you email her be sure to put Grow Guiding in the subject line and also include your unit name and District along with contact information.

Here's a new way to show your Guiding spirit:

Return address labels with Guiding images on them. Available with Grow Guiding or Trefoil images. Check them out at http://www.bc-girlguides.org/resources/registration-membership/grow.html

Your Name
Street Address
Anytown, BC V1A 2B3

Our Vision

Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada, the organization of choice for girls and women, makes a positive difference in the life of every girl and woman who experiences Guiding so she can contribute responsibly to her communities.

News on West Kootenai Area Girl Guides Web Site

www.wkagirlguides.ca

It's been a busy Spring with tons of activities for the Girls! There is a lot of new information and photo albums to check out on the website:

The **Events** page has information for Girls, parents and guardians, and Guiders on all of the past and upcoming events of the year. Can't remember where the Area Adventure Camp is? Or who the contact person is for Nite Trek? Perhaps you would like to see some of the photos of Nite Trek or one of the other events. Find them online and share with your friends!

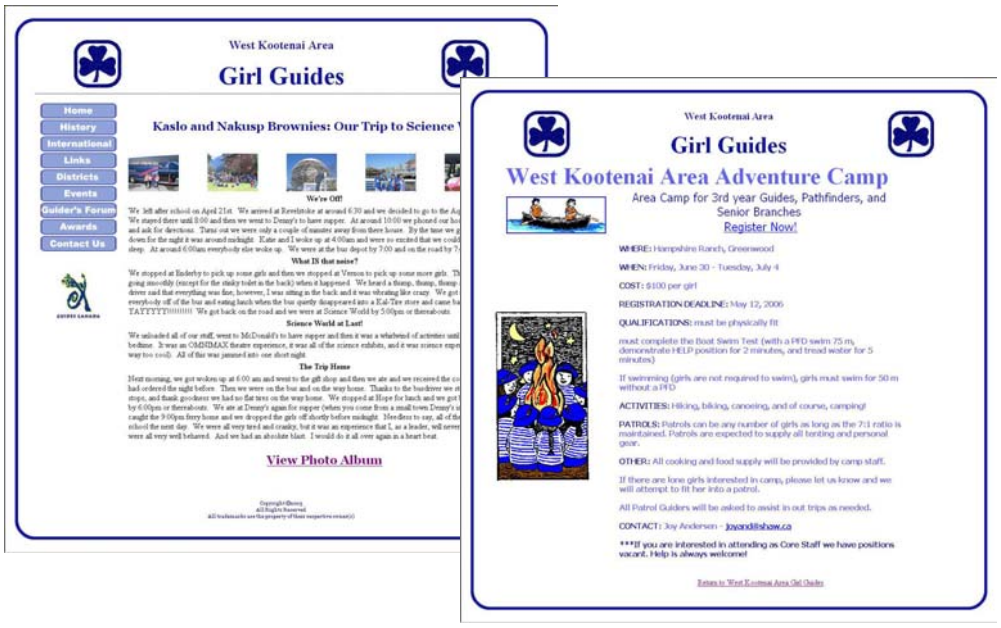
The **Links** page is growing fast, with links to the Safe Guide forms, the Kootenai Konversations newsletters, the new "girls-only" forum for Girl Guides members (called Girl Zone), and so much more!

Check out the **Guider's Forum!** This is your opportunity to swap ideas, find out what other units are doing, or see if another group is interested in going on an adventure with you

On the **Districts** page, you can take a look at the Kaslo and Nakusp Brownies' trip to Science World in Vancouver, BC, complete with photos! Check out a few photos from the Granby District – more info. coming soon!

Want your unit photos online (Guiders must have all photo releases at hand)? Or is your group planning something exciting that we should know about? **Send me an email** (leanner_harris@hotmail.com) with your photos, reports of activities, and anything else you think should be posted!

Leanne Harris
Webmaster
West Kootenai Area Girl Guides
www.wkagirlguides.ca



2006 National Registration Week

Mark your calendars for

September 8 to 17, 2006

and remember...

"We're Always Open"

Celebrating West Kootenai Area Guiders Membership

submitted by Teresa Jansen

In June 2005 Long Service Bars and Service Stars were replaced with the new Membership Pin, which acknowledges girl and adult years.. Since last June everyone has been encouraged to update their Guiding Profile by adding the years of girl membership and to make sure that their adult years were correct. Based on the information that has been entered to date we would like to celebrate the years of membership as of September 1st 2005 of all our adult members.
Please contact your Commissioner or your Trefoil President if you name is not on this list or the information is incorrect or you have not received a Membership Pin.

