

Manitoba Archives

Presents:

1910-2010

100 Fast Facts



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The following 100 fast facts are to help us celebrate past events that have occurred in the last 100 years of Guiding in Manitoba. We hope by reading these it will stir memories, renew friendships and provide you with highlights of our past. The following data has been compiled for Manitoba Council Archives.

1. The Manitoba Council of Girl Guides of Canada was founded in 1910 in Winnipeg to provide educational and recreational programming for girls.
2. Manitoba was the first province to develop First Aid Work into their program and received the initial certificate in 1911 incorporating St. John Ambulance techniques.
3. The 1st Winnipeg Company was formed in October 1915 and registered on January 18, 1916. First Captain was Miss May Elsworth; first Lieutenant was Mrs. J. F. Venus.
4. The 1st Guide Company in Winnipeg held their meetings in the Grace Methodist Church in the heart of downtown Winnipeg. Disbanded in 1911 the 1st Company was re-organized in 1916, meeting in St. Barnabas Mission with forty Guides on the roll (see picture four on our Website of this pioneering Guide Company).
5. M. Yeomans in Brandon formed the 1st Brandon Guide Company in 1914 and held the Company's first camp in 1916.
6. The first Guide camp in the Brandon Area was held in 1916 at Lake Clements.
7. Manitoba has had eighteen Provincial Commissioners-they are as follows:
 - 1916 Lady Aikins
 - 1927-1930 Mrs. R. M. Denniston
 - 1930-1937 Mrs. J. Bracken
 - 1938-1942 Mrs. J. R. Murray
 - 1943-1948 Mrs. G. E. Semmens
 - 1949-1954 Mrs. R. F. T. Greer
 - 1954-1958 Mrs. W. J. Riley
 - 1958-1963 Mrs. G. W. Mallaher
 - 1963-1968 Mrs. J. M. Headlam
 - 1969-1973 Miss Catherine A. Peer
 - 1974-1977 Mrs. N. A. Winograd
 - 1977-1980 (Dr.) Miss M. E. Bayer
 - 1980-1985 Mrs. K. W. Clark
 - 1985-1989 Evelyn A. Williams
 - 1989-1994 Patricia R. Hawkeye
 - 1994-1999 Marjorie Gerrard
 - 1999-2004 Carol J. Anderson
 - 2004-2009 Michelle Barclay
 - 2009- Debra Halligan
8. The Spanish flu epidemic in 1918-1919 placed restrictions on Guiding in our province as no public meetings were allowed.

9. Lady Baden-Powell visited Winnipeg in 1919, 1923, 1933, 1935, 1946, 1952 and 1955 Rally's in her honor in 1946 and 1955 were held at the Winnipeg Arena with 1200 Brownies and 2200 Girl Guides in attendance.
10. In May 1921 Guiding arrived in the Fort Rouge Area with two companies being formed at, St. Luke's and St. Georges Anglican Church. Brownies followed at St. Luke's in March 1925 and St. Georges in April 1928. One of the first Ranger Companies met at St. Luke's Church in the 1920-30's
11. The 1st Brownie Pack was organized in Winnipeg in 1921.
12. The 1st Brownie Pack in Winnipeg was registered in April of 1922 at Rupertsland School for Girls on Carlton Street. The first Brown Owl was Miss Millard. In the fall of 1923 the 2nd Brownie Pack was started in Sturgeon Creek, this Unit was still running in 2004 as the 28th Brownie Pack.
13. The 24th Winnipeg Guide Company was registered on December 10, 1923 at Crescent Fort Rouge Church.
14. Brownie Packs were registered in December 1923 at Fort Rouge Methodist Church. (Crescent Fort Rouge United) Guide Company was formed in November 1926.
15. The 23rd Guide Company started in October 1923, and the first Captain was Miss Matheson. The meetings were held at St. John's Cathedral, 135 Anderson Avenue. The Guides wore yellow, gold and black ties, these being the St John's school colours.
16. Twenty Companies of Girl Guides took part in a Rally on the grounds of Government House; Sir James Aikins saluted 500 Guides and Guiders. The year was 1924 and the smartest Company in correctness of uniform and marching was the 8th Girl Guide Company of All Saints Church, Miss Gwen Detchon was Captain and Miss Betty Aikins was Lieutenant. Sir James Aikins presented the Company flag to Margaret Grundy, flag bearer for the Company.
17. Winners at the Brownie Rally on June 1, 1925 held on St. John's College grounds was the Sturgeon Creek Brownies #10 Pack and the Unit's number was changed to the 28th Winnipeg Pack in 1926 to match the Guide Company number.
18. The first Manitoba Provincial Council was formed in 1925 with Lady Aikins as our Provincial Commissioner.
19. The 7th Ranger Company put on a short play at the Shriners Hospital in 1926. The girls were assisted by Miss Ethel Webber.
20. The 1st Neepawa Company was registered on December 5, 1927 with thirty two girls. The St. James rectory was their meeting place, the Captain was Mrs. Mary Brailsford and Lieutenant was Violet Bradley.
21. The first Guides to make and sell cookies as a fund raiser was done in 1927 in Regina, Saskatchewan.
22. On April 25, 1927, 800 Brownies, Guides and Rangers were reviewed on the fourth floor of the Hudson's Bay Co. at the request of Lady Wellington the wife of the Governor General of Canada.
23. The 48th Winnipeg Brownie Pack started in 1927, and the leaders were Mrs. Beek, Mrs. W. Watts and Miss Edith Hodgkins. There were fifty to sixty girls enrolled that year. St. Anne's Church was being built and Brownies put on concerts 1927-1932 to raise money for the building fund.

