



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee


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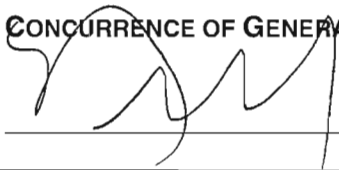
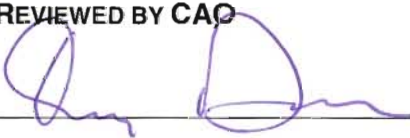
**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** December 17, 2013  
**From:** Rendall Nasset **File:** 09-5000-01/2013-Vol  
Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment 01 (13.20)  
**Re:** **Marine Patrol Program - Post Patrol Report 2013**

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### Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "Marine Patrol Program – Post Patrol Report 2013" (dated December 17, 2013, from the OIC RCMP) be received for information.

  
(Rendall Nasset) Superintendent  
Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment  
(604-278-1212)

REPORT CONCURRENCE
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 
REVIEWED BY CAO 

December 17, 2013

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

### **Purpose**

This following report was prepared to share the successes of the Richmond RCMP Detachment Marine Program patrols that were conducted on the waterways surrounding the City of Richmond from October 2012 to October 2013.

### **Background**

The Richmond RCMP Marine Program (RMP) was created to allow for a uniformed police presence on the waterways which surround the City. The RMP also responds to marine related calls of service such as; vessel safety checks, involvement in marine community events, and the enforcement of various Federal and Provincial Acts and Regulations (Criminal Code, Fisheries Act, Canada Shipping Act, and Small Vessel Regulations).

The Richmond RCMP Marine Section celebrated another successful year in 2013. Five new members joined the team, all receiving training in Basic Water Transport with two members completing the Advanced Water Transport course. There are now a total number of 13 Richmond RCMP Detachment police officers trained to captain the “Fraser Guardian” during routine patrols, emergency call-outs and special events.

### **Analysis**

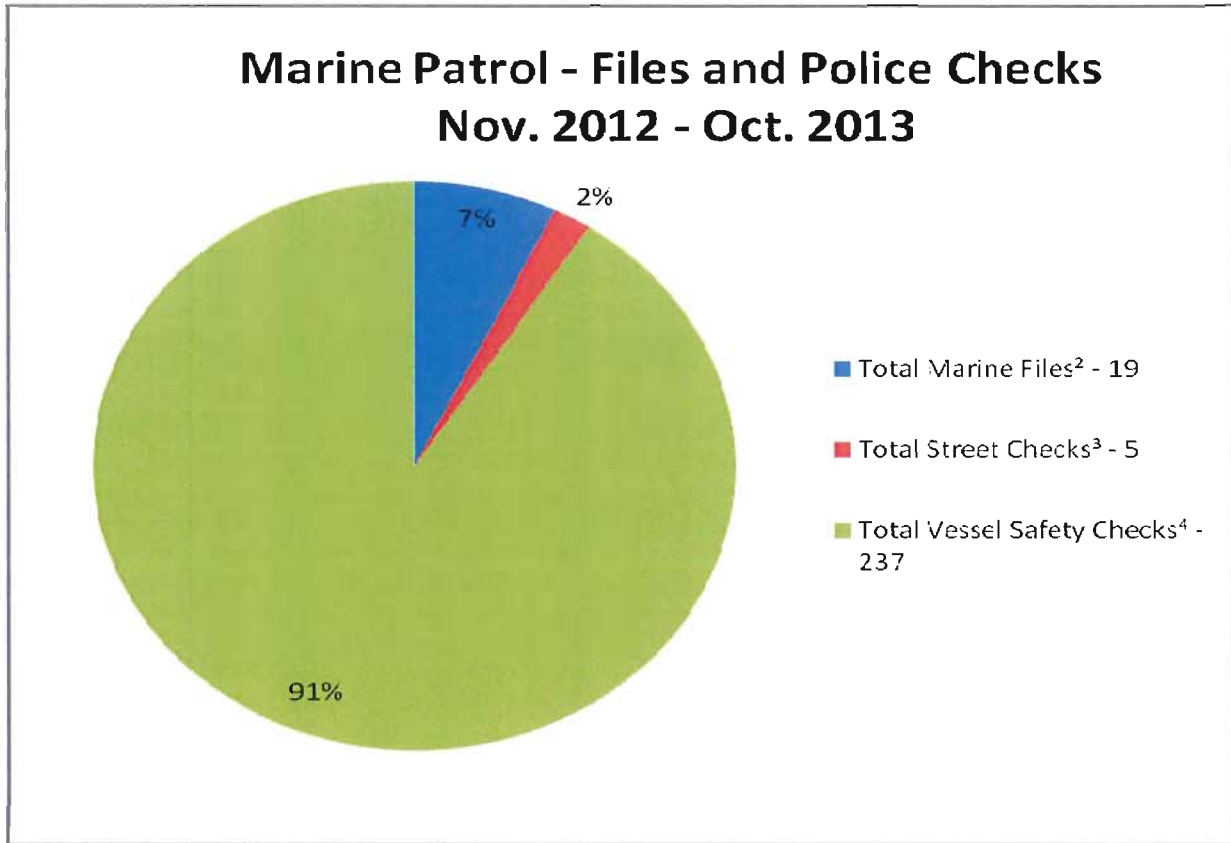
Richmond RCMP Marine Section members each have their own primary job duties within the detachment, so they operate the “Fraser Guardian” on an ad hoc basis. Pre-scheduled marine patrol shifts are divided amongst trained members. Additionally, any trained members on duty in Richmond, on any given date, are able to deploy the “Fraser Guardian” for call-outs or other assistance requests on a case-by-case basis.

