



"On the Same Page"

The NB Council Commissioner's Newsletter

11th edition - October 2, 2013

Happy New Scouting Year, 2013-2014!

After the ups and downs of compliance and *MyScouts.Ca* in 2012-2013, we now have a chance for a fresh start with the new Scouting year of 2013-14. I'm sure that we are much more familiar with the screening and training requirements as we begin this new year and most of us can now find our way around *MyScouts.Ca*. I want to start by stressing the topics that Group and Area Commissioners must give their first attention to:

a) Membership:

After 5 consecutive years of membership growth, we slipped last year when our total membership was 16.6% less than it had been the year before. This year, we have to make up this membership loss if we possibly can. Probably the best way to start is to aim at increasing the youth membership in your group over what it was last year. If all groups can retain or increase their membership, this will put us on course for growth in the coming year.

The Bring-a-Friend Program continues this year and there are \$5.00 gift certificates which can be used at the Scout Shop for youth who bring in friends and more gift certificates for those friends who decide to join Scouting. All Area Commissioners have a stock of gift certificates and, if they run out, contact Rob Lemmon for more.

Within Areas, starting new Groups is one good way to increase membership. I'm delighted to see the new Southeast Area Rover Crew, just started in September and based at Mount Allison University.

Last June, we set our youth membership target for 2013-14 at 1750 youth by August 31, 2014. The budget of the New Brunswick Council for 2013-14 is based on achieving and, if possible, surpassing these numbers. If we can achieve this target, we will balance our budget. If we don't, then the probability is that we will have to increase our registration fees next year.

Attached to this newsletter are the membership statistics for New Brunswick as of September 30, 2013, thanks to Tom Austin. These are still early days and not all the registrations are in, but even so, our youth count is already 865, which is almost 50% of our youth target for the year. Things are looking good.

Please make increasing our membership your first priority.

b) Popcorn Sales:

The New Brunswick Council budget for 2013-14 is also based on an assumption of increased sales of Scout popcorn. The popcorn sales are intended to help Groups pay for their great programs and also to help with the Council budget. Increased membership and

good popcorn sales could be a sure-fire guarantee that we will not increase our fees next year.

Please encourage your groups to bring in their popcorn orders. If you have any questions or problems, direct them to Brenda Graham, NB Popcorn Coordinator, at Brenda.graham@bellaliant.net

c) Screening Adult Volunteers

The next issue of importance is to ensure that your returning and your new adult volunteers are properly screened. Until they have been fully screened, they may not wear the uniform and they may not work with youth. Area and Group Commissioners should have one designated individual who will monitor the screening and training compliance of returning and new adult volunteers.

Returning volunteers who were compliant in 2012-13 will only have to keep their Police Record Check current and to sign the Code of Conduct each year when they register. The Code of Conduct can be signed electronically once a year on *MyScouts.Ca*, I believe.

Before new adult volunteers can be activated on *MyScouts.Ca*, they must have a clean Police Record Check suitable for working with the Vulnerable Sector, they must have been interviewed, had their references checked, signed the Code of Conduct, completed the training units on Child and Youth Safety and Accessibility and have completed the Module 1 of the Wood Badge Part I which deals with risk management and is applicable to all sections. Once these requirements have been completed, the volunteer will receive Council Approval from Darlene or Rob, will be activated on *MyScouts.Ca*, and can wear the uniform and work with our youth. It should be the goal of all Groups to put their new adult volunteers through this process within the first month (or less) that they have agreed to work with Scouts Canada. We want our new leadership to be involved in the program and work with the youth as soon as possible – but before they do so, we MUST assure ourselves that they really are the people we want on our leadership teams.

d) Training Adult Volunteers

Returning adult volunteers should have completed their Wood Badge Part One courses last year or earlier, so they will be fully trained UNLESS they have changed Sections. If they are working with a different Section this year, they must complete the Wood Badge Part One for that Section.

New adult volunteers, once they have completed their screening, must then complete their basic training by completing the Wood Badge Part I for the Section they are working in. New members of Group Committees can take either the Wood Badge Part I for Group Committees or the Wood Badge Part I for any one of the Sections. This basic training MUST be completed within the first year of working in a leadership role with Scouts Canada

Adult volunteers, once they have been screened and activated on *MyScouts.Ca* can wear the uniform and work with youth. Until they have completed their training requirements, however, they cannot count for the adult/youth ratio in the section they are working with.

While much training is being done on-line these days because of the convenience of this method of delivery, we all recognize the benefits of face-to-face training and I hope that each of the Service Areas will plan to have at least one day of face-to-face training this fall or winter. It would be best if these training days could be on different weekends and open to Scouters from other Areas.

e) Recruiting New Leaders:

For Scouting to offer its dynamic and exciting youth program, it is essential to always be on the lookout for new adult volunteers who will make a great contribution to Scouting. Each

Group needs to be constantly looking for new recruits from their community. In fact, it would be good if one member of the Group Committee could act as a Personnel Director, building up a list of potential future volunteers so that the very best youth leaders can be brought into Scouting. Perhaps we should have adult Bring-a-Friend Nights where each adult volunteer brings a friend or a neighbor who might enjoy working in our program.

New Brunswick Awards Ceremony on Saturday, November 2, 2013

The New Brunswick Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 2, in the Legislative Assembly Chambers in Fredericton. The ceremony will start at 2:00 pm. It will be preceded by a lunch for the youth recipients in the Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook Hotel at 11:00 am, and it will be followed by a reception at Government House on the Woodstock Road.

Our special guest for the Award Ceremony will be Scouts Canada's National Commissioner and Chair of the Board of Governors, **Andrew Price**. I will be hosting a dinner for Andrew and members of the NB Council on Saturday night after the ceremony. In addition to speaking during the ceremony, Andrew has asked to participate in a "town hall discussion" as an open dialogue with New Brunswick Scouters on Sunday afternoon, November 3, "about how we can make Scouting in Canada bigger and better than it has ever been before." Details about this meeting will be sent out later in the month. Do plan to attend.

A few quick reminders for the Ceremony:

- i) Applications to have youth recognized for their Chief Scout Awards or their Queen's Venturer Awards are past due, but Executive Director Rob Lemmon will still accept late applications until Thursday, October 10. Send applications to Rob Lemmon at
P.O. Box 7034
RPO Brookside Mall
Fredericton, N.B. E3A 0Y7
Send Rob an email to let him know if more applications will be coming.
Rob's email: rlemmon@scouts.ca
- ii) Nominations for the youth service award, the Medal of the Maple, should be sent to Council Youth Commissioner, Keegan Eatmon at kneatmon@scouts.ca. Again, these should be sent to Keegan no later than Thursday, October 10..
- iii) Applications for the New Brunswick Pioneer Award should be sent to Rob Lemmon no later than Thursday, October 10

Yours in Scouting



Peter Kent
Commissioner