24. Permanent Girl Guide camps in Manitoba were established at Ponemah in 1928 and in July 1949 Caddy Lake Camp was purchased by the Winnipeg Areas.
25. On July 19, 1928 two Gimli Girl Guides were recommended for Life Saving Medals. Jean Lawson and Helen Benson rescued two young boys thirteen and fourteen years of age from drowning in Gimli Harbor. The girls were awarded the Girl Guides Canadian Council Silver Cross.
26. Guide Warrants were issued in 1928 to Mrs. R. G. Burgoyne, Ranger Captain of 42nd Company (Grace Church) Carberry, MB; Mrs. J. Maddock, Captain and Miss Margretta Bradshaw, Lieutenant of the 1st The Pas Christ Church Company.
27. In 1928, Scouts and Guides in Manitoba started a Christmas collection of toys to be repaired and distributed to the Children of British Settlers in Manitoba. The shop in which the toys were repaired was located at 262 Portage Ave.
28. St. Albans Girl Guides (21st Company) earned money selling "Guide stickers". They completely outfitted a poor family in Norwood with two big boxes full of groceries, canned goods, meat and a chicken as well as some money and toys galore for the children. The year was 1929 and Frances Burritt was the Captain.
29. In 1928 some of the first Guiders in the Brandon Area were Miss Florence Nixon, Mrs. Ruth Lester, Mrs. Rona Cantwell and Mrs. Irene McKenzie.
30. Guides and Brownies in Manitoba over the years have made new clothes for thousands of dolls and these were given to the poor at Christmas. The dolls were assembled at Guide House on Osborne Street and were donated to what is now the Christmas Cheer Board for their hampers. This started in 1928 and finished in 1975
31. The 1st Neepawa Pack was registered on April 28, 1928, their meeting was held at Neepawa Central School. Brown Owl was Miss Olive Murray and Tawny Owl was Mrs. Shore (disbanded in 1937). 2nd Neepawa Company registered on February 24, 1928, they met at the Court House. Captain was Mrs. J. Bradley and Lieutenant was Miss Luella Telfer (disbanded November 1930, joined 1st Company, registration cancelled June 1935).
32. Prior to 1930, Brownies wore wide-brimmed straw hats as part of their uniform.
33. Miss Ruth Harvey of Montreal (a Trainer) spent several days in Brandon, Manitoba and presented a shield to the 3rd Brandon Company for winning the first Aid Competition. This happy event took place on May 1, 1930.
34. The 5th Land Rangers began about 1930 under the leadership of Mrs. Smith. The unit closed in 1932 and reopened in 1940. The meetings were held at St. Agnes Priory also known as the Home of the Good Shepherd.
35. In the 1930's there was a Scout-Guide Toy shop located on Notre Dame Avenue. Guides would sew clothes for dolls and the Scouts repaired broken toys. All went to needy children at Christmas to help make their holiday season brighter.
36. In 1931 Manitoba's Provincial Camp at Ponemah Beach on Lake Winnipeg hosted the first Dominion meeting for the Girl Guide Association and it was the first time all Provinces were represented.
37. At the above camp the "Human Flag" impressed the spectators. This was a Union Jack flag formed by a large number of Guides from all parts of Winnipeg. 903 Guides were needed to form the flag.

