



THE SCOUTER'S DISPATCH

THE HAMILTON WENTWORTH AREA NEWSLETTER

February 2011

www.hwscouting.ca

Volume 24 Issue 1



Upcoming Events

February 2011

- 1 Tickets go on sale for H-W Area Awards Banquet
- 3 Troop Scouters Club Meeting 7 PM Scout House
- 4-6 KLONDIKE WINTER CAMP
- 10 Battlefields CLT 6:30 PM Scout House
- 11 Outdoor Skills Course Camp Impeesa
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 National Flag of Canada Day
- 16 Colony/Pack Service Team
- 17 H-W Commissioners Council
- 18-20 SNOW MOOT
- 19 Last day to submit names of Council Voting Reps
- 20 Scout-Guide Week Begins
- 21 Family Day
- 22 BP's Birthday
- 22 Voting period begins
- 26 South Waterloo Area Kub Kar Rally
- 26 Brant Area Kub Kar Rally
- 27 Scout-Guide Week Ends
- 28 H-W Area Training Team 6:30 PM

March 2011

- 1 Deadline for tickets for Awards Banquet
- 5 Big Rig Run Merritt Trail Area
- 7 H-W Area Honours & Awards Banquet
- 8 Voting period ends
- 10 Battlefields CLT 6:30 PM Scout House
- 10 Presentation of election report to Council Leadership Team
- 10 Dispatch Deadline
- 12 Hamilton Scout Shop closed for March Break holiday
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 14-18 March Break School Holiday
- 22 Hamilton Scout Shop re-opens
- 26 Spring Resources Day
- 28 H-W Area Training Team 6:30 PM

April 2011

- 2 Outdoor Skills Day
- 2 Wood Badge Part 1
- 8-10 Dundurn Sub Area Camp
- 9 Wood Badge Part 1
- 13 Colony/Pack Scouters Club Meeting 7 PM Scout House
- 14 Battlefields CLT 6:30 PM Scout House
- 16 CAMP CLEAN UP
- 21 H-W Commissioners Council 7 PM

**Deadline
for the April Dispatch is
March 10, 2011**

Wildlife in Camp Nemo



American MINK (Neovison vison)

This small, highly aquatic member of the weasel family makes its home along the banks of Nemo Creek. Covered in a lustrous coat, the fur is soft and glossy, a rich brown to almost black above and pale underneath. White-colored patches occur on the lower chin, throat and chest, but these vary in size and shape among individual animals. Males are larger than females, reaching a length of 65 cm and females about 55 cm.

Although a nocturnal hunter we have spotted the mink many times during the day. They are active all year round but will den up for a couple of days in severe weather. It is a solitary, skillful hunter and preys on a wide variety of game including small mammals, rodents, frogs, fish, crayfish, birds, eggs, insects and worms and some plant matter. Occasionally, males which are larger than females will attack and eat small rabbits or young muskrats, this ecological division of prey between the two sexes helps the females, who must care for and feed the kits by themselves while sharing hunting grounds with the males.

Mating occurs once per year, in late February and March, and from two to ten kits are born in



May. Kits are born deaf and blind, and don't gain their sight until around five weeks of age. Soon after though, they are weaned and begin to accompany the mother on hunting expeditions. Even though they are capable of fending for themselves at two months, kits will stay with their mother until fall when they venture out to establish their own territories.

So far we have only seen one mink at a time so we are guessing that we have a

(continued on page 6...)

