

Your Canadian Search and Rescue Magazine

SAR SCENE

Winter 2000 Volume 9, number 3

ISSUE FEATURES



Avalanches in
Newfoundland
and Labrador



Canadian
Avalanche
Association



Building your
SAR Library

Canadian Avalanche
Rescue Dogs

Hypothermia Quiz

Canada 



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SARSCENE

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What Do You Want to See at SARSCENE 2000?

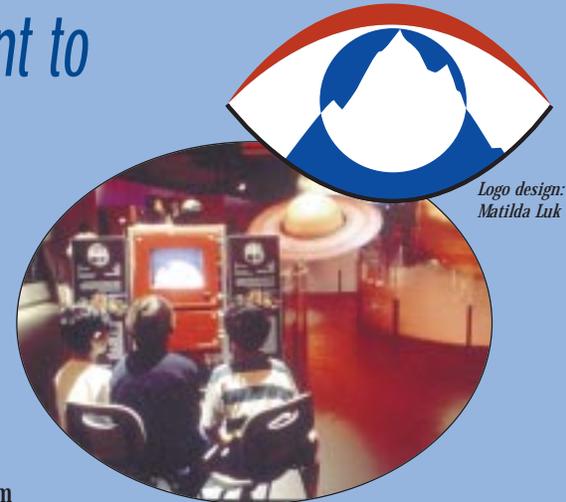
SARSCENE 2000 will feature the usual mix of hands-on presentations, lectures, a trade show, the SARSCENE Games and demonstrations.

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.

In Search of Partners for Upcoming SARSCENE Workshops

Have 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.

Hypothermia Quiz

It's early on a cold winter morning. Skies are clear and winds are light as you note the heavy frost on the ground and a thermometer reading of -10° Celsius. A search and rescue operation is taking place in a heavily wooded park. Local SAR teams, police and park officials have searched through the night for a 25-year-old inexperienced hiker who was last seen at 1600 hours yesterday moving off of marked trails. The hiker is found and is in need of medical attention. When paramedics arrive, the hiker is lying in a rescue vehicle on supplemental oxygen, under the

care of the first responders who found him. Assessment reveals a patient who responds to loud verbal stimuli and has difficulty speaking. Head-to-toe exam shows no trauma, he is having difficulty moving and is quite cold to the touch. His skin is pale with obvious tissue damage noted on both hands (skin appears white but is soft underneath). The airway is patent, he has a respiratory rate of 8 (shallow but regular), a carotid pulse of 32 (irregular and weak) and after several attempts you obtain a blood pressure reading of 50/35.

1. Hypothermia is classed as any core temperature (degrees Celsius) less than:
 - a. 25
 - b. 35
 - c. 32
 - d. 38
2. The most common way we lose heat from our bodies is via:
 - a. convection
 - b. conduction
 - c. radiation
 - d. evaporation
 - e. all of the above
3. Based on findings, this patient appears to be in:
 - a. mild hypothermia
 - b. moderate hypothermia
 - c. severe hypothermia
4. Systemic hypothermia occurs when:
 - a. the body fails to re-warm itself
 - b. core temperature falls below 35°
 - c. shivering and shaking ceases
 - d. patient becomes unconscious
5. _____ is the initial response to conserve core heat:
 - a. shaking
 - b. peripheral vasoconstriction
 - c. decreased level of consciousness
 - d. increased heart rate
6. What percentage of body heat is generated by muscle contraction:
 - a. 25 %
 - b. 40 %
 - c. 50 %
 - d. 80 %
7. Muscle shaking and shivering ceases due to:
 - a. oxygen deficit within the tissue
 - b. depleted glucose/glycogen stores
 - c. decreased blood flow due to vasoconstriction
 - d. excess amounts of lactic acid in the muscle fibres
8. This region of the brain helps to regulate the body's temperature:
 - a. hypothalamus
 - b. medulla
 - c. pons
 - d. cerebellum
9. Secondary to hypothermia, you have also found that this patient is suffering from:
 - a. frost nip
 - b. superficial frostbite
 - c. deep frostbite
10. Proper care of this injury would include:
 - a. lowering the extremity
 - b. encouraging the patient to move the affected area as much as possible to encourage circulation
 - c. elevating the extremity and preventing further damage or heat loss
 - d. vigorously rubbing and re-warming the site
11. For this patient, the most appropriate care would be:
 - a. rapid but gentle transport, warm sponge bath en route and high flow oxygen
 - b. rapid but gentle transport, warmed high flow oxygen avoiding aggressive rewarming (in the prehospital environment), prevent further heat loss and monitor vital signs
 - c. provide warm coffee to the patient, remove all clothing and aggressively rewarm
 - d. warm the patient on scene then transport
12. Cardiac and/or respiratory arrest are common as core temperature approaches ____ degrees Celsius:
 - a. 15
 - b. 20
 - c. 30.5
 - d. 18.4
13. _____ is known as the most common cause of death in hypothermic patients:
 - a. CNS (central nervous system) depression
 - b. ventricular fibrillation
 - c. pulmonary edema
 - d. seizure
14. Which of the following patients will usually become hypothermic the fastest:
 - a. A 45-year-old
 - b. A 14-year-old
 - c. An 85-year-old
 - d. all are equally susceptible

Answers on page 13

Please keep in mind answers to these questions are to industry standards and may not be correct according to local protocol. If there is any discrepancy between these answers and local protocol, please follow the protocol for your area as set out by your

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Avalanches on The Rock

Pop quiz: What's the most deadly natural hazard in Newfoundland?

