



Girl Guides

Nova Scotia Council

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Everything she wants to be.

2020

Nova Scotia Provincial Co-Commissioners Message,

The year 2020 started as usual for members of Guiding, we had Winter Kwahee in February, a favorite of our Guide aged girls, many Units took part in Thinking Day activities, the WAGGGS challenge and the Secret 3K!



Units and Councils were meeting and planning actives for the rest of the Guiding year. Then in mid-March life as we know it changed for us. Restrictions were put in place and our Guiders and girls being resilient responded and virtual Guiding became the norm in NS.

Spring arrived with warmer weather which brought encouragement for everyone to get outdoors. Guiding activities that we had experienced in the past, were not quite the same. Guiders took up the challenge to deliver a fun program for our girls, creating virtual camps, craft sessions and independent outdoor activities. As well, many adult activities also became virtual such as training and meetings. This was a new way of work for many. Interestingly it became more personal for many as we saw their family members pass by the screen as well as all the pets who wanted to be part of the meeting. National also took on the challenge to provide many resources for Unit Guiders and among them the badge-in-box program was born.



In May we bid Lorena Fortune our Provincial Commissioner a goodbye as PC when she finished her term, but this was by no means a goodbye to Guiding. For the first time NS inducted Provincial Co-Commissioners, Debbie Mellish (right) and Cindy O'Hearn (left).



Starting the new Guiding year in the fall, Nova Scotia Guiding was able to meet outdoors and a collective sigh went through our Guiding sisterhood. So many questions arose. How will we handle this? Where will we meet and what will we do? Once again Guiding in NS responded. Beautiful fall weather meant we could do our many hikes to explore our communities, go canoeing, have scavenger hunts, play wide games, the possibilities were endless. The feedback from our Guiders that many Units when they were able to, did not want to go indoors until the weather made it a necessity. The girls and Guiders were enjoying all the outdoor activities. The positive attitudes, the smiles and laughs of our girls helped all of us remember what Guiding is about. What started for many as that negative sigh, very quickly became an enjoyable experience for all.

To the Guiders in Nova Scotia, this could not have happened without you, you are the grease that makes the Guiding wheel in Nova Scotia continue to turn, because of you we were able to maintain 65% of our girl membership.

You as Unit Guiders, District Councils, Area Councils and the members of our Provincial Council made this happen. There is no amount of words that can thank each and every one of you for what you have done and continue to do to make Guiding for our girls fun and provide a safe space where they can be themselves.

Through all that has happened over the year and to all the new ideas tried you helped keep the girls engaged. You made the difference in the lives of many!

In closing we leave you with this quote:

*Life is like an ocean. It can be calm or still and rough or rigid,
but in the end, it is always beautiful.*

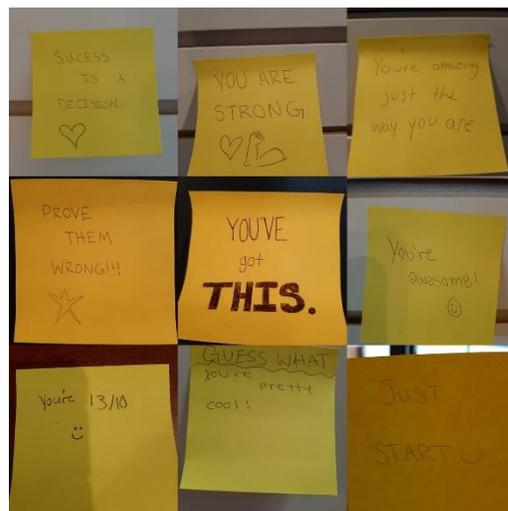
This past year we have all experienced more of the rough and rigid but remember it is still beautiful.

....Cindy & Debbie

Nova Scotia Youth Forum

Over the last year, the Youth Forum has contributed significantly to the development of Girl Guide programming, the organization of six virtual youth recognition ceremonies, and the upkeep of Guiding moral across the province.

When the pandemic first hit Nova Scotia in March 2020, the Youth forum of the time jumped right into action to create meaningful, virtual opportunities for our guiding sisters. The girls created a multi-weeklong challenge with activities to encourage girls to



#KeepTheGuidingSpiritAlive in Nova Scotia via social media. In the challenge, participants sewed badges on their camp blankets, created girl guide window displays, and learned about female leaders who inspire them. Additionally, the Youth Forum designed and shipped challenge crests to challenge participants to acknowledge their contributions to keeping the guiding spirit alive in Nova Scotia.



The 2019/2020 youth forum cohort also produced activity booklets for Sparks and Brownies to complete with some of their favorite activities. The girls also produced a video to celebrate 2019/2020 Girl Guide award recipients.

The 2020/2021 Youth Forum Cohort has been committed to delivering engaging youth recognition ceremonies for guiding award recipients. The team has been working on this project since early 2021 and we are excited to be presenting awards virtually for the first time in Guiding history in Nova Scotia!