Adult and Youth Recognition

HAMILTON WENTWORTH SCOUTING AWARDS BANQUET



"Making a Difference"

Michelangelo Banquet Centre
Upper Ottawa near Rymal Rd

Monday, March 7, 2011

Dinner starts at 6:00 PM - sharp
(coat check starts at 5:30 - cost \$1)

Presentation of Chief Scout and Queen's Venturer Awards

Long Service Awards,
Outstanding Service Awards
Donor Recognition

Cost: \$30.00 per person
(cheques made to Scouts Canada preferred)

Musical entertainment provided by Ragg Topp - old time Rock 'n' Roll

Tickets are available at Hamilton Scout House Help Desk starting February 1, 2011
375 James St. S., Hamilton ON, L8P 3B9
(905) 528-5711 - telephone;
(905) 528-7919 - fax;
scouts@interlynx.net - e-mail
Ticket Purchase Deadline:
March 1, 2011

Notes from the Chief Commissioner

See page 8 for information from Steve Kent:

- Ontario Children's Activity Tax Credit
- Program Quality Awards
- Retention Survey
- Calls to last years' members
- World Scout Environment Award replaces World Conservation Award



Commissioner's Corner

Wow! We're half way through the Scouting year and the best is yet to come! By now, your leadership team should have completed long range planning for the rest of the year. There is so much to do and a lot of great programming opportunities for your groups. I hope that every section has planned on holding a "Bring a Friend" night in the next couple of weeks. Now is a great opportunity to show potential members how much fun Scouting can be.

February can be one of the busiest months for our program. Many groups will be celebrating the birthday of Lord Robert Baden Powell by holding banquets and church parades during Scout – Guide week. If your group is doing something special, take an opportunity to promote your program to the local community.

February also offers excellent weekly program opportunities. Scouts can learn all about surviving in the winter by attending Klondike Winter Camp. Program themes can include Valentines Day, National Flag Day, Family Day or just a day playing in the snow. Rovers will be taking over Camp Nemo for their annual Snow Moot. If Scouts, Venturers or Rovers are looking for a great snowshoeing experience and you can't find enough snow locally, try a weekend at our Ragged Falls camp.

The Hamilton Wentworth Area Honours and Awards Banquet will be held on Monday March 7th. I encourage you to attend this wonderful evening to help us recognize the achievements of our Chief Scouts, Queens Venturers as well as the volunteers who have put so much effort into their Scouting programs. Please check for further details in this issue of The Scouters Dispatch.

I would like to thank all of those Scouters who have volunteered to run or assist with Area events. Last month, Todd Martin and his team once again braved the weather to hold the Venturer Survival Camp. This month Elaine Priest and her team are putting on another Klondike Winter Camp for Scouts. Without your contributions, our youth may not have had the opportunity to experience what winter camping is all about.

Finally, I would like to offer my condolences to the family of Steve Green, who has "Gone Home". Steve was actively involved in Scouting for 13 years with 63rd Hamilton, Ancaster Scouting and the Hamilton Venturers Advisory Committee. Steve often volunteered to head up area program and training events. He will be missed.

Tom Morrow
Commissioner
Hamilton Wentworth Area



It starts with Scouts.

The Mission of Scouting



The Mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.



ANNOUNCEMENT!

In order to manage costs and reduce waste, effective immediately, all photocopies made at the Hamilton Scout House Help Desk will be at the cost of \$0.05 per copy/side.



STANDARD FIRST AID Adult CPR

Saturday, March 12 and
Sunday March 13.

Freeman Hall

Fassell Ave., Burlington

9 AM to 5 PM each day
Bring a bag lunch and mug.

Cost \$70

Call Chris for details & registration
905-637 8432.

TRAINING

Our Hamilton Wentworth Area planning calendar contains additional training opportunities. See your Commissioner for details.

OUTDOOR SKILLS COURSE WINTER FOCUS (All sections)

Friday, February 11 to Sunday, February 13. Residential. Camp Impeesa. Cost: \$35.
A complete outdoors skills course for adults in all sections with extra emphasis on cold weather. Topics include: Proper clothing and gear, food selection and storage, hypothermia, frost bite, etc.
Contact Steve Clegg: paddler78@excite.com 519 449-5718; cell 519 761-3800.

SPRING RESOURCES DAY

Saturday, March 26. St. John's Church Parish Hall, Ancaster. 9 AM to 3 PM. Cost: \$10.
Choose one of these: Geo-Caching, Outdoor Cooking for Scouters, Program Ideas for Jungle, How to lay, light and maintain campfires and Putting the OUT into Scouting. Bring a travel mug.
Contact Susan Little: littleivo2@yahoo.com 905 528-3326.