During 2013, pre-scheduled patrol shifts were generally 6 to 8 hours in length and occurred primarily on weekends between June and October as there was high vessel traffic on the Fraser River during these times. Unscheduled call-outs and assistance requests requiring Richmond RCMP Marine Section members to deploy the “Fraser Guardian” from the boathouse varied in duration. By the end of the season, the vessel had been deployed a total of 42 times.

### **Deployment and Document Statistics (November 2012 – October 2013)**

There were 237 documented vessel safety checks conducted over the last 12 months. Safety checks were conducted at dock or in open water and typically lasted 15 minutes. Richmond RCMP Marine Section members checked to ensure that each vessel was equipped with appropriate and required safety equipment. Depending on the result of a safety check, vessels were either allowed to continue or were directed to dock so that the operator could correct deficiencies. Pleasure craft operators continued to express that they have found the safety check process to be an educational and practical exercise and that they appreciate the police presence on the Fraser River.

The following chart depicts a breakdown of the Marine Patrol Duties:



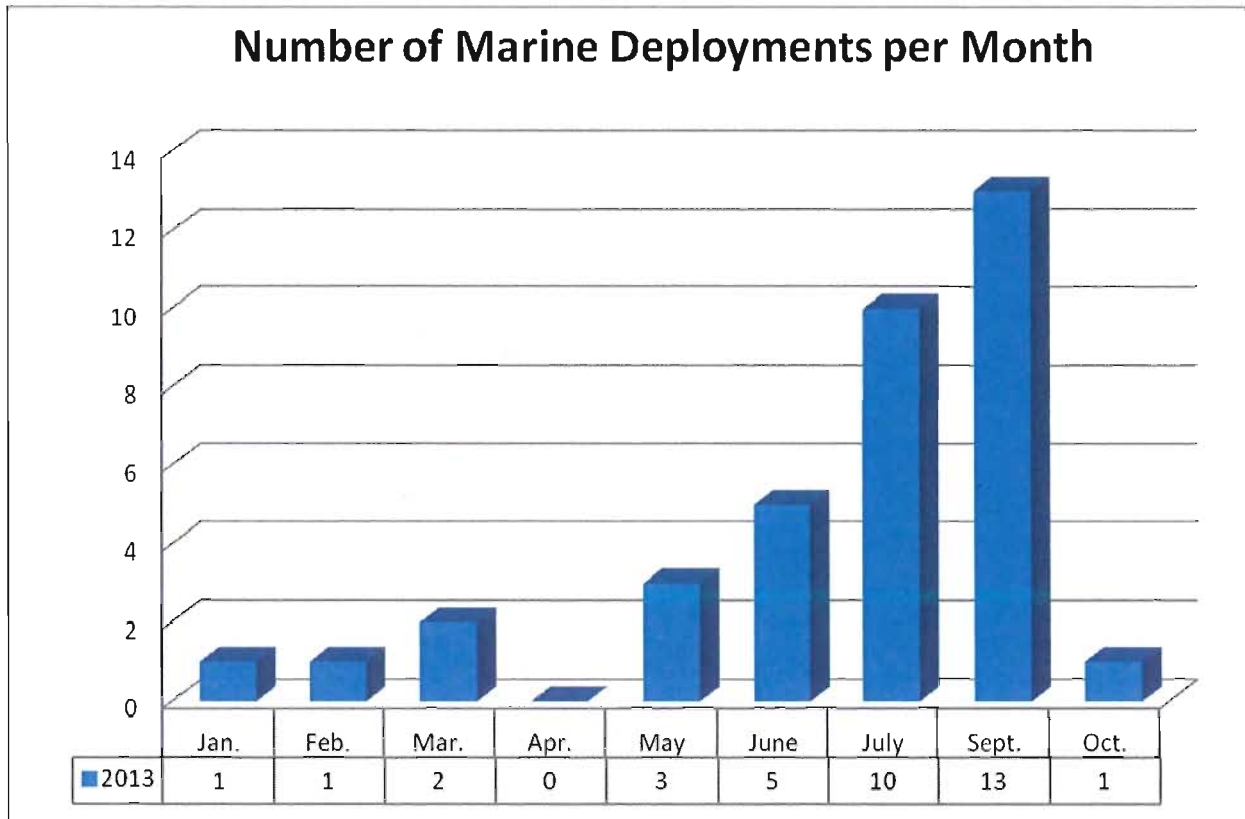
Marine Files<sup>1</sup>: Street Checks<sup>2</sup>Vessel Safety Checks<sup>3</sup>:

<sup>1</sup> Individual police files were generated when Marine Section members assisted members of the general public, assisted other police officers, entered into their own marine related police investigations or engaged in any other activities beyond the scope of routine marine patrols and safety checks which were documented on the main master file.

