

05-05-2017 Cache Creek BC – Clayton Cassidy – FF Flood Creek Inspection – Culvert Accident

Cache Creek fire chief missing, believed swept away in fast-moving creek

<https://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/cache-creek-fire-chief-missing-believed-swept-away-in-fast-moving-creek/>
May 5, 2017 By Adam Williams



Clayton Cassidy (left) and Mike Shepherd help clean up the Cache Creek Fire Hall following the 2015 flood. KTW file photo

John Ranta was one of the last people to see Clayton Cassidy.

The mayor of Cache Creek had been responding to a call from a village resident on Thursday night, when rising water levels caused debris to build up under one of the bridges crossing a fast-flowing Cache Creek.

Cassidy and the volunteer fire department were on site, too, and crews worked late into the night to get the water flowing again.

“We feel we’ve got most of the culverts and the potential of increased flooding under control now,” Ranta said. “The devastating thing for the community is the fact that Clayton Cassidy, the fire chief, who was responding as late as 3 o’clock in the morning, is missing.”

A search is underway throughout the Cache Creek area for Cassidy. He was last seen at about 3 a.m., when he went to check the water levels around the village. It is believed he was swept away in Cache Creek, near the centre of the village.

Perhaps most concerning, Ranta told *KTW*, is that when authorities discovered Cassidy's vehicle early Friday morning, the engine was still running.

"At this point, I haven't heard that they've discovered him. But, unfortunately, having found his vehicle this morning with the engine running, that's very much unlike Clayton Cassidy. Many people in the community are fearing the worst," Ranta said.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to, first of all, Clayton, but to his wife and family and everybody in the community. He was so engaged and so involved. It's a tragedy of epic proportions for the village of Cache Creek."

Water levels started rising in the village around suppertime on Thursday night, when snow melt and heavy rains led to the creek swelling beyond its banks.

Ranta said culverts were blocked by debris and the village lost a number of bridges crossing Cache Creek.

A village of little more than 1,000 people, Cassidy is a fixture in the community and the fact he is missing has devastated many of the area's residents, Ranta said.

"My understanding is he was by the Dairy Queen, looking at a culvert," said Cache Creek resident Pat Kennedy, who was at work at the Sandman Inn when she spoke to *KTW*. "I think the water just wooshed down and they're thinking he got washed away."

Kennedy said the situation had the entire town at a standstill early Friday afternoon.

"The water is rushing madly down the river and covering some of the streets," she said. "We've got the search and rescue out and firefighters are walking the river bank. It's really a bit chaotic here."

Kamloops Search and Rescue is among the search teams in Cache Creek, having dispatched a helicopter, swift water rescue and drone teams, a canine unit and ground searchers to the area early Friday.

A dozen Kamloops members are in the area and were expected to search until dark. The RCMP will make the decision of when to stand down.

"We've searched pretty far down [the river] using the helicopter," said Kamloops Search and Rescue search master Alan Hobler.

Cache Creek, which is believed to be the body of water Cassidy was swept into, feeds into the Bonaparte River, which empties into the Thompson River.

"Now we're using SAR Dogs and ground teams to search the river banks," Hobler continued. "It's my understanding the water levels are really high right now. We're waiting for those water levels to drop, in case he's kind of in that area. Right now, we're kind of investigating all the possibilities."

Cassidy has been a member of the volunteer fire department in Cache Creek for more than three decades and has been the fire chief for more than 10 years.



In 2016, he was awarded the province's Medal of Good Citizenship for his work during the Cache Creek flood of 2015. The medal recognizes individuals who, through exceptional long-term service, have made outstanding contributions to their communities without expectation of remuneration or reward.

Earlier Friday, residents told *KTW* the town is still hoping for a good outcome.

"He's a hell of a nice guy," said 54-year-old Donna Berwin, who has known Cassidy for nearly her entire life.

"He's an awesome man."

The Ashcroft RCMP released a statement on search efforts shortly before 2 p.m.

"To date, the investigation into his whereabouts have confirmed that Mr. Cassidy had been checking creek flow levels in Cache Creek, east of the village near Brookside Campground," it reads.

"Clayton Cassidy last had communication with someone early Friday overnight, and was seen by the river. Mr. Cassidy's vehicle was also found at the location."

Cassidy is described as caucasian, standing 5-foot-11 and weighing 177 pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes and was last seen wearing blue overalls. He is 59 years old.

"The Cache Creek RCMP have activated area search and rescue resources, which include swift water technicians and SAR Service dog teams," said RCMP Cpl. Dan Moskaluk.

"Currently, an extensive ground and waters' edge search is underway. Mr. Cassidy is considered missing."

Ranta said the village has the rising water levels well in hand, but that's the last thing on the mind of most of Cache Creek.

"Things are on the upswing as far as the flooding goes, but everybody is devastated by the potential loss of a person like Clayton Cassidy."

CODE1

Cache Creek fire chief reported missing near flood waters

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/cache-chreek-fire-chief-clayton-cassidy-swept-away-flood-1.4102433>

May 05, 2017 By Yvette Brend and Liam Britten, [CBC News](#)



Dozens of volunteers, including swiftwater teams, were out on Friday looking for Cassidy. (Kamloops Search and Rescue/Facebook)



Dozens of officials were called in Friday to help with the search. Efforts were called off by nightfall as water levels rose, but resumed early Saturday. (Kamloops Search And Rescue/Twitter)

Search and rescue, fire crews resume search Saturday
A search for a missing fire chief feared swept away by flood waters in Cache Creek, B.C., has resumed after being called off late Friday night.

Clayton Cassidy, 59, was [last seen](#) just outside the village — about an hour west of Kamloops — early Friday morning checking water levels in the creek near the Brookside Campground. RCMP said his vehicle was found near a washed-out bridge where he was last spotted.

Kamloops Search and Rescue (KSAR) members, fire crews and RCMP officers spent Friday afternoon searching for Cassidy.

By nightfall, the search was called off as rising water levels and darkness made it too dangerous for crews.

The local fire hall itself flooded later in the evening, with residents frantically searching for sandbags to keep the water at bay. There were also reports of water pooling on roadways.

On Saturday morning, KSAR manager Alan Hobler said his crews were heading back out to resume the search. He added that searchers from the fire department had been out in "droves" looking for the chief.

Volunteers from four neighbouring towns — Mission, Vernon, Merritt and Ridge Meadows — also travelled to Cache Creek to help.

RCMP Sgt. Kathleen Thain said the water levels had gone down since Friday, thanks to better weather.

There have been no signs of Cassidy so far.

Local resident Antal Kovacs says he last saw Cassidy at around 10 or 10:30 p.m. PT Thursday.

"We were talking on top of my neighbour's bridge. He said to me, 'You can go to sleep, no problem now, I will be up all night long.'" he said.

