



# HEADQUARTERS GAZETTE

Volume 1 – Edition 2

March 2003

## Elections & Appointments:

The following people have been confirmed by the Provincial Executive Committee, into the following appointments for a period of thirty-six months:

- 1) Mike Krochter - Appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner
- 2) Paul Capka - Appointed DC Greater Victoria
- 3) Ron Long Appointed HQ Commissioner for Seafarers

The Chief Commissioner, pending approval of the Provincial Executive Council, has appointed the following people to the following positions:

- 1) Vicky Sanderson - HQ Commissioner for Otters

Membership of the Provincial Executive Committee consists of the following Appointments:

- 1) Chief Commissioner.
- 2) Deputy Chief Commissioner.
- 3) Provincial Treasurer.
- 4) Provincial Secretary.
- 5) HQ Commissioners, as appointed by the Chief Commissioner.

A requirement currently exists for a **Provincial Secretary**. Any volunteers should contact the Chief Commissioner.

## Handbooks:

Just a reminder that the Handbooks for each Section have now been finished, and approved by our UK Council for Canadian use. It must be stated that under no circumstances are any amendments, changes, or additions to be made to any BPSA-BC Handbook without the express permission of the Provincial Executive Council.

Groups that require updated handbooks please contact the Provincial Badge Secretary who will be looking after them. ([bp\\_badges@lycos.com](mailto:bp_badges@lycos.com))

## Badges & Badge Request Forms:

Your “temporary” badge secretary forgot to enclose the badge order forms as promised in the last edition of the Gazette, and apologises for this oversight. However, he now has a new perspective on life, as he never realized just how much his better half did around the house before he took on this extra responsibility!

Our Provincial Badge Secretary, Mary, is still away for the foreseeable future. What was supposed to be a “short” 6½ months aboard HMCS Winnipeg in the Arabian Gulf taking part in Operation Apollo, seems to be ending up as a endless cruise. Word is they will be home on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

For those of you who want to see what goes on aboard a Canadian Ship in the Gulf, check out HMCS Winnipeg’s Website at: <http://www.hmcswinnipeg.com/> There are a lot of very interesting photos there. Leave Mary a note in the Guestbook.

## Uniforms and Provincial QM:

“Q” has told me that he is working on a long sleeve jersey for the Timberwolves as an alternative for the short sleeve version. More news of this will be in the next edition of the Newsletter.

The QM has had problems with the email. Their new email is [BPSA@fastmail.ca](mailto:BPSA@fastmail.ca).

## **Hiking Safety**

**Before starting out**, decide where you are going and how long the hike should take. The distance you walk, the amount of height gained, your fitness and the fitness of those you walk with, will all influence the time your walk takes. Other factors such as the weather and the type of ground you're walking on will also affect your timing. It's easy to under-estimate the time required, so start by choosing shorter routes and noting the time taken. There are many hiking guidebooks available, which include route descriptions, plus distance and estimated time. Get a weather forecast for the area and ensure you have time to get off the mountain before dark.

**Weather** changes in the mountains - the higher you go in the hills, the lower the temperature (drops 1C for each 100 metres of ascent); the wind is stronger up there (2 to 3 times the speed in the valleys); there is more rainfall (3 times that in the valleys) and there is more risk of fog and cloud. Weather conditions can change in minutes in the mountains and you need to be equipped to cope with this.

**Walking boots** with good ankle support are essential when walking off-road. Always wear clothing suitable for the outdoors and carry spare warm clothes at all times. Jeans and cotton should be avoided (if they get wet they will not dry, causing loss of body heat and energy and will contribute to the onset of hypothermia). A waterproof jacket and over-trousers, warm hat and gloves are essential, irrespective of the weather on starting out.

**Carry a rucksack** for spare clothing, food and a hot drink for the hike plus some spare high-energy snacks such as chocolate, glucose sweets or power bars. A flashlight, whistle, small first aid kit and plastic survival bag are also useful.

**Know where you are** in the mountains at all times. This involves having a map - usually 1:50,000 scale (in a case), compass and, most important, the ability to use these effectively in poor visibility. Most mountain rescue call-outs, whether for missing or injured persons, arise from an initial error in navigation.

**Be careful** about foot placement, as there is always the risk of concealed holes, rocks, slippery ground and soft ground. Be particularly careful when descending steep ground and when crossing streams and rivers. Streams in flood are deceptively dangerous. Most accidents happen on the way down, when people are tired, rushing or no longer paying attention.

**It's better not to walk alone in the mountains**, particularly if there aren't other people in the area, and if alone do not take any chances. The remoteness of the mountains in bad weather can be very unnerving, even for experienced hikers, and can lead to serious mistakes being made.

**Leave word** with a responsible person about where you will be hiking and at what time you expect to return. Mobile phones can be of help in emergency situations or for calling to say you will be back later than expected, but never rely on being able to use a mobile phone in the mountains, as coverage is often poor to non-existent. Never do anything that you would not do if you did not have the phone with you.

