

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As 2008 draws to close it is a time to reflect on the importance of the work that we do in support of the Canadian Forces SAR Operations. The Canadian Forces continue to be tasked with heavy overseas commitments, this showed very clearly, when earlier this year CASARA was placed on standby to give assistance in the flood prone areas of the USA. I was extremely proud of the number of personnel who offered their services. It showed very clearly the total dedication of our volunteers.

Our success lies with our ability to develop units and maintain them in the SAR Strategic areas of Ontario. In doing so, we provide the CF with the in-depth coverage it needs in many locations across the province. By maintaining a state of readiness within these units we also, (in many instances), provide multiple SAR platforms, this improves response times and in turn alleviates some of the CF's burden.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of each and every member of CASARA Ontario. As all of you know, it takes many hours of volunteer time to train and maintain a state of Operational Readiness. I attribute our success in this area to your dedication, and to that of solid leadership of your officers. The CASARA Ontario Officers are responsible for safely conducting all aspects of Training, Standards and to maintain that crucial operational status.

Of course, the real story behind our success is that very special gift of each volunteer hour. It's a gift of great value. Each hour spent with CASARA is an hour not spent with family and friends and ones own leisure. For this priceless gift we are truly grateful.

I am extremely proud to have served you over the years, and I speak for the Provincial and National CASARA Executive, when I wish all of you a Very Happy New Year and to be safe on the ground and in the air. 2009 will be a year that we continue to promote Air Safety and remain operationally ready to support the CF in SAR Operations

That Others May Live

John Michael Daniels CD
President
CASARA Ontario