"I said, 'I'll stay with you.' He said, 'No, no, I don't need you. Go to sleep.'"

"He shakes my hand, pats my shoulder, and we never seen him since ... He was a very helpful, very, very good guy."

Lauded for community service

Cassidy, known for his dogged community involvement, won a **B.C. award** for his leadership and bravery during a past flood.

In 2016, Premier Christy Clark lauded Cassidy for his tireless community service and grit during the **2015 Cache Creek flash floods**, noting that "some people rise to the occasion and others go above and beyond."

Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver issued a statement Friday afternoon.

"My thoughts are with all those affected by flooding. My heart goes out to missing Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy and his family. I hope that he is found safe," Weaver said in a news release.



Clayton Cassidy is honoured with B.C.'s Medal of Good Citizenship for his dedicated service helping Cache Creek residents stay safe and return to their homes following a devastating flood in May of 2015. (Don Craig/Government of B.C.)

FIRE CHIEF MISSING IN CACHE CREEK

[HTTP://WWW.MYCARIBOONOW.COM/19253/FIRE-CHIEF-MISSING-CACHE-CREEK/](http://www.mycariboonow.com/19253/FIRE-CHIEF-MISSING-CACHE-CREEK/)

MAY. 6TH, 2017 TYLER DIETRICH,

The following information is from the Ashcroft RCMP Website:

The Ashcroft RCMP are currently searching a segment of Cache Creek, near the village of Cache Creek, BC, for missing person, Clayton Cassidy.

On the morning of Friday May 5, 2017, the Ashcroft RCMP received a report that 59 yr old Clayton Cassidy of Cache Creek was missing.

Mr Cassidy who is employed as the Cache Creek Fire Chief was last known to be checking creek water levels early Friday morning and was reported as missing.

To date the investigation into his whereabouts have confirmed the Mr Cassidy had been checking creek flow levels in Cache Creek, East of the village near Brookside Campground. Clayton Cassidy last had communication with someone early Friday overnight, and seen by the river. Mr Cassidy's vehicle was also found at the location.

Clayton Cassidy is described as:

- Caucasian male
- 5'11 180 cm
- 177lbs 80 kgs
- Hair brown
- Eyes brown
- Last seen wearing blue overalls

The Cache Creek RCMP have activated area Search and Rescue resources, which include swift water technicians and SAR Service dog teams, stated Cpl Dan Moskaluk

"Currently, an extensive ground and waters' edge search is underway. Mr Clayton is considered as missing", added Cpl Dan Moskaluk.



Photo Courtesy of Ashcroft RCMP

Search continues for fire chief missing near floodwaters

<http://www.news1130.com/2017/05/06/search-continues-fire-chief-missing-near-floodwaters/>

May 6, 2017 by NEWS 1130 STAFF

CACHE CREEK (NEWS 1130) – The search continues for a missing fire chief in Cache Creek, west of Kamloops.

Clayton Cassidy was reported missing yesterday morning when he went out to check water levels after flooding in the area. His car was found near the raging water.

Searchers, including the Kamloops Search and Rescue team, a helicopter, a swift-water rescue team, a canine unit and dozens of volunteers have been involved in the search.



Cache Creek search on Saturday. (Kamloops SAR via Twitter)

Kamloops Search and Rescue manager Alan Hobler says that an aerial search was unsuccessful.

“We searched for several hours by helicopter and now we are focusing more on shore and land based searching,” he said.

Cassidy was given a Medal of Good Citizenship by the BC government last year for his efforts helping Cache Creek residents during a devastating flood in May 2015.

Drive BC says Highway 1 and Highway 97 in the Cache Creek area are now open.

Second day of searching underway for missing Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy

<http://www.cknw.com/2017/05/06/second-day-of-searching-underway-for-missing-fire-chief-clayton-cassidy/>

May 06, 2017

The search for missing Cache Creek fire chief Clayton Cassidy has resumed, with even more resources being deployed in the desperate hunt to find him alive. Ashcroft RCMP Sergeant Kathleen Thain says crews remain optimistic.

“There’s always hope. I’m not a person that’s never going to say never. It could happen. We might get lucky.”

Global News reporter Rumina Daya is on the ground covering the search, and says the weather and rising water levels are cooperating today but the danger is still present.

“Even though the water has receded about four to six feet, the banks are unstable. We saw guys going down on a tether line looking along the edges, they’re using probes, and they’re on tether lines just in case the ground gives way.”

She adds search crews are still treating this as a missing person’s file and not a recovery effort.



KSAR, Ridge Meadows, Mission, more than 50 now involved in search for missing Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy

It’s believed Cassidy was taken by the fast moving waters early yesterday morning while checking the rising levels at a swollen river; his car was found late last night.

UPDATE: Search for Cache Creek Fire Chief now recovery operation

[http://www.ash-cache-](http://www.ash-cache-journal.com/ourtown/421536843.html)

[journal.com/ourtown/421536843.html](http://www.ash-cache-journal.com/ourtown/421536843.html)

May 6, 2017 by Barbara Roden - Ashcroft Cache Creek Journal — updated May 7, 2017



Chilliwack SAR, Vernon SAR also joining search. Crews using tether line b/c banks r extremely dangerous.

[Rumina Daya @rdayaglobal](#)

Daya explains that search crews have been brought in from many areas of the province.

“There are over 50 people involved in the search, you’ve got teams from Kamloops, Mission, Ridge Meadows, Vernon, Chilliwack, volunteers from several different communities.”

Those resources are being deployed through the ground and air.



Search crews getting ready to move out from command centre in Cache Creek.[Rumina Daya @rdayaglobal](#)

Ashcroft RCMP have confirmed that the search for missing Cache Creek Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy is now a recovery operation. Kamloops Search and Rescue remain on scene and water levels have dropped substantially since Saturday evening, aiding the volunteers' efforts.

Ten search and rescue volunteers, as well as members of the Cache Creek and Kamloops fire departments, are continuing the search mission both on the ground and in the air. Members of the Cache Creek fire department just want to bring Clayton home at this point, and are very focused on that effort. They are all feeling his absence. Quiet rooms, where the volunteers can go if they need privacy or down-time, have been established at the Cache Creek Community Hall, adjacent to the fire hall, and at Cache Creek Elementary School.

Cassidy was reported missing on the morning of Friday, May 5 and is presumed to have been swept away while checking creek levels. His brother, Patrick Cassidy, is continuing to assist with the flood response.

UPDATE: 5 p.m.

Saturday's search has been suspended until Sunday morning.

Cache Creek residents continue to deal with flooding throughout the community due to snowmelt and heavy rain.

Meanwhile, rescue crews have resumed their extensive search along Cache Creek for missing Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy who was reported missing Friday morning, believed to be swept away by the creek while checking water levels.