If you guessed avalanches you must have taken a course offered by the Eastern Canada Avalanche Project. In the early 1990s, Drs. Martin Batterson, David Liverman et al. of the Newfoundland Geological Survey (NGS) were researching natural hazards data and were surprised to discover that snow avalanches were the most deadly natural hazard in the province. To date, their research has documented 28 avalanche events that killed 34 people and injured 21 others. Surprisingly, 21 of these victims were killed when avalanches destroyed their homes.

The NGS contacted Alan Dennis at the Canadian Avalanche Centre (CAC) to learn more about avalanche phenomena and safety programs. In the fall of 1996, at the SAR*SCENE* workshop in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Dr. Liverman met with CAC representative Phil Hein to discuss how to reduce avalanche hazards in Newfoundland. As a result of this meeting came sponsorship from Parks Canada for a New SAR Initiatives Fund (NIF) project from the National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS), and the Eastern Canada Avalanche Project (ECAP) was born.



Snowboarder conducting a hand block test — Blowmedon Mountains, NFLD

In the spring of 1998, the CAC contracted Clair Israelson and Susan Hairsine to develop and manage the project promoting avalanche awareness, training and avalanche hazard mitigation in Newfoundland. A steering committee comprising Bruce Jamieson, Phil Hein and Evan Manners worked with Clair and Susan to finalize ECAP goals. They agreed on the following activities for the project:

- Document avalanche incidents and the weather events that caused them.
- Facilitate development of avalanche knowledge among professional staff at NGS.

- Conduct avalanche training programs to educate skiers, snowmobilers, SAR personnel and other recreationalists and develop local teachers in the growing recreational/adventure guiding sector for future training in Newfoundland.
- Develop partnerships and create a permanent repository of avalanche safety training and reference material and links to the CAC.
- Deliver presentations and develop publications to increase awareness of the snow avalanche problems in Newfoundland.



Left: Snowmobilers evaluating avalanche terrain, Lewis Hills, NFLD



Phil began discussing avalanches in Newfoundland. One student finally said, “We don’t have avalanches in Newfoundland. Avalanches are huge events that crash down mountains in the European Alps. Here in Newfoundland, we’ve got snow slides, sometimes lots of snow slides.”

During these three courses, the CAC instructors selected four candidates as potential future avalanche course instructors. In the winter of 2000, three of these candidates will take a Canadian Avalanche Association Level I course and one will take the Level II course in Western Canada. They will then act as instructors-in-training for courses to be held later this winter in Newfoundland.

As is often the problem with any great idea, funding can be an obstacle. While the project has been well received by the recreational guiding community, some municipalities have been less enthusiastic, not wanting to know how much implementation will cost them.

The ECAP project was presented to a wide Newfoundland audience at SAR.SCENE '99 in St. John's, Newfoundland. The project will end in March 2000 and its organizers hope that their efforts will help reduce the number of avalanche fatalities in Newfoundland. —

*Clair Israelson and Susan Hairsine, ECAP
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- Produce a report describing ECAP programming elements delivered, methods used and lessons learned.
During the winter of 1998/99, Clair Israelson, Phil Hein and Randy Stevens offered a course for snowmobilers and

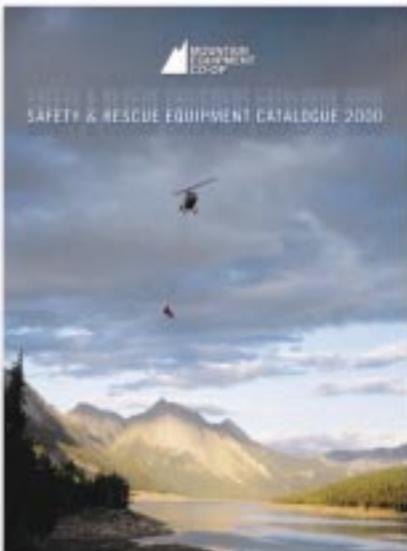
two courses for skiers, snowboarders and SAR personnel. The first lesson learned was that Newfoundland culture is strong, and Western Canadian ideas aren't always appropriate there! During the introduction to the first course, students looked puzzled when



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Trudeaus Support Canadian Avalanche Association



The Canadian Avalanche Association (CAA), with the support of Margaret Trudeau and her eldest son Justin, has launched an awareness campaign designed to decrease the loss of life due to avalanches.

Following the death of her son Michel in an avalanche in November 1998, Margaret Trudeau has become a founding Director of the Canadian Avalanche Foundation. “My sincerest hope is that no mother, no family will have to go through what our family has gone through this past year,” said Ms. Trudeau. “I want people to become educated about the risks and learn how to protect themselves effectively.”

Over the last 15 years, the average annual number of deaths in Canada from avalanche-related accidents has risen

from nine to a high of 22. In the same period, the popularity of backcountry recreation activities has increased dramatically, as has the sophistication of outdoor recreation equipment. The result, says Richard Rotteveel of the CAA, is that access to recreation areas has been made easier and better skis, snowboards and outerwear have made winter sports more enticing.