38. Winnipeg Guiders took over the operation of "The Bay" downtown store for one Saturday in 1931, serving as clerks, supervisors, etc. One half of the proceeds for that day were donated to Girl Guides.
39. Her Excellency, the Countess of Bessborough, donated a Bessborough Shield to each province. Manitoba decided to encourage the study of nature, particularly birds as their criteria (theme). The first winner in 1935-1936, was the 1st St. Andrews Company, the shield was retired to the 1st Virden Company as it was won three times by that Unit.
40. Notes from the 24th Company Log Book dated February 24, 1935 states "Church Parade in honor of Chief Guide and Scouts held. The 24th and 25th Guide Companies as well as the 24th, 15th and 59th Brownie Packs, 28th Cubs, Rovers and Scouts participated. The important thing about this Church Parade was, that for the first time there were more Guides present than Scouts. "How happy we were and how hard we are going to try to repeat this feat at our Church Parade in April".
41. The 1st Stony Mountain Brownie Pack began in April 1935 with eighteen girls.
42. In November 1936 an article in "*The Free Press*" states that "Mrs. R. Flower of Winnipeg was re-appointed Provincial Lone Guide secretary for Manitoba" and thirty nine girls were listed as Lones in our province.
43. In 1938 Winnipeg Girl Guides took part in a Mosquito Tag Day.
44. It was reported on February 23, 1939 that Miss Marjorie Hoskins drove out to the Headingly, Manitoba on Friday, February 10th to enroll Miss Jean McLean as Captain and eleven Guides into a new Guide Company. Miss Hoskins braved extremely adverse weather in order to fulfill her position as Commissioner and to bring best wishes and success from the Provincial Commissioner, Miss Harder.
45. Girl Guides held a Grand Rally at the Amphitheater on May 29, 1931. The following items were listed on the programs: Folk Dance-Ukrainian, Human Flag, Highland fling, Signaling Drill, Red River Jig, Folk Dance-Italian and First Aid, Home Nursing and Mother Craft demonstration.
46. In 1939 King George VI and the Queen attended many organized gatherings in our province, including a rally held by Guides/Brownies and Scouts.
47. In 1940 Canadian Guides raised money for two air ambulances and a motor lifeboat called "Guide of Dunkirk". The money came from personal donations and was used in the evacuation of France.
48. In 1940 the Girl Guide Canteen opened in the Civic Auditorium in Winnipeg where tea and snacks were served to Red Cross workers at noon and teatime each day.
49. On December 22, 1944 a newspaper reported that the 1st Stony Mountain Company had been doing the following for their participation in the Canadian Guide War Record:
 - Assisted in distribution of ration books
 - Red Cross Fair, helped in booths
 - Red Cross Garden Party, Patrol helped prepare the grounds the day before, another Patrol carried food and dishes, washed dishes, etc. And a third Patrol cleaned up the next day
 - Guides and Cadets collected a large quantity of salvage in one week
 - Guide Gift Project: Guides made six sweaters, skirts, slips, 3 nightgowns, six bloomers, layette, Brownie outfit, afghan. (No quantities known) Brownies

hemmed diapers; Alice Wallace spent time at the hospital each week. Helen McKinnon drove gas truck #5A.O.S Alice Crossland drove a streetcar.

50. The Flin Flon Miner Paper in April 1944 reported that Girl Guide companies throughout Manitoba would be making 100 Friendship books to send to children in liberated countries of Europe. These books included every phase of Canadian life, the scenery, the people, industries, flags of provinces, stamps etc.
51. The original Girl Guide House at 50 Osborne Street was dedicated to Guiding in our Province on Friday, October 19, 1945. The house was built in 1905 by Mr. Edwin Stephenson and he sold the house to us for ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Guide House as well as three other properties, were demolished in the early 1970's to make room for high rise apartment blocks.
52. A Rally was held in Swan River on May 25, 1946 and Lady Baden-Powell spoke to all who were in attendance.
53. During 1946 several interviews of Guiding personnel were aired over radio station CKRC. Program material was included in some of the broadcasts.
54. The 84th Winnipeg Company was started in Rivercrest in 1947 in Mrs. Mary Holland's basement. She had experience in England as a Girl Guide leader.
55. In June 1949 Girl Guides and Brownies of the Winnipeg Area presented utility and education kits to "Save the Children Fund" at Guide House. The kits were forwarded to Europe.
56. Caddy Lake Camp opened on July 11, 1949 and is still a Girl Guide camp sixty years later.
57. In 1950 the 1st Selkirk Guides won the Choral & Vocal Classes Manitoba Musical Competition Festival with the test piece "The Haymakers Roundelay". With a mark of seventy six, the second piece was "The Merry Lark" and it was noted, "Not a smile among the lot". As the "Merry Lark" is a melancholy bird.
58. The Great Flood of 1950 saw Guiding in Manitoba at its best. Girl Guides of all ages helped at the evacuation headquarters, The Civic Auditorium (now the Provincial Archives) working as runners, helping with children. Eight Guides worked each day from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. They helped in the canteen, sorted clothing and cleaned bathrooms.
59. Gene Autry visited Brandon, Manitoba in 1951 and donated fifty tickets to Guides and Brownies to see his Wild West show and hear him sing.
60. The 52nd Brownie Pack was started in 1951. Dorothy Slaughter was Brown Owl and M. Patteson was Tawny Owl, the meetings were held at the Parr Street Mission. One of the Pack's "good turns" was to plant golden Tulip bulbs in flowerpots and when they bloomed they took them to "shut Ins" to brighten their day.
61. Saturday, April 7, 1951 was the day of the largest Girl Guide Gala since the opening of the Guide Swimming Club. 150 Guides from Winnipeg swam in competition at the Y.W.C.A. Pool. Dorothy Robson of the 55th Company won the Isabel Sellers Trophy for the most improvement during the year, the runner up was Dianna May of the 50th Company.
62. Lady Baden-Powell attended a Rally at the Playhouse Theater in Winnipeg in May of 1952.