In the interest of space all Councils and Guilds names have been shortened as follows:

Three Sisters District (TSD)
Castlegar District (CD)
Granby District (GD)
Trail District (TD)
Kokanee District (KD)
Rossland District (RD)
Nakusp Trefoil Guild (NTG)
West Kootenai Area (WKA)
Beaver Valley District (BVD)
Old Glories Trefoil Guild (OGTG)
Kokanee Trefoil Guild (KTG)

1 Year

Brandy Settle	TSD
Annette Bonertz	TSD
Rebecca Pitman	BVD
Rachel Profili	BVD
Marina Lukes	GD
Susan Lakeman	KD
Lisa Macheck	RD
Denise Currie	RD
Shawan Hegan	CD
Joy Harper	CD
Jessica Dunlop	CD

2 Years

Lynn Koftinoff	TSD
Shirley Kosiancic	NTG
Doris Sweeney	KTG
Cheryl Peresznienyi	BVD
Diane Merriman	CD
Kathryn Abrosimoff	KD
Joanne Shrieves	KD
Theresa Montpellier	KD
Frances Cameron	RD
Heather Dobson	RD

3 Years

Leona Van Koughnett	KTG
Veronika Pellowski	TSD
Angela Finley	TSD
Meagan Elfert	GD
Leanne Harris	GD
Shelley Wiltshire	KD
Laura Zondervan	KD
Holly-anne St. Pierre	KD
Dorothy Hall	KD
Stacie Martini	CD

4 Years

Joyce Powel	OGTG
Ursula Raney	KTG
Doris Dimock	KTG
Rosemary Wilson	KTG
Joyce Powell	KTG
Lisa Mang	TSD
Dawna Jones	TSD
Sheri Grenier	GD
Kathleen Roy	GD
Doris Raiwet	CD
Taira Davis	KD
Colleen Matte	KD
Diana Drezdoff	TD

5 Years

Sylvia Bruno	KTG
Bobbie Smurthwaite	KTG
Janice Underwood	BVD
Sandi Oorthuis	BVD
Carralyn Calver	KD

6 Years

Jeanne Morton	KTG
Roz Harper	TSD
Cathy MacMillan	TSD
Laurie Philipzyk	BVD
Erin Stavenjord	GD
Paula Wynnchuck	TD
Kerry Marsland	KD

7 Years

Ethel Randles	KTG
Jacqueline Inskip	KTG
Rory Pownall	TSD
Melissa Surina	TSD
Maureen Coates	TSD
Jill Prince	CD
Misty Soukochoff	CD

8 Years

Addie Mahon	KDG
Valerie Bristowe	TSD
Melanie MacMillan	TSD
Susan Smith	TSD
Heather Beaudoin	KD
Christina Wade	KD
Amy Jaarsma	KD
Beverly Pettigrew	TD
Elanie Fromme	GD
Rebecca Van Hoom	CD

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9 Years

Tamara Claxton	TSD
Shannon Roberts	TSD
Tracey Pedersen	GD
Karla Dick	RD
Audrey McNalley	KD

10 Years

Kim Clark	WKA
Nancy Bone	TSD
Peggy DeVries	KD
Glenda Smith	KD
Karen Albo	TD

11 Years

Mary Johnson	KTG
Molly Semenoff	OGTG
Audrey Pitman	WKA
Mareena Smith	WKA
Cheryl Buhrman	TSD
Nicole Amadio	KD

12 years

Allison Davis	OGTG
Judy Moroney	OGTG
Gay Lattazio	OGTG
Dorothy Hearn	KTG
Mary Defeo	KD
Nancy Fergusson	KD

13 Years

Chelsea Jansen	WKA
Misty Crosby-Bone	TSD
Diane Langman	TD
Janet LaRocque	TD
Madison Braga	CD

14 Years

Teresa Jansen	WKA
Brenda Ashe	GD
Judy Poohachoff	KD
Kelli May	KD

15 Years

Bev Rinoul	WKA
Deb Melnyk	WKA
Sharon Watson	OGTG
Pamela Buckingham	OGTG
Sandra Coleman	OGTG
Margaret Lafond	OGTG
Mary MacInnes	OGTG
Teresa Mandolli	OGTG
Mary Volpatti	OGTG
Angeline McCaskill	OGTG
Gerry Dzuris	KTG
Mavis Krueger	KTG
Sandra Pozdnikoff	TSD
Joan Stuart	NTG
Leah Beattie	BVD
Laurie Tomlinson	CD
Elaine Paulson	CD
Dorothy Scott	CD
Louise Scott	CD
Norma Braga	CD
Lois Anderson	KD
Lorraine Mann	KD
Margaret Wernick	GD
Laura Carlson	GD

