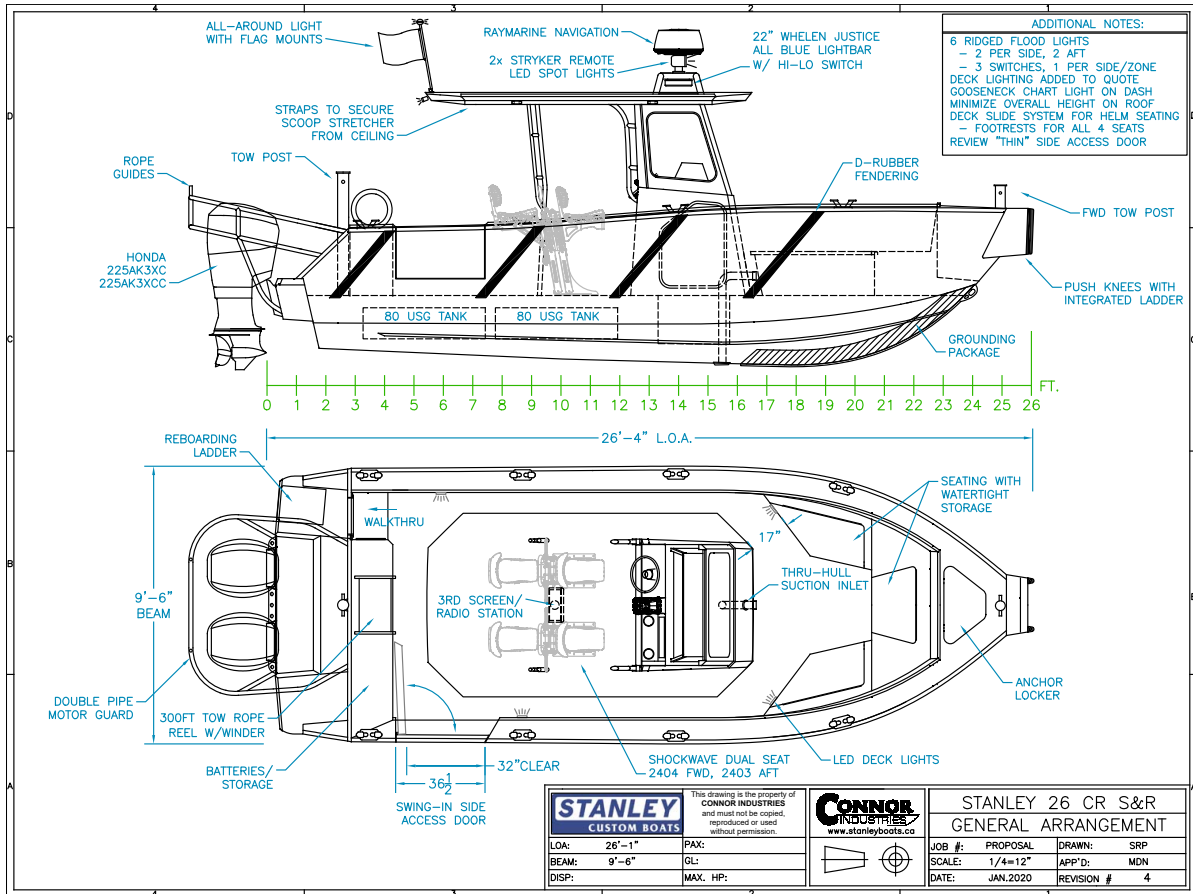


Annual Report 2020

March 1, 2019 — February 28, 2020

GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue



Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit
P.O. Box 133
Grimsby, Ontario
L3M 4G6



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Introduction

After a successful season on the water and ashore in 2019, GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue enters a new boating season faced with unique operational, funding and management challenges. Like virtually every other organization in the country, ours faces significant changes in nearly every aspect of our operation as we cope with the implications of the global pandemic and the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Fortunately, we face this new and difficult environment in a strong position, the result of some prudent planning, an excellent base of skilled volunteers and strong support from the communities we serve.

This is a report on the activities of GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue during fiscal year 2020 (March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2020). It is provided to the communities along the Lake Ontario shoreline so that they can better understand how the organization operates, how it funds this important service, how those funds are deployed, and looks at the short- and medium-term challenges we face as a front-line emergency service staffed entirely by volunteers and funded by the communities we serve. But we also believe it explains how we are prepared to face the complex challenges posed by the virus and why we are confident of our future.

As in the two prior years, our 2019 season began with high water on Lake Ontario and the extensive flooding of our operational base on the lakeshore in Grimsby. The damage to equipment and supplies was significant. With high water forecast for the foreseeable future, it became clear that the facility, generously provided by the Town of Grimsby, was no longer a suitable base for our operations. The hunt was on for a new home.

