

# Charlotte County Archives

## Finding Aid - Girl Guides, Brownies & Rangers Passamaquoddy Division (MC571)

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Generated by Charlotte County Archives on August 29, 2023

Language of description: English

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# Girl Guides, Brownies & Rangers Passamaquoddy Division

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Charlotte County Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Girl Guides, Brownies & Rangers Passamaquoddy Division
<b>Title [Girl Guides] :</b>	Girl Guides
<b>Reference code:</b>	MC571
<b>Date:</b>	1910 - 1993 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	1m 27cm of materials.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Founded in England in 1909 by Lord Baden-Powell and his sister Lady Baden-Powell, the purpose of the Girl Guides was to educate young females and shape them into positive role models within their communities. The Guiding Movement reached Canada in 1910 and shortly after the Girl Guides, Passamaquoddy Division, headquartered in St. Andrews, was established incorporating young females from the Charlotte County area. Especially active during and after WW2, the Passamaquoddy Division was in frequent contact with the St. Andrews, Scotland Girl Guide Division. Likewise, the Passamaquoddy Division was active in the community and embarked on many camping excursions around the Charlotte County area and beyond. A detailed history of the organization up to the year of their Silver Jubilee in 1961 was written by Guide Historian Rose Haughn.

Guiding was an outgrowth of the Scout movement which swept England in the early 1900's. Many of the sisters of Scouts thought Scouting such fun they would like to participate so they appeared in numbers at the Crystal Palace Rally in 1909 much to the consternation of the Scout leaders. No gentlewomen in those days appeared in a crowd, much less wearing Scouts hats and all the pots, pans and knives they could tie on. Lord Baden-Powell, who started the Scout movement turned the girls over to his sister, Agnes, who became their first leader and later his wife, Olive – Lady Baden Powell – continued the program of Guiding.

#### The Guides at Crystal Palace

The first Guide Company in Canada was registered in St. Catherines, Ontario. Fourteen years after the Crystal Palace appearance, girls in St. Andrews first felt the stirrings of interest in Guiding and a Company was formed with Miss Alice Holt as leader and Mrs. Oscar A. Rigby as lieutenant. This was in 1923 and, apparently, this Company lasted about two years although not registered with the Dominion office. The names of these first local Girl Guides are Mildred Rigby, Winifred and Eleanor Snell, Helen Williamson, Frances, Liela, and Bessie Wren, Lucy Stinson, Agnes McMullon, Margaret Harris, Beryl and Betty Stinson, Lois and Phyllis Thompson, Addie and Christine Rooney, Clara McNabb, Mildren Johnson, Thelma Smith, Edith Finigan, Alice MacLaren, Kathleen and Ethel Bell, Melda Calder, and Mildred Holmes.

For the remainder of the “Roaring Twenties” and through the depression of the early thirties, interest in Guiding lapsed. However in 1935 a group of students went to the school principal, then Karl Kierstead, and asked that Guides be organized locally. He in turn passed the request along to the local Kiwanis Club which got together a group of ladies, mostly wives of the members, to discuss the possibilities. As it turned out, Mrs. Earl T. Caughey seemed to be the only person present who had any practical knowledge of Guiding, having been a Ranger with a company at McGill University for a short time. This it was that she became interested in guiding in St. Andrews and is considered its most untiring champion. These ladies brought together by the Kiwanis club formed the first Local Association which was registered May 22, 1936, and found themselves called upon for every emergency.

#### The First Local Association (L.A.)

Having established a local association, two girls – Lola Graham and Frances Wren were picked to be trained as leaders. As they progressed with their tests, it was decided to call a meeting of the prospective Guides to see if interest still continued. Imagine the consternation when 60 girls presented themselves. They were hastily divided into the 1st St. Andrews Guide Company and the 2nd St. Andrews Guide Company, both of which were registered on May 22, 1936, and two more girls Bessie Rogers and Marjorie Coakley chosen and trained for leaders. All four received their warrants by the early part of 1937. The Guides proceeded as today to win their first and second class and the various badges and from these records are shown the names of the girls in the companies at the time.

