



TG News

A Newsletter for Trefoil Guild Members

APRIL 2014

Meet our new TG Specialist!

Greetings to all my Trefoil sisters. I am so excited to be your connection across our great country. When I see statistics telling how many Trefoil Guilds we have and the number of members involved, it tells me how much we all love our organization. Many of us have spent most of our lives being associated with Guiding and it has given us an opportunity to develop our skills, broaden our horizons, make very special friendships and serve our young ladies and our country. We continue to share in the development of young leaders as we now contribute in a different way.

Working with our girls on a particular project still gives me a thrill, even though it is not on a regular basis, which is the joy of Trefoil. We also enjoy the opportunity to keep up friendships and connections in a special way. I am always touched when I hear of some of our more senior members, getting together for lunch, remembering and sharing experiences, while they look after each other.

I would like to take a moment to thank Joyce Perrie of B.C. for all her work as our National Trefoil Guild Specialist. I will endeavor to keep up the standard she has set in place. I look forward to getting to know all of the Provincial Advisers as I start out on this journey.

I look forward to hearing from many who would like to share what they are doing. We are always looking for ideas and suggestions. Your Provincial Advisers are busy keeping you up to date with what is happening in our TG world, so share, share, share! Remember a picture is worth a thousand words, so please let us see how life is in your part of the world. Our newsletter is the door to opening communication for all. Enjoy the news from each Province and take or adapt some of the events that have been so successful for your own Guild. Remember Guiding never grows old, there is something for everyone, and make sure you have a whole lot of fun while being part of it.

Have a wonderful spring/summer/fall.

Kay Dubie, National Trefoil Guild Specialist

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In this issue:

2 Provincial Reports

2 Saskatchewan

4 British Columbia

6 Nova Scotia

8 Alberta

9 Roots of the Trefoil Guild

3 Ontario & Nunavut

5 Newfoundland & Labrador

7 New Brunswick

Saskatchewan

by Mary Lynne Golphy

The R & R Trefoil Guild hosted a very successful annual Trefoil Gathering. Friday evening started off with members choosing from learning to play poker, knitting a circular scarf or painting. Our evening concluded with a reading on how "Taps" came to be and then we headed outside to light sparklers. The Regina Guild provided our evening snack.

Saturday morning we met for breakfast and then Glen Berger joined us. We had an awesome morning as he demonstrated and taught us self-defence.

Our annual meeting was held after lunch and the gathering came to a close with a memorial service in memory of Guild members Florence Emmins, Lillian Ross and Elaine Fisher who passed away this last year.



member in Moose Jaw and shared with the Pathfinders and Rangers memories and pictures of her time as a Guide.

Two activities Guild members participated in were the provincial Hike around Saskatchewan challenge and the Girl Guides and Tim Horton's Clean up Saskatchewan service project. On the first Monday of May each year the units pick an area of their community that needs a spring cleaning. This will be the seventh year with Tim Horton's supplying the garbage bags, gloves and T-shirts for the girls.



We have three Guilds celebrating 25 years in 2014. Congratulations to 1st Moose Jaw Trefoil Guild, 1st Saskatoon Trefoil Guild and Regina Trefoil Guild. 1st Saskatoon Trefoil Guild is celebrating by hosting our Annual Gathering in the fall.



Mona Jones, who renewed her Promise in 2011 and became an active member of the Moose Jaw Guild, celebrated her 99th birthday in January. She had a busy day with radio and newspaper interviews and then was treated to a pasta supper along with all the Moose Jaw Trefoil Guild hosted by the Moose Jaw Pathfinders and Rangers. Guiders from Salton District joined them for cake and ice cream that evening. Mona was a girl



Ontario & Nunavut

by Judy Pavlis

SERVICE PROJECTS

Guilds across the province took advantage of this year's cold harsh winter to work on service projects for many groups and organizations in need. What better way to pass those long cold months than to help others. Some of the items included ditty bags for local hospitals, knitting for premature babies at various Northern Ontario hospitals, fleece blankets for a local shelter and



unwell Guild members, singing campfire songs at a nursing home, and making comfort pillows for breast cancer patients.