“Despite improved equipment, we’re still finding that backcountry recreation enthusiasts often participate in activities in avalanche terrain without proper safety tools such as a transceiver, shovel and probe,” said Rotteveel. “Just as you check highway conditions before you set off on a road trip, skiers, snowmobilers, snowboarders — everyone — should be checking snow conditions before venturing out on the slopes.”

Ms. Trudeau is working to deliver the safety message to Canadians through public events and fund-raising efforts to maintain and expand the CAA’s public safety bulletin at www.avalanche.ca. The bulletin provides updates on snow condi-

tions in British Columbia and Alberta, in addition to information on avalanche courses, resource materials and safety information.

Justin Trudeau, a high school teacher and avid snowboarder, has committed himself to educating youth on the importance of avalanche safety. Justin recently completed the CAA’s Avalanche Level I course which includes snow science, snow evaluation and rescue training. “Young people will always try to push the limits. It’s what they do. As educators, we need to help them acquire the tools to make the right decisions for themselves and be prepared if danger strikes,” says Trudeau.

As with any awareness campaign, raising funds is a major issue. The CAA has enrolled corporate partners such as Columbia Brewery, Mountain Equipment Co-op and Survival on Snow to help fund special events and programs designed to educate recreationists about the safe enjoyment of the outdoors. —

For more information about avalanche safety, please visit www.avalanche.ca

Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association

“The search dog is not simply an animal, he is special, the best friend of the master and in general terms, a friend of all persons. Therefore, he must be treated as such; he must be cared for and trained.”

Avalanches are an unavoidable hazard of the mountains of Canada and, unfortunately, too many people die each year as the result of avalanche incidents. Consequently, volunteer avalanche search and rescue dog teams are a valuable resource for saving lives. In Europe, these teams have been used for over 50 years with live recoveries to their credit on an annual basis.

In British Columbia and Alberta, various RCMP canine units trained in

avalanche rescue provide this search and rescue service. RCMP units, however, are generally located in more urban areas and because of this, as well as their limited numbers and law enforcement responsibilities, local volunteers dedicated to avalanche rescues are a valuable asset.

The dog teams can search an area of approximately one hectare (2.5 acres) in 30 minutes for a coarse search and one to two hours for a fine search. In comparison, a probe line would take four hours for a coarse search and 20 hours for a fine search.

The Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association (CARDA) was founded in 1978. Its volunteers must pass an intensive training program, initially patterned

after the German Berghwacht dog program. A certification standard was developed in conjunction with the RCMP, Parks Canada Agency and British Columbia’s Provincial Emergency Program (P.E.P.). CARDA presently maintains an exchange program with the Berghwacht, with each organization participating in yearly training courses.

CARDA currently has 23 certified teams established in British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon, and it has eight teams in training.

What does CARDA look for in a potential avalanche SAR dog and handler team?

- Dog must have high intelligence, thick coat, stamina, natural retrieving and searching instincts.

- Dog must be at least 12 months old and be able to respond to basic obedience commands and hand signals.
- Handler must be registered with P.E.P, be an active member of a local SAR team, hold a valid Standard First Aid Certificate and minimum CAA Level I Avalanche Certificate.
- Handler must also be skilled in mountaineering and be a strong backcountry skier.

Dog teams generally train for two years before they are ready for certification, and year round training helps keep the team sharp. Summer training may consist of wilderness searching, tracking, agility and regular obedience training sessions. Handlers are tested by Parks Canada Agency alpine specialists or by a member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG) guiding community. The RCMP Police Dog Service evaluates the dogs.

Once certified, CARDA teams provide their services to the RCMP and P.E.P on request. Many of CARDA's teams are in place in various ski areas, heli and cat skiing operations and various towns in the mountainous regions of Western Canada. Some members also have training as advanced medical technicians and avalanche forecasters. —

Courtesy of Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association

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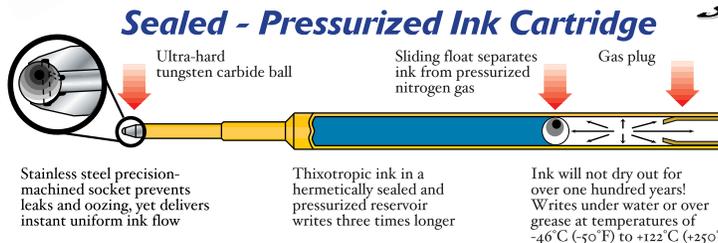
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Factors Contributing to Avalanche Accidents

FROM *AVALANCHE ACCIDENTS IN CANADA VOLUME 4: 1984-1996*

Trip preparation, recognizing avalanche terrain and assessing snow stability can reduce the chances of being caught in an avalanche and may increase the odds for survival. The basics of these skills can be learned through avalanche awareness courses or by travelling with experienced people.

TRIP PREPARATION

By seeking information from maps, guidebooks, information centres and from people familiar with a specific area, recreationists can plan alternate routes for poor weather and for unexpected avalanche conditions. Increasingly, snow stability information is available for more mountain areas of Western

Canada through recorded telephone messages, posted notices at information centres or stores and over computer networks.

