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Operation Red Nose Gears Up for New Year's Eve

Volunteers needed to help keep local roads safe on December 31st.

December 8, 2008, MAPLE RIDGE – Operation Red Nose Ridge-Meadows has been providing safe rides home for the past two weekends, reaching their best night yet on Saturday with 24 rides provided by four teams. With the growing awareness of the program, demand will increase and so will the need for more volunteer teams.

"The faster we can respond to the client's call for one of our Road Teams, the better chance we have of ensuring the client doesn't make the wrong decision about driving," explains Linda Palm, Operation Red Nose Manager. "Our best insurance to respond with a Road Team within a timeline that's agreeable to the client is to have as many Road Teams as possible. This is particularly important on New Year's Eve so we are appealing to local volunteers to come out for an evening of fun with the Ridge-Meadows Red Nose team!"

Local chair of the Ridge-Meadows program, Mary-Jane Abbott agrees: "We want people to hand their keys over to the Red Nose teams instead of driving themselves if they feel they are unfit to drive. This is a free and confidential service so, with education, there is no justification for motor vehicle accidents or fatalities due to impaired driving."

Volunteers have a valuable role to play in helping to keep the local streets safe over the holiday season. Palm suggests, "Anyone looking for a unique and entertaining way to spend New Year's Eve should come out and learn why over 60 people volunteer every New Year's Eve in the Abbotsford-Mission program and talk about it for months afterwards!"

Interested volunteers can obtain application packages at the Ridge-Meadows RCMP Detachment located near the District Municipal Hall or at the Community Police Office in Pitt Meadows, or by calling Linda Palm at (604) 515-NOSE (6673). Application forms are also available through <u>www.operationrednose.com</u>

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