



November 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of *The Scout Leader* – “a monthly publication for Boy Scout and Wolf Cub Leaders of the Boy Scouts Association in Canada”. Even though it has changed in media form during the last century, its foundations lie with its first editor, Frank E.L. Coombs. The first issue in November 1923, emphasized Gilwell Training Camps for Scoutmasters which “marked another substantial advance in Canadian Scouting Leadership”.

Two articles have been featured which chronicle the magazine’s history - from the 1948 issue, pages 3-4 and from the 1983 issue, pages 5-9. Illustrations have been added to bring the rich history to life.

Beginnings

During a February 1923 meeting of the Publications Board, “the advisability of the Association discontinuing the publication of **CANADIAN BOY** was taken up and discussed very thoroughly, the result being a resolution to the effect that the Publications Board would concur continue the magazine, or to dispose of it to some other publisher.” The magazine was showing slow growth and a decrease in advertising. In March the Chief Commissioner stated that...

In my opinion the best service that could be rendered at the present time by a monthly publication would be through one prepared directly and particularly to help Scoutmasters and other officers with their work, presenting to them suggested programmes, suggestions on carrying out the programmes and discussing both generally and particularly problems which the Scoutmasters and other officers have to meet in their work.

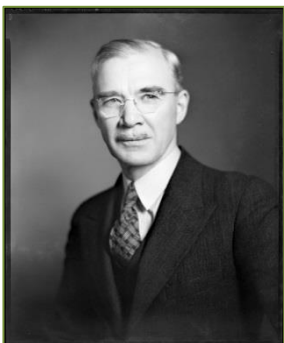
If the amount of money which we are now spending in publishing a magazine for boys were devoted to providing a publication which would be sent free to Scoutmasters and others, every month, I believe that would help our Movement much more than continuing to publish a magazine for boys.

On October 4th, 1923 at the 32nd Meeting of the Executive Committee, Dr. James W. Robertson, the Chief Commissioner announced the following:

“It is proposed to issue free to Scoutmasters and others a monthly eight page paper to be known as **The Scout Leader**. This paper will carry Scout news, hints on practical organization and programme suggestions to Scout Leaders all over Canada and will I hope be the means of further guiding, strengthening and consolidating the movement. The first issue will appear in November.” **The Canadian Boy** ceased publication in May 1923 and by November **The Scout Leader** was first printed.

Published Monthly by THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA

Frank Coombs



Francis (Frank) Edward Llewellyn Coombs was born on the 25th of September 1876 in the Alymer area of Elgin County. He was a veteran of the Boer War and First World War.

Frank joined the Executive Staff of the Boy Scouts Association of Canada in 1920 and a year later became the Editor of Publications at Dominion Headquarters. He served as founder and editor of **The Scout Leader** for twenty-five years and was an important contributor to familiar books that introduced many to Scouting.

A Gilwellian, he conducted Wood Badge Courses in the Maritimes for many years on behalf of Dominion Headquarters. Frank Coombs was awarded the Silver Wolf, Silver Acorn and Centennial Medal, and, in 1929 was deputy contingent leader to the *Coming of Age Jamboree* in Birkenhead, England. In 1936 he was photographed by Yousuf Karsh when working in Ottawa. He retired in 1946. Even after his ninetieth birthday Mr. Coombs continued to attend the annual meetings of the National Council and showed a remarkable memory for names and events. Frank Coombs’s retirement announcement in the 1946 Annual Report read: “Few men have made a greater contribution to Canadian Scouting than Frank E. L. Coombs.” He passed on August 2, 1968.

The First Editor

The Scout Leader received nothing but praise and thanks from Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Commissioners and Rover Scout Leaders. The extent to which Scoutmasters and Cubmasters were studying the information and suggestions was made evident through newspaper clippings that were received by the clipping bureau. In the December 1923 issue the organization of a **Scout Toy Repair Shop** was suggested by Frank Coombs. This did a tremendous amount to bring the Movement before the most favourable public and quickly became a yearly Canada-wide Christmas tradition. By 1930 Scouts were playing Santa Claus to 75,000 children.

Extracts from the paper soon reached other Scout publications in different parts of the Empire. By 1926 some three thousand copies of the official paper were sent out monthly. In October *The Scout Leader* was enlarged to include a section devoted to news of the Movement throughout Canada under the caption "From Coast to Coast". The following year the paper was expanded with four additional pages. The paper was rendering real service to the Movement by keeping the attention of Scout Leaders focussed on fundamentals in Scouting.

New Training Courses

In order that every Canadian Scoutmaster may be able to secure the training necessary to real success with his troop, Dominion Headquarters is working on plans for winter instruction courses, direct and by correspondence. While it will not be possible in this way to give the complete training and valuable experience of the full summer Gillwell Training Camp, the new program will provide a practically helpful course that no Scout leader can fail to profit by. Details will be announced later.

1923 November Issue

In 1929 at the Commissioners'

Conference a request was made *The Scout Leader* be published also in September (originally published from October to June) so that it might give additional leadership in the early Fall when Troops were re-opening. The following year it was published 10 times. Unfortunately, in 1932 due to a restricted budget frequency dropped down to six times a year, but not for long. By 1935 the frequency of

publication was back to a "monthly" level except for July and August, and all support possible was given to the Expansion and Financial Campaigns.

In 1936 the official monthly went regularly to a mailing list of 4,600 to 4,800. With the creation of the Training Department a "Year Troop Programme" planner was featured along with articles on "Scout Apple Days" and "Scout Mothers' Auxiliary". During 1938 an increase in the year's budget for halftones permitted the use of more and larger pictures.

During the war years the magazine outlined Scout wartime service developing possible Scout participation in home front activities which the boys can properly and effectively participate. Initiatives that were started and highlighted were the *Good Turn Service for Soldiers' Families*, *National Salvage drives* and *Scout Seeds for Britain*. In the 1940 September issue the new *Flying Lions Scout service* details were carried.

Throughout 1947 special 12 page supplements were included with the magazine and in 1949 inserts were included from the Stores Department on Winter Uniforms and others dealing with the First Canadian Jamboree. At the end of 1949 monthly circulation had reached nearly 8,500 with paid subscriptions reaching over 1,400.

These accomplishments were a compelling legacy for *The Scout Leader's* first editor Frank E.L. Coombs. ♣



Time to get started on that Christmas Toyshop to provide needy children with Christmas cheer. In addition to many individual family needs many children's institutions appreciate the Boy Scout Santa Claus. Top picture shows a section of the Regina Scout Toyshop last year. Centre, the paint-shop section of the Owen Sound, Ont., Scout Toyshop. Lower, Sea Rangers at Regina took charge of the doll section of the Scout Toyshop. Girl Guides are happy to help Scouts in this annual Good Turn.

