



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Ridge-Meadows Operation Red Nose Under Way *Clients get safe rides home and volunteers declare their support.*



December 2, 2008, MAPLE RIDGE - The Operation Red Nose program offers more than a safe ride home for the patrons who utilize the service on weekends in December – it provides a rewarding experience for the volunteers who take part in serving their community through the program. Road Team #1 responded to the first call for the Ridge-Meadows program on Friday, November 28th. Fadwa Zink, Karen Keist and Ron Zink formed the first team to respond to clients requesting a safe ride home because they feel unfit to drive. While the inaugural four road teams were not as busy as they could have been, they enjoyed learning their roles and shared their thoughts about their first night of volunteering for Operation Red Nose.



“What a terrific experience we had, and so much fun,” commented first time volunteer Fadwa Zink of her first experience with the program. “We are looking forward to our next scheduled shift!”



Although the clearance process for volunteers requires a few steps, volunteers recognize the value of the program and have responded to the call for support. The excitement around the program in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows has made the expansion from the Abbotsford-Mission area well worth the wait. One client from the inaugural weekend has already responded by offering to volunteer for the rest of the program nights!

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“It will take a few years to build the program to the level of recognition it has in adjoining communities where Operation Red Nose has become such a highly-valued service,” says Operation Red Nose Manager Linda Palm. “We plan to be here to watch that support grow – from all key aspects including the sponsors, the volunteers and the clients. We already anticipate rapid growth this year from the client perspective and are hopeful we will enjoy equal growth from the volunteers in the community who want to experience the program and play a part in keeping the streets of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows just a little bit safer.”



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Restaurant and pub owners have been provided promotional material to encourage clients to use the service. Businesses planning corporate parties or individuals hosting home parties are encouraged to contact PacificSport Fraser Valley for posters and phone cards to share with their guests. Information on booking parties is available through the Ridge-Meadows Operation Red Nose number – 604.515.NOSE (6673). Volunteer packages are also available through this number.



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