

# WHITE PINE COUNCIL TOWN HALL MEETING NOTES

November 2, 2019 (Peterborough AM // Port Perry PM)

## NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING: SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020

Peterborough Scout Hall 9:00 am to 12:00

109 Ware St, Peterborough, ON K9J 2B5

AFTERNOON SESSION 1:30-4:30 pm

LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED

### Introduction

- Jeff Sauve, Council Commissioner, introduced himself and explained that the goal since he started in the role was to increase communication in the Council with the intention of improving transparency and trust. Although short notice, starting the practice of hosting regular Town Halls is one part of that process. Thank you to all attendees for participating.

### The Case for Change

- The attached slides were presented by Jeff Sauve.
- Annually we are losing more youth than we bring in every year and we are also losing more Scouters than we bring in every year. We have to address the retention issues.
- When parents were surveyed to help us understand why they may choose to exit the program the following themes emerged.
  - o Boring
  - o Poor leadership skills (perception, expectation management)
  - o Not organized (perception, reality)
  - o Lack of active program
  - o Program Standards Document

A discussion was had about how we could address these concerns amongst parents. Ideas included hosting a parent orientation meeting at the beginning of the year to help them to establish expectations and teach them program standards, volunteer roles and the importance of their involvement in the group and the program. Another suggestion was to have a Scoutstracker orientation so that parents could access and use the free parent account to enhance their communication experience in the group.

- When Scouters were surveyed to help us understand why they may choose to exit the program the following themes emerged.
  - o Poor leadership skills
  - o Poor help and support
  - o Not organized

A discussion was had about the similarity in the top themes and the small tweaks we can make to our interactions with parents and volunteers to ensure that expectations are clearly established, and understood and to ensure that communication systems are created and that they are functioning well. Addressing these themes within our groups has to be a priority so we can improve the Scouting Experience for all of our members and increase the likelihood of them returning to the program the next year.

- In response to this data as a collective organization we have changed. How have we changed?

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- BPP (<https://help.scouts.ca/hc/en-ca/articles/360024350232-Bylaws-Policies-Procedures-What-has-changed->)
  - CK3s were re-defined nationally. A new job description was created and a shared leadership model was established. Historically there were three separate job descriptions for the Council Commissioner, the Youth Council Commissioner, and the Council Relationship Manager and collectively those three roles worked together to support the success of the Council. The efforts of the CK3 have now been laser focused to ensure that the Group Support Model is successful and the three roles that form the CK3 have a shared accountability for the success of the Groups in the Council. The CK3 role description is attached.
- What's next?
- GSS Training. A national training program has been created, and has now launched. Eventually all of the Scouters serving in the GSS role will graduate from the GSS Training program and be able to bring their learnings back to the Groups they support.
  - Call for GSS – we will continually be growing our GSS team as the needs of our Groups require us to. We always encourage anyone who is interested in the role to put their name forward. The role description is attached.
  - Shared Services – National Shared Services Functional Teams are in development. These will be rolling out one at a time, first up is Communications. Council Functional Teams – locally we understand there is a need for shared services and functional teams coordinating special events, training, communications etc. locally here and the CK3 is in the process of collecting information on needs, prioritizing needs and looking at how we can
  - Succession Planning – we need to prioritize succession planning in groups to promote group sustainability and health. Group Committee's can work alongside their GSS to work on plans for recruitment, mentoring, and development of new leaders in the Scouting community
  - Continuing with Town Halls with the goal of hosting one each season. All Scouters are encouraged to attend and participate.

## OPEN FLOOR DISCUSSION

- KWA Property Fees
- This fee still exists in the same way that it did last Scouting year. Payment should be issues to Scouts Canada and can be dropped off at the Scout House. Properties in KW are still operating under the same model as before except financial accountability is at the Council level instead of the former Area. Money is still ear marked to be used the same way it was under the Area model.
- What has happened to the Area Finances?
- Area Funds have not moved, accountability to release money from the fund has changed from Area Commissioner to Council Commissioner. Money goes in and out of same accounts as when they existed at the Area level.

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- Changes to registration in MyScouts
  - o This year a change was made so that youth are automatically entered into the age-appropriate section based on their birthday and what age they will be by end of the calendar year. This has made it more difficult to move youth who may be advancing early, or staying in a section for an extra year based on the youth's readiness. If the GC is having a hard time moving the youth reach out to the Help Centre and they can certainly assist.
  
- Retaining Service Scouters
  - o A discussion was had about the importance of retaining Service Scouters and ensuring that all interested Scouters continue to have the opportunity to engage in a role that is meaningful to them. If there are Scouters who formerly served on an Area Service Team that would like a role on the Council Functional Teams please ensure they reach out to the CK3 so we can get as much involvement in the development of those teams as possible.
  