1947 November Issue



SHORT-ARM CRAWL



SEAL CRAWL

The First 25 Years

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of *The Scout Leader*. The first number was published in November, 1923, and its purposes was clearly defined in the editorial announcement in that issue which read: "*The Scout Leader is published with the primary purpose of placing in the hands of every Scout Leader in Canada practical and seasonable helps for the carrying on of his work.*" This primary purpose has never changed. The magazine exists today to fulfill the role it was designed to fill a quarter of a century ago.

Before *The Scout Leader* came into existence the Canadian General Council published a boys' magazine, *The Canadian Boy*. This, like so many Canadian magazines for youth, encountered many difficulties and, after suffering financial reverses for several years was forced to suspend publication. At that time, Mr. Frank E. L. Coombs, the first Editor of Publications, conceived the plan for *The Scout Leader*. He became its first editor. As the only direct contact



between Dominion Headquarters and Scouters in the field the magazine has played an important part in standardizing Scouting practices and methods of leadership, and in fostering the spirit of Scouting. Before the publication of *The Scoutmaster's First Year (1937)* and *The Cubmaster's First Year (1943)* the magazine was the chief source of help for new leaders. Both books mentioned were compiled largely from material which had already appeared in *The Scout Leader*. It has been necessary over the years to emphasize that *The Scout Leader* is not a news magazine of Scouting. True, it contains news items, but these appear because they carry in them ideas and suggestions of value to Scouters. The main purpose of *The Scout Leader* of "placing in the hands of Scout leaders practical and seasonable helps"—remains the same and the passing of the years has only served to prove the wisdom of this original conception.

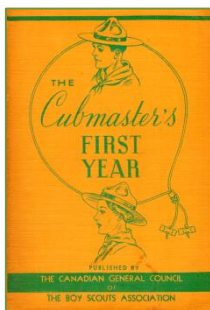
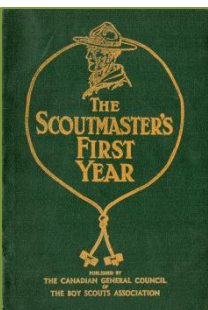
It seems fitting on the occasion of the 25th anniversary that tribute should be paid to Mr. Coombs, its editor for 23 of its 25 years. As a practical Scouter, skilled in Scouting techniques, and a man of the highest ideals, Mr. Coombs made a contribution to Canadian Scouting of incalculable worth. In addition to his work as editor, Mr. Coombs compiled the two books already mentioned, as well as *The Scoutmaster's Five Minutes*, *Tenderfoot to King's Scout*, and numerous booklets and pamphlets. These books and pamphlets have circulated in all to more than a million persons. Two years ago, Mr. Coombs retired, and is now engaged in community service work—carrying on the tradition of the "Good Turn" which for so many years was part of his Scout life. Needless to say, it is the first aim of those at present concerned with the production of *The Scout Leader* to carry forward the high ideals of its founder and first editor.

The Scout Leader: The official magazine for Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Rover Scout Leaders, and other adult leaders of the movement was published ten times during 1947, and at the end of the year its circulation reached the record figure of 7,100 copies. Although it is regarded as a monthly publication, no issues were printed in July and August, according to custom. For the first time, the magazine consisted of a minimum of 16 pages, and its appearance was improved by the use of two-colour front pages.



1923 November First Issue

Between Dominion Headquarters and Scouters in the field the magazine has played an important part in standardizing Scouting practices and methods of leadership, and in fostering the spirit of Scouting. Before the publication of *The Scoutmaster's First Year (1937)* and *The Cubmaster's First Year (1943)* the magazine was the chief source of help for new leaders. Both books mentioned were compiled largely from material which had already appeared in *The Scout Leader*.



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1947 Annual Report

LET'S PREPARE THEM FOR IT



Here are pictured some of the mastheads used on the front page of *The Scout Leader* during the first 25 years of service to the Movement. These were featured in the 25th anniversary edition of *The Scout Leader*.



The
Scout Leader

A Monthly Publication
for Cub, Scout & Rover

Leaders of the Boy Scouts
Association in Canada

VOL. 13 OTTAWA, ONT. MARCH, 1936 No. 7

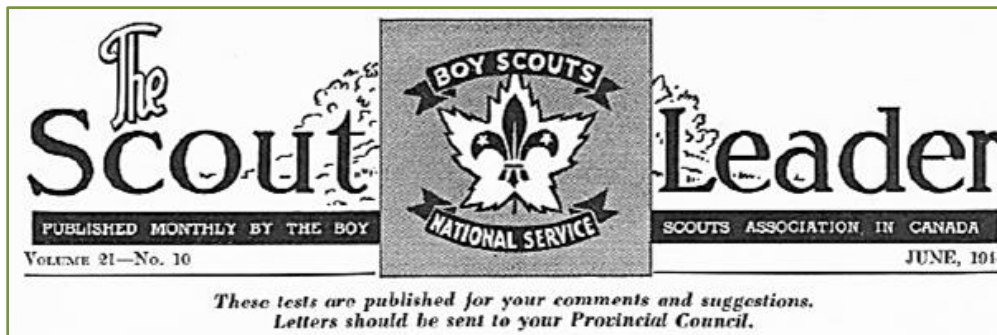


The
Scout Leader

A Monthly Publication
for Cub, Scout & Rover

Leaders of the Boy Scouts
Association in Canada

VOL. 14 OTTAWA, ONT. SEPTEMBER, 1936 No. 1



The
Scout Leader

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA

VOLUME 21—No. 10 JUNE, 1944

*These tests are published for your comments and suggestions.
Letters should be sent to your Provincial Council.*



THE SCOUT LEADER

Published Monthly by THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA

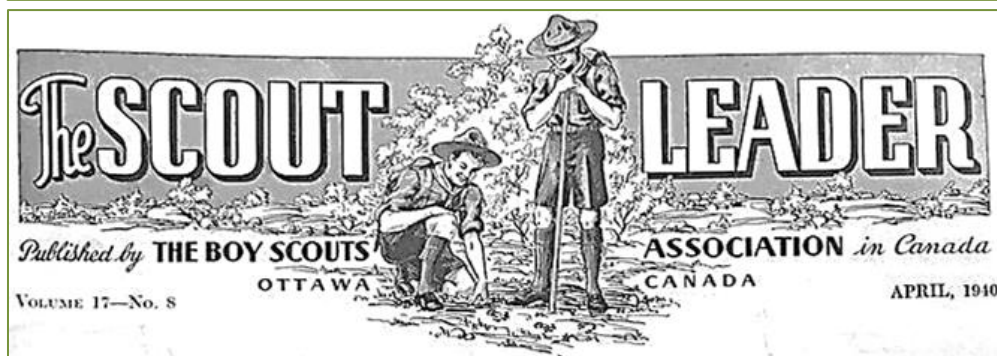
VOLUME 22—No. 4 DECEMBER, 1944



THE SCOUT LEADER

Published Monthly by THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA

VOLUME 23—No. 9 OTTAWA, ONTARIO MAY, 1946



*The***SCOUT LEADER**

Published by THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION in Canada
OTTAWA CANADA

VOLUME 17—No. 8 APRIL, 1940

The following feature article was published in *The Canadian Leader*, November 1983.



