

OUTLINE OF BACKGROUND EVENTS
LEADING UP TO CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION
WITH GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA
May 2006

1994

- Discovery Provincial SAR Meeting held in Rocky Mountain House (handful of SAR teams and government agencies). Disaster Service and RCMP strong proponents of provincial association creation.
- SAR Alberta formed. Disaster Services and RCMP provided non-voting seats at Board meetings and regularly attend.

1995

- SAR Alberta first inaugural meeting held. Monica Ahlstrom elected President.

1996

- Board meetings now regularly held (3-4 a year).

1997

- First SAR Alberta Provincial SAR Conference held in Rocky Mountain House (First real provincial gathering of SAR community).
- Paul Olmstead elected President.

1998

- SAR Alberta co-hosts SARSCENE in Banff (Presence established in national SAR community).
- Dog Issue begins.

1999

- Brett Wuth elected President.
- Paul Olmstead and Brad Marshall submitted request for provincial training funding to Disaster Services.
- Dog Issue Erupts.
- RCMP refuse to entertain provincial MOU with SAR Alberta, instead are pursuing individual arrangements with each SAR Team at the Detachment level.

2000

- Pine Lake Tornado occurs. SAR volunteers attain attention of Minister for Disaster Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs. (*See Pine Lake Tornado Summary attached*)
- Mike Andresen and Brad Marshall submit position to Police Act Review Committee (*see Police Act Review Submission attached*)

2001

- First Training Grant announced in January, with 3 weeks to promote, and get applications in. Training Funding piggybacked on to existing grant being provided to municipalities to enhance fire/disaster training. Tons of problems first year.
- Brad Marshall Elected President (one year terms introduced)
- Brett Wuth and Brad Marshall submit request for Administrative Support funding/position (*see SAR Alberta Admin Stmt of Need attached*)
- September 11, 2001 occurs.

2002

- John Rotheisler becomes President.
- Staff turnover and internal agency politics results in Ken Tryon removed from duty as SAR Alberta liaison. Greg Carter named to position.
- Brad Marshall submits request for meeting with Disaster Services and Solicitor General.
- Greg Carter requests information on reason for meeting.
- Brad Marshall creates Provincial SAR Challenges document and provides to Greg Carter. (*see Provincial Challenges to SAR attached*)
- Greg Carter denies validity of document. (*See Oct 28 email attached*)
- John Rotheisler takes over issue management for SAR Alberta and aggressively responds to denial, raising matter with Disaster Services Executive Director. (*See Oct 29 email attached*)
- Greg Carter back pedals and meeting is back on table (*See Oct 30 email attached*)
- Greg Carter attempts to hijack meeting and get RCMP at the table due to insecurity issues (personal or agency based).
- SAR Alberta confronts Greg Carter on his attempt to usurp SAR Alberta and invite the RCMP to a meeting he isn't hosting. (*See Nov 2002 email attached*)
- Talks stall and meeting never occurs but issue of lead government ministry being discussed at both ministry's executive levels.
- RCMP have a sudden change of mind and want a provincial MOU and quick. SAR Alberta puts interest on hold pending involvement of provincial government. RCMP concerns with provincial government oversight.
- Vice President Ron Grover resigns mid term.

2003

- John Rotheisler and Brad Marshall stay on 1 extra year due to Ron Grover resignation.
- Waterton National Parks expresses interest in a MOU with SAR Alberta.
- RCMP concern with SAR Alberta's efforts to get provincial government involved reach critical mass. Derek Simmonds and Larry Moore travel all the way up to Cold Lake, to meet with John Rotheisler without any other Executive in attendance, to threaten severe consequences if SAR Alberta didn't start coordinating with the RCMP in establishing a provincial MOU. A special MOU committee is formed to explore MOUs with all tasking agencies in province, not just RCMP. MOU Committee stalls soon after.
- Ken Tryon employment with EMA (formerly Disaster Services) concluded under strained circumstances.
- John Rotheisler sends letters to Assistant Deputy Ministers in both Municipal Affairs and Solicitor General, requesting status check on work supposedly underway.

2004

- Meeting with EMA ADM granted, Sol Gen ADM makes vague references to SAR being a RCMP responsibility and blow SAR Alberta off.
- John Rotheisler and Chris Perrier meet with ADM responsible for EMA. High level talks supposedly occurring but no outcomes result.
- Cpl Jim Galloway dies. Dog issue begins to resolve itself.
- Chris Perrier becomes as President
- John Rotheisler Resigns.
- SARSCENE in Calgary becomes main focus of SAR Alberta. EMA rotates various people as liaison to SAR Alberta and has no representation at event.
- Brad Marshall comes back on as Past President for later part of term.
- MOU Committee receive a MOU draft from RCMP, which goes nowhere.

2005

- Chris Perrier Resign as President.
- Ken Tryon becomes President
- Minister for Restructuring and Government Efficiency invited to speak at AGM. Minister was property and small business owner adjacent to Pine Lake Tornado site.
- Follow up meeting with RAGE Minister by Ken Tryon and Brad Marshall. Minister to investigate issue/hold up.
- MOU Committee still in neutral gear.
- EMA rotates various people as liaison to SAR Alberta.

2006

- Ken Tryon resigns as President
- Reese Wolsey becomes President
- EMA Rep Brad Andres identifies at AGM that "high level talks" are occurring.
- RCMP draft MOU identified as too "complex" by RCMP HQ.