Immediate assistance came in the form of new temporary storage facilities provided by the Niagara Region (for our Zodiac fast response boat) and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake (for secure storage of tools, spares, equipment and supplies). We are extremely grateful to those communities for their support, and for the offers of help from individuals, companies and community agencies throughout the region.

The search for a longer-term solution ended with a generous offer from the Town of Lincoln. Through their generosity, we have access to a de-commissioned fire hall on Fly Road in Campden, Ontario, that we will share with the Town's fire department. Although not a long-term fix, this arrangement provides us the stability and secure storage to operate through the coming year as we continue our search. Again, we are grateful to the Town of Lincoln for their support at this critical moment.

As the financial results in these pages confirm, we ended the year in a very solid position. In addition to effective fundraising activities, we were particularly fortunate to receive a cheque for more than \$25,000 from the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary/Central & Arctic. The contribution, *keyed* to our training activity during 2018, was a very welcome contribution. Again, we are grateful.

Our fundraising continues to evolve as we place greater emphasis on funding from community agencies while we continue to refine and support critical events such as our annual auction, golf tournament and special events with partners like the Royal Canadian Legion branch in Grimsby.

Of course, activity on the water is still our primary focus. Because of high water, the 2019 season got off to a slow start but ended with a total of 29 rescue missions — down from 38

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the previous year but still the third busiest year in our history. In the past four seasons we have been called out 129 times. As development continues along the South Shore and communities farther inland benefit from continued population growth, we expect this level of demand to increase.

In that light, the achievement of our goal of ordering a new, purpose-built rescue boat takes on even greater significance. After a rigorous search process — and one false start — we are delighted to report that we have placed an order for a new Stanley 26 CR S&R aluminum boat. The vessel, from Stanley Aluminium Boats of Parry Sound, Ontario, is expected to enter service for the 2021 boating season.

The 26-foot, centre console boat will feature a full suite of modern navigation and communication equipment and be powered by a pair of Honda BF225 outboard engines. When fully in service, the boat is expected to have a top speed in excess of 40 knots and a cruising range of more than 220 nautical miles. We expect the boat to have a working life of 20 years.

Final price for the vessel and its equipment is expected to be within the \$240,000 our volunteers raised for the project. Funds were raised from business, institutional and private donors over a three-year period. Contributors from the institutional sector included the highly respected Wise Guys Charity Fund and the Niagara Community Foundation, while local businesses like NRB Inc., Fabris Inc. and Stonehouse-Whitcomb Funeral Home were major contributors. Grimsby native and marine industry pioneer Blair McKeil, founder of McKeil Marine, was instrumental in the fundraising, and individuals from the community and South Shore Search And Rescue members also contributed to the fund.

We are profoundly grateful for the support of the donors who contributed their funds and invested their trust in this campaign. To every one, our sincere thanks.

* * *

New processes and protocols to deal with the virus will significantly change how we operate during the 2020 boating season, both on the water and off. We recognize the very real challenges we face as individuals and as an organization in the year ahead — from slower response times on the water to severely limiting our fundraising options. As we attempt to keep our communities abreast of news via our website, www.gamru.ca, and through our presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, we ask for their patience and understanding as we adjust to the new world in which we work.

We hope this report helps contribute to a better understanding of GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue and we welcome the communities we serve to join us in our quest to save lives on Lake Ontario.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordon
Unit Leader

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About GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue

Formed in 1988, GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue is a community-based volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives and protecting property on the water through timely, disciplined and effective search and rescue (SAR) services. GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue is a member of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Central & Arctic), an Ontario not-for-profit corporation and a registered charity. The organization also promotes safety on the water and community involvement through local activities and projects. GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue responds to rescue calls in western Lake Ontario, serving the communities along the south shore from bases in Fifty Point and Grimsby.

The organization receives no sustaining funding for operations from municipal, provincial or federal governments. Its services are free to mariners in distress. It receives a per-hour stipend from the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) while on approved rescue missions. The stipend is based on a formula determined by the federal government. Certain training costs are also supported by the CCGA. In the 2019/2020 fiscal year, the organization received a surprise — and welcome — contribution of an additional \$25,000.

The rescue vessels are insured under a master policy from the CCGA while on approved missions but must have separate insurance for all other activities.