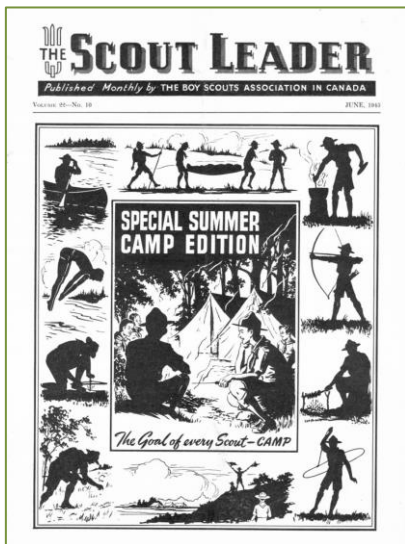
1983 November Issue

the primary purpose of placing in the hands of every Scout leader in Canada practical and seasonal helps for the carrying on of his troop work," the first editorial announced. *"It will be issued monthly until June, concluding the publishing year with a camping number, and resuming again in the fall."*

This first issue also initiated an important and lasting interdependence between *The Leader* and its readers with a column called *The Duffel Bag*, *"A page of helpful ideas from wherever and whomsoever we can obtain them."*

The Magazine

Change in society was a relatively gradual process until the post-war years began to race into the age of technology and mass communications. Change in Scouting and the magazine followed a similar pattern. Frank Coombs remained editor for 23 years until Bert Mortlock took the chair in 1946. George Beers followed in Sept. 1950 and then there was a quick turn-over from David Aitken, named in 1963, to Jim Mackie, who became editor with the Aug/Sept 1964 issue and held the position until present editor Bob Butcher arrived on scene in Aug/Sept 1979.



1945 June Issue

increased for the first time in the early 50's, doubling from 50¢ to \$1.00 a year. The big crunch came in 1969 when regulations governing mailing rates changed. The magazine's second-class mailing privileges were withdrawn and the

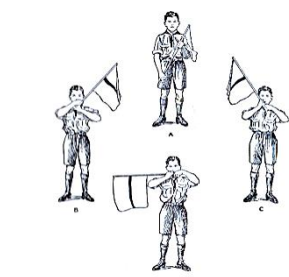
60 Years of the Leader

by Linda Florence

It's our Diamond Jubilee! The Canadian Leader Magazine is 60 years old this month and celebrates the occasion with pride. To trace its development over the years is to read the history of Canada and Scouting in Canada and see the evolution of printing technology and graphic design.

The magazine was born in November 1923 as **THE SCOUT LEADER**, a close-packed eight-page black and white periodical with an estimated circulation of 5,000. Published by The Canadian General Council of The Boy Scouts Association and edited by F.E.L. Coombs, it addressed itself to "Boy Scout & Wolf Cub Leaders of The Boy Scouts Association in Canada."

"The Scout Leader is published with



What Do You Think?

ONE of the recommendations emanating from the recent National Conference was that "All Scouters be asked for their opinions on the discontinuance of Scouters' shoulder knots and any suggestions for alternative identification of rank."

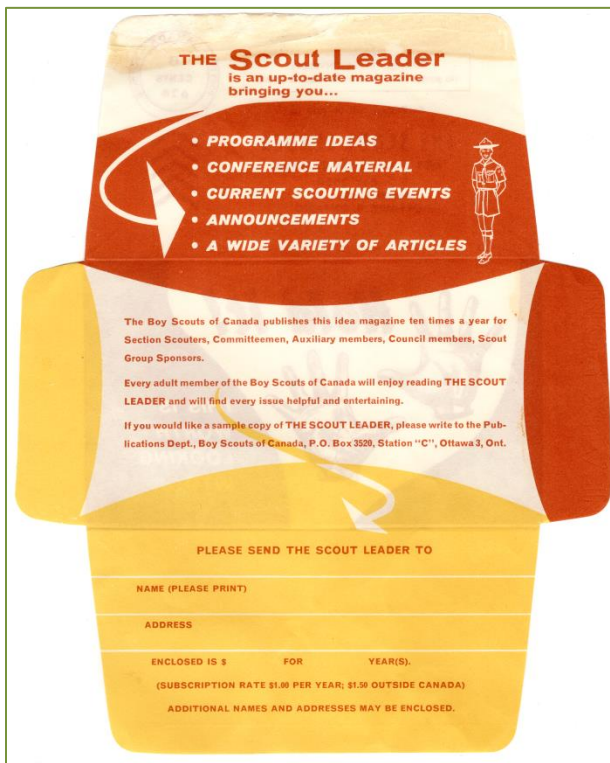
Scouters are asked to send their opinions and suggestions to their Provincial Headquarters where they will be tabulated and forwarded to Dominion Headquarters. If you have an opinion on this question, do not miss the opportunity to express it.

1943 October The Duffel Bag

The Leader's size grew steadily with Scouting, except for a period during the depression years 1932-34 when it cut back from 12 pages to the original eight and printed only every two months, often in coloured ink to make life look brighter. In June, 1945, a special 24-page camping issue featured the first true cover rather than simply the masthead over lead articles in newspaper style.

"Commercial advertising" appeared on *Leader* pages in 1952 as printing and distribution costs rose with the cost of living during the post-war boom. Because both readers and advertisers were becoming accustomed to slick sophisticated publications, *The Leader* worked on improving eye-appeal. With the help of an art consultant, it underwent a complete redesign for the Aug/Sept 1964 issue and emerged a truly modern-looking magazine. Within its limited budget, it has since tried to keep up with changing design trends - a new "in" typeface in 1967, and its most recent make-over for the Aug/Sept 1983 issue, which adopted today's most popular typeface.

