



**CANADIAN COAST
GUARD AUXILIARY**
CENTRAL AND ARCTIC REGION

44th AGM

Saturday September 30, 2023

Sandman Toronto Airport

55 Reading Court

Toronto, ON





CANADIAN COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

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A Moment of Silence for Those Who have Passed



Ken Hodgkinson



Daniel Lewis



Ferg Reid





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Lisa Sanchez-Caro
National Manager, SAR Programs
Canadian Coast Guard

Lisa has been with Coast Guard for over 20 years, mainly in Operational Support and I moved over to the SAR program in January 2021.

Lisa was tasked with standing up a new team to manage SAR programs including the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and Indigenous Community Boat Volunteer Program and is happy to be working closely with our partners in the auxiliaries.





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Steve Thompson **Superintendent, Maritime Search and Rescue** **Canadian Coast Guard, Arctic Region**



Steve Thompson is the Superintendent, Maritime Search and Rescue for the Canadian Coast Guard, Arctic Region.

Steve has twelve years of experience working with the Coast Guard in both seagoing and shore-based capacities. He was most recently responsible for the development of the Coast Guard's first Arctic Search and Rescue Station, located in Rankin Inlet, NU. Prior to this, as a Senior Analyst, Strategic Business Management, he provided senior leadership with strategic advice and operational recommendations related to program delivery and improvement.

Prior to joining the Coast Guard, Steve held various positions within Transport Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency, and as an independent consultant.

Steve holds a Bachelor of Science from Western University, a Master of Infrastructure Protection and International Security from Carleton University and a Master of Business Administration – Operations Management from Wilfrid Laurier University. He also holds a Professional in Critical Infrastructure Protection designation from the Critical Infrastructure Institute. Steve currently resides in Ontario with his spouse and dog.





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Mark Gagnon **Senior Search & Rescue Program Officer** **Canadian Coast Guard, Arctic Region**

Mark has been a proud member of the Canadian Coast Guard for 35 years.

His career began in Parry Sound Ontario, where he sailed on various Coast Guard fleet vessels, including the CCGS Montmorency and the CCGS Bartlett, as well as numerous Search and Rescue (SAR) cutters on the Great Lakes. After many years and SAR calls later, his sailing days concluded at the Port Weller SAR Station where he was the station's Rescue Specialist.

From CG fleet, Mark transferred to a position ashore as the SAR Programs Training and Exercise Officer. Mark was an integral member of the team responsible for delivering essential operational training, such as RHIOT and the Rescue Specialist Course, to CG fleet personnel. This role also involved working with the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary on various programs including Phase program, that are still being used today.

Currently, Mark is a Senior SAR Programs Officer with the CG Arctic Region. In this role, Mark is the CG Auxiliary liaison and is responsible for the expansion of the CCGA in the Arctic through the Indigenous Community Boat Volunteer Program. Mark is very passionate and committed to building SAR response capacity, particularly in the north, and this is very evident through all of his incredible achievements.





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Erin Pigott **Deputy Superintendent, Maritime Search and Rescue** **Canadian Coast Guard, Arctic Region**

Erin Pigott is the Deputy Superintendent for the Canadian Coast Guard, Arctic Region.

Erin has worked for the CCG for 23 years and has experience as a watchkeeping and Chief Officer on larger CCG vessels, as well as Commanding Officer at CCG Search and Rescue stations.

She later moved ashore to become a Maritime SAR Coordinator at the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Trenton where she worked for the last 14 years prior to transitioning to the CCG Arctic Region.

As Deputy Superintendent, Erin is responsible for overseeing the Region's Small Craft Training and CCGA Training and Exercising Programs.





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Chris Armour **Regional Supervisor Maritime Search and Rescue** **JRCC Trenton**

Chris Armour is the Regional Supervisor, Maritime Search and Rescue for JRCC Trenton.

Chris joined The Canadian Coast Guard in 1998. He started as a deckhand and worked his way up to Third Officer on board many Coast Guard vessels throughout the Great Lakes.

He then became Commanding Officer on board SAR Lifeboats (47MLB) and small navaid tenders throughout the Great Lakes.

From there he went to JRCC Trenton as a Maritime Coordinator for 5 years at which time he advanced to the Regional Supervisor Maritime Search and Rescue in JRCC Trenton.