Kamloops Search and Rescue are using drones, the SAR service dog team and swift water rescue members in the hopes of finding 59-year-old Cassidy.

More than 50 search and rescue volunteers are taking part in search efforts, including from Vernon, Chilliwack, Maple Ridge and Mission.

Cassidy was honoured with the B.C. government's Medal of Good Citizenship for his ongoing efforts in the community. He has been a member of the Cache Creek fire department for more than 30 years.

As the search continues, local resident Lisa Dafoe questioned how the community is going to move past this tragedy.

"Clayton was doing what he loved to do. He loved to help people. He was always giving, always smiling," she said.



Liberal leader Christy Clark visited the community Saturday, reflecting on 2015 flood that caused substantial destruction in the area.

"I was here in 2015 when there was a devastating flood, in this community and I learned then that people are incredibly resilient here," she said.

We're in a lot of shock': Brother of missing Cache Creek fire chief

<http://www.ash-cache-journal.com/news/421540413.html>

May 6, 2017 by Barbara Roden - Ashcroft Cache Creek Journal— updated May 6, 2017

As day two of the search for missing Cache Creek Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy continued, his brother Patrick Cassidy read a statement from the family.

Patrick, a year younger than Clayton, was in Cache Creek with other members of the Cassidy family.



Patrick Cassidy reads a statement from Clayton Cassidy's family.

— Image Credit: Barbara Roden

"Good afternoon," he said. "I have been asked to read a brief statement from the Cassidy family. We would like to thank all the well-wishers for their messages of support, love, and light, which have been pouring in since Clayton's disappearance.

"We are trying to remain positive, and are still hoping for a good outcome in this extremely difficult time for us.

"We would also like to thank all the contributing agencies for their tireless support and effort, starting with the search and rescue groups from several provincial communities. They include ground crews, swift water crews, air support, and communications.

"We'd like to thank the amazing crews from the Cache Creek and Ashcroft and Kamloops fire departments; the always constant and helpful RCMP of Ashcroft; BC Ambulance crews standing by; the townships of Cache Creek and Ashcroft; and also the provincial emergency programs that have landed here on the ground to help us.

"We would like to thank all the businesses and volunteers who have donated their food and themselves in our time of need. Our gratitude and love goes out to each and every one of you. From the Cassidy family, we thank you."

Asked by a reporter what his gut was telling him, Patrick hesitated for some moments before replying, "It's telling me he's still here, but in what sense I have no idea. We're in a lot of shock."

Speaking with *The Journal*, Patrick agreed that Clayton had been out doing what he always did in such events: helping out.

"If someone was in need, he was there, whether it was a family, it was a friend, or if it was someone he never even knew. If he felt comfortable that was something he wanted to do, he just did it. He is just that type of guy.

"He was never there for the honour or the praise. He just did what he thought was right. He has a very strong sense of community, and a huge heart to go with it. There was never a time when he wanted to do something for the praise.

"He became a part of the fire department because of the camaraderie and the service aspect of it. I don't know how many other clubs and groups he was a part of; he was just constantly helping out.

"All his kids' friends who used to hang out with the boys growing up thought of Rose and Claytie as second parents. They always love to help. That's just who they are.

"The communities of Cache Creek and Ashcroft are devastated. He is a beacon in those communities."

Community members reflect on local leader

Local residents have been on edge waiting for any updates as dozens of search and rescue members continue looking for Cassidy by ground and water.

"He was an amazing leader," said Cache Creek resident Lisa Dafoe. "How do we move forward from this?"



Community members Adeline Sarver (left) and Joan Thompson brought donations of food for volunteers at the Emergency Response Centre in Cache Creek.

Photo by Barbara Roden

"Clayton was doing what he loved to do. He loved to help people. He was always giving, always smiling."

Longtime Cache Creek resident Joy Murrell said "this wouldn't have happened if he wasn't as responsible as he is."

"It's a terrible blow for the community. He did so much and was always there."

Fire Chief Missing-Probable LODD, Firefighter Struck (The Secret List)

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/fire-chief-missing-probable-lodd-firefighter-struck-the-secret-list/>

May 7, 2017

All,

Hope has faded in the search for a missing British Columbia (Canada) Fire Chief feared to have been swept away in swollen creek. Chief Clayton Cassidy, 59, of Cache Creek is feared to have been swept away as he was last known to be checking creek water near a campground-his buggy was found nearby.

Chief Cassidy was given a Medal of Good Citizenship by the B.C. government last year for his efforts helping Cache Creek residents during a devastating flood in May 2015. Update: This morning the latest word is that this has become a recovery operation. We'll have more as the search continues. KTIYP's.

VIDEO: Family looking for any signs of Cache Creek Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy

<http://www.ash-cache-journal.com/news/421563093.html> 1

May 7, 2017 by Barbara Roden - Ashcroft Cache Creek Journal

The search for missing Cache Creek Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy has become a recovery operation, Ashcroft RCMP Sgt. Kathleen Thain said on the morning of Sunday, May 7.

[READ: A timeline of events in the search for Clayton Cassidy](#)

"We're continuing the search for Clayton," says the fire chief's brother Patrick, the family spokesperson. "But we've come to the realization that it has gone to recovery."

Ten search and rescue volunteers, as well as members of the Cache Creek and Kamloops fire departments, are continuing the search both on the ground and in the air.

Members of the Cache Creek fire department, who are all feeling their fire chief's absence, just want to bring Clayton home at this point, and are very focused on

that effort. They are assisting with the search, as are members of the Kamloops fire department. Two members of the Ashcroft fire department are in Cache Creek with Engine 3, to provide mutual aid if necessary.

Quiet rooms, where the volunteers can go if they need privacy or down-time, have been established at the Cache Creek Community Hall, adjacent to the fire hall, and at Cache Creek Elementary School.

Patrick says that family members have spent the morning on bridge watch and checking areas of the creek that had been previously searched. "We're watching the water, trying to find the body or a piece of clothing, something that was Clayton's."

[READ: 'We're in a lot of shock': Brother of missing Cache Creek fire chief](#)

Rose Cassidy, Clayton's wife, is doing as well as can be expected, says Patrick.

"She has a lot of fight in her. There's lots of friends and family that are assisting her.

"The wonderful thing is the villages and the local people, and the family members that are up here, are giving as much support as she needs.



Patrick Cassidy spent the morning of May 7 bridge watching with other members of the Cassidy family.

Photo by Barbara Roden.

"We certainly appreciate everything everybody has done. It's been absolutely amazing. Giving us support in our time of need is phenomenal."

Asked about the mood of the family when they heard that the search had switched to a recovery mission, Patrick says some family members had that in mind already.

