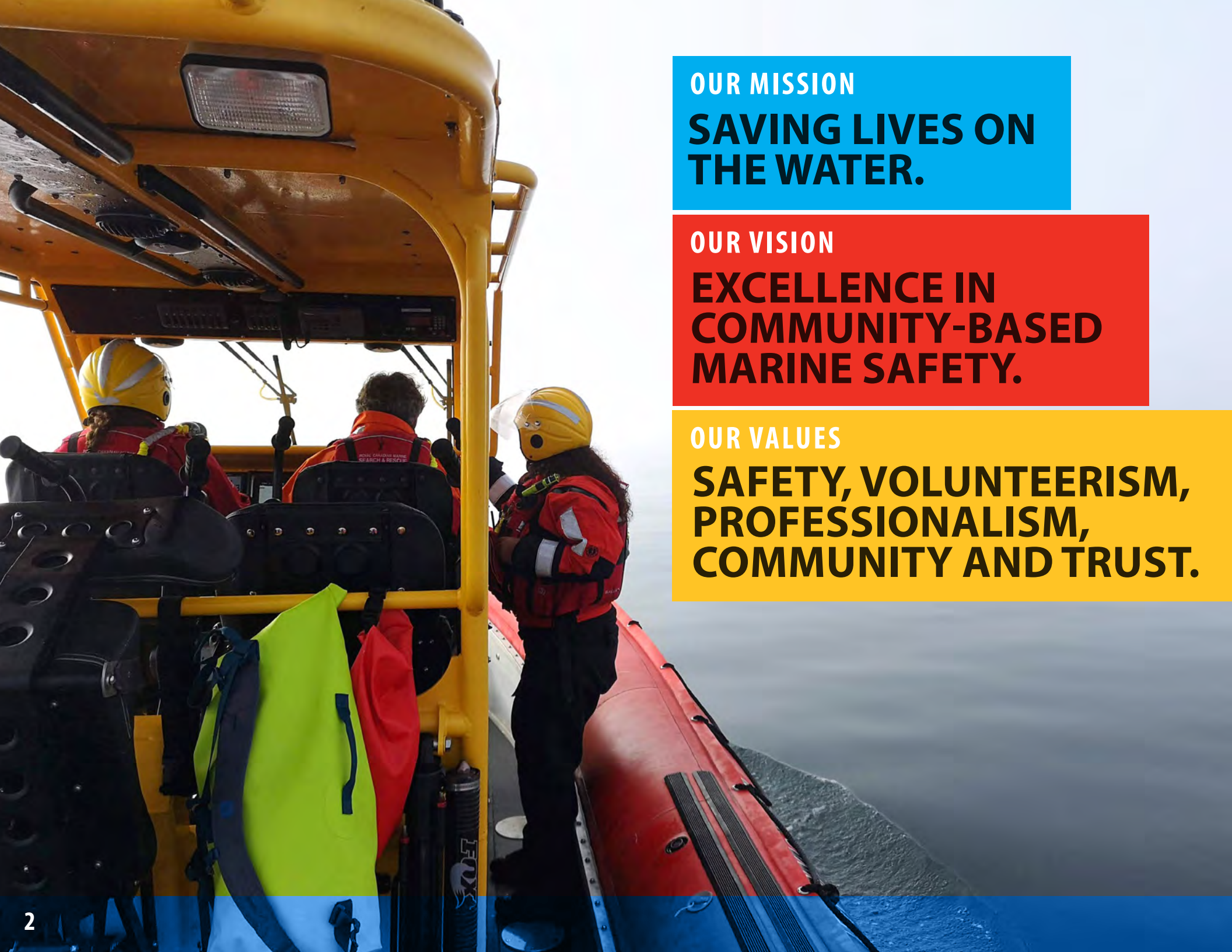




**ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE
SEARCH & RESCUE**
Saving Lives on the Water

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT





OUR MISSION

**SAVING LIVES ON
THE WATER.**

OUR VISION

**EXCELLENCE IN
COMMUNITY-BASED
MARINE SAFETY.**

OUR VALUES

**SAFETY, VOLUNTEERISM,
PROFESSIONALISM,
COMMUNITY AND TRUST.**

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND CEO

Along the waters of coastal British Columbia and inland waters of the Shuswap, RCMSAR volunteers continue to put the safety of others ahead of personal safety thanks to their selfless commitment and the professional training and equipment generously funded by the communities that they serve and by people like you.

