



Annual Report 2009

Tri-County Ground Search and Rescue Group, Inc.

December 31, 2009

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Tri-County Ground Search and Rescue Vision

Tri-County Ground Search and Rescue Group, Inc. is a self-sufficient, volunteer, professional emergency response organization specialized in search and rescue operations, internationally recognized as a leader, dedicated to excellence and continual improvement and strongly support by the community and responsible public safety agencies.

Excellence

- The team is the model of excellence. Its members are highly proficient and effective in the conduct of their duties.
- The team actively participates in a wide range of emergency services and capitalizes on internationally recognized best practices and standards both administratively and operationally.
- The team can operate anywhere, any time as required without degradation of its service and capabilities. It utilizes the latest technology in its equipment, training, practices and processes and is recognized as both a leader and innovator in the field of emergency services delivery.

Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency

- The team meets its objectives independently and without relinquishing control to external parties.
- It raises the human and financial resources necessary to provide the safe, modern and effective equipment, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct its full range of activities.
- The team has a highly efficient, effective and scalable management system that allows it to grow as needed to support its training, administrative, supporting and operational objectives.
- The members understand their role in achieving these goals and their contributions and achievements are both highly valued and substantively recognized. The membership is the foundation of the team.

Community and Stakeholder Relations

- The team receives the highest recognition, support and respect from the community, police agencies, government and peers at the regional, national, and international levels.
- Individuals, organizations and businesses aspire to be associated with us and to support us.
- The team has real and substantial influence at all levels.



Mission Statement

Upon request of the responsible authority, locate, access, stabilize and transport lost, missing and injured persons and locate and protect evidence in support of police investigations within our area of operation. Under exceptional circumstances and where special arrangements exist or can be created, operate outside our area of operations.

- To support local, regional and national civil emergencies and disaster relief operations within the scope of our services objectives.
- To provide highly trained and skilled human resources in sufficient numbers to provide professional, effective and efficient and scaleable service on a sustained 7 day-per-week and 24 hour-per-day basis without service degradation.
- To certify and maintain membership to establish standards as required to support service commitments.
- To maintain safe and modern equipment and facilities and insurance coverage necessary to support service objectives.
- To constantly develop, maintain and improve policies, processes and standards, incorporating regionally, nationally and internationally recognized best practices wherever possible and deemed appropriate.
- To respond quickly to service requests through efficient and effective activation of the membership in order to meet or exceed service commitments.



Presidents Yearend Report 2009

With 19 callouts 2009 was one of our busiest years in the 10 years I have been with the team, starting on Feb 22; The team helped recover a 15 year old boy who became lost while snow shoeing close to his home. After that the calls continued with the busiest months being September and October with 4 calls each month. In November, we had 5 calls with some of them overlapping within the same weekend tasking our resources to the limit. Tri-County responded to 35% of the calls in the province which resulted in 2385 search hours, by far the busiest of all the provincial teams. The team met every task head on and succeeded in locating most subjects with all team members returning home safely.

As we started into 2009 Jean-Marc Drapeau offered to update our Web Site which the team gratefully accepted. This was completed and is now being hosted on Jean-Marc's server. Membership processing and tracking has been improved but still needs work. Eldon Gilmore coordinated the team's attendance in a record number of Fundraising; community and PR events. This increased the team's visibility in the community as well as helped seek potential new members. Keith Whalen joined the Executive early in the year and took over the position of Secretary, his initiative and professional approach has been very much appreciated.

One major project for the provincial SAR organization that Tri-County is playing a part in is the SAR Initiatives Fund (NIF), which the Provincial SAR organisation was awarded last year. The fund has provided the team with 10 GPS's and 2 Lap-Top Computers. These items have been well used and of great assistance during operations and training. Joseph LaBelle has provided support to the effort at the provincial level and has coordinated training related to the NIF Grant requirements, and has been assisted by other members of the Tri-County training team. We look forward to the new radio equipment the NIF fund will be acquiring this year to replace the teams antiquated communications equipment.

This coming year will present continued challenges for fundraising and membership. The executive will continue to strive to meet these challenges and any new ones in the coming year. I've enjoyed working with the team and look forward to continuing to serve you in the year to come.

Respectfully,

Cedric Mallais

President



Operational Policy Committee

**2009
Operational Report**

The year 2009 seen one of the busiest Search years for Tri-County. We were involved with 19 operations equal to 19% of the provinces operations and logging in a total of 2385 hours resulting in 57% of the provinces total search hours.

