



It starts with Scouts

Scouts Canada – Nova Scotia Council  
Newsletter - September 2014

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Message from the Council Commissioner

Scouter,

I hope you all had a great summer; I for one haven't seen it go by. This year is calling to be a great Scouting season. Throughout the summer the NS Council was very busy; a lot of hard work was done in preparation for the upcoming season. I am looking forward to the new Scouting year and hope to see all Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Scouters out at Camp Nedooae on September 26 to 28 for Operation Alert. Let's all hope it will be a repeat of last year and have the sun join us!

After years of membership growth, we slipped last year when our total membership was 3 % less than what it had been the year before. This year, we have to make up this membership loss. The best way to start is to aim at increasing the youth membership in your group over what it was last year. If all groups can retain or increase their membership by even just one member, this will put us on course for growth in the coming year. The Bring-a-Friend Program continues to be a great way to increase membership in your group. Also as part of our strategy, all Area Commissioners have been challenged to start a new Group in their area. These initiatives, should put us on the road to success to achieve a 10% (or more) growth in our membership!

It gives me great pleasure to announce the following Scouter appointments as Deputy Council Commissioner (DCC):

1. Rick Gruchy; DCC – Youth Safety
2. Peter Comeau; DCC – Youth Mentoring
3. George Mawko; DCC – Training
4. Ralph Barnes; DCC – Recognitions
5. Kevin Croft; DCC – Program
6. John Nisbet; DCC – Property and Camps
7. Howard Donohoe; – Chair Camp Nedooae

Thank you all on your continued service on the Council Leadership Team, I greatly appreciate your time and commitment.

There are always volunteer opportunities at the group, area, and council level. We try to let everyone know about these opportunities, but please let us know if you have a particular interest in any positions! Here are some Deputy Council Commissioner roles open for appointment:

1. DCC - Finance - Responsible for providing financial advice, oversight Council budgeting, financial support to groups, work with auditors and present overview to members at the Annual General Meeting;
2. DCC - Communications - Responsible for Council website, twitter, Facebook and outgoing media;
3. DCC - Secretary - Responsible to effectively record and maintain minutes and decisions made during CLT meetings, the Council AGM as well as correspondence as required;
4. Honorary Legal Adviser - Advise the NS Council on legal matters that may arise.

Our appointment is for a one-year term, renewable for a maximum of three years. Your time commitment is 15 to 20 hours per month including periodic conference calls and in-person meetings with other members of the Council Leadership Team.

If you are interested in any position, please forward your resume to: [nsapplications@scouts.ca](mailto:nsapplications@scouts.ca)

Scouting Youth - the Nova Scotia Council is seeking submissions for a new crest for Camp Nedooae; one that represents its place in our Council and to our Scouting community! Have a passion for drawing? Please submit your drawing, by October 6th, 2014, and include an explanation of the crest, either via e-mail to [nsoffice@scouts.ca](mailto:nsoffice@scouts.ca) or by mail to: Camp Nedooae Crest Submissions, Scouts Canada - Nova Scotia Council, 84 Thorne Avenue, Dartmouth, NS, B3B 1Y5. The group of the winning youth will be offered a free weekend at Camp Nedooae. Furthermore Marissa, Peter and I will be cooking and serving supper on one of those evenings!

Scouters, Thank you for your time and commitment, I know it is appreciated by the youth! Let's make this Scouting season a memorable one and continue to bring happiness into the lives of our youth!

"The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others." Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Yours in Scouting

Martin D. Drapeau  
Council Commissioner  
Scouts Canada – Nova Scotia Council  
THE CANADIAN PATH IN NOVA SCOTIA

If you have read the latest "Scout Scene" there was an article about the next step forward on the Canadian Path with all Scouting groups being invited to join in this coming September. This will

allow every group in the council to learn the importance of the four elements and gets everyone on the Path sooner.

September will be the kick off with "Welcome to the Canadian Path". Then on a monthly basis there will be a major focus of the four elements. Supporting materials and videos for each monthly focus will be available. Program support materials for this Scouting year will not be changed. However, resources specific to the Canadian Path will be introduced gradually. Details can be found on the Four Key Elements of the Canadian Path website, as well as some outdoor adventure skills tools to start you off on the right direction. You will also find a great deal more information in the new Scouting Life magazine that mails later this month, as well as regular updates in Scout Scene and on the Canadian Path Website.

