



Saanich Emergency Program



760 Vernon Avenue, www.sep.bc.ca, sep@saanich.bc.ca 250-475-7140
Summer 2011

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THANK YOU

Hard to believe it's summer already! The Saanich Emergency Program has had a very busy first six months of the year and I sincerely thank all of our 171 volunteers for dedicating your time to make Saanich a more disaster resilient community.

As you will be able to tell by this newsletter, all of our Emergency Program volunteer components have been very busy. The Emergency Program Office has been busy as well. We are currently working on a wide variety of initiatives and thought I would take this opportunity to highlight a few of our newest initiatives:

- Seeking a "Role Model City" designation by the United Nations International Strategy to Reduce Disaster Risk campaign.
- A long term strategic plan for the Emergency Program based on current best practices aligned with the four pillars of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery).
- A community emergency preparedness survey to gauge citizen preparedness levels. This will allow us to identify gaps in service and focus our efforts in the areas where gaps exist.
- Establishing a community disaster recovery committee to facilitate recovery process following a disaster.

Thanks for your hard work and enjoy the summer!



VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Volunteer numbers have steadily increased; we now have 170 volunteers with a substantial growth in numbers for Search and Rescue and Emergency Social Services. Our NEPP workshops are a strong recruitment tool followed by advertisements in the Times Colonist and from Volunteer Victoria, as well as our SEP website. We are now experiencing some challenges associated with such growth.

It has been a busy 6 months for all the components and we appreciate the many hours dedicated to the program. Thanks to the **80** SEP volunteers and family members who attended the June 11th BBQ. The weather cooperated enabling everyone to gather outside the Annex to eat and visit. BBQing for that many people certainly kept Brock busy!

Following the group photos many volunteers moved down to the EOC to hear Brock's presentation on his experiences from his two trips to Christchurch, NZ.

BBQ DRAW WINNERS!...

*\$50 Four Mile Pub
Larry Joe*

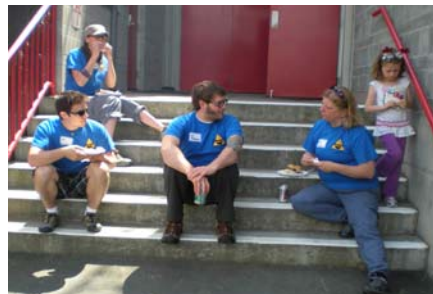
*\$50 Fireside Grill
Ray Stacey*

*\$50 Macaroni Grill
Doris Low-Renwick*

*\$50 Macaroni Grill
Peter Rey*

*\$50 Munro's Books
Austin Joe*

*\$30 Bolen Books
Graydon Janicki*



NEW INFORMATION

New technology has very recently located new fault lines on southern Vancouver Island. Experts now predict that there is a one in three chance that our area will experience a damaging earthquake within the next 50 years. The discovery of new fault lines is significant as it means there is a greater likelihood of a crustal earthquake occurring in our region than was previously thought. Crustal earthquakes are shorter in duration than a subduction earthquake, and more intense causing more damage because they are so close to the surface of the ground. A 6-7 magnitude crustal earthquake is equivalent to a magnitude 9 off the west coast.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) – 73 Volunteers



Saanich SAR members along with ESS volunteer Henry Au

SAR has had a very busy first half of the year. They have been called out nine times in the last six months, compared with a total of 2 call outs for all of 2010. Thanks to all SAR members who have responded, and for the professionalism you have shown each time you have done so. These efforts contribute to our growing reputation as a reliable and competent SAR group that police and other SAR groups can call upon when assistance is needed.