OUTDOOR SKILLS DAY

Saturday, April 2. Vineland Scout Hut. 9 AM to 3 PM. Cost \$10.
Simple skills to get a Scouter started outdoors. Fire laying, lighting, cooking, etc. Trainer is Mike Stevenson.
Contact Mike Burke: mburke_57@hotmail.com.

WOOD BADGE PART 1 COLONY, PACK, TROOP

Saturday, April 2 and Saturday, April 9. Two Saturdays. St. Matthews on-the-Plains Church, 126 Plains Rd. E., Burlington. Non-residential. Cost: \$40.
This course will help you will gain the skills needed to deliver a quality program while having fun. Topics include program planning, camping and outdoor activities, risk management, resources, etc. The completion of Module 1(e-learning) is mandatory prior to the course. Contact Susan Little: littleivo2@yahoo.com 905 528-3326.



Hamilton Wentworth Area publishes the Scouter's Dispatch six times a year. Co-Editors: Jackie French, Bob Miller. The Scouter's Dispatch serves as a program resource for Scouters and other adults who work with young people. Editorial contributions are made on a voluntary basis. Unsolicited submissions are welcome. You may E-mail submissions to bobmiller163@shaw.ca or frenchjackie@shaw.ca. Scout House is located at 375 James St. S., Hamilton, Ontario L8P 3B9 1-888-SCOUTS-NOW FAX (905) 528-7919 Scout Shop (905) 528-4662 Help Desk call (905) 528-5711 Advertising Policy: Advertisement of a product or service does not indicate endorsement by the publishers. Publishers do not assume any responsibility by warranty or otherwise with respect to products or services advertised.



PENNY PINCHERS CLUB

A big left hand shake thank you to the following 2010 Penny Pinchers for their coin banks for Camp Nemo:

- Colin and Joan Barty
- Aline Chan
- Tom Evanoff
- Andrew Guest
- Harold & Marsha Hubber
- Kevin O'Halloran
- Brian & Brenda Taylor
- and
- Hamilton Help Desk



Remember, when your bank is full or nearly full, drop it off at the Help Desk with your name and address and don't forget to pick up another empty one. If you don't have one, why not give it a try and see how it works. We will count it, roll it and send you an income tax receipt, it isn't any easier than that. Remember all the money raised goes to Mount Nemo Scout Camp so coins other than pennies are always welcome.

THANKS!

I would like to thank the following people for their help with maintenance tasks at the Hamilton Scout House during the Christmas shut down.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Rick Provo | Harold Hubber |
| Michael Napholc | Mickey McPherson |
| Frank Goodman | Colin Barty |
| Bob Miller | Dani Sferrazza |

We were able to complete all of the many maintenance tasks in one day. Thank you for your help, many hands made light work.

Gino Sferrazza

A BIG THANK YOU

To all who sent cards and calls of support during my recent illness... a big

thank you.

Rick Provo

YUKON QUEST COUNTDOWN!



Well, it is now countdown time. As of February 1st, there are only 3 more days until Klondike! Your camp staff have worked hard to prepare a great experience for you. Today there is lots of snow. So far we have lots of snow... keep your fingers crossed. I am looking forward to seeing my old friends and to making some new ones. So pack your gear up, load your sleds, dress warm, and get out to camp to run The Yukon Quest at Camp Nemo. See you there!

Elaine Priest



Leaders!



This is a reminder to Troop Leaders and Company Advisors to notify Tom Morrow and Sandra Taylor of youth who will be completing their Chief Scout or Queen's Venturer Awards in time for this year's Awards banquet.

Camp Clean up

Saturday, April 16th is the day and we start at 9:00 AM and go until every building has had a spring-cleaning in every nook and cranny. A crew is also needed outside (weather permitting) to ensure the fields, trails etc. are also in tip top shape. Lunch is provided. Register at the Help Desk.



