What's New, What's Next, What's Up at Stars

Stars Air Medical Team Receives International Award

Adrenaline flowing and sweat dripping, a Stars air medical team of two persevered through a stressful medical scenario in October, 2011 to win an international award called the METI Cup in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Stars Grande Prairie based team, consisting of Sherry Gauthier, flight nurse, and Dave Allison, flight paramedic, competed in three different scenarios to ultimately take the win over the other top two teams from Florida and Michigan.

“In the final simulation, we were initially called out for a pregnant woman who was giving birth to slightly premature twins,” said Allison, but the situation took a twist when the pilot in the mock scenario developed chest pains. “When the pilot decided he couldn’t fly anymore, we made a crash landing in the middle of nowhere.”

Allison wore headphones during the entire 22 minute exercise to simulate loss of hearing while Gauthier had to work with one arm tied in front of her to replicate a broken arm, as the team worked in the make-shift aircraft on stage in front of 300 spectators.

Eleven teams from across North America attended this event. The objective of the competition is to enhance patient care in the air medical industry through realistic scenarios on human patient simulators.

“Participating in this competition gives us an opportunity to showcase the skills our teams have developed,” said Mike Lamacchia, Stars VP, Alberta operations and chief clinical officer. “The successful outcome is a true testament to the education and training we provide for our air medical crew. We have a strong emphasis on training at Stars and these types of exercises enable our crews to be well prepared for the critical injuries they will encounter when caring for real patients.”
HORIZONS

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

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Please visit STARS.CA for more information about STARS and our activities. For your convenience, online donations to STARS can also be made through our website. Thank you for your interest and support!

STARS PREPARES FOR A NEW ERA WITH INCREASED ACCESS TO CARE

DR. GREG POWELL, O.C.
Chief Executive Officer
STARS and STARS Foundation

In a few short weeks, STARS will be opening our first base in the province of Saskatchewan. This has only been possible through incredible corporate support, strong partnerships with government and emergency medical services, and the perseverance and dedication of our own STARS team. All of us have a common objective of enhancing patient care and putting time on the side of critically ill and injured patients.

In preparing for this momentous milestone, our STARS team has gone above and beyond in every aspect to make sure the first base in Regina is operational this April. This includes our engineers who have ensured a newly purchased BK117 helicopter is appropriately modified for air ambulance service, our fundraising team that has built key partnerships with community-minded donors, and our air medical and aviation trainers who have worked with our new pilots, flight nurses and flight paramedics to familiarize them with STARS best practices and our unique culture.

Our Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie bases have been very busy over the past few months, as we’ve been supporting our new team members and providing them the opportunity to witness our veteran crews in action and experience the camaraderie that makes us a “STARS family.”

In addition to the Saskatchewan team members who have recently joined us, we have also welcomed many new team members from Manitoba, where we’ve been operating since the 2011 spring floods.

We are excited to have signed a 10-year affiliation agreement with the province of Manitoba on February 22 to continue providing helicopter emergency medical service. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with Manitoba’s air and land ambulance fleet to assist in the provision of advanced patient care and transport in that province. To date, we have responded to more than 150 medical emergencies since arriving in Manitoba in April, 2011.

In other STARS news, anticipation grows for the arrival of the first AW139 helicopter in Edmonton this year. We appreciate the incredible support and patience of our donors as we have experienced some delays with certification and installation of the medical interior.

STARS is working with partners to develop a brand-new medical interior to suit our specific needs, including the specialized equipment used to care for the critically ill and injured patients we transport. A medical interior of this kind has never been made for an AW139 helicopter.

As you will read in this newsletter, we are now flying more than ever, with an average of five patient care missions per day. We are proud of the contribution we are making to patient care. We sincerely appreciate our valued donors who continue to help us make a difference in many lives, every day.
STARS UTILIZES LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS FOR PATIENT CARE

Thousands of feet in the air, the STARS air medical team used the latest technology to expedite efficient patient care upon arrival at a Calgary hospital for a critically injured skier, airlifted from eastern British Columbia.

Flight nurse Graham Newton explained the unique situation in which the team used a portable ultrasound and an iPhone to get critical diagnostic information about the patient to the physician at the Foothills Medical Centre.

“When we performed an ultrasound on the patient, it showed there was a large amount of fluid in the abdomen. This in combination with the patient’s deteriorating clinical condition made us very concerned that an internal injury was causing uncontrolled bleeding. Without rapidly transporting the patient directly to where it could be treated, the outcome could have been disastrous,” said Newton.