Many Guilds also collect items for service organizations and hospitals, including the Toronto Animal Services and Wildlife Centre.

CAMPING/WEEKENDS AWAY

Many Guilds also camped (indoor residential) over the past few months to renew friendships, share ideas, do crafts and plan more Guild adventures!

DAY TRIPS AND OTHER EVENTS

There were lots of Christmas get-togethers including pot lucks, dinners, games, prizes, crafts, raffles and lots of laughter. One Guild did an appetizer evening where recipes and ingredients were provided for the participants to create. Last fall there were trips to Queen's Park, Victorian tea and walks on Kintail Trail (west of Ottawa).

GIRL EVENTS

Two Guilds in the Ottawa area held an event for local girls over two evenings in March. The girls experienced traditional costumes, games, music, art, stories, and what Guiding is like in other countries. The goal of the event was to have fun by enabling the participants to experience and be aware of the world around them.

Many Guilds participated in or hosted Thinking Day events. These events are great fun and a nice way to connect to the girls in our organization.

As spring finally arrives (we have waited a long time!) Guild members will be out selling cookies to raise funds for events

in their local communities. Some will support units financially to attend Ontario's Rally Day on May 31st. Many events are in the works for trips, community events for girls and Guilds social events.



COMMUNICATION

Ontario Trefoil also has a Facebook page for members to share ideas, post pictures and share in all of the fun of Guiding. It is a closed group so it is quite secure. We also have our own page on the Ontario Girl Guides website. There we post our newsletters and other information pertaining to Trefoil Guilds only.

Ontario is divided up into geographical communities. Each community has an ACL or Administrative Community Leader who is a volunteer. Trefoil Guilds are administered at the Provincial level so we have encouraged ACL's in communities across the province to become members of their local Trefoil Guilds, to share ideas, request assistance, or join in the fun that the Guilds are having. There is a lot of experience in our Guilds and we can all reach out and "lend a hand" to the new Guiders in our organization.



British Columbia

by JoAnn Fox

B.C. is thrilled to know one of our members has been chosen to attend the Australian National Gathering in September. We await her stories and pictures!



We have a number of octogenarians in our various Guilds – one of whom celebrated her 100th birthday with her Guild members providing cake and goodies. She's still active, as she can, with her Guild. What a marvelous example for all of us!

Eight of our Vancouver Island Guilds participated in Springtime in Paris in March with 50 members attending. Some arrived with hats and gloves while others wore their Guild purple.

The Guilds in the Thompson – Nicola Valley Area are very busy planning our annual Rendezvous, Hats Off to You. The organizers have a number of interesting adventures for us to try such as Enchanted Glass, Mrs. Rosey Posey and the Fine China Plate, Bunch Grass to Barbed Wire, to name a few. A report on our fun will be done for the Fall issue of the *TG News*.

A group of Trefoil "angels" made Christmas angels for the residents of Evergreen House at Lions Gate Hospital. They also had Hilary Randall give a presentation, Embrace Rwanda, which was informative and an excellent illustration of the work that she and her group are doing there. Her passion for this project was contagious. She

brought articles for sale which had been made in Rwanda.

B.C. Trefoil members continue to grow as we now have 965 members and 84 Guilds. B.C. is definitely *Keeping the Spirit Alive!*



Newfoundland & Labrador

by Margaret Breen

We welcomed a new Guild (Purple Hats), Trefoil Central Area. We now have a total of 20 Guilds within the province.

All Guilds keep busy with service projects, outings, supporting the girls and Unit Guiders and having fun. We continue to "Keep the Spirit Alive" by:

- Enjoying regular meetings
- Visiting older members in retirement homes
- Donating to the Betty Spencer Scholarship Fund
- Attending Remembrance Day ceremonies
- Collecting stamps for a service project
- Collecting eye glasses for use in developing countries
- Hiking the trails in Gross Morne Park



- Undertaking a service project for CASEY (Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation of Youth) by making and filling 50 bags with Ensure energy drinks and other items
- Helping to serve hotdogs and drinks to participants at the Mount Pearl Santa Claus Parade
- Attending District and Area Christmas socials

