

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



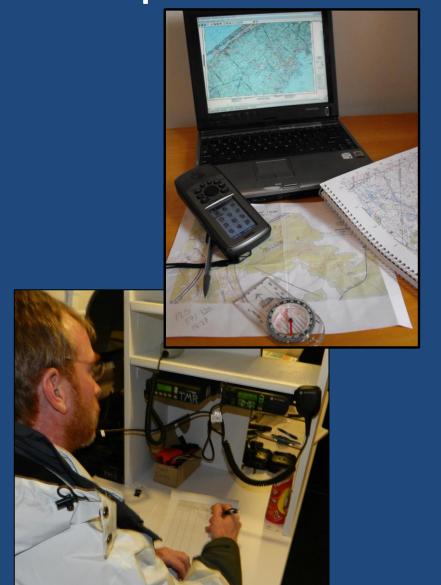
# The Vehicles





# 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

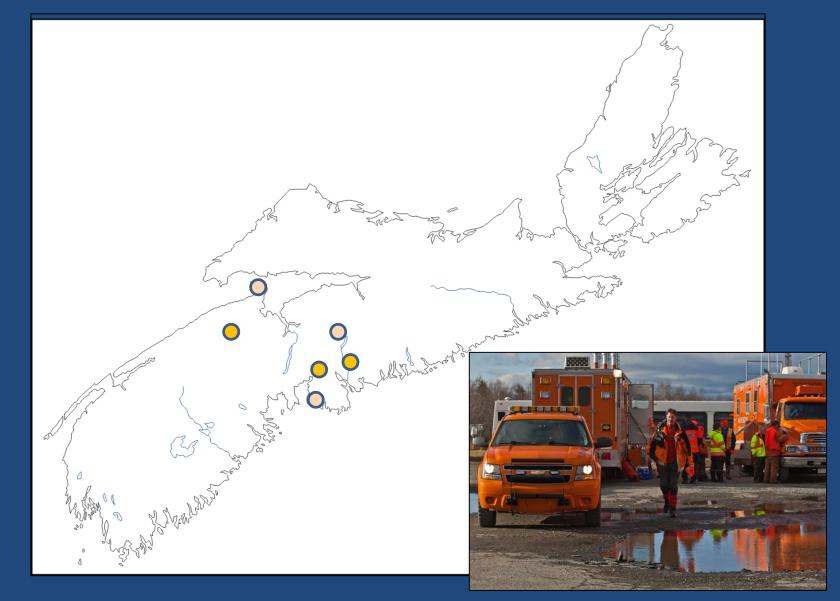
All types of lost

persons





# 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

Water



Raincoat and rain pants

Extra warm clothes

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

### **Project Lifesaver**

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





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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#### SAR Suggested Searching Equipment

The Safety Officer has the responsibility to restrict the unprepared from wilderness duty.

#### In Your Pack □ Food or snacks (Self sufficient for 12 hours) □ Water (2 litres suggested) and capability to prepare more ☐ Metal pot or cup Several lighters Waterproofed matches Rolls of flagging tape Raingear Sitting pad (closed cell foam 12"x20") Spare compass Spare flashlight Spare whistle Spare batteries Spare socks Spare toque Spare fleece or wool sweater Spare mittens Spare pens, pencils, grease pencil, permanent markers Several large, heavy duty garbage bags. ideally orange □ Various Ziploc style bags ☐ Heat reflective emergency blanket Candle lantern or safety candle Duct tape □ Weather proof shelter large enough for more than one person (Tarp, Heavy Plastic, manufactured emergency shelter, etc) Para cord, string or twine (strong and easy Signalling devices (flares, glow sticks, etc) Folding saw Tubular webbing strap (twice arm span) First aid kit (made to suit your ability) Non Cotton Clothing

#### On You, Not In Your Pack

- ☐ Safety glasses
- Primary compass
- □ Primary knife
- □ Primary flashlight
- Primary whistle
- □ Small flashlight/headlamp
- ☐ Survival kit
- □ Water
- □ Watch
- □ Personal medication
- □ Kerchief or Bandana
- □ Identification
- □ Notebook (waterproof)
- Pencil or all weather pen

#### Suggested Additional Items

- □ Toilet kit (paper, trowel, Ziploc bags)
- Hand sanitizer
- □ Vinyl gloves
- □ Stove & fuel or Fire bowl
- ☐ Fire starters
- ☐ Thermos bottle of hot water
- □ 8-12mm Rope & carabineers
- □ Sun glasses
- □ Binoculars
- ☐ Spare prescription glasses or contacts
- □ Blanket
- □ Lip balm
- □ Sun block
- ☐ Safety pins
- □ Ruler
- □ Map case
- ☐ Multi-tool
- ☐ GPS unit

#### Clothing Suggestions

Orange is the colour of choice for any clothing.

- ☐ Orange jacket
- Non-cotton clothing appropriate to season and conditions
- Light, moisture-wicking inner layer
- □ Heavy non-cotton socks
- ☐ Sturdy appropriate boots
- □ Toque
- Brimmed hat
- Light gloves
- □ Mittens
- Gaiters

# Equipment





Be prepared to test your equipment during training, don't rush to buy, and check used shops as well as the dollar store.