“Cam Bell, the STARS paramedic on the mission, said this type of technology is increasingly being utilized in health care to save lives.

“The cell phone technology that we are carrying on our hips, in integration with the advanced technologies on the aircraft, had a big impact on this particular patient,” said Bell, adding that there are broader implications for patient care.

“Our referral emergency physicians don’t have to be sitting in front of a computer to receive critical diagnostic tests in real time,” he said. “This connectivity decreases the timelines of data transfer, allowing for specialty teams to be mobilized to do critical intervention to save lives.”

The portable ultrasounds have been available for missions since 2009, while the iPhones were added more recently to replace previously used tools that included a digital camera, a cell phone and a palm pilot that contained all of the reference material for medical control guidelines.

“Development of these technologies is exciting and has made a significant difference in patient outcomes,” said Newton.

“SLIDE 6”

SHARE YOUR STORY:
We appreciate hearing from our Very Important Patients (VIPs) and their families. If you’re interested in sharing your unique experience as a STARS patient, please contact:
Leanne Rekiel
403-516-4819
vip@stars.ca
George Gosbee
Chairman, President & CEO of AltaCorp Capital Inc.
“To this day when I see a helicopter fly overhead I know the importance of STARS and happily I can contribute to that.”
• Rescue team supporter: From Karen Gosbee “As much as I would like him to stay up there, I need him to drive the boys to hockey the next morning!!”

Fred Green
President & CEO of Canadian Pacific
“It is reassuring that STARS is available 24/7 to respond, if needed, with appropriate medical care and deliver a critically ill or injured patient in the timeliest way possible.”
• Rescue team supporter: From STARS IT Team “We don’t want you to have to stay up there all alone. Thank you for taking on this challenge.”

Craig Stewart
Executive Chairman of RMP Energy Ltd.
“I have been supporting STARS for many years, both as a donor and as a volunteer. I believe we all need to support STARS’ life saving work.”
• Rescue team supporter: From Bruce McFarlane “I know he can’t read a compass so I thought I’d better help!”

Kevin Neveu
President & CEO of Precision Drilling Corporation
“I often see the red STARS helicopter speeding out and back a few minutes later. My first thought is one of serious concern for the victim, then I remind myself that person is receiving the best care possible.”
• Rescue team supporter: From PV Fluid Products Ltd “We hope you get off the mountain before dark!”

Bill McCaffrey
President & CEO of MEG Energy Corp.
“I understand that STARS responds to over 100 industry emergencies per year – it just makes sense that I support an initiative that is there for our employees and all communities in Alberta and Eastern BC.”
• Rescue team supporter: From Northgate Industries “If you see a bear remember to stop, drop and roll. Or is that when you are on fire? I know it works for one or the other!”

Don MacDonald
Chairman of Sanjel Corporation
“I believe that if we are going to ask STARS to assume this responsibility and be there to respond when we need them, it is our responsibility to do everything we can to ensure they have the resources to do so.”
• Rescue team supporter: From Anonymous “Good luck Grandpa!”

What began as a unique and novel idea quickly turned into the largest one-day fundraiser in the history of STARS. Over $1.3 million was raised for STARS through CEO Rescue in the Rockies, an event that saw five prominent CEOs dropped off by helicopters in the wilderness only to be rescued when they individually raised $100,000.

George Gosbee, Craig Stewart, Kevin Neveu, Bill McCaffrey and Don MacDonald were flown to Kananaskis on September 1, 2011 and spent four hours on a mountain working diligently to get back to civilization. The five executives, along with Canadian Pacific CEO Fred Green who was unable to attend, managed to use their networking skills as a survival tool to acquire $1.33 million in donations from 705 supporters, well beyond their $100,000 individual targets.

“The enthusiasm and competitive spirit of these participants helped them to make a transformational difference for STARS,” says Erin Sharp, director with the STARS Foundation. “STARS is sincerely grateful for their passion and commitment.”

Their excitement for the task at hand was apparent once the helicopter landed and the CEOs began competing to see who could produce the highest donation totals. They scrambled to find perches with the best cell phone reception to make calls, negotiating with those on the other side of the line to rescue them from the wilderness by supporting STARS. Pledges were allowed to be collected in the days leading up to the event and the $1 million mark had already been reached even before landing in the wild.