"It may not have been as shocking to some of us, but when the word changed from search and rescue to recovery at a meeting [Saturday] night, the room fell silent, and it was extremely difficult. A lot of hugging, a lot of crying.

"Even though we were hopeful, some of us had a feeling we were in recovery mode from the beginning when we got here, just because of the circumstances.

"We just want closure and to bring him home."

Fire chief believed swept away in fast-moving creek

<https://www.firerescue1.com/fire-chief/articles/242151018-Fire-chief-believed-swept-away-in-fast-moving-creek/>

May 8, 2017 By FireRescue1 Staff

CACHE CREEK, B.C. — A search for a missing fire chief has now turned into a recovery mission.

CBC.ca reported that Cache Creek Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy, 59, was last seen Friday morning checking water levels in a creek. Eleven search and rescue personnel, along with two dozen volunteers, have been searching for Chief Cassidy. Officials said the chief is now presumed dead.

"We're just doing the best we can and keeping the focus on bringing him home," Sgt. Kathleen Thain, with Ashcroft RCMP, said.



[View image on Twitter](#)
Clayton Cassidy, the missing #CacheCreek fire chief, received the Medal of Good Citizenship in '16 for his work during the May '15 flood.
[James Peters@Jamloops](#)

Chief Cassidy's vehicle was found near a washed-out bridge; crews believe he was swept away or fell into the water.

Thain said residents were dropping off food and water to support the search and rescue volunteers.

"Chief Cassidy is a very big part of this community," Thain said. "So they're coming together, they're rallying."

Search for Missing Chief in Canada Now a Recovery

[HTTP://WWW.FIREHOUSE.COM/NEWS/12332451/SEARCH-FOR-MISSING-FIRE-CHIEF-CACHE-CREEK-CANADA-BECOMES-RECOVERY-EFFORT-FIREFIGHTER-NEWS](http://www.firehouse.com/news/12332451/SEARCH-FOR-MISSING-FIRE-CHIEF-CACHE-CREEK-CANADA-BECOMES-RECOVERY-EFFORT-FIREFIGHTER-NEWS)

MAY 8, 2017 SOURCE: FIREHOUSE.COM NEWS

May 8-- A recovery effort is underway for missing Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy, who is believed to have been swept away by swift waters while checking on rising flood levels Friday in Cache Creek, British Columbia.

Search and rescue crews were holding out hope that Cassidy, 59, would be rescued, but after three days with no developments, the chief is presumed dead, according to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

On Sunday, the Southeast RCPM tweeted "Search continuing as a recovery effort. No sign of missing."

[CBC News](#) reports that Cassidy was last seen just outside the village checking on water levels in Cache Creek. The RCMP said his vehicle was found near a washed-out bridge where he was last spotted, and crews have presumed he was either swept away or fell into the water.

"It is hard. It's a small community up here, they're very tight-knit," Sgt. Kathleen Thain with Ashcroft RCMP told CBC News. "Chief Cassidy is a very big part of this community. So they're coming together, they're rallying."

Cassidy won a 2016 Medal of Good Citizenship for his leadership and bravery during a past flood, according to CBC News. British Columbia Premier Christy Clark lauded Cassidy at the time for his tireless community service and grit during the 2015 Cache Creek flash floods, noting that "some people rise to the occasion and others go above and beyond."

According to the [Merritt Herald](#), Cassidy has been a member of the volunteer fire department in Cache Creek for more than three decades and has been fire chief for more than 10 years.

Search continues for Cache Creek's missing fire chief

[HTTP://WWW.TIMESCOLONIST.COM/NEWS/B-C/SEARCH-CONTINUES-FOR-CACHE-CREEK-S-MISSING-FIRE-CHIEF-1.18815782](http://www.timescolonist.com/news/b-c/search-continues-for-cache-creek-s-missing-fire-chief-1.18815782)

MAY 8, 2017 LORA GRINDLAY AND DENISE RYAN / VANCOUVER SUN

The community of Ashcroft, reeling from devastating floods, turned out in force as waters receded over the weekend to search for missing Cache Creek Fire Chief Clayton Cassidy.

Sadly, the search shifted from rescue to recovery on Sunday after Search and Rescue teams, aided by dozens of local volunteers, found no sign of the missing man.

Cassidy was last seen at about 3 a.m. on Friday when he bid farewell to a small crew working to clear debris near a bridge over the town's roaring namesake creek.



The search for missing Cache Creek fire chief Clayton Cassidy has become a recovery effort after days of searching yielded no developments. Photo credit: Government of British Columbia



Premier Christy Clark speaks to a rescue worker as she visits Cache Creek on Saturday. The small B.C. community was hit this week with flooding from melting snow pack. Photograph By Jonathan Hayward

The crew, which initially included Mayor John Ranta and later a city administrator and a backhoe operator, said good night to Cassidy and worked for another hour. That was the last time anyone would see Cassidy. He was reported missing when he didn't return home by morning, after working to help mitigate the effects of flash flooding on the small town.

At 7 a.m. Friday, a volunteer firefighter out for a walk found Cassidy's fire truck parked a quarter of a mile away, next to the abutment of a bridge that had washed away. The truck was idling and Cassidy had disappeared.

"Given the length of time that has passed, our efforts today have been based on recovery action," said Thain. Cassidy is still considered a missing person, but given the location of his vehicle, the proximity to the high waters, and the fact that he was last seen on Friday, the search is now being called a recovery, said Thain.

Many of the dozens of people who scoured the banks of Cache Creek for signs of the missing chief over the weekend were volunteer firefighters who served under Cassidy.

"They are all out looking for him. They all have tears in their eyes," said Ranta. Ranta spoke of the challenging time facing him as mayor and of the entire community. A flash flood ravaged the town in 2015 and Cassidy was praised for his bravery and leadership during the crisis.

Now it is Ranta who is trying to be methodical and calm while tragedy strikes again. Ranta said Cassidy was a well-loved member of the community. He had served on town council and was awarded a medal for good citizenship by the province in 2015. He was one of eight kids in his family, was married with children and worked at the Highland Valley Copper Mine.

The mayor said that Cassidy was the type of man that others looked up to. He said those who met Cassidy would later think, "Oh man, I wish I could be a little bit more like Clayton."

Ranta said: "He was just one of those guys, the kind of guy you hoped to be." "He was a wonderful, compassionate, caring, saint-of-a-man," said Ranta. "He would work for anybody, anytime, anywhere, tirelessly. It is just a huge loss. The whole community shares in the grief."

Meanwhile, warm temperatures prompting spring run-off combined with heavy rainfall in some areas caused devastating floods and mudslides in several parts of the B.C. Interior.

