



“On the Same Page”

The NB Council Commissioner’s Newsletter

6th edition – November 26, 2012

1. Meeting of the New Brunswick Council on December 1, 2012

The New Brunswick Council will meet at 9:30 am on Saturday, December 1, 2012, in the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown. All Group Commissioners in New Brunswick are invited to attend and participate in this meeting. The meeting will last until 4:30 pm, with lunch and coffee breaks being provided. Mike Aubé, the Group Commissioner of 1st Oromocto, has made the arrangements for our meeting and has also arranged for a brief tour of the Engineers’ Museum after lunch. A map with directions on how to find the Engineers’ School is included in this message. So that we may know how many to expect for lunch, can you please let me know by Wednesday, November 28, if you will or will not be attending this meeting?

The morning will consist of a workshop, with presentations and discussions on a number of topics. **Mike Stewart**, our Deputy Council Commissioner for Communications will speak about the work he is doing on our New Brunswick Council website and will also lead a discussion on the use of social media in promoting Scouting. **Richard Whetmore**, the Deputy Council Commissioner for Child and Youth Safety will deal with issues related to the implementation of these new policies. Richard has also been holding discussions with St. John Ambulance about the possibility of free or reduced cost Standard First Aid courses for Scouters and youth and needs to know how many people might be interested in these courses. If other DCCs have topics they would like to discuss on Saturday morning, please let me know before the meeting.

Dwight Benner, the Group Commissioner of 1st Lincoln Lighthouse in Riverton Area, will be unable to attend the meeting, but has sent me an excellent list of issues that he thinks the NB Council and the Group Commissioners could usefully discuss. Following are the issues that Dwight has outlined and we will also take time to deal with these issues in the morning. Do you agree or disagree with Dwight? Dwight writes:

*“1. **Popcorn** - our group decided not to do popcorn this year due to declining sales and shrinking profit margins; the amount of work involved in organizing, tallying and distributing popcorn; allergies; economy where people just don't have the extra cash to put toward product/donation combination; etc. are all reasons for it. We actually had product (the pre-popped stuff) returned the day after delivery because it was stale (and package was not opened as I checked everyone before it went out the door to make sure it was not damaged) which didn't bode well either. People can go to Wal-mart and get the same stuff for half price and the discussion about money to the Scouts only goes so far as only a few people see that for what it really is, a fundraiser.*

*“2. **Fundraising** is becoming a challenge as there are only so many fundraising dollars out there now with everyone and their uncle vying for the few dollars that people will donate after they pay for gas and groceries.*

*“3. We have been challenged the past couple years with more and more youth asking for **registration assistance**, thank heavens for Jumpstart and No one left behind. This is only going to get worse as parents try to find something for their youth as costs of everything else is becoming out of reach. Scouting is a good deal really.*

“4. I won't even get into the myscouts.ca change as I am sure every one has had it with that and I actually didn't do too bad with it overall once I got my head around how the system worked from a technical perspective.

*“5. **Leadership** - luckily our leaders have been very good and our program is really growing, but, with that growth comes challenges of succession planning which I think is a huge challenge for Scouts Canada particularly at the group level. Think about it, everyone there has been there for years, what happens if you get ill or stop doing Scouts for whatever reason, program dies. Parents are the ones who run the boat so to speak at our group but the leadership/group team that we have now have been in for a while as their kids go through the program and as such there are not the new parent leaders coming in the bottom. I can see this as being a challenge for all groups due to the perceived effort/time to get involved, no one wants to commit.*

*“6. **Fundy National Park** - this is an amazing spot and one our family goes to frequently (we have a season's pass if that tells you anything). Closing for the winter will most likely affect the Moncton folks worse as it is a bit of a haul from Fredericton. However, that being said, I feel that we should step up support for keeping this open all winter for the youth and for the village of Alma.*

*“7. **Child and Youth Safety** - this is a biggie and one that we all take seriously, or should take seriously. I do find some chunks of the BP&P a little confusing if*

you "read the black words on the white paper". I don't feel we do enough for the leaders to help understand the BP&P or scenarios or really how to go about evaluating the risk. For example, taking the Scout group to a rock climbing wall, there is a waiver to sign, all the parents do it as they see zero risk, but no one REALLY understands the consequences good or bad of this type of form (some argue it won't hold water and some argue it is legally binding, who knows?). There is so much that can be done here but like we have discussed in our group, we make decisions, carry out activities and as long as everyone is comfortable with them, parents included, away we go, if you didn't you wouldn't get out the door of your meeting hall and then that drives the youth away. I know why the big crank on the wheel of the ship and all the effort around Child and Youth Safety but some common sense needs to prevail sometimes."

After lunch and the museum tour, we will have an open formal meeting of the New Brunswick Council, which will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the New Brunswick Council.