- Senior Section Awards
  - o The Whitby Gilwell Club has offered to host the White Pine Council Senior Section Awards and will be sharing information on that event as plans are made.
  
- Registration Fee
  - o A discussion was had around the \$230 registration fee and what it covers.
  
- Non renewed Scouters
  - o If the Scouter did not receive the email to renew, or if they missed the deadline, they were showing as Non Renewed. This can be fixed by registering them as a volunteer and then activating them again. These cases have mostly all been fixed. If there are any lingering issues you can email Kate ([kate.mcneil@scouts.ca](mailto:kate.mcneil@scouts.ca)) for help.
  
- Transportation Standards
  - o A discussion was had around the Transportation Standards. The transportation standards policy can be found here <https://www.scouts.ca/resources/bpp/policies/transportation-standards.html> FAQ are included below.

**Q: What has changed from the previous Standards?**

A: This replaces the following Standards: Transportation (10004, Aviation Insurance (13003), Vehicle Use (13023) and Charter Flights (19002). The new Standards consolidate all transportation references in one place and reaffirms that parents are responsible for transporting their children to activities. They also explain the requirements for Groups providing transportation and application of the two-Scouter rule when transporting youth.

**Q: The Standards indicate, "Parents are responsible for arranging transport of their children to and from group and section scouting adventures." Does this include local activities such as weekly meetings? A bottle drive or community event?**

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A: Yes. This has been the Policy for several years – Parents are responsible for arranging transportation of their children to and from any Scouting activity. This includes arranging transportation by family members or other parents taking children to and from the activity.

**Q: Do the new Standards mean that Scouters are permitted to transport youth to Scouting events and adventures?**

A: Parents are responsible for providing or arranging transport of their children to Scouting events and adventures. Scouters who drive Scouting members (youth or adult) to and from events and adventures do so at their own risk.

**Q: If Scouters are not permitted to transport youth, then why do the Transportation Standards indicate that “The two-Scouter rule applies in all situations...including while transporting youth?”**

A: Parents are responsible for providing or arranging transport of their children. While Scouts Canada strongly recommends the Scouters do not transport youth, there may be situations where this is unavoidable. It is important that Scouters recognize that should they transport youth, they do so at their own risk, and as in all engagement with Scouting youth, the two-Scouter rule must be followed at all times.

**Q: The Standards indicate that “When parents or other adult helpers are transporting youth...two adults must be in the vehicle at all times.” How can Scouts Canada enforce this?**

A: Scouts Canada cannot, but we recommend that parents follow the prudent safety measure of ensuring that there are two licensed drivers in any vehicle when transporting youth in order to avoid driver distraction or if one of the drivers becomes unable to operate the vehicle for any reason.

**Q: Am I covered by Scouts Canada’s insurance Policy if I rent a vehicle and transport youth to a Scouting event?**

A: Scouters transporting youth in a personal or rented vehicle do so at their own risk. Scouters requiring a rented vehicle for official Scouts Canada business are covered by Scouts Canada’s insurance Policy if the vehicle has been rented in the name of Scouts Canada by a full-time employee – using the employee’s Scouts Canada corporate AMEX credit card - and your name is included as a driver of the vehicle. Vehicles rented independently by Scouters are not covered by Scouts Canada’s insurance policy.

**Q: How should the Scouter in charge confirm that private vehicles of parents are “licensed and insured and operated by correctly licensed and insured operators”? What responsibility rests with the Scouter in charge?**

A: There is no requirement for the Scouter in Charge to know this information – nor should they ask. Scouts Canada is not responsible for ensuring that parents are legal to be on the road.

**Q: When we are transporting youth during an activity, do both Scouters need to be qualified drivers?**

A: We encourage it but it is not required.

### - InActive Scouters

- Once a Scouter has completed screening or training it will always remain part of their MyScouts portfolio. Whether they went inactive after their first 90 days, or because

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they have been away from Scouting for a period of time, their previous efforts stay valid. They can continue to sign into their account to continue to work on screening and training requirements. Returning Scouters *do not* have their first Scouting year back to complete their WB1 for the Canadian Path. That will be necessary in order for them to become Active once again. However, they can better direct their learning by using the Scouter Development Map (<https://scoutsca.s3.amazonaws.com/2019/05/scouter-development-map-en.pdf>) to determine their areas of focus and with the signature of a Support Scouter they can have their training records updated accordingly as soon as they have achieved all of the competencies.