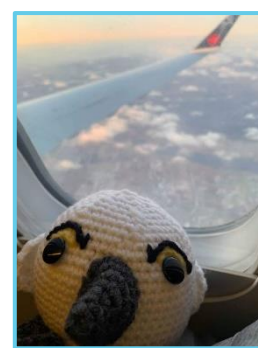


Girl Guides

Newfoundland and Labrador Council

Annual Report 2019-2020



Provincial Commissioner's Message

What a year it has been!

2019-2020 was a busy and exciting year for Girl Guides of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Girls First Program introduced in 2018 completed its first year and Girls and Guiders are enjoying the benefits. This Girl-Driven approach creates a safe space making all girls feel welcome, listened to, and respected. Through exploring their interests and potential, challenging themselves and breaking out of their comfort zones, girls are able to use a growth mindset while engaging in their community through service and action projects. Girls can explore their interests in a non-judgmental way regardless of ability, while challenging stereotypes through shared leadership between girls and Guiders. Girls are involved in planning, decision making, and sharing information. Girls choose their program and voice what is important to them. Girls and Guiders work as a team, share responsibilities, and support each other.

During the summer of 2019, Newfoundland and Labrador held its first Interprovincial camp- DAWN- at Killdevil campgrounds in Gros Morne. Over 400 participants and core crew from across the country learned about NL history, completed service challenges, sang campfire songs, dressed like Vikings, backpacked through the National park, and explored the Tablelands. From interactions with girls and Guiders alike, everyone had a great time and it was a very successful camp!

The Fall of 2019 saw Units, Districts, and Areas start a new Guiding year filled with campfires, hiking, girl driven programming, and community involvement. Girls took on new challenges and engaged in activities to build leadership and independence. Provincial Council planned training sessions for new and experienced Guiders, Provincial camp for summer 2020 and an AIISySTEMsGo! event in partnership with the Atlantic Association for Research in Mathematical Sciences and Memorial University. The Cookie committee has worked hard to increase our cookie numbers for the province, successfully increasing cookie sales by 3%.

In March 2020, Guiding as we knew it came to a halt as the Covid-19 pandemic moved into Newfoundland and Labrador. Guiding and the world are in unprecedented times. All in-person meetings, events and activities have been cancelled for the remaining of the 2020 Guiding year. However, Guiding is a resilient organization and with the help of great Guiders, Guiding@Home was brought to light. Girls and Guiders have educated each other about new ways of communication and programming that can be carried out through social media or platforms such as Skype or Zoom. This has been a learning curve for all members, but girls and Guiders have taken on the challenge and are succeeding with flying colors.

Let's continue to strive to be "Everything she wants to be", through being "a catalyst for girls empowering girls" and believing in "a better world, by girls".

Brandi O'Keefe

Provincial Commissioner



Con Ba Su Area – Georgina Laine

Enthusiastic Guiders brought Guiding back to Long Pond District!

Throughout the Area, Units visited fire halls, Taylor's Pumpkin Patch, Manuals River, Government House, and attended Remembrance Day Ceremonies and Santa Claus Parades. Units and Districts also held International Day of the Girl events, elections activities during the Federal Election, and Guiding Granny camps and sleepovers.

The Area held a Guider Retreat in January where they made hats and scarfs to give to the homeless.

The Con Ba Su Hut has been booked most weekends. Repairs were made to the back stairs at the Hut, and the Hut now has a website for bookings and information. The website is: <https://nl-conbasuhut.wixsite.com/mysite>. COVID-19 has dramatically affected the Hut bookings as no camping or events could be held this spring.



Eastern Bays Area – Sheri Higdon

In Discovery District, Sparks participated in a World Centres night and collected for CWFF and had an online mummies parade. The Catalina and Bonavista Brownies participated in a challenge to celebrate 100 years of Brownies. Heritage District Units had a presentation from search and rescue and had an artist visit to lead a paint night. Units held a Thinking Day event with the Marystown Scouts units. Sparks donated mint cookies to first responders. Pathfinders in Burin planned a Thinking Day event for Sparks, Brownies, and Guides. Science of Christmas District event was planned by Pathfinders and included a pancake breakfast and visit from Santa. Provincial Commissioner Brandi O'Keefe attended the event with Phoebe the Puffling.



Long Range Trails Area – Maureen Tiller

Three Rangers from Humber Valley District attended the Learn-to-Adult Camp in Calgary, Alberta over the summer.

Units held camps, participated in Remembrance Day & Christmas parades, went carolling in Senior's homes, made cards for military members, did service projects for animal shelters, libraries, seniors homes, & women's centres and painted rocks for public parks. They held International nights, had guest speakers, learned new baking & sewing skills, and tried skiing & snowshoeing. Units also visited RCMP depots, fire halls, libraries, town halls, the MUN Fine Arts Centre, and grocery stores. The Ranger units organized a Cookie Blitz, Halloween haunted house and games night, as well as designed the decorations for the Christmas Parade floats.

