
The NAVIGATOR

November 2000

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD AUX. (M) INC.

***MOBIL CANADA
PRESS RELEASE***
**"ATLANTIC CANADA
SEARCH-AND-RESCUE
PROGRAM LAUNCHED
AS MOBIL CANADA
TEAMS UP WITH
CANADIAN COAST
GUARD AUXILIARY"**



"Mobil has demonstrated its commitment to enhance the quality of life in an area where the company has a significant presence," said Harry Strong, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Coast Guard

Auxiliary. "With this strong financial support from Mobil Canada, volunteer Auxiliary members will be better trained to provide search and rescue services and have their own safety enhanced while working in an often dangerous environment."

Ken Miller, Eastern Canada Production Manager for Mobil Canada, said it makes good sense for the company and the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary to form a partnership. "The Auxiliary volunteers provide a vital link in the emergency response chain," said Miller. "As a company with employees, families and friends living in Atlantic Canada, we want to help



October 13, 2000: Members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary in Atlantic Canada will have improved training and safety capabilities as a result of a contribution of \$100,000 by Mobil Canada, the leading energy company in the region.

support this valuable effort, which has saved countless lives over the years."

Mobil's \$100,000 contribution will support the implementation of the *Atlantic Search and Rescue Training Program* for Auxiliary volunteer members in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. This program will provide a basis for training on the specific knowledge and skill requirements necessary for qualification in the various roles as a CCGA member and maintain the highest level of operational performance through the provision of refresher and/or advancement training for qualified members.

In addition to the training program, the partnership will enable Mobil to involve Auxiliary personnel in the company's emergency response exercises at its operations in Atlantic Canada, improving response capabilities through valuable hand-on experience.

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary is a non-profit organization and a major player in Canada's national Search and Rescue network. Each year, the 5000 volunteer members of the Auxiliary respond to approximately 25 percent of Canada's 8000 marine search and rescue incidents. The CCGA fleet includes over 1,500 vessels which are either privately-owned, community-owned or on loan from the Government of Canada.

Since the CCGA was founded in 1978, its members have been credited with

participation in 34,400 missions and saving 4,000 lives. Another 5,000 people are helped each year in non-distress marine incidents and millions of dollars of property are saved.

Mobil Canada is a wholly owned subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation of Irving, Texas. Mobil Canada is headquartered in Calgary with offices in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and operations in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Mobil is the leading oil and gas company in Atlantic Canada and has interests in Hibernia and Terra Nova oil projects in Newfoundland and the Sable Offshore Energy Project in Nova Scotia.

For more information contact:

Shawn Howard
Public Affairs Advisor
Mobil Canada
Phone: (403) 260-7843
Pager: (403) 515-9071
Email:
shawn_g_howard@email.mobil.com

François Vézina
National Business Manager
Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary
Phone: (613) 991-5714
Fax: (613) 996-8902
Cell.: (819) 743-2920

ORIGINAL RECEIPTS ONLY

Elaine Bennett, our Secretary/Bookkeeper has asked, once again, that members submit

original receipts when sending in your expense claims. Our auditor has advised that copies of receipts are not valid proof for reimbursement of expenses. Claims have been coming in without the original receipt or no receipts at all. In order to process your claim in a timely manner, please send in the proper documentation with receipts. Receipts for meals or mileage are not required. Thank you for your assistance and co-operation.

RESCUE CHALLENGE 2000 ANOTHER SUCCESS

Rescue Challenge 2000 was held Saturday, September 30th in Montague, P.E.I. Rescue Challenge was hosted by Zone 04. Special thanks to Mike McGeoghegan and Zone 04 members for their much appreciated contribution for this event. Also, to Lois Drummond, Zone 03 Director and to the Zone 03 members who also contributed a lot of time and effort in making this occasion a huge success. The overall winners of RC 2000 was again members from Zone 11.

Congratulations Zone 11 winners, you now go on to compete in the National Competitions 2001. Good luck.

Included in this newsletter is a sheet showing the final overall results of RC 2000. As you can see from the photos, this was a great location to hold the Competitions. The weather was fantastic. Special thanks to the Rescue Challenge Committee for their contribution in making this event the success that it was.