HUMAN FACTORS

Most backcountry travellers prefer to travel in informal groups without a designated leader. In such groups, decision making may suffer. The group should get together for important decisions about stability and the choice of route.

Sometimes a quiet voice asking “But why do we think that slope is stable?” can prompt a careful re-assessment of the snow and result in a good decision. Involving less experienced people in route selection and stability assessment contributes to the experience of every person in the group which will pay off in subsequent trips. Some people get so focussed on reaching a certain point that they’ll want to continue even after learning of unfavourable conditions. If we find ourselves thinking “It won’t happen to me” or “It’s probably okay to cross this slope” our safety margin is too thin. The snowpack continues to surprise even the most experienced people.

TERRAIN AND ROUTE SELECTION

This is often a subtle art learned over many years. Accidents show that some

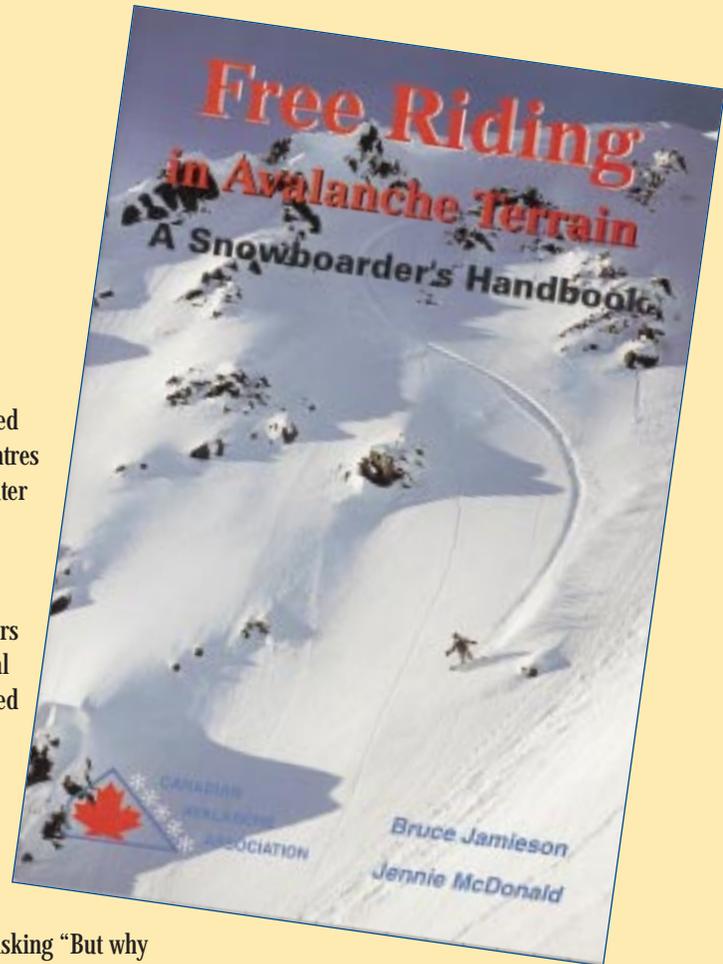
backcountry users do not know or choose to ignore the basics of terrain evaluation. Some enter gullies or large slopes capable of producing size 3 avalanches when they know the snow is unstable. Terrain traps increase the risk of injury or deep burial and decrease the chance of survival.

SAFETY MEASURES

Some safety measures, such as crossing possibly unstable slopes one at a time or well spaced out, reduce the likelihood of being caught by an avalanche. Others, such as wearing transceivers or removing ski-pole straps tend to reduce the consequences of being buried.

SNOWPACK

Some accidents happen when people fail to recognize unstable snow conditions or heed the warning signs. These range from obvious indications such as recent fresh avalanches to thin hard-to-find weak layers of recently deposited snow crystals. Most of the slabs that cause accidents are



released by much older weak layers of faceted crystals or surface hoar. Such layers can remain sensitive to human triggering after being buried for weeks. Although occasionally misleading, field tests such as profiles and Rutschblock tests are usually helpful in finding weak layers and assessing snow stability.

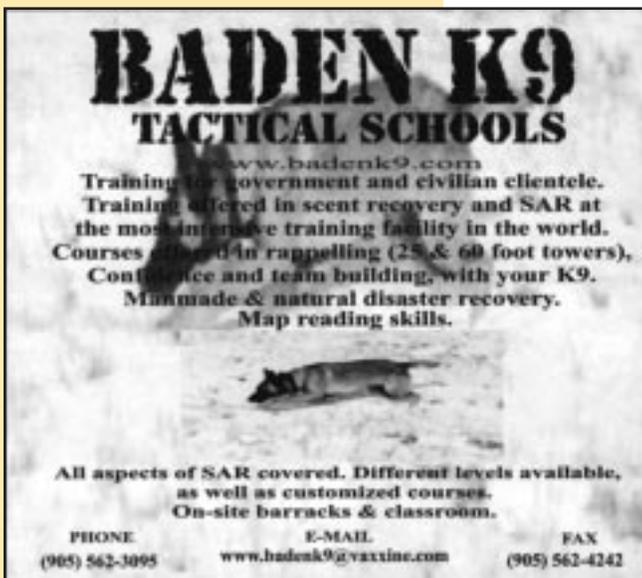
WEATHER

Heavy snowfall, rain, drifting snow or warming, especially towards 0 Celsius are all signs of avalanche danger. Some groups note these signs but do not alter their route to avoid or minimize danger. Poor visibility or whiteouts make it difficult to keep the group together and select safe routes.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Since about 50 per cent of buried avalanche victims die within 30 minutes, the odds of finding a person alive are poor if the surviving members of the accident party go out to get help. Parties need to be equipped with transceivers, shovels and probes and know how to use them. —

