



In the spirit of giving, Girl Guides brighten the holidays for many!



(above) Members from **Mille Îles** distribute goodies to recipients of their community's Meals on Wheels program. [Read more](#) on the GGC QC blog; (above right) **Valois** Girl Guides stopped by the Montreal SPCA to drop off donations and take a tour of the facilities. Check out the [message](#) they shared on the SPCA Facebook page! (right) **Knowlton** Girl Guides light up the town with their shimmering tree decorations. See page 10 for an article that appeared in the Brome County newspaper!

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Highlights:

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January 13-17 is **Open House Week!**

All members are encouraged to invite a friend to their unit meeting to discover what Guiding has to offer.

Unit Guiders—check out **page 3** for tips on welcoming potential new members.

Register for the **Guider Symposium** before it's too late!

Choose your morning and afternoon workshop sessions and submit your [registration form](#) by Friday, January 10.

Join us for a fun-filled day and be inspired! See **page 4** for details.

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Happy New Year!

We are half way through our Guiding year and already there have been many meetings, laughs, fun with the girls, great unit and district happenings and provincial events. And, as always, we are just hitting our stride in the second half of the year.

No doubt the break over the holidays, while very hectic, provided us with time to reflect and re-energize for the year ahead. It is important to look at all that we have accomplished, take pride in what we have done, and remind ourselves of the very valuable work we do with girls. We play an important role in our communities by providing experiences that build girls' confidence, develops their resourcefulness, creating a 'can do' attitude and a sense of caring about others. As we know, strong girls build strong communities.

As a group of volunteers we represent an outstanding example of dedication to our community and depth of commitment to Guiding. I suspect other organizations would envy us if they knew how hard Guiding ladies work to achieve the goals of our organization.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at Symposium 2014, in various upcoming district and committee meetings and at the AGM. I am regularly inspired by the energy and caring of our adult members.

Best wishes for 2014!

Yours in Guiding,

Pamela Rice

Provincial Commissioner

Best Wishes Amber – Moving to Halifax and New Opportunities!

Amber LeBrun, Deputy Provincial Commissioner – Girl Experience, has advised us that she is moving to Halifax this week to pursue a new work opportunity with Manulife bank (virtual banking). We are very excited for her, however, her departure is a profound loss for our provincial organization.

Amber will remain on Provincial Council until the end of her term on May 1, 2014. She is currently working to find leadership for Adventure Trek – Festi-Guides. She is also working with Diana Rice regarding support for the Young Women's Forum.

We want to wish her all the very best in her future endeavours and our loss will certainly be Nova Scotia's gain!

Québec Provincial Council



It's never too late to join Girl Guides!

Provincial Open House Week

To support membership growth in Québec, all units are asked to welcome visits from potential girl members during the week of **January 13-17**. Regular meeting plans may be in place or units may have planned something special. We've heard a few great ideas including a mother-daughter spa night and a movie night featuring commercials produced by the girls!

All districts have received '**FREE MEETING PASS**' business cards to be passed out to friends or at school or at community events. They can be used for recruitment events throughout the year! Use a cover sheet or 'ticket wrapper' like [this one](#) to provide specific details about your meetings.

What might you include in a **welcome package** or goody bag for potential new girl members?

- * **GGC girl recruitment brochure**
- * **GGC QC backgrounder** ([EN](#) | [FR](#)) and **fact sheet** ([EN](#) | [FR](#))
- * **'At a Glance' branch handouts:** [SPARKS](#) | [BROWNIES](#) | [GUIDES](#) | [PATHFINDERS](#) | [RANGERS](#)
- * ['How to Register' flyers](#)
- * **GGC tattoos, pencils, magnets**

A variety of resources are available for download on the [PR Tools](#) page of the QC website including a guide to organizing recruitment events and information request cards.

And don't forget about the resources available on the National **Member Zone** site under '[Membership](#)' including Online Registration FAQ for Parents and Guiders and tips for promoting your event.

CONTEST: Win a netbook computer for your unit!

Any unit that adds **two new girls** during the contest period of **December 9 to January 31** will earn an **exclusive** crest (not available unless this criterion is met) and be entered in a draw to win a **netbook computer!**

To be counted for the contest, paper registrations must be received at the provincial office no later than Wednesday, January 29.

To be eligible, units must fill out a contest [ENTRY FORM](#)



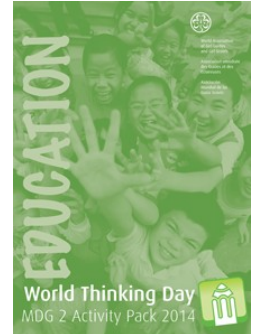
Looking for more PR material?

