

Ambulance Service available for any emergency

By Ken Lusk

There seems to be a misconception that the McCausland Hospital Ambulance Service only answers to calls concerning serious matters such as car accidents, says Dave Schinbein, manager of the McCausland Hospital Ambulance Service.

The service is "available to everyone in town for anything perceived as an emergency, even a twisted knee," said Schinbein.

He told the News that he and the ambulance officers (more about them later) have been called to many types of cases including diabetics, epileptics, and victims of heart attacks.

The officers have had to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and attend to injuries to persons on trains and in the bush.

Schinbein said that snowmobilers have also found themselves in need of the service. The officers had to snowmobile into the bush to the injured persons, load them onto a stretcher, snowmobile back to the road and the ambulance, and then onto the hospital from there.

During the infamous fire last year, Schinbein and his crew were on standby to evacuate the hospital if the need arose.

For any reason

But Schinbein insists that people are hesitant to call for an ambulance. An ambulance should be

called, he said, for any reason if the situation can even be perceived as an emergency.

People think they are inconveniencing the service if they call for something they think might not require an ambulance.

Schinbein wants the public to know they can call the service for things that would be considered minor, i.e., inability to walk, some type of pain, faintness or dizziness—these types of incidents are the reason the service exists maintains Schinbein.

Dave Schinbein has been the manager of the McCausland Hospital Ambulance Service since the hospital took over the service last April. Schinbein has worked in ambulance services for the last 12 twelve years.

He has an Emergency Medical Care Assistant Certificate (EMCA) from the Ministry of Health. It is the highest pre-hospital medical qualification that can be obtained.

There are three levels of the EMCA and Schinbein has the second. Level 3 would qualify a person as a paramedic.

Part-time officers for the ambulance service are Kathy Papineau, Jocelyn Currie, Jim Chappel, Paul Malashewski, Len Burns, Bernie Chasse, Gary Callaghan and Ralph Polchess.

The part-time officers have a pager and when they are not working their allotted hours, they are on call. If their beeper does go off,

they have five minutes to get to the ambulance garage.

The ambulance officers are trained to drive the ambulance and are trained in all types of First Aid. Their knowledge qualifies them for a broad range of treatments— from splinting a broken leg to providing emergency childbirth (the ambulance is equipped with an obstetrical kit).

"The part-time people [officers] are professionals in First Aid and CPR," said Schinbein.

The officers have had 100 hours plus in training for their position. There are regular review and upgrading sessions every so often.

The ambulance is also equipped to care for burn victims and most importantly, Schinbein said, it is equipped to handle back injuries.

Ministry of Health

The McCausland Hospital's Ambulance is owned by the Ministry of Health. Schinbein told the News that prior to 1968 there was a hodgepodge of ambulance services operated by various groups and agencies. In 1968, the Ontario government assumed responsibility for ambulance services in all of Ontario.

In 1968 the Ontario Ministry of Health established standards for funding and services. Now the McCausland Hospital has a licence with the ministry. The ministry provides 100 per cent of the funding as well as the rules and regulations contained in the Ambulance

Act that Schinbein has to abide by. These include training procedures and standard equipment that must be used in the ambulance itself.

North Shore Service

An agreement was reached last April between the Ministry of Health, the McCausland Hospital and the North Shore Ambulance Services Limited that the McCausland Hospital take over the Terrace Bay operation of the service.

The changeover was mainly for "ease of administration," said Schinbein.

Schinbein said that now the two services cover each other if the need arises. If an additional ambulance or even ambulance officers are needed, then each service will assist the other in any way it can.

There are now two ambulances in Terrace Bay. Schreiber has one ambulance but also an Emergency Support Unit (ESU) which Schinbein continued on page 9



Ready to respond

The McCausland Hospital Ambulance Service is ready and waiting for any emergency, says Dave Schinbein, left, manager of the service. With him

are Ambulance Officers Jocelyn Currie and Kathy Papineau, far right. The McCausland Hospital service presently needs more officers.

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The Canadian Red Cross Society

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