

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Plane training



Search and Rescue volunteers from throughout the region were in the air and on the ground in late August. Pictured here at the Earlton-Timiskaming Regional Airport are (from left) Paul Pressaco, Wayne Gatien and Rob Zettler, all of Sudbury Search and Rescue, with Lesley Tomblin of the Temiskaming Search and Rescue, which was hosting a search and rescue exercise. They are pictured here with a Cessna 185 used in the exercise. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)

Working together for search and rescue

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP - A large five-part search and rescue training exercise recently took place over Ontario and local search and rescuers were fully involved in the exercise.

CASARA (Civil Air Search and Rescue Association) Ontario had zone units from across the province working on five different training exercises August 23 to 25, and drew the units together to allow volunteers from different units to work together.

The local Temiskaming Search and Rescue (TEMSAR) unit hosted this region's arm of the exercises, and three different sites in the area were set up to challenge the volunteers, both in the air and on the ground, to find them.

Lesley Tomblin is the director of TEMSAR.

She noted that CASARA Ontario has as its objective the aid and assistance of the Department of National Defence in the conduct of search and rescue exercises.

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A mock plane crash was staged in the area and TEMSAR and other search and rescue volunteers attempted to find it over the August 24 weekend. (Supplied photo)

Plane training

Working together for search and rescue

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Their aim is also to promote awareness to Ontario residents that there is an active search and rescue system in Ontario.

The local TEMSAR unit consists of 16 volunteers including Tomblin as the zone director, an assistant director, a training officer, a safety officer, and 12 other volunteers. The group also has a Cessna 182 airplane which they use for search and rescue and training purposes.

In the past year, TEMSAR has also been enjoying the use of its own headquarters at the Earlton Airport, made possible by a Frog’s Breath Foundation grant.

The unit volunteers train together regularly, filling positions of aircrew, ground crew and radio operator.

Those who participate as aircrew include a pilot, navigator and two spotters.

Ground crew members work together in the positions of driver, navigator, radio operator and first aid person.

HOSTED BY TEMSAR

The August 23 to 25 event, known as TEMSAREX, was hosted by TEMSAR and included both air and ground search and rescue exercises, along with academic training.

There were 25 volunteers participating from units including SUDSAR (Sudbury Search and Rescue), North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Edendale’s units.

Tomblin commented after the event that the TEMSAREX “was a major training exercise for CASARA.”

Usually the annual training exercise is held in one location in Ontario, but this year five exercises were held across the province.

TEMSAR had the opportunity to stage mock accident scenes in Kap-Kig-Iwan Provincial Park, one near Twin Lakes, and one in St-Bruno-de-Guigues, Quebec.

At one site, a mock plane was set up in the woods, and a locating device was set off to allow participants an opportunity to track the signal to the site of the mock accident.

In all, three signals were set off so that the participants could attempt to locate the site from the air or from the ground.

“Everybody found what they were supposed to,” Tomblin said of the exercise.

Once the aircrews identified the sites, they were able to direct ground crews to get closer to the location.

While there were no “victims” on the ground for this exercise, at times there are, Tomblin said.

Those mock scenes are set up when the military Hercules airplane is brought in for a search and rescue exercise with the local unit, and SAR-Techs (Search and Rescue technicians, trained as parachutists and in providing first aid) jump from the Hercules to the site below where victims have been located.

The main purpose of the ground crew is to secure the site when they reach it. There could be gasoline or other unsafe hazards at the site, she noted.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

TEMSAR is always looking for volunteers, says Tomblin.

Pilots and other people with a flight background or flying background are especially invited to consider volunteering their skills and time to the search and rescue unit.

Others are also welcome if they know they have the ability to be comfortable in an airplane from which they can scan the ground below in search of missing aircraft or people.

Those interested can go to the CASARA Ontario website where they will find an application form.

“We’ve had eight major search and rescues in Ontario and Quebec this year. I’ve personally been involved in three searches,” said Tomblin.

“As soon as you go out on a search, you say ‘wow, this is what I’ve been training for.’”

CASARA Ontario formed in 1982 and is a not-for-profit corporation.

TEMSAR holds monthly meetings, flight training, ground training and classroom training throughout the year, and participates in integration weekends where CASARA members are sent to Trenton to work during long weekends from May until August as spotters on the Hercules, or to participate in callouts for missing aircraft or people.