For many in the search and rescue (SAR) field, this past year was unlike any other with the challenges imposed by COVID-19 and the impact of pandemic restrictions to training and operations alongside boating safety and fundraising events in our communities. While much of the world around us slowed down, our volunteers met increased calls for help as more people took to the water than in recent years.

Despite the challenges, RCMSAR's established COVID-19 protocols continue to keep our local stations operational and we are proud to report that our volunteers have met all assigned SAR taskings safely with professionalism and, above all, dedication.

While facing the inherent risks that come with saving lives, over 900 RCMSAR volunteers continue to serve British Columbia thanks to the enduring support from our partners and people and like you.

Together, we are "saving lives on the water".

With sincere appreciation,



Chris Gouglas, Board Chair



Bill Riggs, Chief Executive Officer



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020–21

Chris Gouglas*, Board Chair

Tracy Lakeman, Vice Chair

Rob Grant*, Secretary

Susan Archibald

Tim Ayres

Ken Burton*

Bruce Hayne

Darwin Horning

Nelson R. Jatel

John McCoach

Scott Palmer

Cliff Stewart

Grant Watkins

**Outgoing as of September 2021*

VOLUNTEER RESILIENCY & COMMITMENT

IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic created great challenges in our communities. Like many non-profit service organizations, RCMSAR was forced at times to restrict training, suspend public-facing fundraising events and other boating safety activities.

As British Columbians stayed close to home, the calls for help increased with people spending more time on the water. RCMSAR's established COVID-19 protocols not only kept our local stations operational, our volunteers were able to effectively meet all assigned SAR taskings – and stayed safe while doing it.

TOTAL MISSIONS

386 2019–20

439 2020–21

Through it all, our volunteers remain resilient finding creative and safe ways to conduct training exercises and SAR missions taking all the safety precautions required. They continue to be committed to serving our communities, thanks to the support from our partners and generous donors.

VOLUNTEER IMPACT 2020–21

946

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



1,973

TRAINING EXERCISES



54,000+

VOLUNTEER HOURS



RCMSAR 14
Cross-Training
Exercise with the
Sunshine Coast
Ground Search
and Rescue