- Collecting and presenting personal care items, caps, mitts, gloves, scarves, Christmas decorations and treats to a women's centre
- Catering to Canadian Blood Donor Clinics
- Making breast cancer pillows for chemo/mastectomy patients
- Enjoying a boat trip to Woody Island Resort
- Collecting hats, mitts, scarves and toiletries for Street Reach
- Presenting the Canadian flag to a Guide unit
- Hosting the Battle of the Brains Trivia Night during the Mount Pearl Frost Festival
- Teaching international songs, games and dances to various units
- Attending Thinking Day celebrations
- Continuing to make teddy bears and knitted dolls for children admitted to hospitals
- Card making
- Taking part in cookie sales



- Celebrating Halloween with best costume award and a competition for best Halloween food creation
- The fun never ends with New Year's Eve celebrations
- Trefoil members helped out the District and Area Commissioners by doing some of the screening calls to help speed up the process of completing reference checks for our Guiders

Provincial Trefoil Gathering

Members from the Can-ta-ka-ye Trefoil Guild have plans well underway to provide an interesting and fun filled weekend for all Trefoilers at the May Provincial Trefoil Gathering.

This is my last report as NL Provincial Trefoil Adviser. Thank you for all your help and support. All positions I have

held over the years were enjoyable however, there is something extra special about Trefoil.



Nova Scotia

by Darlene Duggan

Our fall and spring provincial meetings, hosted by different Guilds each time, had good representation of members who enjoy getting together, being entertained by special guests, good food and, of course, campfire. As I write this, my guild, Memory Lane, is preparing to host our April meeting, my last as Provincial Adviser. We have chosen a 50's-60's theme as I rock on to whatever other Guiding pursuits call me.

Most of our Guilds are very involved with girl activities, helping out in the units and mentoring new Guiders. Some Guilds do not meet during the winter months (a wise decision this year) while others meet all year enjoying beach meetings in the summer, road trips, and whatever adventure might come along.

Our annual Camp Burning Spirit continues to be very popular and this year brought 33 members to relax, refresh, rejuvenate, renew old friendships, and enjoy what we are all about...sharing the sisterhood of Guiding. I think the highlight for me was to watch two old friends, who had re-connected after many years, enjoy a "tread water chat" in the lake and walk out hand in hand, always a support for each other...a true picture of Girl Guides.



The camp is perfect for us with two bunk houses, five cabins, dining/kitchen building, tenting areas (yes, some still do "canvas"), a lake and hiking trails...and indoor plumbing.

Our Guilds participate in many Girl Guide challenges and some have completed the Green Earth Challenge. Some of us made the supreme sacrifice and completed the Quebec Chocolate Challenge telling ourselves that "tasting" chocolate was all in the name of *Keeping the Spirit Alive*.

We are creating a Trefoil Guild Challenge called the Move More Challenge. The idea is to move more physically, creatively, in the community, Guiding challenges, and a personal challenge. There will be options in each category and the idea is to work on the challenge as a group, making it more fun. I have met with a representative from the Heart and Stroke Foundation to discuss adapting the One Step Guiding challenge to accommodate Trefoil Guild members. We are very excited to present the challenge to our members and will post it on the Nova Scotia Girl Guides website. There will be a crest available for purchase.



New Brunswick

by Janet Boswall

NB Council, which covers the areas across New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, has a total of 13 Trefoil Guilds. One highlight each year is the NB Council Trefoil Gathering. In 2013, it was hosted by the Mawiw Area in Fredericton, NB. The theme was Purple Waves and Waterfalls. It was an educational, fun day with various activities geared to all participants using the theme. Each participant went home with a unique pewter pin displaying a waterfall – a great remembrance of a great day.