Send an email over to pr.rp@guidesquebec.ca— we have a supply of goodies waiting for you to share with your community!



Thinking Day 2014

WAGGGS has produced the [World Thinking Day Activity Pack](http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/activities10) for 2014. It covers the UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) #2: Achieve universal primary education. Once you complete the challenge, you may order crests from WAGGGS. The link to the pack is: <http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/activities10>



The messages for this theme are:

“Education opens doors for all girls and boys”

&

“Every girl has the right to learning so she reaches her fullest potential”

GGC Twinning Challenges



A reminder—we still have our [Twinning Challenges](#) for Curaçao and Grenada. You can find these challenges on the [GGC national website](#).

Canadian World Friendship Fund *Pizza Challenge!*

As we did last year, we will have a pizza challenge to raise funds for the Canadian World Friendship Fund. It's never too soon to plan how you'll raise money and to start raising the money.

There will be **two pizza parties awarded up to a value of \$100 each**:

1. The unit that has the year's **most novel way to raise funds**. *So get those creative juices running!*
2. The unit that **raises the most per person** registered in a unit, including the Guiders

Last year, the winners were:

Most original idea: 2nd Strathmore and 1st Valois Guides who held a nickel arcade and invited units from other districts.

Most money per member: 1st Mount Bruno Pathfinder, who raised \$11.82 per member selling leftover cookies and collecting district toonies.

Get your girls thinking about how they can raise the money. There will be an entry form in the February *Piccolo*. We will compile and share a list of great ideas.

The deadline will be April 30, 2014.

Thank you, Cindy!

Cindy Suharto, our Québec Council staff bookkeeper, will be stepping down from her position to pursue a job opportunity in Ottawa with Brookfield Renewable Energy. We thank Cindy for her dedication and contributions to the office these past 11 months and we wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

Reminder: French Brownie program books available

For the moment only group orders from Unit Guiders are being accepted. Books are \$6.95 each plus taxes and shipping charges where applicable. Send your [order form](#) to info@guidesquebec.ca

You can still donate to Wa-Thik-Ane to help keep our boats afloat!

Though we didn't make the finals of the Aviva Fund competition, we were overwhelmed by the support generated for our camp waterfront. Many asked how they could make a financial contribution to Wa-Thik-Ane.

Donations can be made via our [Canada-Helps.org](#) page. Click the red 'Donate now' button and select 'Camp Wa-Thik-Ane' in the 'Fund/Designation' section. The link is also available on the ['Ways of Giving'](#) page under 'Support Us' on the bottom of the QC website. We thank you for your generosity!

Keep in touch with fellow campers and join a community of Camp Wa-Thik-Ane supporters on the [camp Facebook page!](#)



Staff Position Available: BOOKKEEPER

GGC Québec Council is inviting applications for the position of bookkeeper at the provincial office. As knowledge of Guiding is a definite asset, we are advertising first within the Guiding community. If no suitable candidate is found, we will advertise more widely.

The bookkeeper's responsibility is to ensure that accurate and up to date financial information is available to the Québec Council and that all obligations are met on a timely basis.

We are looking for a mature person who has an understanding of the importance of confidentiality. This person should have a varied accounting background. A good knowledge of Simply Accounting (SAGE) is required. The person should be conscientious and show initiative. Guiding experience is a definite asset. The work schedule will be one day a week: this is a paid position, salary to be discussed.

All applicants should forward a CV to Susan Welsh, Director of Operations: dir-operations@guidesquebec.ca

Upcoming deadlines...

- * Guider Symposium - Register by **January 10**
- * District cookie orders due to province by **January 27**
- * Guide Winter Camp - Register by **January 31**
- * Submit your Design-a-Crest contest creations by **January 31**

DESIGN A CREST CONTEST!

Be part of history and design the 2014-2015 GGC Québec membership crest!

1. There must be a trefoil in your design.
2. The following text must appear: 'Québec Guiding 2014-2015—Guidisme Québec 2014-2015'
3. Email your crest design to communications@guidesquebec.ca before January 31, 2014.

The winning design may be adjusted to comply with GGC Brand Standards. The winning entry will receive \$30 to spend shopping at the Girl Guide Store!



Camp Wa-Thik-Ane site reservations now open for the 2014 season!

Units and Districts may now reserve their favourite sites at Wa-Thik-Ane for the upcoming spring, summer and fall!



[2014 rental rates](#)
[2014 reservation form](#)

Inquiries should be directed to info@guidesquebec.ca

Note that a 25% non-refundable deposit is required to secure a booking.