Date	Location	Type	Activity	Total Hours
2009-02-21	Caledonia Mountain Road	Lost	Other	144
2009-06-07	Urney Road	Missing	Other	92
2009-06-23	Haut Shippagan	Missing	Fishing	188
2009-07-05	Allardville	Lost	Fishing	30
2009-08-07	Shediac	Missing	Other	19
2009-09-09	Burnt Church	Missing	Unknown	448
2009-09-12	Penrose Street	Lost	Runaway	10
2009-09-15	Grindstone	Evidence	Walkaway	189
2009-09-20	McEwens Air Field	Recovery		31
2009-10-10	Dorchester	Lost	Other	44
2009-10-11	Fundy National Park	Lost	Hiking	15
2009-10-12	Semiwagan Road	Lost	Other	161
2009-10-30	Kelly Road	Evidence	Other	113
2009-11-06	Fortune St. Dieppe	Evidence	Other	33
2009-11-06	Cains Point	Evidence	Unknown	519
2009-11-21	Catamount	Lost	Other	85
2009-11-29	Adairs Wilderness Lodge	Missing	Camping	237
2009-11-30	Gallagher St. - Shediac	Missing	Walkaway	5
2009-12-01	Browning Cres.- Riverview	Missing	Runaway	22

2385



Through the Provinces NIF grant Tri-County was able to obtain new CX 60 GPS units for the team. Tri-County also received 2 new laptop computers loaded with mapping software. These new pieces of equipment will truly be an asset to the team to aid in searches.

During 2009 Tri-County was introduced to the new concept of Provincial Zoning for search areas. This will be of true value to each team within our area of operation, most importantly the Subject. This concept does have some details to work out however when complete will see not only our area expand but with the mutual assistance of two other Provincial teams all 3 teams within our area will work together as one under ICS. This will give more resources and knowledge of the areas we do enter.

During the year of 2009 Tri-County worked closely with the Codiac Detachment improving our relationship with them.

I would like to take this time to thank R. Searle and J. LeBelle for their hard work and dedication in helping to carry the duty pager month after month.

To each and every search manager thank you for all your work, patience, and dedication to help Tri-County in managing our operations.

Like any organization we are only as good as our members, and each of you are great with much to offer. I want to thank each of you for your dedication to the team and the well being of the subject.

Darren Meredith
Executive Search Manager
January 27, 2010
“That Others May Live”



Training Report – 2009

Presented By: Duane Miller
Training Coordinator TCGSAR
December 28, 2009

The team conducted a total of 1,699 training hours in 2009. Some of these hours include training given to other SAR teams within the province and training tailored and given to the RCMP.

The team continued its regular training regime of two Wednesday nights indoors sessions and one daylong outdoor exercise per month on a weekend. Due to the high volume of searches in the last quarter of the year the outdoor exercise was dispensed with in November.

Some highlights from the year:

1. In February a test run of the new provincial basic GPS course was prepared and given to 11 team members.
2. On April 24, 25 the first NBGSARA basic Train-the-Trainer GPS course was given in Fredericton led by the TCGSAR training coordinator. It included: Power point presentation material, lesson plan, field reference cards and a document called “How to design a GPS navigation course”—to be used by trainers for setting up the field component of their training.
3. On April 27, 28 three TCGSAR members prepared and gave Map and Compass, and GPS training to six RCMP members with the Shediac district. Both days included a classroom and a field component so they could actually use the map and compass, and the GPS. The team received a cheque for \$600 from the RCMP for the training.
4. On May 23, 24 the second NBGSARA basic Train-the-Trainer GPS course was given in Miramichi, led by the TCGSAR training coordinator. One other member from TCGSAR attended to become a qualified GPS trainer.
5. On July 18 the outdoor exercise involved Preplanning the area around Atlantic Baptist University. The team had been called for a search behind the university in September 2008.
6. From Aug 17-21 two members of TCGSAR attended the Lost Person Behaviour Train-the-Trainer session given by the author Robert Koester in Virginia. There were people from around the world attending this session. They are now certified as LPB trainers.
7. On Nov 21 the new NIF purchased laptops and software were issued to all the provincial teams. This included the daylong training on the use of Oziexplorer for search planning and managing search waypoints and tracks. The TCGSAR training coordinator led the session. An Ozi reference manual was given to all 20 participants—Using Oziexplorer for Searches – A Guide. Two additional members from TCGSAR attended the session.
8. The last quarter of the year brought 14 searches. This provided an excellent opportunity for the team to put their training to a very urgent and focused use. Tactics ranged from hasty searching to closed grid evidence searching.

A detailed breakdown of the training is presented in the following two tables.



