

GM Grazings

GM2016 Newsletter, Volume 8

July 16, 2016

Today's Weather



18°
10°

Today's Happenings

- Much Music Dance
- Closing Ceremonies



The PEI patrol proudly display their hometown sign. L-R Rebecca MacLean, Talya Walfield, Ashley Deroches, Lara Murphy, Maggie Arsenault, Phoebe MacLean, Patricia Allen, Aisling Studer, Briana Underhill and Bethany Doyle.

Happy National
Toss Away the
"Could Haves" &
"Should Haves" Day!

Happy Campers from Prince Edward Island

Anne of Green Gables once said, "Life is worth living as long as there's a laugh in it." There's clearly a little Anne in all of the girls from PEI who are attending GM2016, particularly Aisling Studer who has a laugh attack telling about her day 1 laugh attack.

Her buddies all agree: "She loves to smile. We can't get her to close her lips."

The eight Pathfinders all come from the Summerside area, and are super enthusiastic about being at camp, and of the activities they've taken part in. The girls were headed to the Calgary Stampede for their out trip, and had been to Klassic Kennels for their community service project.

"Some of us helped with the cats, and some of us helped with the dogs, and there were bunnies too," said Phoebe MacLean, who enjoyed playing with the animals up for adoption at the kennel. "People should appreciate people who work with animals more. It's not ok to not care for your pets."

Lara Murphy was on scooping duty, and had a small adventure with a water tap when it burst, sending water everywhere. "The poor little dog in the corner that just got groomed was soaked and shivering," she said before breaking into giggles.

GM2016 provides girls with the opportunity to do things they've never done before. Maggie

(cont'd on page 2.)

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Guider for Life!



Misty McGill has been in Guiding for 30 of her 36 years. She even jokes about getting a “Be Prepared” tattoo. She is a Guider in Hyde Creek District, Port Coquitlam, BC, and is here at Guiding Mosaic working at the Trading Post.

Misty is pictured here with Laurie Koplak, of Maple Ridge, BC. Laurie is a former Guider, who co-owns Zone West with her husband and is very busy customizing every camper’s t-shirt order. ☺

*Edith Cuerrier
GM2016 Photojournalist*

Rafting Races

Allysan Lui of Deerfoot District in Calgary, AB (AB28 Mt Cardinal) was racing her team’s makeshift pool noodle raft this morning in one of the many exciting swimming activities here at GM2016. She says that all the activities are “lots of fun” and she is “having a blast!” ☺

*Edith Cuerrier
GM2016 Photojournalist*

Keep Calm and Go Camping



Sarah Johns of Deerfoot District in Calgary, AB is having a blast with her campmates (AB28 Mt Cardinal) at Guiding Mosaic 2016. This morning, she was involved in the swimming activities and pool noodle raft races. She told us “Swimming is cold but fun!” ☺

*Edith Cuerrier
GM2016 Photojournalist*

Happy Campers (cont’d)

Arsenault had never kayaked, and was a little nervous, particularly when she started out in the opposite direction and had to be towed back into the starting position. That all changed when she met the challenge and stood on linked kayaks without falling.

For Brianna Underhill, her experience at GM2016 was unique, as she was part of the opening ceremonies colour party.

“It was really cool, but terrifying,” said Brianna. “I was scared I was going to forget the top knot.”



The PE girls did the usual fundraising for GM2016, but some of their more unique fundraisers included cookie sales during intermission at a local theatre production, and during the Summerside Caps hockey team home games. The girls want to keep the fundraising momentum going, and are already planning to attend SOAR in BC in 2017 and take a mother/daughter trip to New York in 2018. ☺

*Kim Penney
GM2016 Journalist*

Mount Cardinal red
and Makwa Ridge blue,
Friends from GMs old
Join friends from GM new.
Out-trips on a train
Even to a zoo!
I hope you had fun
at GM2016 too! ☺

*Katelyn Huntley
Roche Bonnehomme*

“Wow - Guiding was a huge part of my growing up. My mom and sister were both area commissioners. I was a Brownie, Guide, Pathfinder and a Pathfinder Leader. Then when my son was old enough I went in the Scouting movement as leader and trainer too. So 15 years in Guiding, and I did earn my Canada Cord.”

- Gudie Hutchings, MP Long Range Mountains NL.

Hudson, a Girl Guide's Best Friend



GM2016 has exploded Camp Woods with Girl Guides from around the world. As much as meeting new people can be amazing and provide spectacular memories, it can also be very overwhelming.

staff at GM2016 understand the physical effects mental health has on your bodies. They've provided every camper with the opportunity for talking and sharing whatever is on her mind. Talking is proven to

help lift moods and provide new insights on possible problems. Although talking through your worries is a great outlet you might not feel very comfortable and that is where Hudson comes in. Hudson is a friendly, lovable service dog with a soft, golden, slightly grey mane. He offers unconditional love for his owner and all the young women who visit him. He can bring you up from any slump and he can provide some pet love you might be missing from home. His old age doesn't stop him from living up to his energetic soul.☺

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*Molly Walmsley and Natasha Rapp
Ranger Media Arts*

Getting Crafty With Copper

There is nothing more fun than making your own jewelry and this program is letting girls do just that. The girls pound their materials, including pennies, bottle caps and copper wire, flat. The girls created personalized charm bracelets that included various charms such as marbles, letters and even pennies.