CASARA members have participated in military training missions across Canada to all coasts, and are available to be called out at all times to participate in search and rescue exercises, or to provide air crew, ground crew, spotters, administration assistance, or their headquarters as a search base for actual search and rescue situations.

During 2019 TEMSAR members have participated in three actual search and rescue events.

ACROSS THE YEARS

100 YEARS AGO

Taken from the New Liskeard Speaker and Temiskaming News-Letter dated September 11, 1919.

COBALT STRIKES SETTLED

It will be good news to every one to learn that on Monday morning last many of the Cobalt strikers went back to work, while all will go back just as soon as the employers are ready for them. Some of the shafts have been flooded and must be pumped out. A small gang can do work of this kind, but it will not be long before every mine will be in operation.

While we do not wish to espouse the cause of either the employer or the employee, we are quite sure all parties lost a great deal of money through the strike, and it does appear to be quite certain no one made any money out of it. We noticed a statement to the effect that the working men would lose an average of \$250 each because of not being at work, but the mine operators would lose more than this although they could better afford to lose than could the working man. Taking everything into consideration the strike did no good, so far as we can see.

Some of the Cobalt people are inclined to the belief that capitalists will now be more likely to invest in mining stock. They say that this strike had long been talked of, and that capitalists were afraid to invest, but that now they will be assured that there will be no more strikes for a long time.

We hope that common sense will guide both employer and employee in the future, and that should disputes arise, that all parties will submit to the ruling of the Minister of labor. Indeed, we would like to have all parties in Canada agree that the Minister’s ruling should be the law of the land.

PTE. DONALD D. FEE

Pte. Fee, son of the Rev. William Fee, New Liskeard, returned home on Friday, last, from overseas, having served three years and about eight months with the C.A.P.C. Pte. Fee enlisted in Winnipeg on the 23rd of January, 1916. He is the picture of good health, and none the worse for his long service.

THE REFERENDUM VOTE

Monday, October 20, is the date on which the Ontario electors will vote on prohibition referendum, an official announcement was made by Sir William Hearst’s office yesterday. There was no mention of the date of the provincial election in the statement and it was stated by the Prime Minister’s office that the government had not considered when it would go to the people.

THE TRAMP AGAIN WITH US

With the gradual restoration of peace conditions, tramps are reported to be re-appearing on many roads in England. The period of demobilization has mobilized them; after having been mysteriously stabilized during the war, they are once more drifting along their accustomed channels, to the renewed annoyance of the settled population. Their disappearance during the past four or five years has been one of the most curious of the minor social phenomena of the time.

YES OR NO

A prominent lady of one of the cities, who is working hard for temperance, was emphatic in her statement that she would write ‘No’ on the face of her ballot, and this is another illustration of the fact that the best educated are sometimes in the greatest need of being taught how to mark the ballot. Those who do not understand it are likely to vote contrary to what they intended.

75 YEARS AGO

Taken from the September 14, 1944, Temiskaming Speaker.

SIX KILLED, THREE WOUNDED IN LISTS

The deaths on active service of six district men are reported this week, with three others wounded, according to information reaching The Speaker for this issue. The list is:

Killed In Action

PRIVATE D. A. McINTOSH of New Liskeard.

PRIVATE S. A. BURNETT, Dymond Township native.

TROOPER P. S. WAUGH of Harris Township.

TROOPER E. DESORMEAUX of Elk Lake.

PILOT OFFICER A. J. GILLIS of Cobalt.

HARRY LEE, formerly of Charlton.

Wounded

TROOPER B. R. JEMMETT of New Liskeard.

PRIVATE DAVID HAY of Hill’s Lake.

LIEUTENANT E. C. LISCUMB of Haileybury.

In addition to the nine men mentioned above, Flight Sergeant Norman James, son of George James, orderly at the Lady Minto hospital here, has been reported as missing after air operations on August 31. His father first was notified the 25 year old airman had been killed in action, but an official message received by him yesterday from Ottawa corrected this and stated the entire crew of this bomber on which Flight Sergeant James is air gunner was listed as missing. Flight Sergeant James joined the R.C.A.F. a short time after his marriage two years ago to the former Joyce Jackson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Jackson or Noranda. Before enlisting, he was employed at the Noranda mine for some years.

TORPEDOED 5 TIMES DIVE-BOMBED ONCE; SAILOR IS ONLY 19

Nineteen today, and already a veteran of the seas and a survivor of attacks by enemy vessels and planes on six ships of whose crews he had been a member during the past two and a half years, Richard Dubac passed through New Liskeard on Tuesday after-

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