



# **East Hants Ground Search & Rescue**

***Bringing Loved Ones  
Home***

# SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

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## ✓ Search & Rescue

*Operationally ready searchers and Search leaders, prepared for whatever challenge comes their way*

## ✓ Resources & Availability

*With over 45 Trained members, Availability becomes second nature, its not just availability we strive for, its also readiness in this forever changing environment.*

## ✓ Community Outreach

*Easter Egg hunts to community center and everything in-between, EHGSAR is made up of local volunteers that thrive on supporting the community*

## ✓ Comfort Center

*EHGSAR manage and maintains a Comfort Center at the Local SAR base, offering a piece of mind when the unknown strikes.*

## ✓ Next Level Community Outreach

*GSAR Offers next level Community outreach & wellness checks such as Project Life Saver, Hug-A-Tree assisting community members proactively, reducing the risk of a missing vulnerable person*



# East Hants GSAR Leadership



## **Elected Organizational Committee**

An elected committee guides decisions and manages resources for effective search and rescue operations.

## **Search Managers**

Search Managers coordinate strategies and logistics during incidents, ensuring smooth operation and resource allocation.

## **Search Leaders**

Search Leaders direct ground teams, implement tactics, and maintain communication with managers for mission success.

## **Searchers**

Searchers are the backbone of GSAR operations, conducting ground searches, evidence tracking, and rescue tasks under the direction of Search Leaders. They are highly trained volunteers who operate in diverse environments and conditions to safely locate and assist missing persons.

# East Hants Ground Search & Rescue Operations

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2292

*Search Hours*

5302

*Volunteer Hours*

10

*Searches*

12

*Community Events*

**2025 Snapshot**

# Previous 5-Year Plan Overview

## 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Internet at Base  
(Recurring)

Alarm System (Recurring)

Turnout Gear (Recurring)

Command & Logistic

First Aid Training

Training TV

Laptops

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

Training Room

Office Room

Transport Vehicle

GPSs

## 5<sup>th</sup> Year

Cement Slab

Rewiring Plugs Outside

Argo/ Remote Rescue





## 5-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS!

- Built a logistics and command bus
- Acquired turnout gear (2019 & 2025)
- Updated GPSs
- purchased two support vehicles and equipment trailers
- Adopting a drone program!
- replacement of expired PFDs
- Acquisition of ATVs for enchan's field support.
- Radio Updated

### **Significant upgrades to the Community Hall with;**

- Installation of Comfort Center generator
- Modernized training room
- Upgraded heating systems
- New computers, training projectors & TV's

# Adapting Search and Rescue

## Environmental Challenges

Unpredictable weather and shifting landscapes create new obstacles for Search and Rescue operations across Canada.

## Technology Enhancements

Tools like drones and digital mapping increase the operational reach and efficiency of Search and Rescue teams.

## Adapting to Expectations

Organizations must evolve to meet public expectations and ensure timely support for communities in need.





## Changing Environment Is Transforming Search and Rescue

**Search and Rescue teams are operating in a world that looks very different from even a decade ago.**

**Environmental shifts, new technologies influence how we prepare, respond, to support our regions. Understanding these changes helps us stay ahead of emerging risks and maintain the high standard of service our communities rely on.**

# Investments & Technology



Responding to climate change, GSAR is now investing in water rescue, remote rescue tools, drones, advanced technology, and training.



Significant R&D into mapping and communication technology to improve field effectiveness.



The SAR facility has been modernized to serve as a comfort center during disasters and outages.



# Upgraded Comfort Center

## Enhanced Emergency Facility

The rescue base is enhanced to serve as a comfort center, supporting the community during emergencies and crises.

## Reliable Power Supply

A new generator guarantees consistent power, keeping the center operational in all situations and outages.

## Rapid Response Readiness

The base is equipped to launch rescue operations and offer immediate support to the community whenever needed.

# East Hants GSAR: Diversity in Action



## Inclusive Volunteer Team

The team welcomes volunteers from all backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of the local community and fostering inclusiveness.



## Adaptability For Varied Terrain

GSAR operates across forests and rural landscapes, requiring flexible skills and specialized training in every part of the mission, from computer technology to forestry



## Strengthening Teamwork

Their inclusive approach enhances teamwork, improving effectiveness and helping them serve the entire community.

# Partnerships & Mutual Aid

East Hants Ground Search and Rescue recognizes that a single team can't always meet every challenge alone. Effectiveness depends on strong partnerships, shared skills, and the ability to operate seamlessly with neighboring agencies. That's why we place a high value on joint training opportunities that build our collective capacity to respond



**Supporting One Another Through Mutual Aid to bring the communities closer together**

# Unlocking GSAR Potential

## Expanding Remote Rescue Services

Enhancing GSAR's capabilities in remote rescue operations can save lives in inaccessible areas of East Hants.

## Natural Disaster Relief Support

GSAR's increased role in disaster relief provides essential aid and support during community emergencies and crises.

## Community Outreach and Education

By improving outreach and education, GSAR can foster strong local partnerships and better community preparedness.

## Psychological First Aid

Trained by, A.S.I.S.T East Hants GSAR offers **Psychological First Aid**, giving GSAR teams a structured, evidence-informed way to recognize and stabilize individuals experiencing **Psychological** distress during search operations.



# Proactive Community Outreach with Project Lifesaver & Hug-A-Tree

## Project Lifesaver Nova Scotia

- ▶ Supports individuals at risk of wandering
- ▶ Uses radio-frequency bracelets for rapid location
- ▶ Dramatically reduces search time and increases safety
- ▶ East Hants GSAR provides trained responders and specialized tracking equipment

## Hug-A-Tree & Survive

- ▶ Teaches children what to do if lost outdoors
- ▶ Key messages: **Stay put, stay warm, be visible, help searchers**
- ▶ Reduces panic and improves outcomes during searches



## Community Impact

Enhances safety for vulnerable individuals and families  
Strengthens partnerships with schools, caregivers, and first responders  
Promotes proactive education and prevention across East Hants

We Appreciate and  
Looking Forward to  
your Continued  
Support

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