

SCOUTING AND GUIDING

The first Canadian company of Girl Guides to be registered was one in St. Catherines, in 1910. In 1912 a Canadian Council was set up for Guiding and in 1917 a Charter of Incorporation was granted by the Canadian Government. Lady Mary Pellatt, wife of Sir Henry Pellatt, the man who built Canada's only castle, "Casa Loma" in Toronto, was the first Chief Commissioner for Canada. In 1921 the Provinces began organization and a gradual decentralization has evolved with areas, Divisions and Districts, being formed under the guidance a commissioner was appointed by the Chief Commissioner.

Canada has been a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts since its formation in 1928 and sends delegates to its biennial meetings and to other international gatherings.

The Canadian Council of the Girl Guides' Association is affiliated with many national organizations for educational and recreational development, and also has Co-operating Societies, e.g. Salvation Army and Kindred Societies, Catholic Women's League, Women's Auxillary of the Church of England and Federation des Femmes Canadiennes Francaises, that directly sponsor companies of Guides and Rangers and Brownie Packs.

The Canadian Girl Guides' Association has two specialized branches. The Extension for handicapped physically or mentally and the Lone for girls who live in remote districts.

In 1945 a Canadian Guide World Friendship Fund was established for the promotion of guiding throughout the world. The Post Box service has been a means of many friendships being formed and whole companies are sometimes linked as International Friendship Companies.

SCOUTING AND GUIDING

Camping has always been a feature of guiding and has grown in interest ever since the very first Canadian camp in 1911. This section of Guiding is administered by a graded group of Camp Advisors.

The Canadian Council publishes two magazines per month, the "Guide" and the "Guider" by which leaders and girls alike can keep abreast with new methods and keep the standards of the organization high and on an even keel.

SCOUTING AND GUIDINGGUIDING IN RODNEY

As early as April 1921 our local branch of Institute women became interested in Girl Guiding and a committee was appointed to look into the matter of forming a local group: Mrs. William McDonald, Mrs. (Dr.) Dorland, Mrs. J. B. Stinson, Mrs. E. G. Lusty and Mrs. J. J. Misteale.

At an organization meeting in May 1921, Miss Geraldine Patterson of Windsor explained the origin, aims and requirements and offered to help in the training of a few girls to be leaders for Rodney groups. A number of girls joined at this meeting and a local Council of Women was set up with the following officers: President, Mrs. H. W. Thomson; Vice President, Mrs. Dan McPherson; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Brubaker; Company Mother Mrs. Margaret Bisnett.

The first Guide Captain was Miss Barclay and in a short time the Brownies were also organized with Ada Brubaker the first Brownie Owl. Mention is made in the Council minutes of conjunction with Mr. Kitchen, the Scoutmaster, so we know Scouting was also organized in Rodney at that time. The keen interest and inspiration of this early council of women saw the Guides attending annual church parades and camping at New Glasgow.

On March 8th 1922, 1st Rodney Company of Girl Guides was registered with Headquarters and the Certificate of Registration was signed by Mr. H. D. Warren who became our second Chief Commissioner, for Canada, in 1921 and remained in office for twenty-one years.

From time to time, as the years passed, the Services of new Captains and Brown Owls were secured keeping the activities

SCOUTING AND GUIDING

of the Brownies and Guides almost continuous. When regular leaders could not be secured the ladies of the Association allotted themselves by two's to visit and help the girls at their meetings. The enthusiasm of these women and their eager participation in the various activities of guiding speaks well for the wholesomeness and practicability of the organization of guiding and should command our deep appreciation of what they have done and also those who came from Headquarters from time to time to give new inspiration and training.

Among the Captains and Brown Owls who gave generously of their time and talent over the years since the Rodney Branches were organized are Misses Ester and Mildred Mistele; Miss Jessie McKercher; Miss Alice Patterson; Misses Helen, Mabel and Jean Thomson; Miss Witty; Miss Boyes; Mrs. A. C. Steele; Miss Burn; Miss B. McColl; Miss McNeil; Miss Freda Kelly; Mrs. Russel Mistele; Miss Kathryn Mistele; Miss Marie Easton; Miss Marian Mistele; Miss Grace Graham; Eileen Katzenmeyer; Ella Aggerholm; Margaret Oliver; Evelyn Sherman; Mrs. Wagner; Mrs. (Dr.) Whittaker; Shirley Fordham; Leone Martini; Mrs. Scott Menzies; Miss Helen Coles; Marian Patterson; Mrs. Mabel Campbell; Miss Florence Caufield; Mrs. Horace Mylrea; Margaret Mylrea; Mrs. Homer VanDeBogart and Mrs. Dorothy Roe.

