



Dave Schinbein, manager of ambulance services for McCausland Hospital and Lori McMaster, a full-time attendant, sit in the back of one of the two ambulances. The service covers the area from the dump road to Little Prairie River and north to the 70 mile point on the Mill Road. Photo by Dave Chmara

# Ambulance service always ready to go

By Dave Chmara

Manager of Ambulance Services for McCausland Hospital, Dave Schinbein, says people should always feel free to call upon the ambulance in the case of an emergency, whether real or perceived.

"People should never be afraid to call the ambulance no matter what the situation is, even if it's a seemingly minor problem," said Schinbein.

He noted if seniors feel the need to go to the emergency department, they can call on the ambulance, and he also mentioned if they have to go to a doctor's appointment and have problems making it in, even then they can call on the ambulance.

Schinbein, who has been manager of ambulance services for the past five-years, said the ambulance responds to a variety of calls - everything from car accidents to patient transfers.

"The air ambulance takes a lot of patients up to Thunder Bay, but if it can't (for example in bad weather) we'll use the ambulance," he said.

Patients are transferred to Thunder Bay to receive more specialized care and in some emergency situations.

Although ambulance drivers can exceed the legal speed limit, they must still abide by the Highway Traffic Act.

Lori McMaster, a full-time ambulance attendant, noted the ambulance must stop at red lights and can only proceed if the way is clear.

Schinbein and McMaster are the only full-time ambulance attendants and Darlene McArthur works part-time. Everyone else who acts as an ambulance attendant is a volunteer.

Schinbein said, "we have

absolute faith in our volunteers. They show a willingness to serve the community and are dedicated to the job.

Jim Chappel and Jocelyn Schinbein are two volunteers who have worked for the ambulance service for a lengthy period of time - about six years each.

"Usually volunteers only stay with the job for about a year," said Schinbein.

The volunteers come from all walks of life and Schinbein said, "they bring their expertise from their other jobs with them when they offer their services as ambulance volunteers."

Other volunteers include Dean Broughton, Kathy Papineau, Moe Stark, Jamie Pollard, Paul Marcon, Len Burns, Carole Broughton, and John Figliomeni. In addition, David Orlesky and Jody Waldenberger are two co-op students working with the ambulance service.

"Other than the hospital auxiliary, we're the only department using volunteers," said Schinbein. He noted it takes about one year of training to become a volunteer and the training is ongoing for both full-time and part-time attendants.

Some of the training which will take place over the next year includes: oxygen therapy, control of bleeding, head and spine injuries, poisoning, and situations involving drugs and/or alcohol, shock, heat and cold.

The ambulance staff meets every second Wednesday for the training and to arrange the on-call schedules. The ambulance department is staffed 24-hours a day with Schinbein and McMaster working during the day, and volunteers being on-call during the nights and on weekends.

While the ambulance is not always out on a call, Schinbein and McMaster keep busy doing a lot of paperwork and performing preventative maintenance on the two ambulances.

In preventative maintenance alone, the ambulance department spends about \$5,000 every year. This figure doesn't include any repairs which may need to be done. Everyday, the vehicles are checked as well as the medical equipment which is contained in the vehicles.

"This assures the vehicle is ready and able to go at a moment's notice," said Schinbein. "The slightest problem is fixed right away."

Schinbein explained the ambulance services provided in Ontario are different than the rest of Canada. Elsewhere, ambulance services are run for a profit, but in Ontario, the provincial government owns and runs ambulance services.

"In Ontario, a private ambulance service only means it's not run by the hospital or a municipality, but by an individual instead," explained Schinbein. "But it's still owned by the government - the service is just contracted out."

Ontario spends more on ambulance services (\$1.8 million per year) than the rest of Canada combined.

The ambulance service at McCausland will be moving to a new building early in the new year. The larger building will house both ambulances (the current one only has room for one) and will also have more office and storage space and a room for training attendants.

Schinbein, who has been in the emergency medical field for 17 years, will be leaving the McCausland Ambulance service at the end of February, 1990. He's moving to Hanover, Ontario, to prepare to take over his father's life insurance business after he retires.

He said, "I've found the job (with the ambulance) to be really exciting and really rewarding and I know I'll miss it."



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

A public meeting will be held at the Rosspport Recreation Hall on January 09, 1990 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. to discuss the closing of the Selim Waste Disposal Site and the alternative sites proposed for this facility.

A total of five sites were looked at in the study area which extends from Pays Plat Reserve eastward to the Zenmac Road also including the southern portions of the Zenmac and Sox Lake Roads.

The proposed waste disposal site will service the residents of Rosspport, Selim, cottage and residential lots at Whitesand Lake, boaters/fishermen utilizing the Rosspport Boat Launching Facilities and Rainbow Falls Provincial Park. These users are invited to participate in this public meeting and provide input into this plan.

The Field Environmental Planning Procedure Documentation for this project will be available at the meeting for your viewing and comments. This project is being planned in accordance with the procedures stipulated under the Environmental Assessment Act.

Any questions or comments concerning these sites should be directed to Will Robinson, Land Management Supervisor, at the following address:

Ministry of Natural Resources  
Terrace Bay District Office  
P.O. Box 280  
Terrace Bay, Ontario  
P0T 2W0  
Telephone: (807) 825-3205



Ministry of / Ministère des  
Natural / Richesses  
Resources / naturelles  
Lyn McLeod / Minister/Ministre

## Back a Fighter with Easter Seals

**Thank you  
McCouan**

We would like to add our personal thanks along with Alice and her family for all the thoughtfulness and kindness extended to us in the passing of our brother Jack.

**Ruth, Earline & Lou  
Earl, George & Families**

## Thank You & Good Bye

Farewell & thank you to all our friends, school mates, co-workers on course at Red Cross & Ontario Hydro for the lovely gifts, lunches, dinners & farewell parties.

Also to the "girls" for the going away party. Although our stay in the area was brief, we had come to know many people & acquaintances.

We will really miss the North Shore hospitality. Merry Christmas & Best Wishes to all for the New Year.

**Jerry, Julie & Matt Wright  
Arthur, Ontario**