



# National Rally Day - May 15, 2010

2907 Members Celebrated 100 Years of Guiding on National Rally Day May 15th in Nova Scotia. What a success it was!

We hosted three sites in Nova Scotia. Yarmouth, Mariner Centre had 260 Members in attendance, Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre had 679 and Halifax Forum had 1968. Each site had the main activities in common but there were local variations.



From the time the girls arrived and gave their donation to the Food Banks to the singing of Taps they had a great time. At every site the day was filled with singing and dancing, and every girl learned at least one new thing about communication



- how to spell their name in Morse Code, or use Semaphore to send messages.

Some of them learned Braille or participated in Singing telegrams or used a ham radio. They all took a walk through time and saw pictures of Girl Guides camping in dresses, were impressed by actual old uniforms and insignia and hats! They met our Founders and saw pictures of local Guiders when they were in Brownies and Guides.



Each girl was given an Activity booklet containing questions to answer from the Time Line, and other Guiding-themed activities - word searches, crossword puzzles and coloring pages for the Sparks. It also included Morse code, Semaphore and finger spelling, for more fun later. They also enjoyed the Autograph page at the back.



Each one of our girls filled out a Post Card to send to the Troops in Afganistan. They colored the front and filled in the blanks on the back with their name, and what unit they were from and could even write their own message if they wished. In Port Hawkesbury there were even special mailboxes to "mail" them in. The post cards have since been sent overseas with two cases of cookies. It has been noted that some of the personal messages were very emotional. The Guiders and girls were very enthusiastic about this project.



Altogether we donated about 3000 lbs of food to the local food banks in the three communities. One site reported that the Feed Nova Scotia truck was not going to make it to their community that weekend because it had broken down, but the local food bank told them not to worry as

the Girl Guides were donating food that would probably look after them for a couple of days – needless to say they were overwhelmed when they came to pick up the 1000 lbs of food at that site alone.



As well as bringing food to donate to start their day at the Rally, our members wrote pledges on leaves all day telling us what they plan to do to 'end extreme poverty and hunger'. It was quite wonderful to watch the bare branches of the Hunger Trees at each site become greener and greener as the leaves filled out during the day We hope to have a tally soon and the results will be posted to our Nova Scotia website under "Hunger Tree Project".



In Yarmouth the girls were able to learn even more about the issues of hunger and poverty, with their “Eradicate Hunger Game,” and then they planted a real tree outside at the Mariner’s Centre. The tree was donated and Western Landscaping oversaw the planting with the help of a Spark, Brownie, Guide, Pathfinder and a Ranger along with the oldest member of Guiding in Yarmouth, Iris Richards at the young age of 89. Girls from Harbourside Area also made a video of the Stone Soup story, shown at each site, to remind everyone of how even a little contribution can mean a lot.



The Bracelets National sent were a big hit and they loved the large crest to remember the day. When the evaluations were received they loved the Dancing—everyone participated in the fun “Bollywood” style dance especially created for the day, and two of the sites also had an African Dance Session with leaders and drummers from the Maritime Centre for African Dance. This was very popular and they had the Girls and Guiders fully engaged for a 45 minute session.



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The Yarmouth site had a variety of international activities with 9 International High School students from three countries - Mexico, Brazil and Columbia as the facilitators. The Mexican girls had 3 piñatas filled with candy for the girls to enjoy, The Brazilian girls taught a song and the girls from Columbia taught a dance.



Each site had the local Mayor in attendance and our Halifax site had several MLA’s and MP’s in attendance.

Our Campfires were the perfect traditional ending, with something for everyone from the beloved Guiding standard “On My Honour” to popular nonsense ones (mashed Bananas anyone?) to, of course, Taps. When one little Spark said, “I don’t want to go home yet”, I think that summed it up. A great time was had by all!



***Happy 100th Anniversary!***

