



104th Ottawa GC Update July 2026

It's time for another GC Update, so grab a coffee, kick your feet up and relax.

The 2025-26 Scouting year has pretty much ended. Although the year ends at the end of August, the weekly meetings have ended as Scouters take a much-deserved break. There may be a few events scattered throughout the summer, for instance the Venturers I believe are interested in holding a sailing camp, and Ringtail from the Beaver Colony organized a family outing to the Ottawa Titans game for all sections to attend with their friends and families.

Group Committee met on June 25th to wrap up 2025-26 and start 'big picture' planning for next year, but before I get into that, I would like to welcome the Chipmunks to our little GC Update. We're excited to have you join us and looking forward to seeing you in September. We have 18 registered Chipmunks, and so far 5 Scouters in the screening process.

2025-26 Wrap-up

I've been going through the year and here are the numbers (I love numbers):

- We had 81 youth signed up last year (as per MyScouts, July 7, 2026), with 25 leaders.

Section	Members	Scouters
Beavers	25	7
Cubs	28	8
Scouts	17	6
Venturers	10	2
Rovers	1	2
Totals	81	25

- Group Committee had 13 members, 6 of whom have no affiliation with a specific section. (I say that because the Contact Scouter for each section is a member of the Group Committee.
- There were 13 camps this year (that's 25 nights away, you're welcome parents).
- There were 2 all-sections events, a day event in December and our soggy camp in June.
- Beavers
 - Camped on two occasions this year including the All-Sections Camp where they stayed for 2 nights...way to go Beavers.
 - Obtained 4 fantastic new leaders plus one in the screening process.
 - Not so good was we said goodbye to Malak who will be pursuing other challenges.
- Cubs
 - Camped on 3 separate occasions, including the All-Sections Camp



- I visited the Cubs during their “less than winter” Winter Camp. Even in the rain they seemed to be having a great time...well done Cubs.
 - Sadly we said goodbye to 3 Scouters from Pack who have moved on to quieter things.
- Scouts
 - Camped on 6 separate occasions, including a very cold Winter Camp. Despite the -20-wind chill, they built quinzhees in which I believe a couple of them slept ...great job Scouts
 - We gained one leader in Troop, which is always exciting at the Troop level.
- Venturers
 - Camped on 7 separate occasions, including the All-Sections Camp
 - 3 Venturers made it to the Rideau Challenge this year and helped run a checkpoint/water station for the hikers... we're very proud of you Venturers.
 - As with most Venturer Companies, our Company consists of Venturers from other Scout Groups, and it will be no different next year.

Finances

Without getting too far in the weeds, here are some of the financials from this year:

Revenue

- Membership credits: \$2,157 (Scouts Canada reimburses the group \$25.50 for each paid member, this will increase for the 2026-27 Scouting year).
- Fundraising efforts: \$6,389 (Please note this is a net figure and is a total of all fundraising efforts. For example, during Apple Day we took in \$5,700 but paid out \$570 for the apples)
- Donations: \$752 (donations come in from time to time from parents, organizations etc., either directly to the group or through Scouts Canada, directed to the group. If you wish to donate, tax receipts are provided for donations over \$20, nudge nudge wink wink).
- For the past few years all revenue seems to have gone into one general operating fund to pay for such as leader training, uniforms, supplies such as badges, cub cars and equipment. We will be taking a different approach in 2026-27, which I will get into in a subsequent Update.

Expenses

- Volunteer expenses: \$1,685 (includes training, screening costs and uniforms).
- School rental: \$1,653 (rumour has it this will be increasing next year).
- Storage unit: \$2,863 (we rent a Dymon storage unit on Walkley Road. We are actively looking for an alternative solution but, in the meantime, this keeps our equipment safe from theft and critters. Until recently we had a storage shed at a Scouter's house, but it was felt that it was no longer feasible to hold it at a personal residence, for a variety of reasons. Also, the shed is at the end of its lifecycle and needs to be replaced.)
- Badges/Neckers/Crests: \$2,673 (\$1,530 is for badges alone. That's on you for raising smart and keen kids.)
- Equipment: \$619 (includes insurance, repair and replacement of equipment and maintenance. A lot of our gear is at the end of its lifecycle so we will be developing a plan to replace it.)



As mentioned previously, there will be an upcoming GC Update that will just focus on our 2026-27 funding as there have been some changes.

Shoutouts & Changes in Group Committee

At this time, I would like to give a big shoutout to our Group Treasurer, Rick Wirthlin. The numbers above reflect just a small part of our financial picture. Rick also keeps track of the finances for camps, events for all sections. The total amount of funds that flowed in and out of the Group exceeded \$70,000 in 2025/26, and the year's not over. And on top of all that, Rick and his wife are the Venture and Rover advisors. So, a big Kumbaya thanks to Scouter Rick for taking such good care of our finances.