**In an accident or emergency situation**, stay calm and take time to think things through. To get help phone 911 and ask for Search and Rescue, or the local RCMP. The recognised mountain distress signal is three blasts on a whistle, or three flashes of a light, in succession followed by a one minute pause and repeated until you get a response. Search and Rescue is a voluntary service and should only be contacted in a genuine emergency.

## **Patrol Leaders Corner**

# THE PATROL LEADERS CODE

### **As the leader of my patrol I will do my best to:**

- Live the Scout Promise and coach my patrol members to do the same.
- Learn all I can about my job in order to be a good leader.
- Plan and lead good patrol meetings and activities.
- Give every member a definite job so each will have a part in patrol activities.
- Keep ahead on advancement so I am prepared at all times to teach patrol members.
- Be thoughtful of my fellow Explorers and a friend to all of them.
- Qualify to take my patrol hiking and camping.
- Wear my uniform correctly and neatly so my Explorers will too.

## **Patrol Leaders and the Court of Honour**

The Court of Honour is an important part of the Patrol System. It is a standing committee which, under the guidance of the Scoutmaster, settles the affairs of the Troop, both administrative and disciplinary. It develops in its members self-respect, ideals of freedom coupled with a sense of responsibility and respect for authority, while it gives practice in procedure such as is invaluable to the members individually and collectively as future citizens.

The Court of Honour takes charge of routine matters etc. In the Court of Honour it is often found convenient to admit the Seconds (Assistant Patrol Leaders) also as members, and, while getting their help, this incidentally gives them experience and practice in committee procedure. The Court of Honour, on the other hand, is composed solely of Patrol Leaders. The Court of Honour, as its name implies, has a rather exceptional mission, such as dealing with cases of discipline and questions of awards.

## **Values of the Patrol System**

It is important that the Scoutmaster recognise the extraordinary value, which they can get out of the Patrol System. It is the best guarantee for permanent vitality and success for the Troop. It takes a great deal of minor routine work off the shoulders of the Scoutmaster.

But first and foremost: The Patrol is the character school for the individual. To the Patrol Leader it gives practise in Responsibility and in the qualities of Leadership. To the Explorers it gives subordination of self to the interests of the whole, the elements of self-denial and self-control involved in the team spirit of cooperation and good comradeship.

But to get first-class results from this system you have to give the youth leaders real free-handed responsibility-if you only give partial responsibility you will only get partial results. The main object is not so much saving the Scoutmaster trouble as to give responsibility to the youths, since this is the very best of all means for developing character.

The Scoutmaster who hopes for success must not only study what is written about the Patrol System and its methods, but must put into practice the suggestions they read. It is the doing of things that is so important, and only by constant trial can experience be gained by their Patrol Leaders and Explorers. The more they them to do, the more will they respond, the more strength and character will they achieve.

## **DISCIPLINE IN YOUR PACK - THE B-P WAY!**

Timber Wolves do want direction and limits. "It wouldn't be a very good den with everyone running around (and) fooling around" says one of our Timber Wolves. And he's right. But there are two approaches to discipline: the negative based on no's and punishment; and the positive, based on reasonable and understood limits, example, caring and encouragement while of course doing our best to have our members fully embrace and live their promise!

We believe positive discipline makes for happy boys and leaders and would like to share a few ideas for use within your Timber Wolf Pack.

Our aim is to provide an atmosphere that encourages good discipline. First, we set membership requirements by making our expectations clear; the Timber Wolf will participate as fully as possible in the program, and wear a full and complete BPSA-BC Timber Wolf uniform.

Our leaders do their best to show they care about each Cub as an individual and treat everyone equally and fairly. Your Pack should be run like a family in which everyone is important.

The moment a new Timber Wolf-to-be steps into the meeting hall, we clearly spell out limitations and expectations. To make them meaningful and provide on-going reinforcement, its important for the Timber Wolf leaders, both at the adult and youth level, to consistently demonstrate the expected behavior. We remind our Timber Wolves that the parts of their promise and law, which they have promised to uphold, must not be compromised while also being lived to the best of their ability each and every day.

### ***EXPLAIN WHY***

People, including our Timber Wolves, generally accept rules if they understand the reason why they have been established. It's also important to realize that occasionally a Cub might not obey a Pack or Timber Wolf rule or command.

## **PLANNING**

In program planning, you should consider a number of things that we feel help to maintain good discipline. Our guidelines are to:

- follow opening ceremonies with a lively activity
- use the Pack visual commands consistently and well.
- keep things flowing (as one activity ends, be ready to start the next)
- use all leaders and helpers - some running or helping to run an activity, some organizing the next activity, some working with the Timber Wolves!
- enjoy and fully use our unique BPSA-BC ceremonies, be organized, expect the Timber Wolves to treat the ceremonies with pride and joy
- ensure that our Timber Wolves obey the rules of the Pack that states that the Timber Wolf... thinks of other's first, opens his eyes and ears, is always clean, always tells the truth, and is always happy!
- make sure we don't keep our Timber Wolves standing idly for extended periods of time

Planning enables us to be well prepared for a period of instruction or explanation of a new game. We teach some of the leaders or Timber Wolves the skill or game in advance so that they can demonstrate as someone explains. During the instruction, we insist on silence and the full attention of each and every Timber Wolf *and* Leader. We try to keep the explanation brief and to the point.

