

Police constables rescue weary 160 lb dog from icy pond

Two Halton police officers have made a couple's Christmas by rescuing their dog Ursus from freezing to death in a pond on their farm.

Jan and Bill McKague said the efforts of constables James DeDieu and Dennis Dimitroff to rescue the 160-pound Newfoundlander from the pond went "above and beyond the call of duty" after he had fallen through ice and could not

get out. Ursus had been in the pond for about half-an-hour before the two constables arrived at the McKague's Second Line Nassagweya farm, near 20 Side Road and west of Acton at about 9 a.m. DeDieu, 33, had been a firefighter with the Canadian military until he joined Halton police 18 months ago and had training in ice rescues. He tied a harness and rescue rope around his waist and

headed out on a ladder.

"I didn't really think about it," DeDieu said Friday. "There was a dog in trouble. I have my own dogs. I knew what to do."

DeDieu said the ladder broke just as he got to Ursus and he jumped into the water beside him. He grabbed the dog and Dimitroff pulled the pair of them to shore. DeDieu said, after they got out of the pond, Ursus was a bit stiff, but man-

aged to walk away "very slowly." He ran back to his cruiser, took off his equipment and wet boots and then raced back to the Georgetown police station to change his clothes. Police say the officer and the dog did not suffer any ill effects.

Sgt. Andy Dennis is putting DeDieu in for a commendation for the rescue. "Pets are just like children," he said. "It's a nice feel good story for Christmas."



From left, constable Dennis Dimitroff, Jan McKague and James DeDieu sit with Ursus, a five-year-old, 160 lbs Newfoundlander. Photo by James Hoggett







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