In Salmon Arm, RCMP said a 76-year-old man was missing after a mudslide enveloped a home. Local fire officials responded to the slide in the nearby community of Tappen on Saturday. On Sunday the Vancouver Heavy Urban Search and Rescue team was in Tappen helping with the search.

Family members said the man was “last known to be inside the home that was buried in the slide and he has yet to be located.” Shuswap Search and Rescue crews worked to enter the home to search for the man. The slide blocked road access to some 100 homes in the area.

The City of West Kelowna declared a local state of emergency Saturday to address flooding. Central Okanagan Emergency officials put 90 properties in the Fintry Delta area north of Kelowna under evacuation due to rising waters and prepped neighbouring residents to leave on short notice if conditions worsened. Motorists and pedestrians were advised that several roads, walkways and parks in the region are at risk of flooding and to be cautious near watercourses.

Sections of the Trans-Canada Highway near Salmon Arm and Glacier National Park were closed due to mudslides, according to Drive B.C. In the Interior, Highway 97A near Sicamous was closed after a mudslide and an avalanche closed Highway 99 at Duffey Lake east of Pemberton.

In Kelowna on Sunday, several addresses along Commonwealth Road were added to the evacuation notice by Central Okanagan Emergency Notice, and evacuated residents were asked to register at the Emergency Support Services Reception Centre located in the Salvation Army Church, 1480 Sutherland Avenue. Other evacuation notices continue to be in effect in Kelowna and in the Fintry Provincial Park. For more information go to <https://www.cordemergency.ca/>

Search continues through weekend for Cache Creek fire chief Clayton Cassidy

<http://www.ash-cache-journal.com/ourtown/422159543.html>

May 12, 2017 Barbara Roden Ashcroft Cache Creek Journal *updated* May 13, 2017

The search for missing Cache Creek fire chief Clayton Cassidy will continue through the weekend, with Kamloops Search and Rescue personnel returning to assist members of the Cache Creek Fire Department (CCFD), Kamloops Fire Rescue (KFR), and local volunteers who have been searching along Cache Creek, the Bonaparte River, and the Thompson River since last Friday.

Cassidy disappeared in the vicinity of the Brookside Campground sometime after 3:30 a.m. on Friday, May 5 while checking water levels around the village following flooding the evening before. The fire department crew cab was spotted idling beside Cache Creek at around 7 a.m., and Ashcroft RCMP and Kamloops Search and Rescue were notified.

The searchers are operating out of a volunteer command centre that has been set up at the Cache Creek fire hall, under the supervision of Ashcroft Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) fire chief Josh White, the incident commander. He is being assisted by AVFD captain Nancy Duchaine.

"The Ashcroft fire department mandate right now is to lighten the load for the Cache Creek firefighters," says White. "We volunteered to take on the role, and they accepted. Anything we can do to help."

Tom Moe, the acting CCFD chief, and CCFD 2nd assistant chief Gord Dafoe, are both part of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) team, and are taking part in the search, along with other Cache Creek firefighters. Even though Ashcroft firefighters were eager to assist the search efforts, White has asked them to stay in town. "The Ashcroft fire department is serving both villages for fire protection right now," says White. It means that Cache Creek firefighters taking part in the search do not have to be worried about being rested in case of a fire call.

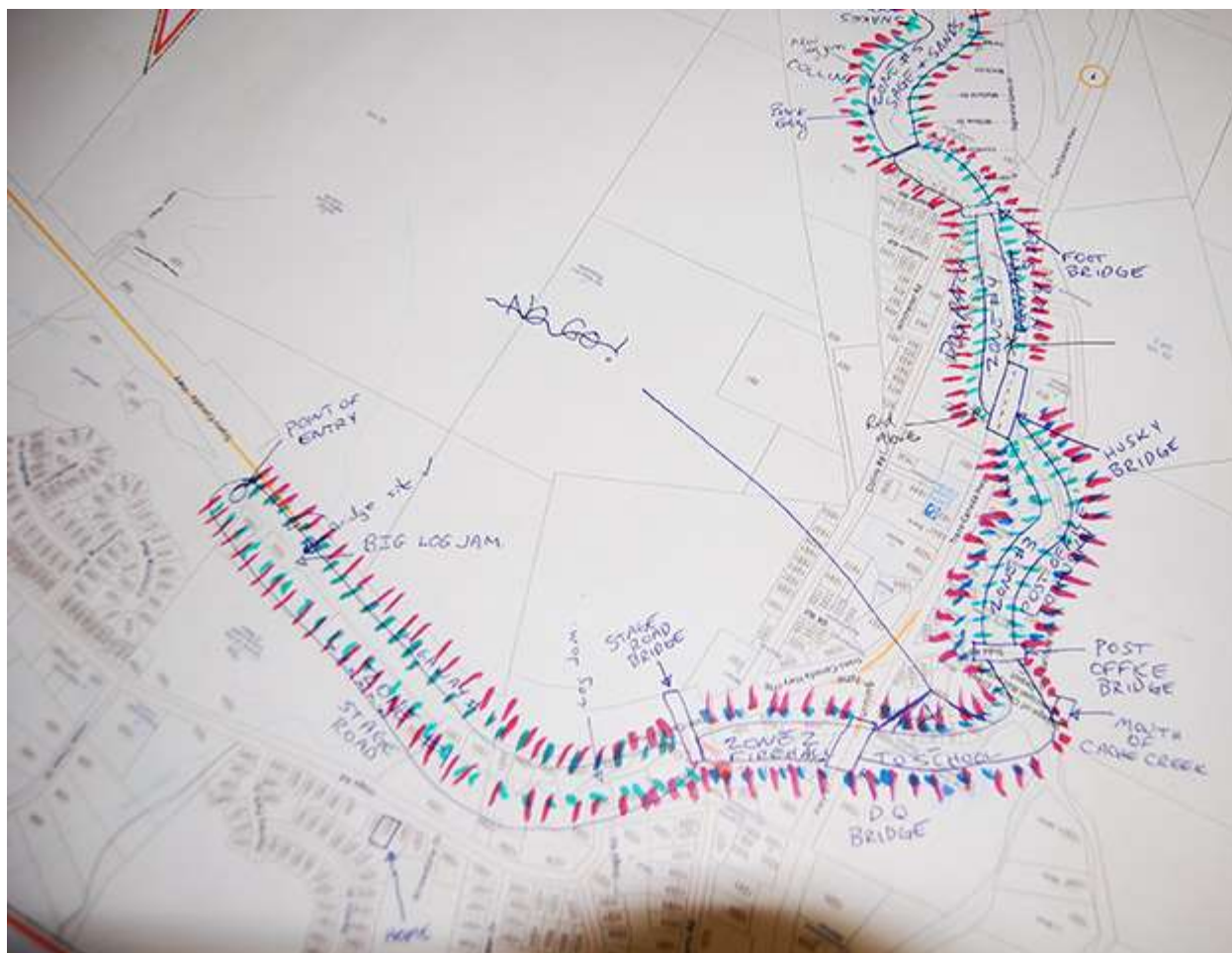
White says that an EOC was set up at the Cache Creek Community Hall on Sunday, May 7, and that Gerry Wong—the coordinator of the emergency response teams at Teck Highland Valley Copper—helped set up the volunteer command centre at the fire hall. All week the centre has hummed with activity, beginning at 7:30 each morning, when coordinators, volunteers, and the EOC team—White, Moe, Gord Dafoe, Cache Creek CAO and emergency program coordinator Keir Gervais, RCMP Sgt. Kathleen Thain, Cache Creek emergency social services coordinator Lisa Dafoe, and Alan Hobler of Kamloops Search and Rescue—meet to plan the day.

