



It starts with Scouts.

Scouts Canada - Nova Scotia Council
Newsletter # 4 – August 2011

MESSAGE FROM RICHARD DYKE, OUR COUNCIL COMMISSIONER

Hi Scouter!

I hope you are looking forward to a great year ahead. I already see many section leaders starting to think about and plan for the coming year. I also see a steady upswing in the number of people taking training. The on-line training system has improved dramatically in the past several months, so check it out if you haven't recently -

<http://www.scouts.ca/dnn/Training/ScoutsCanadaeLearning/tabid/2508/Default.aspx>

Want to jumpstart your planning for the year? Get your section leaders together and all do WBI training together. You only need one computer. With a mix of new and old leaders working together, you will get a great opportunity to discuss how to make this year's program the best ever. Plus, your new leaders will get a good start on the training they need. (Just tell your group commissioner who was involved and they will get the training certified.)

Many Scouters enjoy the teamwork and friendship of in-person training and there are opportunities this fall for not only Wood Badge I but also Wood Badge II. Any participant in WBII will tell you it is a life altering experience and it doesn't happen every year so check it out too - <http://www.scouts.ca/dnn/Training/2011WBII/tabid/2849/Default.aspx>

Need inspiration for planning the coming year? Scouts Canada has many excellent resources for you including a whole year's worth of detailed programming broken out meeting by meeting -

<http://www.scouts.ca/dnn/ProgramResources/PreparedProgramming/tabid/2529/Default.aspx>

The new uniforms are on the way. For those of us who remember the old green ones fondly, change is always tough (but you can keep on with the tan ones for the next three years). That said, I have seen too many ripped Cub epaulettes and torn Scout sashes over the years. A move to a fresher, more comfortable, and yes, more practical uniform is a good thing. That it costs less for our members is a bonus - <http://www.scouts.ca/uniformlaunch/>

Looking for a new role? There are always volunteer opportunities at the group, area, and provincial council level. We try to let everyone know about these opportunities but please let us know if you have a particular area of interest! Here for example are some new Deputy Council Commissioner roles recently posted -

<http://www.scouts.ca/dnn/Default.aspx?alias=www.scouts.ca/dnn/nsc>

I look forward to meeting with you in the coming months,

YIS,

Richard

PROMOTING SCOUTING IN NS

Watch for advertising about registration in the Chronicle Herald, SNAP, Cape Breton Post, and Metro newspapers. New members may be contacting you for information.

POPCORN

Can you believe it's that time of year? It's the mid-August and I am sure all of you have started dreaming about Scout Popcorn and Zyclones! What are Zyclones? You'll soon find out as part of this year's popcorn campaign.

We all know that Scout Popcorn provides an excellent way to raise needed funds for groups and youth across our province. With a Canadian Jamboree coming up the summer after next, now is the time to start fund raising for this and similar events. Scout Popcorn is an easy way to raise thousands of dollars for your youth.

Our 2011 Popcorn Campaign will run from September 23rd through to October 21st, with delivery of products to the areas starting the week of November 14th.

We have fun popcorn kick offs planned throughout September – Let's get this party started!!

FUNDRAISING

Scout Popcorn is an excellent way of fundraising. It sets the right message with a healthy and fun product. It is well promoted and we are building up a brand image. We are not 'begging' for contributions rather than offering a product and service delivery to earn community support. We don't want to be seen as fundraising all the time – it's no fun for the youth or volunteers and it sends the wrong message on what Scouting is all about – so we try to do it once and do it right.

Groups are welcome to do additional fundraising activities, if you feel the need. There are some rules around this to protect the youth and leaders as well as Scouting's reputation and financial integrity. If you are doing some small fundraiser (e.g., bottle drive, bagging groceries) that we have all done for years, go for it. If you are thinking about some new initiative that involves investing funds up-front in the hope of making more money back, if you might sell some product or service or otherwise associate the Scouting name with a commercial enterprise ... please get the office to review it first. This is especially critical if someone is after you to sign a contract or a waiver as this needs to be handled at the Council level.

MMS UPDATE & REGISTRATION

For group registrars, the switch to the new membership database from the old MMS is delayed from September to January. While delays are never welcome, we want to make sure we get it right and that everyone is comfortable with how to use the new system before we switch. As a wise fellow once cautioned, "Be Prepared" ... and we want to be. So, registration will be handled using MMS and office staff are happy to help if you have questions.

Getting members set up and registered in the membership database system is the most important but not the only part of completing member registration. Please aim to get your member registration forms and payments into the office by November 15, 2011. We know of one group that decided to hold on to the Scouts Canada registration fees for a few months. They figured this was OK as they would use the fees to run their group for a while. (It's not.) They then lost the money. This unhappy situation impacts all of us, including the youth who were supposed to be registered. Legally, it's fraud. Please don't let this unhappy situation happen to your group.

OPERATION ALERT – NINJAS VS SAMURAI

The new Scouting year is almost upon us and with that comes Operation Alert for the Scout and Venturer sections. The theme for this year's event is *Ninjas vs. Samurai* and takes place the weekend of September 23rd – 25th at Camp Nedooae.

For those of you who have attended the event in the past, we are very much looking forward to meeting up with you again this year. If you haven't attended the event before we would love to see you there.

For those less familiar with the event, here is a little background. Operation Alert started in 1963 as a camp to provide a challenge to Scouts from across Nova Scotia. It continues today as a competitive challenge for teams of Scouts and Venturers from across the province and occasionally other provinces. Teams are made up of 4 youth participants (although a team of 3 can still compete) with Scout teams having an age range of 11-14 and Venturer teams having an age range of 14-17. Teams compete from noon on Saturday until 10 AM Sunday morning. Scout projects shut down from 10:30 PM to 5:30 AM. Venturer projects remain open all night.

Teams are scored on completion of projects and their camping skills. Projects range from challenges that test youth Scouting skills to fun obstacle courses.

Many of the projects are run by groups of Scouters and Rovers who have worked together for a few years and find Operation Alert a great opportunity to get together for a weekend to work together, have fun, and meet new Scouters. If you are interested in getting a group of Scouters together to run a project or are an individual who might like to come to the event to work with a project we can always find a spot for you. Colony and Pack Scouters are always welcome.

For more information on Operation Alert see the Council web site or contact:

Nanci Douglas
ndouglas@scouts.ca

Peter Comeau
pacomeau@accesswave.ca

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.

Richard Dyke – Council Commissioner

rdyke@scouts.ca

John deRosenroll – Council Youth Commissioner

nscyc@scouts.ca

Jimmy Khatri – Council Executive Director

jkhatri@scouts.ca

NS Council – Scouts Canada

84 Thorne Ave

Dartmouth NS B3B 1Y5

Office: 902-423-9227

Fax: 902-423-7989