George Gosbee, CEO of AltaCorp Capital Inc., helped champion the event and aided in the recruitment of the other CEOs. He now refers to the experience as his “fundraising high.”

STARS is actively recruiting for the next CEO Rescue in the Rockies, which will now be an annual event. Sharp says that September 2012 will see more friendly competition and teamwork among a new group of CEOs. “It is STARS’ investment in innovation that allows for unique fundraisers such as this to be possible.”

If you are a CEO and are interested in participating in 2012, please contact Gurpreet Lail at 403-516-4835.
STARS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

STARS will soon unveil a new version of our website. An important tool for connecting us with the community, visit www.stars.ca to learn more about our programs, find out about upcoming events and donate to STARS with a click of your mouse. Here are just a few features from the new site:

**ACTIVITY MAP** • You may be surprised to find out how often we visit your community. The activity map shows some of our recent missions, community events and outreach activities. 
*Near the bottom of the main page.*

**VIP STORIES** • The stories shared by our VIPs (Very Important Patients) are a tremendous inspiration to all of us at STARS, and we hope you enjoy them as well.
*On the menu, click on What we do > Our VIPs*

**EVENT LISTINGS** • Each year, hundreds of events are held across Western Canada to raise funds and community awareness for STARS. Check out our listings to find one to attend.
*On the menu, click on News and Events > Upcoming events*

**HISTORY SLIDESHOW** • Since STARS lifted off for the first time in 1985, we’ve been collecting photographs and memories. See some notable highlights from our history on this interactive timeline.
*On the menu, click Who we are > History*

**HELICOPTER RANGE MAPS** • Just how far can our helicopters fly in an hour? Check out these range maps to find out the answer!
*On the menu, click Who we are > Where we serve*

**NEWS** • There’s always something going on at STARS, and we want to keep you in the loop! Visit our news section to read our latest stories.
*On the menu, click News and Events*

**SOCIAL MEDIA**
In addition to our website, you can connect with us through a number of social media websites:

- **Twitter**
  www.twitter.com/#!/STARSambulance
  Short, timely updates from STARS including details on the missions we are currently flying or important news about the organization.

- **Facebook**
  www.facebook.com/STARSairambulance
  Important updates from our team as well as posts from our supporters. We love to see former patients tell their stories or hear recaps from events. Our Facebook page is a great way to connect with fellow STARS supporters.

- **YouTube**
  www.youtube.com/starsairambulance
  Videos... and lots of them! You’ll find everything from VIP stories, anecdotes from our crew members, news pieces, public awareness segments... you can even see footage of our night vision goggles in use.

**DID YOU KNOW**
STARS was an early adopter of the Internet. We first launched our web presence back in the spring of 1998. To put this in perspective, Google was founded as a company months later.
ROSS MANERING
Volunteering runs in the family

STARS has 515 volunteers who enthusiastically donate their time in various ways, and Ross Manering has been doing so for about 13 years.

He volunteers in the Calgary area, where one of the primary annual events that relies on the assistance of about 100 volunteers is the STARS & SPURS Gala.

At this year’s gala, Manering assisted with the silent auction and the sweet deal fundraiser. At other events, he sells 50/50 tickets and provides general information about STARS.

“STARS is such a good cause,” said Manering. “You never know when you or anyone you know will need it.”

Volunteering seems to run in the Manering family, as his mom, Lauretta, is also a volunteer at STARS and encouraged her son to get involved all those years ago. He has enjoyed it ever since.

“It’s amazing how important STARS has become in the city, surrounding areas and now the provinces around us,” he said.

Interested in becoming a STARS volunteer? Email volunteer@stars.ca

• The Grande Prairie base opens for operations in November 2006.
• On December 1, 2006 STARS Grande Prairie hosts its official grand opening and gets its first call during the celebrations.
• New helipad opens at Queen Elizabeth II Regional Hospital on December 7, 2007.
• During the helipad ribbon cutting ceremony in minus 45 degree weather, more than 250 supporters witness first hand, a life saving mission.
• STARS moves to a new hangar on October 8, 2010.
• STARS celebrates 25 years of service to Alberta in 2010.
• 1st Annual GPPA Hangar Dance is a huge fundraising success on January 15, 2011.
• STARS’ Grande Prairie base commemorates five years of operations with an open house celebration in December, 2011.
• A total of 1,254 missions have been carried out in Grande Prairie as of December 31, 2011.
Not every call into the STARS Emergency Link Centre (STARS ELC) requires the helicopter to be dispatched. Sometimes, it’s a matter of facilitating a “neighbour helping neighbour” approach, as was the case recently.