Then as now, *The Leader* kept subscription rates as low as possible. They



Subscription Mailer

monthly cost of postage jumped from \$82 to a whopping \$960. Pages became smaller and paper lighter to reduce weight. Subscription rates doubled again.

With a circulation of 25,000 and growing (it now stands at about 46,000), *The Leader's* viability was threatened by the cost of mailing. In Aug/Sept 1970 it changed name, becoming **THE CANADIAN LEADER** to reflect more accurately that it was for youth leaders in all Scouting sections and all other organizations who wished to use it. This, and a switch in publishers from Boy Scouts of Canada to Canyouth Publications Ltd., enabled the magazine to qualify again for second class mailing ailing.



1954 March Issue

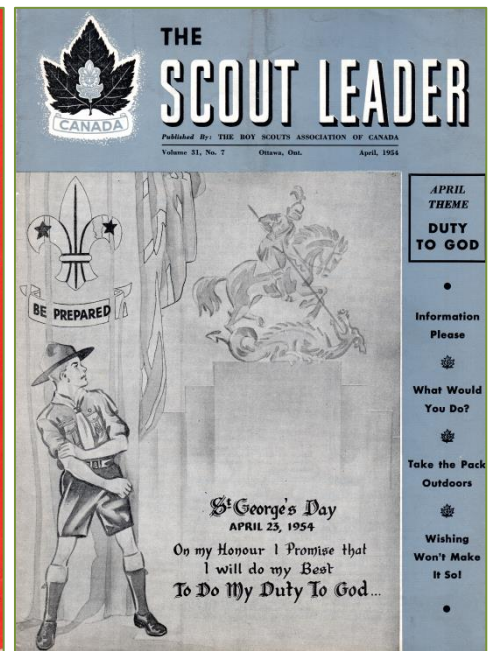
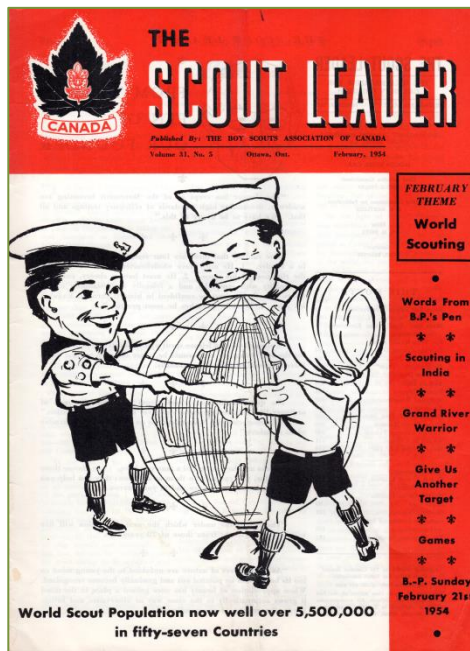
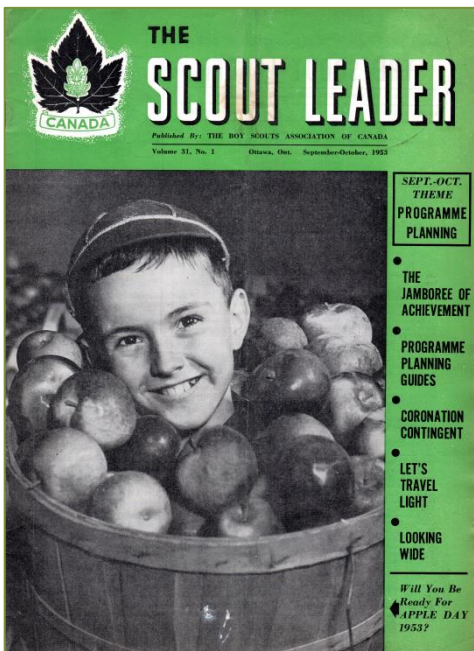
The World It Reflected

As well as providing program ideas and leader training information, down through the years *The Leader* reported all jamborees and other Scouting events at home and abroad, major national and international happenings, and changes of Scouting personalities and policies. As a magazine serving those who worked with young people, its concerns and approaches reflected what was happening in society.

The early issues had a strong British accent and flavour, the heritage of Scouting's roots and the Founder's active leadership. During depression years, reports and project suggestions revolved around relief work, job-getting hints for Rovers, and fund-raising ideas like Scout Apple Days - the first held in fall 1932.

"The Chiefs" visited Canada in 1935, and Scouts fired up a coast-to-coast chain of beacons to celebrate Scouting's Silver Jubilee. With *The Leader*, they mourned a king and Kipling (March 1936), prepared for a coronation, and worried about the war warnings rumbling out of Europe.





1950's issues showing a variety of Scouting topics (1953 September-October, 1954 February, 1954 April)

"The less Scouting imitates soldiering the better," said Canada's Chief Scout Lord Tweedsmuir in the April 1937 issue. "But if it should ever be necessary... 'to stand on guard' for Canada, what better foundation could you have than this sense of brotherhood, this feeling of partnership, this love and devotion for our native land."

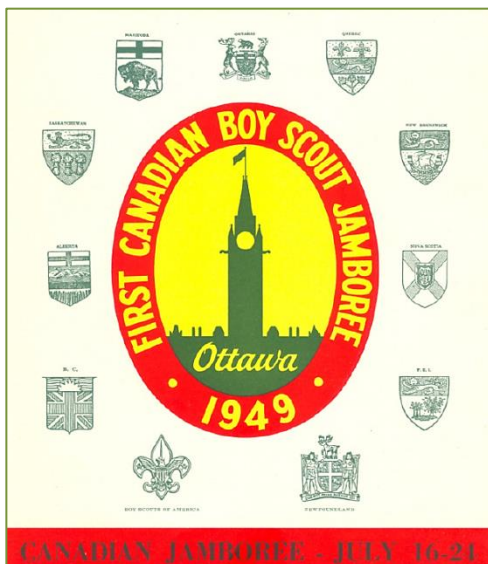
The early 40's focussed on wartime service, emphasizing skills like Morse signalling, air raid procedures, first aid, and any other training which would prepare Scouts for action in a war emergency. Articles urged tough "commando-type" Scouting, and monthly Honour Rolls mourned the movement's dead. To the sorrows of war, the Feb. 1941 issue added news of B.-P.'s death in Kenya.



When war ended in 1945, the magazine directed Scouting back to community service and helping Europe rebuild. It added pages of Scout news from around the world and, in Nov. 1946, announced, "Canada joins the International Scout Bureau."