Calling all Venturers and Rovers

We need your help as events staff at SCIW at Camp Nemo - June 3-5, 2011. Stay in a building or camp outdoors. The cost for the weekend is \$10 (take care of your own meals) or \$20 on staff meals. For more info, call Asst Adviser Bruce Gilroy 905-544-5654 or email cookshack1@gmail.com.

Bruce Gilroy



VICTORIA DAY CAMPOREE 2011

May 20 - 23, 2011

Mt. Nemo Scout Camp, Burlington

Howdie Y' all...

Come join us down on the farm for some Victoria Day Weekend fun!

Scout Sub Camp will offer challenging events, swimming, tug of war, karaoke, barbeque, barn dance and so much more.

The cost is \$15 per youth and leader. Watch for more information on the Hamilton Wentworth website.

Contact Scouter Sheila at scoutersheila@hotmail.com or 905-389-8212.



HAMILTON WENTWORTH AREA SCOUT CURLING BONSPIEL 2011

Recently the 13th Annual Area Curling Bonspiel was held. Thanks to all concerned **over \$3,000** was raised for the benefit of Camp Nemo. Everyone made it a great day of fun and curling with only a few aches and pains to deal with. Special Thanks must go to our main sponsors the Dundas Lions Club and the Loyal Order of Moose. Also as always we enjoyed a tasty lunch and dinner provided by the Scouting Auxiliary members.

Frank Goodman and Doug French



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Colony/Pack Scouters Club



Your Colony/Pack Service Team for 2010/2011 is as follows:

DAC: Cam Napholc 905-388-7993
cam.napholc@sympatico.ca

Colony

Charlie & Yvonne Oliver (905) 529-9667
cyoliver@distributel.net
Brenda Ellison (905) 574-2503
rbrkellison@aol.com
Olga Miller (905) 527-5265
olgamiller@cogeco.ca
Marion LaCroix (905) 547-7864
tictac68@cogeco.ca
Geoffrey Macquire (905)634-0655
gmacquire@cogeco.ca
Tammy-Jo Savickis 905-526-0953
info@multimusic.ca



Pack

Paul Anderson (905) 692-3579
panderson@mountaincable.net
James White (905) 385-7724
akelavw@mountaincable.net
Patti Troughton (289) 396-0886
ptroughton@cogeco.ca



The Colony/Pack Scouters Club meeting was held on January 12. Thank you to those who took the time out of their busy schedule to attend this meeting. Our meeting notes are posted on www.hwscouting.ca under the Area Commissioners heading, thanks to Pat Hall.

What is a Scouters Club? The purpose of the Scouters Club is to share program ideas, badge work, songs and games, etc. Our guest speaker in January was Marion LaCroix with the topic of Dealing with (Dis)abilities. Next scheduled meeting is at Scout House: **Thursday, April 13, 2011 – 7pm.** All Colony and Pack Leaders are encouraged to attend. Please bring “low cost” trip ideas with you for sharing, and craft ideas are always welcome. These meetings are meant to be an open forum. If you would like to discuss a certain topic please feel free to bring it forward at the meeting or let us know in advance so we can do our best to provide an answer for you. If you have a guest speaker that you would like to suggest, please feel free to forward the information. Topics or suggestions can be sent to Cam Napholc at cam.napholc@sympatico.ca

REDUCED FEES

For groups who are actively pursuing new members and are using the Jumpstart Kit or Gap Activity such as Bring-A-Friend Night or an Open House, the Scouts Canada Registration Fees have been reduced. From February 1st until March 13th, the fee will be \$100. After March 14th, the fee will be \$90. Also, the No One Left Behind forms are still available.

Hamilton Wentworth Area

Cuboree

June 10, 11, 12, 2011
Camp Nemo
Theme:



Open to all packs!
Fun - games - and more.