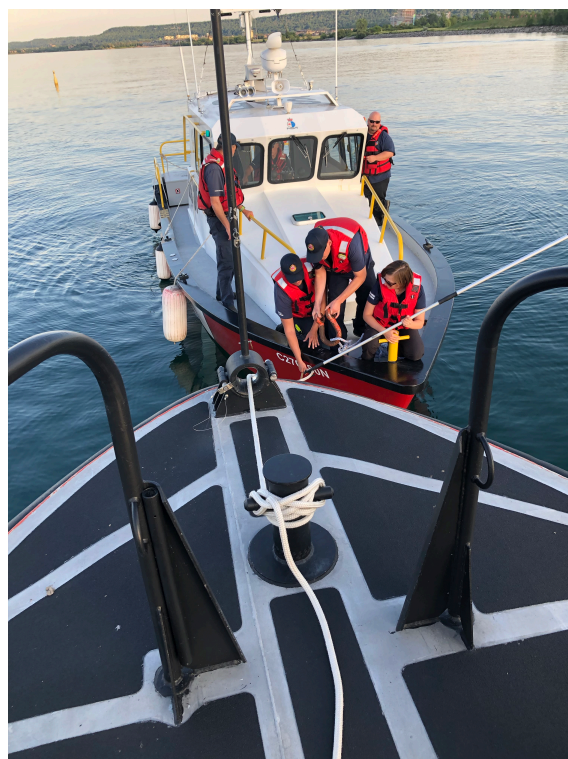
Funding for the expense of most training, fuel, vessels, maintenance, equipment, etc. is the responsibility of GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue. The unit provides the basic safety equipment for members, though many members purchase their own.

Our two rescue vessels, based in Grimsby Harbour and Fifty Point Marina, are dispatched to missions by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) at Canadian Forces Base Trenton. JRCC determines when and how vessels conduct their SAR activities. GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue vessels do not initiate any SAR activities without the approval of JRCC. Vessels and members are on stand-by 24 hours a day through the boating season, usually from April to November.

The GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue vessels work in cooperation with other agencies and emergency services like the Canadian Forces, police, fire and ambulance under the coordination of JRCC. Unit vessels also support the work of the Canadian Coast Guard.

Individuals who join GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue and the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary commit to achieving proficiencies in seamanship, navigation, SAR techniques, first aid, radio communications and other skills. Members pay a \$100 one-time membership fee.

GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue is grateful to the Royal Canadian Legion branches in Grimsby and Beamsville for space for meetings and training activity.



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GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue by the numbers

Membership in GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue represents a significant commitment of time by its volunteers - both for rescue activity on the water and for the extensive year-round training that enables them to be effective rescuers.

Typically, group training in classroom settings represents more than 300 person-hours. Training on the water is another 1,100 person-hours. Time spent on rescue missions is in addition to these totals.

Every day during the boating season, crews of five or six individuals are on 24-hour stand-by for dispatch to a rescue. GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue members typically log more than 25,000 stand-by hours.

Members are especially grateful for the opportunity to train with Canadian Coast Guard SAR base Port Weller and the crews of the cutter Cape Storm. Those crews have been patient, generous with their time and an inspiration to our members.

SAR	2019
Missions	29
Stood down missions	5
Average duration (hrs)	2.16
Average response (min)	8.9
Total time (hrs)	62.76

Training	2019
Exercises	97
Exercise time (hrs)	291.75
Average duration (hrs)	3.01
Classroom sessions	9
Classroom time (hrs)	54.5
Average duration (hrs)	6.06
Total training time	346.25

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SAR mission summary

From the middle of May until early October, the volunteers of GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue compiled the third busiest season in the organization's history — 29 rescue missions, all concluded safely.

A rescue season typically spans every kind of incident on the water, from false alarms to serious medical or other emergencies. Because the crews can be dispatched anywhere they are needed, the volunteers covered many hundreds of nautical miles in response to calls.

According to data collected by the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, our work on the water saved seven lives, aided 23 individuals and recovered \$206,000 in property during 2019.

Date	Details
May 19	Disabled fishing vessel
May 22	Medical emergency
June 2	Disabled sailing vessel near Fifty Point
June 3	Canoe in distress east of Welland Canal
June 7	Disabled vessel near Fifty Point
June 7	Disabled vessel in Hamilton Harbour
June 22	Disabled cruiser off Fifty Point
June 23	Disabled personal watercraft off Burlington
June 24	Disabled 36' sailboat near Newport
June 29	Disabled vessel near Grimsby Harbour
July 7	MAYDAY — paddle boarder off Bronte Harbour*
July 7	MAYDAY — paddle boarder off Bronte Harbour*
July 12	Children adrift on raft
July 29	Missing Kayaker*
July 29	Missing person at Jordan Harbour*
July 29	Missing person at Jordan Harbour*
July 29	Missing person at Jordan Harbour*
July 29	Dismasted sailboat

