



*Hello, welcome December,
Seasons Greetings and
Happy New Year!!*



It's a busy month and a time where we start the goodbye to 2018, and wonder what 2019 will bring!

During November we hosted a very successful Oceans Day, where Guides explored marine species and ecosystems and learned about some of the issues currently facing our oceans and some of the ways they can help make a difference in their every day lives. And how cute is the crest the girls got?!



It was unfortunately that we had to cancel the Fall for Fitness event, Pathfinder/Ranger level as it didn't get the response we had hoped for. 2019 will continue to offer events for all Branches with hopes that November was just too close to the end of the year.



Guider engagement for **Girls First** sessions, 36% of NS Guiders participated before the end of October! And we're not done- Girls First Champions are ready and willing to come to your District / Area to help you with the Program- just let us know. They can be reached at NS.Champions@girlguides.ns.ca. Girls First is flexible, reactive to the needs of the girls and open to new ideas. We know this because Hannah Kosick (Ceilidh Area), is working with the National Program staff to develop an Oceans Challenge that will be incorporated into the Girls First Program. Awesome work Hannah!

Guiding Heart Award



I was very pleased to attend the 1st Windsor Park Pathfinder Unit and present the Guiding Heart Award to Sarah Tanner and Tara Boddy. Through 2017 & 2018 they embodied the Guiding spirit, well done ladies!



Congratulations to Colchester Trefoil Guild as they celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2018!

They are Keeping the Spirit Alive!



Membership Matters

Did you know NS remains the 4th largest membership province, quite the feat for a small province. But we can't rest on our laurels, our membership numbers are slowly dropping, so 2019 will focus on more of the issues we are facing and how we can make sure every girl and woman wants to join us - can! One initiative is the "Try Now, Join Later" program that NS has been offering. This program runs April through August and allow girls to join for free, try out a few meetings or special events (like camps!) and put them in the cue for Phase II registration for the fall. This program has been very successful in our province as well as other's. Data reflects a 70% retention rate for the girls that have utilized the program. Just think – a small adjustment, to accommodate these girls in April, could have a big impact and WOW the girl!

And speaking of 2019.....

GGC is launching an exciting new initiative in mid-July 2019: a mini "**How to Adult**" camp based on skill-building, self-care and wellness for 2nd and 3rd year Rangers, to help them develop the tools they need to feel prepared to transition into the next stage in their lives. We have heard many times from our members (Rangers in particular) that this is something they would be very interested in exploring in more depth. More information is available at www.girlguides.ca

The Guide Post, that was delivered to your email on Dec 6th, has lots of information on tips for inclusive winter celebrations, choosing a service project and How-to Adult Camp, and more- don't forget to check that out!

NS Event: All SySTEMs Go
May 11-12, 2019



Bringing your unit but still want to help?

We will take your help now and ensure you can still bring your unit. Don't have a unit and want to help, not to worry, there will be lots of ways to help during the event.

This is an amazing partnership opportunity that has been very successful in other provinces, so we don't want to miss out, but we need help to plan and execute. If you or someone you know would be perfect for a role on the Committee, or you would like to know more about the event, check out [Girl Events](#) or let us know. If you are excited to be a part of this event, then apply now at: [Volunteer now!](#) And fill out the Application: Event/Activity.

And that's not all, there will be winter Kwahee, Girls First Launch Party, Youth Recognition and much more coming your way in 2019! So stay tuned!

As 2018 comes to a close I would like to **Thank You**, on behalf of your Provincial Council, for all your work with our Guiding. For giving your time, your energy and your passion- we appreciate what you do and hope that you will get a moment to put your feet up and reflect on the happiness 2018 brought you and the possibilities of what 2019 will present.



Best wishes for the season, *Lorena*

Everything She Wants To Be

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." — Unknown