Come join us at the
Annual General Meeting.
Monday May 16, 2016
3:00 – 6:00pm
Location: PriceWaterHouse Coopers 250 Howe St, Vancouver BC
Report to 7th floor reception for meeting room location.
RSVP to info@epicc.org

Something fun you can take part in!

Pet Preparedness 
Twitter Photo Contest

Tweet your best pet preparedness photos to @PreparedBC and you could win! From May 9, 2016 to May 20, 2016, PreparedBC is encouraging you to take a photo of your pet with an emergency-related tagline and tweet it to @PreparedBC. On May 21, the top five photos will be selected and the winners will receive a starter emergency kit from PreparedBC.

Emergency Leader: Dual Helping Careers

GRANGER WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE LAKESIDE QUICK RESPONSE UNIT. AT THE TIME THERE WAS NO FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM.

When an emergency strikes in the Flathead Valley, Mary Granger may or may not be physically present at the scene, but it is very likely that Granger somehow has a hand in keeping folks safe.

Granger retired as the Flathead County Emergency Medical Services manager in April. The six-year stint was a second career for Granger after working 33 years as a school teacher.

“I’ve been on this adventure since 1980 when I took a first-aid class and this is really the culmination of that adventure,” Granger said of her retirement.

Granger was one of the founding members of the Lakeside Quick Response Unit. At the time there was no first responder program in Lakeside, which sometimes meant waiting a long time for emergency personnel to arrive from Kalispell or Polson.

After the first-aid class, Granger was hooked.

She became an emergency medical technician and volunteered with the Quick Response Unit. She eventually became an instructor for the EMT class in 1986 and she estimates that she has taught around 400 emergency personnel. She plans to teach her last class in September.

“It’s been really rewarding to see the students and see them go back to their communities and volunteer to be a responder, but some of them also went on to be paramedics and some of them even went on to be
“doctors or nurses,” Granger said.

“It sparked their interest.”
Granger said her two careers paralleled each other.

“When you are a teacher, you are there to help people,” Granger said. “When you are an emergency responder, you are there to help people. It’s just a different way of helping. The teaching blended over into the medical part of it and it was just natural that I would end up teaching the adults how to do this.”

After she retired as a teacher in 2004, Granger took six years off, but still volunteered as an EMT. In 2010 she made the decision to further her education and become a certified paramedic, which required two years of schooling at Flathead Valley Community College.

“Lakeside didn’t have paramedics and didn’t have access to advanced life support,” Granger said. “Kalispell was becoming less able to do our transports for us.”

At the same time, county officials had decided to create an Emergency Medical Services coordinator to help manage the many emergency response units in Flathead County. Granger’s predecessor lasted a few months on the job. She ended up setting the bar for the position.

“We would create a standard of care that would be uniform throughout the county so if you got injured you would receive the same type of care in one part of the county as if you got injured in the other part of the county,” Granger said. “At the time that was not the case.”

Dr. Richard Briles, the county medical director who supervised Granger, said Granger’s work has been impressive.

“Mary was the nuts and bolts of this thing,” Briles said. “It’s like if Apple lost Steve Jobs. That’s sort of what you are faced with here. It would be hard to make it better.”

In her position, Granger helped train responders, improve communications between separate response units and created a budgeting process of equitable disbursement of money.

“You’ll never find anybody say an ill word about Mary,” Briles said. “She will be missed and not only because of her competence, but I will miss her more than anything just because I enjoyed my relationships with her as a friend and a colleague. She will be dearly missed.”

Briles also pointed out the hard work Granger put in to get her paramedic certification in 2010 while working full-time as Emergency Medical Services coordinator.

“Mary would put in her hours all day at the office at the 911 building then at one o’clock in the morning there would be an ambulance coming in from Lakeside with Mary on board,” Briles said. “I don’t think she slept for two years. It’s just incredible what that woman has accomplished.”

Kalispell Fire Chief Dave Dedman echoed the praise handed down by Briles.