The art of cold forging often works with softer and more malleable metals, such as brass and copper, which are used without having to be heated. Hot forging is when tougher metals end up being heated and getting worked, such as steel and iron. The girls used cold forging in their session led by Guider Malak.

The leader of the program told me that "the reason she chose to lead this program was to give girls opportunity. The opportunity to use tools and to develop skills that they would not have used otherwise."

Some tools the girls learned how to use were wire-strippers, hammers, anvils, drills and a variety of pliers. Guider Malak also told me she was incredibly happy with how well the girls were doing and how amazing their pieces were. She believed the girls learned by touch, and was extremely happy when she saw their eyes light up by participating and making their personalized piece of art.

While we were there we also asked Alyssa L. from Calgary, AB why she wanted to do this program. She responded with "I thought it sounded interesting and cool and I wanted to show my family what I learned at GM2016". She

wanted to try her skills and she found it worthwhile to challenge herself while having fun.

This program was a challenge for some and easy for others, but that's what Guiding is all about — getting better at what you already know or learning a new set of skills along the way. ☺

*Stephanie Gadoury
Ranger Media Arts*



Adventure Rangers Paddle the Red Deer River

Part 2

On Monday morning all the Rangers going on Adventure trips left Camp Woods for various destinations. Our group, Ultimate Canadian Paddle (1), would be paddling 100km down the Red Deer River.

We were full of excitement when we got on the bus and left camp heading for our destination an hour away. Arriving where our canoes were waiting, we made quick work of getting organized and on our way.

We couldn't believe what our eyes were seeing. The beautiful landscape was spectacular with amazing buttes dotted with trees, their geological layers evident through the fantastic colours seen from our canoes.

As our journey started we were about to find out just how much adventure we were going to have! We knew that the river level was low, but learned first-hand just how low things were. Quite often our canoes would get grounded in

the gravel bed of the river, which had us getting out and walking/ pushing our canoes to deeper water. Co-operation and team work was needed to not only get the canoe free, but to get back in the boat. There were plenty of fast "swifts" as well. These sections of the river put our steering skills to the test in order to avoid shallow gravel bars and larger rocks.

Camping out in the Alberta wilderness was absolutely stunning. On our second night, we stayed on crown land and nestled our tents along the river bank on a picture-perfect plateau. We woke up the next morning to the sun rising over the buttes, the birds singing and the air fresh and clean. What a treat!

Mother Nature threw all kinds of weather at us with a hodge-podge of sun, cloud, wind, rain, torrential rain and thunderstorms that had us pulling onto shore to wait things out. Our bags were wet, but our stuff was dry and our resolve never dwindled.

as Girl Guides, we have refused to let the weather get us down. People are still smiling and having fun even though they are wet and dirty. People are rating their rain gear on how well it held up in the last downpour. "Be prepared", says Kris McGee. "Having the proper footwear and staying dry is the key to having a fabulous time", reminding us that the mud is an obstacle and not a road block.

The rain could not even stop the MUCH video dance party in front of the stage. Hundreds of girls, Guiders and Core Crew gathered to dance in the rain, having a great time. Hot drinks were passed around, putting smiles on everyone's faces. A few donned

The abundance of rain was turning the shoreline into a quagmire of mud that was challenging to overcome. Often when trying to get out or into the canoes we sunk up to our thighs in the soft banks. Getting up the banks at take-outs was tricky as well, the trails slick with mud.

Neither the weather nor the river conditions ever got our spirits down. All we had to do was look around us and we were surrounded by beauty which changed our perspective quickly. As we paddled, we sang songs, told jokes and shared funny stories.

We don't know if our fingernails will ever be clean again or exactly how many mosquito bites we actually have; but we do know that this trip provided us memories that will last a lifetime and remind us of a Guiding experience that was truly out of this world. ☺

*Karla Armstrong
GM Journalist*

Welcome to Mud-saic!

Everyone agrees that the weather has been on our minds lately. With more rain than sun, the muddy areas around Camp Woods have grown at a rapid pace.

Trying to keep up, the Operations Crew has been working overtime tending to mud- and water-logged areas. They've created a nice boardwalk in front of the dining area, which we like to think is for our benefit, but is in fact in place so that service trucks will no longer get bogged down in mud. They also have put mulch in many places, the fragrance reminding many people of Christmas.

Despite the less than optimal weather conditions,

garbage bags to slide down the mud slope in front of the stage. When asked why they did it, they commented "We were tired of trying to stay clean and just went for it!" ☺

*Karla Armstrong
GM2016 Journalist*