*Reprinted courtesy of the Canadian Avalanche Association
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New Funding for Injury Prevention

On 13 December 1999, the Minister of Health and Long-term Care for Ontario, the Hon. Elizabeth Witmer, announced that the SMARTRISK foundation would be receiving \$5 million over a five-year period to help reduce unintentional injuries.

This announcement was made after the release of the study, *The Economic Burden of Unintentional Injury in Ontario*. A previous study revealed that injuries are the leading cause of death among Canadians ages 1 to 44. In 1996, 2,844 Ontarians lost their lives as a result of an unintentional injury, 43,382 people were admitted to hospitals and over 690,000 were injured. The financial cost to the province for unintentional and preventable injuries, such as falls, car crashes, drowning, suffocation and pedestrian injuries, was \$2.9 billion.



SMARTRISK, in conjunction with other organizations, will use the funding to develop an injury prevention strategy for Ontario, focussing on research, information sharing, program support, development and marketing. Their aim is to increase not only research on, and implementation of, injury prevention strategies for high-risk groups at the community level, but also development of innovative



Dr. Robert Conn, President and founder of SMARTRISK.

educational and marketing campaigns to increase public awareness.

The new funding will help SMARTRISK continue bringing injury prevention into the foreground. The SMARTRISK mission is to help people understand that such injuries aren't accidents and that they are predictable and preventable. Since 1995, the organization has been educating the public about risks in everyday life as well as helping them manage, minimize and eliminate such risks, through educational programs like HEROES, SnowSmart and the Stupid Line Campaign.

Dr. Robert Conn, president and founder of SMARTRISK, stated, "We are thrilled with the government's commitment to injury prevention. With this new partnership, we will not only reduce this economic burden on taxpayers, but more importantly, will help to reduce the human suffering and pain caused by preventable injuries." —

*Yvonne Lam, Co-op Student
Simon Fraser University*

The Volunteer Group Sauvetage Canada Rescue

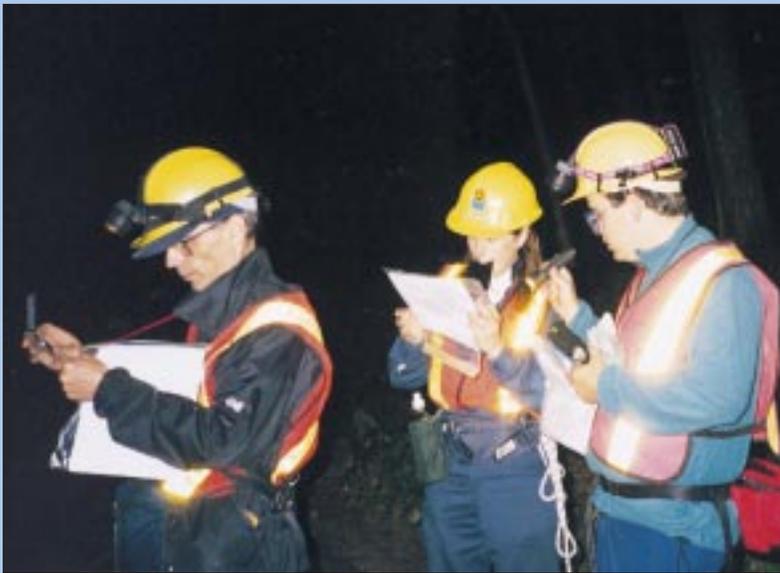
The volunteer group *Sauvetage Canada Rescue (SCR)*, founded in 1975, is a registered not-for-profit organization. Created out of need to provide support and training to volunteer search and rescue (SAR) groups in the province of Quebec, SCR is actively involved in providing assistance to authorities in emergency and disaster situations, such as searches for lost persons, floods and the ice storm of '98. This multi-disciplinary volunteer group cross trains its members for both urban and wilderness SAR, and it also has canine teams. Aside from responding to the community in times of need, members of the organization also provide preven-

tion and first aid during various public or sporting events.

Since its creation SCR has been an active member of the SAR community. The organization has been involved in professional training for police, fire, ambulance, municipal and Canadian Coast Guard Rescue personnel. As well, it has organized courses, workshops and exercises for volunteer groups in a wide variety of subjects and skill levels. Among its long list of

accomplishments, SCR has been a strong advocate of using volunteers in emergency response situations. The SCR and the National Search and Rescue Secretariat promoted the idea of establishing a national volunteer association for SAR, introduced canine water search in Canada and are currently assisting the Sûreté du Québec to establish a structure for SAR volunteers in Quebec.





