



It starts with Scouts.

SCOUTS CANADA - NOVA SCOTIA COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER #1 – February 2011

Hello Scouters of Nova Scotia: We hope you will find this newsletter a convenient way to keep up to date on what is happening at your Council. Our objective is to distribute a newsletter on a regular basis in an attempt to keeping you better informed of all the great initiatives that Scouting offers in Nova Scotia. Comments and contributions to content are welcome.

1. OUR MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- Nova Scotia Council has shown a growth in youth and adult membership. Our total membership to date is 3339. This is an increase of 207 members in the same period last year.
- We have recently conducted a registration audit and we are still missing some paper work to support current documentation required for registered members in the MMS. Please contact our Registrar, Judy Matheson, and make arrangements to turn in all paper work by February 15th, 2011. You may reach Judy at (902) 423-9227 ext. 125 or email jmatheson@scouts.ca
- Reduced Fees - Effective February 1st –August 31st, 2011.
These are the combined National and Council fees in place for the rest of this Scouting year.
Adult Fees: \$32.50 Youth Fees: \$72.00

2. ENHANCING OUR IMAGE, PROFILE AND EXPERTISE

- Scout Guide Week 2011

It's February, and Scout-Guide Week is just around the corner, February 21-28. If any groups are planning events, now would be the time to contact your local media to get some coverage.

- Good Turn Week 2011

Scouts Canada will be repeating the successful *Good Turn Week* project this year, March 27 to April 15. Distribution of the bands will take place in late February/early March to Area Commissioners to allow lots of time for distribution to their groups. They will once again be delivered by Canada

Post, as they were last year. Please note that this Good Turn Week replaces the former '*Operation Good Deed*' which Nova Scotia has run in previous years.

- 2011 Canada Games

Nova Scotia Council- Scouts Canada is proud to be associated with the 2011 Canada Games. Scouting youth will be participating in the flag bearing / medal presentation ceremonies from various areas in the HRM. See the Council website for more details.

3. MAKING IT EASIER FOR NEW AND CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

- Registration Fees for New Leaders in New Groups

The NS Council will pay the registration fee for new leaders, for their 1st year in new Scouting groups in Nova Scotia. New leaders, who are registered, paid-up, and "active" in the aforementioned new groups, will have their registration fees reimbursed by the Nova Scotia Council, understanding that it must be the new leaders' first year of volunteer service to the Nova Scotia Council. This is effective for the registration year of 2010-2011. The Council will review this offer for next year in the coming months.

- Training For All

Gary Thurston DCC – Adult Development

scoutergary@ns.sympatico.ca

902-667-7007

As a part of our commitment when we joined as a volunteer, we all agreed to complete our WB I within the first year. So how are you doing?

There are many opportunities for you to complete your initial training, including on-line or in person at one of the scheduled trainer lead courses. Please see the training calendar for a course near you, or complete your training online at www.scouts.ca. Scouts Canada has determined that trained leaders provide better programs for our youth and keep them coming back!

Training is open to all registered Scouters. Are you a Group Commissioner who would like to know more about particular sections' programs? A leader who would like to have a better understanding on how your group committee works? Thinking of moving to a new section next year? No need to wait to take your training! Sign up for a trainer lead course now or complete it online. Be prepared in September to step into your new role. It'll be one less thing to worry about, and you'll be in a better position to make the transition.

Also please note, Scouts Canada plans to launch online WB I training for Venturer and Rover Advisors this coming September.

The following trainer lead courses are now being offered locally. Please contact the Scouters below for more information. We will provide more information on training available in other parts of the province as it becomes available to us.

DATE	SECTION	CONTACT	PHONE	E-MAIL	AREA
March 5, 2011	Group Committee	Karen O'Toole	868-2991	kareno@eastlink.ca	Halifax
March 26, 2011	Pack (Section Specific)	Jim Fitzsimmons	434-7746	jim.fitzsimmons@ns.sympatico.ca	Dartmouth

Remember, on-line participants are entitled to receive their WB I woggle and certificate after successfully completing all the required modules. Each month Area Commissioners will be notified about recent WB I training completed by their leaders. Woggles can be awarded at an appropriate time by members of the Area Service Team or delegate based on information recorded at the National Office.

