

NORTH LEEDS AMBULANCE RECEIVES "PERFECT" INSPECTION

The volunteers of the North Leeds Ambulance Service were pleased and proud recently when a Ministry of Health inspection could not find a single fault with the ambulance or its operation. The Ministry closely supervises all ambulance services to maintain the same high standards across the province, and even professional full-time services may envy such a perfect report.

The Board of Directors of the North Leeds service passed a motion at its last meeting commending Chris Lloyd, co-ordinator, for his work in achieving this high standard. The volunteers are also to be commended for their efforts.

While the Ministry of Health funds the ambulance service, it is operated by a local Board of Directors. Chris Lloyd, EMCA, was hired as full-time co-ordinator in December, 1984, but all the other members are volunteers. The volunteer driver-attendants must have a class F driver's licence, and be trained in first aid, CPR and ambulance procedures. This training is provided by the ambulance service, and there are regular review and upgraded sessions. Many of the volunteers have sought and obtained extra qualifications. The service also provides uniforms, and there is a small honorarium.

North Leeds Ambulance covers an area from Brewer's Mills to Portland, Westport to Delta. A review of calls in the past 8 months shows that 7 calls were done in the Brewer's Mills area, 34 in and around Seeley's Bay, 10 in Morton and Jones Falls, 45 in Elgin and area, 17 between Portland and Forfar, 22 in the Delta-Philipsville area and 23 in and around Lyndhurst. In addition, our service is integrated with neighbouring services through a central dispatch, and has done a total of 30 calls in Gananoque and Kingston areas. Most of these calls are responding to emergencies. The rest are routine transfers of patients from one place to another.

With such a large area to cover, there are at present only 15 active driver-attendants, spread between Seeley's Bay and Elgin. Response times to the ambulance require that volunteers live in this area, or at least be here while on call. When you consider the area to be covered, and the number of calls (the total was 366 for the last fiscal year) you can see the number of volunteers is quite small, especially as the service is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

If you would like to know more about the ambulance service, or may be interested in assisting, you are invited to call Chris Lloyd at 359-1122. Learn more about

the challenge and rewards of participating in your local ambulance service.

The first Annual General Meeting of the North Leeds Volunteer Ambulance Service will held on Tuesday, October 7th at 7:30 p.m. in Hotel Kenney, to elect officers, receive reports and amend the constitution. All past and present volunteers are invited to attend. Contact Chris Lloyd or any of the Directors to register for the dinner. REMEMBER, FOR AMBULANCE EMERGENCY CALLS, THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 1-800-267-0991 OR ask the operator for ZENITH 90,000.

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