Scouters are needed to run events. For more details, contact Rick Ellison for more details: packtroop63rd@aol.com

YIS
Rick Ellison



Tom Morrow

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HELP WANTED

Hamilton Wentworth Area is calling for volunteers to lead the SCOUTSabout program at Eva Rothwell community centre. The program will run in the winter or the spring depending on when volunteers are available. Below is the job description.

SCOUTSABOUT LEADER/ASSISTANT LEADER VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Volunteers in a SCOUTSabout program are registered adult members called leaders and assistant leaders; they work as part of a leadership team. SCOUTSabout has a leader (at least 21 years of age) responsible for the program, and one or more assistants who must be at least 18 years of age.

Accountable to: Group/Area/Council Commissioner, depending on which level of Scouting is managing the program.

Time Required: Meetings are generally held for 1½ hours per week for a three-month term.

Scope of Position: This position requires working as a part of a leadership team, conducting SCOUTSabout programs in accordance with guidelines in program outlines and By-Law, Policies and Procedures.

Responsibilities:

- Provide an exciting 1 1/2 hour weekly program for a three-month term.
- Ensure that the health and safety of all members is maintained continually. This is a primary concern.
- Help each child to have an adventurous personal growth experience using

SCOUTSabout program packages.

- Maintain good relationships with parents/guardians, and encourage parental co-operation and involvement in programs.
- Work closely with other members of the leadership team and share the responsibility of operating the program.
- Plan and conduct all SCOUTSabout activities.
- Support and participate in special meetings, trips, and outdoor experiences.
- Encourage recruitment of members and help recruit other leaders.
- Know and use the resource material available, including SCOUTSabout outlines.
- Meet specific requirements of the sponsoring body, where applicable.

Attitudes:

"Selective recruitment" and "appropriate training" are two key ways to get and keep volunteers who will provide quality program opportunities to the children and youth in Scouting's Sections.

New Scouting leaders will have been recruited principally because of their attitudes. Those involved in the recruiting process must be satisfied that the individual is:

Prepared to:

- Accept, and demonstrate personal values compatible with, Scouting's Mission and Principles.
- Subscribe to SCOUTSabout practices and methods.
- Be comfortable with, enjoy, and care about children in developmentally appropriate ways.
- Be accountable for his/her own actions.
- Follow Scouting's policies and procedures.

Willing to:

- Acquire the knowledge and skills appropriate to his/her volunteer role in Scouts Canada prior to undertaking the role.
- Work co-operatively with other adults.
- Be open and honest.
- Be objective in evaluations.
- Provide a role model of appropriate adult behavior.
- Participate in, support and remain compliant with Scouting's volunteer screening process.

Catriona Forrest
Council Field Executive
Scouts Canada
Serving Hamilton, South Waterloo, and Haldimand areas
905.818.4227
cforrest@scouts.ca



It starts with Scouts.



HELP DESK

905-528-5711

375 James St S,
Hamilton, ON, L8P 3B9

- Tuesday 10 AM to 4 PM
- Wednesday 10 AM to 4 PM
- Thursday 1-7 PM
- Friday 1 PM to 4 PM
- Saturday 10 AM -1 PM

SNOW MOOT

Fri., Feb. 18 to Sun., Feb. 20.

Camp Nemo.

\$15 pre-registration.

\$20 regular registration.

Theme: Redneck Highland Games.

Many fun and new, exciting events are planned, including the every popular Polar Dip.

Contact Andrew Gauthier: el_goat@hotmail.com
905-308-6475



SCOUTING AUXILIARY



The Scouting Auxiliary meet on the second Tuesday of the month, at 1 pm at Scout House. If you can help at special events catering, please let us know by calling Aline at 905-648-5520 alinchan@cogeco.ca. New members are welcome.

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A note from the DAC Honours & Awards

Once again this year, we will be recognizing Scouters' long service starting at the five year service mark and then at five year intervals.

Anyone who feels they are eligible for a long service award should contact Sandra Taylor tsuris2@hotmail.com listing the years and the groups where they have served. It is particularly important that anyone with split service, (that is, took a year or two off) notify us to ensure that they are properly recognized.

