

## 5. EVENTS

Mount Nemo Scout Camp has been the home of hundreds of very special events during its first 50 years. Hopefully, every section's camp was an "event" in the minds of its participants!

Over the years, Hamilton Wentworth has been divided into Divisions, Districts and Areas. Each has run various events through out the year at Camp Nemo.



Hamilton Wentworth has also run its share of special events for youth and adults.



*Participants on a Part One Course*

One of the first events was the Daniel Boone Winter Weekend which took place the weekend of January 25,

1947. Ten leaders developed their winter camping skills. On May 10, 1947, 100 Scouts and 20 Rovers and Leaders participated in the first Reforestation Camp and planted 7,000 White Pine, Scotch Pine, Ash Maple and Elm.

The following is a brief summary of some of the events which have taken place:

### CHOPPEREE

The annual Beaver day event has been run since 1976. It was held at Camp Nemo in 1983, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 when the 20th Anniversary of the Beaver program was celebrated. The participants formed the shape of a Beaver in Confederation Field, photographed from an aircraft and the picture was published in the Hamilton Spectator.



DATE	THEME	CHIEF	ATTENDANCE
1983	Hands Around the World		
May 11, 1991	Cartoon Capers	Gail Saunders	
May 2, 1992	Beaver Olympics	Gail Saunders	1054
May 8, 1993	Hands Around the World	Joan Barty	988
May 7, 1994	Outer Space - The Way of the Future	Joan Barty	1060

## HARRY BRYANT CAMPFIRE

This memorial campfire was held on May 26, 1984 at the late Harry Bryant request to commemorate his life long dedication to Scouting. Conducted by Lorne Ellis, the evening program at Fleur-de lis Hill was attended by many of Harry's friends and those whose lives he had greatly influenced through Scouting.

## C.J. PRECAMPS

These weekend camps were required for the participants of National Jamborees, and were held in 1977, 1981, 1985, 1989 and 1993. The program included sessions on what to expect and how to survive a week with thousands of other Scouts.

## COMPOSITE CUB CAMP

This was held for at least one week every summer from 1971 to 1978. The program offered many outdoor activities to Cubs from all across Hamilton Wentworth.

## CUB FUN DAY

First held on September 29, 1979, this now has been an annual gathering for Hamilton Wentworth Wolf Cubs.

CUB FUN DAY DATE	THEME	CHIEF	ATTENDANCE
September 29, 1979	Fall Fair	Brian Johnston	
September 27, 1980	Fall Fair	Judy Evans	714
September 26, 1981	Fall Fair	Len Wade	
1982	Zulu Days	Helen Tune	573
October 1, 1983	Canadian Wild West	Greg Anderson	716
October 20, 1984	Medieval Times	Linda Langdon	938
October 5, 1985	The Way to the Stars	Linda Langdon	983
October 4, 1986	Treasure Island	Carmen & Mary Duarte	
October 24, 1987	Roman Gladiator	Trudy Perry	
October 1, 1988	Journey Through Time	Lori Carey	825
September 30, 1989	The Land of Make Believe	Alex Kinnaird	885
October 20, 1990	Hooray for Hollywood	Cindy Carter	
October 5, 1991	Transportation: Land; Air and Sea	Kathy Bagu	
October 24, 1992	Space: The Nemo Frontier	Tom Evanoff	
October 23, 1993	Stories of the Past	Linda Sculthorp	
October 22, 1994	Return to Council Rock	Haroldene Everett	899
October 21, 1995	Daze of Olde	Brian McKnight	900
October 26, 1996	Nemo's Birthday Celebrations	Jim Bryce	900



### KLONDIKE WEEKEND

Klondike Camps were run by various Divisions for a number of years. The great difficulty was that not all Divisions could book a truly "winter" weekend. Hamilton Wentworth began to run this Scout event in 1985 in order to ensure one weekend where, hopefully, there was enough snow for the events, and also to ensure that enough expert winter campers could be available to assist. For the first 3 years 3 separate programs were run (Bronze, Silver and Gold), which provided the appropriate level of program for the experience of each youth



### ROVER MOOTS

An annual Rover Moot was held for many years, starting in 1946 at Sulphur Springs. The annual moots continued until the early 1960's.



