



# CHIEF SCOUT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The Chief Scout Association "CSA" continues to be a work in progress, with significant potential to help Scouting and provide some tangible benefits to those who hold Scouting's highest awards now and in the future. This past year already saw a marked increase in the number of areas holding more substantial award ceremonies. Most youth earning the awards have been encouraged to join the CSA.

So much more needs to be done and regrettably, given the size of our country, it is not an easy task. Even setting up telephone meetings for people across the country costs money and is less than perfect for the development of an Association. It will be with the interest and faith of our current and new members that the organization can grow to help promote our awards and keep our very best members interested in Scouting for a life time.

Each of us is a member no matter what. Earning an award automatically makes you a member and unless you specifically ask to be removed we will keep you in the "family". The fee we still need to charge is to maintain an active membership and it makes you an active Member of the CSA.

### **The specific wording is:**

*Members will be designated as active Members of the CSA if they are either under the age 27 or otherwise paid-up. Members, after reaching the age of 27, if they have not paid any applicable fee, will simply be called a member and will not be considered an active Member.*

### **So the questions are: Why is there any fee and then why should you pay it?**

The CSA has been started out of nothing. There was no organizational base to draw from. It is a group of people in Canada (as all award winners are members by definition), but a group which does not even know it exists as such. There are not even any records of those who have received the awards. This was seen as a lost opportunity for Scouting both now and in the future. Worldwide, there are organizations like the CSA, most notably for us, the National Eagle Scout Association in the USA.

Thus, the CSA is the link to help keep some members attached to Scouting so that they may, in the future, be leaders, or at least enroll their own children. We hope to develop as an entity to help our own members, so they can benefit from their shared achievements and create opportunities. As well, we see the CSA as a catalyst to promote the Chief Scout and Queens Venturer awards to have the prominence and value in Canadian society that the Eagle Scout award has in the USA. Even in Canada we hear of American leaders who were Eagle Scouts as that award has developed a worthy and notable profile. That is not yet the case in Canada for the Chief Scout Award and it should be.

The reality of life, is that a national organization such as Scouting and now the CSA, needs money to do many things of value. Even phone calls to meet with representatives across the country costs money. Email costs money. It is easy to find some cases where volunteers and donations make things happen, but this is not as much a reality when trying to pursue something on a national basis. We may have volunteers but there are still hard costs.

As much as the concepts of Scouting are best implemented and enjoyed at the group level, the benefits of being part of a larger organization are critical. Maintaining and actively improving Scouting's worldwide reputation is important to its future strength, if not survival.

The CSA is aiding Scouting, which is the goal. By gathering some of the older award winners and encouraging the current recipients to join, Scouting will strengthen.

**What does the small fee do?** It helps cover costs such as the website, membership cards, insurance and for members not active in Scouts Canada, a subscription to the Scouting Life magazine. Certainly more funding is needed for the CSA to develop sufficiently to help Scouting in the way it can.

Now that you have paid your fee again, we need some feedback on how to grow. One idea, not supported by all, is to look to the American experience. Their web site – [www.nesa.org](http://www.nesa.org) is helpful to learn what they have done and plan for the future.

***Do you support similar ideas?***

They certainly promote the Eagle Scout Award, and they have developed the "Distinguished Eagle Scout Award" to acknowledge Eagle Scouts who have distinguished themselves in business, professions, and service to others. It raises the profile of the award and drives the alumni. They have a NESAscholarship program. They also sell merchandise.

***Do you support these types of ideas for the CSA and Canadian Scouting? What other ideas can you share that the CSA realistically could pursue?*** Every day is one of hope, growth and improvement. Please share your thoughts with us to help move the CSA to the next plateau.

**James Legh**  
**Chair CSA**



**Coronation 1937**

## **What Does Earning Your Chief Scout Mean To You?**

If you are anything like me, the day you received your Chief Scout or Queen's Venturer Award it was a special day indeed. I earned my Queen's Scout Badge in December of 1967 and had to wait until November 1968 for the official awards ceremony which was presided over by Quebec Lieutenant-Governor Hugh Lapointe. Myself and over one hundred other Queen's Scouts from Quebec mounted the stage at Montreal's Queen Elizabeth Hotel, snapped to the alert, saluted and shook the left hand of M. Lapointe while being presented our parchment certificate which was signed by the then Governor General Roland Michener. Making my way back to my seat I could see my late parents just beaming with pride and I knew I had accomplished something extraordinary.

Earning the top awards in Scouting takes planning, focus and self-discipline. With everything else that goes on in adolescence, keeping your eye on the Scouting prize exhibits tenacity and perseverance. It

shows a willingness to learn, be led and to lead. All of these are qualities that universities, trade-schools and employers look for. You would do well to remember to put your awards on your curriculum-vitae.

