

Wald Ambulance involved in...

Provincial pilot project

By Michael Bennett

Steve Wald, owner of Wald Ambulance, will be one of only 16 am-

bulance personnel from across the province to participate in the Advanced Emergency Medical Assistant Program beginning this month in Regina.

On completion of the intensive five-month course, Steve and the other ambulance personnel will be the first EMA IIs (paramedics) licensed by the

province.

The course will be taken at Wascana Institute from April 15 to June (390 hours), followed by 200 hours of training in coronary care, intensive care, and obstetrics in Regina's three hospitals. The third part of the training involves 120 hours of emergency work in an ambulance under the supervision of a paramedic. Students will also spend a day in the Regina Mobile Crisis Unit to familiarize themselves with crisis counselling.

The number of ambulance personnel to undergo training are: Saskatoon, 4; Regina, 4; Prince Albert, 2; Moose Jaw, 3; Meadow Lake, 1; Melville, 1; Assiniboia, 1; and two staff from Wascana Institute.

One of the best

Wald Ambulance will then be one of the best equipped and trained ambulance services in the country. Assiniboia and district will lead the country in ambulance and emergency care. Some of Canada's largest cities cannot boast the equipment and training of Assiniboia and District's ambulance or staff.

On successful completion of the course, Steve will be trained to fully utilize the defibrillator and heart monitor — donated by the community through the Heart Monitor Fund — and will be trained to administer drugs, start an intravenous, and install an endotracheal tube to give the patient a 100-per-cent oxygen supply — critical in emergency conditions. He will also be trained to treat people suffering from asthma attacks, attacks from allergic reactions, and will even be able to deliver a baby, if the need arises.

Steve says that following completion of the course he will be under the supervision of a local physician and the Ambulance Services Unit, Regina, until December.

"All treatment must be given final approval by the local medical coordinator," he said.

"Very fortunate"

Steve says he feels "very fortunate" to be able to take the course and said that Assiniboia is part of the pilot project in large part to such modern equipment as the heart monitor and other equipment bought through the Heart Monitor Fund.

"Regina ambulances do not have this equipment (heart monitor and defibrillator) and Saskatoon has one old one," he says. "It was a key factor in me getting into the program."

He says that taking the course is just another step in giving the area the kind of ambulance service it deserves.

Steve also announced the purchase of a new ambulance with a price tag of \$48,000 for Wald Ambulance. The new ambulance will arrive sometime in June.



Times photo by Michael Bennett

Steve Wald looks over the emergency equipment he will be able to fully utilize once he has finished the EMA II course in Regina.