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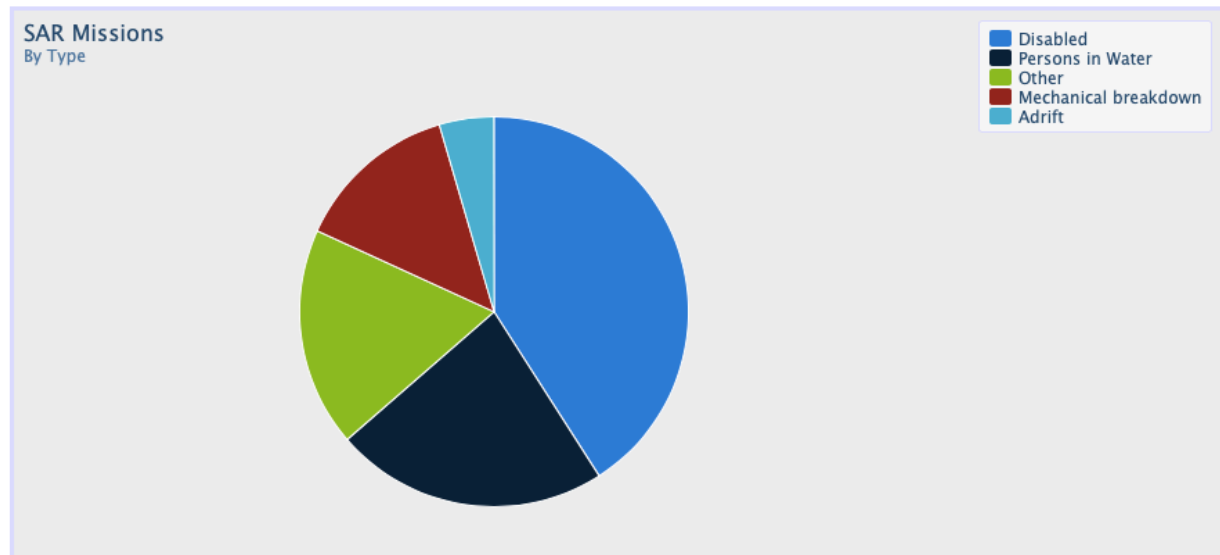
August 2	27' vessel out of fuel
August 4	Disabled vessel off Newport
August 5	Children adrift on inflatable toy
August 7	Disabled fishing vessel
August 18	Disabled vessel off Fifty Point
August 29	Investigate overdue vessel
September 1	Disabled vessel off Fifty Point
September 14	Sailboat in distress off Winona gunnery range
September 22	Potential distress call outside Newport
September 22	Disabled vessel near Fifty Point
October 9	Disabled vessel in Hamilton Harbour