I run an audio/video/web media studio and recently I received a request for an internship for a sound engineer. I receive these requests fairly regularly but this one was different. It spoke of a Scouting career and volunteerism, both things that are close to my heart. A few e-mails and an interview later a former Scout and Venturer will be starting at my studio in September.

Never underestimate your Scouting experience and what it can bring to the table in any environment. Scouting remains one of the most respected organizations in the world. Your awards show that you are the cream that has risen to the top. Be proud of it always.

***Yours in True Scouting Friendship***  
**Mike Reid**  
**Member - Court of Honour**

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I am sad to say that this is my last time writing for the CSA I have decided that I need to spend some more time focusing on my studies so have stepped down from my position as youth representative. I was hoping to be able to say who would take my place by this point but the process is slow and with people on summer holidays it will take some time for everything to be finalized. Have no fear, the people who are competing for the position are all well qualified and want to do it.

Going through the process of putting together job descriptions and answering questions on what the job is really like has given me a chance to reflect on what has happened in the last year in my position. I went from not knowing what the CSA was to meeting a group of people from across the country full of ideas on how to make all the award holders feel like their accomplishments meant something to other people.

I've talked with youth from both coasts and learned how they felt about their accomplishments, and how they wanted the country to see them. No matter where people live they want someone to take their ideas and help them come to life. I would like to think that I worked with the court of honour to get some of that happening and that in the not too distant future you will all see some of your ideas come to light.

I want to echo what Mike said about being proud to have Scouting on your resume. I have been interviewed for jobs I was grossly under qualified for because of my Scouting experiences.

Thank you all for being a part of what has the promise of being an active group of people and I hope to see you all on the forums throwing more ideas to your COH!

**Rachel Northey**

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I got a major wake-up call about the Brotherhood of Scouting in the world this July when I attended the Centennial Cub Jamboree at Camp Everton in Ontario. We had a guest Scouter travel all the way from Tunisia by herself to participate as an Offer of Service team member. She knew no one in Canada but had enough confidence in the Scouting program and its members to boldly volunteer. She was the hit of the camp and made many scouting friends in her seven days at Everton.

Fellow award winners isn't this what scouting is all about. The kids that attended Everton will never forget their fun experiences and will forever remember the summer of 2010 when they met a Scouter from Africa. Don't you have great memories of when you were a youth meeting new people and participating in exciting ventures?



*Baden-Powell (David Frederick) with Mark Merryweather (QS 1969) and Tunisian Scouter Ibtissem Marouani at the Centennial Cub Jamboree at Camp Everton, July 2010.*

The Chief Scout Association is made up of fabulous, exciting men and women who dedicated many hours of their time as young people to earn the ultimate awards in scouting. The excitement of being in the Scouting Movement is not just something from your past but it is alive and well today and continues to grow worldwide. Canadian numbers are now starting to grow again too!

I urge you to continue your support of the CSA. We want Canadian society to know the benefits of this wonderful Movement that promotes peace and brotherhood worldwide, and encourages self-development along with leadership and outdoor skills. As an Award holder we want to promote your accomplishment and remind Canadians that Scouting is still around after more than 100 years of service and that there are special individuals like yourself who have made a difference in this world, and it started when you were a youngster in Scouts Canada.

**Mark Merryweather  
Court of Honour**

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CSA Crests are \$5.00 each (includes taxes and shipping)

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## Why I think the Chief Scout Association is Important:

As I stare at this blank page, I look back and think of all the fun times I had in Scouting. From the sleeping bag fights, to canoe camping, to backpacking up mountains, to Beaverees and Cuborees, to Provincial, National, and World Jamborees; all while still a Youth Member of Scouts Canada. I don't remember a time in my life when Scouting was not a part of it. Achieving the top awards put the icing on my Scouting.

The Chief Scout Association (CSA) hopes to have the ability to promote this recognition of Scouting youth to the communities of Canada. One of the CSA's goals is to make The Chief Scout Award and the Queen's Venturer Award a household name, and thereby a more prestigious award for all. We have already started this by making suggestions to Scouts Canada Councils on how to make their Award ceremonies more meaningful to youth. We are also looking at ways to bring more recognition from outside Scouting to the Awards.

If you do an online search for a "List of Eagle Scouts" you will find there are presidents, politicians, actors, musicians, astronauts, captains of industry and members of the Armed Forces who are Eagle Scouts. Unfortunately if you do a similar search for the Canadian Awards you don't get a single Canadian response.

**So this is where I ask for your help.....**

The more members that sign up for the CSA, the greater our list of Award Holders will be. If more people talk about, promote and recognize the awards, then it follows that more of today's and tomorrow's youth will look at Scouting and these Awards and think "these are for me."