Today, there are over 400 volunteer members in the organization with voting members in Ontario and Alberta and an office in British Columbia. SCR is the National Search and Rescue Secretariat's co-host for the ninth annual SARSCENE workshop in Laval, Quebec, taking place on 11-15 October 2000. —

*Yvonne Lam, Co-op Student
Simon Fraser University*

Getting to SARSCENE

AIR CANADA 

The National Search and Rescue Secretariat and Air Canada have teamed up to offer you great savings on air travel to Montreal, Quebec. Special reduced fares have been negotiated for SARSCENE 2000 attendees with Air Canada. Deals include:

- Special convention rates for travel within North America, Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Middle East. For travel within Canada five to 35 per cent off published fares, USA five to 15 per cent and Europe ten per cent.
 - Savings of up to 35 per cent off full hospitality class fares or five per cent off regularly low published excursion fares.
 - Early Bird savings bonus to and from the United States- an additional five per cent off all Air Canada published fares.
 - 25 per cent off Air Canada cargo.
- To book flights, please call Air Canada at 1 800 361-7585 or (514) 393-9494 or contact your travel agent. Please remember to mention the SARSCENE 2000 event number CV000767 when booking your flight and ensure that the event number appears on the tour code box of your ticket. —

Answers to Hypothermia Quiz

1. **b**
2. **e**
3. **b** Moderate hypothermia is classified as core temperatures between 27° and 32° Celsius. Absence of muscle contraction, decreased cardiac and respiratory output, and decreased level of consciousness are all classic symptoms.
4. **a** Systemic hypothermia occurs when the body can no longer generate heat by its own means (circulation and movement).
5. **b** Peripheral vasoconstriction occurs as the body attempts to shunt blood to central organs vital to survival and limit the flow of cooled blood from peripheral regions.
6. **d**
7. **b** Constant contraction of muscle fibres exhausts the supplies of energy which are vital for adequate function.
8. **a**
9. **a** Fluid in the dermal layers freezes and hardens due to prolonged exposure. Deeper layers of connective tissue and muscle are still unharmed, at this point, and remain soft.
10. **c** Elevation and prevention of further heat loss reduces swelling until the area can be properly rewarmed. Refreezing remains a primary concern to the provider.
11. **b** Gentle transport is vital to ensure little workload on the already irritable myocardium, provide high flow oxygen (warmed if possible) and it is equally important to reduce the chances of further heat loss during transport.
12. **b**
13. **b** Circulation of cooled blood through the chamber and tissue of the heart makes it susceptible to failure and prone to lethal arrhythmia such as VF or VT (ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia).
14. **c** The muscles of our bodies are the primary source of heat generation and regulation. As we grow older our muscles tire and become smaller, thus lacking the ability to adequately regulate and generate heat.

SEARCH AND RESCUE: WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

By John Melady,
published by Scholastic
ISBN 0-590-51567-5

Search and Rescue: When Disaster Strikes pays tribute to the Canadian and American SAR teams whose determination and courage continue to save victims of technological and natural disasters. John Melady's 13 short accounts are being marketed to young readers; however, more mature readers can be swept up by the drama of these exciting stories.

Melady wisely capitalizes on first-hand accounts from disaster survivors and the SAR Techs who saved them. He records their raw, vivid descriptions directly onto the page. He also provides a glossary, as well as over 35 photos, that all readers will find interesting.

Melady focusses on the life-threatening events and reactions which they elicit from victims and rescuers.

Because of this approach, stories in which life is lost, despite the heroic efforts of SAR Tech Crews, seem to end abruptly.

Melady's tone, however, is always respectful and somber when reporting fatalities.

Search and Rescue: When Disaster Strikes offers readers living, breathing heroes. "Plunge into Darkness" is one of Melady's most captivating accounts. It describes SAR Techs from across Canada working together for over 40 grueling hours in a blinding snowstorm to save victims of the Hercules 322. This aircraft is familiar to some as "Boxtop 22." The incredible true story of its catastrophic crash, which occurred on Ellesmere Island in 1991, continues to captivate readers nearly 10 years after the event. Accounts like "Plunge into Darkness" and "The Bottomless Pit," which describes the 1971 landslide in St. Jean Vianney, Quebec, have historic as well as dramatic value in Canada.

John Melady's *Search and Rescue: When Disaster Strikes* presents chilling events and hardworking heroes. The appeal of both is hard to resist.

Cecelia Taylor
Junior Communications Officer, NSS

BASIC GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE IN CANADA: A HOME STUDY GUIDE