Agendas for the meetings of Council will be sent out later this week. If you have any items you would like Council to discuss, please let me know by Thursday night.

The New Brunswick Youth Network will meet separately during the morning and will join the rest of the group for the afternoon meetings.

2. Popcorn Coordinator for the New Brunswick Council

I am pleased to announce that **Brenda Graham** of 1st Ketepec in Wabenaki Area has agreed to serve as the Popcorn Coordinator for the NB Council, effective December 1, 2012. By starting just at the end of the 2012 Popcorn Campaign, Brenda will be in a position to consult with Group Commissioners and members of the NB Council well in advance of the 2013 Popcorn Campaign. Brenda may be contacted at brenda.graham@bellaliant.net and she will be attending the meeting on December 1.

3. National Recognition Awards

Congratulations to the following who were presented with awards at the 2011-2012 National Recognition Awards Ceremony during the National Meeting of Scouts Canada in Ottawa on November 17:

Tom Heath received the Silver Maple Leaf, an award given to professional Scouters

Mike Stewart received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Keegan Eatmon received a Certificate of Commendation

The New Brunswick Council received

- a) The Arrowhead Award in recognition of being one of the top five Councils in Canada by percentage growth. (We were third highest, following the Saskatchewan Council and the Newfoundland and Labrador Council)
- b) The Achievement Award for growth between 0.01 and 4.99%. (We grew by 4.1%)

4. Registration of Group Commissioners

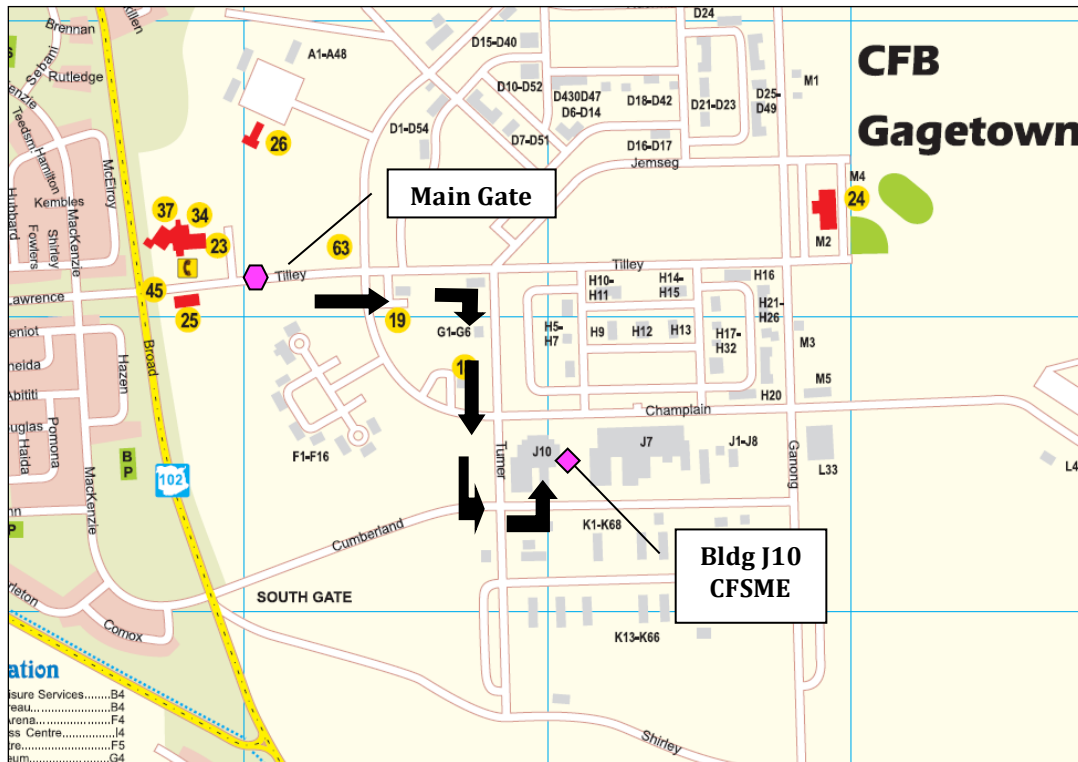
Each Group in New Brunswick should ensure that they have one person identified in MyScouts.Ca as their **Group Commissioner** before the end of November. National Headquarters will be making up their mailing list for the distribution of recruiting and recognition materials and want to ensure that their mailing list for Group Commissioners is accurate.

5. How to find the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering at CFB Gagetown

Oromocto NB



Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering (CFSME)



Enter Main Gate (Tilley Ave)
Take second right after the Fire hall (on Turner St)
Take second left at the stop sign (on Cumberland)
Turn left into CFSME parking lot
Enter main doors on the left

See you on Saturday