



IN February of 1980, the Eastern Shore Ground Search and Rescue Team was called out to find a person lost in the East Chezzetcook area of Nova Scotia. This person had been working in the woods with his horse and was returning home across Goose Lake when the horse broke through the ice. The man was able to return home to pick up rope and equipment to rescue his horse and then headed back to the lake. When he did not return, the RCMP was called and a search of the area was initiated.

THE search team found the man soon after entering the area. He was out on the lake trying to rescue his frantic horse. The search team immediately joined in the rescue attempts, which at this point consisted largely of trying to pull the horse out by the neck. Eventually, it was realized the only way to extricate the floundering animal was to roll it out. The searchers looped a noose around the horse's neck and pulled until the poor beast was barely conscious. The horse offered little resistance as the search team rolled him from the icy water to a patch of thick ice. The woodsman and his horse, cold and exhausted, continued on their way returning home safely.

THE next day, one of the searchers related the circumstances of the rescue to a co-worker named Charles (Chick) Winchcombe. Mr. Winchcombe sketched the scene based on that description. The sketch was shown at the next meeting of the ground search team and the members found it to be quite amusing. Later, it was decided to that the team needed a crest that was to very different from any other team. The Search Director thought that as we already had a sketch that was unquestionably different, we should adopt it as our crest.

That is the story of how the sketch of the horse being rescued from the freezing water was officially adopted as the crest of the Eastern shore Ground Search and Rescue team.

.. the saga of the missing woodsman and his horse lives on.