Thanks so much.

Bruce Riddiough
DAC Honours & Awards

(...continued from page 1)

male here in camp. Its principal enemies are the Great Horned Owl, bobcats, wolves, coyotes. Their tracks look similar to a dogs track, but are only about 2 cm long. Keep your eyes open when walking along Nemo Creek, they are very inquisitive and you may spot one.

Striped Skunk

(Mephitis mephitis)



The striped skunk, Mephitis mephitis belongs to the family Mephitidae, all of whose members have well-developed scent glands and a musky odour. The skunk has long, straight claws for digging out the burrows of mice, ripping apart old logs for grubs and larvae, and digging in the sand for turtle eggs. It moves slowly and deliberately and depends for safety not by running away or camouflage, but on its scent glands.

Skunks usually live in the abandoned dens of woodchucks or foxes and only occasionally excavate their own dens. You can also find them living under rock piles, stumps, or refuse heaps, or under a house or porch. If a skunk digs its own den it is usually simple, but one taken over from another animal may be quite elaborate. There may be from one to five well-hidden openings that lead to a system of tunnels and chambers. One of the chambers is lined with leaves and used for a nest. The leaves may also be used to plug the openings to

the den in cold weather.

Skunks are truly omnivorous, eating a wide variety of foods. They eat insects, mice, shrews, ground squirrels, young rabbits, birds' eggs, and various plants. During the autumn and winter they eat about equal amounts of plant and animal foods, but eat mainly insects in the summer. Skunks are especially fond of grasshoppers, crickets, and insect larvae such as white grubs, and cutworms. By autumn skunks have acquired a heavy layer of fat, and in November or December they select a deep den in which to spend the winter. As many as 20 skunks have been found in one den, but the number is typically much fewer. Usually the mother and young den together, entering the den when the temperature reaches about 0° C.

Skunks begin to breed in late February or March, when they emerge from their dens and the young are usually born in early May. There are typically four to six young in a litter, although the number may vary from two to 16. When the young skunks are approximately seven weeks old the female takes them out to search for food, and at about two months they are weaned, they remain with their mother until autumn and may join her in the winter den.

Even though the scent of a skunk is an effective defense against most mammal predators, birds of prey especially the Great Horned Owl seem to be immune to the smell and have made skunks its principal prey.

Remember to keep your food and trash stashed high, just like a Raccoon, a Skunk will raid your food or garbage if given the chance.

Submitted by Marty Albert, HICOP

HELP WANTED... HELP NEEDED

The camp committee has created a sub committee to organize volunteers who have different skills and abilities and who are interested in helping out with the many ongoing and new projects at camp. As everyone is well aware, these projects and jobs involve a wide range of skills, but also just as important, are the able body people who are willing to do the grunt work. Can you do carpentry? Can you do electrical work? Can you paint? Or do you just like to be out in the fresh air doing something good? What about heading up a work party for a specific job or project? People, THIS IS YOUR CAMP! and we need your input and help. If you are interested in volunteering, email Gerry at bluhmgerry@gmail.com.

Home: 905 335-3792
Cell: 289 440-4284

Gerry Bluhm
Camp Warden

LOOK!



Spring Resources Day
Saturday, March 26.
St. John's Church Parish Hall, Ancaster.
9 AM to 3 PM.
Cost: \$10.

Choose one of these: Geo-Caching, Outdoor Cooking for Scouters, Program Ideas for Jungle, How to lay, light and maintain campfires and Putting the OUT into Scouting. Bring a travel mug.
Contact Susan Little: littleivo2@yahoo.com
905 528-3326.



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We would like to thank our advertisers for helping to reduce the high cost of printing and mailing this Scouter's Dispatch.





The following **FRIENDS OF SCOUTING** and **ALUMNI** have generously given a donation to the Hamilton-Wentworth Area and joined our **HERITAGE SCOUT SOCIETY** between January 1 and December 31 2010.