We will see you on the Canadian Path this September. By working together as one and getting as many Scouts and Scouters as possible on the Path, we will not only revitalize our Scouting programs, we will revitalize Scouting in Canada.

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### QUESTIONS ALONG THE PATH

Have questions about the Canadian Path and how it relates to Nova Scotia Council? I bet we all do! Each month we will post some of the most commonly asked questions so that we can make this Canadian Path a fun and Adventurous one for today's youth!

This month's questions are about Mentoring and Groups that are mentored.

Are you still looking for Mentors and Groups to be mentored?

Yes, we will still be looking for Mentors for 2014-2015 Scouting year. We are focusing on looking for groups that have older Scout sections as most of the pilot groups (those with mentors) have most of their membership in the younger sections.

Will the Mentor Groups receive the updated program first?

No, the mentored groups will receive the program along with the rest of the groups in the Council. The purpose of the mentored groups is to test out new ideas for the program. They are groups that feel comfortable about testing new things and are able to give timely feedback.

Do mentors receive any training?

Yes, they will receive training that will teach them on how to coach and mentor Scouters and youth in regards to testing new program ideas and implementing the Canadian Path in their group/section. Mentor training usually takes a full day.

Are mentors like Service Scouters?

Mentors have one main task in the group which is to coach, mentor, and support Scouters and their youth that are piloting elements of the Canadian Path. They are not there to mend bridges between disgruntled Scouters or make youth to adult ratios adequate. They are someone who you can go to

with questions, give feedback to about the program, and receive guidance and suggestions from when thinks may not go right.

Do you have a question? Send it to you Canadian Path Ambassador! Email [kevin.croft@scouts.ca](mailto:kevin.croft@scouts.ca)

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### OPERATION ALERT 2014 – ‘Mars and Beyond’

Are you looking for an exciting event to kick off the year for your Troop or Company? Come celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Alert at Camp Nedooae, September 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

For those unfamiliar with Operation Alert, the event is for Scouts and Venturers with at least 1 year experience at the Troop or Company program. Teams of 3 or 4 compete against other teams in either the Troop (14 or younger) or Venturer (14 or older) category as they complete projects put on by the Scouters.

Under News and Events on our website ([ns.scouts.ca](http://ns.scouts.ca)) you can download forms, Team Applications, Offer for Service Form and Personal Health Certificate.

### RAVE 2014

This popular Rover and Venturer event is scheduled to take place at Pierce Park in Yarmouth County on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The training sessions at this camp emphasize advanced outdoor skills (such as edible plants, survival training, map and compass, trail side cooking and more). Sound like fun? Here are the details...

When: October 17<sup>th</sup> – 19, 2014

Where: Pierce Park, 207 Rose Road, Wellington, Yarmouth County

Cost: \$35.00

This is a provincial event open to all registered Rovers, Venturers, and to Scouts who are in their final year in troop. If you have any questions, please contact Lorinda Barnett [lbbscout@bellaliant.net](mailto:lbbscout@bellaliant.net) or Della Boudreau at [dasb@eastlink.ca](mailto:dasb@eastlink.ca)

### SCOUT POPCORN

It's time to start planning your 2014 Scout Popcorn Campaign. This year's campaign promises to be better than ever. There are a few changes to the product line-up, you can now purchase the yummy 'White Cheddar' in a bag and we have the Chocolate Caramel Crunch available in a 'Tin'.

There are 'TWO' prize programs being offered this year, National and Nova Scotia. Group Coordinators please read the information that is in your Popcorn Campaign Kit and share with your leaders and youth please!

Each group must have a coordinator who will enter your popcorn order using the online system this year, as the prizes earned and crests must be ordered at the same time.

The Key dates for the 2014 Popcorn Campaign Are:

September 20 - October 25<sup>th</sup> Take Orders for Popcorn

November 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for all Scout Popcorn orders to be entered in the online system.