The Leader welcomed our newest province in March 1950, began to include occasional French language articles, and proudly reported acceptance of Niagara Falls as the site for the 1955 world jamboree. In 1960, it announced that The Canadian General Council of The Boy Scouts Association would become simply Boy Scouts of Canada.



1949 (April), 1953 (February) & 1955 (March) Jamboree cover artwork

The space race, a fascinating scientific age, a burgeoning materialism -all of this is reflected in *The Leader* of the 50's. Heavy on space theme activity ideas, fitness, science projects and encouraging boys to read, the magazine devoted fewer and fewer pages to the words and personality of B-P.

"We Give Kids Too Much," shouted an article in the April 1958 issue, heralding the turbulent 60's and dramatic changes in society and Scouting. Adults were trying to come to terms with the expectations of a youth population better fed, better educated and more highly informed through television and other instant communication media than ever before. So was Scouting, and *The Leader* plunged into a "We're Looking At Ourselves" flurry of surveys, analyses and reports, as well as articles with titles like *How to Talk to Boys*, *Youth in the Jet Age*, *They Are Older Than You Think* and *The Teenage Subculture*. Membership was down and falling. Even the post-war influx of Cubs had slowed.

Uniforms changed. "Scouts will be known by what Scouts DO rather than what they wear," said the Jan. 1963 issue. It was just a start.



In Aug/Sept 1965, *The Leader* announced the Venturer program for older boys. In Dec. 1965, it announced the Cub 5-Star Program and, in Dec. 1967 it outlined a revamp Scout program with "new approaches...new experiences and new ways of doing things". By 1972, Rovers were going co-ed and Venturers were urging a similar move, although they waited until 1980 for a trial program and expect the verdict only this year.

The big excitement came in the June/July 1972 issue when *The Leader* trumpeted "approval to launch a new program section for boys 5 to 7 years of age...Beavers Canada".

HERE'S A HELPFUL CHANGE!

It has been customary for *The Scout Leader* to be published during the summer months in two bi-monthly issues: July-August and September-October.

This year, the bi-monthly issues will cover the periods of June-July and August-September.

The change in publication dates has been recommended in order that programme ideas contained in the magazine may be in the hands of Section Scouters prior to the time of year when they are most valuable.

This means that the June-July issue will deal with summer camping and the August-September issue will highlight plans for the fall season, including the 1961-62 Programme Planning Guide and 1962 Calendar of Religious Holidays.

We hope that Scouters will be pleased with this change and that it will be of help to them.

1961 May Issue



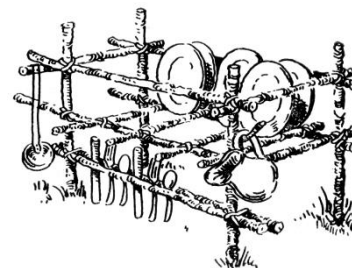
1975 January Issue

"There were 5,300 Beavers in Canada by fall 1973 and 14,000 by Dec. 1974 when the magazine proclaimed the adoption of Beavers as a regular program section. Scouting membership in other sections headed upwards as well.

The fast and furious changes sparked plenty of grumbles, and an active letters page aired them. Cut the psychology and the jargon and give us practical ideas we can use, Scouters cried. *The Leader* responded by starting many of the program section columns familiar to today's readers. It reassured those who feared the changes marked too sharp a turn away from the movement's original ideas and ideals by reminding them, "B.-P. is still alive in Scouting" (Jan. 1971).

Plus Ça Change...

"Floor hockey is not Scouting," the magazine scolded in 1949. Boys really like swimming, campfires and "night Scouting", it concluded when it published results of a camp survey in 1952. Despite the "revolution" which broke on the heels of those

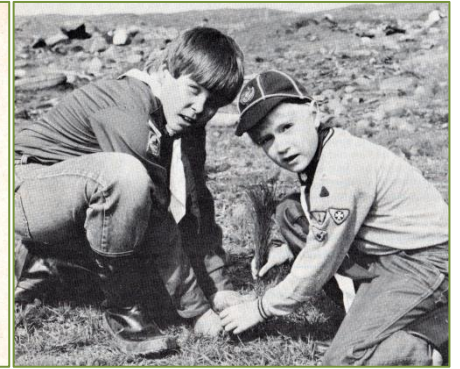
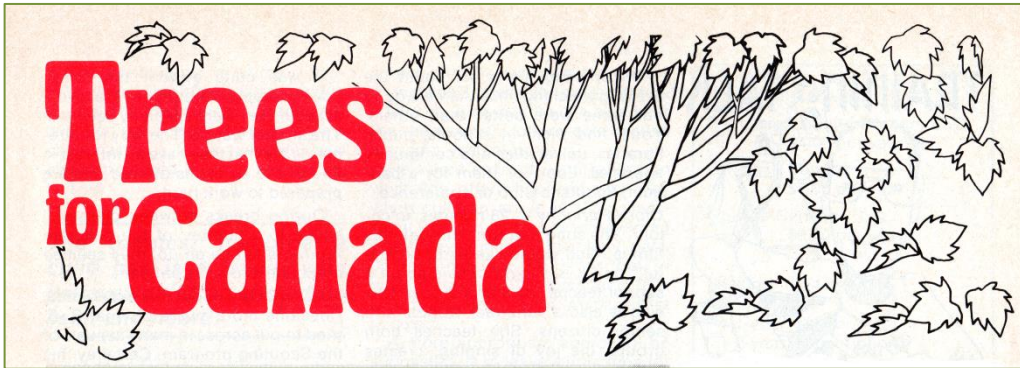


quieter times, such statements, like so many of *The Leader's* headlines from the past, have a familiar ring today.

In Volume 1, No. 1 Scouters found articles titled *Troop Meeting Suggestions* and *Stalking Games*. In the rest of the decade they picked up ideas on winter hikes and camps; camp cooking; outdoor fall activities; reforestation projects; field days; canoeing; *Keeping the 'Out' in Scouting*; *That Puzzling 'Older' Boy*; a photograph hike and how to *Make a Backpack*.

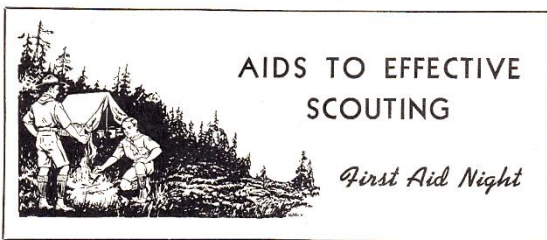
In the 30's they read about first aid training; a new skier's badge; a bilingual PLs course in New Brunswick (Feb. 1937); Scouting for the Physically Disabled (May 1939); the danger that Scouting was getting "soft" (March 1934); *Roping in the Fathers* (Jan. 1935); Scouts and smoking, with reference to a marijuana "reefer" (May 1938); and *Drop-out Problems and Solutions*.