"We work with the skills of off-duty members of Kamloops Fire Rescue and discuss what high-hazard areas we can put them into, since they are highly trained," says White. "We do pre-planning, set goals for the day, get briefed on weather events, and do a safety briefing with the volunteers." Teams of no fewer than two people are then sent to various sites, with the teams reporting in when they reach their site, then reporting in every hour. "If they're still out after three hours, we ask them to come back in."

KFR personnel have been searching one of the most difficult stretches of terrain, along the Bonaparte River from Boston Flats to the Thompson River. "People with that level of training are put in the more dangerous areas," says White. If they have enough people, two teams of four people each search from opposite ends of that stretch of river, although White says that on Friday, May 12 one team of four people worked the entire stretch from west to east.

Search times are staggered, so that teams can return to the command centre for food and rest while another team goes out in their place. Volunteers who want to help but who are unable to do ground searches are able to do bridge watch duty at the various bridges over Cache Creek and the Bonaparte River.

Searchers are all equipped with tagging tape, and tag any sites where something looks out of the ordinary, then photograph the site and relay the picture to the command centre. Maps at the centre show what areas have been searched on a given day, with annotations regarding log jams or hazards.



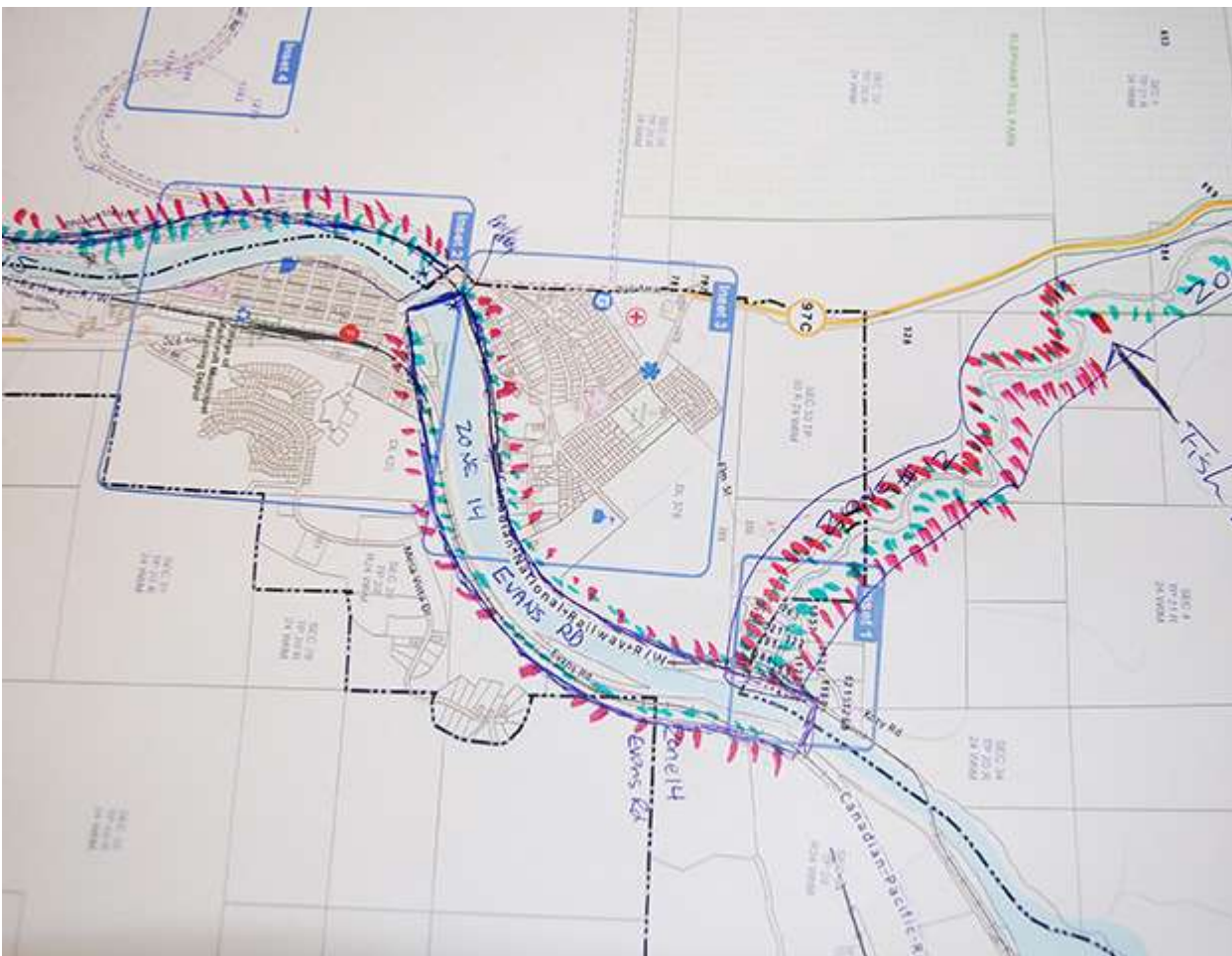
A section of map showing Cache Creek.

A steady supply of food and beverages have been arriving at the command centre, provided by local businesses, restaurants, individuals, and families. White says that help has arrived from even further afield. His wife was shopping at Costco in Kamloops, picking up a cart-full of energy and granola bars for the volunteers.

"The cashier asked what she needed them for," says White. She explained, and the cashier went to get the store manager, who came back and said there was no charge.

White singles out the ladies who have been preparing food and ensuring that the volunteers are well-fed, such as Lisa Dafoe, Sue Peters, and Kacey Boettger. "They keep asking 'Are you eating?' These long days couldn't be done without them."

Jenn Eaton, Laura Elliott, and Karen Farmer are acting as command support: answering phones, signing volunteers in and out to ensure everyone's whereabouts are monitored, and logging all activity. At the end of each day there is a debriefing session with the volunteers and the EOC members, reviewing what was accomplished that day, and what has come up that can be acted on during the next day.