Week of November 17<sup>th</sup> (tentative) Popcorn Distribution to Areas will begin.

If you have any questions about this campaign, please contact Nanci Douglas directly, toll-free at 1-888-726-8876, 902-423-9227 or via email: [ndouglas@scouts.ca](mailto:ndouglas@scouts.ca)

#### SCOUTERS CONFERENCE AND AGM 2014

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend our annual conference being held in Bridgewater, November 7-9, 2014.

The session schedule offers training opportunities for leaders and group committee members alike. Our trainers are enthusiastic and look forward to sharing their experiences with you - it is fun, stimulating and rewarding. We will list the training sessions in the October newsletter, stay tuned!

There will be lots going on, great sessions are offered all day Saturday then on Sunday (morning) we have Gilwell Breakfast and Scouts Own. The Nova Scotia AGM will start at 10:30 AM.

Friday Evening Entertainment TBA & Saturday Evening Entertainment TBA

We hope to see you at the Days Inn and Conference Centre in Bridgewater! Rooms are available at \$79.99 + taxes per night; hot breakfast (for 2 persons) is included in the room rate. Book early; call the hotel direct at 1-877-543-7131 and advise them you are attending the Scouters' Conference.

The Scouters' Conference booking form will be available shortly (just waiting to finalize meals).

#### SCOTIA JAMB 2015 UPDATE

Hi all fellow Scouters, I hope you have enjoyed your summer vacation. Plans are well underway for SJ'15, watch for our next newsletter that will be released in a few weeks' time. We still need additional Offer of Service volunteers to assist in a number of areas. Visit the jamboree website for more details. [www.scotijamb.ca](http://www.scotijamb.ca)

I do need your assistance now ... to operate any event of this size takes considerable financial resources. To do so and keep the costs as low as possible means a need for sponsorship assistance. In addition to leading the Jamboree Organizing Committee I have also taken on the Sponsorship "Hat". If you know of any possible companies or agencies that might consider sponsoring our event either with a donation of funds or goods or services ... please send me the company/agency name and a contact if you can. I will do the contacting and follow up.

Thank you in advance.

Herb (Ripley)  
SJ'15 Organizing Committee Lead

### DCC - TRAINING REPORT - George Mawko, DCC Training

Welcome to all new and returning Scouters this year. I hope your summer was sunny and you are all charged up for an exciting year of Scouting! Below are some news bites to share with you.

Congrats to the 11 Scouters who completed a one day Support Scouter Workshop in Tri-County last July! Thank you to the training team for their hard work planning and delivering this course. As some of you may know this workshop replaces Wood Badge 1 Service Team training.

Ready to Serve! 90% of our Scouters have their primary role WBI milestone. Good job! To put this in perspective, about 3 years ago only 26% of Scouters had their WBI milestone. If you happen to be one of the 10% who is struggling to start or complete their training then we would be pleased to help you get Ready to Serve! Let us know how.

Program Skill Enhancement. Do you want to change things up or raise the level of your program this fall? We can help; let us know who you are and what you would like to work on!

#### How to Contact Us About Training:

During work hours: Scouts Canada - Nova Scotia Council

Tel: 902-423-9227 or 1-800-557-7268 [nsoffice@scouts.ca](mailto:nsoffice@scouts.ca)

Evening hours: George Mawko, DCC Training

Tel: 1-902-435-6244 [ns.dcctraining@scouts.ca](mailto:ns.dcctraining@scouts.ca)

### PROVINCIAL EVENTS 2014/15

Popcorn Campaign	September 20 – October 25, 2014
Operation Alert	September 26 – 28, 2014
RAVE	October 17 - 19, 2014
Apple Day	October 25, 2014
Scouters' Conference	November 7 – 9, 2014
NS Annual General Meeting	November 9, 2014

Holiday Social	December 7, 2014
Holiday Closure for the Scouts Canada Service Center	
Closed December 24, 2014 ... Reopening on January 2, 2015	
Scoutrees	May 2, 2015
Lodges and Lairs	June 5 - 7, 2015
ScotiaJamb	July 11 - 17, 2015