

# RANDY LAWRENCE WHYNACHT

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## Curriculum Vitae

### Current Positions

#### **[1983 – Present] Founder and Director of Operations, Whynacht Security & Survival**

In this position, I oversee and administer all aspects of the services provided to clients of Whynacht Security & Survival. These include design, installation, support, training, and inspection services on the full spectrum of security, surveillance, loss prevention, access control, life safety, and fire alarm systems and procedures. I also design and conduct the training seminars and courses provided by the company. In this capacity, my students have included hospital and nursing home staff, fire and paramedic personnel, members of the Lunenburg-Mahone Bay Police Service as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Maintenance/Security supervisors at the Lunenburg National Sea Products processing plant as well as the Cornwallis Park Development Association.

#### **[2008 – Present] Senior Dog Handler and Rehabilitation Trainer, Golden Mountain Dog Solutions**

Golden Mountain Dog Solutions grew out of the former Canine Light Cavalry Unit that provided the dog services for Whynacht Security & Survival from 1994 to 2008. This change was primarily motivated by the decision to move more heavily into the field of dog rehabilitation and handler/owner training in which it was felt that doing so under the banner of a security company could be misleading and cause confusion among the potential clientele. In this position I act as Lead Trainer, official spokesman, and primary content writer on dog related issues on both the Golden Mountain Dog Solutions blog and my personal website, *Large Fierce Mammal*. Links to both of these are provided in the "Supporting Links" portion located at the end of this CV.

#### **[2008 – Present] Founder and Freelance Writer, *Large Fierce Mammal***

Since its inception in September 2008, I have been the primary contributor to my personal website, *Large Fierce Mammal*. Regularly updated, and now occasionally containing invitational work by selected contributors, *Large Fierce Mammal* is my primary venue for articles on everything from dog training issues to poetry, and every other topic in between for which I hold a personal or professional interest. Articles published on *Large Fierce Mammal* are regularly featured on the websites and internet forums of other people with an interest in its content, and routinely gets over 4000 visits per month from readers all over the world.

Articles on issues of interest to dog owners and professionals are also often mirrored on the blog page of the Golden Mountain Dog Solutions website, a link to which is provided in the "Supporting Links" portion located at the end of this CV.

## **Professional Experience**

### **[1981 – 1982] Security, Loss Prevention, Access Control, and Fire Alarm Systems Evaluation Consultant, Douglas Investigations Limited**

This was a consultancy under a 12 month contract in the days when the electronic security and surveillance industry as we know it today was in its infancy. At the time, Douglas Investigations Limited of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, provided security services to the Halifax International Airport, the Dartmouth Autoport, Charm Jewelers, and G. B. Murphy Jewelers (the latter two at all stores throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), and was endeavouring to move into the field of more advanced electronic detection and evidence collection as well as digital alarm monitoring. My role was to evaluate equipment and systems for possible adoption as standardized solutions for the kinds of missions and applications Douglas wanted to be involved in, establish logistical connections with selected manufacturers and suppliers, and train Douglas personnel in the installation, troubleshooting, and maintenance of the selected equipment. Douglas wished to extend this contract for an additional term, but missed the due date for renewal so that they lost out to Evidence Research Associates Inc. which was looking for basically the same thing.

### **[1982 – 1983] Security, Loss Prevention, Access Control, and Fire Alarm Systems Evaluation Consultant, Chief Systems Designer, Evidence Research Associates Inc.**

I was approached for this position, also a 12 month consultancy, because Evidence Research Consultants, a competitor of Douglas located literally on the next block in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, was following suit in positioning itself in the new but rapidly growing field of digital security and fire alarm systems. They had attempted to go it alone at first, and had a staff on hand that consisted of a sales manager and two very skilled technicians, but needed guidance in standardization, system layout, and troubleshooting techniques. I filled these roles, eliminated the sales manager position, and trained the existing technicians along with an additional one that became necessary due to increased demand, so that by the end of the contract, the electronic security branch was self-sufficient.

