

Your Canadian Search and Rescue Magazine

# SARSCENE

Spring 2000 Volume 9, number 3



## ISSUE FEATURES

*Ontario Provincial Police  
Emergency Management  
Bureau*

Tips for Handling the Media  
Looking ahead to  
SARSCENE 2000



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## What Do You Want to See at SARSCENE 2000?

**S**ARSCENE 2000 will feature the usual mix of hands-on presentations, lectures, a trade show, the SARSCENE Games and demonstrations.

Trying to create an exciting program for workshop participants is always a challenge. You can help us by letting us know what information you would like to see in Laval. Do you know someone who would make a great speaker? Is there a particular aspect of search and rescue you think needs addressing? Let us know and we'll do our best to include your input in our program.

SARSCENE 2000 is all about co-operation and partnership, so take a few minutes to share your suggestions and ideas! —

Send suggestions to:

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Logo design: Matilda Luk

The Cosmodome is just one of the attractions in Laval, Quebec.

# SARSCENE

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## In Search of Partners for Upcoming SARSCENE Workshops

**H**ave you ever wondered how we decide where SARSCENE workshops will be held? The National Search and Rescue Secretariat has criteria which need to be met for each workshop including the ease of transportation, and the availability of meeting space and accommodation.

The most important element of all is a partner! Each year we partner with a local volunteer organization to host and plan the workshop. If you think your area would be an appropriate venue for a future workshop, please take note of the schedule and contact us for information on how to submit a proposal. —

For more information or to send a submission, please contact:

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YEAR	REGION	DEADLINE SUBMISSION
2002	East	1 July, 2000
2003	Central	1 July, 2001
2004	West	1 July, 2002

*Please note that the schedule for Future SARSCENEs printed in the Spring 99 issue contained an error in the dates.*

# SARSCENE's Spring Cleaning

*It's that time of year when sunny skies give you more energy and you vow to finally clean out those closets and make room in the garage for your car.  
Here at SARSCENE we've decided it's time to come to terms with our ever-expanding mailing list.  
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# The Ontario Provincial Police:

## 90 Years of Service to the People of Ontario



**O**n 13 October 1909, Lieutenant-Governor John Morrison Gibson signed an order-in-council authorizing the formation of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). Today the force continues to serve, evolving to meet the needs of a dynamic province while maintaining a high standard of service.



The OPP provides police services to over 2.4 million people, increasing to over 3.7 million people in the busy summer months. The OPP's area of jurisdiction encompasses approximately 993 000 square kilometres of land and 174 000 square kilometres of inland waterways.

To meet the requirements of such a large jurisdiction, the OPP has almost 7000 personnel, both uniformed and civilian, over 800 auxiliary officers and almost 2500 vehicles (including aircraft and marine vessels).

"Because so much of our jurisdiction is categorized as rural, search and rescue has always been a part of what this police

force does," says Superintendent Chris Lewis, Commander of the OPP Emergency Management Bureau.

Like any industry, policing must change to meet the needs of its clients. "Policing in today's society is a very competitive business," states Lewis. "Municipalities in this province are looking for the most effective police service. The size, experience and considerable resources of the OPP often make us the police service of choice, but some municipalities have opted for their own police service. Some of these police services, because of recent expansion into rural areas, now have search and rescue responsibilities."



LEFT: The OPP's Incident Support Centre (ISC) co-ordinates the application of additional regional or provincial resources during an emergency. The ISC was fully operational in time for Y2K.

**MOBILE COMMAND UNITS:**

Each unit is 32 feet long, with a dedicated tow vehicle (one-ton GMC pick up). The trailer is equipped with a full OPP radio system, satellite telephones, hard-line telephones and computer stations. The unit also has a 30-foot extendable communication mast and antenna.



The OPP has primary responsibility for search and rescue in the province of Ontario, and works frequently with other government agencies in humanitarian endeavors. Lewis adds, "We will still assist any Ontario police service with a search upon request."