* Mission involved both vessels

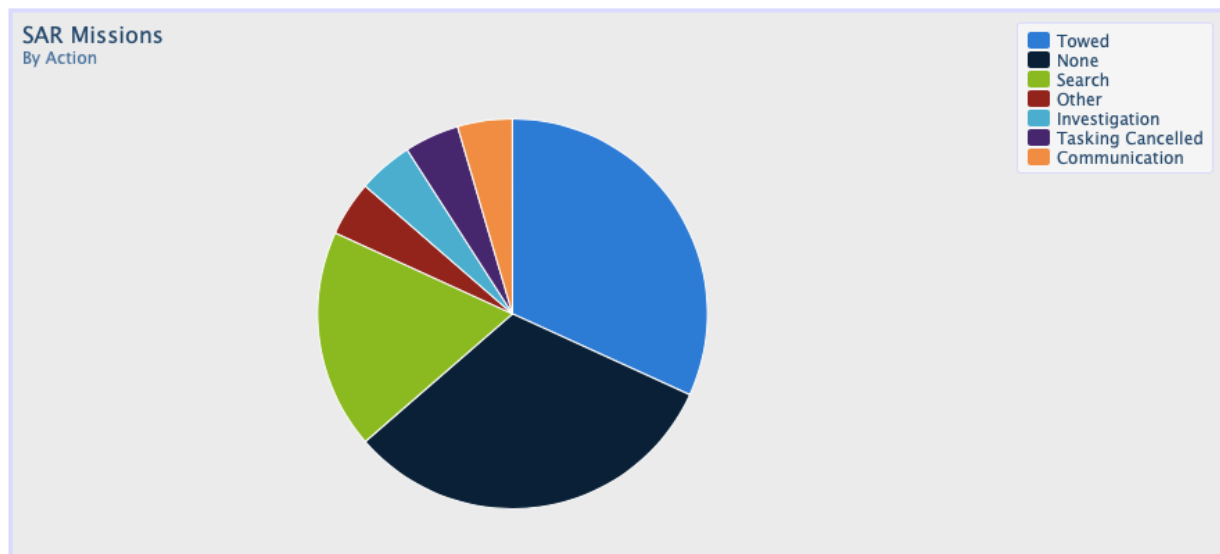


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SAR mission by type

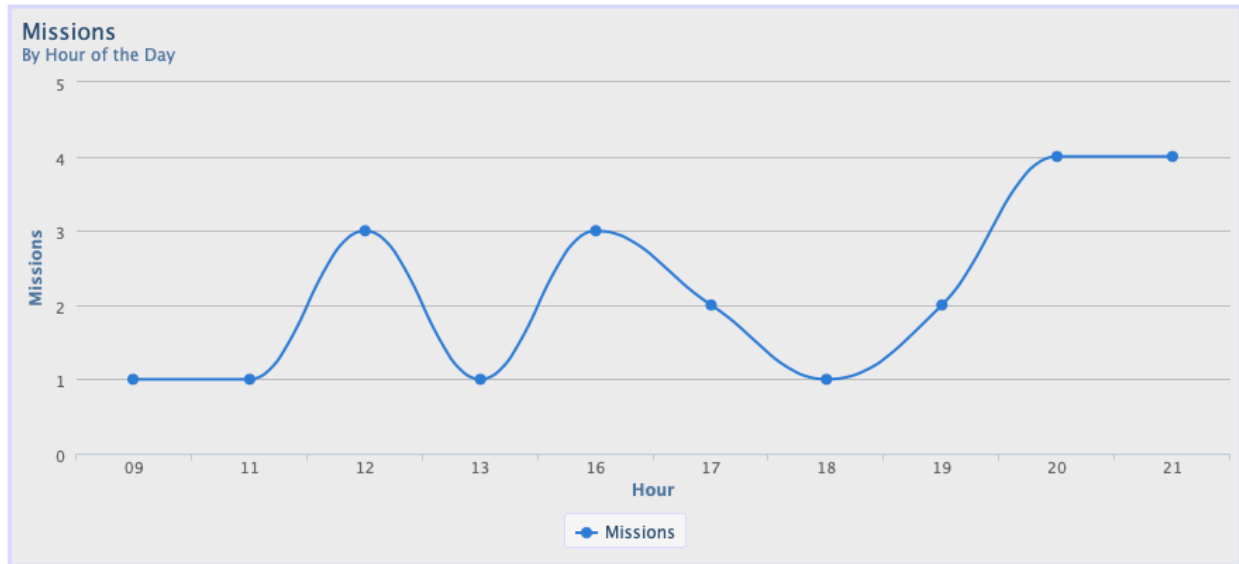


SAR mission by action

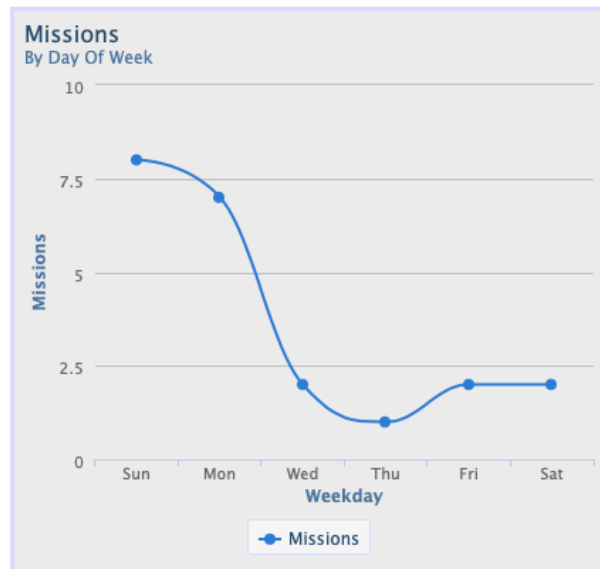
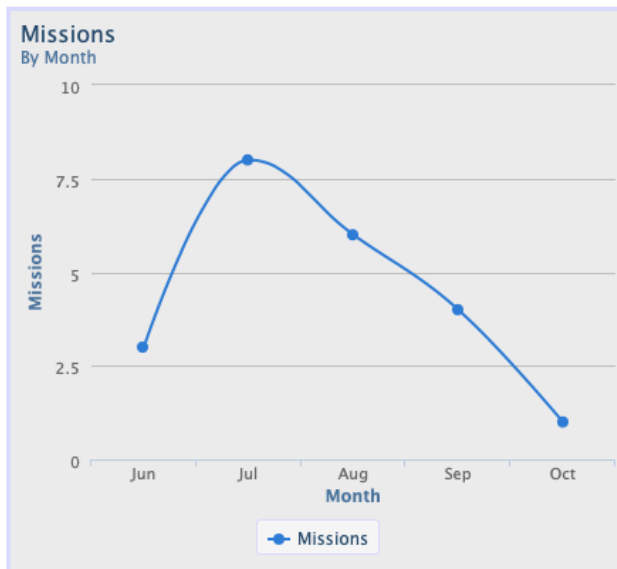


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SAR mission by hour of the day



SAR mission by month, day of the week



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Michael Casciani Professional Corporation
Chartered Professional Accountant
(P) 905-541-0925 | (F) 289-271-9622 | mjcca.ca

Notice to Reader

To the Directors of Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit

On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the balance sheet of Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit as at February 29, 2020 and the statement of operations and change in net assets for the year then ended.

