



Karen Casey, Colchester North MLA, presented a cheque on May 3, 2009 for \$1 000 on behalf of Health Promotion and Protection to the Colchester Five Islands ATV Club for repairs and upgrades to their trail systems. Pictured above standing are: Jessica Wheaton, Russell Cooke, Nancy Downing, Jim Geldart, Derek Stevens Louise Cooke and Anna Stevens. Kneeling are: Karen Casey, Charles Wheaton, Dan Wallace (Submitted Photo).

Colchester Ground Search and Rescue – All Volunteers



Colchester Search and Rescue held its AGM at its building in Debert on May 2nd. Receiving ten year service awards were: (L-R) Monica Slade (accepted by her father), Gwen Branstad, Donald Gallant and Doug McNutt. (Submitted Photo).



Four Colchester Search and Rescue members were recognized for 15 years service at the AGM in Debert on May 2nd. Pictured above with their awards are (L-R) Len Branstad, Lee Branstad, Heather MacLeod and John Chambers. (Submitted Photo)

By Doug Benedict

The Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Team is a group of citizens who volunteer to search, at the direction of the RCMP, for lost persons. Each county in Nova Scotia has a ground search and rescue group which primarily focuses on its home county. However, these teams also provide mutual assistance to neighbouring counties when requested. CGSAR has helped out in searches in Cumberland, East Hants, Halifax, Antigonish, and Pictou counties.

Because ground search and rescue teams are completely volunteer in nature, only a portion of the group is available at any given time or day. Work, family commitments, travel and health may keep a large percentage of potential searchers away. Therefore, having a large base of volunteers is critical to having an effective ground search and rescue response capability. The Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Team always welcomes new volunteers.

There are no unimportant CGSAR team members. Not everyone is fit enough to walk through wood lands for hours. Many essential elements of the team carry out their tasks at the search base by doing such things as keeping the generator running, manning radio communications, or finding tea or coffee or sandwiches for some tired searchers. Several key people do the call out of volunteers. One fellow has a "weak ticker" (as he puts it) but he is a talented and experienced driver of four wheel drive vehicles, which was key in a recent

search. Leadership around a kitchen sure helped in a recent fund raiser. Some carpentry skills will be valuable to renovating our recently obtained building in Debert. All the life skills of our community are needed.

However, boots on the ground are the foundation of our search capacity. There is no ideal searcher. We work in teams with an experienced team leader. Outdoor skills and experience help but training is available to all. One of the most dedicated and capable members of our team is a young mom who I've seen slog through some of the nastiest walking terrain on the east coast.

If you can walk and be comfortable outdoors in all weather, we could sure use your help. We offer no reward except the satisfaction of knowing you will be doing a worthwhile thing. And you might be doing it in the dark, in the middle of nowhere, unseen by everyone except fellow searchers.

Every organization has meetings. CGSAR is no different. They are not our favorite activity but we do have official meetings once per month. Half our executive is elected each year to a two year term of office as set out in by-laws. Recently at our annual general meeting Doug McNutt was elected First Assistant Search Director; Jamie MacNeil was elected Secretary and Len Branstad was elected Director of Operations.

If you would like to join CGSAR call Doug Benedict at 895-3182 or email:

d.benedict@ns.sympatico.ca

Bass River Fire Brigade Notes

By Peter Christensen

Spring is here. You can tell, cause the bears are on the mountain, eating grass again.

We are busy as usual at the hall. Some great training scenarios have been taking place in Bass River over the last month. We have been working on training on fire apparatus and last week we trained at a staged motor vehicle accident, with multiple injuries on the scene.

We were sent to the scene with fire and mfr personal, each one was expected to try every aspect of the scenario to keep it interesting as well as give training time on various aspects of fire fighting. Due to the nature of volunteer brigades, everyone should try to train with as many scenarios as possible. If you look around at any fire hall, I am sure you will find many jack of all trades, and many men and women who excel at them all.

Special mention should go to our Training officer Blair Dickie and David Macfarlane for all the prep work. And special thanks to Roddy Cox for getting the 'accident vehicle' set up for our training session. We are a grateful brigade for having

someone to help us out.

Special thanks to Cathy Giles from the Great Village Brigade for her help and expertise in her assessments of our last training session.

