# [***Paraplegic crawls for help after van gets stuck in snow: Regina man found by farmer after being lost for two days***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47KN-3780-01D6-P2F8-00000-00&context=1516831)

Ottawa Citizen

January 3, 2003 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

**Section:** News; Pg. A6; News

**Length:** 449 words

**Dateline:** REGINA

**Body**

REGINA -- Desperate to get help after his van was stranded in a Prairie snowstorm, paraplegic Michael Brady dragged himself down a country road pulling his wheelchair through the snowdrifts.

The 40-year-old Regina man spent nearly two days shivering in his stuck van before he decided to make his dangerous crawl for help New Year's Eve. He was found on the road by a farmer who had joined a search for him.

The Regina Leader-Post

Mr. Brady said he kept warm by running his van for 15 minutes every hour, huddling with his two dogs and using underwear as a head covering.

But fearing he might not have enough gasoline to survive another night in the sub zero temperatures, he dismantled his wheelchair Tuesday morning, threw it out the driver's door and started his quest for help.

"When I got to the snowdrifts on the road I'd get out of my chair and drag it through the drifts and then get back in it," he said. "I just wanted to survive."

Push by push through snowdrift after snowdrift, Mr. Brady trekked about a kilometre before farmer Larry Menke discovered him Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Menke, 64, had heard radio reports that a Regina man had disappeared after visiting friends in the area and had climbed in his four-wheel drive vehicle to help search for him on the hilly back roads.

After discovering Mr. Brady's van, Mr. Menke followed his wheelchair tracks through the snow until he came upon him on the road.

"His shoes were full of snow and he said: 'Thank goodness somebody found me.' It was pretty emotional there for awhile," said Mr. Menke. "What would have happened if someone came over the hills and run over top of him because he couldn't get out of the road?"

Mr. Brady was last seen Sunday at 9:30 p.m. He was bound for Regina after leaving a friend's farm, about 60 kilometres east of Swift Current. Snow was blowing and roads were slick with freezing rain.

He said that in the darkness, he missed the turn back to the highway. He turned instead down a dead-end road where his van became stuck in a snowbank.

Mr. Brady said he tried in vain to free the vehicle, placing a dog dish and the van's floor mats under the tires for traction, before resigning himself to waiting for help.

He was cold and wet when he dragged himself back into his van, he said. Although he had extra clothing with him, it was difficult for him to change in his vehicle. "I had an extra sweater and a couple pairs of boxer shorts and that's what I wore on my head to conserve body heat," he said.

Without food, water, blankets or a ***cellphone***, he settled in for a long wait, listening to bulletins about his disappearance on his van's radio. "I felt bad that everyone was looking for me," he said.

**Graphic**

Photo: Charles Melnick, Regina Leader-Post; Michael Brady, shown at his Regina home with his dogs on Wednesday, dragged himself down a country road, pulling his wheelchair through the snowdrifts after his van was stranded Sunday night. He was remained in the truck for two days before finally deciding to try to rescue himself.

**Load-Date:** January 3, 2003

**End of Document**