



**Beaver Scouts Parents Guide For
144th Lake Bonavista Scout Group (www.144scouts.ca)**

Your Beaver Colony Leadership Team

Section Leader and Primary Contact

Francis Ho aka “Malak*” fho@shaw.ca

Louise Bagnall “Bubbles”	Karen Marcotte “Butterfly”
Lindsay Behiels “Rusty”	Patrick Marcotte “Grasshopper”
John Bolger “Big Brown Beaver”	Dave Patton “Dragon Fly”
Kali Brummitt “Goshawk”	Gaetanne Spoonheim “Rainbow”
Robin Clysdale “Hummingbird”	Peter Steller “Ringtail”
Dan Glickman “Badger”	Will Van Horn “Big Brown Beaver”
Dawn Hardy “Chatter”	Peggy Wierenga “Sunshine” (Special Advisor)
Mike Hunter “Otter”	

Keos

To be selected early in the scout year

Group Commissioner

Andy den Otter aka “Scouter Andy”, adenotte@hotmail.com, 403-271-8631

Important FAQ

Where: St. Bonaventure School (aka “The Pond”) located at 1710 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary Alberta.

When: Monday Evenings, except holidays and outings – Our Beaver Calendar (www.144scouts.ca) will be updated throughout the year

Time: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Sign In/Sign Out: Beavers **must** be signed-in at the beginning of evening, and signed-out at the end of the evening. When a Beaver is not signed-out, we must activate a process to ensure the Beaver is safe.



Emergency Contact: If you need to contact us during a Beaver meeting (example – will be running late to pick-up) please call and/or text 403/869/1458 (Francis) or 403-968-0312 (Louise) until you connect with one of us or receive a response via text. We may not be able to hear the phone during our Beaver meeting, but will check for messages/text towards the end of the evening.

Dress Requirements: Unless otherwise specified, Beavers are expected to wear their full uniform and appropriate footwear at all meetings, outings, and camps. Beavers are responsible for their own Beaver vest and hat. These can be purchased at The Scout Shop (2140 Brownsea Drive NW, Calgary 403-283-7060 – call in advanced to confirm hours and availability of uniform and hat). Our Colony will provide Woggle, Beaver Scout Necker, Group (144th) Crest, Area (Southern Trails) Badge, Council (Chinook) Badge, Lodge Badge, and the appropriate tail (brown, blue, or white). Service Stripes will be awarded at our last meeting in May 2015. It is ok to wear previous Beaver uniforms from family and friends – just update the badges if required! <http://chin.scouts.ca/ca/scout-shops>

Footwear: Beavers must have clean indoor **running shoes** (no crocks, sandals, etc) when at the Pond. Parents please remove outdoor footwear or bring indoor shoes. We are very grateful to Principal Eamonn Rutledge and his team for letting us use their school and appreciate everyone keeping the school clean!

Please put name on the vest, hat, and footwear!

Food/Drink: Not permitted in the gym. Ok to leave water bottles in the lobby of the school. We have water fountains and will have regular water breaks.

Dues: Our 144 Beaver Scouts Colony will not be collecting dues.

Parent Participation: Parents are welcomed and encouraged, to stay at the meeting and watch all of the fun! We have a group of volunteers who design and produce this program. If you or your Beaver have an idea for us to consider we would love to hear about it. If you have a particular skill or knowledge that might interest the Beavers and can be broken down into 10 to 15-minute segments for the Beavers, we would love to hear about that too. Parents are also invited to attend the Group Council meetings, the second Wednesday evening of each month, at the LBCA Scout Hall. Please see the calendar on our website (www.144scouts.ca) for more information.

Parent Connections: Do you or know of anyone that has cool “connections” with any organizations that can potentially be part of our program – Calgary Police Service, Fire, Media, Etc? Past special visits have included CBC, Global TV, STARS, a woodworking shop, a high end auto dealership and garage, etc; we would love to hear from you!



