



West Hants Ground Search and Rescue

All about WHGSAR

2016

Joining and Membership

- Be a member of the community who is willing to volunteer time.
- Complete a police background check.
- Fill out application form.
- (Some teams have a field assessment)
- Attend and participant in a minimum percentage of events: training, meetings, fund-raising, and searches.
- After one year you are eligible to apply for SAR plates and \$500 from the Province.

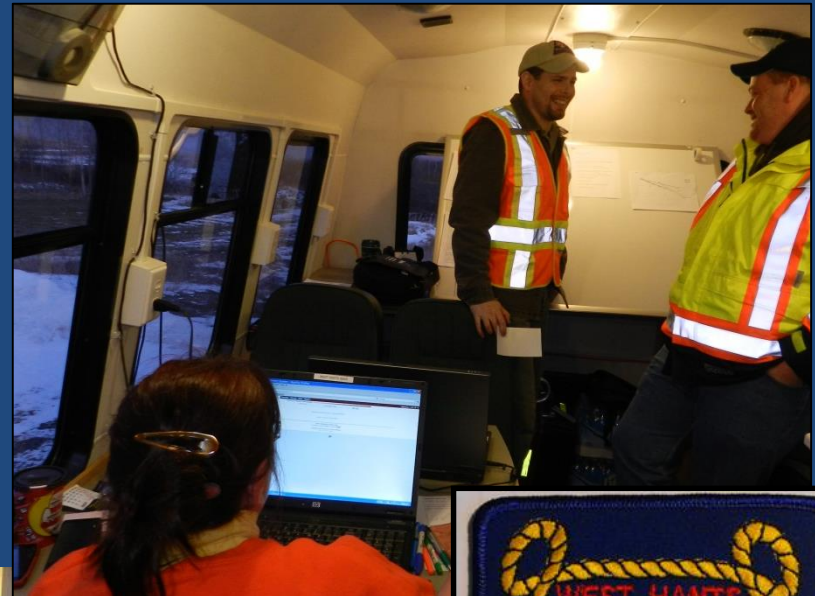


Once you have joined

- Within a month or two take the Introduction to Searching Workshop. (2 hours indoors)
- You will be entered into the Provincial SMART system for SAR.
- You may start training immediately. Training is usually every second Thursday and the last Sunday of each month. Plus...
- You do NOT have to have all the SAR equipment, but there is a minimum amount to attend a search.

What we do

- Ground Search and Rescue
- Support EMO
- Education
- Assist with local events



Who we work with

- RCMP (An officer oversees a search)
- Lands and Forests
- Fire Departments
- Other Search and Rescue teams
- Emergency Measures Organization



Who we are

- There are searchers with twenty plus years with the team to probationary searchers with less than one year.
- From the local area.
- All walks of life and professions.



Searching

- Looking for clues that will lead us to a lost person.
- Day and night. **Often at night.**
- **Often in bad weather and over tough terrain**
- We never search alone.



Search Team Organization

At the Base or Command Vehicle

- Plans
- Operations
- Logistics
- Communication



In the Field

- Team Captains
- Individual Searchers
- Volunteers as needed

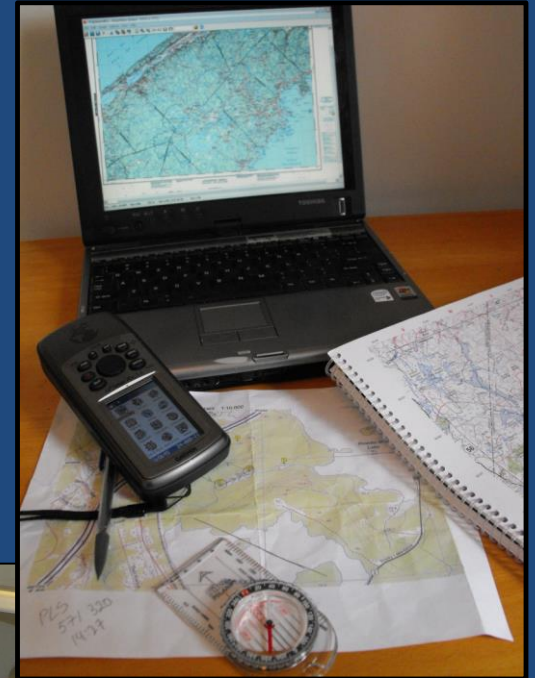


The Vehicles



Our Equipment and Capabilities

- TMR radios
- Radios
- GPS units
- First aid kits
- New stretcher with wheel for WFA
- Computers for tracking search teams and for printing maps in the field.



