



It starts with Scouts.



“On the Same Page”

The NB Council Commissioner’s Newsletter

1st edition -- June 2012

1. Regular Report to Group and Area Commissioners:

With this newsletter, I want to start a regular newsletter to Group and Area Commissioners and to the NB Council to make sure that we remain “on the same page” with regard to important Scouts Canada and New Brunswick Council policies and activities. The effectiveness of our work as a Council depends on all the key players in New Brunswick Scouting being aware of the most recent issues that we need to be dealing with.

I am thinking of making this a monthly newsletter and my intention is only to deal with important and noteworthy issues, which will be of importance to Group and Area Commissioners. Mike Stewart, as our new DCC Communications will also be developing a newsletter which will go to all adult volunteers, Rovers and Venturers in the province and which will be used for more routine announcements to all. Also, as part of his new job, Mike will be taking over the development of the NB Council website. Watch for further developments in that area.

2. Child and Youth Safety

The most important outcome of last fall’s CBC investigation of Scouts Canada is the new approach of our organization to ensuring child and youth safety in Scouting. We are all being tasked with responsibility for the effective implementation of this program in the following ways:

- a) I have been asked to name a Deputy Council Commissioner for Child and Youth Safety to coordinate our efforts. I do not yet have a candidate who can take this job on immediately. If any of the present Group Commissioners would be interested in trying this out or if you know of other people who would do a good job in this area, please let me know.
- b) Each Area Commissioner is also being asked to name a Deputy Area Commissioner to take responsibility for our new policy. Again, if you are interested, speak to your Area Commissioner.
- c) Steve Kent tells us that, for our new policy to be effective, we must constantly be thinking about the safety of the children and youth that we are responsible for. There is now much talk about how Scouting must create a culture of safety. The current policy on Child and Youth Safety has been spelled out in the recent email containing the Child and Youth Safety Update of June 20, 2012. All commissioners should read this document closely and download the relevant attachments to that email.
- d) Right away – as we are told in that email – we are required to implement new compulsory training for all adult volunteers in Scouting, and this is what I want to draw your attention to, because Group Commissioners and Area Commissioners must now ensure that all our continuing volunteers and all new volunteers are aware of these new requirements.
- e) **Effective immediately, all new adult volunteers must complete the following compulsory training modules BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 if they are to be registered for the 2012-13 Scouting year:**
 - i) **The training module on Child and Youth Safety**
 - ii) **The training module on Accessibility**
 - iii) **Module 1 of the Wood Badge Part I**

In addition to completing these training modules, new adult volunteers will have to be properly screened with reference checks, interviews and by obtaining a current Police Record Check.

If these requirements are not met, individuals will not be registered until they are, which means that they cannot work with youth or wear the uniform until they are registered.

- f) Coupled with this is the requirement that all adult volunteers continuing from the previous year, must also complete the new training modules on Child and Youth Safety and Accessibility and, if they have not yet got their Wood Badge Part I, must also complete the first Module of that course. If they don't meet those conditions, they cannot be registered for the coming year.**
- g) The new training modules are available on line and can be accessed through going to "MyScouts.Ca" and clicking on "Training", then elearning login. That will bring you to the Training Catalog where you will find the necessary training modules. Most adult volunteers should be encouraged to complete these modules on line and then to inform their Group Commissioner when they have done so. Each Group should keep records of who has completed this training for the purposes of registration of adult volunteers. Don't rely on the accuracy of MyScouts.Ca to report when these modules have been completed.
- h) Area Commissioners have the Child and Youth Safety course on a DVD and may wish to develop face-to-face courses on this topic. I will be offering the course at this weekend's Linking Camp at the Yoho Scout Reserve for Scouters able to attend at either 2:00 pm on Saturday or 7:00 pm on Saturday.
- i) My advice to all Area Commissioners, Group Commissioners and Deputy Council Commissioners is that you make the time now to complete the Child and Youth Safety module and the Accessibility module, so that you can better advise others on how to get it done. I have already completed the Child and Youth Safety module and now need to do the Accessibility module.
- j) If we are going to have our continuing and new volunteers ready and registered by September 1, 2012, we must act **NOW** to get the word out. This training has to be completed during the summer if we are going to be able to staff our Scouting sections in the fall. Please make every effort to get people started on these new training units **NOW**.

