



It starts with Scouts.



"On the Same Page"

The NB Council Commissioner's Newsletter

9th edition - May 7, 2013

1. Appointment of an Executive Director for the New Brunswick Council

welcome Rob Lemmon as the Executive Director of the New Brunswick Council. Rob was raised in Sackville and in Fredericton, where he was an active participant in Scouting. In Sackville, he was a Beaver, Cub and Scout and, in Fredericton, he was a Venturer and later a Venturer Advisor. He attended the 15th World Jamboree at Kananaskis Park in Alberta in 1983 and, in 1985, he attended the Welsh Jamboree at Margam Park in South Wales. He holds both the Chief Scout Award and the Queen's Venturer Award.

He is a graduate of Fredericton High School and holds an Adventure Travel Guide Diploma from Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia and a Bachelor of Adult Education from UNB. From 2000 to 2010, he was an instructor in Adventure Leadership and Recreation in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management at the New Brunswick Community College in St. Andrew's, NB. In 2012, he started his own business, Maritime Day Tripping Inc. as a year-round outdoor tourism, recreation and nature business in New Brunswick. Rob is a fully qualified and certified instructor in all aspects of canoeing and kayaking, rock-climbing, skiing, SCUBA diving and wilderness rescue and first aid.

He is married and has two daughters and lives in Fredericton. With Rob's appointment, which took effect on May 6, 2013, his office will be located in the Riverton Scout Centre at 141 School Street in Fredericton, where it is planned to provide him with administrative assistance. His email is now rlemmon@scouts.ca.

Rob will soon be touring the province to meet the members of our New Brunswick Scouting team. I know that you all will want to give him a warm welcome.

2. Registration Fees for 2013 - 2014 to stay the same as 2012 - 2013

The New Brunswick Council met in Moncton on April 27, 2013. The minutes of that meeting are attached to this Newsletter. As you will see from the minutes, the Administration Committee recommended to the meeting that we should hold the line on fees and not increase the fee beyond \$180.00 for the coming year. After some discussion, however, the Council voted to increase the fees by \$5.00 per person and this motion passed the meeting. The argument was that we should increase the fee to help protect our financial position with our membership falling off somewhat this year, in order to avoid larger increases in another year. The Council had recommended that the fees for 2013 - 2014 be set at \$185.00.

After the meeting, I was going through my notes when I came across an email from our National Commissioner, Andrew Price, which had been sent in February and which indicated that the Board of Governors of Scouts Canada was asking Councils not to increase participant fees this year if at all possible. I wrote to Andrew to ask if he felt that the Board

policy would apply to a \$5.00 fee increase when our fees were relatively low anyway. We discussed the issue in a teleconference tonight with Keegan and Rob Lemmon. Andrew felt the Board would prefer that we not increase the fee and I agreed to tell the Council that we will not be increasing the fee this year. I believe that, in this case, we should abide by the wishes of the Board of Governors.

The Registration Fee for 2013 – 2014 will, therefore remain at \$180.00.

The Council decided to again offer a Spring Registration discount of \$15.00 on fees paid before June 30, 2013, and a Fall Registration discount of \$10.00 for those who register and pay their fees before September 23, 2013.

For the Spring Registration discount and the Fall Registration discount to be claimed, the monies paid for registration must reach Darlene in Prince Edward Island on or before June 30, 2013 for Spring Registration discount and on or before September 23, 2013 for Fall Registration discount. If Darlene does not receive the fees before these dates, Groups will be charged for the full registration fee with no discount.

A fee schedule based on a fee of \$180.00 is attached to this Newsletter.

3. Ensuring the Compliance of Adult Volunteers

In our discussion with National Commissioner Andrew Price tonight, we were told that he expects the adult volunteers in all Councils to be 100% in compliance with Scouts Canada's screening and training requirements by the end of August and that the New Brunswick Council currently is only 64% compliant.

Last week, I counted the number of adult volunteers who were still listed as Pending and found that our total number of Pending volunteers was 210. The Area with the largest number of Pending volunteers was Riverton (with 96), followed by Southeast NB (with 53), Fundy East (with 32), Chaleur (with 13), and Miramichi (with 11). Of course, the size of the Service Areas does have something to do with this, but the most impressive statistic came from the Wabenaki Area, which is one of our largest Areas, but which only has 4 volunteers in the Pending category. Virtually the whole Service Area is compliant! This good news result is largely due to Wabenaki Registrar Ken Elisseou, who has consistently worked with groups and individuals to ensure that people have become compliant in Wabenaki.