We may have inadvertently missed someone, know that we do appreciate your gift to Scouting and please accept our apology. The Heritage Scout Society is an important part of our Area financial health and in our inaugural years of 2008, 2009 and 2010 we have received nearly \$12,000. If you know of any former youth or leaders who might be interested in joining our Alumni please pass their name and address on to the Revenue Development Team through the Help Desk.

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TWO Saturdays this Spring!



WOOD BADGE PART I: April 2 and 9, 2011

Did you just **SPRING** into Colony, Pack, or Troop as a volunteer this year? Or are you planning to work with youth next year? Do you want to **GROW** your investment of time & energy into great events for your youth? Plan to attend a two-Saturday training experience at

St. Matthews Church 126 Plains Road East in Burlington

... and earn your Part I Wood Badge! Get **ROOTED** and **SPRING** into SCOUTING by gaining the skills, planning ideas and resources you'll need to help deliver a quality program. Topics include program planning, camping and outdoor activities, risk management, resources, etc.

For further information, contact the Hamilton Help Desk at (905) 528-5711 or Susan Little, Course Co-ordinator 905 528-3326 (littleivo2@yahoo.com)

73rd Scout & Guide Parade Saturday, May 28th, 2011

This year's theme of "Easy to be Green" was chosen to spotlight Scouting & Guiding's commitment to the environment and the outdoors, and recognize 2011 as the U.N.'s "International Year of Forests".

The importance of responsible stewardship of our environment, through recycling, energy conservation and other green practices, has recently caught the imagination of the media and general public. However, this is not a new concept for Scouts and Guides. The wise use and care of our natural resources has been an integral part of both organizations for over 100 years. Even our youngest members promise to "help take care of the world". This is a promise we all take very seriously, and wish to demonstrate to our community.

We are asking everyone to consider what they can do in the Parade that would demonstrate various environmentally friendly Scouting activities or projects. Do you have a favourite: community clean-ups, natural habitat conservation, reforestation, one of the 3R's? How can you promote it? Use your imagination and be creative! It's your time in the community spotlight.

Special Parade Announcement "It's Carnival Time!"

The Parade Committee has begun the official planning stage for a very special post parade event. It will be a carnival-like experience with interesting and fun activities for every age group. The carnival, still without a snappy name, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and located a short walk from the parade dispersal area. There are still a lot of details to finalize, but we guarantee a fun time for one and all.

A full page flyer will be distributed to all groups, and more details published in the April Dispatch. However, don't hesitate. Plan now for your group to stay an hour or two after the Parade and join the fun.

Parade Food Drive Are you up to the Challenge?

Do you remember the last time you missed a meal? Do you remember the empty feeling and the little pang of hunger? Imagine that feeling every single day. Currently there are 18,600 people in our community who rely on a food bank every month just to survive, and 8,100 of these are children. That is a staggering 25% increase over just three years.

Poverty and hunger are not faceless statistics. These numbers represent real people, in our own communities. They may even be your friends, family or neighbours. These people survive through the support of the food banks. The food banks survive through the support of the community. For over 20 years, Scouting and Guiding in Hamilton has supported the Hamilton Food Share network through our annual Parade Food drive.

The 88th Venturers have issued an official challenge this year to all groups to collect the most food and/or money for our 22nd annual Parade Food Drive. To make it more interesting, the Parade Committee will award the winning group with a special parade banner and the honour of being at the front of the Parade. Please remember: "Hunger. It's just unacceptable."





Notes from the Chief Commissioner

The following information was selected from Steve Kent's December email to members.

Ontario Children's Activity Tax Credit

Ontario's new Children's Activity Tax Credit makes it easier for you to get your child involved in sports, arts and other activities and helps them develop active minds and bodies.

Parents and guardians can claim up to \$500 in eligible expenses for a credit of up to \$50 per child under 16 years of age, or up to \$100 for a child with a disability under age 18

The credit applies to a broad range of activities (including Scouting). For more information, visit www.ontario.ca/kidscredit or call 1 866 668-8297

Program Quality Awards

Scouts Canada is committed to providing quality programs and as adult volunteers, we have made a commitment to deliver a quality program to our members.

