

# Looking Back and Forward

by Rob Stewart

**T**hank you for everything you have done since September to ensure Scouting continues to be a positive and relevant force in Canadian society.

I'm sure you've enjoyed the excitement of a new Scouting year, and the sights and sounds of fall camps and outings.

This year marks the first time we've used our online registration system. With any new innovation comes challenges and frustrations. I'm impressed how group and council registrars have risen to the occasion, and are continuing to work hard to use the system. The learnings we gain from this year will result in a much smoother process next fall.

## "You're Welcome Here"

As we look ahead to the coming year, let's renew our commitment to make new members always welcome. Do you have the capacity to add more young people and adults to your section? If yes, please welcome them so everyone can experience Scouting and benefit from its outstanding programs. As we strive to achieve our Mission, we cannot afford to allow any youth to miss the opportunity of joining Scouting.

You are part of the greatest Movement in the world. (Sixteen million people in over 150 countries are

members.) Help us make sure others share the adventure.

## Leadership Training

Developing leadership skills for tomorrow's leaders starts here. Members of our Sixers' Council, Court of Honour, and Company officers are all leaders in training who will help make our world a better place to live.

My son, Nicholas, is experiencing the early stages of leadership development. He came home from Cubs recently and said, "Dad, I've got some kids in my six who just won't listen." (He's a Sixer.) Does this sound familiar?

He asked me for advice how he could lead his six better. Nicholas is learning to be a leader; what he learns today will help him throughout his life. That's one of the incredible benefits Scouting gives to youth members; we're teaching tomorrow's leaders today.

Young people who serve on committees across the country (including the national level) are ready, willing and able to provide greater service to the Movement. Let's give them that opportunity. Let's help unleash the tiger and show them how to connect with youths and leaders effectively.

## Uniform Leadership

Our youth members continue to educate us about growth issues, particularly those relating to the uniform

for Scout and Venturer-aged members. Isn't the Movement better served when it acts on their recommendations? Why would we *choose* to continue losing members because young people don't want to wear the uniform?

Scouting has always sought to contribute to the development of young people. That's an essential. But we can't do it if the uniform keeps significant numbers of youth away.

## Listen to Lord Baden-Powell

What would B.-P. say about this uniform issue? He said: "I don't care a fig about the uniform." To him, the uniform was only a means to an end. The real importance involved helping young people to lead and be excellent citizens.

In the new year, I know you will continue to deliver the program for which we are famous. Thank you for your service to Canada through Scouting.

As you read these words, a contingent of youths and adults are embarking on the adventure of a lifetime at the World Jamboree in Thailand. Please join me in wishing them "Bon voyage!" and a safe return.

Happy Scouting!^



Rob Stewart

President and Chief Executive Officer

## Note aux membres francophones

On reproche parfois à Scouts Canada de ne pas reconnaître le caractère bilingue du pays ou du Mouvement. Or, nous tenons à vous assurer que toutes nos ressources de programmation essentielles sont désormais disponibles en français. Par ailleurs, nous envisageons d'obtenir de l'aide en vue de la traduction de tous les documents qu'utiliseront les animateurs francophones et les jeunes francophones. À cet égard, les seuls obstacles, ce sont les ressources financières et humaines réduites dont nous disposons en matière de traduction.

Le numéro de septembre de notre revue *The Leader Magazine* présentait les normes de programme en français et en anglais. Je m'engage à intégrer dans cette revue, à l'avenir, d'autres textes bilingues. Car le scoutisme, c'est pour tout le monde!

## A Note for French-Speaking Members

Scouts Canada is sometimes criticized for not recognizing the bilingual nature of our country and the Movement. Please be assured that all essential program resources are available in French; we are hoping to acquire assistance in translating all materials for French-speaking leaders and youth. Our only barrier involves the limited human and financial resources available to us to provide translation.

The September *Leader Magazine* contained program standards in both English and French. I am committed to providing similar inserts in the future. Scouting is for everyone.