The youth forum has also assisted with Girl Engagement initiatives such as Spirit Week and revamping diversity and inclusion programming. Additionally, each member of the Youth Forum has also taken on the role of Youth Representative on area councils throughout the province. The girls have been attending area council meetings, providing insight for councils and area commissioners, and supporting areas in content development.



I am so proud of the Youth Forum girls and all their achievements. I am beyond thankful for their support, commitment, and service to the Guiding movement and their drive to keep the guiding spirit alive here in Nova Scotia.

...Hannah

Ceilidh Area

To reword a famous Cape Breton phrase, Céad míle buíochas (meaning one hundred thousand thank you's) to all the wonderful Guiders in Ceilidh Area.



Covid-19 certainly has thrown numerous hurdles in our path. However, again, our Guiders have been up to the challenge. They have worked together, supporting each other, and provided a different but successful year of Guiding to the girls of Cape Breton.

(Feb 2020: 5th New Waterford Girl Guides, Sparks and Brownies celebrated Family Literacy Day at the New Waterford Library)

We have missed the comradery of in-person Guider gatherings.... especially the food!! However, we learned that we can meet successfully through Zoom and Teams. We have gotten to know each other through on-line games and enjoyed a Christmas treat of Mug Cake which made our meeting seem almost like a party.

Our unit Guiders have learned how to best help their girls enjoy each other and Guiding whether on on-line platforms, socially distanced meetings or outdoor activities. They have stretched themselves and grown through these experiences.

It has not been an easy year....who will ever forget the on-going challenges of cookies.....but it has, as usual, had its fun times.

Thank you again to all the awesome Guiders in Ceilidh Area. Let's look forward to fun and adventure in the 2021-2022 Guiding year where we will hopefully be able to eat, drink and SING together again!!

...Elizabeth, Gail and the members of the Ceilidh Area Council

Dartmouth Shore Area

When I bought a crest for my girls that reads "Try to keep calm, it's only 2020", I had no idea what the months ahead would bring.

Although it broke my heart, I was proud to see GGC shut down ahead of other groups to keep Guiders and girls safe. I am also proud to see how DSA Guiders have adapted to the changes we faced at all levels of Guiding and how they have stepped up to offer an engaging program to our girls. It hasn't been easy, but I have learned that the stuff that's toughest is most often the stuff that is most worth it.



Your girls will remember what you did for them. They will not see the frustration or the rushing around you did or perhaps even the tears, but they will know that they mattered, that you valued them, and they will recall the fun they had, albeit over a screen, as they looked at your smiles.

I have spoken to many of you about your frustrations, challenges, and triumphs. And, as a Guider myself, I understand. "Thank you" simply isn't enough to communicate how I feel about what you have all done for the girls.

Guiding has provided a safe place for our girls to feel a sense of normalcy at a time when seeing masked faces has somehow become "normal" to us.

- Never doubt the magic that is in each one of you.
- Never doubt that your special kind of magic has impacted the lives of girls and women in ways that you may never fully understand.

Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do. Thank you for the magic.

...Beth

The year has definitely come with more than its' share of challenges but as we look back on this Guiding year, we can hopefully say that we have grown and become better because of it all. I truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of our volunteers as they continue to keep the girls at the center of everything we do.

...Crystle

Maplewood Area

There is no doubt that this year has been a challenge on many levels, but in true Guiding fashion, our Guiders have taken them in stride and provided the best program, to our girls, across a multitude of platforms. You have set an amazing example of resourcefulness and flexibility for our girls and made this incredibly difficult time a little more normal, for them.

We always say that we wouldn't be here without the girls and that's true, but the girls wouldn't be here without you!! You are the reason they keep coming back, you are the face of Guiding in Nova Scotia.

At a time when it might have been easier to take a step back, you chose to lean in. Your commitment and passion for Guiding is what keeps Guiding alive and what makes us stronger.

I am extremely lucky to work with so many amazing women and feel especially grateful to call so many of you my friends. Thank You for everything you do and everything you give to Guiding and our girls.

...Jennifer

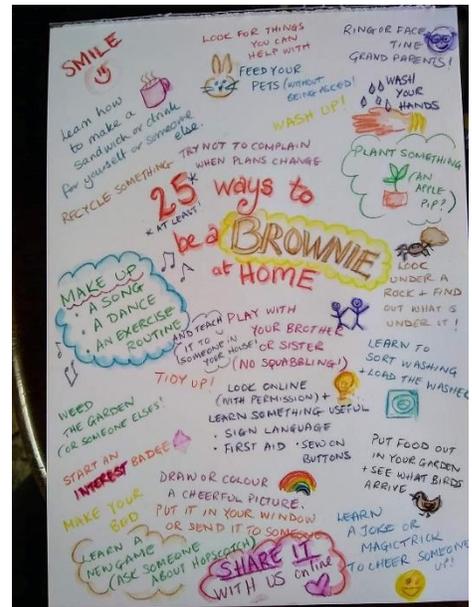
Tri-Waters

2020 has been a year in the history books, not only in our personal lives, but for Guiding as well.

