



# PARA Marine Search & Rescue

FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD AUXILIARY  
682 Hillview Crescent, Pickering, Ontario, L1W 2R7  
Charity BN/ Registration # 86802 0843 RR0001  
Email: [info@paramarinesar.ca](mailto:info@paramarinesar.ca)  
<http://www.paramarinesar.ca>



## 2020 Annual Operational Report

1. Operational Metrics:
  - a. 2020 Taskings: 38 (previous years: 2019 -15, 2018 – 27, 2017 - 14). NOTE: See Appendix B.
  - b. Membership: 48 out of possible maximum of 50
2. Key Performance Indicators:
  - a. Safety: 0 medically treated injuries; 0 COVID-19 related issues.
  - b. Vessel availability 99.39% (previous years: 2019 - 93.75%. 2018 – 95.75%, 2017 - 96.66%).
  - c. Response time: 23.18 minutes (previous years: 2019 - 12.53min, 2018 - 21.37min, 2017 – 11.00min)
  - d. Community Service Level:
    - i. Provided over 3,039 hours in 2020 to the community (previous years: 2019 - 8,200 hours, 2018 - 7,705 hours, 2017 – 8,300 hours)
    - ii. SAR Missions: 38 taskings (over 401 hours)
    - iii. Patrols: 0 hours. NOTE: See Vessel Operations
    - iv. Maintenance: 305 hours
    - v. Training: 1,171 hours
    - vi. Administration: 468 hours
    - vii. Community Development: 387 hours. NOTE: See Community Development
  - e. Fundraising: In the last 12 months, approximately \$18,000 funds through donations and grants to support capital equipment purchases. Grant applications are pending with municipalities of Pickering and Whitby along with the Firehouse Subs corporate program for an estimated \$38,000 (previous years: 2019 - \$18,400, 2018 - \$51,500 and 2017 - \$53,000).
3. Vessel Operations
  - a. In service from mid May through mid November. NOTE: The late start, typically April, was due to replacement windows for the vessel being delayed at the vendor.
  - b. Typically, patrols are conducted from Victoria Day weekend to Thanksgiving weekend during weeknights and weekends but were not conducted in 2020 due to CCGA COVID-19 protocols.
  - c. The unit was on call 7x24 for the in-service period.
  - d. CCGA COVID-19 protocols evolved over 2020 but can be summarized as:
    - i. Restricted units from operating patrols this year.
    - ii. Restricted the number of personnel onboard.
    - iii. Delayed the start of any training till mid summer.
    - iv. Required the units to have dedicated and segregated crews to minimize potential cross contamination.
    - v. Outlined the use of required PPE.
4. General Observations
  - a. Response time was increased as our crews were not on patrols during active boating hours.
  - b. Increased calls originating from local fire and police departments for PARA Marine SAR to be engaged. This is a positive factor although it may have resulted in several our “stand downs” given our response time was delayed and situation resolved quickly.
  - c. The notable overall increase in taskings has not been seen since the 1980s.
  - d. Increased number of people participating in water-based activities with all types of watercraft from traditional boats (sail and power), PWC, fishing boats, human power (canoes, paddle boards, kayaks) to inflatables and other beach craft.



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## 5. Training

- a. On water training conducted from July through to October once COVID-19 protocols permitted.
- b. Online training options were developed and implemented to maintain membership engagement.

## 6. Vessel Maintenance

- a. Winter 2020:
  - i. The vessel underwent maintenance and improvements over the winter, at a local Whitby vendor, funded by the both the annual maintenance budget and additional fundraising.
  - ii. New forward windows were installed to improve the safety rating of the vessel.
  - iii. Vessel rebranding and painting to reflect the new colour scheme and logos. See Appendix A.
- b. Summer 2020: The vessel had no major repairs or issues this season.
- c. Upcoming work in 2021 (subject to funding being raised):
  - i. New electronic navigation and communication suite will replace the aging existing equipment.
  - ii. The remaining 2 side windows will also be replaced for safety reasons.

## 7. Community Development

- a. The unit continued the rebranding efforts to PARA Marine SAR to be more inclusive of our 3 major municipality partners (Pickering, Ajax, and Whitby):
  - i. Completed legal name change from “Pickering Auxiliary Rescue Association” to “PARA Marine Search and Rescue”.
  - ii. New website and new URL ([www.paramarinesar.ca](http://www.paramarinesar.ca) vs [www.para-rescue.org](http://www.para-rescue.org))
  - iii. New uniform rollouts although this was limited due to restrictions unit activities.
  - iv. Vessel call sign name (PARU) is currently under review for potential new options.
  - v. Advertising in local community newspapers (November 2020)
- b. Purchase of a branded community trailer, through an OPG grant, to support future events. This will be stored at Port Whitby Marina.
- c. Unfortunately, most if not all community related events were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, we were able to:
  - i. Participation in January 2020 Toronto Boat Show
  - ii. Remembrance Days wreaths laid in Whitby, Ajax, and Pickering in 2020
  - iii. Participate in the Pickering 2020 Santa Claus Holiday parade (drive by).
  - iv. The following is our standing event calendar anticipated for 2021 but will be subject to municipality guidelines:
    1. Pickering: Canada day, OPG Community events, Easter Egg Hunt, Pickering Dragon Boat Festival, Pickering Village Museum Mine-craft, hosted the 3rd annual PARA Waterfront Festival in Pickering, Remembrance Day presence, Santa Claus Parade
    2. Ajax: Canada Day, Remembrance Day presence, Santa Claus Parade
    3. Whitby: Harbour and Canada Day, Remembrance Day presence, Santa Claus Parade
    4. Other: Canadian Power and Sail Squadron events, Sea Cadet and Navy League Presentations, Toronto Region Conservation Association events at Paddle the Don and Humber River, Toronto International Airshow



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### APPENDIX A: New Vessel Branding







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## APPENDIX B – Yearly Statistics

SAR Types and Actions vs Population Growth

