

St. John Ambulance Acquires new Gator & Trailer for Emergency Response

May 10, 2011, Mississauga – St. John Ambulance has announced the acquisition of a First Aid Gator transport unit and a Command Centre Trailer which will be rolled out at their annual Volunteer & Community Partner Appreciation event on May 18th. This equipment will enhance the Branch's ability to respond to illness and injury situations at public events and provide support to local emergency services in cases of disaster.

Although the Branch's Bicycle Emergency Services Team (BEST) is an excellent resource that can rapidly access patients, they had been unable to offer transport for patients who became incapacitated. Gators, specially equipped with full size ambulance stretchers can easily navigate crowded areas, transport up or down hills and ravines and access off road areas to facilitate a timelier handoff to Emergency Medical Services. The Gator's partner, a 20' Haulin Trailer will be used to transport the Gator to local events, but it is also equipped for double duty - to be a First Aid Post or a Command Centre for large scale events or disasters.

"Having the Gator with a med-bed as part of our vehicle team is very important for the Mississauga community, said Dianne Rende, Executive Director St. John Ambulance, Mississauga. "In the past we have had to borrow units from neighbouring St. John Ambulance teams when we attended events such as the Mississauga Marathon. Availability could not always be guaranteed. With the increase in events happening in the city each year, having our own equipment will prove to be an invaluable addition. We are incredibly grateful to our supporters who made this possible."

- Photo Op-

Roll-Out and Presentation of First Aid Gator & Trailer Transport Units

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 6:30 p.m.

By Executive Director, Dianne Rende

at

Vic Johnston Community Centre

355 Church Street, Streetsville,

For 125 years, St. John Ambulance has been training over 140,000 Ontarians annually in first aid and other health care related courses and remains dedicated to saving lives at work, home and play. With over 4,000 volunteers contributing over half a million hours of community service a year, St. John Ambulance is an integral part of the community offering such unique and innovative programs as; medical first response, disaster response, car seat clinics, health and safety related youth programs and therapy dog services. As a charitable, non-denominational, humanitarian organization, proceeds from St. John Ambulance's first aid training and first aid product sales directly support these vital community services programs. For more information on St. John Ambulance training courses and volunteer opportunities or to contact your local branch, visit www.sja-mississauga.ca.

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