



RCN-SAR vessels from around the Lower Mainland gathered in Horseshoe Bay for the dedication of the new Station 1 building (red roof) and new RCM-SAR 1 vessel CRAIG REA SPIRIT (alongside the wharf, at foot of ramp).

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary gets a new name, a new look, and in Horseshoe Bay – a new station and SAR vessel

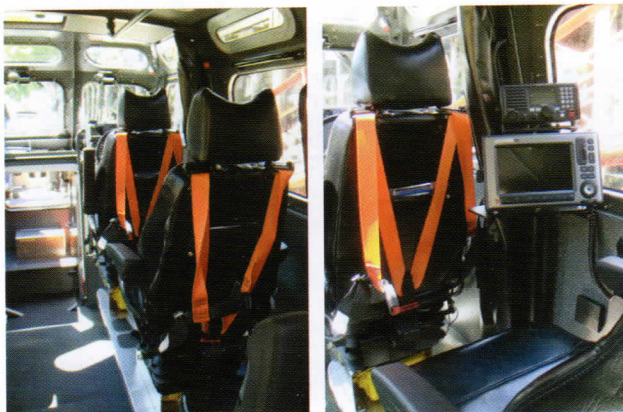
BY DAVID RAHN

Search and rescue vessels from Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary branches around the Lower Mainland visited Horseshoe Bay on Saturday 26 May 2012 for the dedication of a new Falkins-Class Search and Rescue vessel, CRAIG REA SPIRIT, and the official opening of new rescue coordination Station 1 at the West Vancouver Municipal Pier. The event also coincided with the official announcement of the organization's name change from CCG Auxiliary to Royal Canadian Marine - Search and Rescue (RCM-SAR), and a first opportunity to see the vessels in their new livery.

The Royal Canadian Marine - SAR name change affects over 1,000 members at stations in 46 communities in BC and reflects a longstanding desire among members to clearly separate the volunteer, community-based, organization from the nationally administered Coast Guard. The title 'Royal' was granted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in February 2012 in recognition of the organization's long-standing service, broad geographic coverage, and philanthropic mandate. In BC, each RCM-SAR crew is supported by a local society which owns the SAR vessel(s) and raises funds for crewing and operation from individual and corporate donors, through government and community grants, and provincial gaming grants, along with some federal operational funding provided through the Canadian Coast Guard.

RCM-SAR Station 1's CRAIG REA SPIRIT, a Falkins-Class Type II dedicated rescue vessel with rollover capability and max speed of 40 kn.





Grab bars and multiple port lights dominate the interior space. Crew seats are fitted with 5-point harnesses. A second communications position (right) is located directly behind the helm.

The RCM-SAR societies also take responsibility for vessel maintenance and provisioning and crewing training and preparedness for the organization's 24/7 service mandate.

Repositioning RCM-SAR Station 1 from its small wharf and parking space at the West Vancouver Yacht Club in Fishermen's Cove began with discussions between then-Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones and the CCGA in May 2010, followed by a year of community support-building for the planned takeover of the shed on the Horseshoe Bay Pier. Permission to occupy the site was granted on December 2011 and significant renovations to the ageing building began in February 2012. Station 1 is now fully operational (see photos).



Station 1 contains a radio operations command centre and a gear storage/change area for the rescue crews (shown). At right is West Vancouver Station 1 leader Doug Purdie.

The CRAIG REA SPIRIT is a Falkins Class Type II dedicated rescue vessel, 36' loa by 11'9" powered by twin Volvo D6s (435 hp each) through ZF 220 transmissions and Hamilton 274 jet pumps. Cruise speed is 32 kn, max speed 40 kn, with a range of 250-300 nm on 1086 litres of fuel capacity. The boat was designed by Ivan Erdevicki and built by Titan Inflatables in Sidney. (For details on the type, see Orme G. Stuart: New Falkins Type II SAR RHIB for Prince Ruoert RCM-SAR in the July 2012 issue.) The Falkins-Class is named for Bruce Falkins, a 25-year veteran and former president of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary – Pacific. He currently serves on the board of governors for the RCM-SAR and is president of the North Shore Lifeboat Society. He owns and operates the fuel dock in Fishermen's Cove, West Vancouver. ◀

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