

## **2023 Report**

### **Woodlawn United Church Scout Group**

1st Woodlawn Scouting is still going strong, at the close of 2023 membership numbers were 80 youth and 20 Scouters for a total membership of 100. We continue to offer quality programs in the Beaver (5-7), Cub (8-10), Scout (11-14), Venturer (15-17) and Rover (18-25) Sections.

In January, the Woodlawn A Pack was reinstated, meeting Wednesday evenings during the winter and spring. Sadly, one of the A Pack Scouters was seriously injured in a car accident in early April and was unable to continue his Scouting role. Pack returned to a single group meeting on Thursday evenings.

In April we held our first Kubkar rally since the covid pandemic as an outdoor event for Woodlawn Scouting youth and their families. The tracks were set up outdoors near the pond. Woodlawn Beavers and Cubs raced their Buggies and Kubkars, and Scouts assisted.

Scouters noted during this season that Covid wasn't over yet, and reflected on ways to promote the mental health of our youth following the social and emotional effects of the pandemic lockdowns. Whenever possible, meeting activities were held outdoors.

In May we held a Woodlawn Group weekend camp at Camp Harris, another post-pandemic first. Scouters, Senior Youth, and Camp Committee hosted a series of stations for the youth, including cooking bannock, making walking staves, suction cup archery, and trebuchet.

The moving up ceremony for each section took place in June, before the summer break.

During the summer, one of our Scouts attended the World Scouting Jamboree in South Korea. In the fall season, we had a Group fundraiser selling pies and coffee. Woodlawn Scouting youth from all sections participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremony held at Cole Harbour Place.

This year, 4 of our Scouts received their Chief Scout Award. 10 Scouters received Certificates of Commendation from Scouts Canada for their service to the organization, 3 Scouters were presented with a medal for Good Service, and 1 a medal of Merit.

2023 saw some significant changes in our volunteer team. We said farewell to our long-time treasurer, who was presented with a medal for Good Service. After serving for 6 years as Group Commissioner, George Mawko has stepped down, succeeded by Pack Scouter Anne Fay. George continues to serve on Woodlawn Scouts Group Committee as Treasurer. In September, one of our long-term Troop Scouters retired from his Scouter role at Woodlawn after over 25 years of service (6 years with Pack, the remainder with Troop), and has joined the Camp Harris Camp Committee.

Our prospects for 2024 look good. All of our sections are active and looking forward to attending planned section meetings, hikes and camps. A Pack will reopen in September 2024 for youth who thrive in a smaller and quieter group environment.

Please note that we welcome all inquiries about our program and are always happy to take on new members and volunteers. All sections are co-ed. Scouts Canada is the country's leading co-ed youth organization, offering youth-led programming for children and youth ages 5-26. Our program includes both indoor and outdoor meeting activities in addition to hikes and overnight camps, in alignment with Scouts Canada's Mission: to help develop well-rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world.

On behalf of the Youth and Scouters of 1st Woodlawn Scouting Group, I would like to thank Woodlawn United Church for your sponsorship.

Respectfully,  
Anne Fay  
Group Commissioner  
1st Woodlawn Scouting Group