When a young hunter was separated from his group, he happened upon a Husky Energy remote site registration sign that had an emergency number and legal land description. He made an emergency call which was received by the STARS ELC, who also responds to calls placed to the Husky emergency line.

STARS communications specialists Lindsay Coates and Heather Cook took the call and asked the hunter to remain where he was.

“We called neighbouring sites and found one staffed with medically trained personnel. They were able to go to him until we were able to connect him back to his group,” said Coates. “He was fine. He didn’t require medical attention and he was reunited with his group quite quickly.”

STARS currently has over 4,000 remote industry sites registered and responded to 93 registered sites in 2011 for medical emergencies. The STARS ELC was established in 1996 and is a 24-hour multi-functional communications centre.
Driving home to Calgary from Saskatoon on the August long weekend in 1997, Stu Wilson was just east of Hanna on Highway 9 when he saw a vehicle headed straight for him. He recalled thinking he might be able to avoid the car by quickly getting into the other lane, but by that point it was too late.

“You hear stories about how time stands still, and it really did that for me,” he explained. Wilson had travelled the road many times and knew instantly that he couldn’t take the ditch because it was so steep.

“I remember hitting the brakes and starting to turn,” said Wilson. “The sound of the impact will always be with me.”

He regained consciousness shortly after the head-on collision in which the occupants of the other vehicle were killed on impact. As first responders arrived, he told them that perhaps STARS might be required, and they told him the helicopter was already on its way.

Wilson was taken by ground ambulance to the Hanna Hospital where physicians started to drain the fluid from his collapsed lung before STARS arrived to transport him to the Foothills Medical Centre.

“I remember saying ‘this is some way to get a ride in a helicopter,’” said Wilson. “I don’t remember the flight but I do recall getting out of the helicopter and into emergency and feeling thankful to get there.”

When he awoke from surgery he was told that he might lose his right foot, which had been badly damaged in the crash. In addition, his left heel bone was shattered and he suffered from many broken ribs and a fractured humerus. He did not lose his foot but spent significant time recovering from his injuries.

Coincidentally, Wilson’s parents were travelling in the opposite direction at the time of his accident, heading back home to the family farm in Saskatchewan. He is grateful he had recently purchased a new truck that his parents did not recognize as they drove right past the scene of his collision.

In 2011, Wilson decided to visit the Calgary base and still recognized the flight nurse who cared for him all those years ago.

Today, Wilson proudly wears a STARS red ring for life, purchases an annual STARS calendar, is a monthly donor and is very pleased that STARS is opening two bases in his home province of Saskatchewan in 2012!
MOSAIC DONATES $5.5 MILLION TO STARS IN SASKATCHEWAN

STARS will begin transporting critically ill and injured patients in southern Saskatchewan this spring, thanks in large part to generous donors like The Mosaic Company.

With a $5.5 million donation to funding a hangar and BK117 helicopter, based out of Regina, the company has reaffirmed its commitment to the safety of its employees in Saskatchewan, more than half of whom live in rural settings.

“Safety is an important part of our corporate culture,” said Brad DeLorey, director of public affairs at Mosaic. “By continuing to support instrumental programs like STARS, we are committed to enhancing the quality of life for our employees and the communities in which they live.”

In addition to continued investment in its employees, DeLorey said Mosaic is proud to help contribute to a program that will provide better, more timely access to medical services – especially in the event of an emergency.

“As a proud part of the Saskatchewan landscape, we are dedicated to helping provide the people of this province with the best medical services possible, services that will ultimately save lives.”

Mosaic has a long and proud history of supporting health initiatives in Saskatchewan, including the creation of Regina’s Mosaic Heart Centre, partnering with the Town of Esterhazy for its St. Anthony’s Hospital revitalization project and providing ongoing support for the development of the first children’s hospital in the province.

“We look at opportunities where we can continue to be good corporate citizens, where we can help communities and their residents,” DeLorey explained. “It’s exciting for a company like Mosaic, with a long history in this province, to develop a special relationship with STARS, one that will enable us to provide a new service to the people of Saskatchewan.”

Rod Gantefoer, executive vice president of the STARS Foundation, said it’s inspiring to see a company embrace a program that will not only benefit their employees, but the greater community as well.

