

Search-and-rescue team joins effort to find man

JEFF BELL
Times Colonist

Search-and-rescue volunteers have been deployed in the Mount Douglas area to help find a missing 64-year-old man with dementia.

Christian Dube, who goes by Chris, has been missing from Broadmead Lodge and was last seen about 5:30 p.m. Saturday in the area of PKOLS/Mount Douglas Park.

"We are thankful to receive assistance from Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization search-and-rescue team to assist us with our ongoing efforts to locate Christian," said Saanich police Insp. Damian Kowalewich.

Police have asked residents south of PKOLS/Mount Douglas Park along Ash Road, Shelbourne Street and Cedar Hill Road to check security-camera video dating back to Saturday for any sign of Dube.

Dube's niece Brittany Dube said Tuesday that her uncle's condition might not be apparent at first if someone encounters him. "He can seem quite coherent at times," she said.

Dube has been a Broadmead Lodge resident for about five months, she said, and had to walk through two doors to get outside. He could be travelling around the capital region on foot, police said, and is known to frequent Saanich and Esquimalt, as well as the Lochside Trail.

He is five-foot-six, of medium build, and has blue eyes, shaggy brown hair and a greying goatee. He was wearing a black winter jacket, blue jeans, brown shoes,



Christian Dube. VIA SAANICH POLICE

a baseball cap and a black Reebok backpack with a purple-coloured pattern. The jacket has a hood and a white lining, and has a Cleveland Browns NFL logo on the front left side.

Broadmead Lodge said it has been working closely with police, Island Health and Chris Dube's family to support the search effort.

"The safety and security of our residents are our top priorities," it said. "We are reviewing all circumstances around this situation and remain committed to co-operating fully with authorities. At this time, we respectfully ask for patience and understanding as we focus on finding Chris and ensuring the safety of all in our care."

Anyone with information on Christian Dube's whereabouts is asked to contact Saanich police at 250-475-4321 and quote file number 24-22074.

"The more people that we can get out there the better," Brittany Dube said.

Police want anyone who sees him to keep him in sight and call 911.

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Youths spend night in backcountry with rescuers

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A weekend camping trip for a group of adults and youths ended with an unscheduled night for some on the Kludahk Trail near Jordan River with their rescuers.

Victoria Clarke, spokeswoman for Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue, said the group had camped Saturday night at Wye Lake and was planning to hike out on Sunday, but some members felt unwell. "I think they'd spent a pretty cold, wet night in their tents," Clarke said. "In addition to being cold and tired, they were sick."

The adults decided to call for help rather than try to hike to Jordan River with the whole group.

"I think it was really a good idea on their part," said Clarke, noting the group was in a mountainous area and the adults might have underestimated the snowy, damp conditions. She

gave them kudos for being prepared, including having a satellite-communication device to call out, since cellphone service in the area is spotty.

The Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue team was alerted about 11 a.m. Sunday, and reached the group of four adults and 11 youths within a few hours.

The fog was too heavy for a helicopter operation. Clarke said the rescue team concluded that two of the adults and six of the youths couldn't hike out safely and should stay the night. "We got a fire set up and we had clean, warm socks and gear, we had warming pads and made up some hot-water bottles," she said. They were led out at first light on Monday.

Clarke thanked Metchosin Search and Rescue, saying its team "really came out in numbers for us and overnighted with us, as well."

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