I have not performed an audit or a review in respect of these financial statements and, accordingly, I express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Mike Casciani

Michael Casciani Professional Corporation
Chartered Professional Accountant

Grimsby, Ontario
November 15, 2020

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Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit Leadsheet Summary Balance Sheet (Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

February 29	Note	2020	2019
Assets			
Current			
Cash		\$ 285,681	\$ 253,090
HST Receivable		4,215	-
		<u>289,896</u>	<u>253,090</u>
Deposit on New Boat Equipment	2	5,000	-
		<u>\$ 294,896</u>	<u>\$ 253,090</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	2	\$ 66	\$ -
Net Assets:			
General Fund		53,839	15,696
Capital Boat Fund		<u>240,991</u>	<u>237,394</u>
		<u>294,830</u>	<u>253,090</u>
		<u>\$ 294,896</u>	<u>\$ 253,090</u>

On behalf of the Board

Director

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Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit

Statement of Operations and Change in Net Assets (Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

For the year ended February 29	Note	2020	2019
Revenue and Support	3	\$ 74,449	\$ 86,789
Expenses			
Advertising expenses		98	1,451
Bank and interest charges		249	191
Fuel		13,017	8,575
Fundraising expenses		3,691	3,865
Insurance		2,391	1,862
Membership fees		-	409
Office expenses		2,246	4,435
Repairs and maintenance		10,364	54,835
Security		225	339
Storage and other rent		337	1,661
Telephone		994	908
Training		795	312
Utilities		1,899	2,535
Total operating expenses		<u>36,306</u>	<u>81,378</u>
Change in Net Assets without donor restrictions		38,143	5,411
Opening General Fund Reserve		\$ 15,696	\$ 10,285
Operating Surplus for the Year		<u>38,143</u>	<u>5,411</u>
Ending General Fund Reserve		<u>\$ 53,839</u>	<u>\$ 15,696</u>

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Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit
Leadsheet Summary
Notes to Financial Statements
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

February 29, 2020

1. Purpose of the Organization

Formed in 1988, the Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit is an Ontario not-for-profit organization dedicated to saving lives and protecting property on the water through timely, disciplined and effective search and rescue (SAR) services. GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue is a member of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Central & Arctic).

2. Boat and Boat Equipment

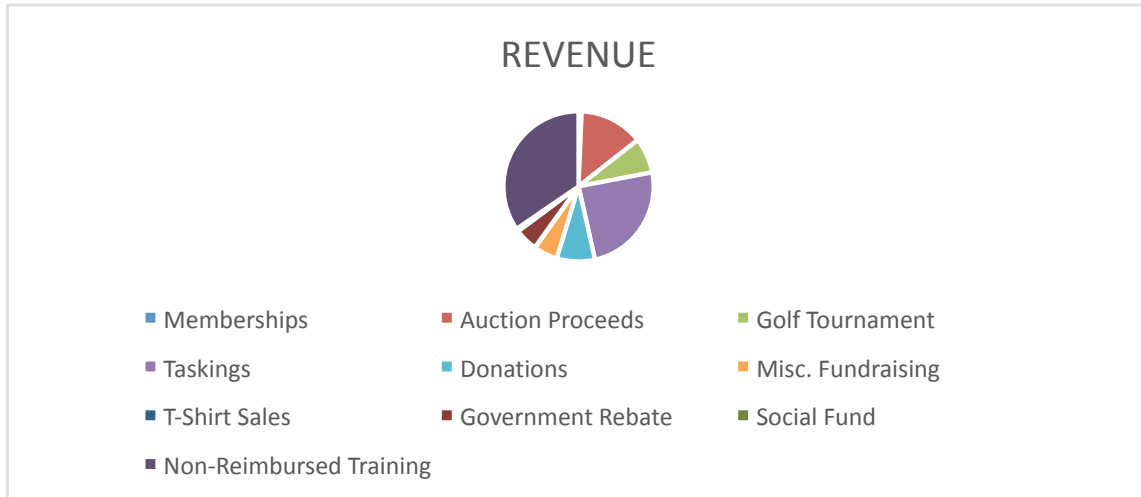
The organization has a plan to purchase a new Stanley 26 CR S&R boat. The capital fund is reserved for the funding of this boat. As at February 28, 2020 the organization had purchased new engines for this boat in preparation for its arrival. A deposit of \$5,000 was made during the fiscal year with the balance of \$54,058 due in the 2021 fiscal year.