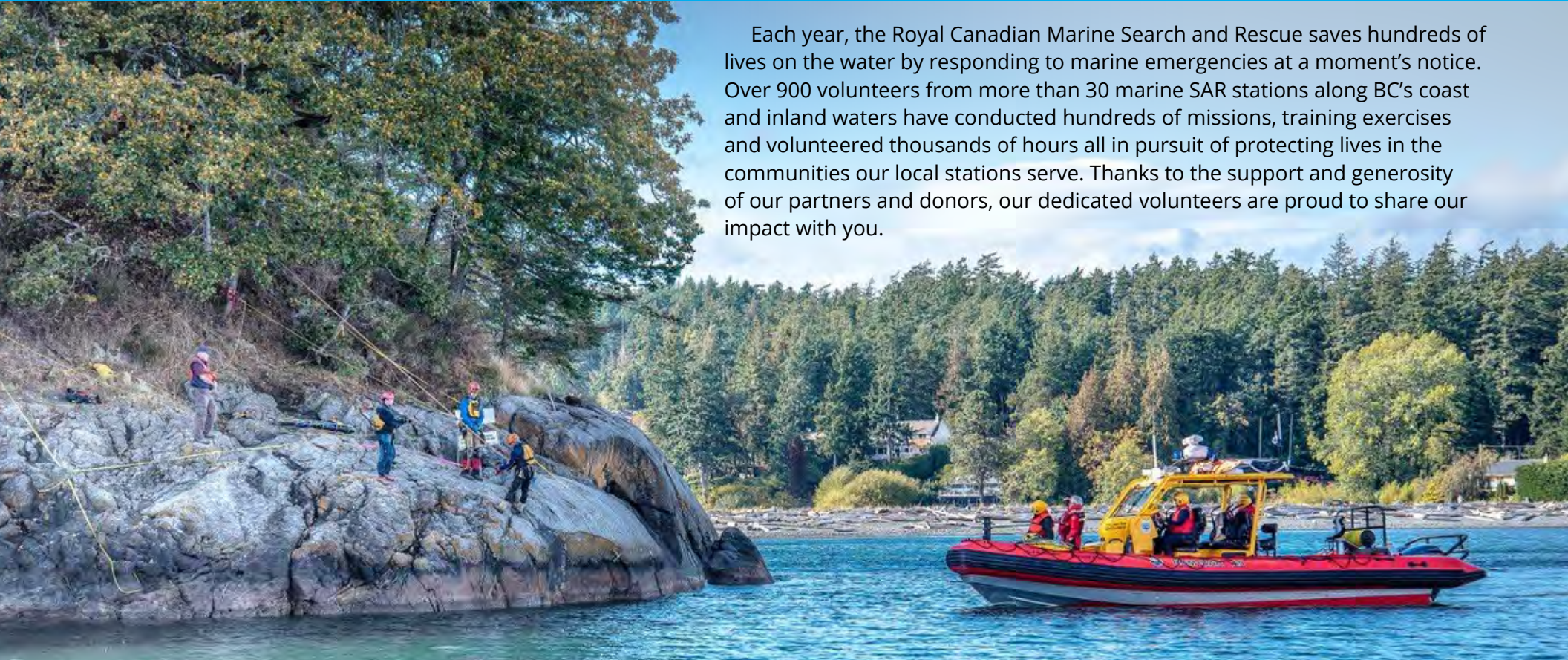


"Working within the COVID-19 safety protocols has allowed us to get creative with training while we face the pandemic together. The challenge of it all and seeing our unit working together as one team really keeps me engaged and committed to the mission."

Carol-Ann Kjartanson,
Coxswain and Training Officer - RCMSAR 29 Ladysmith

RCMSAR HIGHLIGHTS 2020-21

Each year, the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue saves hundreds of lives on the water by responding to marine emergencies at a moment's notice. Over 900 volunteers from more than 30 marine SAR stations along BC's coast and inland waters have conducted hundreds of missions, training exercises and volunteered thousands of hours all in pursuit of protecting lives in the communities our local stations serve. Thanks to the support and generosity of our partners and donors, our dedicated volunteers are proud to share our impact with you.



31
STATIONS

946
VOLUNTEERS



8,604
VOLUNTEER
TRAINING
HOURS

439
MISSIONS
CONDUCTED



138 PEOPLE
SAVED



335 PEOPLE
ASSISTED



20
MINUTES
AVERAGE
RESPONSE TIME

\$4.8M
PROPERTY VALUE SAVED

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

A key part of the marine search and rescue (SAR) system, RCMSAR volunteers operate year-round in one of the most demanding search and rescue areas in the world. RCMSAR's area of operations covers over 25,000 km of coastline in regions known for their challenging weather and sea conditions. We also have presence on inland waters too with a station located in the Shuswap.

Through an agreement with the Canadian Coast Guard our volunteers are called out to marine emergencies by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) in Victoria, often in collaboration with other emergency responders, local partners and agencies.