It helps if you plan with your sixers and seconds and use them to the fullest. We find they play a key role in helping to maintain discipline.

## **A POINT SYSTEM**

Within our BPSA-BC program the use of an effective and meaningful point system is encouraged. We have embraced a program where our Timber Wolves are encouraged to live their promise, to help others outside of the Pack. In return they have an opportunity to earn points on an individual basis. The Timber Wolf with the greatest number of points after a given period of time can wear for example a tooth from Baloo around his neck. We also use a point system within the Pack setting whereas our Timber Wolves can earn points for cooperation, team work, completing tasks and much more. Finally we suggest that you use small values - one, two or three etc as we find that our Timber Wolves

find it much easier to relate to and appreciate the smaller numbers.

### ***BUT WE HAVE A PROBLEM***

If you find you have a Timber Wolf who consistently disrupts the group by fighting or whatever, try to understand why. It's difficult at times to avoid letting your emotions get the best of you, but blowing up isn't a very effective response. When two Cubs are fighting, separate them and try to get the real story. Perhaps Peter is scrapping all the time because some of the others call him names or tease him, or he's upset about something at home or at school.

What we try to do when we have a problem is to talk with the Timber Wolf or Wolves involved privately with you and another leader being present (meaning don't hold the discussion in front of the rest of the Pack!). We believe it's important to talk to a Timber Wolf eye-to-eye (a towering six-foot leader can be pretty intimidating from the Timber Wolf level), and listen well to what he has to say. The aim is to let them know that we care about them and really want to understand and to help.

If we learn that other Timber Wolves have been name-calling or teasing, we talk with them, making it clear that we regard the behavior as unacceptable and reminding them that an BPSA-BC Timber Wolf is a brother or Sister to every other Timber Wolf in the Pack. We teach our Timber Wolves that *The strength of the Pack is the Timber Wolf, the strength of the Timber Wolf is the Pack!*

Punishment is not positive, but it may sometimes be necessary. The important thing is to make sure that the punishment fits the crime, so that Timber Wolves know there are logical consequences to misbehavior. And never make unreasonable promises or threats that you can't carry out. Leaders who don't keep their word lose a great deal of credibility.

If, despite your best efforts, a Timber Wolf becomes a serious problem, remove them from the other Timber Wolves for a period of time. For example, deny a Timber Wolf, who persists in playing improperly, the right to participate in favorite games that evening. And, if worse comes to worst, take them home and deliver them to their parents.



## ***TO RECAP***

In our Pack, we find that our Timber wolves will live up to our expectations and listen when:

- We treat them with respect and ask rather than tell them (Please return to your group for the next activity, rather than Move it or else!);
- We do not play favourites;
- Our rules are consistently applied to everyone (including leaders as they must set the example);
- We are prepared to listen, accept suggestions from the Sixers Council and, if they are valid and reasonable, act on them;
- We are prepared to admit that we as an old wolf may have made a mistake (we are only human) and are willing to say we are sorry;
- We are prepared to have fun and work closely with our Timber Wolves;
- We are able to show Timber Wolves that each individual is important to us.

We think that reasonable standards and expectations, consistency, fairness, belief in the Timber Wolf Law and Promise, wise use of visual pack commands, and showing the Timber Wolves that you really care and by having all members proudly wear their full and complete BPSA-BC Timber Wolf uniform are elements that make a happy, well-disciplined pack with an exciting worthwhile program. Remember that it takes time. Be patient and you'll see it working for you.

## **The Otters Den**

### **Balloon Game**

Everyone blows up a balloon, ties a string around the balloon and their ankle leaving about a foot or so of string between the ankle and the balloon. When everyone is ready, Otters try to break each other's balloons, but also try to keep from losing their balloon - if their balloon breaks, they may try to break other Otters - but the "winner" is the one who has their balloon unbroken.

## **FIRST AID**

If an accident occurs in the wilderness it will be your responsibility to deal with the situation. The specific sequence of actions when dealing with this situation is:

- 1.** Remain calm, providing your patient with quiet, efficient first aid treatment.
- 2.** Keep the patient warm and lying down. Do not move this injured person until you have discovered the extent of the injuries.
- 3.** Start mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration immediately if the injured person is not breathing.
- 4.** Stop any bleeding.
- 5.** Give your patient reassurance. Watch carefully for signs of shock.
- 6.** Check for cuts, fractures, breaks and injuries to the head, neck or spine.
- 7.** Do not allow people to crowd the injured person.
- 8.** Do not remove clothing unless it is imperative.
- 9.** Decide if your patient can be moved to a proper medical facility. If this is not possible, prepare a suitable living area in which shelter, heat and food are provided.

## **Neckerchief Sizes:**

We have had many inquires regarding the proper size for neckerchiefs. So, here they are:

Otters:	24" x 24" x 33"
Timber Wolves:	28" x 28" x 39"
Explorers:	31" x 31" x 46"
Leaders:	40" x 40" x 56"

Cut on the bias along the long edge of the neckerchief. With the exception of the Otter Neckerchief the max allowed for a hem is 1/2" - Otters 1/4"