“Her dedication to this valley is what’s always impressed me — countless, countless hours of volunteering and course instruction and just being a true EMS leader for the valley,” Dedman said. “She’s been involved for 35 years. When I started 20 years ago, she was one of the senior people I looked up to and she’s still at it.”

Lakeside QRU President Brian Reed said Granger’s expertise as a paramedic is a great asset to the town of Lakeside, where there are very few certified paramedics.

“She’s a pretty amazing lady,” Reed said. “The service she is able to perform is just great.”

Granger intends to keep serving the community as a paramedic. By retiring a second time she will be able to volunteer during the daytime, when it’s hardest to round up volunteer responders who often have full-time jobs of their own.

Reference for this article www.dailyinterlake.com

Reporter: Megan Strickland
mstrickland@dailyinterlake.com
Do you want to help BC prepare for the “Big One?”

The Province and Emergency Management BC are planning an earthquake and tsunami response exercise for June 7-10, 2016, in Port Alberni called Exercise Coastal Response.

To make this exercise as real as possible for the teams involved, they’re asking for the public’s help! This is a great opportunity to be up close and personal with international urban search and rescue and emergency social services teams.

They are looking for people to volunteer in two categories:

- Medical patients: You will work with first responders and Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR). You will be treated to a medical makeover with movie quality makeup artists and given a patient care script to follow during the course of your treatment.
- Emergency social service (ESS) clients: You will work with ESS teams located at reception and housing centres and represent those in need of shelter, food and water.

At the end of your volunteer service you will receive a letter of recognition for your role in the exercise.

They are not only looking for people, but material as well. Their volunteer co-ordination team would like to hear about anything that can enhance the realism of the exercise including: boats, trucks or even junk that can help with Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) training.

For further clarification on what they are specifically looking for in terms of material and volunteer support, please call 250 720-2709 or email portalberni2016@gmail.com

Interesting Article

FORT MCMURRAY DONATIONS AT BC LIQUOR STORES TRIPLE OVER WEEKEND

From the Province of BC

Close to a quarter of a million dollars have been donated by British Columbians at BC Liquor Stores for Fort McMurray wildfire relief efforts.

In just five days, the total amount raised rings in at over $240,000 – and British Columbians are encouraged to keep donating in increments of $2, $5 or greater to continue helping their neighbours in Alberta.

The funds raised will go directly to helping the Red Cross provide necessary emergency relief and assistance, as Alberta recovers and rebuilds from the effects of the devastating wildfires. This will continue to build on the $300,000 donation Premier Christy Clark announced on May 6, 2016, from the Government of British Columbia to the Canadian Red Cross to support relief efforts.

British Columbians who wish to contribute to the
continuing to make a donation at a BC Liquor Store, or by donating directly to the Canadian Red Cross. Call toll-free to 1 800 418-1111 or donate online: http://ow.ly/YQT7300Q5s

Quotes:

Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business, Red Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch

“We have seen an overwhelming amount of support from British Columbians as the people of Fort McMurray look to recover from the devastating fires. Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to helping our neighbours in Alberta.”

Blain Lawson, general manager and CEO, Liquor Distribution Branch –

“In just five days, British Columbians have shown immense generosity and demonstrated that small individual contributions can really add up to make a big difference. Every dollar counts. Our partnership with the Red Cross continues, and I encourage our customers to continue opening their hearts and lending a helping hand, however they can, for our friends in Fort McMurray.”

Quick Facts:

• BC Liquor Stores’ customers and employees have supported Red Cross disaster relief for humanitarian crises at home and abroad since 2003, when stores first collected donations to support victims affected by catastrophic wildfires raging in British Columbia.
• Since then, more than $2 million has been raised for Red Cross humanitarian crises in Nepal, Haiti, Pakistan, Japan, Africa and Syria, as well as for disaster relief efforts in New Orleans and Alberta.
• In 2013, BC Liquor Stores collected more than $170,000 for Alberta Flood Relief.

Learn More:

Learn more about the BC Liquor Stores partnership with the Red Cross to support Fort McMurray: http://www.bcliquorstores.com/promotion/red-cross-emergency-relief-fort-mcmurray-alberta-fires
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