And so it continued in the following years as activities like mountaineering and orienteering, spelunking and scuba diving joined the table of contents. Scouting expanded and adapted to fit the times and **The Leader** kept Scouters informed.



1983 February Issue

Articles like *Highbush Scouting* showed the movement's adjustment to an increasingly urbanized Canada in the 60's. Through the 70's, growing awareness of environmental fragility in a crowded world led, not to a de-emphasis of camping in the program, but rather to promotion of light-weight camping – more demanding for boys as well as kinder to nature. It wasn't exactly new to those who remembered that B.-P. advocated "no trace camping" when he told Scouts to "Leave nothing but you thanks" after a visit in the outdoors.



In every decade, all-season camping, hiking and rugged outdoor pursuits have filled **The Leader**. Skills training in preparation for an active outdoor and community life, a sense of fun and adventure, the philosophy of brotherhood and service, love for the natural world and its Maker, and helping boys become the best and happiest adults they can be – the magazine has shared all of Scouting's meanings since the first issue came off the press.

In Aug/Sept 1982 **The Leader** outlined an editorial policy which aims to: "help Scouters understand boys and the world as it affects the development of youth; help Scouters understand the aims and policies of Boy Scouts of Canada; help Scouters do their jobs through the provision of program aids; build enthusiasm for Scouting; and inform Scouters and committee personnel of national and international Scouting developments and events". This description of purpose gives both a summary of the magazine's past service and reaffirmation of the promise it made in November 1923.

Although much has changed in 60 years, much remains. Boys are basically the same creatures they've always been, Scouting's original aims and principles hold fast, and **The Leader**, now a hearty 40-page adult, continues to serve people who are vitally involved with the future of both. ❀

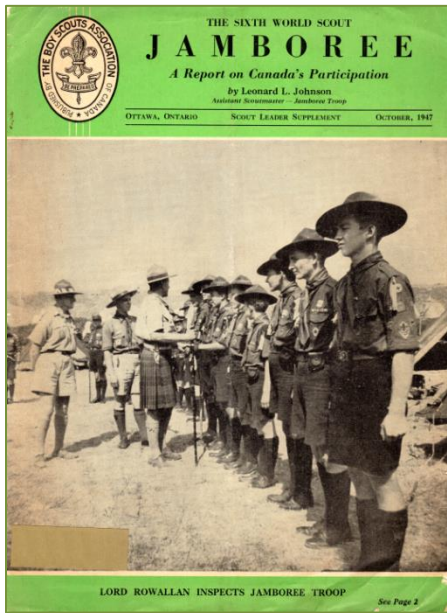


The Prime Minister on Boys' Work

"IN time of war like this, when so many fathers are serving in the army, and so many mothers are engaged in munitions work or in other phases of the war effort, scores of thousands of lads are without the normal benefits of life. This makes the activities of all those agencies which aid the boys of Canada, of especial value to the nation. Such activities tend to curb the growth of juvenile delinquencies. Furthermore, they help to develop the boys into good citizens."

Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King
Prime Minister of Canada