A section of map volunteers are using, and marking, showing the Bonaparte and Thompson rivers. — Image Credit: Barbara Roden

White says that Ashcroft detachment commander Kathleen Thain has been a huge presence in Cache Creek over the last week. "She has been so awesome." And he says that "high praise is due to acting Cache Creek fire chief Tom Moe, Gord Dafoe, and the rest of the Cache Creek fire department.

"I know they would do the same for us. We're here to help as best we can. Clayton is our brother, and we want to bring him home."

Search for missing Cache Creek fire chief Clayton Cassidy suspended

<http://www.ash-cache-journal.com/news/422215793.html> 4

May 14, 2017 by Barbara Roden - Ashcroft Cache Creek Journal

The search for missing Cache Creek fire chief Clayton Cassidy has been suspended as of the evening of Sunday, May 14. The file will remain open with Ashcroft RCMP, and the ticket will remain open with Kamloops Search and Rescue.

"It has been suspended, and will reconvene when conditions improve and safety conditions improve," says Ashcroft RCMP Sgt. Kathleen Thain. "We are watching the levels daily."



Clayton Cassidy

— **Image Credit: Submitted**

Cassidy went missing sometime after 3:30 a.m. on Friday, May 5, when he was checking water levels around the village following flooding the night before. The fire department crew cab, still idling, was found beside Cache Creek near the Brookside Campground, but there was no sign of Cassidy.

Sgt. Dan Moskaluk, media relations for south district RCMP, confirmed the news on Sunday evening. "The Ashcroft RCMP and other agency representatives of the unified command team coordinating the search efforts for Clayton Cassidy have made a determination to suspend current search efforts on Sunday May 14," he said.

"Dozens of search and rescue technicians from various SAR teams, Cache Creek, Ashcroft Volunteer Fire Department, and Kamloops Fire Rescue members, alongside countless community volunteers, have been actively searching the creek's edge lines and downstream areas for any sign of Clayton Cassidy since the day of his disappearance on May 5. To date no sign of Mr. Cassidy has been found since he was last seen monitoring flood conditions at the creek on May 5.

"Cache Creek remains high and fast moving, and daily monitoring of the water conditions will continue to be made in order to re-assess when further searches can be conducted. Once water levels recede in the area, searchers may have better chances at locating Clayton Cassidy and making a recovery."

Moskaluk notes that Cassidy was wearing his Cache Creek Fire Department blue coveralls with a yellow flashlight attached, and yellow and black firefighter boots. He was last known to be wearing Levi blue jeans and a black Cache Creek Graffiti Days logo T-shirt under the blue coveralls. He was equipped with a Motorola HT1250 fire department radio with belt clip, and a Samsung black Galaxy 6 cellphone.

Searchers have completed exhaustive efforts to the best of their ability given the current water conditions, and we have made a determination to suspend the search in its current form," says Thain. "Once the water recedes we will look at conducting further efforts. The Ashcroft RCMP is ever grateful for the assistance and support received from all. The community as a whole continues to support Clayton Cassidy's family, as well as one another.

"The search is not over for Clayton," says Ashcroft fire chief Josh White, who has been in charge of the volunteer command centre at the Cache Creek fire hall. "It will go on, and we will actively work on information brought to our attention; for example, if someone sees something blue caught up on something. This will go on until we find him. Kamloops Search and Rescue has said that when conditions improve, call them."

Search for missing B.C. fire chief suspended

<https://www.firefightingincanada.com/headlines/search-for-missing-bc-fire-chief-suspended-24727>

May 15, 2017 Written by The Canadian Press

May 15, 2017, Ashcroft, B.C. - Police say the search has been suspended for a fire chief believed to have been swept away by high flood waters in British Columbia's interior.

Ashcroft RCMP say dozens of crews have been searching for Clayton Cassidy of Cache Creek since he disappeared on May 5.

He was last known to be checking creek flow levels at a campground as snowmelt and rain caused floods in the region.

Sgt. Kathleen Thain says searchers have completed "exhaustive efforts," scouring several water ways, including Cache Creek, Bonaparte River and the Thompson River with no success.

She says the water is still high and moving fast, and once the levels go down, searchers will look at other possible recovery efforts.

Cassidy was given a Medal of Good Citizenship by the B.C. government last year for his efforts helping Cache Creek residents during a devastating flood in May 2015.

Cache Creek Mayor John Ranta has said losing Cassidy is a tragedy of epic proportions.

Suspension of search for Clayton Cassidy is 'the right thing to do' says family

<http://www.ash-cache-journal.com/news/422351243.html>

May 15, 2017 by Barbara Roden - Ashcroft Cache Creek Journal

"The family feels this is the right thing to do," says Patrick Cassidy, following the news on May 14 that the search for his brother Clayton Cassidy has been suspended. The search began on May 5, when the Cache Creek fire chief was reported missing, and presumed swept away by floodwater in Cache Creek.

Patrick says that the support the family has received has been phenomenal. "In some ways it's a positive for me, because with all the stuff that's been going on in the world I'd kind of lost faith in humanity a bit, and it has really showed that there is a lot of good out there.

There's a lot of good people.

"All the volunteers and the agencies involved over the last ten days have just been tremendous. We all kind of feel we've enlarged our family ten-fold. Friendships happened so quickly, and everybody was pulling in the right direction. Everybody worked as a team.

"I think there were over a thousand search teams in those ten days. The response . . . we don't have any words to articulate that.

In a way, all we can do is offer our heartfelt thanks and include them in our family. It's like a family, with the friendships and support."

Patrick says that the family talked about the probable suspension of the search on Sunday early on. "The official search is suspended, but we will definitely be monitoring the situation until such time as the search is resumed, and then of course everyone is going to be back."

He says that Clayton's wife Rose has been "so stalwart. She's just dealing with it. She went down to the fire hall on Monday when they were doing clean-up and gave everybody hugs. I'm just amazed at her strength.

"We're just taking this time to rejuvenate and get some normalcy back in our lives. And as I say, when the call comes we're all back here."

Body of missing fire Chief Clayton Cassidy found in Cache Creek

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3484221/body-of-missing-fire-chief-clayton-cassidy-found-near-ashcroft-fire-department/>

May 28, 2017 By Jon Azpiri and Jessica Vomiero Global News

The body of Cache Creek fire Chief Clayton Cassidy has been found, nearly a month after he was swept away by rushing water.



Patrick Cassidy reads a statement from Clayton Cassidy's family. — Image Credit: Barbara Roden

Ashcroft RCMP said Cassidy was located in Cache Creek on Saturday around 10:30 p.m.

The Ashcroft Fire Department discovered his remains, which were located a short distance away from the bridge washout area where he vanished on May 5 after he went to check rising water levels.