RCMSAR also operates from communities where we are the only available marine response assets, filling an important role in the SAR network. Our stations are situated as follows:

Northern Region
(North Coast, Haida Gwaii)

5
STATIONS

Central Region
(Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands)

15
STATIONS

Southern Region
(Lower Mainland/Shuswap)

10+1 SAR
STATIONS PREVENTION
STATION

NORTHERN REGION

2020–21
IMPACT

9
ASSETS

112
VOLUNTEERS
(CREW)

41
MISSIONS

211
MISSION
HOURS

24
PEOPLE
SAVED

54
PEOPLE
ASSISTED

NOTABLE MISSION

Pacific Pearl Sinking, March 8, 2020

RCMSAR 45 Crew: Chris Ashurst, Collin Camire, Susanne Koenig and Meredith Adams

At 0930 hrs on Saturday, March 8, RCMSAR 45 Masset were alerted of an Immediate Danger May-Day call of a wooden hull commercial halibut longline fishing vessel taking on water with 5 persons on board. Blowing seas with heavy wind waves, the RCMSAR 45 Tagwaal set out against the strong wind and high tide. After five attempts to set a tow, our volunteers managed to keep the vessel off the rocks near the Mazarredo Islands within seconds of the Pacific Pearl nearly smashing her wooden hull over the reef. On scene to support the rescue were the RCMP and the Prince Rupert Coast Guard, CCGS Macintyre Bay, to assist with pumping. Ultimately, the crew of the Pearl was evacuated saving their lives before the vessel went down. "We released the tow line, marked with a red buoy, and all the action finally stopped. It was a sombre time watching her slip down. We returned minus a lot of gear sacrificed to the effort, and some damage to Tagwaal forward railing, but all the crew from each of the four vessels involved made it safely back to dock." RCMSAR 45 Coxswain, Chris Ashurst.

STATIONS

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Hartley Bay | STATION 70 |
| Kitimat | STATION 63 |
| Lax Kw'alaams | STATION 65 |
| Masset | STATION 45 |
| Prince Rupert | STATION 64 |

CENTRAL REGION

2020–21
IMPACT

21
ASSETS

50
VOLUNTEERS
(SUPPORTING)

376
VOLUNTEERS
(CREW)

198
MISSIONS

430
MISSION
HOURS

29
PEOPLE
SAVED

113
PEOPLE
ASSISTED

STATIONS

Brentwood Bay STATION 31
Comox STATION 60
Deep Bay STATION 59
Ladysmith STATION 29
Mill Bay STATION 34
Nanaimo STATION 27
Oak Bay STATION 33
Pender Island STATION 20
Port Alberni STATION 39
Port Alice STATION 43

Salt Spring Island STATION 25
Sidney STATION 36
Sooke STATION 37
Ucluelet STATION 38
Victoria STATION 35

NOTABLE MISSION

Sailboat dinghies and a RHIB on the Rocks, April 26, 2020

RCMSAR 33 Oak Bay Crew: Robert Wylie, Charles Justin Stephenson, Peter Johannknecht, Hans Terstappen, Wayne Heth

One Sunday afternoon in April, RCMSAR 33 Oak Bay volunteers concluded training on the water when they heard a Pan-Pan distress call over VHF marine radio. Within five minutes the call for help was upgraded to an Immediate Danger May-Day call. Crew on the Oak Bay Sea Rescue II proceeded towards Cadboro Bay to find three persons on board a disabled, flooded RHIB along with several abandoned Sailing Dinghies on the rocky West shoreline of Flower Islet. While strong onshore wind made communication challenging our volunteers used a messenger line to get the tow line to the RHIB. Once secured, the vessels were pulled off the rocks and the three persons were taken aboard the Oak Bay Sea Rescue II and wrapped in blankets. All three – two young students who were taking a sailing lesson and their instructor – were in good spirits and were safely delivered to the Royal Victoria Yacht Club docks.