We are gearing up for a little festival on July 1. It will be at the museum starting at 11 am until 3 pm. As of now we are going to be running a Dunk Tank, which as a child was a fun time at any festival. Also our Festival Committee is going to have a bike parade so start decorating. The big event of the day will be our Auction of the Box Lunches, that will be prepared for the occasion. It will be a flash back to the days of our parents, ahh, memories. Hope to see you all there.

I see that fishing season is now open and the flies are out, so that means only one thing, the Fishing Derby is coming up on June 6 at Gamble Lake. According to David Macfarlane the start time will be a little earlier than last year. I believe the time is 6 am, till 2pm, this way the early bird should catch something before the fish all swim away. Boy, those fishermen are sly and smart as well. Good luck to all. The cost is still ten dollars for the day. And of course



The Bass River United Baptist Church has recently erected new signage. Pictured (L-R) next to the sign are Melvin McLellan, trustee and Pastor Larry Tirrell. (Submitted Photo).

Big Als fine diner will be up and running as usual.

Just a reminder that when you see flashing red lights on the side of the highway, PLEASE SLOW DOWN. With speed and drivers not paying attention to the road ahead, it makes for a dangerous mix.

When we go to a scene we all know the dangers, and try to follow our training to be safe. Our firemen directing traffic are in one of the most dangerous parts of a fire or

accident scene. We all want to come back to the hall, and you can help out by being ever vigilant for those lights or big yellow accident scene signs with two red flags on the top. And the traffic police with their lime green vests and traffic wands that go from red for STOP and green for PROCEED. Here is hoping for your support.

See you at the festival and the fishing derby. Fireman Pete saying check your pipes.

Deadline for the July issue of
The Shoreline is June 22
Journal

Masstown to Get on Satellite Map

By Linda Harrington

The construction of a new RADARSAT-2 ground station, part of the Polar Epsilon Project, is scheduled to begin off Highway #2 in Masstown, as part of the Great Village Transmitting facility.

A recent media release explains how The Polar Epsilon project provides enhanced surveillance capabilities for the Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces (DND/CF), which will

quickly in the event of a crisis at home or abroad.

The Polar Epsilon project involves using information from RADARSAT-2 to produce imagery for military commanders in their areas of responsibility during the conduct of operations. This includes the surveillance of Canada's Arctic region, including its ocean approaches, the detection and tracking of foreign vessels, and support to CF operations globally.

to enhance CF situational awareness is due to its ability to provide all-weather day/night surveillance in areas where other sensors are limited or unable to operate.

The advantage of Polar Epsilon is that its imagery can be used for precise cueing and location of activities, which allows for a more efficient and cost-effective use of other Canadian military assets, such as patrol aircraft and ships. Polar Epsilon can also be used to survey for oil or water pollution, aircraft or satellite crash sites. The project however, does not have the capability to detect ballistic missiles, nor can it track small vessels or individuals. The data provided by Polar Epsilon is used primarily to support military operations, but will provide significant information to several departments and agencies to support their daily operations.

RADARSAT-2, the satellite from which Polar Epsilon draws its information, is a world leading commercially available radar satellite. The Government of Canada, through the Canadian Space Agency, has invested \$445 million in the RADARSAT-2 program. RADARSAT-2 is commercially owned and operated

by MDA, a Canadian company headquartered in Richmond, British Columbia. RADARSAT-2 was launched in mid-December 2007.

Lauri Sullivan, Public Affairs Advisor for Dept. of National Defense, says that there will be some benefit stemming from the construction of the Polar Epsilon Project for local contractors in the area. "In terms of jobs, the work should employ eight to ten workers in various trades and will take about six weeks to complete. The construction company for this project has not yet been contracted for the work. The contract will be posted on MERX, the electronic tendering website for government contracts."

Specific plans for the site in Masstown include upgrades to the roadway at the facility, construction of foundations for mounting the satellite dishes, installation of two parabolic satellite antennae and the construction of equipment enclosures and concrete pads.

The Masstown RADARSAT-2 ground station is one of two in Canada, with the second located on the west coast in Aldergrove, British Columbia. These ground stations will be wholly owned and operated by the Government of Canada and are expected to be operational by late 2010.



Barry White, left, was recognized for 25 years service to the Colchester Ground Search and Rescue, while Bob Gould was presented with a 20 year service award at the unit's AGM in Debert on May 2nd. (Submitted Photo).

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classic, country singer and song
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Halifax. Lise Tuck, Montreal, plus
Dave Anderson, Keith Delong,
Wayne Petrie and Tonvett's Band.

Tickets are \$20