By the end of the 2000 calendar year, the OPP will also have formal agreements in place to use the services of the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) and civilian SAR dog organizations. These two partnerships, in addition to the existing agreement with the Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association (OSARVA), demonstrate the OPP's commitment to providing the best possible search and rescue response to residents of the province.

"The OPP has excellent, highly trained resources. When you combine our resources and infrastructure with the services provided by organizations like CASARA and OSARVA, Ontario is well looked after in terms of search and rescue," says Lewis. "And it will only get better as we keep moving the bar higher." —

Jennifer Reaney, NSS



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# Emergency Response Team: OPP's SAR Specialists

Ontario is a province blessed with an abundance of inland lakes and waterways, vast areas of wilderness and the rugged beauty of the Canadian Shield. All of this is perfect for tourism but in terms of search and rescue, Ontario features hundreds of thousands of places for hunters, hikers, children and nature lovers to get disoriented and lost.

Dense bush, rocky terrain, swamps and huge areas with no access roads make searching a challenge. In 1992, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) incorporated a number of specialized emergency response units into one team, the Emergency Response Team (ERT).

Since then, over 600 OPP officers have been trained as ERT members. Officers volunteer for the positions and must meet specific criteria to qualify for the team. Along with a high level of physical fitness, officers must undergo psychological testing to demonstrate their capacity for sound judgment in stressful situations.

After successfully completing the application process, officers start six weeks of training, covering a wide range of subjects.

"Training is constantly under review," says Sgt Doug Borton, OPP Specialized Field Training Co-ordinator. "When new issues, such as the growing number of searches for Alzheimer patients, come to light we adjust our training accordingly to best prepare our team." Equipment changes are made too, including the recent addition of all-terrain vehicles. ERT candidates learn the full gamut of SAR skills from basic search techniques, psychology of survival and search planning. Mock searches and written and field exams are used to test the candidates.

The six-week training period is broken down into several components: two weeks of search and rescue training, containment (initial response to a hostage/

barricade incident), canine unit backup (assisting apprehension and safe removal of suspects in criminal investigation and providing assistance during canine search for lost persons), VIP security, witness protection and crowd management.

"This training and how ERT members are dispersed throughout the province are what makes the ERT so unique," says S/Sgt Tim Charlebois, ERT Co-ordinator. "Like all OPP resources used for search and rescue, ERT members are used for a variety of tasks. The 240 men and women of ERT perform regular policing jobs but can be mobilized quickly to respond to a wide range of incidents."

Training continues after an ERT candidate passes the six-week course. ERT





members must complete 12 days of training annually, for the duration of their time on ERT.

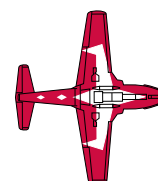
The ERT members are grouped into 16 teams, each with 16 members. They are deployed in six regions of the province, providing an efficient response throughout the large area of responsibility.

In 1997, ERT members were called out 932 times including 149 times for search and rescue and 263 to provide backup for canine handlers tracking wanted persons. "What the statistics don't indicate are the number of searches conducted by our front-line officers," says Sgt Borton. "In many cases a missing or lost person incident is resolved within hours, without using ERT or performing a full-scale search. These statistics refer only to those cases where ERT was activated."

All senior officers at the regional headquarters level take incident command training, which gives them valuable experience in SAR management, investigation, media relations and dealing with next-of-kin. —

Jennifer Reaney, NSS

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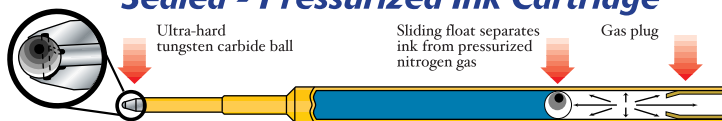
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## SAR In the Sky

**C**riminal surveillance, aerial photography of crime scenes, and hundreds of search and rescue missions: for 25 years, the Helicopter Unit has provided a variety of services for the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). With two Eurocopter TwinStar helicopters and the new Pilatus PC 12-45 fixed wing aircraft, the OPP is able to maximize its response to search and rescue incidents and criminal investigations.