### **[1983 – Present] Founder and Director of Operations, Whynacht Security & Survival**

With the knowledge of the security industry I had gained from my time as a consultant to Douglas Investigations and Evidence Research, I relocated from Halifax, Nova Scotia to my home town of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in the vicinity of which there were no providers, professional or otherwise, of electronic security services addressing the areas of intrusion detection, personal emergency reporting, or fire alarm system design, installation, maintenance, and repair. In short – a perfect time and place to establish a full service security consulting company.

By the end of the first five years of the company's existence, Whynacht Security & Survival was the sole company responsible for security and fire alarm system design, installation, and maintenance for organizations including the Lunenburg County District School Board, the Lunenburg County

Regional Housing Authority, the Queens County Regional Housing Authority, the Queens County District School Board, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Town of Lunenburg, the Municipality of Barrington, National Sea Products Limited Lunenburg Division, Scotia Trawler Equipment Limited, ABCO Industries Limited, and Lunenburg Foundry & Engineering. This timing also coincided with a push by the Nova Scotia Office of the Fire Marshall to put modern fire alarm systems in large vulnerable structures that were not previously so equipped. As a result, with few exceptions, Whynacht Security & Survival designed and installed fire alarm systems in the churches of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay as well as such historic buildings as Lunenburg's Boscawen Inn.

In 1984, the absence of a local, dedicated alarm monitoring facility led me to design and establish what came to be known as "Central Dispatch". Originally configured to receive and act on alarm signals from protective systems installed by the company, that first year we were approached by the Town of Lunenburg to monitor systems in all its buildings as well as other significant facilities including Fishermen's Memorial Hospital, Harbour View Haven Home for Special Care, and the Fisheries museum of the Atlantic. In addition, we were asked to entertain setting up means by which we could act as a central dispatch facility for the Lunenburg & District Fire Department. Details on the outcome of this appear in the next segment.

In 1994, I launched what came to be called the Whynacht Security & Survival Canine Light Cavalry Unit in which I trained my first tracking and detection dog. This project was a huge success beginning with the notable rescue of a suicidal woman in the winter of 1995.

In the wake of the CFB Cornwallis closure in 1994, the former Canadian Forces Base reverted to civilian use under the Cornwallis Park Development Association. I was approached by that group to meet and discuss the process by which the various buildings on the site could be assessed, and where necessary brought up to code with respect to current fire alarm system standards. There was also a Commissionaire detachment on the site to which alarm signals were transmitted for action, and the CPDA wished to replace that with off-site central monitoring. This led to a 5 year contract that completed successful upgrading of systems in barrack blocks and training facilities used by the annual Sea, and Air Cadet camps, the Pearson Peace Keeping Centre, Shaw Wood Products Limited, the Cornwallis Military Museum, and an assortment of smaller operators. The project included establishing a local off-site alarm monitoring facility, and training of its personnel. During the term of this arrangement, I and my staff were instrumental in organizing mutual aid support for Annapolis Valley fire departments engaged in combating the Nova Tire Recyclers fire in July 1999.

More related matters follow, and links to relevant news items appear in the "Supporting Links" portion located at the end of this CV.

**[1984 – 2001]**

### **Founder and Director of Operations, Lunenburg Central Dispatch**

As previously referred to, Central Dispatch began as a central 24/7 station designed to monitor signals transmitted by protective systems installed or maintained by Whynacht Security & Survival. It grew to provide call taking, dispatch, and communications support services for the fire departments of

Lunenburg, Mahone Bay, Chester, Chester Basin, and Hubbards, the police services for the towns of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay, the Town of Lunenburg Electric Light Utility and Public Works Department, and along the way from time to time for other emergency agencies including Mahone Ambulance Service and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Emergency Measures Organization.

Central Dispatch filled a vital role in the years leading up to, and through, the inception of the Nova Scotia 911 emergency reporting system, and served as a model and test bed for communications protocols that are still in use today.

