Response to Re-Dedication of the Charter

Cheryl Stoltz, 3rd Aurora Group Commissioner 2013-2018

Thank you, Bill,

3rd Aurora is very proud of this charter and our long association with Aurora United Church. For 60 years both our Sponsor and our group have upheld the honour behind the Charter. A Charter is a promise and a contract between the Sponsor and the Group and most do not know that the Group cannot operate without the charter being signed annually by their sponsor,

What is a Sponsor? It is an institution, or organization which supports the Mission, By-Law, Policies and Procedures of Scouts Canada.

* A sponsor assists in providing resources to enable the Group to promote the goals and ideals of the sponsor;
* They advise the Group Committee;
* They provide resources and encouragement for the Religion in Life Award program; and finally
* They assist in providing or helping to find meeting and equipment spaces for the Group.

Despite the generosity of the community and 2nd and 5th Aurora Scouts, we really do miss the social hall, and especially being at a location where Rev. Andy can stop in to talk to the youth and Leaders snaffle a dumpling or freshly backed cookie, or Bill stopping in to say hi to all and talk about Scouting.

In return, the Group provides a Committee to act as a liaison between the Youth sections and the Sponsor to make sure that the Scouting’s programs further the Sponsors mandate of developing their youth, or youth from the community. The group also provides Service to the Sponsor as best they can, as well as their home, community, the world and God.

We have been so lucky in our mutual relationship with the Church over the last 60 years, during which time, by doing a rough calculation from historical records there as been 3,000 plus youth have been part of 3rd Aurora Scouts, and a couple hundred Scouters. That is a huge number of youths whose futures have been influenced by being part of this Group.

The Church has been supportive as the Group has grown to great numbers, and encouraging and positive in times when there have been challenges in finding Leaders or a drop-in number of the youth.

Many Church members have found joy in being youth members of the Group, and many of them went on to become Scouters. There are also those who became Scouters just to join in the fun. Many of them have responded here today that when Andy asked who had enjoyed camping with Scouting.

In return, as many of you in this room have attested by raising your hands as to having been camping as or with the youth, we have seen these youth grow up to be good and kind citizens with many unique skills.

Just like the church, after the fire 3rd Aurora has had to rebuild from the ground up once again. However, thanks to the support of Reverends Andy and Lorraine, Bill Newman and the hard work of Scouters like David, Trevor, and Craig the group is growing again.

Because of the wonderful efforts of Scouters Kyle, Dan, Sandy and Martyn (who was with us) last year, and Greg joining us this year, we have a growing group of Beavers nurtured by enthusiastic Scouters.

Soon we will add Cubs, and hope to restart Scouts, Venturers and add few more Rovers in the coming years, and we are prayerful that new Scouters for the sections and Group Committee will be found to support the high demand for scouting in our community.

At this time, I would also like to thank Helen Roberts and Mary Smith of Aurora United Church, as well as Michelle and Shawna, the staff at the Aurora Cultural Centre, for their wonderful display of our history and Charter that was displayed along with the history of the last 200 years of Aurora United Church.

I’d also like to thank all the alumni and friends of 3rd Aurora who took the time to join us today in celebration of where the commitment to this Charter has brought us.

Let us all hope that the positive and constant working relationship between our Group and Sponsor will help this group grow so that we may continue the relationship for another 60 years or more..