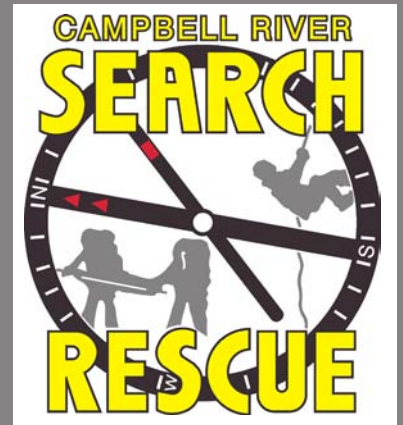


# Antarctic Marathon for C.R. Search & Rescue



## It is known as the Last Marathon:

A journey to the end of the earth. A wild and remote wilderness area where Susan will come face to face with penguins and seals on a hilly 42.2 km course of slush, ice and rocks, in winds gusting to 65 km/hr and temperatures in the negative double-digits. This is the 10th annual Antarctica Marathon, scheduled for March 10th, 2009. **It will be her first ever marathon attempt.**

## Susan's Story:



Having grown up in Campbell River, Susan developed a passion for exploring the beauty of our rugged west coast wilderness. Her work in the travel industry has allowed her to expand her experience of far-flung and wild places to include the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, Antarctica and recently the summit of Kilimanjaro. "To be able to challenge myself physically in one of the most wild and pristine corners of the planet excites me! And to combine that with an opportunity to do something for the community is a huge bonus." Search and Rescue is no stranger to Susan. It was September 11th, 1971 when her father, a well-known local businessman, was killed in a plane crash en route to a remote lake near Bute Inlet. (See story following) "My dad was not only a successful businessman, but also an avid outdoorsman with strong community spirit. Having this opportunity to raise funds for the C.R. SAR Mobile Command Post is my tribute to a man, a husband and a father who lived life to its fullest."

## The Mobile Command Post:

CRSAR's current project is to outfit a state-of-the-art Mobile Command Post. They have purchased a new vehicle and have had a custom box installed to house a mobile communications office with room for 3 radio stations and operators. Outfitting the mobile office with high tech radio, antenna and computer equipment is an expensive and labor-intensive task and will require nearly half of the estimated project cost of \$180,000.00; however the finished product will be able to respond not only to SAR callouts, but also to large scale disasters occurring anywhere on the north end of Vancouver Island where multiple agencies are involved. If there was a major forest fire, a chemical spill, or a barge or cruise ship accident in Seymour Narrows, for example, this unit would be instrumental in coordinating fast and efficient rescue and relief efforts.

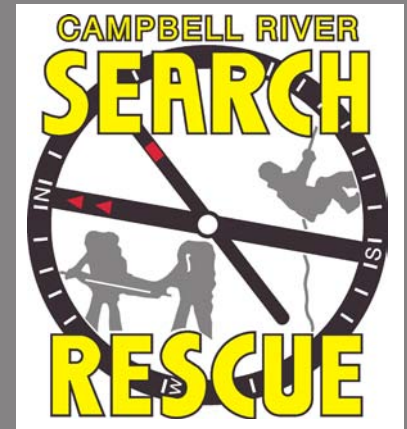
## To Become a Supporter:

To make a contribution, or to make a pledge contingent on completion of the marathon, contact Susan care of Pathfinder Travel and Cruise Services, 1011 Tye Plaza, Campbell River, BC V9W 2C7. Donations are also being accepted at Coastal Community Credit Union, Discovery Harbour Branch, 1354 Island Highway, Campbell River BC V9W 8C9. Please make cheques payable to Antarctic Marathon for C.R. Search & Rescue. **All monies raised will go directly to C.R. SAR.**

If you have questions, comments or your own SAR story you'd like to share, email Susan at [magicaustin@msn.com](mailto:magicaustin@msn.com) or call 250-204-5201.



# About Susan McLoughlin



Susan has lived in Campbell River nearly all her life, arriving at 6 months of age in 1964 with her mum, dad and older brother Mike. Her father, Bob Austin, was a principle of J.R. Austin and Associates, Land Surveyors, a successful local business. Bob's love for the outdoors was a common theme in his life, and when he wasn't tramping about in the bush on work assignment, his passions led him on an array of hunting, boating, fishing, camping and skiing adventures.

On September 11th, 1971, en route to remote Chilko Lake near Bute Inlet, Susan's father, along with friends and well known Campbell Riverites Andy Hudock and Christie Smith, were killed in a plane crash. A small tightly knit community in those days, the sudden deaths of three family and community minded men had an impact on nearly everyone.

Susan's family remained in Campbell River and she considers herself very fortunate to have grown up in an area of accessible and pristine wilderness. She was able to enjoy many outdoor pursuits during these years and developed an enduring love for wild and remote places. "It is where I feel connected, where I get inspired," she says. As co-owner of Pathfinder Travel, Susan has in recent years traveled to such far-flung places as the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, Antarctica and the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The idea to combine her passion with an opportunity to challenge herself physically in the outdoors culminated in signing up for the Antarctic Marathon. And it was during one of her training runs along the banks of the Campbell River where she became inspired to use the marathon as a rather unique platform to raise money for C.R. Search and Rescue. "A family friend and long ago business partner had just come to me with a treasure that he had kept for over 37 years. It is nine coins that were retrieved by one of the searchers at the crash site. The coins are charred, and I imagined the



black carbon molecules on them somehow were once a part of my dad's physical body. I also imagined the conflict that the searcher must have gone through, knowing the coins would be meaningful to a loved one, but having to sift through horrific and gruesome remains in order to retrieve them."

Search and Rescue is an organization that helps people get outside, get amongst it and get active! They promote safety in the outdoors. They are integral to our way of life here on the wild West Coast. "I want to do this not only to challenge myself physically, but to give back to an organization and a community that has supported my family. It is a way for me to honour my dad, to thank a group of dedicated and skilled volunteers, and to give to an extremely worthwhile and tangible project. The Mobile Command Post will be an instrumental piece of equipment for future rescue and relief efforts in this amazing piece of the planet we inhabit."

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