



# The Golden Link

Nova Scotia Link Newsletter

February 2008

## We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.

Dawn MacNeill, Nova Scotia Provincial Link Adviser

~ Thomas Fuller, 1732

**What are you willing to pay for a bottle of water?**

vs.

**What are you willing to pay for water at home?**

Have you ever thought about the value, or lack there of, we place on water? This year's International Thinking Day theme is 'Think about Water.' ([www.worldthinkingday.org](http://www.worldthinkingday.org))

Yes, as Links, whether you are with a unit or not, you can do something related to Thinking Day.

Lets see how many of these you/we can do (these can be done in groups or alone, here or away).

Taking a page out of the girls program books:

- ◆ Where does your water come from? [if you get it from a Town, where does the Town get it from?]
- ◆ How much water do you use for cooking in a day?
- ◆ How can you conserve water?
- ◆ Track the weather for a week. Track the changes in weather for a day.
- ◆ Have you been to a water park? Have you participated in any water activities /sports?

- ◆ Learn a water song
- ◆ Complete the water for life challenge (<http://www.ggcnf.org/WaterforLife.pdf>)

Other ideas:

- ◆ Find out how water is treated in your community and how often it is tested.
- ◆ If you are on a well, has your water been tested lately?
- ◆ How far can you carry a jug of water on your head as many people have to do in areas around the world.
- ◆ Find out what safety equipment is required in a boat
- ◆ Get your pleasure craft operators card (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/BoatingSafety/providers/menu.htm>)
- ◆ Set aside several jugs of water in case of an emergency if you haven't already done so. (yes this includes those of you in residence too) don't forget to put some in your car too.

- ◆ Educate others at home, in residence, etc. on ways we/they can conserve water

- ◆ Learn More about the International Decade for Action: Water For Life (<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/>)

- ◆ Find out where your wastewater (grey water, sewage, septic, etc.) goes and if it is treated

- ◆ **Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour is looking for your input on a water strategy for the Province. Here's a chance to have our voices heard. Read the discussion paper and provide feedback (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/water/WaterStrategy.asp>)**

- ◆ Send in you findings for the next issue of *The Golden Link*

I challenge you ~ have you thought about water lately?



## WANTED

An *Editor*  
for the  
*Golden Link*  
*Newsletter*

Please contact Dawn  
MacNeill

[dkemacneill\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:dkemacneill(at)gmail.com)

**SUBMISSIONS  
NEEDED**

There are 39 registered Nova Scotia Link members this year down from over 65 last year

## REMINDER:

Please submit your Link Registration Form if you haven't already done so.  
(Even if you are registered in another role)

Thanks!



# Training Newsletter Exerts

Margaret Rooseboom (Provincial Training Adviser)  
mj.rooseboom@xcountry.tv

## Senior Branches and Equivalency for Training

As before, Senior Branch Girls are eligible to take adult training do not receive recognition until they transition to Adult members. With the introduction of TEAM National has ruled that the Unit Guider Stream is not the equivalent of Stage 1 and thus a Senior Branch girl does not automatically receive equivalency for this stream upon transition to Adult membership. Some equivalencies can be granted and the following guidelines have been setup:

1. Those who transition to adult Membership immediately after being in Senior Branches are exempt from taking Orientation to Guiding and are eligible to apply for equivalency for the Safe Guide if they took the training as a girl Member (for details please see Guiding Essentials section 7.1 Safe Guide)
2. When there is a time gap of more than 2 years between girl and adult Membership, as with all former Members, they must complete the full screening process which includes the following trainings: Orientation to Guiding, Safe Guide training.
3. Senior Branches Members can receive credit for TEAM training. This training is recognized when they become adult Members.
4. Former Senior Branches Members who become adult Members less than two years after their time in Senior Branches may apply for equivalency if they worked as a girl Member in a leadership role in a Branch for at least 2 years.
5. Former Senior Branches Members can apply for equivalency for Putting the Pieces Together. However, as this training is about working as a team in Guiding, understanding your leadership style and developing skills to manage a group of girls, the Member must have taken external relevant training.

## Orientation to Guiding

While Orientation is mandatory, for new adult members or members return after an absence of 2 years, there are lots of different ways to complete it. Currently Orientation to Guiding is available by e-learning, and face-to-face with the Member.

In addition to a formal workshop, it can also be delivered:

- one-on-one at a coffee shop
  - over the phone
- Coming soon will be a DVD which can be used in any setting and as self-directed learning. Orientation to Guiding takes approximately 1 hour. Orientation can be facilitated by Commissioner, Trainer or an experienced Guider. Training Material is available on the National Website to Commissioners and Trainers and consists of 3 pieces; a training guide, a handout to the new Guider and a powerpoint presentation.