Of course, proper screening of new volunteers is also important and must be done in a timely way – **namely during the summer**, so they are ready to work with youth in September. This year, all persons over the age of 18 who are involved in Scouting must take the compulsory training modules, have references checked, be interviewed, and obtain a Police Record Check if they do not already have one. This now includes all Rover Scouts.

Youth who are assuming positions of responsibility, such as Scouters-in-Training, Activity Leaders, and Area or Group Youth Commissioners, must now also be screened with reference checks and interviews, but do not need to get a PRC if under 18.

3. New Brunswick Council Roadmap to Success

In line with Scouts Canada goals about providing adult volunteers with good support in doing their job as Scouting leaders, the New Brunswick Council has adapted the national goals to what is seen as being possible in New Brunswick. Area and Group Commissioners will be involved in implementing these goals and I ask that special effort be made to keep records of achievement in this area, since I will be asking for updates during the year in order to report our achievement to National Headquarters.

I'm attaching the Roadmap objectives for your information. Our targets for the 2012-13 Scouting year are the following:

- a) By August 2013, we will increase our membership by 3% over August 2012
- b) 50% of our new volunteers will be recruited and registered by August 31, 2012
- c) Orientation and New Scouter Welcome Kits will be given to all new volunteers within 2 weeks of accepting a volunteer role

- d) 40% of all our sections will earn the Quality Section Award
- e) 65% of our adult volunteers will have completed the Part I Wood Badge by January 2013
- f) 60% of all sections, groups and areas will receive three service visits annually
- g) 75% of all Group Committees will have a minimum of three non-section Scouters to support Group activities (eg. Registration, fundraising, financial and HR planning)
- h) 60% of all adult volunteers will receive personal feedback three times annually
- i) 15% of volunteers will receive Scouts Canada recognition for outstanding service annually.

4. Applications for the 2012 NB Awards Ceremony

The New Brunswick Awards Ceremony will be held in the Provincial Legislative Assembly in Fredericton on **Saturday, November 3, 2012**. This is the ceremony when we will recognize Scouts who have earned the Chief Scout Award and Venturers who have earned the Queen's Venturer Award, as well as present awards to other active Scouts and Scouters.

At its last meeting, the NB Council decided that the deadline for submitting applications for the Chief Scout Award and the Queen's Venturer Award for 2012 should be **August 1** and not September 15 as has been the case in the past. This is because we have been told that it will take at least three months to have certificates properly signed by the Governor-General in Ottawa and we want to make sure that all eligible candidates will receive their certificates. If groups have candidates that have not quite finished all requirements by August 1 but are confident that they will be finished by mid-September, they should submit their names to meet the August 1 deadline.

5. Boy Scouts of America National Scout Jamboree, July 15 to 24, 2013

The New Brunswick Council has reserved space to send a small contingent of New Brunswick Scouts and Venturer Scouts to attend the National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of America at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia between July 15 and 24, 2013. We presently have space for 8 Scouts or Venturer Scouts and two Scouters to participate in this Jamboree. Participating Scouts must be at least 14 and not more than 18 on July 15, 2013. Information on the Jamboree may be found on their website, <https://summit.scouting.org/en/jamboree2013/Pages/default.aspx>

If more than 8 youth want to apply for the New Brunswick positions, we will have a selection committee and, possibly, may try to reserve more spaces for our contingent.

The youth participant fee for the Jamboree is \$850.00 US, with the first payment of \$150.00 US to be made by June 30, 2012. In addition to this fee, there will be the cost of transportation to the Jamboree and other related costs.

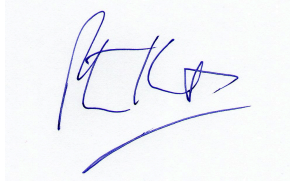
Interested Scouters may apply for the two adult leadership positions which will be selected and paid for by the NB Council. Scouters must be 21 years old or older. The Leader Fee for those aged 26+ will be \$850 US and the Young Leader Fee, for those aged 21 - 25, will be \$425 US.

Interested youth participants should send an email to Peter Kent, New Brunswick Council Commissioner (kent@unb.ca) before July 15, 2012. In this email, the Scouts or Venturer Scouts should indicate what Troop or Company they belong to and tell something about their experience in Scouting. They should also include their mailing address. An application form will be sent to them after July 15.

Interested Scouters should also send an email to Peter Kent before July 15, 2012.

Please spread the word about this international opportunity.

Good Scouting to all. Expect another edition of this newsletter at the end of July.



Peter Kent
New Brunswick Council Commissioner