



2004 07 21

Fellow Scouters

Over the last two years, Scouts Canada has been conducting a Property Assessment Review of all Scout properties/camps across Ontario. The purpose of the review was to ensure that they added value to program delivery beyond the resources already provided by the local communities.

Stan Lasenba, our Camp Warden has been working diligently with the Council and Committee to ensure that all questionnaires were filled in and any suggested changes/upgrades were implemented. Plans were in place for Whispering Pines to succeed as a wilderness camp. Up until June, we all thought this was achieved. Collectively we were caught by surprise of the final decision.

On July 19th, Stan Lasenba, Jim Britton, incoming area commissioner and myself were contacted on the final decision. We were told that Whispering Pines was on the list to be closed.

July 20th Stan, Jim Britton and myself met with Warren McMeekin, Council Executive Director and John Boyce, Voyageur Council Commissioner to discuss the report and the course of action to take. Both Warren and John are giving us their full support. We have come up with a course of action that we are implementing in the form of an appeal to have the decision reversed.

On Monday July 25th, a letter will be going out to the Scouting community with the report on the list of camps that are slated for closure. We decided that we would let you know of this decision ourselves rather than hearing of the decision by a news bulletin.

We are confident that we can resolve the issue and we are working hand in hand with Council, Camp Opemikon and the Conservation Authority to come up with a solution. We will be seeking the assistance of one individual to assist Jim with the development of options.

We will keep you informed when we commence with the actual appeal process and will update you with information each step of the way.

We will be seeking assistance from the groups in the form of letters, however I ask that you do not send any e-mails/letters of complaint etc. at this time. When they are needed, we will then ask you for your support in the form of letters.

We have initiated action to have the decision reversed. **Please be patient with us and we will keep you up to date of any progress** that we make, keeping in mind the process will take a couple of months.

YIS

Michelle Niefer
Area Commissioner