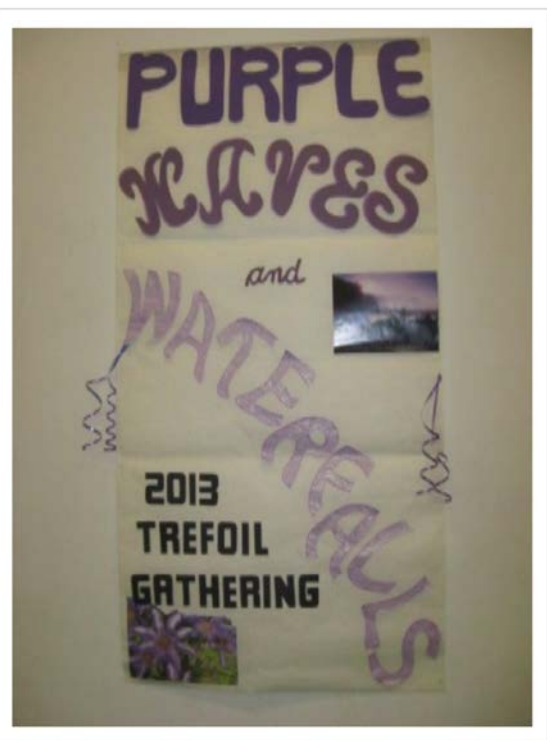
the students of the cooking class - again it was cancelled due to the big snow storm. Plan "C" was then arranged by one of our active members of 90 years young. She put together a delicious lunch for five members. After much confusion over our get-together, we had an enjoyable afternoon of chatting and catching up on all our news. During our short meeting we decided to give a donation to the Canadian World Friendship Fund (CWFF), and to try our hand at making some lap blankets for Alzheimer patients.

Thinking Day was celebrated in a number of different ways. Two Guilds participated in an Area Thinking Day Event called "Silver Fare" where the participants tried their luck at games, bought food or had their nails or faces painted at silver prices (no more pennies). All money collected was sent in for the CWFF. Another Guild celebrated at Bisque and Biscotti where they enjoyed corn chowder, wraps and a yummy big brownie enjoyed by all. They then painted and decorated pottery. Other groups held potlucks.

Members of the two Mawiw Area Guilds presented Ruth Nealis with a certificate and pin for her 55 years in Guiding.

Devon Guides enjoyed a Thinking Day presentation by two Pathfinders of their 2013 Europe Trip. The weather has been a challenge with meeting cancellations, but 12 cases of cookies have arrived and will be sold at Cookie Day at Sears. Plans are underway by some members to attend the AGM. Mawiw Area is fortunate to have two Trefoil Guilds who often plan joint activities.

Many of our Guild Members still hold active positions within the Guiding Movement from Guiders to Council members working on a number of committees. They contribute to numerous local and international charities as well as sponsoring bursaries. Our members are active in *Keeping the Spirit Alive*.



The 2014 Gathering will be hosted by Waters Edge area in Saint John on September 6, 2014.

The Maritimes experienced an old fashioned winter with lots of snow storms that caused cancellations and rescheduling. One very persistent Guild sent the following report. The Moncton Trefoil Guild had planned to attend a trip to the Sugar camp and lunch but had to cancel due to weather. Plan "B" was to have lunch at the local NBCC put on by

Alberta

by Gail Armstrong

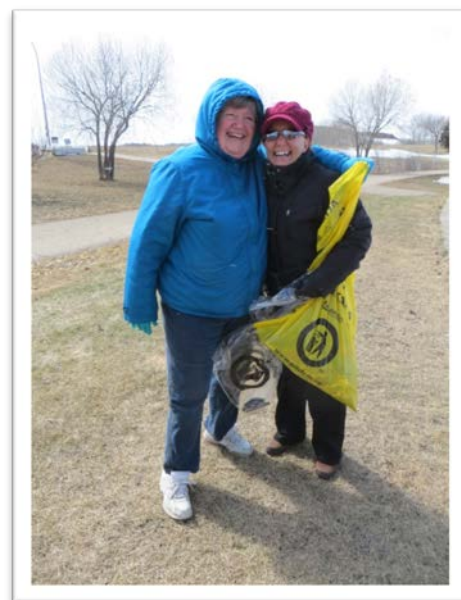
Alberta Trefoil Guilds are going strong, and I am once again amazed at the creative and fun-filled activities that our members take part in. We are well into our 101st birthday year and we show no signs of slowing down in our work supporting Guiding, helping with camping events and working on service projects within our communities. This 2013/14 season has been a year of finishing up the special projects of quilts and birthday boxes for food banks that we started for our 100th year of Guiding in Alberta. And of course we continue to get together with our Guild friends – planning new adventures, learning new skills, and just having a good time.