Visit the [Camp Wa-Thik-Ane page](#) of our website for details.

Would you like to hitch a ride to Québec City for Carnaval?



Four units are visiting Québec Carnaval with charter coach transport and there is room for additional passengers aboard.

Departure will be from Fairview Shopping Centre on the evening of Friday, February 7, with a second pick-up on the South Shore off highway 20.

They'll return early Sunday evening, February 9, with stops for visiting the Hôtel de Glace (optional) as well as a cabane à sucre supper en route to Montreal.

The cost will be \$60 round trip including the Sunday supper.

Cost recovery pricing! First come first seated! Contact valzoom@hotmail.com for details.

Classic 2014 cookie campaign ordering

Districts have now received ordering information regarding the Classic 2014 cookie campaign. District orders must be received by the provincial office no later than **Monday, January 27.**

Camping Connections

Liesse District is looking for another group that would be interested in joining them for their **winter camp at Cap St-Jacques, January 24-26.** It is a fantastic location for a camp, with great accommodations as well as activity animation. If anyone is interested (any level - they have Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders), please contact info@guidesquebec.ca and we'll put you in touch!



Ormstown Girl Guides sing Christmas carols at their local seniors centre



Treasurers' Trove

For Unit and District Treasurers

Out with the old year:

January; a time of quiet recovery after the hectic holidays. The children are back at school, snowflakes drift softly down, and you've got peace and quiet to get your Guiding finances in order before the end of the month! But of course that will only take an hour or two at most if you've kept up to date all year, as I am sure many of you have!

Please make sure you include all supporting documents with your financial books when you give them to your District Treasurer (units and Trefoil Guilds) or to the provincial office (districts) for review. This is the biggest cause for delays in getting the books back to you, especially as we review the district books.

The deadline for submitting your books for review is **January 31**. This applies to both unit and district books.

Remember that you must use independent reviewers (no signing officers, relations or business connections) for the unit books. Usually this can be done at a book review party of all the Unit Treasurers.

This year, we will have the District Treasurers review each other's books in a similar format as we have in past. We will probably meet at the same time as the DCs; February 15 is the date we are currently looking at. Those who attend will be able to take their books home with them. Hope to see you all then!

Check out the Unit and District Treasurers' Handbooks for help and the complete list of what must accompany your books when you send them for review. They are on the GGC Quebec website under Forms, with the Financial Forms at: www.guidesquebec.ca

In with the new year:

By now, you will all have heard that we must start charging GST and QST. Briefly, GST and QST are to be charged on participant fees for:

- * all overnight camps/events
- * day events for girls when the majority of participants are over 14 years old

Disabled or underprivileged individuals are exempt.

For the financially minded:

The Net Tax Method is used to report taxes collected and remitted to the province of Quebec. Income Tax Credits may be claimed, allowing us to deduct 100% of taxes paid on costs for these events before remitting the difference. Taxes charged on these camps and events must be forwarded to the province of Quebec within one month of the camp or event.

For the rest of us:

This means that in the case of overnight camps and events and day events when the majority of participants are over 14 years old, when a fee and taxes are charged to the participant, GGC may claim 100% of the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Quebec Sales Tax (QST) paid on rental and items purchased towards the camp or event from third parties (i.e. not on goods or services purchased from GGC). Use the "Tax Remittance Form for Camps/Events" found in the GGC Que Financial Package which can be found at www.guidesquebec.ca, and send it to the District Treasurer, with original receipts (keep copies for your records) and a cheque attached if necessary, as soon as possible after the camp or event. Your District Treasurer will forward all forms from the district to Quebec Council. This must be done in a timely manner, as the cheques must be sent to the province of Quebec within one month of the camp or event.

As a registered charity, GGC may also claim a Public Service Body Rebate of 50% on GST and QST on operating expenses and items purchased from third parties (i.e. not on goods or services purchased from GGC). This will include a camp or event for which no participant fee or taxes are charged, as well as day events when the majority of participants are under 14 years old. Depending how active a unit is, claiming the GST/QST rebate can be very worthwhile. Claims may cover periods of up to 4 years. In order to make a claim, the district should complete the "Tax Rebate Claim Form" included with the GGC Que Financial Package which can be found at www.guidesquebec.ca, and send it to the Provincial Office, with original receipts attached (keep copies for your records), with mid-year and year-end reports in June and January. Once the rebate claim has been processed by the tax officers, Quebec provincial office will remit to each district the rebate due to it, and the District Treasurer will forward to units their portion of the rebate. This process may take up to six months.