Meeting Speakers: Sergeant Bob Harker (Navy) spoke to members in January on meteorology – how to recognize changes in the weather as they happen, incoming hazardous weather and other aspects of weather that might be significant to a SAR volunteer in the field. Brock visited SAR to talk about SEP, his role with SEP and SAR call-outs. Staff Sergeant Bryant, Saanich Police Department, spoke about the role of police in a missing person or evidence search, when and how the decision is made to call out SAR volunteers, expectations of SAR volunteers and other related aspects of the role SAR plays in police call-outs. The meeting before Survival Night on March 12th, Andy MacKinnon, RPBio RPF, Research Ecologist, Coast Forest Region spoke on edible and medicinal native plants.

Call Outs

January 17, 2011, eight SAR members attended a mutual aid call out from Juan de Fuca SAR to East Sooke Park to search for a missing man. The search took place in the woods of China Beach.

January 26, 2011, Cowichan SAR requested mutual aid in the search for a missing female teenager. Four SAR members responded and participated in a closed grid search of a wooded area near River Road which had been identified by the RCMP as being of interest. After several passes over the area by search teams it was deemed to have been adequately searched and the search was suspended for the day.

January 28, 2011 Cowichan SAR requested aid in the continuing search for the missing teenaged girl. Five SAR members travelled to Duncan to join with other searchers to form three search teams tasked to search a construction materials dump in the area near Indian Road. After the site officer for the search determined it had been adequately searched, the teams returned to base for lunch. Following lunch the searchers were stood down as the missing girl's remains had been located.

March 7, 2011, Saanich police requested assistance in the search for a missing 18 year old male. Metchosin SAR was called in for mutual aid. The young subject was located as the SAR volunteers mobilized and the search was commencing, so the searchers were stood down. The subject was located alive.

April 14, 2011, Juan de Fuca requested mutual aid. A male who lived in the area of Mount Matheson failed to return home the previous evening, prompting his wife to call the RCMP. The RCMP K-9 handler had completed a search of the area with his dog, and noted a man who fit the description walking along the road as he was leaving the search area in his vehicle. This was in fact the missing man and he explained he had gone to Richmond by bus the previous day but had missed the last ferry back. The 7 Saanich SAR members who responded were stood down just as they were arriving at the base.

April 29, 2011 SAR provided assistance in the search for a missing couple in the Durrance Lake area. The couple had gone to Durrance Lake that evening for a picnic, but had become lost. They were in cell phone contact with the RCMP. Seven Saanich SAR members responded along with mutual aid from Metchosin and their K-9 team. The GPS coordinates from the couple's cell phone were utilized, and the K-9 team located them shortly after deployment into the field. The couple was fine.

May 25, 2011 Saanich Police requested assistance when a member of the public had reported seeing an abandoned boat floating on Prospect Lake. There was fishing tackle and a life jacket on board, and the tow line was dry and tucked up in the boat. The police requested SAR assistance with a shoreline search and to canvass the public as there were Saanich Fire and Saanich Police boats engaged in the water search. Metchosin SAR was called in for mutual aid. An hour later a 12 year old boy flagged down a police cruiser in the area to request assistance to search for his boat. The boat matched the description of the found boat so SAR was stood down.

June 15 & 17th SAR members were called for an evidence search in the Cuthbert Holmes Park. On the second day the police had narrowed their area of interest, and conducted a line search of the area. The search was accomplished fairly quickly given the thick grass and brush in the area.

June 27th Metchosin SAR was called out to search for a 67 year old woman who had failed to return home as per her usual routine. She often hikes the Thetis Lake Park trails, and her car was found in the main parking lot. Metchosin SAR searched until 0300hrs, stood down for the night. They were asked to start up again at 0530hrs the next morning but had trouble mustering the numbers required to conduct a proper search of the park. Saanich SAR was called in to assist and our 7 SAR members were stood down at 1300hrs. Woman was not located.

COMMUNICATIONS (COMMS) – 25 Volunteers

The COMMS component meets weekly on Wednesday nights. Attendance ranges from 9 to 16 members. COMMS members participated in the ESS Reception Centre exercise held at Cedar Hill. The APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) trackers/radios were utilized in a mock exercise with SAR. Problems were encountered and remedied when it was discovered that a radio was in too close of proximity to the GPS unit and a radio was horizontal in someone's pack. The batteries are holding up. The APRS trackers were also used in the Times Colonist 10K run and were successful in identifying the locations of the St. John bike squads at one minute intervals.

SEP hosted the Victoria Amateur Radio Packet Association (VARPA) meeting for March. Saanich COMMS also attends monthly CRECC meetings. The CRECC has a new website. Changes in the Inter-Municipal Net preamble and Frequency are on hold as the new repeater is not working at 100% capacity.

Training is provided on an ongoing basis. Recently orientation to the BCSARA radios was given to 8 members and the APRS system was reviewed and tested with 10 members. Airmail was also reviewed with members. A message handling information session was offered to ESS and COMMS groups.

Computers on vehicle #633 have been programmed, with the audio on the TNC (terminal node connector) to be adjusted. The van was part of SAR's survival night exercise at Lake Cowichan and was used as a communications post for the Times Colonist 10k race.



EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES (ESS) – 72 Volunteers

ESS meets on a monthly basis. Since January membership has increased by 18 volunteers. As a result of the growing membership there was discussion on whether smaller focus groups should meet in place of or in addition to the general meetings. Consensus was that the regular meetings were required but there was also a need for smaller, specific task-oriented group meetings. Currently the ESS sub-groups are ESS Level One, Resource Acquisition Team, Pets and the Reception Centre Managers (RCM) group. The RCM group was formed as a result of the SEP survey that indicated volunteers would like to see more leadership roles and training.

Eileen Grant is now the Level One Coordinator of a 12-member trained team who are paired up on a rotation list for call outs. On February 9th a call out was received for a house fire with 4 evacuees. No services were provided.

Maureen Johnson, a Victim Services worker, was invited to speak at the February general meeting on people dealing with crisis and trauma. In March, COMMS Co-Director, Martin Wong, trained members on how to craft a

message that would be sent to the EOC from the reception centres using a special format. Our NEPP Presenters attended the April meeting to give an overview of the 2-hour emergency preparedness workshop along with some emergency preparedness tips using a quiz. Bill Dancer gave a demonstration on ESS's vehicle #632 so that members are aware of all the equipment the vehicle contains as well as a demonstration on how to start the generator. June's meeting was a wrap-up meeting with the group adjourning until September.

ESS received a mutual aid call out from Victoria Emergency Management Agency (VEMA) for a fire on Rockland. Nine registration and referral-trained Saanich ESS volunteers were able to assist with an excess of 30 evacuees.

ESS Exercises:

ESS held a mock callout following the ShakeOut BC drill. In March a functional exercise was held on group lodging at Gordon Head Recreation Centre.



NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM



NEPP Presenters: Rosaline Salensky, Terrance Berschied (NEPP Coordinator), Ann Ward Christine Knox Missing: Pat Weldon

Upcoming Workshops

Thursday, September 29, 2011 7-9 p.m.

Pearkes Recreation Centre

Phone # 250 475-5400 Course # 453806

Saturday, October 22, 2011 1-3 p.m.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

Phone # 250 475-7600 Course # 456112

Monday, November 28, 2011 7-9 p.m.

Gordon Head Recreation Centre

Phone # 250 475-7100 Course # 454722

Registration begins on August 5 for online and August 10th when registering in person or by phone. We will present to any group of 10 or more people. For more information please call Kristie in the SEP Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 250 475-7140.

The Christ Church and Japan earthquakes resulted in a marked increase in calls to the SEP office for information and presentations. Our monthly recreation centre presentations filled quickly as well as all the supplemental presentations. Recreation staff were exceptionally accommodating when asked to book space for yet another workshop and Daphne Goode of Shaw Cable kept up with our revisions of new and sold out workshops to ensure that our workshop dates reached the public.