On Thinking Day this year I again gathered with a number of Guilds in Calgary as we celebrated the birthdays of our Founders. This is my favourite event of the year! And I know many Guilds took part in events celebrated within their communities of Guiding. This is what it's all about – helping everyone understand why we do what we do in Guiding.

It has definitely been one of the strangest winters we've had in Alberta for many years, and as spring seems to be a little delayed this year, we're getting down to planning and taking part in our year-end activities.

The Alberta Trefoil year end 'Roundup' will be held on June 7 in Red Deer at the St. Leonard's Anglican Church - 11:30-2:30, pot luck lunch. This is our annual get together where a good number of our members gather to meet with friends, have some great food, and brag about our accomplishments for the year.

I'm hoping that our spring and summer will bring us some good weather and that we'll be able to get out and enjoy the sunshine when we can as we all know the weather will change in the blink of an eye. Have a great year, and I look forward to hearing about our many and varied activities.



2016 NATIONAL TREFOIL GATHERING

The planning has begun!

Mark your calendars for June 15 – 19, 2016 for a “whale” of a time as Purple Heads East, the theme for the 2016 National Trefoil Gathering. This Gathering will be held in beautiful St. John's, NL, the oldest city in North America and Canada's youngest province.

Imagine 350 Trefoil Guild Members from across Canada in the same place, at the same time, making new friends and renewing old acquaintances.

See you there!

Roots of the Trefoil Guild

Adapted from Trefoil Guilds in Canada - Our Beginnings, Our Growth, Our Story

The Guide Movement has developed and expanded over the years to encompass the ever widening range of age groups. The Trefoil Guild emerged as a means of continuing service to the ideals and practice of Guiding without necessarily undertaking any adult leadership roles.

Here are some key milestones in the formation of Trefoil Guild:

In Britain:

1910 – The Girl Guides Association was formed.

1920 – Ex-members began to form unofficial groups with the idea of maintaining contact with their old companions.

1935 – An organized scheme for “Old Guides” was formed.

1943 – The Girl Guides Association amalgamated the various groups of ex-members and the name “The Trefoil Guild” was adopted. Its purpose was to create an organization for those members of the Movement who were over 21 and who could not undertake an appointment as an adult leader of any kind.

1947 – Trefoil Guilds were registered.

1952 – The Trefoil Guild, whilst remaining part of the Girl Guides Association, was given recognition as a self-governing, self-financing body and became responsible for the former Guides in the United Kingdom and Overseas Territories.

In Canada:

1959 – The first Trefoil Guild in Canada is formed in Woodstock, Ontario. This Guild was initially formed as a Guide Company in 1923 and received their Charter from Britain in 1962.

1986 – At the National Conference, it is decided that Trefoil Guilds will fall under the jurisdiction of Girl Guides of Canada.

1992 – The First National Trefoil Gathering is held in British Columbia from May 14-17. The theme was “Fun and Friendship” and 150 participants attended.

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Guild Members

TG News is published twice a
year and distributed to all
Trefoil Guild members

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Supporting Scholarships



Each year, Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada awards scholarships to outstanding members who are pursuing a post-secondary education.

The Humber Glen Trefoil Guild in Ontario has been supporting scholarships for 15 years. Here is what Carole and Pauline from the Humber Glen Trefoil Guild said about supporting the scholarship program:

Humber Glen Trefoil Guild members and a handful of our regular supporters have enjoyed providing a GGC National Scholarship for 15 years. Each year, our Guild hosts a bridge luncheon with silent auction, bake table and book sale as our scholarship fundraiser. This has been a wonderful experience for our ladies. It brings us together to work, to have fun and to connect with our community of supporters for a worthwhile cause.

If you or your Trefoil Guild would like to make a donation to the GGC National Scholarship Fund, we would be grateful to accept contributions. For more information, please email us at: barkleyh@GirlGuides.ca