1943 October Issue



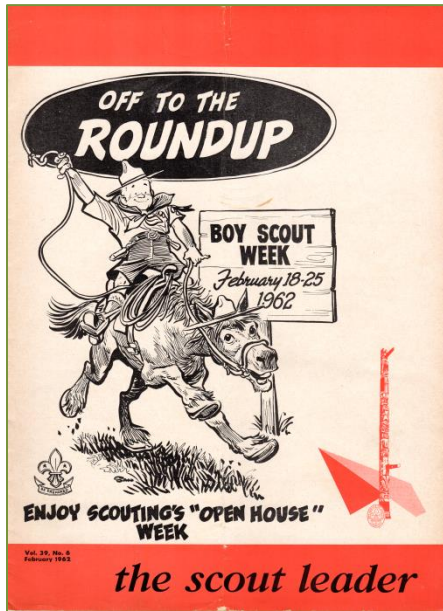
1947 October Supplement



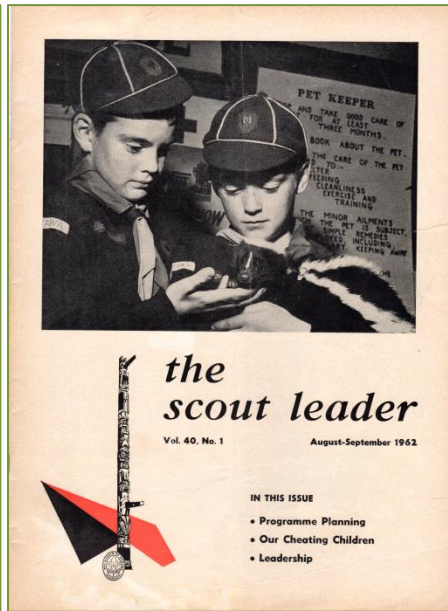
1953 June



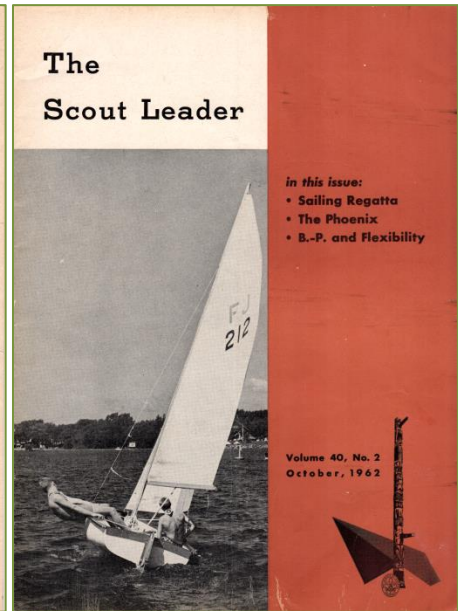
1960 September/October



1962 February



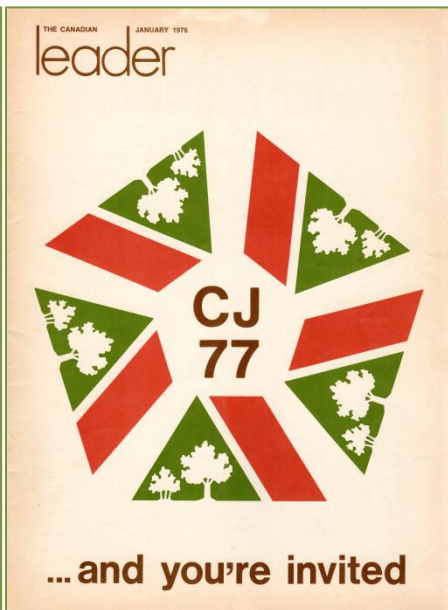
1962 August/September



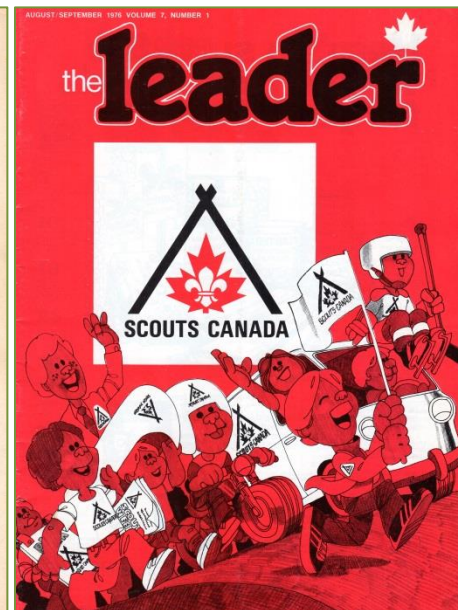
1962 October



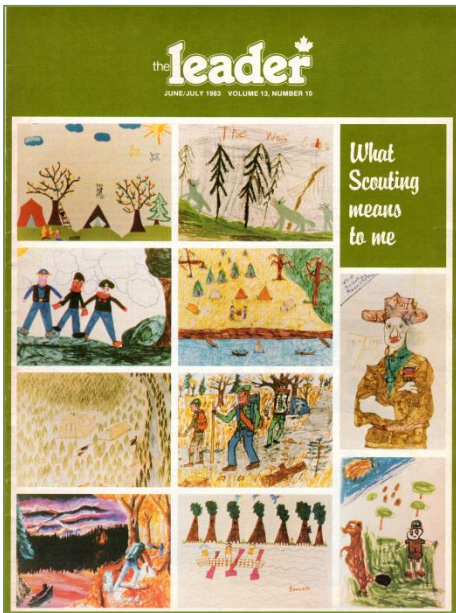
1973 February



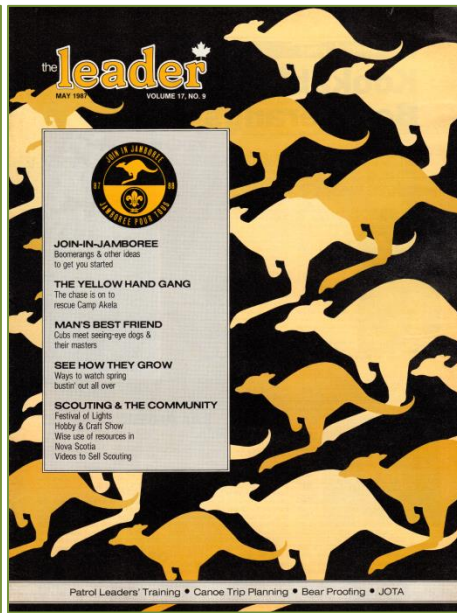
1976 January



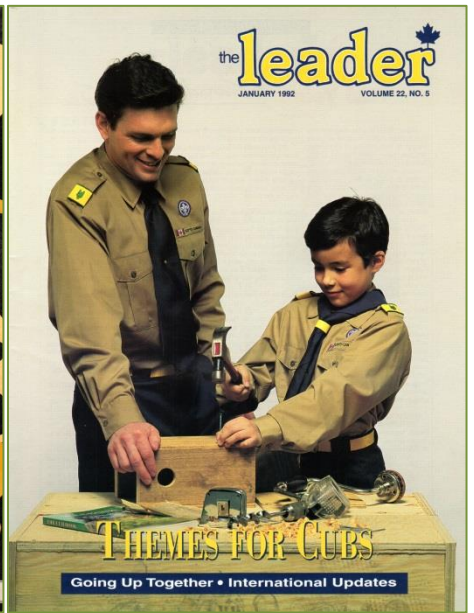
1976 August/September



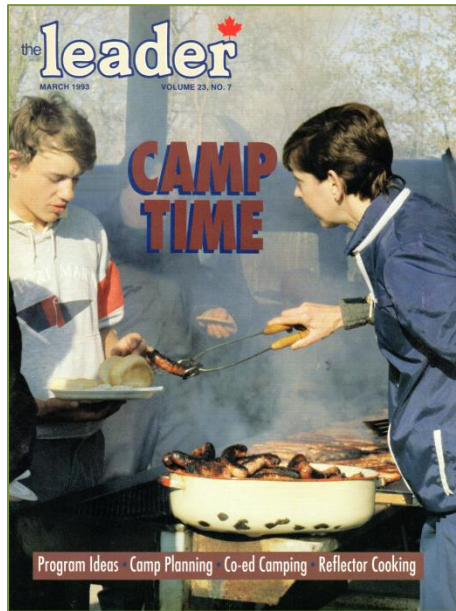
1983 June/July



1987 May



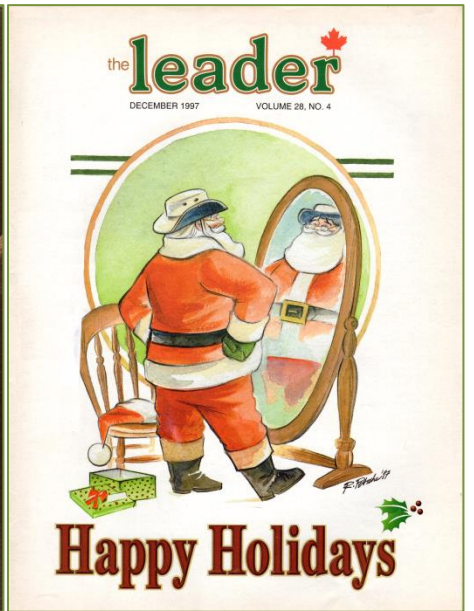
1992 January



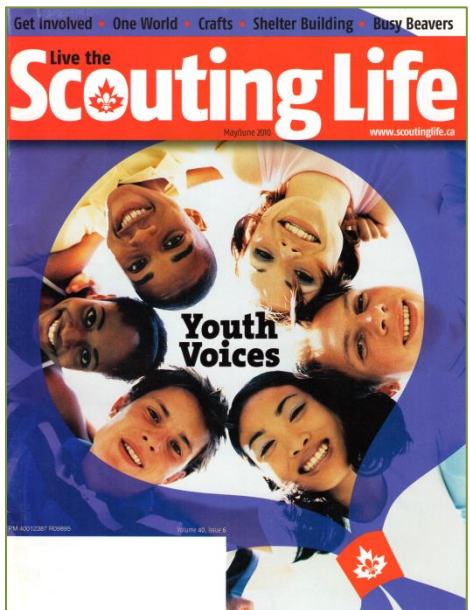
1993 March



1993 April



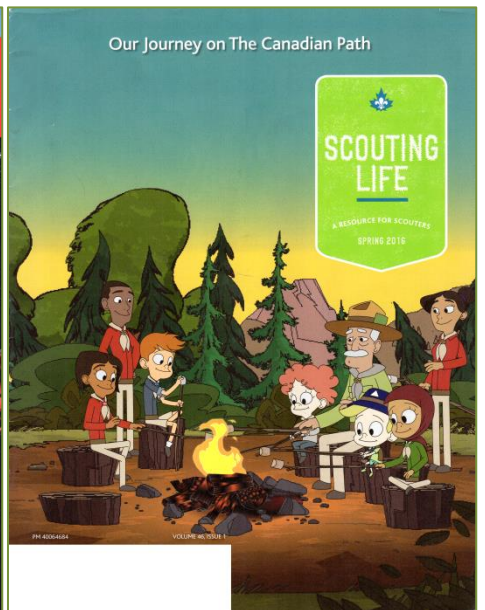
1997 December



2010 May/June



2011 Summer



2016 Spring

We've made a CHANGE!

A lot has changed since the original issue of *The Scout Leader*...uniforms, programme, magazine content and graphic design. Here are some highlights of the past number of decades. Commencing with the 1970 August/September

issue the name of the magazine was officially changed from *The Scout Leader* to *The Canadian Leader*. With this issue, a new computerized mailing system was started. Then with the 1976 August/September issue the masthead was changed following the trend that most readers simply referred to it as *The Leader*. In this issue the new national logo was unveiled.



SCOUTING LIFE MAGAZINE

For over eighty years Scouts Canada has produced a variety of publications designed to keep our members in touch. The latest incarnation of our national magazine was developed over two years, with feedback from our leaders foremost in mind. *Scouting Life* launched its premiere issue in September 2008, and entered the Scouting world in full colour, with an increased page count, providing readers with even more information. While still providing information and ideas leaders need, *Scouting Life* now includes more articles from experts, and an entertaining and educational section for youth, which includes their contributions and voices.

2008/2009 Annual Report

The national magazine was rebranded in September 2008 and became "Live the" *Scouting Life* producing "timely articles about Scouting's programs, family resources and fun for children" and still "a resource for Scouters". The last paper issue of *The Canadian Leader* was pressed in July 2008. *Scouting Life* originally was issued six times a year and by 2016 was only available three times a year. In December 2010 the first digital issue was accessible. *Scouting Life* introduced leaders to *The Canadian Path* defined by four key elements, six program areas and includes the *Outdoor Adventure Skills Program*. Finally in 2016 the magazine went to a digital format.

