

Yukon Guides saluted veteran leader at registration event

By [Whitehorse Star](#) on September 17, 2009 at 3:23 pm

Guiding members young and old, past and present, were on hand Tuesday to recognize Evelyn Neave's 50 years of service to Girl Guides of Canada - Guides du Canada.

The ceremony was part of the Yukon Guides' annual registration event at Shipyards Park.

Girls and women dropped by to join in the games, crafts and barbecue. Some also registered for the coming year in one of the popular branches: Sparks (ages five and six), Brownies (ages seven and eight), Guides (ages nine-11) and Pathfinders (ages 12-15).

The evening included a special presentation of a 50-year-pin to Neave.

She first joined the Guiding movement when stationed with her military husband in Germany, when her daughter wanted to join the Brownie Pack on the Canadian base.

During her time in the Yukon, she has served as Deputy Provincial Commissioner (1975-1980), Badge Secretary, a Guider for Brownies and Guides, and was recognized with an Honourary Life Membership in 1982.

"Guiding really opened up the world for me," Neave said.

"Before I got involved, I was quite shy. Now I'll talk with anyone!"

She remembers taking on many challenges that, had she not had the support of her Guiding friends, she would never have tackled, such as being the cook for a week-long camp.

"I can't believe it's been 50 years; they've gone so fast," she said.

"Wherever I've been, I've had a real good time."

The highlight of her Guiding years has been and will always be the girls, she said, but she also has fond memories of a trip to Our Cabaña with other Yukon Guiders.

One of her daughters is still involved with Guiding, and a granddaughter is a Brownie in B.C.

Girl Guides of Canada stands for fun, friendship and adventure.

Guides offers a safe, accepting environment with diverse programs and activities that offer girls the chance to learn, grow and discover through age-appropriate programming.

“Guiding’s girl-centred programming has something for everyone,” said Commissioner Erin Spiewak.

“Guiding is bold, fun, energetic and gives girls the tools and resources they need to achieve greatness.”

Guiding in the Yukon began 95 years ago in the form of a camp outside Dawson City.

The program’s popular cookies will be available in the fall.