

OBSR NewsLetter

Volume 1, Issue 1, Spring 2006



P.O. Box 5624
Victoria, B.C.
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Table of Contents

1. AGM recap
2. Committee reports
3. CCGA(P) Contract
4. Unit report
5. General Statistics
6. OBSR History

New Executive

President: Brian McKee (250) 595-7715
Vice President: Brian De Clare (250) 896-3145
Secretary: David Blacoe (250) 598-2010
Treasurer: Jeffrey Dubney (250)
Directors: Dennis Keeler (250) 592-6325 ,
Brian Glennon (250) 896-3783
David Parry (250) 220-3645

Committees and Chair persons

1. Strategic Planning - Brian De Clare
2. Fundraising - Brian Glennon
3. Capital Acquisition - Jeffrey Dubney
4. Media & Communication - David Blacoe
5. Special Events - David Parry
6. Social - Dennis Keeler

**REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR
2006 ANNUAL DUES TO
YOUR COXSWAIN.**

Funding Reminder. Everytime you use your Thrifty Foods SMILE card you help pay the fuel bill.



News Letter contact

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Next Issue: Summer 2006
Next Deadline: June 30th 2006

1

AGM Recap

On March 20th, 2006 at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel a new executive was elected. With a quorum of 20 in attendance. Brian McKee, Brian De Clare, Jeffrey Dubney and David Blacoe were acclaimed to the positions of president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary respectively. Dennis Keeler, Brian Glennon, and David Parry were acclaimed to the position of directors at large. A list of the new executive and committee responsibilities are found in the newsletter sidebar.

Of interest during the AGM was the treasurer's 2006/2007 budget report. The budget figures are as follows: projected revenue totals \$74,830, projected expenses total \$97,470, which leaves an outstanding deficit of \$22,640; projected operating expenses total \$30,450; repairs and maintenance total \$42,000; General & Administration projected expenses total \$25,020.

2

Committee Reports

With a new executive come new visions. Here are some goals and objectives of the new executive.

President's message - Brian McKee

The executive of the Oak Bay Sea Rescue Society will be facing new challenges this fiscal year. We can no longer expect the easy cash flow from our professional fundraiser, as CCGA-P has cut off access to this source of revenue. Negotiations for access to our donor base have reached an impasse and we will now have to replace that revenue stream (net \$25,000) with sweat equity from our members. There are many new faces on the board of directors; we will surely face a few bumps in the road as we progress, but I see a fresh enthusiasm and look forward to a successful year.

Strategic Planning - Brian De Clare

The Oak Bay Sea Rescue Society is a key asset both within the community of Oak Bay and to the CCGA-P. For us to create a strategic plan we need to address both those elements of our franchise and, just as importantly, make sure that any strategy that evolves will be aligned with the members of the unit itself. To achieve that goal I see my principal role as a listener; absorbing the views of our members and putting those forward to the leaders of the Oak Bay Community as well as those of the CCGA-P. Over the next few weeks I will be working with the other board members of the society to help with this project and come up with guidelines.

The challenge we have as a unit ahead is great. Costs are rising, future income unstable and a demand for our services that shows no sign of falling away.

We have the respect of the community and I feel that is where we start to find the answers.

Fund Raising - Brian Glennon

In 2006/07 we hope that some of the new fundraising initiatives of 2005/06 will bear fruit. Among them are the Boat Donation Program and the Thrifty Smile Card Program. Some of our Society events such as the Annual Garage Sale and the Tea Party will remain as public profile / fundraising events. We hope to strengthen the profile of the Society in the coming year in order to raise awareness of our service to the community and aid in our fundraising activities. The Society will need now, more than ever, a core of dedicated people in order to replace the telemarketing funds with a long term and steady source of income.

I look forward to a year of creative fundraising initiatives.

Special Events - David Parry

I am honoured to serve the Oak Bay Search Rescue membership as a Director at Large and as Chair of the Special Events Committee. It is my goal to work with the members within the Unit to continue to foster and to maintain a positive relationship with the community in which we serve through such events as the Oak Bay Tea Party. With the vast experience and many talents in our membership I foresee us meeting any future challenges head on and coming out stronger than ever.