“Helicopter air ambulance is going to make a difference in the lives of Saskatchewan residents and we are grateful for Mosaic’s incredible support as we embark on this exciting new initiative.”

The Mosaic Company is one of the world’s leading producers and marketers of concentrated potash and phosphate crop nutrients. The company has three potash mines in southern Saskatchewan, including the world’s largest mine in Esterhazy.

COUNTDOWN TO SASKATCHEWAN LAUNCH

STARS will soon open its first Saskatchewan base in Regina, followed by a Saskatoon base in the fall. Following the announcement with the Government of Saskatchewan last year, the STARS team has been busy building the program.

OUTREACH

• The STARS team has been on the road in Saskatchewan conducting informational outreach sessions and landing zone training.

• More than 140 sessions have been held to date, with more planned.

FUNDRAISING

• Funding for the STARS program in Saskatchewan is being met through a collaborative agreement with the provincial government, as well as through donations.

• STARS in Saskatchewan is possible with the generous financial support from corporate partners, including Crescent Point Energy, Mosaic Potash, PotashCorp, Enbridge, Enerplus, Husky, Rawlco Radio and Graham Construction.
MISSION ACTIVITY ON THE RISE AT STARS

STARS has been flying more missions across the province of Alberta over the past few months, and the trend does not seem to be slowing down.

Mike Potter, pilot and STARS director of flight operations, said the increase is equally distributed between scene calls and inter-hospital transfers.

“There’s been an increase in both mission requests and in missions flown,” said Potter. “Missions have been on the rise since last summer and we continue to have some of the busiest months on record. In 2011, we flew 1655 missions in Alberta, which is up quite significantly over our 2010 stats.”

Potter said of the three Alberta bases, Edmonton has seen the most activity, logging a total of 770 missions in 2011, in comparison to 569 in Calgary and 316 in Grande Prairie. Another 162 missions occurred from the newest base in Winnipeg, taking the total to 1817.

Corinne Edwards, flight nurse and Edmonton base director, commented on one particular day when the Edmonton crew responded to five missions in a time-frame spanning just over 24 hours.

“It started at 1:22 a.m. with a call to Viking for a teenager involved in a motor vehicle collision,” said Edwards. “The second call at 8:55 a.m. was a medical call in Westlock.”

A new crew came on at that time and was dispatched to an afternoon call to Barrhead for a pediatric patient. Another mission to Barrhead for a motor vehicle collision occurred at about 11 p.m. The crew returned to the Edmonton base shortly after midnight, only to be out again at 1:56 a.m. for a medical emergency in Hinton.

“In August of 2011, we had six days with four or more flights,” said Edwards. “Summer is frequently a busier time for us, but even in January we had higher volume.”

Potter said the first weekend of January, 2012 saw a total of 25 missions including seven from Calgary, nine from Edmonton, seven from Grande Prairie and two from the Winnipeg base.
THIN ICE AND THE IMPACTS ON YOUR SAFETY

As all Canadians are well aware, even in the spring, icy conditions contribute to motor vehicle collisions, and STARS air medical crew frequently respond to these horrific scenes. These tragedies could be avoided if drivers modified their driving behaviour (speed and attention), delayed departure or selected an alternative route.

Tragically, hundreds of Canadians die each year in water-related fatalities. Authorities claim that an average of 200 people per year die as a result of cold-water immersion and more than half of these deaths occur during recreational activities, the most common of which is fishing. In a 10-year review of ice immersion deaths in Canada, the largest number of these tragedies occurred in the Prairies.

Falling through ice on frozen bodies of water can cause severe injury or death from drowning or hypothermia. When hunting, fishing, snowmobiling or walking on frozen lakes or rivers, use extreme caution to prevent falling into the very cold water.

Spring weather also brings hazardous conditions to bodies of water in the form of ice floes. Individuals who venture too far out during spring break-up are risking becoming trapped and adrift. STARS has participated in tragic scenarios where stranded victims have perished due to cold-water exposure, heart attacks, drownings and ice crush injuries.

Cold-water immersion and ice-drowning are sudden and unexpected tragedies that can be prevented. Most incidents involve thin ice rather than open holes and occur during the daytime. For children, barrier fencing around yards or other play areas provides protection which should coincide with careful and constant supervision by adults when children play or walk anywhere near the lure of ice.

Hopefully, the basic principles reviewed will allow you to safely enjoy the beauty of our northern ice...