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Retired Members



William Henry
10 yrs



Rob MacCallum
15 yrs



Raymond Trahan (Jr)
22 yrs





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Retired Members



James Hepple
24 yrs



Michael Dietl
27 yrs





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Member Service Recognition



44th Annual General Meeting - Saturday September 30, 2023



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*The following members of the Auxiliary are
recognized for five (5) years of service*

<i>5060</i>	<i>Alesandra Karakolis</i>	<i>5084</i>	<i>Angela Davis</i>
<i>5064</i>	<i>Ashleigh Vink</i>	<i>5088</i>	<i>Patricia Kandiurin</i>
<i>5066</i>	<i>Mike Noble</i>	<i>5091</i>	<i>Christopher Cantalini</i>
<i>5067</i>	<i>Ashley Trahan</i>	<i>5092</i>	<i>Chris Borowski</i>
<i>5069</i>	<i>Noella Cockney</i>	<i>5096</i>	<i>Roland Notaina</i>
<i>5071</i>	<i>Brian Bartlett</i>	<i>5099</i>	<i>Lance Dempsey</i>
<i>5072</i>	<i>Robert Wilkins</i>	<i>6000</i>	<i>Tim Pelletterio</i>
<i>5073</i>	<i>Mike Maher</i>	<i>6005</i>	<i>Craig Woodall</i>
<i>5074</i>	<i>Warren Gibb</i>	<i>6007</i>	<i>Graham Bone</i>
<i>5079</i>	<i>Owen Evans</i>	<i>6009</i>	<i>Jason Klainchar</i>
<i>5080</i>	<i>Danielle Mackie</i>	<i>6011</i>	<i>Lillian Kanayok</i>





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*The following members of the Auxiliary are
recognized for five (5) years of service*

<i>6013</i>	<i>Justin Price</i>	<i>6042</i>	<i>Kevin Meek</i>
<i>6015</i>	<i>Ryan Robbio</i>	<i>6045</i>	<i>Marcus Howse</i>
<i>6018</i>	<i>Rebecca Janson</i>	<i>6046</i>	<i>Kirby Tungilik</i>
<i>6021</i>	<i>Zachary Winger</i>	<i>6049</i>	<i>Sofronio Garrucho</i>
<i>6027</i>	<i>Noah Lucier</i>	<i>6050</i>	<i>Yekaterina Galamiyeva</i>
<i>6031</i>	<i>Nathaniel Hutchinson</i>	<i>6051</i>	<i>Craig Martynuck</i>
<i>6032</i>	<i>Nicolas Kopot</i>	<i>6053</i>	<i>Caleb Martynuck</i>
<i>6033</i>	<i>Helena Ekootak</i>	<i>6073</i>	<i>Patrick Morris</i>
<i>6038</i>	<i>Scott St. Jacques</i>	<i>6074</i>	<i>Adam Sacchetta</i>
<i>6039</i>	<i>Robyn St. Jacques</i>	<i>6075</i>	<i>Ellen Dannys</i>
<i>6040</i>	<i>Nicholas Gordon</i>	<i>6077</i>	<i>Nicholas Neef</i>
<i>6041</i>	<i>Michael Galita</i>	<i>6078</i>	<i>Magil Darnley</i>





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*The following members of the Auxiliary are
recognized for ten (10) years of service*

<i>4485</i>	<i>Joseph Dixon</i>	<i>4522</i>	<i>Gary Wayne Gibson</i>
<i>4486</i>	<i>Kevin Sulewski</i>	<i>4524</i>	<i>Andrew Henry</i>
<i>4490</i>	<i>Steve Campbell</i>	<i>4532</i>	<i>Keith Sullivan</i>
<i>4501</i>	<i>David McRae</i>	<i>4533</i>	<i>Joe Nasogaluak</i>
<i>4502</i>	<i>Terry Cox</i>	<i>4534</i>	<i>Emmanual Adam</i>
<i>4504</i>	<i>Norm Dashwood</i>	<i>4539</i>	<i>Pierre Pelletier</i>
<i>4511</i>	<i>Paul Rudall</i>	<i>4541</i>	<i>Tanner Dunkel</i>
<i>4512</i>	<i>Dave Suttaby</i>	<i>4544</i>	<i>Cyril Wellman</i>
<i>4518</i>	<i>Mike Rankin</i>	<i>4553</i>	<i>Mark Hilman</i>
<i>4519</i>	<i>Kris Gordon</i>	<i>4559</i>	<i>Christopher Whynot</i>





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*The following members of the Auxiliary are
recognized for fifteen (15) years of service*

<i>3899</i>	<i>Scott Johnston</i>	<i>3931</i>	<i>Michael Leahy</i>
<i>3900</i>	<i>Paul Gauthier</i>	<i>3944</i>	<i>Nicholas Llyod-Davies</i>
<i>3901</i>	<i>Susan Gauthier</i>	<i>3948</i>	<i>Michael Brown</i>
<i>3902</i>	<i>David Craig</i>	<i>3951</i>	<i>Bruce Cronk</i>
<i>3907</i>	<i>Mike Spencer</i>	<i>3958</i>	<i>Paul Hebbel</i>
<i>3909</i>	<i>Scott St. George</i>	<i>3974</i>	<i>William Gyurka</i>
<i>3911</i>	<i>Kyle Russell</i>	<i>3982</i>	<i>Randall Roy</i>
<i>3912</i>	<i>Maris Martinson</i>	<i>3986</i>	<i>Ryan Glaves</i>
<i>3922</i>	<i>Chad Muir</i>	<i>4016</i>	<i>Charlie Witherington</i>
<i>3929</i>	<i>Sherry Mullins</i>		