In September 2010, Scouts Canada launched the new Program Standards and with it, the new Program Quality Award. We want to recognize those Leaders and Sections that are meeting these objectives, earning their right to display the new Award. Earn the Award!

This award will be presented annually to those sections which meet all the requirements of the program objectives; ensuring that they are meeting all program targets and have trained and accomplished leaders delivering strong, balanced programs to Scouting's youth members.

Download the Program Standards for your Section from

<http://www.scouts.ca/dnn/scouters/ProgramResources/ProgramStandards/tabid/280/Default.aspx>

Use it as a planning tool and get your leadership team to commit to meeting the Standards. Complete your form and submit to your Group Commissioner for review. Your Section will be presented with your Award crest and certificate by your Area Commissioner.

Retention Survey

Ipsos-Reid on behalf of Scouts Canada is currently completing a survey of former members that have not returned to Scouting. These are members that have not been registered for more than a year and will be conducted via email and a web survey. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Bill Akam, Deputy National Commissioner – Organizational Development at bakam@scouts.ca.

Calls to last years' members

Scouts Canada has contracted a company to call last year's members who have not yet registered for this year and remind them that it's not too late to register. This call does not ask for registration fees, it simply reminds them that it's not too late and directs them to our toll-free registration number. If you have any questions about this, please contact Rob Stewart, Executive Director of Program and Membership Services at rstewart@scouts.ca.

World Scout Environment Award replaces World Conservation Award

The 38th World Scout Conference passed the Resolution 22/08 which recommended the World Conservation Award be phased

out during the next triennium by National Scout Organizations which use it. National Scout Organizations were encouraged to adopt the framework for environment education in Scouting and incorporate the ideas through a regular review of their youth program and by offering the World Scout Environment Award. Scouts Canada is now ready to phase in the new World Scout Environment (WSE) Award.

Phase In Period (January 2011 to September 2011)

As part of the phase in period Scouters should note these points of interest:

The WSE Award is to be worn in the same place as the previous World Conservation Award. Any youth who has already begun earning the World Conservation Award may complete the requirements of such (does not have to switch). If upon completion of the World Conservation requirements the badge is not available, the WSE Award badge should be used. New Climate Change badges for Cub Scouts and Scouts are part of the WSE Award requirements. New Climate Change Badges (Cub Scouts and Scouts).

Visit the Scouts Canada website for more information on these topics.

Dispatch Deadlines

March 10 for the April 1 Dispatch

June 1 for the June 15 Dispatch

Aug. 10 for the Sept 1 Dispatch

Sept. 10 for the Oct. 1 Dispatch

Nov. 10 for the Dec. 1 Dispatch

Jan. 10 for the Feb. 1 Dispatch



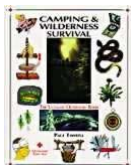
HAMILTON SCOUT SHOP



The Hamilton Scout Shop has all kub kars, beaver buggy kits, and 18-wheeler kits in stock along with a wide assortment of decals, weights, body detailing kits and accessories.

15% discount still applies to all camping gear including tents, backpacks, Dutch ovens, pie irons & Coleman products.

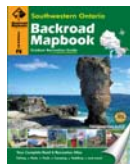
NEW AT THE SHOP



Camping & Wilderness Survival Book \$39.99



Topographical Maps Algonquin or Bancroft Areas \$10.95



Backroad Mapbooks Algonquin-SW Ontario & Ontario Cottage Country \$22.95 to \$25.95

Dates To Remember:

March 12 to 21 -Closed for March Break –Re-opening March 22 at 10:00 am

April 22 to 25 -Closed for Easter –Re-opening April 26 at 10:00 am

April 30 -Hamilton Scout Shop Tent Sale

Also new:

BETA 37 & 40 backpacks with Scouts Canada Logo \$24.99 - \$29.99
White or Black Toques with Scouts Canada Logo \$8.99



BETA 37



BETA 40