The decision to get out of the emergency dispatch business came 3 years before it was possible to make that a reality. The towns of Lunenburg, Mahone Bay, and Bridgewater entered into negotiations to form a regional police force that would be dispatched out of the Bridgewater Police Department office, thus permitting relocation of the five fire departments at Central Dispatch to nearby Scotia Business Centre, and outsourcing of alarm monitoring services. Unfortunately, the negotiations broke down resulting in Bridgewater backing out, and the formation of the Lunenburg-Mahone Bay Police Service which still required my facility. It took until 2001 for the towns to successfully disband the LMBPS in favour of the RCMP which, coming as it does with its own dispatch services as part of the package, permitted disbandment of Central Dispatch.

**[1994 – 2001]**

### **Dog Assessment, Impound, and Owner Location Services, Towns of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay**

As the operator of police dispatch services for the towns of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay, it was evident to me that people who lost or found a dog roaming in either town almost inevitably called the police. Neither town had proper holding facilities (dogs were routinely being held in the garage at the Lunenburg police station), and the nearest animal shelter, SHAID, neither operated 24/7 nor could be relied upon to have space when the need arose. It was decided and proposed by me through the office of the Chief of Police that dogs apprehended or otherwise falling into the custody of the By-Law Enforcement Officer or any other member of the Lunenburg-Mahone Bay Police Service be brought to my office for assessment and then, if deemed by me as the sole arbiter to be suitably free from illness or unsound tendencies, held at my facilities for a period of up to 24 hours. This was subsequently proposed to the Councils of both towns, leading to a successful arrangement that resulted in a nearly 100% return rate, and the rehoming of the remainder where owner neglect or abuse were found to have been involved. Dogs deemed in need of veterinary care were, at my discretion, to be immediately transported to such care, with the costs required to be paid by the owner before the dog was returned. It was during this time that I was also called upon by the Nova Scotia SPCA to investigate and document a case that occurred during one of my dispatch shifts in which a dog was dragged nearly 2 kilometers behind a car leaving a Lunenburg residence, and that I was involved in having stopped by the Lunenburg-Mahone Bay Police.

This arrangement ended with the disbanding of Central Dispatch.

[1988 – 1994]

**Emergency Measures Coordinator, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg**

I held the position of Emergency Measures Coordinator for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg from 1988 to 1994 during which time I performed a threat and readiness assessment on the Municipality and its emergency response infrastructure, wrote its emergency operations plan and oversaw training of emergency agencies in its use, and acted as emergency planning consultant to LaHave Manor Home for Special Care, Harbour View Haven Home for Special Care, Rosedale Home for Special Care, Fishermen's Memorial Hospital, and South Shore Regional Hospital in updating and exercising their internal emergency response plans and guidelines. The emergency response plan I wrote for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg came to be recommended by the Province of Nova Scotia to other municipalities as a template for creating their own plans, and later was adopted by the United Nations for the same purpose in the process of creating stability in struggling countries around the world.

In the lead up to turning on the Nova Scotia 911 emergency reporting system, it was necessary to centralize the dispatch facilities of all Nova Scotia fire services, and bring their communications equipment up to a uniform standard. 30 of those fire services were within my jurisdiction, and it was one of my duties to evaluate their requirements and process them through the Joint Emergency Preparedness Plan (JEPP) which the Province of Nova Scotia had set up to provide financial assistance to make the required acquisitions possible.

Because of my unique position and training as an Emergency Measures Coordinator and a professional of long standing in the field of emergency communications systems and procedures, I was integrally involved in introduction of the provincial Nova Scotia 911 emergency reporting system.

[1994 – 2001]

**Founder, Chief Dog Handler, and Director of Operations, Whynacht Security & Survival Canine Light Cavalry Unit**

While I have been living with dogs since childhood, and once trained and led a Beagle that lived to be 18 years and 3 months of age before the sudden onset of cancer took him, my professional involvement with dog training aimed at cultivating specific behaviours commenced in 1994. That year I began training Cinders, a Bernese Mountain Dog/Golden Retriever hybrid now referred to as a Golden Mountain Dog, for deployment as a search and detection dog for my company, Whynacht Security & Survival. Throughout her career, Cinders successfully completed more than a hundred missions that included missing persons locations, lost pet recoveries, evidence location, and building searches. Most notable of all to my mind was her detection and rescue of a young female who had attempted to commit suicide by ingesting a near lethal dose of valium and then hiding under an evergreen hedge in a snow storm on St. Valentine's Day, 1995. In this case, the woman had travelled more than a kilometer through the Town of Lunenburg to get to where we found her at the edge of the Hillcrest Cemetery, and the snow had completely obliterated all physical signs of her trail. Cinders detected her scent on the very slight breeze at a distance of approximately 60 meters.