Based in Thunder Bay, the Pilatus is equipped with a WESCAM, a high-tech, dual-sensor infra-red and colour video camera with zoom capability. The Pilatus can reach speeds of 310 miles per hours, reaching any point in the province within two hours, and can remain airborne for up to 10 hours.

“People have a lot of misconceptions about our helicopters,” says Sgt Scott Ross, one of the OPP’s four full-time pilots. “Most think that we’re flying to transport VIPs, or to do traffic surveillance. In reality, 50 per cent of our work is search

and rescue, and 40 per cent is for criminal investigations.” The helicopters are never used for traffic, but are used for community relations activities.

Since its creation, the unit has been responsible for locating approximately 750 missing people. Sgt Ross, a 10-year veteran of the unit is the “junior” pilot in the unit. This wealth of experience extends to the maintenance of the aircraft: Mike Linklater in Sudbury and Doug Thurlbeck in Orillia have both been maintenance engineers for a long time and keep all the aircraft running smoothly.





*"Most people think that we're flying to transport VIPs, or to do traffic surveillance. In reality, 50 per cent of our work is search and rescue, and 40 per cent is for criminal investigations."*

The helicopter is often the first thing called for during a search. In 1999, the Orillia base was kept busy responding to 83 searches, and the helicopter was dispatched 25 times for drownings. In addition to search and rescue activities, the Orillia base was called out 132 times for criminal matters.

Using Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) and Night Sun search lights, the helicopters provide excellent support to searches. "Hunting season is our busiest time," says Sgt Ross. "In the most remote areas, one of the biggest problems is figuring out where to land if the need arises. Some areas are so dense that finding clearance for the rotary wings is pretty tough."

The unit is tasked frequently by the Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) in Trenton and often assists other police agencies. ■

*Jennifer Reaney, NSS*



Photo Courtesy of: Sgt Scott Ross

## OPP Canine Unit

The 19 dog and handler teams of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Canine Unit are each called out between 180 and 200 times per year. Performing a variety of duties from tracking missing persons and security patrols of high crime areas to tracking criminal suspects, the teams are kept busy. Add to the mix mandatory three-day refresher training sessions every six weeks, demonstrations and annual re-certification and you get a very busy group of people and canines.



Teams train six days a week for 16 weeks to get certified. "Candidates have to be the kind of officer who enjoys solving cases and will go beyond the standard investigation," says Sgt Larry Bigley, Canine Unit Co-ordinator. They have to also enjoy working with the public. Canines make great ambassadors for the OPP, and members of the unit take their dogs to schools and service clubs, performing up to 400 demonstrations per year.

Based in Gravenhurst, the unit's training facility lets handlers take dogs to a variety of areas to train. First in 200 hectares (500 acres) of hardwood bush, then an 809-hectare area (2000-acre) featuring swamps and rocky outcrops and finally to hard surfaces, near buildings and in town to provide the necessary noise and smell distractions.

Along with hunters, berry and mushroom pickers are often glad to see dog and handler teams in the bush. "People can get themselves into some pretty dangerous situations," remarks Bigley. "Most are glad to see us but in some cases, especially with children, they're afraid they'll get in trouble and will remain silent when we get near them in the woods. The best part of our public relations work is teaching kids what to do when they're lost."

In the near future, the OPP will be developing a civilian canine search and rescue program to make better use of the volunteer resources in the province. "The volunteer organizations will train to the OPP standard," says Bigley. "There are lots of dedicated volunteers out there and I'm sure this agreement will only improve an already good canine search service for Ontario." ■

*Jennifer Reaney, NSS*

# New partnership for Ontario GSAR

In the summer of 1997, discussion began about a partnership between the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and volunteer ground search teams in Ontario. At the NSS's SARSCENE '97 workshop in Sault Ste. Marie, the Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association was formed with representatives from the 32 volunteer organizations in the province.