**SAR PUMP EVENT
RESCUE CHALLENGE 2000**



**FIRST AID EVENT
RESCUE CHALLENGE 2000**



**SAR EXERCISE
RESCUE CHALLENGE 2000**



**SAR PUMP EVENT
RESCUE CHALLENGE 2000**

CCGA PORTRAYED IN MOVIE "BLESSED STRANGER"



A movie aired on CTV in October of this year, based on true-life events of the Swiss Air Flight 111 Disaster, portrayed the feelings and emotions of the local fishermen and the families of the victims of this unforeseen crash of September 2, 1998. Although the actors played fictitious characters, the basis of the movie did indeed give an accurate account of the feelings that surrounded the aftermath of this tragic event. I personally watched this movie, and it was very hard not to shed a tear, as all other viewers must have done the same.

Over the months of making this movie, the Auxiliary lent some supplies, such as hats and flags, to the production company and as a result, the CCGA received country-wide television exposure. This movie is a valuable public relations resource for the Auxiliary by increasing the public's awareness of the mission of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliaries' nation wide.

Susan Pellerin, Newsletter Editor

A NEW LONG DISTANCE FEATURE NOW IN EFFECT



Members, if you call CCGA offices, there is now a new calling feature "Call Number" that you can use so that the long distance charge is billed directly to the CCGA.

If you are calling the Business Manager, Gary Masson, Dial "0", then the area code "506", then dial "849-9046". Wait for the sound of the bong or beep, then press the four digit number "2242".

Please use the same procedure as shown above to call for Elaine Bennett at her office, please dial the following: "0 902 475-1842", then after the beep or bong, dial "2242"

To call Harris Backman at his office please dial the following: "0" 902 228-2552", then after the beep or bong, dial "2242"

An easy way to remember the four digit number is that 2242 stands for CCGA on your telephone dial pad. By using this calling feature, this should eliminate members having to submit their phone bill for reimbursement of telephone expenses when you call the staff at their office.

Thank you for your co-operation.

First International Rescue Challenge a Splash Hit

When does a Nova Scotia south shore fisherman find himself scrambling into a survival suit in the middle of the suburbs of Montreal? Where else but at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Rescue Challenge? Over the last thirteen years many of us have had the opportunity to go our regional Rescue Challenge in places like Montague and Mahone Bay, in Sydney and Shediac. But this was something different. For the first time, Auxiliary members from across Canada and the United States were competing in an international challenge. The setting was Lachine, Quebec and the Challenge was held to coincide with SARSCENE 2000, the largest national gathering of SAR volunteers in Canada.

The Maritimes were well represented by a strong team from Zone 11. Natasha Young and Rickey Joudrey were joined by George Sheen of Zone 03. Their own Zone 11 Director, Kevin Duffy acted as a spare team member. The events were similar to those we hold here in our part of the country, First Aid, Communications, Line Throwing, Search Planning and Operations and SAR Pump with a few different twists. For example, the teams found out just how hard it is to push a Zodiac around using just a stream of water from a SAR pump. And then there was the "Mystery Event". Competitors had to beat the clock in a scramble to get into a survival suit. Then the thrill of a dip in

those "pristine" and chilly waters of the St Lawrence River in mid-October. You can imagine lots of fun was had. The spirit of friendly competition was nowhere stronger than in our own team. They took each event in their stride and enjoyed every minute of the day, especially the chance to meet Coast Guard Auxiliary members from all over North America.

The winner from among the US teams was from District 1, North (New England) and among the Canadian Teams- the Pacific Region. The US National Commodore and the Canadian national CEO had secretly decided some months previous which event would be the decision-maker for the International Challenge. Their choice was Line Throwing and our neighbors from Newfoundland Region took that honor.

With next year's Challenge slated for somewhere in British Columbia, and our team again from Zone 11, I'm sure there'll be some fierce practicing going on down the South Shore over the twelve months or so.

Joe Murphy
CCG/CCGA Coordinator

SPECIAL THANKS TO RESCUE CHALLENGE 2000 SUPPORTERS

A very special thank you to all Companies and organizations who supported our Rescue Challenge 2000 Competitions that was held this year in Montague, P.E.I. The following is a list of names of Companies and

individuals who helped make our Competitions a huge success:

Backman Vidcom
Golden Silk Screen
White Water Marine
Sea Land Industries
North Sea
The Binnacle
Irving Oil
Crown Tire
Capt'n Evans Wharf
Calvin's TV
Bank of Nova Scotia
Hon John Chataway M.L.A.
Front Harbour Marine
Atlantic Electronics
Wheel House Motel
Atlantic Tractor's
My Daily Thread Sewing
Fairley & Stevens
Metaline Graphics
Canada Post
Honda Marine
Rainbow Netting
Home Hardware

RCC Halifax and the CCGA Member

A Maritime Coordinator at the Rescue Coordination Centre in Halifax rarely meets the CGA resources they task. The Coordinator is usually able to task and debrief CGA members over the telephone but sometimes even this is not possible. This lack of direct contact can occasionally leads to misunderstandings and miscommunications. I would like to

address some of the more common misunderstandings and key issues.