2009 Training Hours, by Member

Name	Total Training Hours	Instructing Hours
Miller, Duane	168	77
Searle, Robert	106	26
Lacombe, Andre	97	21
LaBelle, Joseph	95	15
Foran, Richard	79	
Walker, Stella	79	
Gilmore, Eldon	79	
Meredith, Darren	78	31
Deschamps, Norman	77	
Gard, Ian	75	
Mallais, Cedric	63	10
Leblanc, Raoul	59	
Richard, Aldeo	59	
Whalen, Keith	57	
Schofield, Jacques	47	
Horsman, Howard	46	11
Searle, Bill	46	
Winsor, Craig	45	
Drapeau, Jean-Marc	43	
Chase, Dawn	42	2
Steven, Eric	37	1
Paleske, Rick	36	
Buchanan, James	34	
Steeves, Christopher	25	
Gilmore, Rosemonde	23	
Betts, Betty	21	
Lechasseur, Roland	18	2
Perley, Wade	13	
Gallie, Aimee	9	
Hopper, Rob	8	
Crosthwaite, Wayne	7	
Nagle, Patrick	6	
Gavin, Sandra	6	
Girouard, Josiane	4	
Lechasseur, Irene	4	
Carr, Patrick	4	
LaBelle, Alexandre	2	
	1,699	194



2009 Training Hours, by Area of Training

Navigation	213
GPS	181
Site Management/Stretcher Handling	167
Fundraising Event	96
Search Debriefs	87
Lost Person Behavior Instructor	84
Pre-plan	81
Suburban SAR	80
Clue Awareness	79
GIS training (Ozi)	68
Map and Compass	65
Ropes & Slope Awareness	65
Personal Equip/Safety	55
Safety Along the shore	50
Callout Qualified Orientation	62
Lost Person Behavior	42
Critical Incidence Stress	38
Workers Compensation	38
Annual General Meeting	36
Survival Training	33
Spontaneous Volunteers	30
Grid Searching	29
Hypothermia	20
	1,699



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL REPORT FOR 2009

Following is my report on events for year 2009 covering Hug a Tree presentations, group PR presentations, and fundraising efforts.

1. Hug a Tree Presentations:

Jan 28/09 Cub Scouts at F.L Bowser School, ages 8-11 years, 13 scouts,3 adults. Presenter Andre Lacombe.

Feb 14/09 Rogersville Beavers, ages 6-9, 10 beavers,4 adults. Presenter Roland Lechasseur.

Feb 23/09 Acadiaville Scouts, ages 9-11, 28 scouts. Presenter Roland Lechasseur.

Mar 25/09 Moncton Scout group ages 11-14, 7 scouts,3 adults. Presenter Andre Lacombe.

Apr 29/09 Petitcodiac Scouts, ages 5-7 and 8-15, total 25 scouts, 5 adults. Presenter Andre Lacombe.

June 10/09 Ecole Maree Montante de St. Louis de Kent. 58 students, 5 adults/teachers. Presenter Roland Lechasseur.

Nov 23, 24, & 27,2009 Queen Elizabeth School,Moncton, grades 2 to 4,. 120 students. Presenter Andre Lacombe.

2. Public Relations/Group Presentations

Feb 20/09 Moncton West & Riverview Rotary Club Luncheon. Slide show and discussion on who we are what we do. Presented by Eldon Gilmore and Duane Miller.

Apr 14/09 Sackville Air Cadets. Slide show and discussion on wilderness survival by Eldon and Rosemonde Gilmore.

July 11 & 12, 2009. Participated with CP and equipment trailer at Atlantic Nationals car show, Centennial Park location. Several members took part. Received \$500.00 for efforts.

Aug 30/09 Participated with CP and equipment trailer at 1st Annual Moncton & Irishtown Nature Park Day. Several members took part.



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Sept 13/09: Participated with CP and equipment trailer at breakfast and official presentation of new club sign for Grande-Digue Hunt Club, Shediac Bridge. Several members took part.

Nov 15/09 South East Firemens Association general meeting. Slide show and Discussion on who we are, what we do. Presented by Cedric Mallais and Eldon Gilmore.

3. Fundraising Events:

May 3/09: Knights of Columbus Benefit Breakfast. Due to efforts of Raoul Leblanc, TCGSAR was invited to serve at breakfast and receive funds raised. A good number of members took part and **\$ 839.85** was realized.

July 2,3,& 4, 2009: Set up tables at 4 liquor stores in Moncton and Riverview and took voluntary contributions from patrons. Total of 3 day effort **\$ 6292.40.**

July 11 & 12, 2009 Set up CP and trailer at Atlantic Nationals Car Show I Centennial Park. Received **\$500.00** donation from group for attending.

4. Recyclables

Richard and Stella started a collection of recyclables effort where they collected bottles and cans by themselves and from other members. This effort raised a total of **\$ 933.00** in less than a year.