#### The Guides of 1935

In any history of Guiding do not let us forget our “little sisters” the Brownies. Their history too dates back locally to an unregistered pack in 1923 with Brown Owl, Mrs. William Langmaid. This group continued for some time. Then, like Guiding, Brownies were inactive for years. Having got Guides started and fairly well organized, in the fall of 1937 work was started on a Brownie Pack. The 1st St. Andrew Brownie Pack was registered February 3, 1938, and Mrs. Caughey received her warrant as Brown Owl in June of the same year. It is particularly interesting to note that on February 16th, 1938, the Brownies held a party and each of the 19 girls brought a friend, 38 little girls in all, and the party cost \$1.75 including enough peanuts for 25 cents for a peanut hunt for everyone.

#### Rangers

The first Sea Rangers we hear of was a patrol called “Bluenose” belonging to the 2nd St. Andrews Guides Company. The patrol leader was Frances Wren and the crew were Margaret Anning, Ellen Gibson, Hazel Miller, Edna McGee, Marjorie McDowell, Fae Hallett, Lucy McDowell, Violet Lee, Joanne McCullough and Edith Henderson. The patrol was formed in December 1939 and the girls enrolled in 1940. In November 1947 the patrol registered as S.R.A. “Haida.” They first met in the dressing room at the Knights of Pythias Seaside Hall where their ensign was presented to them by the crew of the battleship Haida and their ship was christened by Mrs. Alfreda Needler. The first skipper was Mrs. David Walker and the first mate was Miss Lillian Shaw. Through the years the St. Andrews Rangers have visited Fredericton, Montreal, Halifax, Charlottetown, and most noteworthy was their visit to Hamilton Bermuda’s S.R.S. “Deliverance.”

#### Passamaquoddy Division

In December of 1945 the Passamaquoddy Division of Girl Guides was created with Mrs. Caughey as Commissioner. Up to that time guides in this area had belonged to the York-Charlotte Division. Guide Marybel Hachey was the first girl in Charlotte County to receive 1st class. Mrs. Caughey was chosen to attend an International Camp at Morin Heights in the Laurentians as program assistant. The following year she was one of two chosen to represent Canada at Camp Edith Macey, Pleasantville N.Y.

The first county-wide rally was held in June 1947 at Fort Tipperary. The first Division Camp was held at Lake Utopia. Mrs. Alfreda Needler became district commissioner and the Guides had a visit from Mrs.

D.E.S. Wishart, Dominion Commissioner of Girl Guides. The following October Miss Daphne Montefiore of Ottawa, Dominion Council Training Leadership also paid a visits.

Shiela Caughey was the first girl in Passamaquoddy Division to receive her Gold Cord which was presented to her by Mrs. George Hartshorn, then provincial commissioner. The following year she attended camp at Ottawa with her mother, Mrs. Caughey in charge of the New Brunswick contingent. This year Mrs. Caughey became the international commissioner.

An international camp was held at Lake Utopia with guides attending from various centers in the United States. This was Coronation year and the Brownies, Guides, and Rangers each entered a float in the Coronation Parade.

Mrs. Oscar A. Rigby was appointed the first District Commissioner in 1938 and served three years, next was Miss Frances Wren, two years; Mrs. Richard H. Smith, three years; Mrs. Earl T. Caughey, two years; Mrs. Alfreda Needler, three years; Mrs. Thomas Grant, one year; Mrs. Harold Johnson, three years; Mrs. Joseph Walsh, six years; Mrs. Neol Tibbo took office in 1961.

The first camp was held at Gibson's Lake in August 1945 with Mrs. Thomas Grant as commandant. It was purely a district camp with only St. Andrews girls present. Mrs. Grant was assisted by Mrs. Early Caughey, Miss Edith Hanson, and Miss Norma Richardson, and 16 girls attended.

The second camp, although a district camp, received visiting Guides as well and was really a forerunner of the first division camp. It too was under Mrs. Grant as Commandant.

The third camp was held in the Guides Silver Jubilee year, 1961, with Mrs. Joseph Walsh as commandant, assisted by Mrs. Bruce MacVicar of St. George; Mrs. Lewis Day, Mrs. Earl Caughey, Mrs. John Hull, Mrs. Douglas Everett, Mrs. Frank McCracken, and the district commissioner Mrs. Noel Tibbo. 21 guides attended.