Volunteer Leaders: Want to make a positive impact and difference? We welcome additional leaders that can help us deliver an even better experience for the Beavers. You determine the level of involvement and commitment you wish to contribute. All of our Leaders including our Cub Keos are volunteers dedicated to delivering a fun and safe Scouting program to the Beaver Scouts. We provide all of the training and the very cool red uniform!

Forms: We will have activities throughout the year that will require a number of forms to be completed for the Beaver and the Parents. These forms ensure safety and risk management for everyone - thank-you in advance for your cooperation!

Websites: www.144scouts.ca/ (our 144 Lake Bonavista Group website including the Beaver weekly activity calendar), <http://chin.scouts.ca/> (our Chinook Council website), www.scouts.ca/ (our National website)

Scouting Fees

The Registration Membership fees go to Scouts Canada and our local Chinook Council. This pays for: training materials and resources for leaders, planning programs and activities for youth (these must be planned meticulously to ensure compliance with insurance and health standards), publications and handbooks, World Scouting fee, and Risk Management. Dollar for dollar, Scouts Canada's programs provide significant value to its members. Your registration membership fees are eligible for the Childrens Fitness or Arts Tax Credit – official receipts will be issued in the spring.

The Facilities and Administration fee (New – 2015/2016) goes to help partially offset a potential significant increase to the Scout Hall rent this year.

Regardless of where you live, the \$30.00 Lake Bonavista Community Association Membership Fee per family must be paid annually to participate in any of the LBCA sponsored programs. The LBCA sponsors our Scout Group, which includes use and maintenance of our Scout Hall. If you have already paid this fee to participate in hockey or soccer or other LBCA activities, proof of payment is required at Registration. Note this is not the homeowners' annual Lake fee. For more information check out <http://lbca.info/about.htm>

Fund Raising

It costs approximately \$30,000 per year to run our overall 144 Lake Bonavista Scout group program which includes Beavers, Cubs, Sea Scouts, Ventures, and Rovers.



The Beaver Scouts budget pays for the school rental and delivery of our programming including craft, badge, and general supplies. The budget also includes activities such as subsidized outdoor camps, “Color Me Mine” Christmas Pottery Craft, Reptile Party, The Military Museum, Beaver Buggy races, year-end Beaver sleepover (for example Calgary Zoo, TELUS Sparks, Heritage Park, Royal Tyrell) and other special activities.

The Lake Bonavista Scout Group raises its funds from two activities: Bottle Drives and Popcorn Sales.

- 3 Bottle Drives
 - Saturday September 26, 2015
 - Saturday January 9, 2016
 - Saturday April 9, 2016
- Popcorn Drive
 - September/October 2015 (exact dates TBA)

Beavers and their parents are expected to attend the bottle drives. Please arrive at 9:00 AM to sign-in, be teamed up with other scouts (where and when possible), and assigned a section of homes to collect bottles from. Beavers can expect to be finished shortly after lunch. We provide snacks, beverages and lunch at the Hall on the days of the Bottle Drives. We will return your bottle drive deposit cheques to you when you sign-out. If you are unable to attend the bottle drives – your deposit cheques will be cashed. If you have concerns or questions about this – please contact Francis Ho or Andy Den Otter.

We have also partnered up with an organization that picks up bottles from businesses and other groups on our behalf throughout the year. Current supporters include Agrium, Atco Power, and Shell Canada’s Research Facility. If your business or club would like to help us out, please let us know.

For the Popcorn Drive, Beavers will be given an information package including their route/map of homes to sell popcorn, at the end of September. In addition to the map, feel free to sell to family, friends, teachers, and at parents’ place of work. The popcorn arrives before Christmas and makes a great gift for teachers & babysitters!

Colony Behaviour and Expectations

At the outset of the program and throughout the year, we will discuss behaviour expectations with all of the Beavers. A well-behaved Colony can have a lot of fun, and experience new and interesting things. Expectations and rules will ensure all Beavers have fun and are safe.

You know your Beaver child best. If there are issues or concerns we need to be aware of, please let us know in confidence, and share any approaches/routines that work best for your Beaver. Help us help your Beaver have an amazing experience!