Sharon Porteous, OSARVA's first president, and OPP S/Sgt Tim Charlebois started the process of putting a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place. The MOU was signed by Commissioner G. Boniface of the OPP and Sharon Porteous of OSARVA in August 1999.

"The OSARVA MOU will better utilize police and volunteer resources in a safe resolution of lost person cases in Ontario," said S/Sgt Charlebois. "Not only

do ground SAR volunteers get training from OPP officers in their area, but after the training is complete, we have a better understanding of exactly what type of services each volunteer unit can provide during a search."

In April 1999, with funding from the New SAR Initiatives Fund, a two-year training program was started. Since the training sessions began in the autumn of 1999, the use of volunteer groups has increased. "One of the most important elements for



us is to bring our ERT members and the volunteers together," says Charlebois. "Our ERT members are volunteers too; they do this job because they genuinely love to do it. The feedback we've received from our members has been very positive, they enjoy both instructing and learning from the OSARVA members."

The plan is to train over 1200 OSARVA members representing 32 ground SAR teams from across the province. Rose Cooper's team, Niagara Auxiliary Search and Rescue, completed the training in October 1999. "I think the training weekends are a great opportunity," she says. "Our team is enthusiastic about the potential for increased call-outs and it's excellent for new team members. Officers O'Halloran and Hebblethwaite were great instructors and have been very helpful to our team since the training was completed."

The training takes 20 hours and is conducted over a weekend. OSARVA's 1089 members and the OPP's 45 instructors work together on the SAR Level 1 course. Future plans call for more advanced training for search team leader, wilderness first aid and a search management course.

The OPP has a very high success rate for search and rescue. Of the 127 full searches conducted in 1998, all missing persons were accounted for. The first year of the training program will soon be over but it is hoped that the program will continue, providing more advanced training for ground SAR volunteers in the future. ■

Jennifer Reaney, NSS

## Search and Rescue

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# TIPS FOR HANDLING THE MEDIA

While it is a good idea for anyone who is dealing with the media to have formal media training, the following tips may be useful for those who, from time to time, find themselves fielding questions from journalists.

## KNOW WHAT NOT TO SAY

Make sure that you know the key messages you need to deliver. Make them clear, simple, to the point and few.

## PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

The better you are at delivering your messages, the more likely it is that you will be able to get your point across. It is therefore a good idea to rehearse out loud what you want to say.

## BE PROACTIVE

Be proactive in cultivating good relationships with the media. One way of doing this is to meet with journalists one-on-one.

## DON'T BE INTIMIDATED

Be aware of intimidation tactics and don't assume the media know as much or more than you do about the subject. In fact, there is often a need to educate the media about the issue(s) you are dealing with.

## BE HONEST ABOUT BAD NEWS

Trying to hide bad news just makes matters worse by causing it to fester and linger. Be up front about it and explain how you have tried to minimize any adverse impact of an accident or tragedy.

## BE AVAILABLE AND RETURN CALLS PROMPTLY

Generally speaking, the audience and the media tend to side with the group most accessible and willing to talk. Become a good news source and make it easy for the media to reach you.

## SPEAK BEFORE SOMEONE SPEAKS FOR YOU

If it looks like information may get out to the media before you were planning to release it, or that they will "fill in" with information concerning an ongoing story while they are waiting for you to say something, it is a good idea to get to the media with your perspective first.

## DON'T BURY YOUR HEAD IN THE SAND

If, for some reason, you can't talk right away about an issue that has already received, or will soon receive, media attention, talk about the process you are going through to get more information. Do not remain silent.

## BE A GOOD SPOKESPERSON

Be interested and interesting, convincing but not combative. Show your human side, maintain your composure and always take the high road.

## NOTHING IS OFF THE RECORD

Never forget that you are talking with a journalist; it is not just a regular conversation. Watch your double negatives, don't

speculate and don't give out confidential information.

## OFFER A CREATIVE ANGLE

If you are seeking media exposure for a particular initiative or event, make sure that what you have to say is newsworthy. Provide the media with a creative angle — a news "hook."

