



104th Ottawa GC Update June 2026

Welcome to the June 2026 edition of the 104th Ottawa GC Update. Grab a coffee because it's a long one.

All-Sections Camp

I started writing this update from a very rainy All-Sections Camp, it was quite a weekend. The rain started late Friday night, stopped just before breakfast on Saturday, then poured in the afternoon. After a thunderstorm watch was put into effect, the organizers and Scout leaders decided it was unsafe to have the Scouts paddling over to the island in the evening to sleep so it was decided they would paddle in the pouring rain Saturday afternoon to break camp and bring their gear back to sleep with the Beavers, some of whom were not too happy about being kicked out of the tabins (combination tent/cabin) for the Cabin. It was impressive to watch the Scouts pivot under Scouters Scott, Ryan and Lynne's leadership. Special thanks to Scouters Steven, Neal, Gray and Denis from Colony, as well as Denis, Beaver Hugo's dad for lending a hand. I also want to send a shoutout to the other Beaver leaders and parent helpers for picking up the slack while their friends were helping out the Scouts.

A special thanks to Scouters James, Rebeka and Rob for putting on a great camp. The kids had a blast and who knew Beavers could paddle. I think it was Kevin Costner who said give them a paddle and they will come...or something like that.

Changes in the 104th Ottawa Scout Group

All good things must come to an end, and at the end of this Scouting year we say good-bye to a couple of key figures within our leadership team:

- Steven (Malak) is leaving Scouting altogether to focus full time on other important things. Steven has been with the 104th Ottawa Colony for six years and has been Contact Scouter for the last 4. This past year Steven stayed with the Colony even though his youngest son swam up to Cubs last year. We appreciate your dedication Steven and you will be missed.
- Matt (Akela) is also leaving Scouting altogether. Although I haven't had a chance to get to know Matt all that well, I have enjoyed our conversations during my section visits and while at camp. More importantly however is that the youth absolutely adore Matt and respect him. Like Steven, Matt has been with the 104th for about 6 years, spending time with Colony and Pack. Matt has been Akela for the past 4 years and I know he will be missed terribly. Also like Steven, Matt has been fulfilling his role even though his children are no longer in the program.

We have a couple of changes on the Group Committee as well. Melissa MacPherson has agreed to be our new FUNdraising Coordinator, replacing Eric Hanson who is going to be our Community Liaison person. Thank you, Melissa, for taking on this important role and Eric for running fundraising while also doing a million other things with the Group.



A big change in September is that we will be invaded by Chipmunks. Chipmunks is a new, story-based pilot program designed for children ages four to five, created to help Scouts Canada explore what meaningful Early Years Scouting can look like. Chipmunks gives young children the chance to discover, create, and build early skills through hands-on activities that spark curiosity, confidence, and connection. While the program introduces foundations of Scouting, it also supports broader early childhood development in a fun, safe, and supportive environment. Registration has opened for Chipmunks and we already have a full Scurry...I know, Scurry of Chipmunks, so cute. Their little groups within the Scurry are called Burrows..I kid you not...so adorable. They will meet on Thursday nights at the school, hopefully in the kindergarten room.

Something that was brought up in the survey earlier this year was that the Beaver Colony was too large, and I couldn't agree more, so we have looked at the size of all of the sections. The maximum size of Beavers will not be 20, as opposed to 24. Pack will be reduced to 24. There are no changes in the maximum sizes of the senior sections.

Another survey item is family days, a fabulous idea. Our All-Sections Committee was hoping to run something this month but the All-Sections Camp took too much of their time, so we are thinking of doing something in September or October...stay tuned.

As we paddle through June, it marks the end of our regular meetings, but there may be events throughout the summer for those who wish to attend. I know in July Ringtail from Beavers is organizing a day at the ballpark. More information will be coming out soon through Scoutstracker. And I am hearing rumblings that the Venturer Company would like to have a sailing camp. It will only be open to the Venturers but I'm hoping for an invite.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has renewed for the new Scouting year in September. I find it a huge vote of confidence in our program that so many have renewed and it's all thanks to our amazing Scouters.

Just as an aside, I want to thank the Group Committee and Scouters for your support over the past few months. I know it's been a tough year with the transition to a new Group Commissioner, and I am grateful for your patience and open minds, especially our Group Treasurer, Scouter Rick. And thanks to the parents for your kind feedback about the GC Updates, I'm glad you find them useful. I look forward to when we are just updating you on the awesome things the sections are doing.

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

Scouter Bill

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