### SAP TAP

Gerry Johnston, with the help of Matt Conry, started the Annual Sap Tap in 1969 using not only metal spikes but his own hand-made sumac spikes. Upwards to one hundred trees were tapped at a time. George Guest looked after the event during the early 1970's, followed by Lorne Ellis from 1975 to 1990. Lorne arranged for a new evaporating pan and new equipment. For 16 years, Lorne and his 55th Hamilton Venturers ran a 10 day Spring Break program for Cubs and in later years for Beavers. They taught the history operation of making of maple syrup and concluded each session with pancakes and maple syrup in Confederation Lodge. They introduced hay wagon rides in 1980.

Lorne speaks with pride about his Venturers. "They planned and conducted the entire operation on their own. When Beavers started, they introduced a puppet show with a talking maple tree. It was hilariously effective!"

The increased demands for winter and year-round camping finally closed down the great Nemo Sap Taps. The event ran until 1992, with a year off in 1990.



## SCOVENROLEA

This event ran only once, on the weekend of November 3-5, 1972. It provided separate programs for Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. There was also a training program in the Training Field for Leaders.



## SNOWBALL ROVER MOOT

Originally run by the 37th Hamilton Rover Crew, with help from various Ranger Companies, this event generally ran on the 2nd weekend of February from 1972 to 1994. Rovers and Rangers attended from all over Ontario, with visitors from the U.S.



## TRAINING COURSES

From the early years when the camp was called Mount Nemo Training Camp, it's a place where many training experiences have taken place. Numerous Scout Badge Courses, including the annual B.P. Woodsman Course have found their home at Camp Nemo.

Hamilton Wentworth has become the place to learn rock climbing. With the equipment and expertise, we have run successful Venturer Rock Climbing Week-ends for many years.



Thousands of adults have received training here at section Part I Courses (and their predecessors), Group Committee, Service Team and Trainer Courses. Hamilton Wentworth pioneered the Combined Part I Courses.



## VICTORIA DAY CAMPOREE

This annual event for Scouts and now Venturers, has taken place since 1955. Programs have been exciting and the weather unpredictable (including rain outs). We will never forget the great washout of 1960 which came to be known as "Swamp Nemo". For many Scouts, this was their first international event as very often American Scouts attended. The following is a summary of some of these great camps:

VICTORIA DAY CAMPOREE DATE	THEME	CHIEF	ATTENDANCE
May 20-23, 1955	International Jamborette		
May 18-21, 1956		Martin Schmidt	
May 17-20, 1957			
May 16-19, 1958			
May 15-18, 1959			
May 20-23, 1960			
May 19-22, 1961			
May 18-21, 1962			
May 17-20, 1963			
May 15-18, 1964			
May 21-24, 1965			
May 20-23, 1966	Fit For Service	Jack Warner	
May 19-22, 1967	Centennial Pow Pow	Jack Warner	
May 17-20, 1968	Scouts 68	Del Reynolds	
May 16-19, 1969		Doug French	
May 15-18, 1970			
May 21-24, 1971			
May 19-22, 1972			
May 18-21, 1973			800
May 17-20, 1974		John Harbour	
May 16-19, 1975	Working Together	Gord Peace	800
May 21-24, 1976	Adventures in Participation	George Lethbridge	
May 20-23, 1977	Harmony With Nature	Laurie Smith	800
May 19-22, 1978	Preparing for the Future	Alex Shepherd	838
May 18-21, 1979	Scouting on the Move	Gord Peace	
May 16-19, 1980	King Tut	Don Knap	
May 15-18, 1981	Mafeking Revisited	Harry Bryant	
May 21-24, 1982	Brownsea Remembered	Ron Mollon	
May 20-23, 1983	Preparing for Tomorrow	Fred Miyata	

