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Local News

Home News Local News Two local paramedics heading to Haiti to battle cholera epidemic

Two local paramedics heading to Haiti to battle cholera epidemic

By SARAH DEETH, EXAMINER STAFF WRITER
Posted 5 months ago

Two Peterborough paramedics are travelling to Haiti at the end of January to help battle the cholera epidemic that's affecting the devastated Caribbean nation.

EMS supervisor Jeff Jordison and Troy Cheseboro, a part-time supervisor, will leave Jan. 25 and come home Feb. 1.

Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team (OVERT), a Durham Region-based charity, is organizing the trip.

Jordison said he knew a few people involved in the organization and he was asked if he could help.

Initially, he said, he was a little skeptical and unsure if he wanted to go.

But it was clear help was needed, he said.

The two will be working in a United Nations hospital in St. Marc, a town about two hours north of Port-au-Prince. St. Marc is in the epicentre of the outbreak.

They'll also be visiting nearby orphanages, he said, checking children for any signs of cholera.

It has been almost one year since a massive earthquake destroyed what little infrastructure Haiti had. The destruction greatly contributed to the cholera outbreak, which began in October.

"There's still all this devastation," Jordison said. "There are still people living in tents."

As a paramedic, Jordison has dealt with some pretty intense situations before.

"But this is on a completely different scale," he said.

Though he's not sure what to expect in Haiti, he said he's heard a few stories about how bad things are.

He said he'll have to take things one step at a time.

He may also come back with a newfound appreciation of Canada, he said

"I really just want to be able to help."

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