3. Sources of Revenue and Support

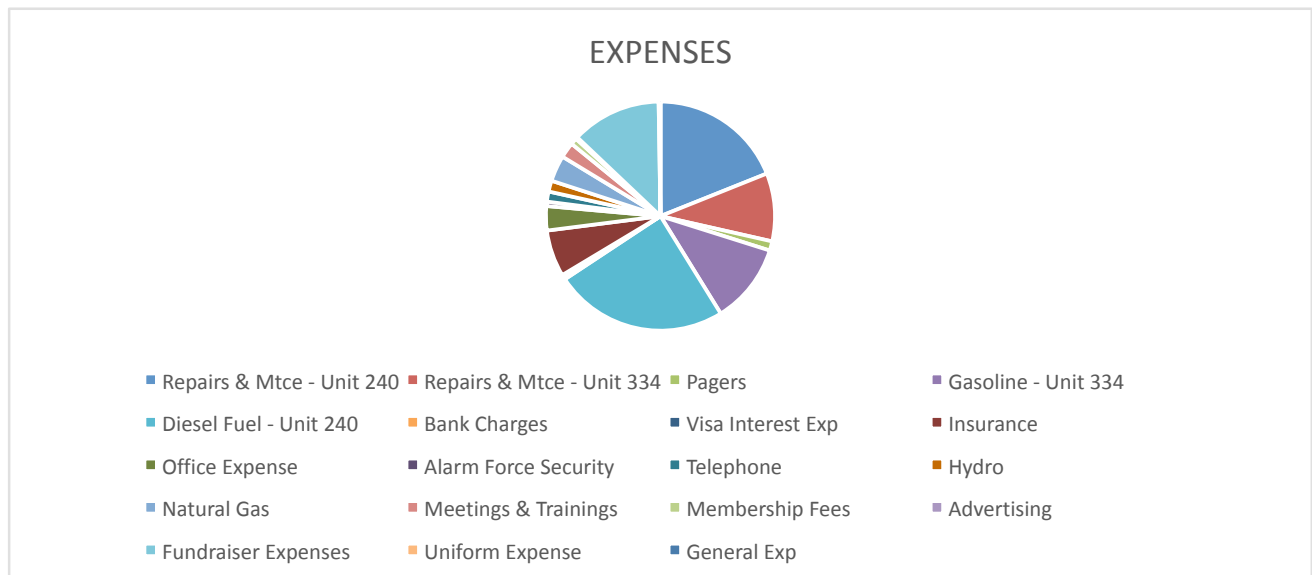
	2020	2019
Auction Proceeds	\$ 10,231	\$ 10,633
Golf Tournament	5,653	5,459
Other Fundraising	3,798	3,050
Individ, Business Contributions	6,119	46,459
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	-	1,630
HST Refund Received	3,667	3,363
Kijiji Sales - Entertainment Fund	450	-
Tasking Revenue	18,217	13,878
Non Reimbursed Training Revenue	25,731	-
Membership Dues	500	300
Uniform Revenue	84	-
T-shirt Sales	-	2,017
	\$ 74,449	\$ 86,789

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Revenue



Expenses



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Finding the balance in fundraising

A critical part of raising funds for a community-based organization like GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue is gaining and maintaining awareness. You can have the most important service in the community but if no one knows who you are and what you do, raising the money to provide your service will always be a struggle.

That's why, hand-in-hand with our fundraising activities, we also work to earn a share of mind in the communities we serve. Whether it's appearing at fishing tackle swap meets, answering questions at community safety days or staffing an attractive booth at a main street market, volunteers are there to spread the word about our work on the water and our place in the community.



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That kind of awareness helps in two important fundraising avenues.

At our annual community events like Golfing for GAMRU (our annual golf tournament), our regular spaghetti dinners, meat draws at the Royal Canadian Legion, our Canada Day photo booth or our annual on-line auction, we are always delighted to meet people who have learned about our work and come out to support us. And we're always curious to know where they heard about us: how did our story get out?



In the same way, we are always surprised and pleased to receive direct donations from people in the community – many of whom we've never met. It is very gratifying.

Awareness also aids our cause when we speak to funding agencies and institutions. Telling our story at venues like the Forty at the Forty event, part of the Grimsby Community Fund of the Niagara Community Foundation, helped draw a generous donation from that agency and made us a few friends along the way.

As always, we are very grateful for the goodwill of the individuals and organizations in the community who provide financial support, including Teddy's Food Fun and Spirits restaurant, the Fifty Point Yacht Club, the Grimsby and Beamsville branches of the Royal Canadian Legion and the many generous businesses and neighbours who contribute to our annual auction.