3

CCGA Contract renewal

Last September the CCGA-P sent all supporting societies new agreements. The intent of the new agreement is to act as a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the societies and the CCGA-P, similar to the MOU the auxiliary has with each individual member. The original time frame for the return of the agreements was December 31. Our then executive negotiated terms in the agreement to protect our traditional fundraising territories. Those societies that had not signed by the time of the CCGA-P AGM were advised that they were no longer in good standing and that no claim monies would be forthcoming until the contract was signed. The CCGA-P executive declared that no contract amendments would be considered and after a thorough examination of the contract the new executive agreed on March 30th, 2006 to sign without entrenching rights to our traditional fundraising territories.

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4 Unit Report - Doug Grant

The unit participated in 53 incidents, conducted 115 training exercises and was involved in 8 special events during the 2005-2006 fiscal year. In training alone, this represents 317.5 hours of training, which translates into 127.5 person hours or an average of 30 hours per person. The CCGA-P recommended yearly average per person is 20 hours. We conducted 77 day exercises vs 37 night exercises and 1 restricted visibility training exercise. CCGA-P compensated the unit for 129 hours of the 317.5 hours of training. The remainder of the hours was financed by the OBSR Society for which we are very grateful. In addition, training continued throughout the year with CCG SKUA/CAPE KUPER. Brian Glennon and Gerald Hartwig were trained as ARTE members this past year and David Holmes was recertified as an instructor for the PCCC (Personal Craft Certified Checker) Course.

5 General Statistics 2001 - 2006

- Incident responses are greatest between April and September, with the highest number of incidents occurring in the months of May and August.
- Total lives saved 57, or approximately 11 lives per year.
- Total incident responses 285; that is, one in five calls saves a life.
- Estimated value of vessels saved/assisted is well over \$4 million. This averages to \$1 million / year.
- Number of people assisted 249.
- Response duration: average is 1.7 hours and the maximum is 15 hours.
- Top incident response types: mechanical failure (16%), disabled (12%), grounded (9.8%), false alarm (9.5%), capsized (8.1%), boat adrift (5.3%), fire (3.5%), flare sighting (3.2%).
- Other incident response type categories: oil spill, medical, man overboard, RCMP assist, structure fire, missing child, lost person, aircraft rescue, and diving.
- Special events where a safety and security vessel is needed: Swiftsure Race, Victoria Tall Ships Festival, Sea of Lights Parade, Oak Bay Tea Party.
- Membership fluctuates between 35 and 45 active members.
- The 2006 budgeted expenses are \$97,500 and of that amount, \$35,000 is for capital expenditures \$25,000 for administrative costs and vessel operations take \$37,500.
- Fuel accounts for 30% of our vessel operating costs, equipment 25%, repairs 20% and insurance 10%.
- In 2005/6, the average training hours per member, per year, was 30 hours.
- In 2005/6, Unit 33 conducted 77 day exercises, 37 night exercises and 1 restricted visibility training exercise

6 Brief History 1976 - Today

- The Oak Bay Sea Rescue (OBSR) was formed in 1976 (with 12 volunteer boat owners), and was incorporated as a non-profit society on December 12, 1978. The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), which at that time oversaw marine search and rescue recognized the need for a dedicated SAR vessel in the Oak Bay area and provided a Zodiac inflatable. However, the vessel was damaged in a rescue attempt and PEP replaced the inflatable with a fibreglass dory.
- PEP changed its mandate, opted out of Marine rescue, and withdrew funding for marine SAR operations, feeling that this was a Federal responsibility and that the Province could no longer afford to support it. OBSR recognizing that the PEP vessel was not adequate for its needs acquired an internally powered fibreglass vessel called the "Responder" with funding from Oak Bay Council, Oak Bay Kiwanis and Provincial Gaming Branch.
- OBSR joined the Canadian Marine Rescue Association (CMRA) in June of 1984. CMRA is a national organization partially funded by Canadian Coast Guard.
- In February 1989 the RESPONDER hit a reef during a rescue attempt. It was withdrawn from service and replaced with a 733 Zodiac Hurricane Rigid Hull Inflatable FRV named the "Jack Groves". Jack Groves was a resident of Oak Bay who provided considerable voluntary service to the community. He was also a member of the Oak Bay Kiwanis and a key figure in raising funds for the vessel.
- When CMRA changes its name to Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary OBSR was already 20 years old.
- In late 2000, Oak Bay Sea Rescue Society took ownership of her new SAR Fast Response Vessel and commenced sea trials. On December 17, 2000 there was a Launching and Commissioning Ceremony held at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. She was blessed by Father Don Malins, Chaplain RCN Reserve (Ret.) and christened the "Oak Bay Sea Rescue". This is the current SAR vessel stationed at the Oak Bay Marina.