<sup>2</sup> “Street Checks” are electronic police files containing intelligence information collected as being “of interest” to other police. Street Check files were generated by Marine Section members when checking parties with documented criminal history or current court conditions when circumstances did not warrant the generation of a regular police file.

<sup>3</sup> For every Vessel Safety Check conducted, a written document is issued to the boater indicating the reason(s) for the stop. This can take the form of a written warning ticket or a violation ticket under the Fisheries Act, Canada Shipping Act or Small Vessel Regulations.

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### Marine Patrol Program Highlights

Word is spreading amongst the Marine Community in Richmond and as a result, Richmond RCMP Marine Section members have been invited to attend a number of marine events and have also been called upon for assistance. Some of the highlights from this year's files attended by Richmond RCMP Marine members include:

- A family of 6 was rescued from a pleasure craft stranded on the Steveston Rock Jetty.
- The Fraser Guardian assisted disabled vessels by towing them to the nearest safe dock.
- Several known gang associates were checked. Intelligence was shared with units such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) Gang Taskforce and Integrated Proceeds of Crime (IPOC) Units.
- Several deceased human bodies were located and recovered, providing some closure to families who have lost loved ones.
- An unconscious male and female in distress were located and assisted to safety.
- Navigation hazards such as an abandoned fishing net, numerous submerged hazards (deadheads) and a vessel anchored in the flight path of sea planes were dealt with appropriately.

## **Community Engagement**

A cornerstone of the Richmond RCMP Marine Program is its contribution to the community. On each patrol, Richmond RCMP Marine Section members visit local marine communities, harbours and marinas. Children and youth found practicing good boating and water safety are provided with stickers or limited edition “Fraser Guardian” cards. Additionally, the “Fraser Guardian” made an appearance at every marine community event occurring in Richmond throughout the spring and summer of 2013. Community events in which the vessel and crew took part included:

- Celebration of Lights fireworks nights (all three evenings)
- The Steveston Maritime Community Festival
- The Ships to Shore Maritime Festival
- The Dragon Boat Festival
- The UBC Rowing Club Regatta (Middle Arm Fraser River)

## **Partner Agencies**

The “Fraser Guardian” was originally donated to the Richmond RCMP Detachment by Fisheries & Oceans Canada. This came as a direct result of organizational collaboration. For a number of years prior to receiving the vessel, Richmond RCMP Detachment police officers frequently rode along with Fisheries officers. During that time, Richmond RCMP Detachment members received the benefit of mentorship from officers experienced in marine patrol and enforcement. The Richmond RCMP Detachment Marine Section continues to see value in working with other agencies and, in 2013, continued an established relationship with the Delta Police Department. This year, there were 19 joint patrols conducted on the shared waterways between the communities of Richmond and Delta. This year, the Richmond RCMP Detachment Marine Section also began mentoring members of the UBC RCMP Detachment, welcoming them aboard for a number of patrols during the summer.

In 2013, the Richmond RCMP Marine Program continued building partnerships with the Richmond Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR), which was previously named the Auxiliary Coast Guard. The “Fraser Guardian” has participated in various training scenarios with the Richmond RCMSAR to further improve the skills of the Richmond RCMP Marine Section members.

In 2013, while on patrol or when responding to calls for service, Richmond RCMP Marine Section members worked hand-in-hand with the following agencies:

- Vancouver Police Department (Marine Unit)
- RCMP Support Services (Air Services, Police Dog Services (PDS), IHIT, ERT, IPOC, CFSEU)
- Coquitlam RCMP (Marine Unit)
- North Vancouver RCMP (Marine Unit)
- New West Police Department (Marine Unit)
- Delta Police Department

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- UBC RCMP
- Canada Coast Guard
- Transport Canada
- Steveston Harbour Authority
- Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
- Fisheries & Oceans Canada

### **Conclusion**

The Richmond RCMP Marine Program has been demonstrated to be a valuable asset to the Richmond RCMP Detachment and the City of Richmond. This is clearly evident in the over 237 documented vessel safety checks conducted over the course of 42 deployments in 2013.

Richmond RCMP Marine Section members have become contributing members of the Richmond Marine Community by being a visible presence on the waters surrounding Richmond and participating in numerous community events.

The mandate of the Richmond RCMP Marine Program is to educate the public on matters related to boating and water safety, and enforce various Federal and Provincial Acts and Regulations under the Criminal Code of Canada, the Fisheries Act, the Canada Shipping Act and Small Vessel Regulations. Members of the Richmond RCMP Marine Section are committed to enhancing the safety of the residents of the City of Richmond. While the 2013 seasonal patrols have come to an end, the "Fraser Guardian" remains available for calls for service and marine related events for the remainder of the year.



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