63. May 22, 1952 Lady Baden-Powell presented four Girl Guides with their Gold Cords at the Playhouse Theater in Winnipeg.
64. In March 1952 Mrs. Eileen Geddes was badgered into forming the 1st Rivercrest Guide Company. This English war bride had help from Miss M. Hopkins.
65. On May 19, 1952 the winners of the Swim Club Competition was the 12th Company of St. Margaret's Church
66. Joyce Douglas, nineteen years of age, of Flin Flon was chosen to represent the Commonwealth at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.
67. The Canadian Council of the Girl Guides Association wrote to the Canadian Navy on behalf of Manitoba Council, with a request by a Sea Ranger Crew to use the name "Bonaventure" in their Sea Ranger title. On July 14, 1954 the Royal Canadian Navy issued a certificate bearing the name Sea Ranger Bonaventure, dated November 1953. The Rangers sent out invitations to attend the launching of the Sea Ranger Ship Bonaventure at St. Marks Anglican Church Parish Hall, St Marks Place on April 26, 1955 at 20:00 hours.
68. On December 21, 1954 the St. Alphonsus Girl Guide Company decided that instead of exchanging gifts amongst themselves they donated gifts to the sick children at the St Boniface Hospital.
69. It took 576 Brownies to form a human Maple Leaf Flag at the Rally held in the amphitheater on May 31, 1955.
70. First Aid Classes were held on Thursday evenings for the 1st and 2nd Land Rangers at St. Andrews United church in 1955.
71. March 18, 1959 over 800 Brownies formed a human bouquet of tulips at a Rally to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Guiding in Canada. The Girl Guides, 900 in number, also formed the living Union Jack (this was first done in 1931 at Camp Ponemah) and 2,100 Guides and Rangers took part in a March past. All totaled 4,000 girls and 6,000 spectators filled the arena.
72. The 131st Pack was organized on September 29, 1959 in Middlechurch.
73. The HMCS Chippewa helped Sea Rangers learn about plotting a course and using sonar detection equipment on November 21, 1959
74. The 70th Brownies Pack had five girls take part in the "Jubilee Rally" at the Winnipeg Arena and received A1 adjudication (highest level) at the Brownie Festival for their rendition of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin". The year was 1960.
75. The 128th Company of St Joseph's Church was started in 1960. The Catholic Women's League of St. Joseph's Church sponsored it and its first Captain was Mrs. L. Charron.
76. The 28th Pack of the Newchewa Brownies was the Brownie Pack started by Mrs. W. Thomson and in 1961 her family donated the Thomson Toadstool in her memory.
77. The Thompson Toadstool plaque was first awarded in 1962 to the Brownie Pack accomplishing the yearly challenge (1961-1962-Afghan-knitted squares: 1st Hybord Pack). The Brownie Pack received a certificate for their hard work. It was awarded for the last time in 1991.
78. The 80th Winnipeg Company was formed in 1962 with Miss Frances Grundy as Captain until 1965, then Miss Grundy started the 14th Land Rangers and Mrs. Claudia Eisbunner took over as Captain.

