



It starts with Scouts.

Scouts Canada - Nova Scotia Council
Newsletter # 5 – October 2011

MESSAGE FROM RICHARD DYKE, NS COUNCIL COMMISSIONER

Hi Scouters,

Congratulations to the many volunteers who have gotten this year off with a bang. Parents are writing in to tell us how impressed they are by local Scouters making them feel welcome, the popcorn kick-offs have been a great success, and provincial events like Operation Alert have gone off extremely well. (Thanks to Roy Marsh and Nanci Douglas on popcorn and to Peter Comeau, his hard working team and all the areas that contributed Alert projects!)

As I travel the province, I hear all sorts of effective recruiting strategies. What are you doing? It can be as simple as asking your youth and leaders from last year to return. It works.

One great idea comes from the Cumberland Area where Commissioner Tom Somers and his team go into elementary schools in uniform to teach Hug-a-Tree programs. A great community service and they pick up new Beaver Scouts along the way. Please share your ideas too.

I still have people ask me about the Program Quality Awards and whether it is too late for last year: You CAN still apply up to the end of October. It is very easy to complete. Your past year doesn't have to be perfect in every aspect to earn the award. We want to recognize all the many Scouters and youth living the Scouting experience to the fullest. Take the couple of minutes to apply -- you and your team deserve it.

Do you have new leaders? Make sure they get what they need:

- Support from other Scouters in your group or from the area service team
- Knowledge of where to find program resources (e.g., Scouts Canada web site)
- Access to Wood Badge I training -- look for local scheduled events or on-line training
- The New Scouter Welcome Kit is an especially handy resource that many 'experienced' Scouters value.

If you are having an event in your area, please send me an invite as I would love to come. If you need any servicing help, let us know.

Yours in Scouting,
Richard

BROTHERHOOD FUND PROJECT IN THE GAMBIA

Over the last few years, a combined Nova Scotia and Yukon group has been involved in a Brotherhood Fund project, building a Skills Centre and developing a Scout Camp in The Gambia, in West Africa. Two of the four classrooms are now nearing completion, and we are going to send a container of items for the Skills Centre, Scout Camp, local Scouts and village nursery and elementary schools. We welcome your help with donations. The Skills Centre will operate courses in tailoring, batik and tie and dye, electrician and fishing to begin.

For more information, please click [here](#).

RAVERAVE stands for Rover and Venturer Event and is held every fall at Camp Nedooae and regularly attracts about a dozen companies. It is nothing like Alert.

Meals are provided at the dining hall. You may camp or use a cabin. The fee is \$30 for each participant, youth or adult.

Training sessions emphasize advanced outdoor skills - edible plants, survival training, map & compass, rope spicing, trail-side cooking, and more. Some years we offer computer skills such as security issues and email etiquette. The program depends entirely on who shows up.

If you are a Rover or Venturer advisor and wish to put on a training session on some activity that turns you on, please drop Jim Jotcham a line at marbicon@eastlink.ca. Outdoor sessions are preferred, but indoor works too.

An optional Company Executive Course will be offered on Friday evening. Open to all, this session explains how to run a company meeting - the role of the president, secretary, treasurer, and advisor.

This is a provincial event, open to all registered Rovers, Venturers and Scouts in their final (linking) year in troop. This is a chance to expand your horizons and meet new friends in crew and company.

OPERATION ALERT

Whoever would have thought that it would rain at Operation Alert? Well it became one of the dominant features of Saturday at this year's Operation Alert. Despite the dampness this year was a great success on many fronts.

On behalf of all Alert organizing committee, I would like to pass along a big thank you to all the youth participants for their patience and good humour throughout the event. It is this enthusiasm that makes the event so worthwhile. I would also like to pass along a big thank you to the many adult volunteers who make Alert possible. Their hard work and attention to safety makes for a challenging and safe event.

For the first time in many years, we had an increase in the number of teams and youth participants at the event. This year we had a total of 48 Scout teams and 28 Venturer teams. It is so great to see the number of participants increasing. Let's see what we can do to have even more teams participate next year - the 50th Operation Alert!

This year was also the first time we asked for youth submissions towards the crest design. We received a small number of submissions. Congratulations to Paxton Matheson from 3rd Eastern Passage Troop for having his design selected for this year's crest. Paxton's team enjoyed a meal cooked for them trailside as they were taking a break between projects. Paxton's team selected a meal of BBQ Bacon Cheese Burgers and salad. We also had a number of new projects in place this year. Unfortunately, we also had several projects that were not at Alert this year due to a variety of reasons.

In reviewing the youth evaluations there was one recurring theme (particularly with Venturer Teams) there is a need for additional projects. Wouldn't it be great if we could return to the days when we had so many projects that it kept teams active throughout the night and it was truly a special accomplishment to complete all the projects? If there are leaders out there who would like to put on a project for Alert please contact us and we will have one of the area coordinators contact you with additional information.