What this boils down to:

A totally revamped Excel workbook, with several new forms. You must use the new workbook starting January 1, 2014.

If you haven't made it to one of our trainings yet, you can read how to use the new forms in the "How to use the GGC Que Financial Package" and the "Columns on the Main Form". More explanation is in the Unit and District Treasurers' Handbooks and the "GGC GST/HST Guidelines Guider Toolkit," all of which are with the Forms on the GGC Quebec website at www.guidesquebec.ca

There will be at least three more trainings in January, probably South Shore, West Island and NDG. If you wish to attend one, please let me know ASAP and I'll let you know when they will be.

As I get answers to some of the questions you have asked (and will continue to ask, I will put them in the Piccolo and then maintain an FAQ sheet with the forms on the website. (continued on next page)

A word about receipts:

We must be more careful about receipts from now on. Receipts for camp/event expenses must be kept separate from receipts for operating expenses, since they qualify for different levels of rebate. Also, receipts must be for ONLY GGC expenses. This means you cannot submit receipts for personal expenses and GGC expenses and highlight the GGC ones; they must be uniquely for GGC. (Costco will print a subtotal, which includes the taxes, if you ask nicely. Put your Guiding items on the belt first, then cut off the personal portion of the receipt.)

My mistake:

Girls who are granted campership assistance to go to camp must pay the GST and QST on the full amount of the participant fee, not just the portion they pay. Sorry, I misunderstood.

Unit and District Treasurer Calendar

Click [HERE](#) to download a handy calendar with a list of monthly reminders for the year.

If you need help, as always, you can find me at: finances-support@guidesquebec.ca

Dawn Coffey

Treasurer Support Specialist

First Aid Training

Are you First Aid certified? These trainings by **Pulse Aide Inc.** are tailored to the needs of GGC as per the latest Safe Guide. They are based on the Canadian Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED Program Standards for 2013, and include the current Red Cross manual and a Red Cross certification valid for 3 years from the end date of the course. Visit the [Training](#) section of the Québec web-site to learn more.

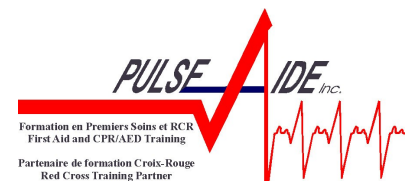
UPCOMING COURSES:

Note: Previously listed January sessions have been cancelled

Tentative Location: NDG

- **Emergency First Aid** (8 hours)
 - Saturday, February 22, 2014, 8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m., \$100
- **Standard First Aid** (16 hours)
 - Sat., Feb. 22 and Sun., Feb. 23, 2014, 8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m., \$120

***Note that there will be a course on the South Shore sometime in early 2014



For details and to register, or to book a course for your own district or Guiding community, email Joan Lax at pulseaideinc@gmail.com

GGC QC 2013-2014 Calendar

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| January 18 | <i>Guiding in the New Millenium—Le guidisme du nouveau millénaire—</i> 2014 Guider Symposium, Saint-Lambert |
| February 15 | *Updated* DC-Adviser-Council meeting (half day) |
| March 14-16 | Provincial Guide Winter Camp |
| May 1 | GGC Québec Council Annual General Meeting |
| May 10 | Festi-Guides, Rosemère |
| May 10 | Camp Opening Day |
| May 24 | Young Women's Forum |

The following article appeared in the December 17 issue of the Brome County News:

Knowlton Girl Guides' dresses dazzle onlookers

Christmas creations light up the night sky on Knowlton Road

By Frank Nixon



The Knowlton Girl Guides have made wonderful Cinderella creations on the lawn at 448 Knowlton Rd., opposite the Bousada store, which have helped light up the town for Christmas.

The girls, under the direction of Brenda Stone, began a "Quebec Spin" challenge in October.

"We chose to focus on creativity and community, to use something 'ordinary' and transform it into 'extraordinary,'" explained Stone. "A Girl Guide web link to 'Pinterest' provided inspiration and each of the three Guide patrols unrolled yards of chicken wire to create billowing ball gowns.

"The Guides are very proud of their

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Guides' dresses dazzle

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

formal-wear, now all decked out for Christmas," added Stone. "It is our way to give back to a community which has long supported all venues of Guiding."

Glowing with florescent paint, the gowns made their debut outside Knowlton Academy at Halloween. The creations are decked out in tulle, bows and electrified ribbons to enhance the design of each gown.

The Guides, along with the Sparks and Brownies represented the "Canadian 12 days of Christmas" in Knowlton's Santa Claus parade.