Among the ladies other than those already mentioned the Council of Women or (Local Association sometimes so called) were Mrs. A. J. Liebner; Mrs. B. Eggert; Mrs. Frank Janaway; Mrs. Levi Miller; Mrs. Angus McGugan; Mrs. William Katzenmeyer; Mrs. Neil Graham; Mrs. H. A. Mistele; Mrs. Tom Davies; three serving as Secretary were Mrs. Clare Crawford; Mrs. Carl Wray and Mrs. A. C. Steele. In 1924 when Mrs. Margaret Bisnett was

SCOUTING AND GUIDING

elected President Mrs. H. W. Thomson became Guide Mother and retained that position during her life time. In 1926 Mrs. D. N. Walker was elected President. In 1933 Mrs. John Tunks became President and served until 1939 when Mrs. G. A. McLevey took over as President. Mrs. McLevey had already served as President from 1929 to 1933 and as secretary during several terms. She also served as District Commissioner from 1927 until 1950. In 1951, in accordance with the new arrangement that Commissioners be appointed for a 3 year term and at the end of that time are eligible for one more 3 year term. Mrs. H. W. Mylrea, Captain of 1st Rodney Company was appointed District Commissioner for the newly formed District of West Elgin. Mrs. Jack Flum kindly offered to be Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Association and these two women with the aid of an elaborate but efficient board of testers and other camp-minded mothers sponsor the guide movement in Rodney at the present time, 1955.

In 1950 when Mrs. Carl Wray retired as Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Association she was presented with a Thanks Badge by the Girl Guides and it was explained to her that the Badge was in appreciation of her long and faithful service to Guiding and that at any time, she was entitled to the services of a Girl Guide.

In 1952 a Thanks Badge especially designed for Guiders and Commissioners was presented by the Girl Guides to Mrs. G. A. McLevey and the following presentation address was read:

GUIDES PRESENT THANKS BADGE TO

MRS. McLEVEY

Highlights of Open House held by the Girl Guides on Wednesday, June 25th, 1952, was the Presentation by the Company of a Thanks Badge to the retiring District Commissioner Mrs. G. A. McLevey. The badge was pinned on by Audrey Krause, Company Leader, and Marian VanDeBogart read the following address:

Mrs. McLevey: ---

Tonight Rodney Girl Guides wish to express their appreciation and sincere thanks to you for what you have done to keep the organization alive and flourishing in this district. We know there are many discouragements, encountered in the work; that the benefits and training cannot be measured or estimated: that this work often seems unappreciated and support often proves very discouraging: but you Mrs. McLevey read the wit and courage through a long number of years to give of your time, interest and talents helping to keep this worthwhile programme before the girls of this community.

For some time now we have wished to show our appreciation to you. At the time we presented Mrs. Wray with a Thanks Badge such a badge had been set forth especially for retiring Guiders and Commissioners.

We of the 1st Rodney Company, are sincerely appreciative of your interest in the movement. We are glad to have you as the Hostess Tester. We are pleased that you are again able to walk about and hope when we have Open House again you will be able to attend.

Pictures and write up of Rodney Girl Guides Camping at New Glasgow.

THE HISTORY OF RODNEY BAPTIST CHURCH

When in the year 1872 The Canada Southern Railroad, "now New York Central Lines", was built, the Hamlet Village of Rodney moved about one mile south to the Station.

A small hall was the centre of all community gatherings, and here Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodists, and Disciples held occasional religious services.

In the year 1876, Mr. Alex McIntyre came from Wallacetown and established a Baptist Mission in Rodney. After some time the Rev. Peter Carry came and preached at Palmyra, Rodney, and Alborough Plains and it was largely through Rev. Carry's efforts that this Church was built in the year 1879.

The lot on which the Church was erected was given by Nicol Kingsmill of Toronto for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00). The Trustees of this transaction were:

Rev. Peter Carry
Mr. Hugh Hillman
Mr. Neil Gray

all of the township of Alborough.

The stone for the foundation was given by Deacon Carry of Palmyra, the father of Rev. Carry, and was taken from his farm at Palmyra. The Mason work on the foundation was done by Mr. John Hitzel, assisted by Mr. Archie Gray.

The Contract for the carpenter work was also taken by Mr. Archie Gray, who with his father, Mr. Neil Gray, and Mr. Hugh Hillman built the Church which was 30ft. by 50ft. in size for the sum of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars.

The large double chimney was built and the building plastered by Mr. N. S. Lusty for the sum of Forty Five (\$45.00) Dollars. Five dollars of this amount was donated by Mr. Lusty towards the

THE HISTORY OF RODNEY BAPTIST

expense.

The Pulpit and Arms for the seats were made and donated by Mr. Chas. Jennings of Clachan. These arms are still on the seats.

The entire cost of the building was Thirteen Hundred (\$1300.00) Dollars. So a mortgage for Three Hundred and Twenty Five (\$325.00) Dollars @ 9% interest was given to the Southern Loan Co. Three years later the Mortgage was reduced to Two Hundred and Eighty Seven (\$287.00) Dollars and was transferred to Mr. Laban Schnekenburger with interest @ 8%. The Mortgage was finally paid off with some assistance from the Mission Board.

From time to time the Church Building has been repaired but its sturdy condition after many years speaks well for the builders.

For a few years it was used by the Evangelical Congregation before they built their own place of worship, and it was also used by the Presbyterians during their period of uncertainty at the time of Church Union.

The huge stove which was in the Church for many years was a gift from Rev. McLean when he was Pastor here.

The first Church Organ was a gift from Mrs. T. W. Kirkpatrick of Rodney, and was used for many years. Miss Leona Munger, who later became Mrs. Mont. Humphrey, and Mother of the writer, was the first organist and served in that capacity, (at different intervals) approximately thirty years up to the time of her passing on in the year 1923.

For a number of years, Palmyra, Rodney and Alborough Plains were on the same Field, and during this period, the regular Pastors were: