



July 2011

# REGIONAL EMS\* Foundation

## Pulse



### Annual General Meeting Regional EMS Foundation

On Tuesday, May 3rd, the Regional EMS Foundation held its' Annual General Meeting at Centre 2000. The evening commenced with Executive Director JoAnn Cazakoff, as she provided an overview of the past year. Specific highlights included the success of their major fundraisers and accomplishments, and a review of the financial statements.

The Annual General Meeting allowed for formal nominations and elections of board positions. Late 2010, the Regional EMS Foundation saw the resignation of its' Chairman Renee Linnsen. Special thanks to Marilyn Ringness and Erin Wallace who have helped to fill the position in the interim. The Regional EMS Foundation is pleased to announce the new Chairman of the Board, Dwight Logan, a well known businessman and political figure in Grande Prairie.

Dwight Logan completed his early education in Grande Prairie. After achieving his Bachelor of Arts in History and English from the University of Alberta, he later became a teacher. He spent time teaching around the world, focusing his efforts on the adult learner, and later settled back in Grande Prairie.

In 1983, Dwight was elected as Alderman, which began his lengthy service with the City of Grande Prairie. By 2010, Dwight had served 3 terms as Alderman and 3 terms as Mayor of Grande Prairie. He has also served on countless local and provincial boards, and various committees.

Dwight offers extensive experience in community foundations and committee work. His leadership will prove to be a great asset to this dynamic team. The Regional EMS Foundation's existing board and staff members extend a warm welcome to Dwight!

The Annual General Meeting was also an opportunity to present local organizations with funding! Applications were accepted until the end of February. The Regional EMS Foundation's allocations committee reviewed submissions and awarded funding and equipment to the following groups; Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honor Society, Bezanson Station MCR Team, Sexsmith Volunteer Fire Dept., Grande Prairie Technical Search & Rescue, P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevention of Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth), Birch Hills County – Medical Co-Response Group, EMS Learning Symposium for EMS professionals, and the Alberta Health Services – Public Health (Health services fair for First Nations Children).

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the Annual General Meeting. The Regional EMS Foundation looks forward to a great year ahead!

### 2011 Board of Directors

Missing from photos: Luke Umble



Dwight Logan  
Chair



Erin Wallace  
Vice Chair



Laurie Hutchinson  
Treasurer



Cheryl Weaver  
Secretary



Tamara Rose  
Administrator



JoAnn Cazakoff  
Executive Director



Amanda Frayn  
Director



Bonnie Dewhirst  
Director



Joe Canavan  
Director



Rob Barone  
Director



Tina McLean  
Director



Laura LaValley  
Event Coordinator



Director Tina McLean (left) Director Amanda Frayn presents a cheque for \$2000 to Birch Hills County Medical Co-Responders for spinal boards.



Director Cheryl Weaver (left) Director Amanda Frayn far right present a cheque to the P.A.R.T.Y. program for \$4000



Treasurer Laurie Hutchinson left, Amanda Frayn right present cheque to Technical Search & Rescue (TSR) for \$4000 for equipment.



Executive Director JoAnn Cazakoff (left) and Amanda Frayn right present cheque to Sexsmith Volunteer Fire Dept. for \$3000 for medical co-responder training.



Director Joe Canavan (left) and Amanda Frayn present cheque to Alberta Paramedics Guard of Honour, NW Unit for \$4000 and EMS Learning Symposium for \$3000.

## I-Stan Takes A Trip North



### February 24, 2011 - EMS Practise Skills On Patient Simulator

Emergency Medical Services staff in Grande Prairie, Peace River and Fairview practised their life-saving skills in real time in February, thanks to a "fellow" named i-Stan who visited from Calgary.

i-Stan is a human patient simulator that breathes, has heart and lung sounds, vital signs, reactive eyes and an airway.

Its real-life resemblance allows EMS staff to apply their skills in realistic health situations, including strokes, breathing difficulties and many more trauma and injuries.

"It's a great learning tool," says Chris McBurney, a paramedic in Grande Prairie, "It puts you in real-life scenarios but allows you to pause and ask questions. The more access emergency staff have to it, the better everyone will be."

During the simulations, two EMS staff tend to i-Stan, while field trainers monitor their progress in another part of the large mobile Medical Simulation Training Unit vehicle that drives up with i-Stan.

This was i-Stan's second visit to Grande Prairie and its first to Peace River and Fairview. There are two i-Stans in Alberta – both based in Calgary.

Brent Thorkelson, staff development officer for EMS Learning and Development, says he hopes to bring i-Stan and the mobile Medical Simulation Training Unit to northern Alberta at least once a year. "We are hoping to have one of them stationed out of Edmonton, which will help give northern Alberta's communities better access to it."

Human patient simulation is a sophisticated, technologically advanced teaching method. i-Stan is fully integrated with computer software in the front of the truck, as well as a microphone and speaker system. This gives the trainers full visibility of the scenario and work that is being done. At the end of each 25 minute scenario, the team debriefs.

"Sometimes EMS practitioners are nervous the first time they go through a scenario with human patient simulation," says Thorkelson, "Performing a true-to-life emergency in front of your peers can be intimidating. But after a couple of rounds it's really exciting and the energy is high."

The Regional EMS Foundation is currently fundraising to purchase a simulation unit that would be based in the North Zone.



Fairview Health Complex Foundation presents a cheque to the REMS Foundation for \$10,000 for the North Sim Unit.

- Story and photo by Lisa Peters

## Honour Guard

This past May, the Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour welcomed seven new members from the Edmonton and Northwest District of AHS EMS. These new members are Aaron Mickleborough, Alicia Tomchuk, Carmen Lieverse, Darcy George, Jacene Tyler, Michael Christian, and Russell Bardak. These members experienced three days of intense and enjoyable drill training at Canadian Forces Debney Armoury in Edmonton. Drill Instructor Staff for the initial drill training were Kelly Brown, Ray Mitchell and Stephanie Williams. The Sergeant Major for the initial drill training was Gerald Murphy.

With the exception of Michael Christian who will join the Edmonton Unit of the Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour, these individuals are the first members of the recently developed Northwest Unit of the Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour to receive initial drill training. The balance of the Northwest Unit Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour members will receive their initial drill training during November 2011.

During the three days of drill training, the new Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour members learned the basics of parade marching, discipline and team work. The three days of training culminated with a parade and presentation of Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour cap badges by AHS EMS Edmonton and Northwest District to North Zone Executive Director Trevor Maslyk.

On behalf of these new Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour members, I would like to thank the Regional EMS Foundation for their generous financial support that allowed the purchase of basic supplies needed for the formation and initial training of the Northwest Unit of the Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour. I would also like to thank the Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour Society for their support and guidance through our development as the Northwest Unit of the Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour.

Respectfully,  
Russell Bardak, EMT-P



Dave Woodward, Rick Waldron, Wes Shoemaker, Randy Nelson

## Star of Life Golf Classic In Memory Of Shawn Waldron



The 2010 Star of Life golf classic in memory of Shawn Waldron held September 18th proved to be another successful event for the Regional EMS Foundation. "We struggled a bit to fill all the spots this year" stated Executive Director JoAnn Cazakoff a reflection of the current economy. But, despite the tough economic times the tournament still managed to raise over \$30,000 for EMS community programs and projects. A special thank you to OnSite Advanced Medical for their support as Title Sponsor, the Waldron family, golfers, volunteers and donors.



Tony Pasich, AHS EMS Manager, Linda & Dr. Greg Powell, STARS, Dr. Cled Lewis AHS EMS Medical Director

# News from the AHS Central Communications Centre (AHSCCC)



## CAD Training Nearly Completed

The Emergency Communication Officers (ECO) assigned to AHSCCC have completed an intensive 4 week training at Grant MacEwan Community College over July and August. The new Computer Aided Dispatch system will incorporate Flight, IFT and Emergency dispatch functions.

## ECO Staff Developing SOGs

5 CCC ECO staff are seconded to develop SOGs relating to Flight, IFT and Emergency coordination and deployment. They will be working closely with the operational groups during the project.

## CCC To Say "Yo koso" To Japanese Delegation

A Japanese delegation is visiting Edmonton in late September and they will tour existing dispatch centres. They are interested in how we coordinate resources and how the resources are dispatched. Tokyo dispatch centre dispatches 300 EMS units on a daily basis – when do we tour their centre?



## Renovations Are About To Begin To Welcome In A New Dispatch Area

Site construction is due to begin in early October to increase work space to accommodate up to 16 workstations. The dispatch centre will continue to be fully functional and will reside at the existing site on Kingsway Avenue. New ergonomic consoles and chairs are on order and will enhance the functionality of the new work space.



- Submitted by Jill Thoradson, NCC Executive Director

## Ambulance Chaser's Run



The Regional EMS Foundation held its first ever Ambulance Chaser's Run on October 1 2010 raising over \$7000 and hosting 150 runners. This fun 5 km and 10 km run was completed on the South Bear Creek trails in Grande Prairie followed by a festive chilli and beer tent. Proceeds raised support the EMS Medi - Magnet program.

The Ambulance Chaser's Run originates in Calgary whose 2010 event reached its milestone 10th year benchmark. The Regional EMS Foundation thanks the EMS Foundation in Calgary for generously allowing the use of the Ambulance Chaser name and logos to host the run in Northern Alberta on the same day.

Congratulations to ATB's The Tortoises & The Hares for winning the largest team with 25 registered runners from local branches!



## 2011 Wine Fair & Auction



It was a night of 11s!! Friday, February 11th, 2011, the Regional EMS Foundation hosted its' 11th Annual Wine Fair and Auction at the Tec Centre in Evergreen Park. Over 400 people took part in sampling a variety of different wines poured by 25 knowledgeable wine agents.

New to the event this year were food vendors. Participants could purchase coupons to sample culinary delights from Jeffrey's Café, Guerino's Restaurant, and Escape Bistro.

Participants had the opportunity to purchase a variety of silent auction items and try their luck with raffles and door prizes. The live auction included the "Lucky 5", a new twist this year, featuring 5 cellar starter kits that were auctioned. After drawing numbers to eliminate bidders, the last one standing could choose one of 5 great vacation packages!

Guests had a great time socializing and networking, with ample room for mingling and even dancing! Alberta Health Services Paramedics were on



hand, demonstrating the Human Patient Simulation Unit, an innovative training tool that allows practitioners to practice their skills in a realistic environment. The Regional EMS Foundation is fundraising for a similar unit to be used by AHS EMS North West Zone. Money raised at this event totaled over \$30,000 making that fundraising goal one step closer.

Special thanks to Title Sponsor Investors Group and long time supporters Vintage Wine and Spirits. Thank you to all guests, sponsors, and volunteers for helping to make this event a great success!



## Safety City

The REMS Foundation receives the 2010 Ambassador of Safety Award from the Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities.

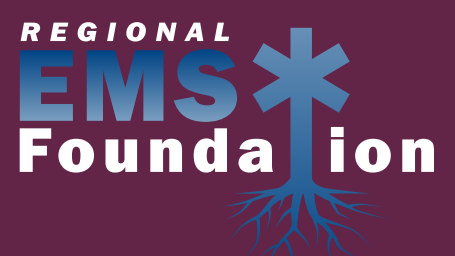


Darlie Krueger presents stork pin to Ann-Marie Aubertin

## EMS 'Storks' Proudly Display Stork Pins

EMS personnel who help deliver a baby are eligible to receive a stork pin for their part in welcoming the newcomer to the world.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming  
Ambulance Chaser's Run Friday September 30, 2011  
Visit [www.remsfoundation.org](http://www.remsfoundation.org)



# Memorials

## John O'Mahony



Alberta Health Services (AHS) staff, including Emergency Medical Services (EMS) practitioners, mourned the death of their friend and colleague John O'Mahony. John was killed in the line of duty after a motor vehicle collision the morning of Dec. 6, 2010. He was 65.

O'Mahony was an active duty member with EMS for 24 years in the roles of emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician and EMS manager.

From 1979 to 2002, he served with the Smoky River Ambulance Service.

O'Mahony's teaching career spanned more than 35 years as a math teacher at Georges P. Vanier Secondary School in Donnelly, as well as working with EMS on a full-time, part-time and casual basis. Following his retirement from teaching, he pursued both career loves with a renewed enthusiasm. From 2008, he served as a casual emergency medical responder with AHS and tutored students in preparation for exams.

"While EMS practitioners are exposed to a number of potentially dangerous situations, one of the most obvious is a motor vehicle collision," says Trevor Maslyk, EMS executive director for the North and Edmonton zones. "All EMS practitioners undergo extensive driving education as part of their training but the sad reality is that collisions do happen, even to the most careful drivers."

O'Mahony was also an active community choir member with a resonant tenor that will be remembered by many. As stated by a close colleague and EMS staff member. "The heavenly choir has received a new voice but his earthly voice and presence will be forever missed.

## Rick Reiger



Richard Reiger, resident of Valleyview, Alberta, passed away in Grande Prairie, Alberta at the QEII Hospital on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at the age of 60 years.

Richard was born April 19, 1950 in Grayson, Saskatchewan where he was also raised. As a young man he left the farm life behind to join the military in serving his country. He

served in the military before joining the police force and was a member of the Regina City Police, Moose Jaw City Police and Chief of Police for Watson, Saskatchewan.

For the past three years he worked as Supervisor, North West Operations for Emergency Medical Services with Alberta Health Services. This was a job he greatly enjoyed. Richard was always a musician at heart and had a great love of country music and showcased his talent with many bands. During his time in Saskatchewan, Richard coached hockey teams which provided him the opportunity to mentor young men in the community. Richard took great pride in everything that he did and proved to be a leader wherever he went.

## EMS In The Community