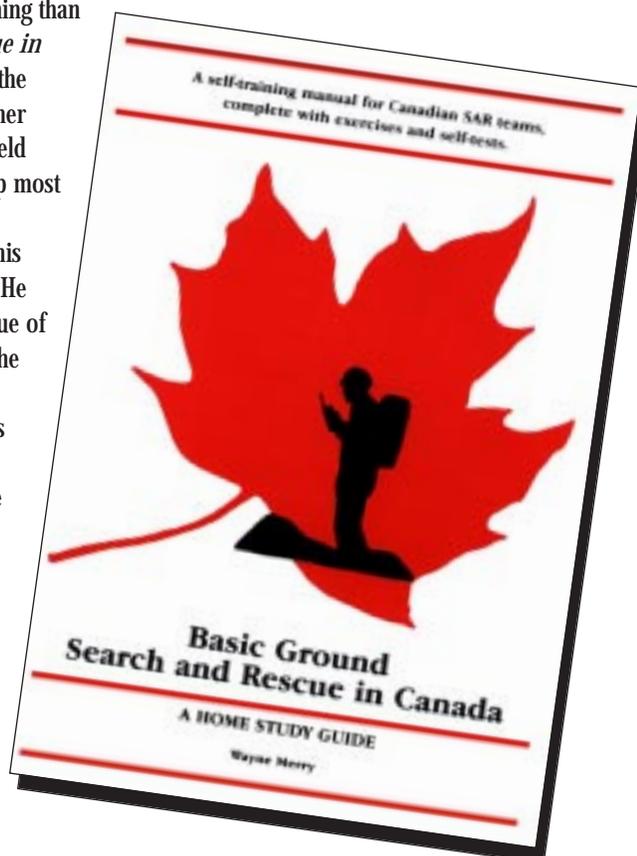
By Wayne Merry
ISBN 0-9685089-0-1

Anyone who reads Wayne Merry's *Basic Ground Search and Rescue in Canada: A Home Study Guide* can understand why this book is being received so enthusiastically. Merry provides interesting, practical and relevant information on the most effective, modern search techniques. His writing style is straightforward and easy to read. His theories on SAR techniques are convincing because they are a combination of common sense, hands-on experience and findings from modern research methods.

Merry never presumes that his book is more than a basic beginners guide. Whether he is describing the responsibilities of search managers, a quick reconnaissance, or tracking procedures, he always stresses that all SAR knowledge and

skills require more in-depth training than *Basic Ground Search and Rescue in Canada* provides. At the back of the guide, he lists references for further study. And he clearly states that field training is the only way to develop most dependable, valuable SAR skills.

Nevertheless, Merry presents his theory summaries with authority. He emphasizes the efficiency and value of modern search techniques over the older grid search methods. According to Merry, grid searches are thorough, but they should be used only as a last resort because they consume too much valuable time. In parts 1 and 2, Merry keeps returning to the following statistic: 50 per cent of lost persons who die, die within 24 hours of the point last seen (PLS). Merry admits that this statistic is taken from a New York and Washington State study,



but he believes that Canadian statistics would be comparable. Therefore, the key to effective searches has become a quick response time. Merry repeatedly stresses that "a rapid response is critical, especially in hostile environments" (Merry, p. 8). All of his lessons focus on the importance of quickly locating and evacuating the lost person alive.

Merry's approach to SAR is always practical. Volunteers going through this guide will learn that although SAR members must always respond quickly for the sake of the victim, they must never respond in a manner that puts their own safety at risk. Furthermore, volunteers should never make SAR crews appear unprofessional. Merry is meticulous about protocol. He reminds readers that proper SAR procedure can do more than save a lost person: following procedure can allow SAR members to aid in a legal investigation, not become the object of one.

The guide is separated into four parts. Each section builds on the information presented in the previous ones. Merry begins by describing a typical search in Part 1, and moves on to summarize modern ground search techniques in Part 2. Parts 3 and 4 discuss further the specific mechanical, safety and interpersonal skills that members of SAR crews must have and develop. Merry uses graphs, charts, diagrams, articles and case studies to express the theories clearly. Each chapter closes with a small test, and readers can check their answers against the key provided at the back of the book. After completing the quiz, readers, more confident that they have absorbed Merry's key lessons, can move onto the next chapter.

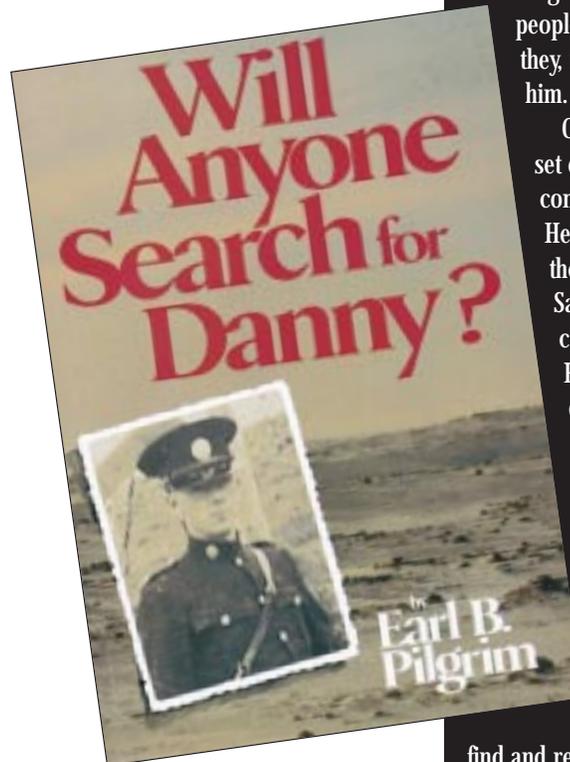
The self-tests and exercises make this guide accessible to volunteers who want to study at home. But readers will, no doubt, learn more from Merry's guide if they can work in study groups. Parts 1 and 2 focus on theory and provide lots of opportunities for discussion. Not only can participants learn more from the experiences and insights of others, but they will be more comfortable with the group when it is time for the field exercises contained in parts 3 and 4. Because searchers rarely search alone, practising Merry's field exercises

with other people would be more realistic and beneficial for new volunteers.