Scouting Life goes digital

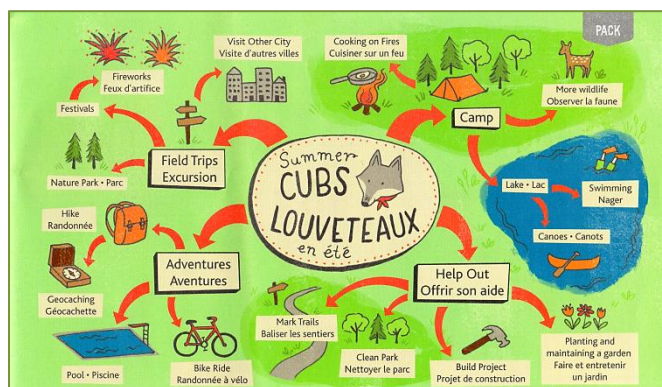
After many decades as a printed magazine, *Scouting Life* launched as an online "zine" in September 2016 where members could submit, share and comment on articles. As a result, we have experienced a much broader reach of our Scouting stories, and more of them are being told by youth. Our monthly page views increased from 24,000 in September 2016 to over 60,000 in August 2017; Scouts, Venturers and Rovers have written over 40% of *Scouting Life* content.

2016/2017 Annual Report

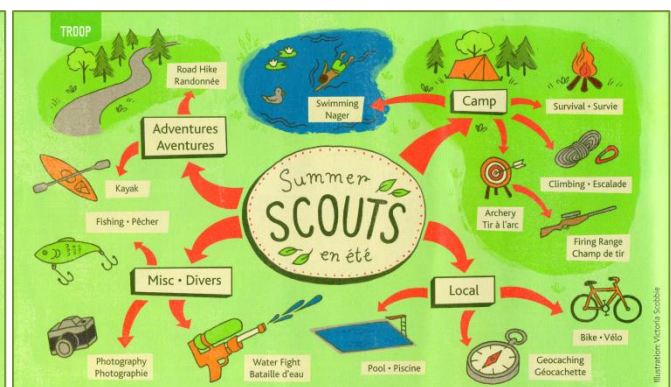
The magazine has helped Leaders become better mentors since its original concept. It has also contributed to Scouts Canada mission "to contribute to the education of young people through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society".

During visits to various parts of the country over the last few years we have been surprised by the number of pack Scouters who have mentioned that when they first joined the Movement, they thought *The Scout Leader* magazine was published exclusively for leaders working in the Boy Scout section. This started us thinking about the advisability of a new name for the magazine. Before deciding on the new name we reviewed a long list of possibilities but came to *The Canadian Leader* because the magazine is for all Canadian Scouters and for that matter for leaders of other youth organizations, too, if they want to use it.

1970 August/September Issue



2015 Summer – Cub Summer resource adventure planner



2015 Summer – Scout Summer resource "bucket list" planner

The Scout Leader

REFERENCES:

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 Annual Reports of The Boy Scouts Association of Canada, The Boy Scouts Association Canadian General Council & Scouts Canada
 Meeting notes from the Executive Board and Publications Department of The Boy Scouts Association of Canada.
 The 65th Toronto Scout Group's Canadian Scout Library – extensive Canadian Scout documents can be found at [Canadian Scout Library](#)
 The Dump Extras – an extensive archive of magazines can be found at [thedumpextras](#)
 Biography notes and photo from WikiTree.com and karsh.org respectively
 Compiled and edited by Edward Stepowski C1282