Total all fund raising efforts **\$ 8565.35.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Eldon Gilmore
VP External Affairs



Membership Report

As in 2008, for 2009 we concentrated on gaining members who would be long-term members of TGSAR. While we were looking for people who had the time and stability to stay with TCSAR, we did not have an actual membership drive. Over the past couple of years we have involved ourselves with events that we would hope to be high profile to the public. For the most part this has seemed to attract the clientele we wished. We have hung posters in various locations to facilitate this idea especially when we were able to do some fundraising. The inability to have an ATV draw necessitated a different strategy. We have been involved with fund raising at local NBLCC outlets. This was surprisingly beneficial. First we raised a fair amount; secondly, we were able to get exposure; thirdly, we have had a few good people join the team because of that visibility. Just before the end of the year, the Holiday Inn Express Moncton gave us another opportunity to raise funds through the hotel. And last but not least we have been given a chance to fund raise at the NBLCC outlets again with the addition of 1 more store. We have had 18 people come to our meetings and express an interest in becoming a member this year. Of those 18 people, 1 is too young for regular membership at this time, and 5 others did not complete the application, 4 did not continue with training, leaving 8 people who are still considered candidates. We have lost 1 member for job related reasons.

Most new candidates seem to be keen about what we do. Darren Meredith, as the Training Officer, looked after the candidates to his best ability.

Sales to Members

Our inventory for the following year has been supplemented with the addition of more pens and Mission Log books. We have also received 20 new NBGSAR crests which are now available for sale at the old price. Some pins and hats were given to people as gifts to show appreciation for what they did for the team. With the approval of the Executive, an attempt to try to advertise the availability of items through emails but some members did not think it should be continued. It was dropped.

Total Sales - \$ 226.25

Jim Buchanan

VP of Human Resources

Membership Chair



V P Operations Report 2009

Operation's was relatively busy, keeping the team assets in order this year, with several issues on both the truck (C.P.) and trailer. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of Bob Searle, we are able to continue to keep the CP at his residence, Bob also helps ensure that the C.P. and trailer are kept operational, and ready to respond to callouts 24/7.

The C.P. had both its front tires replaced (\$468.95) along with front brakes and a steering repair (\$462.96). The following items were also replaced: The two main batteries (\$226.00), a rear backup lamp (\$37.13). These repairs should last for some time, and help improve the handling and the vehicles overall safety factor. MVI along with an oil change was completed and License plates were renewed.

The Trailer had persistent slow leaks in all its tires, but it was finally discovered that the valve stems were not the proper type for the tire pressure. These were replaced, which fixed the problem. An awning was donated by Jacques Schofield and fixtures to mount it were purchased and installed by the Team. LED side marker lights were also installed to enhance trailer visibility at night. The MVI was completed and license plates renewed. Other minor maintenance issues were also taken care of.

Miscellaneous supplies and other operational items were purchased and stored in the trailer such as AA Batteries and bandages.

The total of all Operations related repairs and purchases for 2009 is \$2,072.01

Respectfully submitted

Jacques Schofield



TREASURER'S REPORT

Year Ending 31/12/09

Tri-County had a very busy 2009, with multiple searches requiring many 'search hours' as well as many hours required to do all the paper work connected to the searches. This did not leave a lot of time for fundraising, but thanks to the continuing diligence of Eldon Gilmore, our VP of External Affairs, we were still able to have a fairly successful fund raising event at a few liquor stores this past summer, with several team members on hand to help out. Long time, team member, Raoul LeBlanc, arranged for the Team to do a breakfast fundraiser through the Knights of Columbus, who were very supportive in the effort. In total, during 2009 the team managed to raise \$7,091

Tri-County was also fortunate to receive a total of \$3,784.00 in various donations during 2009 - a slight increase from the previous couple of years.

At year-end, the Team had accounts receivables of \$10,862 which we fully expect to receive in early 2010. Financially, Tri-County remains healthy and has a proposed budget to operate with during 2010. We managed to stay within the planned budget during 2009, and fortunately, did not experience any major expenses, thereby allowing us to add to our Asset Replacement fund. This fund is vital; as it is designated for the day our command post will need to be replaced.

TCGSAR also recognizes the need to retain sufficient funds to assist us for at least one operational year, should funds become more difficult to raise in the future.

As a result of concern about escalating operational costs, one of our members presented a proposal, via our provincial association, requesting an increase to the mileage refund for Command Post's and we are pleased to learn that it was recently accepted, and will be in effect for 2010. This will make a substantial difference to all Teams in New Brunswick.

'So that others may live'

Respectfully submitted

Stella Walker
Treasurer