Wayne Merry's conversational writing style is generally clear and easy to read. Most important, the information he presents is extremely valuable and interesting, whether or not the reader is a SAR volunteer.

Cecelia Taylor

Junior Communications Officer, NSS



WILL ANYONE SEARCH FOR DANNY?

*By Earl B. Pilgrim, Flanker Press Ltd.,
St. John's, Newfoundland, 1999
ISBN 1-894463-01-3*

Those of us who had the good fortune to attend the SAR.SCENE'99 workshop in St. John's, Newfoundland, were inspired by the opening ceremonies that featured a documentary film recounting the experiences of Lucy Harris. In 1936, Lucy survived 11 nights and 10 days lost in the woods near New Melbourne, Newfoundland. The story reminded us never to give up. As I was preparing to return home following the workshop, I came across the book *Will Anyone Search for Danny?* at the St. John's airport and learned of another story of survival from Newfoundland: the story of Danny Corcoran.

Danny Corcoran was one of the first Newfoundland Rangers. In October 1935, he was posted to the little town of Harbour Deep on the east coast of the Great Northern Peninsula. At that time of great economic hardship, the Newfoundland Rangers were the only representative of the government in many of the remote communities of Newfoundland. They served as law enforcement officers, game wardens, social service providers and the like.

Ranger Corcoran soon grew to admire the people of his assigned community, and they, in turn, learned to respect and trust him.

On 12 March 1936, Ranger Corcoran set out on foot as a one-man patrol to combat caribou poaching.

He intended to travel westward across the Great Northern Peninsula to Port Saunders. Due to severe weather conditions and a series of mishaps, Ranger Corcoran soon became disoriented. For the next 12 days he wandered through the peninsula suffering severe frostbite and hypothermia.

In *Will Anyone Search for Danny?*, Earl Pilgrim tells the story of Ranger Corcoran's harrowing trek across the Great Northern Peninsula, details the search operations undertaken to

find and rescue Danny, and describes the agony of his friends and family as they await the outcome of those operations. Mr. Pilgrim based his account on interviews with many people who participated in the search for Danny and who spoke with Ranger Corcoran after his rescue. Unfortunately, although Danny was ultimately found alive, the final chapter of the story is a sad one.

Much can be learned about search and rescue operations and management by reviewing case studies. The descriptions of the search activities in *Will Anyone Search for Danny?* are strikingly familiar even though they occurred more than 60 years ago. I recommend this book be in the library of every search and rescue professional, career or volunteer. —

Chris Long

Washington State SAR Co-ordinator

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. Fax: (613) 996-3746.

SAR TRAINING PROGRAMS – SAUVETAGE CANADA RESCUE

A variety of SAR training opportunities will be available from Sauvetage Canada Rescue. The courses will encompass a variety of SAR skills and will be offered at a number of skill levels. For more information contact:
Carol Namur
Sauvetage Canada Rescue
1791 Principale
St-Joseph-du-Lac, QC J0N 1M0
Tel: (450) 974-1551
Fax: (450) 974-9793



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

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.
PO Box 803
LaFayette, GA 30728 USA
Tel: (706) 764-1437
URL: <http://www.nasar.org/itrs.shtml>

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, Client Services
National Search and Rescue Secretariat
4th Floor Standard Life Building
275 Slater Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2
Tel: (613) 996-2642 or 1 800 727-9414
Fax: (613) 996-3746
E-mail: louisep@nss.gc.ca
URL: www.nss.gc.ca
Carol Namur – The Volunteer Group Sauvetage Canada Rescue E-mail: cnamur@citenet.net

SEARCH AND RESCUE/DISASTER RESPONSE CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION 2000



The fourth annual SR/DR Conference and Exposition will take place on 2-5

June 2000 at the Miami Beach, Florida Convention Center.

For more information on the conference contact:

SR/DR 2000
4418 East Wall Street
Eagle River, WI 545221 USA
Tel: (715) 477-0170
E-mail: Support@SRDR.com
URL: <http://www.srdr.com>

MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION (MRA)

Mountain Rescue Association and Canadian Wildlands Rescue Workshop

19-21 June 2000
Nordegg, Alberta, Canada



Mountain Rescue Association 42nd Annual Conference

22-25 June 2000
Nordegg, Alberta, Canada

International Commission for Alpine Rescue (IKAR) 52nd Annual Conference

15-19 October 2000
Grand Canyon, Arizona
Cohosts: NASAR and MRA. www.ikar-cisa.org

Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) Winter Meeting

January 2001
(weekend before Martin Luther King Day)

Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) 43rd Annual Meeting

June 2001 (weekend before Father's Day)
Seattle, WA.

For more information on these meeting please visit the Web site at:
www.mra.org or info@mra.org
Tim Kovacs, President
Mountain Rescue Association
Operations Leader/Paramedic,
C.A.M.R.A./ MCSO MR
E-mail: tkovacs@goodnet.com

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