Tasking of a CGA Member

Every SAR incident is different and requires the Maritime Coordinator to look at all factors and circumstances to determine the most suitable resources to task. The Coordinator will initially consider a Primary SAR Vessel during any incident. If no Primary SAR vessel is available then additional resources are considered. What the CGA member must understand is that the proximity of resources is only one of many factors that the Coordinator considers. Weather, sea conditions, time of day, size and types of vessels involved and many other smaller factors all play a part in the Coordinators resource decision.

Self Tasking of a CGA Vessel

In many instances a CGA member may be the first person to be aware of a potential SAR incident. This is quite common when the CGA member contacted directly by the vessel requiring assistance. In these instances it is very important for the CGA to gather some basic information such as the position, situation, mode of communication and weather and to immediately contact RCC Halifax either directly or through a Coast Guard Radio Station. This process may take a couple of minutes but it ensures that RCC is aware and can monitor the progress of the incident, that clear lines of communication can

be established and that a case number will be issued to the CGA member at the end of the incident.

On Scene Information

The Rescue Coordination Centre is located in the Maritime Command Building at CFB Halifax and the Maritime Coordinator has one small window that looks out over a couple of naval vessels. The Coordinator depends upon CGA members to be the eyes and ears on the water and to give clear, concise and frequent situation reports. Changes in the situation, local knowledge, weather, operational capability of the resource and any other factor must be transmitted to the RCC so that the Coordinator can gain an appreciation of the SAR incident.

Safety

When a Maritime Coordinator tasks a CGA member they are confident a well trained, highly motivated resource is responding to the incident. CGA members should not hesitate to express their concerns about accepting a tasking that may be beyond the capability of themselves or their vessels. RCC Halifax does not keep records of the detailed capability of each CGA vessel or the level of training of individual members.

Case Numbers

The issuance of case numbers is always a controversial issue. The Maritime Coordinator has some set rules about when they can issue a

case number. Here are some highlights:

Case numbers cannot be issued for incidents where it is clear from the outset that there are no lives involved. This includes retrieving vessels gone adrift, clearing obstructed waterways, vessels secured to a dock ..etc. These types of functions are the responsibility of the Coast Guard Regional Operations Centre. RCC Halifax is only responsible for marine incidents on federal waterways that begin from a vessel (surfboards to super tankers). Incidents that begin from land such as swimmers, suicides, cars in the water are the responsibility of the police in the specific area. If these agencies request the assistance of RCC Halifax then the Coordinator would open a case number and task the required resources, including the CGA. RCC Halifax will always offer other agencies whatever assistance is required. Case numbers are issued to CGA members at the end of the incident when the CGA calls into the RCC. This allows the Maritime Coordinator to debrief the CGA member and get all the required information and to identify any potential problems that may have occurred during the incident.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an invaluable part of Canada's search and rescue system. A Maritime Coordinator's task of saving lives would be much more difficult and almost impossible at times if it were



not for these dedicated and professional volunteers.

Keep up the good work and remember communication is the key to any successful SAR incident. This includes communication between the Maritime Coordinator and the CGA member.

Article by Peter Stow
A/Regional Supervisor
Marine Search & Rescue Coordination
Centre Halifax

That Christmas Feeling

Bennie Benjamin & George Weiss



How I love that Christmas feeling
How I treasure its friendly glow
See the way a stranger greets you
Just as though you'd met him Christmases
ago

**Christmas helps you to remember
To do what other folks hold dear
What a blessed place the world would be
If we had that Christmas feeling all year**

Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year to management and
staff of the Canadian Coast
Guard, Rescue Coordination
Centre and CCGA members
from the Staff, Executive
and Directors of the
Canadian Coast Guard
Auxiliary

A NOTE FOM THE EDITOR

**I would like to take this opportunity
to thank all members who submitted
articles for our newsletter. Please let
me know if you have any suggestions
or ideas on how to improve the
newsletter. You can write to:**

Susan Pellerin

**20 Tulip Court, Quispamsis, N. B.
E2E 3W9**

**Or by e-mail to [gary.masson@ccga-
m.ca](mailto:gary.masson@ccga-m.ca)**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