With a combination of working and training under the eye of experienced professional dog trainers and handlers, and many hundreds of hours of research, I continued working with developing my own dogs, ultimately building a pack of six dogs, each with its own special skill set. I was routinely asked by youth groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, to put on demonstrations ranging from simple obedience, to tracking, and flyball. While the Canine Light Cavalry Unit officially disbanded with Central Dispatch in 2001, its work carried on with Whynacht Security & Survival until the launch of Golden Mountain Dog Solutions in 2008.

**[1998 – 2000] Co-Founder and Administrator, Seniors' Check-In Programme**

In concert with the Lunenburg-Mahone Bay Police Service and the Mahone Bay and Area Lion's Club, I was a founding member in designing, establishing, and operating the "Seniors' Check-In Programme" (SCIP), an automated daily safety-call system for senior citizens that later grew to encompass the Town of Bridgewater and most areas served by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Lunenburg and Queens Counties. The system was maintained and operated by my staff under my supervision, using equipment and software supplied by the other partner organizations, and using protocols I developed. My involvement with the programme wrapped up when failure of computer equipment required to support it necessitated expenditures the other partners were unwilling to support.

**[1999 – 2001] Communications Officer, Town of Lunenburg Emergency Measures Organization**

As the one person most familiar with the emergency communications realities of the Town of Lunenburg, I was a logical choice for this position, and held it until the disbanding of Central Dispatch.

**[2001 – 2003] Second Vice-President, Lunenburg County Crime Prevention Board**

I was approached by the then Community Police Coordinator for the Bridgewater RCMP to be involved in this organization after having participated many times in doing seminars on personal and business security issues and security for senior citizens that he facilitated at venues throughout Lunenburg and Queens Counties. My role on the executive was primarily an advisory one, but I was uniquely positioned with my connections that at the time ranged throughout the Nova Scotia emergency management community. Unfortunately, the LCCPB folded in the end due to poor public support.

**[2008 – Present] Co-Founder, Lead Dog Handler and Rehabilitation Trainer, and Primary Writer, Golden Mountain Dog Solutions**

Further to the information provided above on the precursor Canine Light Cavalry Unit, and as previously stated, Golden Mountain Dog Solutions now provides a variety of vital dog rehabilitation and owner/handler training services in addition to its previously established search and detection dog programme.

My wife, Diana, and I work as a team on every case and, for the most part, provide training and instruction to our clients and their dogs at their place of residence, or occasionally at an alternate venue if that is where the unwanted or misunderstood behaviours are presenting. In a smaller number of cases, dogs are brought into our own residence for fostering, observation, rehabilitation, or stabilization. In these cases, the dogs involved live as one of our own pack, and may be being readied for adoption through our own Adoptable Dogs programme, return to the original owner, or to the referring animal rescue or shelter organization.

Golden Mountain Dog Solutions commonly receives referrals from local veterinary practices, animal shelters, and dog rescue groups. Further details on the company, its mission statement, and methods appear in the "Supporting Links" portion located at the end of this CV.

## **Other Activities**

### **[1981 – 1987] Troop Scouter, Scouts Canada, 1<sup>st</sup> Chebucto Heights Scout Troop and 1<sup>st</sup> Maitland Scout Troop**

I put my wilderness living and training skills to use in training and leading Boy Scouts and Leaders, beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> Chebucto Heights Scout troop in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and later with the 1<sup>st</sup> Maitland Scout Troop in Maitland, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia. In this capacity I was the senior leader with each group.