## WHAT TO ESTABLISH WHEN ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEDIA INTERVIEW

- Who will be conducting the interview?
- What is the story about?
- What approach is being taken?
- Is the interview part of a larger story?
- Who else is being interviewed?
- What is the deadline?
- When will the story appear?
- What research, report, documents, etc. has the interviewer reviewed?
- What kind of issues will be covered?
- Where will the interview be conducted?
- What is the journalist's angle?
- What will happen if I do not do the interview? —

*Jim Stanton is the President and Founder of Jim Stanton & Associates, an Ottawa-based communications and training company with offices in Calgary, Vancouver, the United States and France. Jim and his colleagues teach crisis communications at the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College and to many government and private sector companies.*

# Remember When

Recently a reporter asked me the question that most of us in the SAR community have heard so many times. "What was the most significant or dramatic SAR you've been involved in?" They invariably pull up a comfortable chair, don their flak jacket and tighten their helmet — they're ready to hear a really good war story. Not wanting to disappoint, you secretly wish you could impress them with a Medal of Bravery or a Commendation. You may even be tempted to embellish one of your routine missions or borrow a buddy's harrowing tale to quench the reporter's thirst. Boy, wouldn't it be handy if you had a copy of Reader's Digest lying around that had a good rescue story in it? I know a SAR Tech that had a story written about a mission he was on — he carried the book with him and was always ready in case someone asked him the question.

As usual, I didn't have a pat answer for the reporter, and even though Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) Victoria had handled over 1000 cases since I'd arrived in September, I found myself caught flat-footed. I tried talking in generalities and even told a few anecdotal and humorous SAR stories that had happened recently. Subtly, I manoeuvred the conversation to CANAM SAREX 2000. An explosion occurred on a ferry with 400 passengers on board and a Mayday was declared, 100 people went down the emergency chute, two 50-man lifeboats were deployed, five helicopters did hoists, there were lots of SAR vessels, 17 agencies were involved and more than 1000 people took part. The reporter's eyes lit up and she furiously scribbled away until "you mean it was only an exercise?" Thank goodness the 6 February 1999 event was only an exercise, but if it had been real, now that would have been a story.

RCC Victoria handled almost 2500 cases last year — surely one of them had enough drama to be worthy of a tale of derring-do. Having lived in the shadow of the September 1998 Swissair disaster, which was thankfully not in our backyard, I found it hard to come up with a SAR story that measures up. I racked my brain going over the missions since September and in desperation, I even asked some of the Controllers for help. What I got was mostly blank stares and shoulder shrugs. It seems that they were also suffering storyteller's block. We had a number of cargo ships adrift off the West Coast that had the potential to become disasters, but winds, currents and rescue tugs ensured none evolved into a Coos Bay or *Exxon Valdez*. In the fall, there was a rash of aircraft crashes, but the SAR crews seemed to handle them all routinely. After the reporter departed happily enough, I started to wonder if it was my imagination or is there a dearth of worthy SAR stories.

I reflected on my own experiences. I remember my first missions — the excitement of the unknown and challenging conditions made for memorable stuff. It seems the SAR stories were better years ago. Have preventive training, better equipment and quicker reporting truly made SAR more routine? Or perhaps all the meaty SARs involved someone else. In our Search and Rescue Region (SRR) on any given day, we can have members of the SAR team pulling people out of the water, fetching injured seamen off heaving ships, parachuting into crash sites, homing in on emergency beacons, towing boats off the rocks or plucking casualties off mountain tops. Are these routine events?