I am very overwhelmed by the resilience shown by our Guiding community in TWA – they have pushed through the pandemic with passion to continue with Guiding for the girls and other Guiding members.



Our leaders continued to be innovative and creative in planning, even at a distance – doing community clean ups, acts of kindness, food drives, giving Guiding a presence at senior's homes, paint nights, planting flowers, outdoor adventures, campfires, and scavenger hunts. And the presence of Guiding virtually, continued the sense of normalcy for the girls, and leaders came up with innovative ways to continue to engage their units and have fun! Bravo!



To the Guiders in TWA - Your leadership, care, and good hearts have shown through during this difficult and trying time. Thank you for being a beacon of positivity and purpose in a time where many are uncertain. It is said that it is in the most difficult times that the truth of a person's soul is seen. You all have put your heart and soul into continuing to provide a Guiding program for our members, despite many obstacles. I see you, recognize you, applaud you and am truly grateful. You are marvelous!

...Vicki

Girl Engagement

Although 2020 offered its unique challenges that hasn't stopped Guiding in Nova Scotia! Guides all across the province met virtually to participate in Kwahee.



The only in person camping opportunity was Winter Kwahee 2020! Kwahee is an annual camp where Guide age girls from all over the province come together to learn new skills, share in the sisterhood, and most importantly have fun!



The rest of 2020 looked a little different but was still a great success!

And 2021 is looking better- Kwahee continued virtually with 37 girl participants getting to experience all that Kwahee had to offer, this time from the comfort of their own homes!

Our team is working effortlessly to deliver programs such as Guiding Trivia and Learn to Draw nights to every branch of Guiding while we are unable to meet in person.

We thank all the Guiders who have made these virtually event happen. You are the heart of Guiding and this year wouldn't have been as great as it was without you

...Olivia

Member Services

Our adult members are a group of dedicated women who were inspirational during the past year! During a time when Guiding could have suffered significantly, our Guiders stepped up to ensure the girls were welcomed and engaged, which was proven by our membership numbers.

In a year when girls could have easily dropped Guiding from their lives, we were pleased to experience a 67% membership rate compared to the previous year!

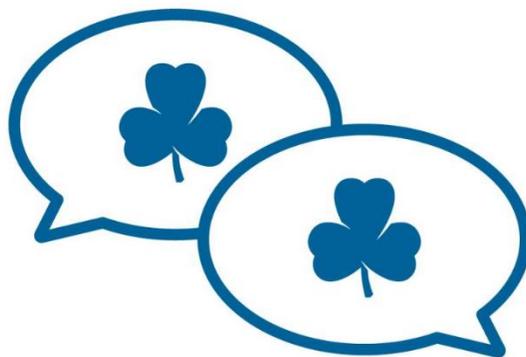
	2020-21				2019-20		2019-20	
	Cumulative Total	New	Retained	Returned	Cumulative Total	% compared to same time last year	Total Count (Feb 3rd)	% of 2019-20 total
Girls	2,921	736	2,137	48	4,324	67.55%	4,364	66.93%
Guiders	703	56	572	75			893	78.72%
Total	3,624	792	2,709	123			5,257	

Training provided many online opportunities for a variety of courses reaching more guiders than we could have expected! The Trefoil Guilds continued to gather "virtually" for support and to enjoy in the "Sisterhood of Guiding". The Link Members also connected to keep in touch and network while still maintaining busy schedules with school and work commitments. Once the office was closed, the Archives Team, obviously took a step back but remain committed to ensuring the historical records and memories will continue to be preserved. And finally, the PR & Social Media Team did their best to keep everyone sprits up with updates on Facebook and the website.

I wish to thank the entire Member Services Team for their dedication and support.

...Carrie

Here are some pictures of some pre Covid fun!



Acknowledgements

Nova Scotia Council would like to acknowledge the following:

*Guiding Members – Volunteers - Parents - Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia - Clergy
and Places of Worship - KPMG - Community and Service Clubs Municipal/Town
Councils - RCMP/Local Police – Saint John Ambulance - Provincial School Boards.*

NS Bursary Awards

Youth Members:

*Ava Richter- Harvest Trail, Sophie Keddy- Harvest Trail,
Madison George- Harvest Trail, Shannon Ouellette- Ceilidh, Sarah Purcell- Ceilidh.*

Guider : Jennifer Wills –Tri Waters

Special Thanks to Provincial Office Staff:

*Cindy Barrett, Peggy MacPhie, Devon Brady Thompson,
Trudy Sangster, Dani Brown, Miriam MacDonald*



On behalf of Nova Scotia Provincial Council, we send our sincere thoughts to those
members who have lost loved ones during 2020.