Stephenville District held a weekend of the winter camping and started Guide-Scout week with a campfire. The District also hosted a supper for Trefoil members in January. Units celebrated World Thinking Day with campfires, Zumba, games, swimming, and movie nights. Wreckhouse District held a Guider luncheon on February 22.

Northern Mosaic Area – Vacant

Lake Melville District had an “Under the Sea” Advancement and held a Halloween Day Camp, a Thinking Day Ice Cream afternoon, and an event on International Women’s Day. Youth members lead the Take Back the Night march. Sparks held a mock election using supplies provided by Elections Canada and took a tour of a helicopter hanger, which included trying the communications equipment. Brownies made ornaments and distributed them, along with Girl Guide cookies, while carolling in the community. Pathfinders helped with singing and navigating the street safely. Brownies and Guides made dog toys for the SPCA and handed out hot chocolate at a community craft sale. Guides visited a science lab at College of the North Atlantic to examine specimens using microscopes. A Canada Cord ceremony was held for girls who earned their awards in 2019. Members of the Big Land Trefoil Guild painted ceramics and baked dog treats for the SPCA. A Guider potluck was held to celebrate Thinking Day.

The Cartwright Guiding Unit went on a hike to Flagstaff and picked some berries in the fall. The winter brought skating on an outdoor rink and a sleepover.

Pathfinders in St. Anthony District attended a Pumpkin Festival in Pasadena, held a paint night, a cookie bake-off, and made dresses for children in Africa.



Ocean's Edge Area – Lisa Engram

An Area Sparks Fun Day event was held where Sparks learned outdoor skills. An Area Camp was held at Lavrock for Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders, and Rangers. Pathfinders and Rangers had a Fun Day that included a Downtown Hunt and a 40th Anniversary Party for Pathfinders afterwards.

In Shamrock District, Fermeuse-Renews units participated in service projects for Threads for Gemma and the Gathering Place. The Ferryland Units carried out service projects for Food Banks, the Gathering Place, and sent Christmas cards and Newfoundland items to active soldiers overseas during the holidays. Guides had a Hardware store scavenger hunt.

In Witless Bay District members spent time at the local senior's home. Brownies played bingo with the residents and brought them prizes. Guides played trivia and had a campfire singalong. Pathfinders and Rangers worked with residents to setup and run a Haunted House for the community. The District also hosted a family night at a Newfoundland Growlers hockey game.

Marconi District units had guest speakers visit and went to their Fire department, Clay Café, Happy Tree, Admiralty House, and Ronald MacDonald house. A District wide Halloween Party and Breakfast with Santa brought lots of food bank donations to Saint Vincent De Paul society.

The Goulds District participated in Remembrance Day parade and the Santa Clause Parade. They held a very successful Community Pancake Breakfast with Santa and a District Guider Christmas social at Full House restaurant.



Trefoil Central Area – Melanie Moores

Over the summer Units hosted day camps, residential camps at Loon Bay, and camped in tents at local campgrounds. Many members headed to Gros Morne to take part in DAWN 2019. The Area had members on the steering committee, core crew, full patrols and independent girls attend.

Centennial District welcomed 2 exchange students to their Ranger unit and the Pathfinder unit expanded 5 times from 4 to 21! Centennial District also opened a Trex Unit in for girls interested in working towards their Duke of Edinburgh.

Units went caroling at Senior's Homes and held Food Drives & Stocking Drives. When the snow came Units went sliding, skiing, snowshoeing, and held winter camps. Thinking Week activities were enjoyed with campfires, bowling parties, and potlucks throughout the Area. Some units also took part in the WAGGGS Living Threads Thinking Day activities.

Units are meeting online and have youth working towards their awards, including the Lady Baden-Powell and Citizenship Awards.



Tuckamore Area – Catherine Barry

Seventeen members from Killick Coast District travelled to Our Chalet during the summer. Torbay Rangers held a campfire at Middle Cove Beach. Pathfinders and Rangers donated gifts to the Happy. Pouch Cove Sparks embraced diversity and inclusion by learning their promise in American Sign Language.

Parkside District held an Advancement Campfire event. The Guides and Pathfinders had a five-night camp where the camp theme changed each day. Pathfinders and Rangers had a visit from the Code Mobile to learn computer science. Virtual meetings were held for where Brownies celebrated their 100th Anniversary, Guides had a virtual visit from the Pacific Island Fish and Wildlife Service from Hawaii, and Pathfinders & Rangers painted Bob Ross style. Guiders completed the Sisterhood Challenge and learned about fashion, sewed hair scrunchies, and played retro video games.

In Jellybean Row District, Guides, Trex, and Rangers took a trip to the Southern Shore and completed the NL Heritage Challenge. Units participated in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup and had a visit from the Lieutenant Governor. Other activities included overnight hikes, Fairy Walks, seeing the musical Matilda at the Arts and Culture Center.