In 1982, an article I wrote titled *The Spirit Lives On* was published first in the official Scouts Canada magazine, *The Leader*, and later in the local weekly newspapers *Bridgewater Bulletin* and Lunenburg's *Progress Enterprise*. The appearance of this article prompted the Lunenburg District scouting Commission to approach me to take the post of Publicity Chairman for the group, which I accepted and filled from 1982 to 1987. During that time, I wrote a very well received weekly column on Scouting and outdoor activities that appeared in the two previously referred to local weekly newspapers.

While I have put together and led adventure trips since then at the request of active Scout Leaders, I had to step back from my previous level of involvement with the movement due to the demands of growing my business.

### **[1984 – 1995] Shooting Coach, Chief Instructor in Hunter Safety and Survival, Chief Instructor Firearm Safety Programme, Range Safety Officer, Lunenburg Rod & Gun Club**

During this period my involvement included teaching small bore rifle marksmanship to junior club members under the Junior Shooting Programme, administering courses under the Nova Scotia Hunter Safety programme, and later administering firearm safety courses under the Canada Firearms Safety programme when it became the vehicle for licensing of firearm owners. I am still an active shooter and firearms trainer, independent of club affiliations.

**[1993 – 2001]**

**Co-Founder, Épée Coach and Tournament Organizer, South Shore Duellists Fencing Club**

The South Shore Duellists Fencing Club was born when the previously existing Bridgewater Fencing Club relocated its base of operations from Bridgewater to Lunenburg. During my time with the organization I taught the art of fencing with the Épée to students ranging from children to adults, including a member of the Fencing Team representing Nova Scotia at the 1999 Canada Winter Games in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland.

In 1995 I created the "March Hare Recreational Fencing Tournament", organizing and sponsoring it as an annual event for seven consecutive years. The March Hare was a response to a clear need for a decidedly non-serious component on the tournament calendar permitting competitive fencers to blow off steam in combats that would not affect provincial or national rankings, and provide a platform for public education on the history and practice of swordplay. The March Hare grew during its lifetime to be the largest and most popular fencing tournament ever held in Nova Scotia drawing participants from clubs throughout Atlantic Canada.

**Supporting Links**

The following list contains links to web pages containing articles about me, or written by me, that represent more detailed information on items presented above.

**News Items:**

27 January 1999, Dog Ice Rescue –

[http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/dog\\_rescue.htm](http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/dog_rescue.htm)

21 July 1999, Nova Tire Fire –

[http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/nova\\_fire.htm](http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/nova_fire.htm)

13 October 1999, Seniors' Check-In Programme –

<http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/scip.htm>

10 November 1999, Y2K –

<http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/y2k.htm>

28 March 2000, Seniors' Check-in Programme #2 –

[http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/scip\\_hansard.htm](http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/scip_hansard.htm)

24 May 2000, Seniors' Check-In Programme rescue –

[http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/scip\\_rescue.htm](http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/scip_rescue.htm)

1 February 2001, Earline Conrad rescue –

<http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/conrad.htm>

6 February 2002, Lunenburg County Crime Prevention Board –

<http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/news/lccp.htm>



**Website:**

Whynacht Security & Survival website –  
<http://www.whynachtsecurity.ca/index.htm>

**Assorted articles on dog related topics:**

Rehabilitating the Problem Dog –  
<http://blog.gmds.ca/archives/11>

Shock Collar Containment Systems for Pets – Not Recommended by the Large Fierce Mammals –  
<http://randy.whynacht.ca/archives/1453>

The Road to Dog Hell is Paved With Stupid Human Misconceptions –  
<http://randy.whynacht.ca/archives/1522>

She Brought Me Her Worst Born -  
<http://randy.whynacht.ca/archives/1654>

Muddy Waters –  
<http://randy.whynacht.ca/archives/5101>

Some Tales From The Unpredictability Chronicles – Kids and Dogs –  
<http://randy.whynacht.ca/archives/5137>

Dog Days – Sarge –  
<http://randy.whynacht.ca/archives/6890>

Dog Days – Pepper –  
<http://randy.whynacht.ca/archives/6902>

Dog Days – Lessons from the Pepper Affair –  
<http://randy.whynacht.ca/archives/6963>

Please check the “Dogs” category on the *Large Fierce Mammal* website for latest developments.