



THE AUXILIARIST

Vol. 9, 1993

Victim Retrieval Concerns

Art Macdonald, a CMRA member from Maritimes Region, was faced with the problem of retrieving his father who fell over board while scallop fishing near P.E.I..

"Although I am extremely greatfull that my father was wearing a floater coat that provided him with enough flotation to keep his head above water, I think that legislators should consider the aspects of getting a person out of the water and back into the vessel when amending or developing new safety regulations.

In this region, with it's cold North Atlantic waters, an exposed person's survival time is not very long. Consequently, it is important to get the person out of the water while they still have enough strength to assist you. At present, we focus our legislative efforts on keeping the person afloat in the water, which in the Northumberland Strait in late October is not a good place to be ! I would have gladly traded the two life rings and seven life jackets on board at the time for a portable aluminum ladder that I could have hung over the washboard to give him boarding access. Not all fishermen can swim, but I'm sure they can all climb a ladder.

In this region of the country, the majority of the fishing vessels have very smooth hull surfaces which makes it difficult to assist yourself in boarding or hanging onto a vessel. As freeboard increased, as with the fixed deck draggers, the problems are compounded.

In conclusion, let the designers of safety regulations consider the facts of this situation; I've got a man over board in very cold waters; he's wearing a floater jacket; the two life rings are of little use; the seven life jackets are of no use; survival suits would only have enabled him to be warmer and dryer because he was positively buoyant with his coat; and he's 250 pounds dry: without a winch on board, how is one expected to get a soaking wet and tired person aboard ?

I know there are people who will not agree with my opinion, but it would be interesting to see how many fishermen could re-board their vessels in good conditions and then in adverse conditions."

Food for thought.



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CMRA Unit Gets Specialized Rescue Equipment

Two service clubs and the Ontario Lottery Corporation have joined forces to purchase a new piece of rescue equipment for Auxiliary 1230 of the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary in Laurentian Region.

The new night vision equipment will help the unit navigate in limited visibility on Lake St. Francis and on the St. Lawrence River. "This unit will literally enable us to see in the dark," said unit commander Roger Lalonde.

Auxiliary 1230 embarked on a fund raising campaign last year with the goal of acquiring the equipment

within two years, however, they were able to achieve success within a year thanks to the generous contributions of service clubs, local businesses and individuals".

The Rotary Club of Cornwall came up with a donation of \$3,500, the Cornwall and District Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association came up with \$1,250 and \$10,000 was provided by the Ontario Lottery Corporation. A number of other community minded individuals and organizations also assisted in the realization of the project.

"This equipment has already assisted us in responding more quickly to a serious boating accident recently when three lives were saved as a result of being able to navigate safely during a bad weather rescue with limited visibility," said unit leader Lalonde. With the unit, the auxiliary was able to identify buoys, islands and other hazards in the rain and fog.

"In the dark, with night goggles, it's like high noon at 2 a.m.," the commander said. "The crew can see as if it were daytime" which will reduce the possibility of errors, save time on searches and reduce personal risk in saving others. With 93% of their rescue operations taking

place at night, there was a crucial need for the new equipment.

CMRA Rescue 1230 is a 21 foot rescue vessel operating on Lake St. Francis and the St. Lawrence River.

Letter of Appreciation

The following is taken from a letter to CCG Western Region.

In May 1992 I was given one of the new First Aid Kits, distributed to Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel owners. On August 4th, 1992 I was moored at Montague Harbour Marina when a 12 year old boy caught his foot between two floats and twisted it badly. With the aid of the aluminium lined splints I was able to quickly immobilize the limb and make him ready for transportation. I would like to commend the Coast Guard for making high quality material such as this First Aid Kit available.

Yours truly,

R. Seaton
CMRA (W)

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Opinions expressed are those of the author and may not always represent official TC/CCG policy.

CMRA (W) Annual General Meeting

CMRA Western held it's 14th Annual General Meeting on March 6, 1993 in Nanaimo B.C.. Following is a listing of the 1993 executive:

Executive Directors

President - Ralph Ashton
Vice President - Dave Calam
Past President - Fred Switzer

Directors

Secretary
Treasurer - Alex Muir
Training - Tully Waisman
SAR Operations - Dave Lindley
SAR Prevention - Ken Moore

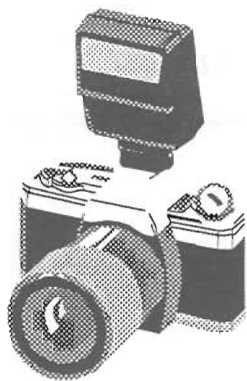
At the meeting, several awards were handed out. Fred Switzer, the outgoing president was presented with a Commissioner's Commendation in recognition of his years of exceptional dedicated service to the CMRA. Gordon Thomas Lee of CMRA Unit 1 in Vancouver received a Certificate of Merit for his excellent service as a member of the CMRA and the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons.

CMRA (C) Annual General Meeting

CMRA Central held it's Annual General Meeting on February 13, 1993 in Rexdale Ontario. Following is a listing of the 1993 executive:

President - E. Taylor
Vice President - G. Bush
Treasurer - A. Grant
Past President - D. Johnston
Secretary - J. Hanbidge

A Certificate of Merit was awarded at the meeting to the City of Oshawa Marine Rescue Association (COMRA) in recognition of their 25th Anniversary. COMRA consists of over 50 members who provide SAR coverage on Lake Ontario.



In the fall of 1992, we invited CMRA Members to submit photographs of their unit in action as part of our first annual CMRA Photo Contest. We encountered a few delays in printing the winning photo that had people wondering what happened. Well, the suspense is over and the results are finally in. The winner is Craig Dunn, Unit Leader of Auxiliary 35 in Victoria B.C.. Our congratulations goes out to Rick who will be receiving a stylish "Be Boat Smart" T-Shirt.

CMRA Photo Contest Winner



Joint ex with 442 Rescue Squadron, Commox, B.C. Auxiliary 35 operates a CCG loaned R.H.I. out of Vancouver

Coast Guard Commissioner Bids Farewell

As you may have noted in the press, the Government has moved a number of Deputy Ministers and Associates, and in that shuffle I was appointed Deputy Minister of Public Works.

After so many years working in the marine transportation field, I will not find it easy to leave. My 31 years with Transport Canada included time with the Seaway, with Pilotage, a short time at the corporate level, and most importantly, eighteen years with the Coast Guard.

In all those years, I noted that people in the marine sector also "stayed around" the industry; stayed around

the seagoing life, and stayed around boating for decades - that the people you met once, you met again, perhaps in another setting, but with waves still in the background.

This applies in particular to most of you in the Auxiliary - you joined us to help the boating public, and years later you are still with us, despite the difficulties, the scant resources, and the rising costs of boat operation. You are still carrying out the invaluable work of protecting lives.

Coast Guard has its numerous challenges, most of them related to restraint and budget cuts in recent years. Our SAR resources are strained to the limit,

especially on the West Coast. Without the work of the Auxiliary, we would indeed be in difficulty with the pleasure boating and small craft communities. The most important work, as you have always known, is the work of prevention, supported by education, and your contribution, and your proud reputation as competent caring volunteers, goes a long way to delivering that message.

For all of you I will see only occasionally in the future, I say thank you for expending your time and effort to improve marine safety in the inshore waters of Canada.

R.A. Quail

SNAFU



"Where's the ballroom? I'm supposed to be there getting the Navigator of the Year award."