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*The following members of the Auxiliary are
recognized for twenty (20) years of service*

3304

Wayne Spencer

3406

Kevin Semande

3306

Brent Halford

3602

Ivan Barsby

3397

John Miller

4087

Wilf Wilcox





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*The following members of the Auxiliary are
recognized for twenty-five (25) years of service*

2722 Doug Mepham

3244 Rodney Turcotte





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*The following members of the Auxiliary are
recognized for thirty (30) years of service*

2186

Jason Brown





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*The following members of the Auxiliary are
recognized for thirty-five (35) years of service*

1556

John Grant





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Facility Service Recognition



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*The following facilities of the Auxiliary are
recognized for five (5) years of service*

543 Clyde River Search and Rescue

544 Port Stanley

545 Silver Islet





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*The following facilities of the Auxiliary are
recognized for ten (10) years of service*

532

Tuktoyaktuk Marine Search and Rescue





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*The following facilities of the Auxiliary are
recognized for fifteen (15) years of service*

515 Brighton Auxiliary Rescue Unit

512 PointSAR Marine Rescue

514 Wellington Rescue Auxiliary Association





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*The following facilities of the Auxiliary are
recognized for twenty-five (25) years of service*

292

Inuvik Marine Rescue





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*The following facilities of the Auxiliary are
recognized for thirty-five (35) years of service*

255 Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue





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Ladies and Gentlemen, the time has come to announce the recipients of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary National Awards for the Central & Arctic region. The recipients of these awards have been nominated by their peers. The nominations have gone through approval by the CCGA-C&A Awards & Recognition Committee and were submitted to the National Awards Committee for final recommendation.

This year, we have recipients in 4 categories:

- Operational Merit (6 recipients)
- Exemplary Service (1 recipients)
- Leadership Award (1 recipients)
- Long Service (2 recipients)

As I announce their name, I would ask each recipient to come forward and join us here for the Citation and Award presentation.





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TOWARF Unit #008 has been nominated for the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Operational Merit Medal in recognition of the exceptional dedication, operational effectiveness, and unwavering commitment that 28 members of TOWARF demonstrated during the search for Robert Wyles. Over a period of more than 40 hours TOWARF maintained a continuous search for Mr. Wyles as detailed in the log reports from tasking #1851, exemplifying the qualities deserving of this prestigious award.

On the evening of August 26, 2021, TOWARF was urgently tasked to assist in the search for a missing solo sailor who was believed to have fallen overboard from his vessel earlier in that day somewhere between Bronte and Oakville Harbours. The mission was characterized by its complexity, requiring various multi-vessel coordinated search patterns, and presented numerous challenges including significant wave heights, inclement weather conditions, night-time operations, the size of the search area and the length of the entire operation from the initial report to the cessation of search operations at 10:45 August 28, 2021.





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TOWARF demonstrated operational excellence by efficiently executing shoreline crawl search patterns between Oakville and Bronte meticulously adhering to the routes tasked ensuring that a comprehensive search of the area was completed.

Throughout the search, the unit's coordination with various Law enforcement, Marine and Air SAR units, and seamless transition to On Scene Coordinator when required showcased TOWARF's exceptional SAR capabilities. Additionally, that TOWARF was able to maintain a near continuous on water presence during the entirety of this lengthy search clearly reflects the operational excellence of the Unit overall.

Despite the demanding nature of the search, TOWARF displayed an unwavering commitment, organizing seven back-to-back call-out crews bringing into service 28 members of TOWARF. The professionalism and collaboration displayed by these members in working with other agencies including the Canadian Coast Guard, Royal Canadian Air Force, Halton Police Marine unit, Peel Police, Hamilton Police and various other CCGA units, significantly contributed to the coordinated search efforts. TOWARF distinguished itself by being the only individual SAR asset to maintain an on-scene presence for the entire duration of the search, stopping only to refuel and bring fresh crew members on board.





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The missing sailor's situation deeply impacted the local community. TOWARF's dedication to the search mission not only provided hope and reassurance to the family and friends of the missing sailor that all efforts were made but also instilled a sense of confidence in the community about the capabilities of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary.

While TOWARF has participated in many extended searches for PIW's in Western Lake Ontario, it's not often that the search is so close to home. The proximity of the Last Known Position to TOWARF's base, and that it involved a vessel transiting between two of its local harbours, has left a heightened sense of awareness in the community to the inherent dangers of being on the water and the important work done by the CCGA and its SAR partners to ensure their safety.