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## Scope and content

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This collection consists of the records of the Girl Guides, Brownies, and Sea Rangers Passamaquoddy Division documenting the local association's administrative and financial activities as well as training materials, ceremonies, camping excursions, activities and events, organizational history, music, and publications produced or participated in by the Guides, Brownies, and Sea Rangers of Charlotte County. Annual reports, minutes, and newsletters produced by the Provincial office are included in this collection as they contain detailed information on the Passamaquoddy Division.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based upon contents of the collection.

### Immediate source of acquisition

These materials were donated to the Charlotte County Archives by various members of the Passamaquoddy Girl Guides, Brownies, and Sea Rangers.

## Arrangement

Arrangement imposed by archivist.

## Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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## Access points

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- Baden-Powell, Lord & Lady
  - Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada
  - Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers Passamaquoddy Division
  - Textual record (documentary form)
  - Correspondence (documentary form)
  - Pamphlets (documentary form)
  - Books (documentary form)
  - St. Andrews (place)
  - St. George (place)
  - St. Stephen (place)
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## Collection holdings

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### Series: MC571-MS 1 - Administrative

Title: Administrative

Reference code: MC571-MS 1

Date: 1947 - 1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of the administrative records of the Girl Guides Association documenting the activities of the Passamaquoddy Division, including annual reports and minutes of the provincial division, reports and minutes of the local association, pathfinder reports, pack census reports, membership lists and applications, and certificates.

The series is arranged chronologically under the following files:

A - NB Girl Guides Annual Reports and Minutes 1949-1995

B - Local Association Passamaquoddy Division Reports and Minutes 1947 - 1985

C - Pack Census Reports 1952 - 1978

D - Membership Lists and Applications 1931 - 1983

E - Certificates 1934 - 1984

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: MC571-MS 2 - Financial Records**

Title: Financial Records

Reference code: MC571-MS 2

Date: 1936 - 1961; 1988 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of financial records of the Passamaquoddy division including accounts and ledger books documenting day to day finances from 1936 to 1961, and an agreement regarding the establishment of an account with the Bank of Nova Scotia in 1988.

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: MC571-MS 3 - Training Materials**

Title: Training Materials

Reference code: MC571-MS 3

Date: c. 1940s - 1980s (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of training materials for girl guides produced by members of the Passamaquoddy Division, including training courses administered by Mrs. Estella M. Caughey, exercise booklets, and Guide handbooks.

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: MC571-MS 4 - Ceremonies**

Title: Ceremonies

Reference code: MC571-MS 4

Date: c. 1940s - 1980s (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of pamphlets, correspondence, and programs documenting ceremonies held by the Guides of the Passamaquoddy division, including the Brownies "Flying-Up" initiation ceremonies, and the "Thinking Day" ceremonies held in remembrance of the Guides founder Lord Baden Powell.

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: MC571-MS 5 - Camps and Activities**

Title: Camps and Activities

Reference code: MC571-MS 5

Date: c. 1940s - 1980s (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of brochures, correspondence, and applications related to camps and activities hosted or attended by Guides, Brownies, or Rangers of the Passamaquoddy division. Included are records related to camps at Doe Lake, Lake Utopia, Wabanaki, Cannaught Ranges, Morin Heights, Wesaldi, and Lake Mush-a-Mush.

Publication status:

Published

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### **Series: MC571-MS 6 - Printed Materials**

Title: Printed Materials

Reference code: MC571-MS 6

Date: 1910 - 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of articles and publications documenting the history and activities of the Guides, including an article titled "Our Silver Jubilee Year" a history of the Passamaquoddy Division up to 1961 by Rose Haughn, and a Girl Guides Cookbook of recipes gathered from the kitchens of Charlotte County, published in 1948. Also included are scrapbooks containing news clippings and articles of local Guide events and individuals.

The series is arranged chronologically under the following files:

A – Articles c. 1960-1980s

B – Publications 1948

C – Scrapbooks 1910 – 1985

Publication status:

Published

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### **Series: MC571-MS 7 - Music**

Title: Music

Reference code: MC571-MS 7

Date: c. 1940s - 1980s (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of sheet music and lyrics produced or performed by the Girl Guides, Brownies, and Sea Rangers at camps, as part of group activities, or as part of official ceremonies. These materials include music from a variety of genres including Irish folk music, the songs of loggers and sea shanties, traditional campfire songs and folk music, and Christmas songs.

Publication status:



Published

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