FACES OF STARS

DAN KNAPP
Position: Director, Industry Services, Calgary. Years with STARS: 11

Why he likes working for STARS:
Knapp’s prior experience in the oil and gas industry caused him to have concerns about access to medical care for workers in remote locations. One of his first roles at STARS was to enhance the Site Registration Program that first launched in 1996. “By using my contacts in the energy industry and exhibiting STARS services for industry at many trade shows, we were able to see the program grow to approximately 60,000 site registrations annually,” said Knapp, who is passionate about this service. “Knowing that STARS typically responds to an average of 100 industry medical emergencies each year, means without a doubt, the program is really making a difference in these time sensitive emergencies.”

GLENDIA FARNDEN
Position: Manager, Major Gifts, Grande Prairie. Years with STARS: 5

Why she likes working for STARS:
Farnden’s son was diagnosed with cancer and had become very critical. He needed to get to the University Hospital in Edmonton from Grande Prairie but due to poor weather conditions, ground ambulance and airplane transport were ruled out and STARS did not yet have a base in Grande Prairie. “The doctor said if only STARS was up here, that could be an option,” Farnden recalls. “After what I went through with my son, I think I was subconsciously waiting for the day I would be involved with bringing STARS to Grande Prairie.”

JUSTIN MAZZOLINI
Position: Flight Paramedic, Edmonton. Years with STARS: 5

Why he likes working for STARS:
Mazzolini came to the organization for a number of reasons. Most importantly was STARS’ patient-first outlook. “I truly believe in the mission STARS has and how it’s all about the patient,” he said. “With their high reputation, extensive training and great access, working for STARS was a goal for me.” Mazzolini looks forward to coming to work everyday. “STARS is one of the highest levels of emergency critical care you hope to get to, and when you see the impact it makes on a patient’s outcome, that’s why I do it every day.”
The 18th annual STARS & SPURS Gala, presented by the Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) was held on January 21 to help raise money and awareness for STARS’ life saving missions. Over 1,000 guests attended the event, over $120,000, were split with 70 per cent going to STARS and the remaining 30 per cent dedicated to the Edmonton Rodeo Cowboy’s Benevolent Fund. The 2012 event will be held on September 15, again at The Venue, at River Cree Resort.

Many spectacular items were up for auction, including this guitar signed by Justin Bieber, a chance to help host the CFW morning show with Sharon Mallon and Danny Hooper, a trip to the NRF in Las Vegas, and a “behind the scenes” experience at the Canadian Rodeo Finals.

**Bling ‘N Boots Gala**

Some good ol’ western fun was had on September 24, 2011 as STARS and the Edmonton Rodeo Cowboy’s Benevolent Foundation held the first annual Bling ‘N Boots Gala at Edmonton’s River Cree Resort. Four hundred guests enjoyed the lively emcee and auctioneer, Danny Hooper as well as the toe-tapping musical entertainment provided by Tiffany Dowhan, an up-and-coming country artist. Funds generated from the event, over $120,000, were split with 70 per cent going to STARS and the remaining 30 per cent dedicated to the Edmonton Rodeo Cowboy’s Benevolent Fund. The 2012 event will be held on September 15, again at The Venue, at River Cree Resort.

**Building Magic in the Air Gala**

STARS partnered with the Building Trades of Alberta Charitable Foundation to present Building Magic in the Air, a spectacular gala that took place on October 29, 2011. Guests were treated to acrobatics, live magic and special musical performances that left them in awe. The event was a success raising over $221,000 with support from the construction industry and generous donations from Edmonton and area businesses. Save the date; Saturday, November 24, 2012 for the second annual ACSA Gala, formerly known as the Building Magic in the Air Gala.

**STARS & SPURS Gala**

The 18th annual STARS & SPURS Gala, presented by the Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) was held on January 21 to help raise money and awareness for STARS’ life saving missions. Over 1,000 guests attended the event, including Premier Alison Redford, Alberta Energy Minister Ted Morton, Alberta Finance Minister Ron Liepert, Minister of Service Alberta Manmeet Bhullar, Calgary MLA Teresa Woo-Paw and Calgary Deputy Mayor Richard Pootmans. Special performances were put on by Tequila Rain and country stars Doc Walker. With over 170 silent auction and 13 live auction items, bidders had a variety of choices and by the end of the night upwards of $720,000 was raised for STARS.
STARS UNVEILS THE SUSAN RAMSAY ADVANCED SKILLS INSTITUTE

Education is important to Susan and Doug Ramsay, so much so that they recently made one of the largest personal donations ever gifted to STARS. In recognition of their $2 million donation towards crew training, STARS unveiled the Susan Ramsay Advanced Skills Institute during a special event on February 23.