Types of searches

- Wilderness
- Urban
- Evidence
- All types of lost persons



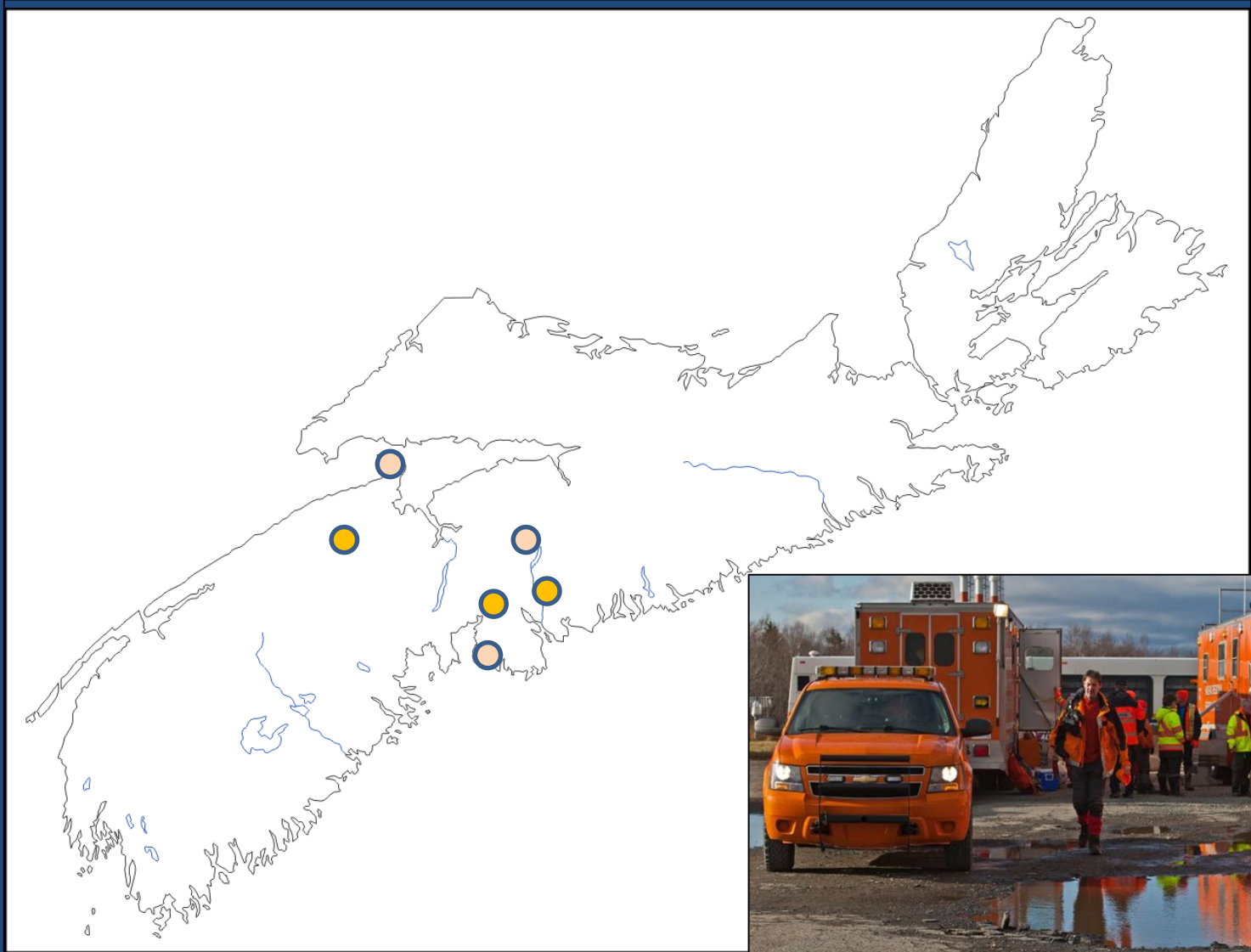
When and Where?



Attend if and when you can make it. Some searches are multiday, while others are over in less than an hour.

Calls can come at any time of the day.

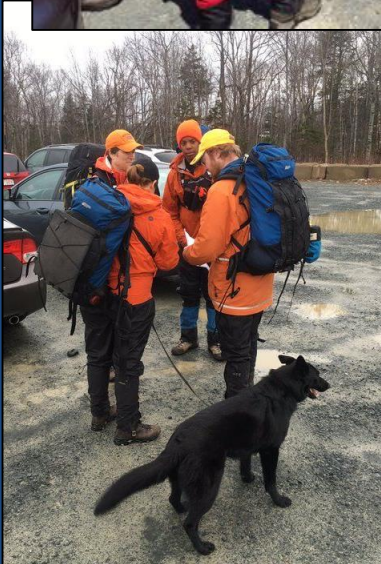
July and August of 2016 near us



Which teams do we work with?



Halifax SAR and Valley SAR mainly and with teams from across the province on larger searches.



The Base in Mount Denson

- Base of operations for the search and rescue group.
- Available for local groups and local functions.