It has been said that once you've been sailing in a gale long enough you become so accustomed to the howl and the spray that after a while you perceive them to be normal. Maybe it's not just me. Ask yourself — do you find yourself doing the routine? Is complacency setting in or are you simply very proficient? As all of us know, SAR is inherently dangerous and even when done by highly trained crews, it can be risky. It might be worthwhile to remind yourself that it would be a tragedy to lose a search crew trying to do a dramatic rescue of an individual in distress. Maybe it's time to move the situational yardsticks and start remembering how you felt during your first SAR mission. Everyone involved in the SAR system is doing a very valuable job, and in our SRR's 280 distress cases last year, there were 646 people saved. Surely there are a few good stories .... oops, let's move those yardsticks... I bet if you asked each one of those 646 people, they would all agree — they're all terrific SAR stories. ■

*Major Colin Goodman  
Officer-in-Charge  
Rescue Co-ordination Centre Victoria*

# Search and Rescue

## Web Sites

### LABRADOR WEST GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM WEB SITE

URL: [www.crrstv.net/GSART](http://www.crrstv.net/GSART)

This Web site provides a description of the group's area of activity and involvement. Also has great pictures of the group's training sessions.

### LONDON AIR PATROL WEB SITE

URL: [www.lap.on.ca](http://www.lap.on.ca)

The group's Web site contains a lot of great information and pictures of London Air Patrol. The information found ranges from their area of jurisdiction, basic statistics about the group, information about EITs and postings of upcoming meetings, exercises and training.

### ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE WEB SITE

URL: [www.gov.on.ca/OPP](http://www.gov.on.ca/OPP)

The official site of the OPP has useful and interesting features such as news releases from OPP headquarters, listings and information on missing people, unsolved cases and wanted people.

### SARINFO - SEARCH AND RESCUE INFORMATION WEB SITE

URL: [www.sarinfo.bc.ca](http://www.sarinfo.bc.ca)

SARINFO is a great Web site with tons of SAR-related information. It has many great links to SAR team Web sites, navigation sites and SAR equipment suppliers sites. As well as an extensive calendar of events, on-line library of SAR-related articles, weather and avalanche forecasts, numerous discussion forums and chat.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE GLOBAL 1 WEB SITE

URL: [www3.sympatico.ca/w\\_gonzalez/Index.htm](http://www3.sympatico.ca/w_gonzalez/Index.htm)

A great site containing detailed information of the organization's mission statement, membership standards, training courses and pictures of the group.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA HOME PAGE

URL: [www.sarbc.org](http://www.sarbc.org)

This site is updated frequently and provides lots of useful information on SAR-related topics, such as rope rescue, hypothermia and search management just to name a few. Also includes numerous SAR discussion forums, on-line articles and links to many SAR organizations and groups.

### WILDRISK WEB SITE

URL: [www.wildrisk.com](http://www.wildrisk.com)

The WildRISK Web site resembles an online resource centre with information about wilderness risk management. It promotes wilderness risk management skills and incident prevention. An interesting feature of the Web site is the risk self-assessment, including one for recreationists, one for Guides/Leaders and one for Operators. ■

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## PRE-SARSCENE WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

**S**ARSCENE 2000 will feature pre-workshop training sessions. Contact the NSS to register. All registrations are due by August 31 PLEASE REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

### FEATURING:

**Tracking** — Two days of hands-on instruction with Everett Savary of Halifax Regional Search and Rescue and Wayne Merry of Context North. Both Everett and Wayne teach tracking and have been speakers at previous SARSCENE workshops. This session will give students a more in-depth look at tracking and clue detection. Fee for this course: \$50.00. Students who complete the two-day course will receive a certificate.

**SAR Incident Management** — Two days of instruction with Rick Lavalla of ERI International, Richard Smith of ERI Canada and Chris Long, Washington State SAR Program Manager. Instruction will be given on SAR Incident Management, how to best utilize personnel and resources using detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to streamline search planning and implementation. Special emphasis will be on the initial response phase of a search. A list of first operational period "recommended actions" is presented and used in a tabletop exercise. The Incident Command System will also be discussed. Participants will receive ERI Certification only upon completion of this two-day course. Fee: \$95.00 for two days, \$55.00 for one day. These presenters will offer other sessions on SAR Management during the SARSCENE workshop.