**Robin Benbow**  
**Court of Honour**

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**Queen's Venturer Award**

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This past June I attended Voyageur Council's yearly Chief Scout and Queen's Venturer Awards Ceremony. I was there in my capacity as an AYC, as this time around the Council had let the youth commissioners plan, organize and execute the event; with the generous and willing help of the Ottawa Chief Scout Association Patrol.

There we were, a handful of Area and Council youth representatives unfurling flags, hushing and shepherding lines of Scouts and (most importantly) brewing strong coffee and cutting cake, while trying not to get the tips of our neckers dirty. Thinking back to that jubilant day all of us youth and of course CSA members staffing and planning the ceremony wore or had at one time worn on our arms the gold and white purple or green of the same awards these youth were being presented. The day was of course for the youth, that moment when under the tanning glare of camera flashes, with a left hand shake and the receipt of their parchment signed by the Governor General, our Chief Scout, these young people joined a wider community.

To me, the CSA is a wider community of committed achievers and ambitious Scouts. We are a community whose interest is in the continuing development of young people through the Chief Scout and Queen's Venturer programs. Whether that be through helping at an award ceremony and other events, promoting the award in the community or work place or as an active Scouter or youth member. Through promoting the Chief Scout and Queen's Venturer Awards and recognizing their dedicated earners we are expanding our community, through which we are creating a better world, one person at a time.

**Mike Harris**  
**Court of Honour Youth Representative**  
**Chief Scout Association**

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**The Meaning of the Chief Scout Award and the value of the CSA**

I can still remember the day, over 25 years ago now, when I stepped through the front doors of the Lieutenant Governor's residence in Winnipeg and the Aide de Camp called out my name, Richard Puttenham – Chief Scout Award earner, announcing my arrival and introducing me to the LG for Manitoba.

I remember feeling about 8 feet tall and so grown up even though I was only 14 years old at the time. It was at this point that the enormity of what I had accomplished hit me: I had earned the highest award in Scouts. Now I will admit it did not feel like I had toiled and slaved to achieve this honour. I was a Scout, and as such I did Scouting things. My Scout Leaders were keeping track of all the challenges and qualifications as we did them. My leaders encouraged and guided us as we moved through the program helping us achieve the various components and requirements. In the end while I was having fun and earning my badges I was also working up the Chief Scout Award ladder.

Over the past couple of decades Scouting has changed to keep pace with society. Today, Scouts are able to earn their Computer, Recycling or

Heritage badges. While the badges may have changed the same core values of the Chief Scout Award program are in place as they were 100 years ago: A desire to better one's self and contribute to society.

A couple of years ago, a group of enthusiastic former King, Queen and Chief Scout Award Earners came together and formed the Chief Scout Association which strives to keep former award earners connected to Scouting and to promote the importance of the Award by educating Canadian industry, government, community service, business, education, and the general public of the significance of the Award. While the CSA is here to help you, we also need your help in promoting the Award program to the up-coming generations of Scouts. As my Leaders helped me, I will be helping the youth enrolled today!

"We never fail when we try to do our duty, we always fail when we neglect to do it."

**Robert Baden-Powell**

**Richard Puttenham  
Court of Honour - Manitoba & Nunavut**

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**Chief  
Scout Award**



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Your Court of Honour meets monthly via conference call to respond to issues and to discuss ways to expand the membership. But the key to a successful association needs more than a monthly chat amongst the COH members, it needs local participation. For the CSA to truly grow and to provide members with a local flavor the CSA needs Patrol Leaders in all major centers. PLEASE consider volunteering as patrol leader for your area. At the least you could hold a semi-annual gathering at your council office or camp to meet other members, and to chat about the CSA and why they have joined. Some areas have already helped their Council to organize the annual Chief Scout Awards Ceremony, a great way to gain recognition. Imagine if every major centre had a patrol leader? The opportunity to increase awareness, and to give members a sense of

belonging, would be outstanding. To become a Patrol Leader simply send an email to [csa@scouts.ca](mailto:csa@scouts.ca) and your COH member will be in touch with you to discuss the role in more depth.

***We need your feedback! Please contact us at [csa@scouts.ca](mailto:csa@scouts.ca) or post comments on the discussion forum found on the website.***



**Queen's Scout  
Award**

## Membership Fee Renewal

The Court of Honour has set the annual membership fee for 2010-2011 at \$20\*.

*Please Note: Anyone age 27 or over must pay the membership fee to remain an active member of the CSA.*

**To pay your membership fee you have the following options:**

1. OnLine [csa@scouts.ca](mailto:csa@scouts.ca)

### **2. Cheque**

Send a cheque made payable to the Chief Scout Association and mail to 1345 Baseline Rd. Ottawa, ON K2C 0A7.

### **3. Phone**

Call 1-888-855-3336 ext 233 with your credit card information to pay your fee over the phone.

**King's Scout  
Award**