The log reports indicate TOWARF's exceptional efforts, including taking the initiative to board the unmanned sailing vessel to recover its last track from a handheld GPS unit which proved invaluable in the search operation. Organizational efforts to maintain an efficient crewing regimen for the duration of the search, participation in providing communication to RCAF air assets providing illumination flares, and assisting in coordinated shoreline searches showcased TOWARF's versatility and commitment to the mission.





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TOWARF's exceptional performance, demonstrated SAR expertise, and unwavering commitment during the search for Mr. Wyles is deserving of consideration as a candidate for the CCGA Operational Merit Medal. TOWARF's dedication to saving lives and its effectiveness while operating under challenging conditions, embodies the core values of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Congratulations to the Unit!





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On the afternoon of July 24, 2022, D-Crew, led by coxswain Owen Evans, were informed of a MAYDAY call (highest degree of urgency) for a report of 4 persons floating on an inflatable pool toy west of Fifty Point Beach on western Lake Ontario.

The weather was clear but a strong south-west wind of 20 knots and seas of 2' meant any floating object was at risk of being blown further out into the lake in rough conditions.

The vessel and crew departed for task #1562 the dock at Fifty Point Marina and arrived at the last known position for the reported victims; no victims were found. The Hamilton Police Marine Unit also attended the scene. The crew spotted what appeared to be victims at a position 1 nautical mile east and rushed to the scene in the company of the police boat. What they discovered there shocked them: 7 individuals on 3 paddle boards. Four of the victims were children.

The crew discovered that originally 5 people, an adult and 4 children were on one paddle board that had been blown too far away from shore. None were swimmers and only the adult had a PFD. They had only floated a short distance from shore when they discovered they could not touch bottom.





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Seeing the group in distress, 2 other paddle boarders came to their aid only to discover that they, too, could not make any progress against the wind.

Once aboard the rescue boat, 1 of the paddle boarders who attempted to help informed the crew that he had left his 5-year-old son on the beach alone. The GAMRU 240 crew contacted one of their crew ashore who acted as liaison between the rescue boat and Grimsby Fire Department to locate the child on the beach. A Grimsby firefighter stayed with the son on the beach until his father returned ashore.

As the rescue boat was returning (upwind) to its base at Fifty Point, alert crew spotted a person alone in the water a man wearing a black PFD. The individual was waving his arms to draw the attention of the crew, who quickly went to the scene and recovered him. The victim declared he had not been injured despite being thrown from his personal watercraft and knocked unconscious. He estimated he had been in the water for 1 hour (the PWC had floated away). He was assessed for injuries and was warmed by the crew but subsequently refused medical treatment for a potential concussion.





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The rescue vessel returned to its course and arrived at the base in Fifty Point Marina with 8 victims aboard. Victims were re-assessed for injuries and transferred ashore. The incident took 106 minutes from beginning to end.

Congratulations to these 5 Recipients of the Operation Merit Award:

Ben Cosman
Brent Dawson
Owen Evans
Sandy Osborne
Jeffrey Stamper





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Doug Mepham has been nominated for the Exemplary Service Medal to honor his lifetime achievements and outstanding contribution for the organization.

Currently the Unit Leader of GAMRU, Doug has spent 25 years in the CCGA with different units. He has done an exceptional job in educating and training members in safe work and skills that allow members to save lives, protect assets and prevent incident through educating public at events like touch a truck, the Toronto Boat Show and several community events. Doug can always be found talking with mariners and promoting safe boating.

His contribution to the CCGA over the last 25 years has had a positive effect on the organization and his dedication to promoting safe boating and educating of mariners has had a large positive impact.

Congratulations Doug!





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John Clarke has been nominated for The Leadership Award. Currently the Unit Leader for Avalon, his crew have learned a tremendous amount from him.

John is the type of Leader who will not ask someone to do something that he will not. His commitment to the Auxiliary program cannot be beat.

His 44+ years of service suit him well to be in a position, to pass on his knowledge.

John's working knowledge about Auxiliary policies and procedures is apparent and he ties these directly into the dynamic nature of our missions. He has taught us a variety of things, from vessel handling to appropriate rescue response to how to stay safe while on the water.

John demonstrates his Leadership in a way that encourages you to learn more and ask questions as you know he will not criticize the questions you may ask. We can learn so many things from John's Leadership style and we are proud to have John recognized accordingly.

Congratulations John!





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Long Service Medal

The Long Service Medal award was created in 2003 to honour members of the Auxiliary reaching 25 years of volunteer service with the organization.

As I call their name, I would ask each recipient to come and join us for the medal presentation.

In the Central & Arctic Region, the recipients for this year are:

Douglas Mephram
Rodney Turcotte

This concludes the National Awards Presentation.