**Night Searching** — Mike Doyle of SARBC will be giving an outdoor evening session demonstrating techniques for night searches. Which clues can be detected in the dark? What daytime strategies won't work? How should your search plan differ for a nighttime search? These issues will be investigated and participation will be limited, so register early! Fee for this course, \$25.00. Mr. Doyle will offer another presentation on SAR Investigation Skills during the SARSCENE workshop. Register for all pre-workshop sessions by contacting Jennifer Reaney at the NSS. [jreaney@nss.gc.ca](mailto:jreaney@nss.gc.ca) More presentations are being added. Please contact Jennifer for the latest schedule. ■

## Upcoming Events

If you have any events to list in the upcoming issue of SARSCENE Magazine, please contact Jennifer Reaney.

Phone: 1 800 727-9414 or (613) 996-3035 • E-mail: [jreaney@nss.gc.ca](mailto:jreaney@nss.gc.ca) • Fax: (613) 996-3746.

### SARSCENE 2000



The ninth annual Canadian SAR workshop will be held 11-15 October 2000

in Laval, Quebec. This year, for the first time, the COSPAS-SARSAT Seminar will be taking place in conjunction with SARSCENE. In attendance will be delegates from 30 countries.

For more information about the workshop please contact:

Louise Pilloud,  
Chief, Communications and Marketing  
National Search and Rescue Secretariat  
Standard Life Building

275 Slater Street, 4th Floor

Ottawa ON K1A 0K2

Tel: (613) 996-2642 or 1 800 727-9414

Fax: (613) 996-3746

E-mail: [louise@nss.gc.ca](mailto:louise@nss.gc.ca)

URL: [www.nss.gc.ca](http://www.nss.gc.ca)

Carol Namur

The Volunteer Group Sauvetage

Canada Rescue

E-mail: [cnamur@citenet.net](mailto:cnamur@citenet.net)

January 2001

(weekend before Martin Luther King Day)  
**Mountain Rescue Association (MRA)**  
Winter Meeting.

June 2001 (weekend before Father's Day)

**Mountain Rescue Association (MRA)**  
**43rd Annual Conference.** Seattle, WA.

For more information on these meetings please visit the Web site at:

[www.mra.org](http://www.mra.org) or [info@mra.org](mailto:info@mra.org)

Tim Kovacs, President

Mountain Rescue Association

Operations Leader/Paramedic,

C.A.M.R.A./ MCSO MR

E-mail: [tkovacs@goodnet.com](mailto:tkovacs@goodnet.com)

### International Technical Rescue Symposium (ITRS) 2000

Pigeon Mountain Industries

The ITRS 2000 addresses the need to stay informed on the latest in the field of technical rescue. This year the ITRS will take place on 20-22 October 2000 in Tucson, Arizona.

For more information or registration, contact:

ITRS 2000

c/o Pigeon Mountain Industries, Inc.

P.O. Box 803

LaFayette, GA 30728 USA

Tel: (706) 764-1437

URL: <http://www.nasar.org/itrs.shtml>



### RESPONSE 2000

The annual NASAR Response conference will be held 28 September - 1 October

at the Sheraton Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Details are still being finalized, but keep an eye on the NASAR Web site for the latest details.

URL: [www.nasar.org](http://www.nasar.org)

### MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION (MRA)

15-19 October 2000

**International Commission for Alpine Rescue (IKAR) 42nd Annual Conference.**

Grand Canyon, Arizona.

Cohosts: NASAR and MRA.

URL: [www.ikar-cisa.org](http://www.ikar-cisa.org)



### 2000 Wilderness Rescue Navigation Shield

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue

Australia's premiere emergency services navigation event takes place 1-2 July 2000, near Sydney Australia, an overnight navigation event where teams score points by finding their way through wilderness terrain.

For more information contact:

John Tonitto, Event Secretary

Tel: (612) 8588-6483

Fax: (612) 8588-6483

E-mail: [wrs@mbox.com.au](mailto:wrs@mbox.com.au)

URL: <http://www.eng.uts.edu.au/~glennh/navshield/index.html> ■