VICTORIA DAY CAMPOREE DATE	THEME	CHIEF	ATTENDANCE
May 18-21, 1984	Back to Basics	Jim Carey	556
May 17-20, 1985	M*A*S*H*	Glen Bond	500
May 16-19, 1986	Scouting Superstars	Rick Elop	750
May 15-18, 1987	Adventure Canada	Steve Patterson	
May 20-23, 1988	Spy vs. Spy	Mike Lethbridge	500
May 19-22, 1989	That's Entertainment	Mike Lethbridge	
May 18-21, 1990	Blazing Saddles	Jeff Dunford	
May 17-20, 1991	Rich Man/Poor Man	Dave Morley	
May 15-18, 1992	Medieval Times	Dave Morley	
May 21-24, 1993	Surf's Up	Dan McMullen	
May 20-23, 1994	Home Alone	Don Spong	
May 19-22, 1995	Chicago	John Zimmerman	
May 17-20, 1996	Time Travel	John Zimmerman	



### THE STORY OF APPLE DAY

Although this is not a Camp Nemo event, Apple Day is as much a part of the camp as any of the above activities. Without Apple Day, Camp Nemo simply would not exist.

Our membership's attachment to Mount Nemo Scout Camp can be seen every October through the hard work of Apple Day. The concerted effort of our youth and adult members is a model for Scouts throughout the country. In 1996, we raised over \$83,000 for our camp properties and water activities through the street campaign and Distinguished Donor program. A further \$5,400 was rebated to Groups and Areas for their own use. We used 1000 bushels of apples, and endured some of the worst weather ever encountered.

The roots of our enthusiasm can be traced back to the purchase of the camp property in 1946 and beyond the first Apple Days. It goes back to the beginning of Scouting in Hamilton Wentworth and the need to provide a camp experience for our youth at Camp Tetonkah, Sulphur Springs and eventually, Camp Nemo.

There is no accurate account of where the first Apple Day took place in Canada. In the early 1930's Ontario and New Brunswick held their Apple Day in the spring. The original intent was to

give an apple as thanks to members of the community for their support throughout the year. Most councils conduct some form of Apple Day in October. Not all of the provinces participate.

Our first Apple Day took place on November 4, 1933, during the height of the Great Depression. It must have been a success, because it was repeated on June 9, 1934, and was run by the 4th Rover Crew. It was repeated in the spring of 1935, but it moved to the fall for good in 1936, when it appears that "Purchaser's Tags" were handed out for the first time. The Depression continued to take its toll. In 1937, the groups did not receive a commission. Gross proceeds were \$1,056 and costs were \$160.



*Getting reading to hit the streets - 1950's*

Proceeds climbed slowly through the war years. In 1944, 525 bushels were sold, and for the first time, proceeds from Apple Day went to support what came to be known as the camp fund. We showed our resourcefulness in 1945, when, due to a poor apple crop, pears were substituted. There were not many pears either and the shortage of fruit meant that proceeds were down. Net proceeds for Apple Day were just under \$1,800 in 1946. That didn't stop us from paying the grand sum of \$5,200 for a new camp property on Bronte Creek!

Throughout the 1950's, Apple Day was run by the District Group Committeemen's Council with support from the Executive Board of Ladies Auxiliaries (now District Committee for Scouting Auxiliaries). In 1955, the Auxiliary put strings on 200,000 Apple Day tags. In 1963, a move of Apple Day to the spring was considered and rejected.

In the mid-1950's the Auxiliary would pack and mail about 300 "Special Apples" to supporters of Scouting. By 1960, the "Boxed Apple Drive" had about 100 supporters. In 1996, 313 Distinguished Donors contributed \$33,316.69. "Special Apples" were delivered to them by representatives of 55 Groups.



Proceeds from the "Street Campaign" continued to grow over the years:

1953	\$10,000
1971	\$20,000
1979	\$30,000
1985	\$40,000
1989	\$50,000
1993	\$70,000
1996	\$74,389

Continued and improved fund raising has become a priority for Scouting in order for us to continue to provide fine outdoor programs. Because of Apple Day, Hamilton Wentworth Scouts have always felt a great sense of ownership where "their" Camp is concerned. Based on our history, the future for the Apple Day and Distinguished Donor Programs, and hence, Mount Nemo Scout Camp, is bright!