East Coast District hosted a space themed District Camp and participated in TD Tree Days in Mount Pearl, where they helped plant 450 plants at the Smallwood Sports complex.

Waterford Valley District held a camp where they tried compass work and outdoor cooking. Sparks had a Winter Day Camp. Brownies visited the Botanical Gardens for the Halloween Howl. Pathfinders attended a Mystery Box Food Challenge at the Thyme Catering and Cooking School. Rangers attended the Habitat for Humanity Chocolate Gingerbread House competition, and made gift bags and lasagna for the Naomi House residents.

Braya District Brownies collected coats for the Rabbit Town Community Center. Brownies & Guides made cards for the residents of Agnes Prat. Pathfinders & Rangers attended the GEO Center Haunted House and made ornaments for the Government House tree.

Youth Forum – Nicole O'Brien

The Youth Forum started in September with an entirely new council. Members began planning the annual Youth Gathering. The theme chosen was Hollywood – Lights! Camera! Gathering! There were 35 girls registered and the schedule included a character theme dance, tie-dying, a presentation from an author, a special effects makeup artist, a visit from Miss Newfoundland and Labrador, a yoga session, and an interactive Jeopardy game. The weekend service project was a book drive with plans to donate books to Ronald McDonald House, Stella's Circle, and high schools. The Youth Gathering has been postponed to next year.

The Youth Forum worked with National to move the 2018-2019 Youth Forum's service project (Animal Awareness) onto the Girls First platform. The 2019-2020 Youth Forum volunteered to finish the development of this project. The project is ready to be launched as soon as we get the go ahead! To celebrate 40 Years of Pathfinders, the Youth Forum hosted a social media challenge encouraging people to post pictures of themselves in Pathfinders and created activities for such as a Girl Guide Bingo.

Elected Member, Properties – Stephanie Walsh

The focus of the Elected Member, Properties this year has been the re-development of the Girl Guides property on Pinchgut Lake, which is situated on the west coast of Newfoundland. In May, 2020, we signed an agreement with a local contracting company who will be building a new camp chalet on our waterfront property in exchange for some of the excess land. Development will begin in May 2020 and will hopefully be completed in time for the 2021 camping season. The property will be administered by the Long Range Trails Area camping committee.

Membership Committee – Deidra Howlett

The Membership Committee took part in the St. John's Pride Parade and the Downtown Christmas Parade. They also hosted information booths at the Regatta and Kids Expo. Through the winter they held a Link-Trefoil Holiday Social and a Frozen 2 Movie Event with about 1700 attendees. The Thinking Week Scavenger hunt had 100 groups participating across our province and the country. Currently, the Membership Committee is running a Memories Month campaign on social media.

Program Committee – Erika Parrill

The Program Committee rolled out a new Provincial Challenge "Recognize, React, Repair: Interacting with our natural world". They've updated several existing Provincial Challenges to include program connections for the Girls First program and reviewed all Provincial Challenges for content and retired outdated Provincial Challenges

The Committee is currently working with the National Program Committee and Provincial Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for awarding of high school credits for completion of Ranger programming

International Committee – Mackenzie Furey

Due to the ongoing travel restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all 2020 travel events have been rescheduled. This includes the provincially sponsored patrol for SOAR and the provincially sponsored trip to Our Chalet. The Committee is hopeful that both can be rescheduled for 2021. An adult member trip to Our Cabana for the "Magical Firefly Forest" is also being planned for 2021.

Cookie Committee – Daphne Slade

In spring 2019 we received 9480 cases of Classic Cookies. In fall 2019 we received saw 9941 cases of Mint Cookies



Area	Classic 2019	Mint 2019
Con Ba Su	1601	1413
Eastern Bays	1399	1330
Long range Trails	1102	1253
Northern Mosaic	664	784
Oceans Edge	1261	1322
Trefoil Central	1203	1257
Tuckamore	2070	2432
Province	150	150
NL Total	9480	9941



Camping Committee – Andrea Greening

The Camping Committee planned "The Mighty Girl Guides Games", a Provincial Camp for July 2020. There was a team of 15 Guiders planning this event. A Guide from 3rd Chamberlains Guides designed the crest for the camp. Two weeks before the registration deadline there were 44 Guides, 28 Pathfinders, 2 Rangers and 31 Guiders registered. Unfortunately, the camp has been postponed due to COVID-19, but hopefully will be re-scheduled for 2021.



PR & Communications- Victoria Battcock

The Public Relations and Communications Committee made social media posts during Volunteer Week and are currently working on a campaign to increase membership. Cookie partnerships coverage has been very well received and are popular on social media.

Training Committee – Sarah Hawkins

In the fall the Training Committee had several online and in person trainings to help Guiders get ready for a great year of guiding. The Committee welcomed 4 new trainer candidates. Plans are underway for conference in fall 2020.