4. ENHANCING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

- SCOUTS CANADA – NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

March 11-13, 2011 - Toronto, Ontario

An email was sent out to all Area Commissioners and Area Youth Commissioners, as well as some Group Commissioners who direct a large number of registered members, inviting them to attend the National Leadership Summit.

The Summit activities will focus on several important objectives:

- a) To ensure that we as an organization are in sync with respect to our key priorities and measures of success.
- b) To improve service delivery to our members and support for our volunteer leaders.
- c) To provide practical tools to facilitate membership growth.
- d) To build links across councils to facilitate the sharing of information and best practices among those with common roles in different councils.

- Public Appointment Process

There will be a Public Appointments Process for the position of Nova Scotia Council Commissioner in late March 2011.

A nominating committee will have the task of advertising, receiving and reviewing the applications, selecting candidates for interview, and recommending a candidate to the CEO/Executive Commissioner of Scouts Canada for appointment to the Nova Scotia Council Commissioner position. The appointment is reviewed annually for a maximum of three years. This posting will be made on the Nova Scotia Council website and all registered members are welcome to apply.

5. RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS & FINDING NEW VOLUNTEERS

- Bring a Buddy /Friend

It won't be too long before our groups are starting to prepare for fun spring and summer outings. This is a great opportunity to encourage section leaders to plan "Bring a Buddy / Friend" activities to attract new members. Please contact Nanci Douglas at ndouglas@scouts.ca for information on how youth can earn a special pin / crest.

6. PROGRAM NEWS

- Howard Donohoe has recently joined the Council Leadership Team as Deputy Council Commissioner with a focus on Program delivery.
- World Scout Environment Award

In case you've missed it, there are more details about the new World Scout Environment Award on the National web site. It is important the Area Service Teams and Trainers take the time to read about this exciting new way for our members to become more environmentally aware. Learn more by visiting

<http://www.scouts.ca/dnn/ProgramResources/PackagedResources/WorldScoutEnvironmentAward/tabid/2788/Default.aspx> where you will also find the badge requirements for each section.

- Program Quality Awards

Details of the new Program Quality Awards can be found at www.ns.scouts.ca as well as www.scouts.ca

Review your sections program standards and see what you need to do to earn this new Section Award for the 2010-2011 Scouting Year.

7. ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

- Call for Nominations for Area Youth Commissioners

If your area doesn't have an Area Youth Commissioner please contact John deRosenroll, the NS Council Youth Commissioner, at jderose@ns.sympatico.ca for more information on how we can help.

- New Area Youth Commissioner

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Emma Sutherland as the Area Youth Commissioner (AYC) for the South Shore Area and to welcome her service on the South Shore Area Service Team as the youth representative.

- New Deputy Council Youth Commissioner Training

Let us all welcome Marissa West to the team. Marissa will be working with John deRosenroll and the Council Leadership Team to bring training to the youth.

8. OTHER NEWS

Calendar Of Events - Please check www.ns.scouts.ca to make sure all events are on the calendar.

Date:	Event Details
March 8-9, 2011	Professional staff development - CED and other Professionals - Toronto
March 10, 2011	Scout Popcorn Conference - Toronto
March 11-13, 2011	National Leadership Summit – Toronto
April 9, 2011	Chief Scout's/Queen's Venturer/Medal of Maple Award Ceremony

- Website

Please visit www.ns.scouts.ca for updates and information on Council activities. If you would like to post an event that is happening in your area please contact Shirlene Lewis at slewis@scouts.ca

Please contact your Area Commissioner or Council (Key 3) for assistance in carrying out your Scouting objectives in program delivery.

Terry Greenham – Interim Council Commissioner
John deRosenroll - Council Youth Commissioner
Jimmy Khatri - Council Executive Director

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