Interior of the Base in Mt. Denson

- Full Kitchen
- Washrooms
- Hall with tables and chairs for meetings, dinners and other events



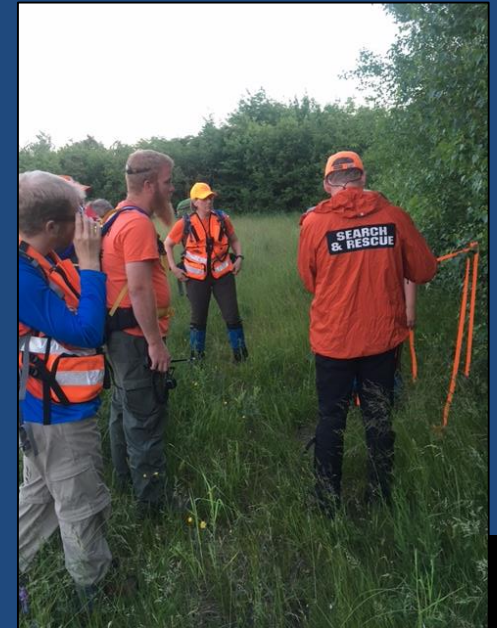
Grants and Funding

- WHSAR has received funding and support from a variety of groups. This includes the towns of Windsor and Hantsport, West Hants, provincial funding, EMO funding and Central Building Supplies.
- Grants and contributions are used to maintain the base, replace and maintain search equipment and support the activities of the group.
- Recent Fundraising from Tim Horton's, Musical Ride and helping at Mud Hero.

Our Training

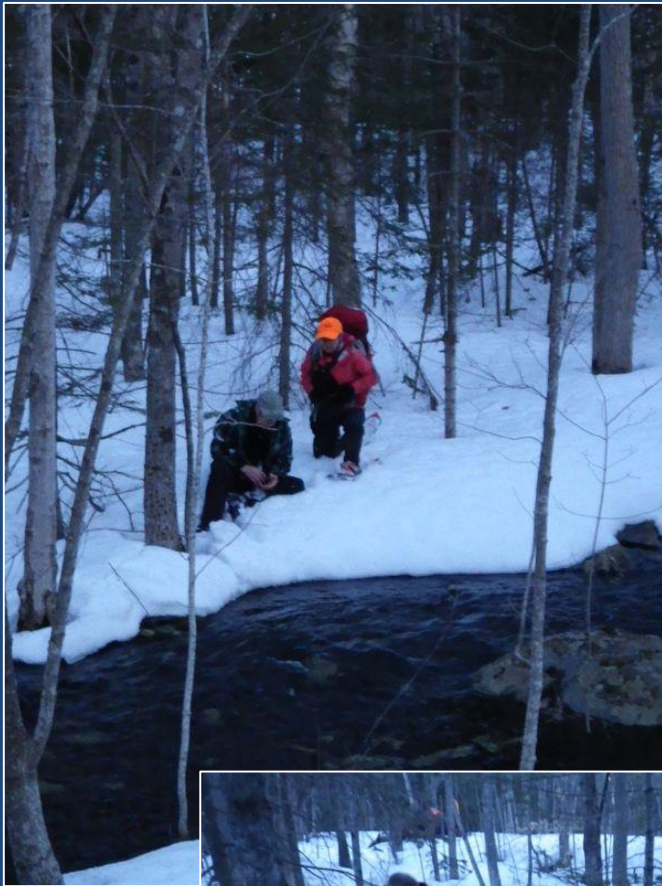
All searchers learn and practise the following skills:

- Search organization and procedures
- Equipment requirements
- Navigation with map, compass and GPS
- Training occurs in courses, scenarios, and through realistic training in the field



Our Training

Indoors
and
Outdoors



Advanced Training through NGSAR

- Leadership and Communication Training
- Advanced Searcher Courses
- Wilderness First Aid and First Responder
- Tracking



Searchers' Gear



Minimum Searcher's Gear



- Compass
- Sturdy blade
- Matches or lighter

This is the minimum list of gear that anyone going into the woods must take with them in NS by law. You should also include a whistle.

Searcher's Pack



First aid kit, survival gear, shelter, food, and other SAR equipment

Raincoat and rain pants

Extra warm clothes

Water

There is enough equipment to keep a lost person and searcher safe for **24** hours

Searchers' Packs

- Small pack with water, spare clothes, and survival gear.
- Larger pack with full list of SAR contents for 24 hours in the woods.



Education and Prevention

“Hug a Tree” program and Adventure Smart

Project Lifesaver

This project is an organization that is working to protect loved ones with dementia or other conditions who may become lost.



AdventureSmart



Get informed & go outdoors!



Teaching kids about being safe in the woods.

Next Steps

- Application form with contact information.
- Police background check.
- Take part in the intro to SAR session. (2 hrs)
- Start training.
- Start putting together a SAR pack.



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