If it is possible to do this in one Area, it should be possible to do it in the others and I ask all Area Commissioners and Group Commissioners to encourage their volunteers to do what is necessary to become compliant. Remember that, while Scouters have to update their Police Record Check every three years, continuing Scouters don't have to repeat the training qualifications once they have taken the courses the first time. The more people we can make compliant this year, the less hassle we will have next year when we can concentrate all our attention on the training of the new adult volunteers. This has been a very difficult year just because all Scouters had to go through the basic training or record the fact that they had it. Next year should be much easier.

In addition to giving congratulations to Ken Elisseou in Wabenaki, I also want to congratulate the following groups, every one of whose members are fully compliant:

- 1st Washedemoak (Fundy East)
- 1st St. Paul's United (Fundy East)
- 1st Mount Royal (Southeast NB)
- 1st Springhill (Riverton)
- 1st St. Mark's United (Wabenaki)
- 1st Westfield (Wabenaki)
- 1st Ketepec (Wabenaki)

Holderville Property Committee (Wabanaki)
1st Mananook (Wabanaki)
21st St. George (Wabanaki)
2nd St. Stephen (Wabanaki)

In a second rank, I would also like to recognize the following groups with only two or fewer volunteers who are not yet compliant:

6th Hampton (Fundy East)
1st Upper Miramichi (Miramichi)
1st Tantramar (Southeast NB)
1st Moncton St. George's (Southeast NB)
Moncton Boys and Girls' Club (Southeast NB)
1st Cherry Mountain (Riverton)
1st Lincoln Lighthouse (Riverton)
2nd Lakewood (Wabenaki)
11th Courtney Silver Falls (Wabenaki)
Portland (Wabenaki)
1st St. Andrew's (Wabenaki)

In conversation with Andrew Price, I learned a couple of other things:

- a) National Headquarters is working on an on-line Part I for Group Committee members and hopes to have it available in the fall. Until that is ready, though, Group Committee members are still asked to complete a Part I Wood Badge in any one of the sections.
- b) The Council Commissioner, working with the Council Key Three, has the authority to give credit for previous experience which might not be otherwise recognized. If a banker acts as Treasurer for a Group Committee, he or she could be given credit for previous learning to do the Treasurer's job. Or if there is a Scouter who has been actively and effectively working with a Troop or a Pack for twenty or thirty years but can't remember the exact date of a Part I many years ago, I can give them credit for their Part I training.

That being the case, I invite Group and Area Commissioners who have individuals who would qualify for credit for the training requirements to write to me with a description of why the person should be given this credit. I'll consult with the Key Three and, if warranted, will see that this credit is given. I am particularly interested in long-term Scouters who have taught us much over the years and now find they are not compliant because of an inability to put forward the date of their Part I.

4. Make Good Use of the Summer Months:

Scouts Canada is asking that we make our preparations for the opening of the Scouting year much earlier than we did in the past. May of the year is when you should be recruiting youth and getting them to register early for the discount on the fee. May is also the month when you should be assessing your leadership needs and should be recruiting new adult volunteers for the fall. Once the adult volunteers have been recruited, they need to be oriented, screened, interviewed and get their Police Record Checks. All of this should be done in June or July. They will also need to be trained for Child and Youth Safety, for Accessibility and should complete their Part I Wood Badge for the section in which they will be working. This can be done in July and August so that, by September 1, they will be screened and trained and ready to give our youth the fantastic programs that we want them to have.

BUT if this is to be done effectively, Groups must use their summer months to prepare for Scouting in the Fall.

5. June Meeting of Council

I hope to reserve the Yoho Lake Lodge for the June meeting of the New Brunswick Council on Saturday, June 15. With good weather, this will let us mix some canoeing and swimming with our Council deliberations and the barbequing possibilities are endless. I will try to reserve the Lodge for Friday night as well, so that people who want to come early will have a place they can bunk in. More later on this.

6. Acting Commissioner

I will be teaching in Rome from May 10 to June 3, 2013. Paul Nickerson will be Acting Commissioner during my absence and I will be able to be contacted by email.

Yours in Scouting

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kent', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Peter Kent
Commissioner