

Grant-in-aid fund to benefit local Search and Rescue teams

Terry Kress

The board of directors of the TNRD has approved the establishment of a global search and rescue (SAR) grant-in-aid fund to service six teams within the district that meet qualifying criteria.

Volunteer Search and Rescue (SAR) teams in B.C. respond to an average of about 1,000 callouts per year to carry out air, land and water searches under the direction of RCMP and/or local municipal police departments.

The six SAR teams in the TNRD (Barriere, Clearwater, Kamloops Logan Lake, Lytton and Nicola Valley) were active participants in many of these searches, responding to callouts not only in their own community but other jurisdictions as well, when required.

All of this work is carried out on a strictly volunteer basis, with only meals and travel expenses payable by the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP). In many cases, SAR members actually took time off work and lost wages to participate in a search. This truly epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism.

One thing all six SAR teams have in common is the need for some rather expensive and sophisticated equipment such as command vehicles, radios, rope rescue and swift water rescue equipment, ATV's and snowmobiles and, occasionally, fixed wing aircraft and helicopters.

Although some grant money is available to help offset costs, SAR teams must still do a lot of

their own fund raising.

The final details are still being worked out, but the program, to be implemented in 2007, will look something like this:

- All Electoral Areas and municipalities within the TNRD will participate.

- Annual funds raised by way of taxation should be in the order of \$145,000.

- Each of the six teams will receive an annual grant of \$5,000 for operating purposes.

Allowing for some money for in-house administrative costs, the remaining \$100,000 to \$110,000 would be made available to SAR groups for capital equipment purchases, based on a 50:50 cost share.

For example, for the purchase of a \$50,000 truck a

team could raise \$25,000, then apply to the TNRD for the other \$25,000.

Applications will be reviewed by a SAR Committee who will make a recommendation to the board.

If, in some years, capital grant applications are insignificant, additional funding may be provided for operating and training expenses.

This creates a tremendous win-win situation recognizing the efforts of hard-working SAR volunteers. In return, they will continue to be available 24/7 for anyone who needs the assistance of a trained and well-equipped SAR team, anywhere in the TNRD.

Terry Kress is the Manager of Emergency Services for the TNRD.




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David & Lesley Wittner are pleased to Announce the Engagement of their Daughter
Barbie to Dustin Rainer
son of Karl & Debbie Rainer.
Wedding to take place in the
Summer of 2007

*ALL SEPT 16 days @ 1 day
Sept 2 PM 4-9 SA 6-11 AM*