



Waterloo Regional REACT

P. O. Box 41005
Waterloo, Ontario N2K 3T5
(519) 658-7580 Fax (519) 746-3781

A Day to Remember For Waterloo Regional REACT
Team 2114

At the annual fall fair in Cambridge, Ontario (a city in Waterloo Region) the fair committee sets aside a day to recognize those who put their lives on the line every day. September 8th, 2002 was given the honor of being called 'Emergency Services Day' and Waterloo Regional REACT were asked to be a part of the day's events, to be recognized for the services they provide to the community.

Cambridge Fall Fair coordinator Paul Larocque was excited to see me come to his office, I was only there to find out more information regarding the day's events when Mr. Larocque explained he was just going to contact us and invite us to attend.

The day started with a variety of emergency vehicles from various groups made its way through the downtown core every thing from Ladder Trucks to Army Jeeps and Ambulances were there as the public watched and children waived with excitement as sirens wailed. React was not out done we brought out our Command Center, Argo, Gator and Lighting Unit for everyone to see. "It was a proud, noisy procession of people committed to the community, what ever the crisis, what every the cost, and often they do pay the price, putting THEIR safety and THEIR lives on the line" (CKCO TV News)

After the parade ended REACT and the other agencies had their equipment on display and talked with the public about who they were and the service they provided to the community. We had several people interested in memberships, as well as the Oshweken Police from Six Nations Indian Reserve interested in acquiring our services.

As the day started to unwind Waterloo Regional REACT president Kirk Walker participated in a ceremonial flag exchange with New York State Trooper Investigator Dale Fair, he received flags from many jurisdictions and dignitaries and was giving the Stars and Stripes in return.

Investigator Fair said in a small speech "the flags will go into the New York Police Academy Museum in Albany but they are a symbol of something much deeper – mutual respect and admiration, not just in times of tragedy, but every day on the job"

Waterloo Regional REACT will be displaying the flag from Inspector Fair in our Command Center, and continue to strive and promote community support and assist the Emergency Services in what ever way possible.

Rick Weisler
Waterloo Regional REACT
Coordination