20 Years

Jane Szigethy	OGTG
Jean Cargnelli	OGTG
Sheila Classen	KTG
Ingrid Hope	WKA
Deb Stewart	WKA
Delores Buerge	TSD
Jennifer Clark	CD
Kim Madrigga	CD
Jacqueline Craig	Cd
Anita Beaulieu	TD
Elizabeth Pitman	TD
Leslie Shirley	KD
Erin Koorbatoff	KD

30 Years

Nuala Bain	OGTG
Sheila Hawton	OGTG
Merle MacDonald	KTG
Trish Prime	WKA
Judi Gardiner	WKA
Bev Thompson	BVD
Pat Batch	TD
Lauretta Flack	TD

25 Years

Sharon Berrialt	OGTG
Deyanne Davis	OGTG
Judy Sorenson	OGTG
Val Cross	OGTG
Annette Embrey	KTG
Kay Knox	KTG
Irene Parker	KTG
Linda Randall	WKA
Joy Anderson	WKA
Liz Newman	TSD
Elva Ritchey	NTG
Sue Fielding	GD
Linda Adrain	CD
Cheryl Cherry	KD
Mari Plamondon	KD
Kierra Clarkston	TD

35 Years

Joanne Baldassi	OGTG
Dorothy Frocklage	KTG
Kit Irving	KTG
Glen Klit	TD

40 years

Lorna Hamilton	KTG
Phyllis Ott	NTG
Dawn Lindstien	NTG
Joyce Muffly	GD

45 Years

Faith Kendrick	OGTG

65 Years

Lillian Brownlow	OGTG

50 Years

Nancy Lemoine	OGTG

70 Years

Jo Slywka	OGTG

Congratulations!!

The total years of membership with Girl Guides of Canada for just the adult members in West Kootenai Area comes to a whopping

2572 years.

Based on that number the average Guider in West Kootenai Area has been a member for over 14 ½ years.

Our Future sparks!!!

Below: Edgewood Guider Cheryl Buhrman's granddaughter, delighted with her Girl Guide cookies.

Left: Linda Randall's granddaughter Desiree Rose sporting a Trefoil Toque made by outgoing WKA Commissioner Bev Rintoul (see last issue for knitting instructions)

Kaslo and Nakusp Brownies Visit Science World in Vancouver

Tell us Your Great Guiding Stories Grow Guiding News

We have now committed to creating and printing a newspaper supplement as part of the marketing campaign. It will be produced nationally in a size that can be inserted into any format of newspaper or distributed as a (really big) brochure. As with the supplement created for the Alberta Test Market, it will be filled with stories about Guiding – including information about the fun, friendship and new adventures; the benefits to girls and women and how to join.

We will be producing more than two and a half million of them! With our provincial and territorial Grow Teams' creative distribution plans, they will blanket our nation and draw girls and women to our door!

We've collected some great stories, but we do need more. What Guiding stories do you tell your friends and family when encouraging them to join or enroll their daughters? These are the stories we need to hear. Send them to growguiding@girlguides.ca .

Submitted by Bev Rintoul

News from Granby District

Grand Forks Guides started off learning the clove hitch & half hitch knots. After learning them, we held a competition who could do them the fastest. The girls also did compass games using graph paper, where the instructions drew a picture. 6 of our Guides went to Nite Trek, so we practiced setting up the big tents, went over the kit list, & showed them how to do bedrolls. They also worked on their 95th Birthday Challenges. Our unit has been growing, and we now have 9.

Grand Forks Pathfinders have been completing Be Prepared and leadership challenges. They all attended Nite Trek & are preparing an all day adventure at Hampshire Ranch in June.

Christina Lake combined Brownies & Guides are learning outdoor skills ready for Brownie camp in June and Guide camp in May. Made International table decorations for International pot luck... Enjoying music with Joyce.

Grand Forks Brownies.

March - only 3 meetings due to spring break. Finished studying the World Centre in Mexico, made paper thinking day boxes, played games for St. Patrick's Day, tried Mexican cuisine in the form of nachos and Aztec dessert, played games related to Mexico - the burrow in the stable game. Looked at pictures of the Day of the Dead Celebrations in Mexico & made yarn God's Eyes.