SOUTHERN REGION

STATIONS

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Crescent Beach | STATION 5 |
| Delta | STATION 8 |
| Gibsons | STATION 14 |
| Halfmoon Bay | STATION 12 |
| North Vancouver | STATION 2 |
| Pender Harbour | STATION 61 |
| Richmond | STATION 10 |
| SAR Prevention | STATION 103 |
| Shuswap | STATION 106 |
| Squamish | STATION 4 |
| West Vancouver | STATION 1 |

2020-21 IMPACT

18

ASSETS

352

VOLUNTEERS
(CREW)

56

VOLUNTEERS
(SUPPORTING)

200

MISSIONS

383

MISSION
HOURS

85

PEOPLE
SAVED

168

PEOPLE
ASSISTED

NOTABLE MISSION

Family of Recreational Boaters May-Day near Lions Gate Bridge, July 19, 2020

RCMSAR 1 West Vancouver Crew: Scott Smith, Brian Caron and Tony Wachmann

After departing Granville Island, the wake of a nearby freighter that had passed minutes earlier quickly began to pummel a family of six recreational boaters. Within minutes their boat was taking on too much water. Wet, scared and bailing water the parents, Martin and Monica, instructed their eldest son to call for help. The JRCC immediately tasked the nearest RCMSAR station and the Canadian Coast Guard. Fortunately, the crew of RCMSAR 1 Craig Rea Spirit were already on the water and responded within 8 minutes of receiving the May-Day call. When rescued, the family recounts how a RCMSAR volunteer introduced himself as "Santa" as they were being pulled on to the Craig Rea Spirit.



*RCMSAR 1 Volunteer,
Tony Wachmann, aka "Santa"*

"There was such relief on our children's faces when a RCMSAR volunteer, white beard and all, reached out his hand to retrieve us. When we left the marina that day the only thing on our mind was to enjoy a few hours on the water with our family. You never know when you are going to need help."

– Martin & Monica, Rescued July 2020.

RECOGNIZING OUR VOLUNTEERS

The spirit of volunteerism is an intrinsic part of RCMSAR's culture and the core of who we are and why we save lives. The sense of service to our communities and individuals in need are at the heart of what motivates our volunteers. That's why each year we recognize the achievements of our colleagues and crewmates who represent countless hours of selfless dedication under the following Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) and RCMSAR Awards below.

CCGA Administrative Excellence Medal

Louise Sorokan, *RCMSAR 2 North Vancouver*

Rona Tepper, *RCMSAR 5 Crescent Beach*

Amber Sheasgreen, *RCMSAR 37 Sooke and*

RCMSAR 64 Prince Rupert

CCGA Exemplary Service Medal

Boudewijn Neijens, *RCMSAR 1 West Vancouver*

CCGA Leadership Medal

Per Svendsen, *RCMSAR 25 Gulf Islands*

Hugh Kelsey, *RCMSAR 1 West Vancouver*

CCGA Long Service Medal – 25 years of Service

Darwin Brooks, *RCMSAR 65 Lax Kw'alaams*

John G Johnston – *RCMSAR Headquarters*

CCGA Operational Merit Medal

Stephen Adam, *RCMSAR 29 Ladysmith*

Ian D Kelly, *RCMSAR 29 Ladysmith*

Corry Gibson, *RCMSAR 29 Ladysmith*

Carol-Ann Kjartanson, *RCMSAR 29 Ladysmith*

RCMSAR Board of Governors' Station Commendation

Masset, *RCMSAR 45*

RCMSAR CEO Commendation

David Poppell, *RCMSAR 10 Richmond*

Bart Porebski, *RCMSAR 12 Halfmoon Bay*

Paul Cumberland, *RCMSAR Headquarters*

Jeffrey Motley, *RCMSAR 29 Ladysmith*

Ian Kelly, *RCMSAR 29 Ladysmith*

Jerry Hunter, *RCMSAR 33 Oak Bay*

RCMSAR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2020-21

Per Svendsen, RCMSAR 25 Gulf Islands

The Volunteer of the Year Award acknowledges an individual volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to their station or the organization.