Ashcroft RCMP, search-and-rescue technicians from Kamloops and the Ashcroft Fire Department, worked throughout the night on recovery efforts.

Late Sunday morning, RCMP said Cassidy's body had been recovered.

Cassidy, who had been with the Cache Creek Volunteer Fire Department for more than 30 years, was honoured with the Medal of Good Citizenship in 2016. He was awarded the medal for helping Cache Creek residents following the town's devastating flood in 2015.

At the time Cassidy received the medal, B.C. Premier Christy Clark said, "In an emergency, some people rise to the occasion, and others go above and beyond. Nobody had to ask Clayton Cassidy to take a leading role after a devastating flood – he simply stepped up, and made a difference when it was needed most. He continues to find ways to contribute to his neighbours and community without thought of recognition or reward."

Along with being head of the volunteer fire department, Cassidy was involved in the community as a minor coach in hockey, soccer and softball.

Cassidy was 59 years old. – *With files from Paula Baker, Rumina Daya and The Canadian Press*

The family of Clayton Cassidy writes to thank all who helped them

<http://www.ashcroftcachecreekjournal.com/opinion/the-family-of-clayton-cassidy-writes-to-thank-all-who-helped-them/>

May 30th, 2017

The family acknowledges groups, organizations, and individuals who provided support.

Dear Editor,

The sheer volume of support has left us speechless, and no words can describe to you how we truly feel towards all the volunteers and agencies that have helped us in our time of need. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following:

Ashcroft RCMP

The Villages of Cache Creek and Ashcroft

All the firefighters from Cache Creek, Ashcroft, Kamloops, and surrounding areas

The Province of British Columbia

All the Search and Rescue Units, including ground, canine, and swiftwater teams

Wyatt McMurray for continuous air support

Emergency Management B.C.

And of course all the volunteers and donations that kept us going during the search and recovery period.

The Cassidy family would like to offer a heartfelt and humble thank you to all. At 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 28, Clayton was brought home.

A public celebration of life for Clayton will be held on Saturday, June 3 starting at 2 p.m. at the Cache Creek park.

***Patrick Cassidy
Saltspring, B.C.
For the Cassidy family***

Hundreds gather to mourn B.C. fire chief killed in flooding creek

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/hundreds-gather-to-mourn-bc-fire-chief-killed-in-flooding-creek/article35198256/>

Jun. 04, 2017 1:02AM Last updated Jun. 05, 2017 CACHE CREEK, B.C. The Canadian Press (includes correction)



Hundreds gathered at a memorial in British Columbia's Interior to honour a fire chief swept away in a swollen creek last month.

Clayton Cassidy went missing on May 5 while checking the water levels of Cache Creek and after an exhaustive search, his body was found by Ashcroft fire officials three weeks later.

Firefighters from across B.C. and hundreds of others jammed Cache Creek Park arena to take part in the memorial service Saturday.

There wasn't a dry eye in the house when his three sons rose to speak.

Ken Cassidy said the loss of their father was unfair and sudden, and saying goodbye is impossible, while Kevin Cassidy said he wished there was a bigger word than thank you for the people who spent weeks looking for their father.

Clayton Cassidy's widow Rose was presented with his helmet and the family received a rolling salute from firefighters lining the streets as they left.

His son Derek Cassidy said he hoped others, especially firefighters, learn from the tragedy, and take caution in risky situations.

“Never go at it alone, especially if you think there’s a type of risk involved. Having someone with you can save your life,” he said.

Clayton Cassidy was highly respected in the community and received a Medal of Good Citizenship from the provincial government for helping residents recover from floods in 2015.

Cache Creek Mayor John Ranta has previously said his death is a tragedy that will live with the community for years to come.

UPDATED: Cache Creek fire chief remembered as ‘champion, an unsung hero’

<http://www.traildailytimes.ca/news/hundreds-turn-out-to-honour-cache-creek-fire-chief/>

Jun 3rd, 2017 ASHCROFT JOURNAL STAFF

Close to 1,500 people, including more than 400 firefighters, gathered Saturday to honour fallen Cache Creek fire chief Clayton Cassidy.

Cassidy, 59, had served for more than 30 years on the Cache Creek Fire Department and spent more than a decade as chief. He was reported missing on the morning of May 5 after apparently being swept away by floodwater as he was checking rising water levels in washed out areas of the community. His body was found on May 27, and recovered on May 28.

The celebration of life began with a procession of family members and firefighters from the Cache Creek fire hall to the park.

“We are here to celebrate a life well-lived,” said retired chaplain Ray Parker of Kamloops Fire Rescue as he conducted the service.

He quoted from John 15:13 — “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”



**Clayton Cassidy’s brother, Patrick, speaks at the service for the fire chief who died after he was swept away by heavy floods in early May. The line of duty memorial was held Saturday at Cache Creek Park.
Credit: Kevin MacDonald**

"Clayton Cassidy was that sort of man," Park said. "As a firefighter, he would run into those places we would run away from. His love of the fire service was second only to his love of his family and of the Village of Cache Creek."

Chief Ryan Day of the Bonaparte Indian Band said Cassidy was much honoured by the Bonaparte community.



"A well-loved, well-liked, cherished soul was taken into the water. These lands and these waters took him home to the spirit world to be with his ancestors. He watched over many of us in human form, in one place at one time. In spirit form he will be in all places at all times, and I know he is watching over us."

Cassidy's brother, Patrick, a year younger, told stories about how he and Clayton had a special bond growing up, being the two middle children in the family: "Clayton used to say to me 'I'm stuck in the middle with you.' Clayton took on the role of looking after others, and he carried that compassion all his life.

"He was a man of integrity and honesty; hard-working. He loved his wife, his family, and his community, and he left us too soon."

B.C. fire commissioner Gordon Anderson was there on behalf of the province. "(Cassidy) made the ultimate sacrifice. He was there to protect his community, and the turnout today shows that Chief Cassidy was appreciated."

Longtime friend and Cache Creek councillor Wyatt McMurray, who spent many hours searching by helicopter for the missing fire chief, called Cassidy his best friend.



"On the morning of May 5, I got the call that I will never forget. The words 'Clayton is missing' are words I'll never forget. Suddenly nothing seemed important except finding Clayton.

"The reaction of all the volunteers exemplifies small towns. People in Cache Creek and Ashcroft were trying to find one of our heroes, and never giving up.

"Clayton was one of those quiet heroes. He worked hard, looked after his family, tried to do the right thing. There are many quiet heroes in our communities, but

Clayton took it to the highest level. He was a guy you could always count on. Clayton was always there.

“He was always game for everything that was up. We all send you our love. We’ve lost a champion, an unsung hero, and a friend.”