Needless to say, our NEPP volunteers have been extremely busy and have already surpassed the number of workshop presentations provided for all of 2010. We are already receiving interest for September presentations. Since January 1689 people have attend a 1 or 2-hour presentation given by NEPP and staff!

And the winner is.....

After the Japan earthquake, we promoted our emergency preparedness workshops by offering a draw for an emergency kit to anyone attending our 2-hour workshop between March and June 30th. 653 names will be put into the draw for a 4-man emergency back pack. The winning name will be announced on our web site shortly.

What dedication to preparedness!

We schedule our public Emergency Preparedness Workshops in the Recreation Centres well in advance. We were disappointed to discover that a Canuck play-off game landed on the same evening as our presentation but were pleasantly surprised to have 24 residents attend! Thanks to Recreation staff for having a TV out in the common area so people could check for the score at the break if they so wished.

Vancouver Island Emergency Preparedness Conference "Shake, Bake, Rock and Roll"

April 15-17th, 2011
The Prestige Hotel & Conference Centre
Sooke, BC

2011 Conference Attendees

- Art Beck
- Eileen Grant
- Michelle LeBlanc
- Ann Ward
- Richard Pattee
- Martin Wong
- Terrance Berscheid
- Laurie Poole
- Steve Craig
- Michelle Gordon
- Christopher Wood
- Will Rankine



12 SEP volunteers were part of the 250 attendees at the bi-annual VIEP conference in Sooke. The SEP van was utilized for car pooling and a couple of volunteers opted to experience group lodging. On the final day of the conference Brock and Rob Johns of VEMA presented to conference delegates on their two trips to Christchurch.

Vivian Robinson Award



SEP was pleased to nominate Eileen Grant for the 2011 Vivian Robinson Award. Eileen joined the program in September 2008 as an ESS volunteer and shortly thereafter signed up with the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program and began giving presentations to community members on the importance of emergency preparedness.

When taking the Documentation course, Eileen could see other ways to streamline the process even more and took on the task of re-organizing our Documentation Process for reception center exercises. Eileen's version of the documentation process was tested during an ESS exercise and it worked beautifully. We're hoping the Justice Institute does not try to hire Eileen! For the last year, Eileen has also been working as the Level One Coordinator. She stepped into this role after it became clear that our Level One Team needed the structure and leadership. Congratulations Eileen.

ShakeOut BC October 20, 2011

Brock is now the Co-Chair of the ShakeOut BC organizing committee. With the drill less than only four months away he has his work cut out for him. The Shakeout BC website is being updated to reflect the new date and incorporate many of the lessons learned from our first drill.

Commencing July 1st, please check the website www.shakeoutbc.ca for information updates, resources and to register for the upcoming October drill.

The Great British Columbia ShakeOut drill conducted on January 26 was a great achievement, with more than 470,000 registered participants and very positive province-wide media coverage on the importance of earthquake awareness and emergency preparedness.

Although highly successful, the January 26 date (chosen because it was the 311th anniversary of the Great Cascadia earthquake that struck the pacific northwest) conflicted with Secondary Schools provincial exams.

After consulting with School Districts, the Ministry of Education and through a survey that involved emergency management stakeholders from across the province, a new timeframe for future drill campaigns has been determined --- the third Thursday of each October.

Please reserve October 20, 2011 at 10:20 am in your calendars for the next Shakeout BC Earthquake drill. BC and Yukon will now join California, Idaho, Nevada, and Guam in conducting a mass earthquake drill at the same time on the same day. Washington, Oregon and potentially New Zealand have all expressed interest in joining the mass drill campaign in 2012.

Help us to accomplish another successful ShakeOut BC drill and further support public awareness and education of the earthquake threat in BC.