* * *

The selection of the Stanley 26 CR S&R as our new fast response boat and the completion of the contract for its purchase paused our capital fundraising drive. The fund, at more than \$240,000, should cover the cost of the vessel and its equipment. We are delighted at the support we have enjoyed from the community and are grateful to the many wonderful institutional, corporate and individual donors who helped us reach our goal. Thank you!

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Membership

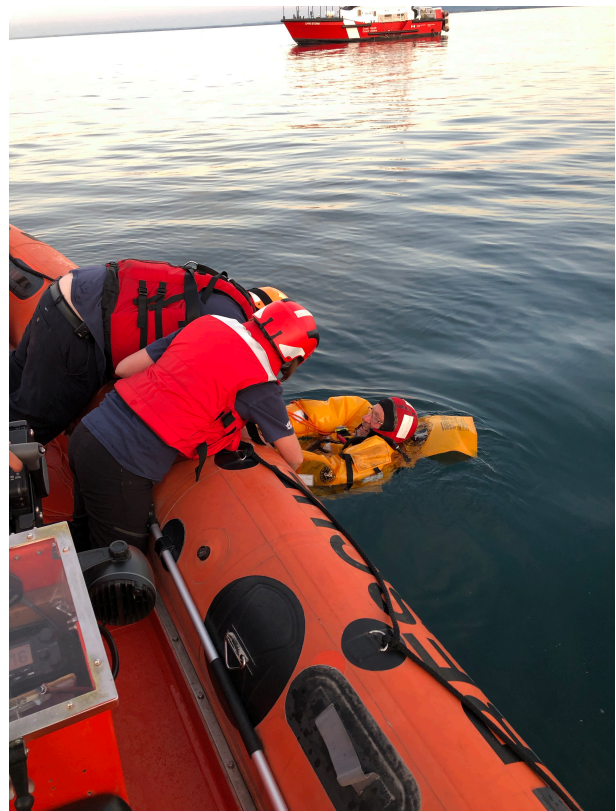
Membership in GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue represents a significant time commitment by the volunteer membership. Regular classroom and on-water training and participation in rescue missions is just the beginning. Unit administration and extensive fundraising requirements means an unselfish commitment to this community service by members.

Like any volunteer organization, membership changes over time. That underscores the need for constant training and skills upgrade for members. At the centre of the organization is a core of more than 30 trained members who are assigned to one of four crews which rotate duty during the boating season. When on call, these members are available 24 hours a day, and respond immediately to rescue missions. To be part of an active GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue on-duty crew, members must live within 20 minutes of Grimsby.

In addition, a roster of trained members who are not on a regularly scheduled crew stand-in for regulars throughout the season.

GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue membership is open to individuals in the community. Candidates must be physically capable of working in a difficult marine environment and must commit to achieving proficiency in seamanship, navigation, first aid, SAR techniques, radio communications and other skills. SAR training is provided to the standards set by the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. As members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, members can also obtain advanced training and hold responsible positions with that organization.

Members come from all walks of life and bring a wide array of experience and skills to the unit. Communities from Stoney Creek to Niagara-on-the-Lake supply the volunteers. New members are welcome. While applications are accepted during the year, screening and intake of new members takes place in September.



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Help us help you

Safety on the water doesn't happen by accident. The presence of two fully-equipped rescue vessels with trained crews on the south shore of Lake Ontario, on call 24/7 during the boating season, is the collective effort of volunteers, community supporters and dedicated fundraisers. But the cost of maintaining this extraordinary service is high and getting higher as equipment ages and new members get training.

You can support one of the two fundraising campaigns that keep GAMRU South Shore Search And Rescue volunteers on the water and rescue-ready!

We welcome your direct support for our ongoing operations. You can contribute to equipment, training, fuel, vessel maintenance and operations several ways.

Donate directly:

Monthly gift or single gift via credit card or cheque:
Contact Kerri Russell [**kerri.russell@gamru.ca**](mailto:kerri.russell@gamru.ca)

Donate through one of our partners:

Via Canada Helps, Canada's on-line platform for donations to all kinds of charities: [**https://www.canadahelps.org/en/**](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/)



You can also support GAMRU South Shore search And Rescue by downloading and shopping through FlipGive! Get started now by visiting GAMRU on FlipGive or download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.



Attend one of our fundraising events! Get more information on events at [**www.gamru.ca**](http://www.gamru.ca), or visit us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

To support our fundraising, including one-time donations, multi-year commitments, event hosting and sponsorship opportunities, speak to Denise Tulk, Director of Fundraising at 905 359 8993 or [**denise.tulk@gamru.ca**](mailto:denise.tulk@gamru.ca)

Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit is a registered charity #136729670RR0001