There have been a number of people asking about the results from this year's event. So here they are:
Scout Section

- 1st – 3rd Spryfield (Kirk Drabble, Zach Lake, Brian Seo, Jack Farrell)
- 2nd – 1st Shubenacadie (Emily Cameron, Liam White, Justin Dean)
- 3rd – 1st Shubenacadie (Jenna Willis, Ryan Schofield, Devin Roach)

Venturer Section

- 1st – 1st Shubenacadie (Bradley Sheehy, Philip Landry, Justin White, Greg Hussey)
- 2nd – 17th Dartmouth (Iain Wilson, Gibson Savell, Willi Johnson, Dalton Clarke)
- 3rd – 1st Clayton Park (Ryan Ash, Nic Salterio, Peter Kuehn)

Once again, thanks so much to all the participants and volunteers for a great year at Operation Alert. We hope to see you all again next year for the 50th Operation Alert where the theme will be Ancient Greece!

Peter Comeau
Game Director, 2011 Operation Alert

JOTA

The 54th Jamboree On The Air will take place on October 15 and 16, 2011.

This year's theme is: Peace, Environment and Natural Disasters.

An exciting activity that focuses on the strength of Scouting: to act and support in unforeseen circumstances. Scouts are prepared.

Check out the website at

http://scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota/the_54th_jota_2011

REGISTRATIONS

All group registrations are due at the Scout Office by November 15, 2011. Please make sure you have all forms and payment in by then. Also, remember to ensure that your PRC is up to date.

POPCORN

Our Annual Scout Popcorn Campaign is underway – having kicked off on September 23rd and running through until the October 21st. Please support our biggest fundraiser!

Don't forget we have asked that you film your group or section's 2011 Popcorn Campaign Kick-Off and have a chance to earn a prize!

Video Requirement Guidelines:

- Videos must be submitted to the NS Council by October 15, 2011
- Videos should be in DVD format
- Submitted videos must include the group name, contact name with email and phone number please
- Your Popcorn Kick-Off should include:
 - Sales Training
 - Safety
 - Product Knowledge

- Fun
- All videos should be created, filmed and produced by the youth with the assistance and guidance of their adult leaders.

* The first 25 video submissions received by October 15th will be awarded a prize. The videos *will not* be returned to so be sure to keep a copy for your group! The best submission may be linked to the NS Council website for general viewing! Forward your video to Scouts Canada, 84 Thorne Ave., Dartmouth NS B3B 1Y5
Attention: Nanci Douglas

SCOUTERS' CONFERENCE AND AGM

This year's Scouters' Conference and AGM is being held November 4 – 6, 2011, at the Best Western Glengarry, Truro. Please don't delay - the application form for attendance at the 54th Conference is available from our website www.ns.scouts.ca. Please contact the hotel directly at 1-800-567-4276 to book your rooms. Advise them that you are attending the Scouters' Conference to receive the rate of \$93.99 + taxes per night. For additional information please contact ndouglas@scouts.ca

TRAINING

All leaders should have a Wood Badge I in the section they are working with. You can complete your Wood Badge I in Colony, Pack, Troop, Company or Crew on line or you can take a course that may be put on by your area or another area. Please check with your area commissioner for a list of dates for upcoming courses. You can also check the NS Council website for a list of approved courses.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE TRAINING

St. John Ambulance offers no charge First Aid training for Scouts Canada, Nova Scotia Council members and leaders as a part of its community service program. No-cost training is available to current, registered, youth and adult members of Scouts Canada Nova Scotia Council.

The following St John Ambulance programs are available:

1. All CPR Programs
2. Lifesaver Challenge - Cub-aged program
3. We Can Help - Beaver-aged program
4. Emergency First Aid
5. Standard First Aid
6. Enhanced First Aid

The contact Scouter must provide, 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE, a list of names of those wishing to participate in the training and forward it directly to the Nova Scotia Council Office, using the application provided. A minimum of 10 registrants is required to book a course for that group. Course location (with civic address) is needed at that time.

St. John Ambulance will coordinate the appropriate arrangements and ensure the course is provided with the following:

1. Qualified instructor
2. Appropriate training materials - books, ACTARS, bandages
3. Certificates

The application and additional information can be obtained on the NS Council website. Please forward application to Shirlene Lewis at slewis@scouts.ca

“AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?”

HeartWood is excited about our upcoming Mentoring in the Outdoors program. This hands-on learning program provided training to adults and older youth interested in working with young people in the outdoors. Topics include mentorships, planning fun and magical outdoor activities with and for young people, safety, leave no trace principles using the outdoors as a learning space – and much more. For more information click on the link http://www.heartwood.ns.ca/documents/MO2011reg_001.pdf

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

John deRosenroll – Council Youth Commissioner

Jimmy Khatri – Council Executive Director

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