The Triangle of Life

While there are many aspects of Doug Copp's triangle of life theory that may be valid, there are some areas that are significantly flawed. Many of Mr. Copp's claimed experiences have not been confirmed. Many emergency management and response experts in North America have called his credibility and claims into question. It is also an important consideration that many of the references Mr. Copp cites were in areas of the world with completely different building code and construction practices.

It has been Brock's personal experience following two trips to Christchurch New Zealand, following

their recent earthquakes, that immediately outside of a structure is one of the most dangerous places to be in an earthquake; facades, parapets, glass and non-structural components of buildings fall outward and are extremely hazardous. Pancake collapses may occur, but will be extremely rare with our building practices in North America. There is greater likelihood that individuals will be hurt, or killed by falling debris. The non structural components inside of a structure are also extremely dangerous and cause many injuries during earthquakes.

American Red Cross Response:

<http://www2.bpaonline.org/Emergencyprep/arc-on-doug-copp.html>



A BIG thanks to all the volunteers who put together 400 NEPP packages in a very cramped space. It was unexpected to have to put out the call again so quickly for more NEPP kits due to the heavy demand for presentations. Luckily we were back in the Annex to make up the 1000 Grade 4 kits and additional NEPP kits. Delightful Gabriela (pictured above) came with her mom, ESS volunteer Ana Tsui, to help. Little did we know that this small dynamo would be so fast and efficient!

Grade 4 Program



This year we gave presentations to 1032 students at 22 Saanich schools from May 2 to May 19th. This program is an extremely large undertaking and we would like to thank Lisa Grebinsky, Brenda Righetti, Ana Tsui, Dorothy Rosenberg, Louise Smith, Phil Reaume, Denis Weins and Christy (Red Cross presenter) who assisted at the 35 presentations.

We truly could not have done it without you!

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

We have recently had SEP ID cards printed through Saanich Recreation. We are currently not processing any more cards at this time, but if you did not receive your SEP ID card, let your Director know and he/she can submit your photo and it will be kept in a file until the numbers warrant another order.

Please also check your PEP ID cards. If you have not received a PEP ID card or your card has now expired, ask your Director to take your photo to submit to Kristie for processing.

SEP VOLUNTEER SURVEY – Coming out soon!

A volunteer satisfaction survey was initiated last spring to gain an understanding of what motivates people to volunteer with us and what keeps them engaged in their volunteering with SEP. Two of the more common themes that came through the survey were exercise opportunities and more leadership opportunities within the components. As a result, an Emergency Program Training and Exercise Committee was struck and discussions begun on how to develop leadership opportunities within our components. Directors are encouraged to provide “growth in leadership” positions to volunteers to keep them engaged and to lessen the Directors’ workload, and training opportunities are being reviewed and encouraged.

A second volunteer survey will be sent out to all volunteers some time before September. Please take this opportunity to let us know what we are doing well and what we could be doing better.

HOW OLD ARE WE???

On February 5, 1962 the Saanich Civil Defense Organization was created. That makes the Saanich Emergency Program 50 YEARS OLD! If anyone has any ideas on how we should mark this momentous occasion, please let Brock or Kristie know.

MUSTARD SEED FOOD DRIVE

Each month over 7,000 people of all ages benefit from Mustard Seed’s Food Bank. Throughout the year a different Saanich department has claimed a month in which they collect goods for the Mustard Seed. Saanich Fire will be collecting food for the month of October. Boxes will be set out soon through out the Fire Department.

We will have a box in the Annex for any interested volunteers who would like to support this initiative between now and end of October.

SUMMER EVENTS

The Strawberry Festival was held on Sunday, July 11th. Reports were that people are still very much interested in emergency planning and there was a run on handouts.

Request will trickle in throughout the summer. Please look for our e-mails requesting volunteers, your assistance will be very much appreciated!

The next 2 upcoming events are:

Tuesday, July 19th 6-8 p.m.

Music in the Park at Brydon Park (Royal Oak)

Sunday, August 7th 11-3 p.m.

Cadboro Bay Festival at Gyro Park