April - Snacks, The Giant's House games, sold Gem Theatre movie passes for District Fund Raiser, Spring Cookie Drive, talk about how to be a safe cookie seller, made Easter bunnies out of bags and had a hunt, Earth Day celebrations - planted bean seeds and talked about recycling & the good to our community, International Pot Luck lunch at the Legion in G F, musical newspapers, made friendship flowers, finished talking about compliments & the good of brownies. Played the noisy neighbour's game, sang "Down by the Riverside.

All of the units in Granby District have been out selling cookies. 105 cases sold.
To celebrate World Guiding the District held an International pot luck lunch attended by girls, parents and Guiders. Following many foods from different countries we had a campfire sing along.

Boundary Guiding

Played Ring around the Rosies. Made potato print wrapping paper. Brought clothes that needed repair, and talked about the tools needed to do mending. Worked on Go For It Badge. Took pulse before and after physical activity, talked about safety on playground equipment. Each named two pieces of equipment. They all completed their Mother's Day gift. (Aida cloth square, embroidered) We studied Australia and made a poster for the potluck luncheon. They had fun throwing a boomerang in the park. Mexico was studied over three weeks. We enjoyed eating Mexican fried bread, an Aztec dessert, and Nachos. A tissue paper wall hanging was made, and a story read about the Day of the Dead in Mexico - Little Maracas were also made with empty film canisters. The girls have been working on finishing their I Can Key Badge. The girls sold cookies at McMynn's parking lot. They enjoyed making a tower of cookies. Two Guides made their promise.

Congratulations to Kirsten Olesen, a Lone Ranger from Grand Forks. She is the 2006 recipient of the BC Council Bursary.

SLOCAN LAKE CAMP CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Slocan Lake Centennial Committee will be responsible for inspecting, recommending and implementing repairs and upgrades on the campsite, located on at the north end of Slocan Lake. This work will likely involve dealing with government bodies, applying for grants and doing construction and clean-up. They will also be responsible for creating publicity materials for the camp and for planning an event for 2010, the 100th year of Guiding. This group will be instrumental in the lease renewal process and will hopefully be the beginning of a standing committee to manage the property.

If you are interested in helping to restore this campsite please call Area Commissioner Teresa Jansen at tjansen@telus.net or 250 265-4096.

Job Opportunities

May 2006

West Kootenai Area

A number of positions are currently vacant. Area Council will be looking for the right people to fill them. Those considered for these positions should have good communication and organizational skills as well as the ability to work with a wide variety of people. And, of course, she should have *great* enthusiasm for Guiding.
Interested? Know someone who would be great at that job? Contact Teresa Jansen at tjansen@telus.net or at 250-265-4096

Area Treasurer

Good with numbers? Can you add and subtract in your head? In your sleep? We need someone who will watch every penny and keep the books up-to-date. Treasurers are appointed annually for a maximum of 5 years.

Area Membership Adviser

The Membership Adviser helps local Guiders develop plans to recruit and retain members. She works closely with the Awards. PR, and iMIS advisers and the CSR to "Grow Guiding" in our Area.

Area PR Adviser

Willing to blow our own horn? Want to let everyone know how great Guiding is? Area is looking for a dynamic person to assist local Guiders in spreading the word.

Area Environment Adviser

Are you green? The Environment Adviser provides information and program ideas for the Unit Guider to assist her is making our girls good stewards of the earth.

Area Senior Branches Adviser

Ready for the BIG girls? Area needs someone to ensure our Senior Branch girls, Rangers, Junior Leaders and Cadets, receive information on all opportunities available to them. They need someone to advocate for them at Area and to help plan an Area event or two.

West Kootenai Area Web Mistress

Job requires updates to updates and additions to the "NEW" West Kootenai Area website www.wkagirlguides.ca. May involve approx 2—4 hours per week. Those applying should have access to Dreamweaver MX. For more info, contact Leanne Harris at leanne_harris@hotmail.com.

Area Trainers—Always Looking!

Guiders who receive training stay in Guiding longer. Want to keep those great Guiders in your District? Consider becoming a Trainer and enriching their experience. Trainers are trained, too, and are part of the Area Training Committee. We need Trainers from all parts of our Area to facilitate local trainings.

For more information contact WKA Training Coordinator Judi Gardiner at or 250 365-7129.