79. St. Anthony's 145th Pack started in 1962 with Mrs. Ramsey as Brown Owl; Mrs. Slobodian as 2nd Brown Owl.
80. The Chief Commissioner of Canada Miss E. Henrietta Osler of Toronto visited Northern Manitoba Guides on March 26, 1963 in Flin Flon and Guides from Island Falls, Carberry Portage, The Pas, Thompson, Snow Lake and Churchill were in attendance.
81. Christie Brown Co. made our "Cookies" in 1965-one row chocolate with chocolate filling and one row vanilla with vanilla filling and they sold for .50¢ per box.
82. The 9th Land Ranger Company was registered on November 1, 1965.
83. The 145th Company came into being on January 6, 1966 with thirteen girls registered. The Catholic Women's League of St. Anthony's Church sponsored this Unit and one of the first things the girls did was attend Mass and then held an introductory meeting. Their first public appearance as a Company left a very favorable impression on their sponsors and church members.
84. A provincial Brownie Pack Holiday Camp was held in the Brandon Area on August 2-6, 1967 to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday, forty eight girls attended. The large cost was \$12.00 per girl.
85. On Friday, November 9, 1979 Lisa Kaufmann received the Girl Guide of Canada Silver Cross from Mrs. Jobin for getting four children out of a burning house.
86. Madame Leger, wife of Governor General of Canada was entertained at the Manitoba Legislature by a hundred Brownies, Guides, Rangers and leaders on November 14, 1977.
87. On Sunday, October 15, 1978 His Royal Highness Prince Phillip chatted with Girl guides from Northwest Division outside St. John's Cathedral as he left for HMCS Chippewa to present Manitoba Guides with their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
88. Lady Price, O.B.E. and Chairwoman of WAGGGS, was in Winnipeg on October 15, 1980. Her wish to meet as many girls in Guiding was fulfilled as Manitoba members of Guiding filled the foyer of the Legislature and entertained her by singing a dozen typical Girl Guide songs.
89. His Royal Highness Prince Phillip visited Thompson, Manitoba on July 26, 1984 and he personally presented the Duke of Edinburgh Awards to 17 youth from across Canada and 9 from Manitoba.
90. On August 19-25, 1984 a Little Sister Camp was held in the Gimli Area (Ukrainian Camp Park) with sixty one girls attending from our province.
91. The Northwest Clothing Project (1985) was done to assist eleven brand new groups (Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders) to obtain much needed uniforms. All Areas in our province participated by raising money and sending it in to the province to pay for new uniforms. These uniforms were sent to Central and Eastern Arctic Guides and Guiders.
92. Girl Guide Rose bushes were purchased and planted in 1985. This was a special gold/rose variegated rose bush developed especially for us. On Tuesday, June 11, 1985 one of our rose bushes was planted on the grounds of Government House in Winnipeg. The rose bush was developed for us to participate in a youth oriented project called "The Tree Project" in Canada, 1986.
93. The province sent a Training Van around to central and northern Area's in 1985. The seventeen day trip was to conduct training sessions. The leaders who undertook this

- adventure were Mave Dickson of Winnipeg, Sandra Dedio of Gilbert Plains, Jull Futros of Brandon, Michelle Wort of Winnipeg and Valdene Johnson of Winnipeg. Stops included Snow Lake, Gillam, Thompson, Leaf Rapids, Gypsumville and Koostatak.
94. Provincial Pathfinders enjoyed a Paddlewheel Queen Boat trip on October 3-4, 1987. This adventure included over 100 girls.
 95. In 1999 Manitoba hosted one of the four sites for Canadian Mosaic at St Malo Provincial Park, Manitoba Girl Guides donated a play structure to the park.
 96. Mrs. F. A. McMillan organized the first Guide Company in Manitoba.
 97. Court of Honour of the 2nd Manitoba Lone Company lists the following members: Captain-Mrs. C, Giesbrecht, Lieutenant-Mrs. P. Olender, Gypsumville, Patrol Leader-Sandra Kellet, Carberry, Patrol Second-Marilyn Olender, Gypsumville, Patrol Leader-Coleen Fife, Myrtle, and Patrol Second-Lorna Stocks, Roland.
 98. Manitoba held an International/Interprovincial camp in 1997 called "Under the Open Sky". Girls attended from Iceland, Mexico, United Kingdom, South Africa, United States, Japan and Australia. The camp was held at Caddy Lake.
 99. A Big Bike Ride was held in Winnipeg on September 17, 1999, to raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The sign on the front stated "Girl Guides, The Original Girl Power". The participants were from the Assiniboine Area; they rode for ¾ hours and raised over \$1,900.00 for the foundation.
 100. September 28, 2002 an International Cook-off Challenge was held for Pathfinders and Senior Branch Units at Birds Hill Park. Groups were judged on originality of, Country, food, theme, and decorations. The Winners were the 392nd Pathfinder unit from Bishop Grandin, representing the country of South Africa.