“We are very big believers in education," said Susan. "We especially recognize the value of education for a group like STARS, where it will enhance patient care.”

Doug Ramsay, founder of Calfrac Well Services Ltd., has been on the STARS Board of Directors for the past four years. The couple has a ranch by Okotoks, and the STARS helicopter frequently flies overhead.

Susan explained that she used to feel sadness when she saw the helicopter, but now after learning more about the organization, she feels hope. With their donation to education, the Ramsays believe they can offer hope to more families who have been touched by STARS.

“Some of our close friends have become patients of STARS and been fortunate to have a positive outcome,” said Doug. “Until you are exposed to it like we were, people don’t understand the significance of what STARS does.”

The Ramsays also want to inspire others to give generously, and they hope their donation serves as a catalyst to spark more philanthropic giving to organizations like STARS.

“The business community needs to support STARS, whether it’s in Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba,” said Doug, adding that as a businessman, he can identify with the rapid growth of the organization as service is extended to new areas. “We have the utmost respect for the team here and we know our dollars are being used in the right way.”

Dr. Greg Powell, founder and CEO of STARS, said the organization is immensely appreciative of philanthropic donors like the Ramsays who believe in supporting the communities in which they live and work.

“This is a significant contribution to our organization and we are so pleased that our pilots and air medical personnel will continue to receive this vital training that helps them save lives.”

The Susan Ramsay Advanced Skills Institute is dedicated to providing ongoing education and training for the STARS air medical crews. The program focuses on ensuring skill retention, while developing critical thinking skills required for advanced practice in critical care transport.
People’s lives depend on the work that Kim Heidel completes throughout his day. The aircraft maintenance engineer arrives at the STARS base every morning ready to make a difference.

8 a.m. Heidel reaches the base. His first priority is to talk with the pilots who are on duty, discussing how many hours were flown on the helicopter, changes to inspection times and training agendas, and if there are any problems to report. Doing so helps schedule maintenance tasks for the day.

11:30 a.m. After completing the maintenance, Heidel joins the pilots in the helicopter for a test run to check operations and make sure the job was done right.

1:30 p.m. A special component on the helicopter is removed and replaced with a functional unit. Heidel is now tasked with fixing the older part so that it can be used again in the future.

3:30 p.m. A call has come in and the STARS helicopter is out flying a mission. This is an opportune time for Heidel to sort some hardware, saying that doing so will increase the effectiveness of the engineering team. “We can’t be wasting time looking through washers or bolts to find a specific one. Having things catalogued and organized allows us to do our job more efficiently.”

4 p.m. Heidel is flight following on a special computer program; he is able to track the helicopter’s location, airspeed and direction. By doing so, he and the engineering team can know exactly when the aircraft will be back and be prepared to work when it arrives.

5 p.m. A day of work is now complete for Heidel. He heads home to spend some time with his family, feeling good about what he accomplished throughout the day. “I leave with the gratification of knowing I played an important role in keeping STARS flying and saving lives today.”

Heidal is going to be working from the new Regina base when it opens this spring.

“Communication with the pilots is very important,” Heidel said. “We have to stay diligent when planning our day and making sure the helicopter is safe to fly. Our goal is to minimize any downtime and keep STARS up and running.”

8:30 a.m. Heidel prints off a daily task list and heads to the hangar to get to work. On this particular day, he is checking oil pressure inside the engine, making sure that various components are receiving the lubrication they need to function safely. If a call comes in, the helicopter will be good to go.

“You have to be constantly managing time and changes,” said Heidel. “The pilots and crew are focused on the mission and it’s our job to make sure a helicopter is airworthy. The engineers are required to make some really important decisions on whether a particular aircraft can fly or not.”