A few changes in Group Committee

- Scouter Ryan from Troop has taken on the role of Quartermaster. Ryan has done a terrific job setting up an inventory of our equipment which will be very useful for all when preparing for our camps, and identifying what needs to be replaced. He has also done a tremendous job setting up our new storage locker at Dymon to make things easier to find and keep track of.
 - Ryan has a son and daughter in our Scout Troop. I've only known Ryan for a couple of years, but I've been very impressed with his commitment to the Group and his relaxed nature. Thanks for much Ryan for all you have done this year.
- Our former Quartermaster, Lawry Trevor-Deutsch has taken on a special project for me. I think I've mentioned it before but the 104th Ottawa Scout Group first received its Charter in January 1960, which makes us 66 years old. I've asked Scouter Lawry to investigate the history of the 104th and maybe provide something for our new website when it's up and running.
 - Lawry has been with the 104th for several years. Lawry and his son Jonah were with me on the canoe trip where the 'youth' forgot their tents. Lawry was walking Jonah to the thunderbox in the middle of the night when a bear walked through our site. I was attentively listening from my tent when the bear made a loud splash in the river and Lawry, without skipping a beat, asked Jonah "Did you hear that beaver slap it's tail?", so Jonah wouldn't freak out.
- We have a new fundraising Coordinator, Melissa McPherson. Melissa's not new to the group as she has been helping behind the scenes for a few years.
 - When I first took over as Group Commissioner I met with members of the Group Committee and a couple of them said we need to find an official role for Melissa. Until now Melissa has been taking the minutes at our Group Committee meetings, helps with the new website and just fills in where needed. I'm excited for Melissa's ideas for fundraising as a couple of her ideas align with some of the comments in our survey.
- I've asked Eric Hansen, our former GC and Fundraising Coordinator to take on Community Outreach. One thing I noticed that has been lacking with the 104th Ottawa since my return has been exposure in our community. Recently I attended the Spring Fair at Alta Vista Public School where Eric and his wife Katie (our new Akela) have been running a booth for several



years. Shortly after I approached Eric to coordinate more events such as this, and since then we have also attended the Pleasant Park End of Year Carnival, and we have another event lined up in August.

- I've known Eric for several years. We've previously done training courses together and he used to be 'the guy' to see at the Scoutshop when they had a store on Baseline Road. Eric is also the director at Camp Sheldrick. The guy's a machine.

Here comes the pitch...

As you can see there are many roles in Group Committee, some are long standing, like Group Treasurer and some are created because they just make sense, like the Community Outreach Coordinator. If you feel there is a role you can fulfill, we would love to hear from you. Some examples might include:

- Working on the revamped website. Currently we have Melissa and her son Quinn, a Rover with the 104th Rover Crew, but many hands make light work.
- If Social Media is your strong suit, I would love to chat. I'm looking for someone to enhance our social media presence. We have a Facebook and Instagram Account, but we really don't do much with them, which I would like to change.
- There are special considerations when it comes to our website and social media presence, as there are some youths who do not wish to have their pictures taken or be identified.
- We're always looking for Scouters, and next year is no different. I would like to have one or two additional Chipmunk Scouters, at least one more Male scouter for the Cub Pack, we only have 1 male scouter in a section that is predominately boys. And as always, we could use more leaders in all sections as most Scouters are moms and dads who want to graduate to the next section with their kids.
- If interested talk to your Section Scouter or reach out to me at gc@104thottawa.ca

A New Year Cometh

I'm very pleased with the way things are looking for next year. I met with our Group Committee team and hashed out a framework for next year. Some of the highlights include:

- We've added 3 "family" activity days to our schedule. More details to follow but there will be a meet 'n greet in September, a winter themed activity day in February, and a year-end banquet in May. Of course these are rough timelines which will be ironed out later. This was one of the suggestions brought out through our survey, and one I really liked the first time I read it.
- When I was just a young whipper snapper of a Scouter, the 104th Ottawa used to participate in the Remembrance Day ceremony at Perley Health Care Centre. My understanding is it was scaled back due to Covid, and it was refreshing to hear there are talks that they might like us back.
- The same thing is true for singing Christmas carols at a Senior's home, we hope that will be back next year, I know the seniors love it, as to the youth.
- Another item brought out in the survey was Fundraising, so we've changed things a bit.



- There will only be 1 Purdy's Chocolate campaign, which will be held before Christmas. Some of you thought it should be about the youth doing the fundraising, and we agreed. I must be honest Purdy's is a lucrative fundraiser, so we didn't want to eliminate it altogether.
- Apple Day will be limited to one weekend. We're aiming for the first weekend in October.
- Melissa is looking into one or two other ideas, including selling leaf bags in the fall.

Finally, I want to say how much we appreciate your trust in the Scouters of the 104th Ottawa Sections. We don't take it for granted and if there is anything you find concerning or questionable, please bring it to the attention of one of your youth's section scouters, or me. We don't want things to fester, and often things are taken out of context or misconstrued.

- Years ago, a grandparent asked about food for a camp when she picked her youth up from a meeting, we were going to Opemikon for a Cub camp in a couple of weeks. I told her it was catered as camps at Opemikon often are, and we don't have to worry about food. I guess she took 'catered' as sarcastic and told her son about it, the youth's father, He showed up the following week very angry with me. We were able to sort it out but it just goes to show how easily things can be taken out of context. So please, ask for clarification if something doesn't seem right or bring it to someone's attention.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach to your Scouters, or myself.

Yours in Scouting

Scouter Bill

Group Commissioner
104th Ottawa Scout Group
gc@104thottawa.ca