

History of 27th Guelph Scout Group

27th Guelph was first formed in 1976. At that time there was just a Cub pack. As the area grew, so did the 27th Guelph.

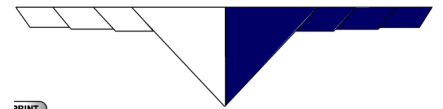
Sponsors and the Charter

The first Charter was held by the 27th Guelph sponsor Parkwood Neighbourhood Church. This lasted for only a couple of years until politics intervened. The Scout Group changed their name to the 28th Guelph to get a new Charter. The following year, the Group approached the Church and asked if they could have their Charter back. This was granted and 27th Guelph was active again. The Charter was then held for 5 years by a Trucking Firm that one of the Cub Leaders owned.

Since then, 27th Guelph has had a number of sponsors including a printing company, MacDonald's, an electric firm and most recently Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood Group.

27th Guelph Colours

There are two versions on how 27th Guelph's necker came to be navy blue and white.



Story 1

The Navy Blue and White colours were chosen as they were readily available and no one else in Guelph was using them. Most Groups were getting the necker colours done in Scottish Tartans. However there were challenges with using tartans as sometimes the tartans were no longer available when future batches want to be made. 27th Guelph Scout Group decided to keep it simple, Navy Blue and White.

Story 2

The Provincial colour for Scouts is the same shade of the blue we use now for our neckers. Years ago the 3rd year Cubs used to be given a white necker when they moved up to Scouts. This was replaced with a Navy Blue and White necker once they became a Scout. The white also references the story that when the youth of an African tribe were ready to become men they were painted white and sent out of the village to live for a month. If they survived and came back, they would be a man. Therefore the white necker for the Cub signified him becoming a man, and for Purity. The white side of the 27th Guelph necker lies over the heart – pure of heart.

Badge

In 1992 there were only Beavers and Cubs. At this time a couple of Scouters, Doug Kleist and Joe (last name unknown) decided that at the end of the year 1993 that, with the 10 cubs that were eligible to move up, they would start a 27th Troop. Combined with this was the desire to change from the single Group identifying strip to a crest. Cubs and Scouts were asked for their ideas. Joe and Doug worked with the kids in each section to come up with what we now have. The colours (yellow and green) represent Cubs and Scouts. The Scout fleur de lis in the centre represents world scouting. The Canadian maple leaf symbolizes Canada. The poppy seemed to represent Guelph to the kids better than any other symbol. There you have it – no real deep meaning to the crest. It is interesting to note that BP's first symbol for scouting was the fleur de lis on a green trefoil (clover leaf).



Membership

27th Guelph grew to over 100 kids plus associated leaders and support. 27th Guelph Group grew so large primarily because of the interesting activities. They camped (or had outings) 2 weekends a month including winter. The focus of 27th Guelph was outdoor activities and their excellent reputation grew in Guelph. At the peak, they had close to 30 Scouts – 2 Beaver Colonies and 2 Cub Packs plus a Venturer company.

As with most Groups in Scouting, 27th Guelph saw a decline in membership from the late 1990s. However, along with Scouts Canada, 27th Guelph is committed to providing excellent programming including unique and exciting opportunities and experiences for youth and is committed to growth. In 2009/10, 27th Guelph saw an increase in their membership achieving 115% membership over the previous year.

Highlights

Some of the feature activities of 27th Guelph have included:

- yearly trips to WestPoint military academy that hosts a yearly Scout/Venturer camp
- Troop participation in the Canadian Jamboree in Thunder Bay
- a Troop and Company trip to Ireland for Ireland's 2001 Jamboree
- Troop participation in the Central Canadian Jamboree at Tamarcouta in 2005
- Proudly 27th Guelph has a history of participating in the Fort George International Camporee which is a large jamboree involving nearly 2000 Canadian and American Scouts for battle reenactments. All Sections (Beavers, Cubs and Troop).
- Troop and Company survival camp with David Arama