The PowerPoint or overheads do not have to be used although they provide a visual aid. They can also be printed on plain paper (4 or 6 slides per page) as individual handouts. Orientation is recommended before they take Safe Guide, however timing of Trainings doesn't always work out to everyone's advantage. So please do not discourage anyone from taking Safe Guide before Orientation, but perhaps the Safe Guide facilitator should be made aware.

Note: For more information about e-learning or connecting to training opportunities in your Area please contact Dawn MacNeill or your Area Training Adviser



Rivers are roads which move , and which carry us whither we desire to go. ~ Blaise Pascal



## Nova Scotia Chief Commissioner's Bursary

The Chief Commissioner's Education Support Fund was set up in the Fall of 1995 to commemorate the visit of the Chief Commissioner, Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada, to the Province of Nova Scotia. Interest from this Fund is to be used annually to award the Nova Scotia Chief Commissioner's Bursary to Nova Scotia Guiding member(s) who wish to continue her education beyond High School.

### Who is eligible?

Girls and women, who are current members of Nova Scotia Girl Guides of Canada and who plan to continue their education beyond high school. If you have received the bursary twice you are not eligible to apply.

### Amount?

Minimum of \$500.00 annually, to be paid in two equal installments, September and January. More than one bursary may be awarded.

### Purpose?

To support a member of Nova Scotia Guiding in her studies beyond high school.

### How to apply?

Application forms are available from Girl Guides of Canada, 3581 Dutch Village Rd., Halifax, NS B3N 2S9 or on the Provincial website at <http://www.girlguides.ns.ca/bursaryapp.pdf>.

### Where to apply?

Applications must be returned to the address above.

### Deadline?

Applications must be received no later than Feb 28. **LATE APPLICATIONS AND FAXES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

### Criteria?

The successful candidate:

- < will retain a membership in Guiding during the term of the bursary
- < must maintain a passing grade to receive the balance of the bursary. A copy of grades must be sent to Guides Headquarters (address above) as soon as available.
- < provide proof of acceptance at an institution which must be received by September 15 in order to receive the first bursary cheque.

### Please Note:

Two confidential recommendations from non-family members (one from inside Guiding and one from outside Guiding) in the form of a letter must accompany the application. The letter should include how long the writer has known the applicant and in what capacity; qualities of the applicant that make her a deserving recipient; and other relevant information.

### Candidates will be evaluated in terms of the following:

Guide History	Employment background	Volunteer activities
Education	Interests	Personal recommendations

The recipient will be requested to provide a signed Image release form and allow her name to be published in Girl Guide publications. Bursaries will be presented at the new NS Council Youth event on May 24th at Mount St. Vincent.

## Nova Scotia Link Newsletter

Nova Scotia Council  
3581 Dutch Village Road  
Halifax NS B3N 2S9  
Office: (902) 423-3735  
E-mail: [ggcns@girlguides.ns.ca](mailto:ggcns@girlguides.ns.ca)



Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

*"Women between the ages of 18 and 30 may register as Link Members, but may also hold positions in Guiding.*

*Link Members are encouraged to support Guiding however they can, and may participate in activities with other Link members, Units, Districts, Divisions, Areas, and Provinces."*

### Link: Connecting with Guiding

## GOTA: Guides on the Air

Helen Archibald

**Guides on the Air** is always the third full weekend in February. In 2008 it was held **February 16th & 17th**.

Guides on the Air pairs Guides with amateur radio operators (Hams) to give girls the opportunity to talk over amateur radio to other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across town, across Canada or across the ocean.

You can find an amateur radio club near you at [www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca) They may or may not be able to help you. They are all volunteers, too. If you know someone who is a ham, approach him or her directly. Allow lots of lead time, if possible. Most ham clubs only meet monthly.

Some amateurs will come to your camp & set up a radio station, but if you can visit a station that is already set up, that is great!

I have been doing Guides on the Air (GOTA) since 1992. It has always been fun for the girls and Guiders. My best "catch" on Guides on the Air was the year we met up with a group of Guides in Zimbabwe. They were at a camp called "Beaconsfield" and my Senior Branches girls were camping in Beaconsfield, Quebec. The girls in Zimbabwe had been swimming & singing around the campfire. The Quebec girls were building a snow shelter and singing around a campfire.

There is lots of information about Guides on the Air on my web page, which has a link from Guidezone or can be reached directly at <http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/hfarchibald/>

There is lots of great information at the British site: <http://www.guides-on-the-air.co.uk/>

Outside Canada, GOTA is called Thinking Day on the Air. It is most popular in Britain, but other countries take part, too.

Any questions?  
my email is:

[hfarchibald@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:hfarchibald@ns.sympatico.ca)

## Announcements

Share your happy news!

**Graduations**  
**Weddings**  
**Births**  
**Adoptions**  
**Awards (Guiding, other, etc.)**  
**Other...**

Send your news along and we will add it to the newsletter