Per Svendsen's personal commitment to RCMSAR has been exceptional. Not only does Per hold several leadership positions at both the station and with the Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society, he is also actively involved in SAR operations, training, management and fundraising. At the time of his award, Per conducted 54 search and rescue (SAR) missions with a cumulative 900 hours of sea time and nearly 8,000 hours of on-call time. Per's wise leadership to the station and its members, his personal knowledge and practical expertise in operations and maintenance of marine equipment has made a demonstrable impact to his station and within his community.

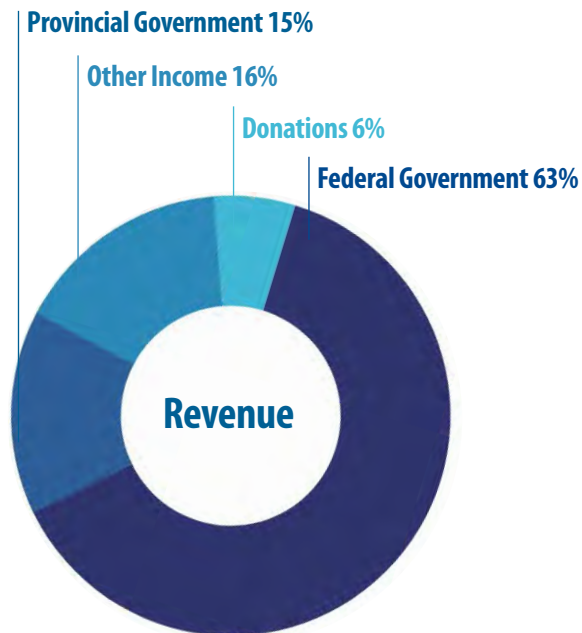


FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financial transparency is one way that RCMSAR builds trust and accountability with our donors and partners. Below details our Headquarter's revenue and expenses from the 2020-21 fiscal year, ending on March 31, 2021.

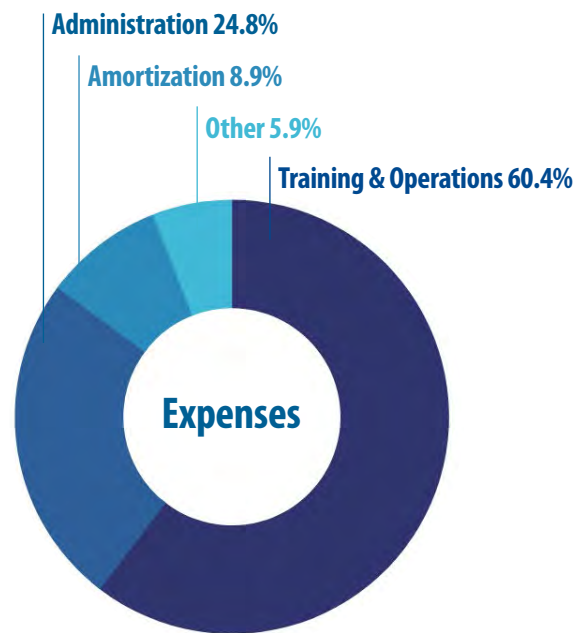
REVENUE

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Federal Government | 63% |
| Provincial Government | 15% |
| Other income | 16% |
| Donations | 6% |



EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Training & Operations | 61% |
| Administration | 25% |
| Amortization | 9% |
| Other Expenses | 6% |



rcmsar.com/financials

DID YOU KNOW?

RCMSAR receives funding from the federal and provincial governments however, these amounts do not meet our total financial needs. RCMSAR volunteers must fundraise for their own life-saving equipment, vessels and other costs to keep local stations open and operational.





Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Inc

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1-800-665-4757 | info@rcmsar.com | www.rcmsar.com



Charitable registration number: 1068 63137 RR0001