“I LEAVE WITH THE GRATIFICATION OF KNOWING I PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN KEEPING STARS FLYING AND SAVING LIVES TODAY,” -Kim Heidel

DID YOU KNOW

As of February 2012, there were five helicopters in the STARS fleet. Having back-up helicopters available allows STARS to continue responding to medical emergencies when an on-duty aircraft requires scheduled or unscheduled maintenance. The STARS fleet will be expanding by another three aircraft in 2012 to support Saskatchewan and Manitoba operations.
| Community | Acme | Airdrie | Alberta Beach | Alcomdale | Alder Flats | Alexander | Alexis Reserve | Alix | Anselmo | Ardrossan | Atikameg | Athabasca | Banff | Bankhead | Bassano | Beaumont | Beaverlodge | Beiseker | Bezanson | Big Lakes | Black Diamond | Blairmore | Blueberry Mountain | Bluesky | Bon Accord | Bonanza | Bonnyville | Bowden | Boyle | Bragg Creek | Braim | Brazeau | Brooks | Buck Lake | Burmis | Cadotte Lake | Calgary & Area | Calving Lake | Camrose | Canmore | Canyon Creek | Cardston | Caroline | Carseland | Carstairs | Castor | Champion | Cherhill | Chestermere | Chetwynd, BC | Clareholme | Clyde | Cochrane | Cold Lake | Consort | Cooking Lake | Coronation | Cranbrook, BC | Cremona | Creston, BC | Crossfield | 
|------------|------|--------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----|----------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|-----------|----------|---------|--------------|---------|---------|------------|----------|--------|----------|----------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|------------|---------|-------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
|            | 1    | 2      | 5             | 1         | 1          | 1         | 3              | 2   | 1        | 2          | 9         | 20        | 10     | 29        | 10       | 3       | 10          | 10      | 2       | 1          | 1       | 1      | 15        | 15      | 10      | 15        | 10      | 5       | 6         | 6       | 19      | 2         | 2       | 15       |
|            |      |        |               |           |            |           |                |     |          |            |           |           |        |           |          |         |              |         |         |            |        |        |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |
| Missions   | 20   | 28     | 29            | 10        | 9          | 9         | 12             | 12  | 14       | 14          | 20        | 32        | 20     | 6         | 13        | 13      | 15          | 20      | 19      | 15          | 15      | 10     | 15        | 15      | 9       | 15        | 15      | 10      | 15        | 15      | 10      | 15        |
|            |      |        |               |           |            |           |                |     |          |            |           |           |        |           |          |         |              |         |         |            |        |        |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |
|            |      |        |               |           |            |           |                |     |          |            |           |           |        |           |          |         |              |         |         |            |        |        |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |
|            | 2    | 1      | 1             | 1         | 1          | 1         | 1              | 1   | 1        | 1           | 1         | 1         | 1       | 1         | 1         | 1       | 1            | 1       | 1       | 1           | 1       | 1      | 1         | 1       | 1       | 1           | 1       | 1       | 1           |
|            |      |        |               |           |            |           |                |     |          |            |           |           |        |           |          |         |              |         |         |            |        |        |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |
|            | 2    | 1      | 1             | 1         | 1          | 1         | 1              | 1   | 1        | 1           | 1         | 1         | 1       | 1         | 1         | 1       | 1            | 1       | 1       | 1           | 1       | 1      | 1         | 1       | 1       | 1           | 1       | 1       | 1           |
|            |      |        |               |           |            |           |                |     |          |            |           |           |        |           |          |         |              |         |         |            |        |        |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |
| 2011 TOTAL | 1,655|        |               |           |            |           |                |     |          |            |           |           |        |           |          |         |              |         |         |            |        |        |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |        |         |            |

**TOTAL MISSIONS 1985 - 2011 = 22,027**

These missions were flown from our bases in Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie and include some BC communities. Missions may have been scene calls in the area closest to the listed communities.
STARS recently received a surprise donation that illustrated how the links in the chain of survival band together to ensure that proper critical care is available to those in need. The $79,582 donation came from the Alberta Municipal Retired Police Officers Mutual Benefit Society, derived of members from Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Taber.

Over the years, many of the Society’s members had worked closely with STARS in some capacity at the scene of serious accidents. It was this interaction and the opportunity to see STARS personnel perform in the line of duty that resulted in their overwhelming support.

“With Alberta’s sparse population, getting a person from a rural area to the proper medical care would be impossible,” said Harry Cox, executive board member and retired officer from the Calgary Police Service. “STARS is vital in these situations.”

Retired officers originally came together to form this Society due to a dispute over pensions. When the case was dismissed and the Society disbanded, there was a large amount of funds from membership fees remaining. “We had to decide as a group where to direct the money and STARS was the logical choice,” said Ian MacDonald, Society president. At a special general meeting, the attending members voted unanimously to donate the money to STARS.