




City of Richmond




Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Rendall Nessel, Superintendent
Officer In Charge
Date: November 3, 2014
File: 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
01 (14.04)
Re: Marine Patrol Program - Post Patrol Report 2014

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "Marine Patrol Program – Post Patrol Report 2014", dated November 3, 2014 from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP be received for information.


Rendall Nessel, Superintendent
Office in Charge
(604-278-1212)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

At the request of the Community Safety Committee, the Officer in Charge will keep Council informed on matters pertaining to policing in the Richmond community. This report supports Council's Term Goal #1 Community Safety:

To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.

Analysis

This report is a summary of findings of the Richmond Marine Program. The time period covered is November 2013 to October 2014.

Background

The Richmond RCMP Marine Program was created to allow for a uniformed police presence on the waterways which surround the City. The program also allows the Richmond RCMP to respond to marine related calls for service, perform vessel safety checks, become involved in the marine community, and enforce various Federal and Provincial Acts and Regulations (Criminal Code, Fisheries Act, Canada Shipping Act, and Small Vessel Regulations).

Operators

Richmond RCMP Marine Section members each have their own primary job duties within the detachment, and 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 assistant requests on a case-by-case basis.

Six new members joined the team in 2014, all receiving training in Basic Water Transport with three members also completing the Advanced Water Transport course. There are now a total number of ten police officers and one Auxiliary Constable trained to operate the "Fraser Guardian" during routine patrols, emergency call-outs and special events.

Program

The Richmond RCMP Marine Program checked over 260 recreational vessels, conducted 54 patrols, and responded to 29 calls for service in 2014.

Pre-scheduled patrol shifts were generally 6 to 8 hours in length and occurred primarily on weekends between June and October. This is the peak season of vessel traffic around the City of Richmond waterways.

The Richmond RCMP Marine Program logged 215 hours on the vessel this year. The Richmond RCMP Detachment has a strong Auxiliary Constable program and the Auxiliaries were aboard the “Fraser Guardian” for a total of 96 of those hours.

Deployment and Document Statistics (November 2013 – October 2014)

There were 260 documented vessel safety checks conducted over the last 12 months. Safety checks were conducted at docks or in open water and typically lasted 15 minutes. Richmond RCMP Marine Program members checked to ensure that each vessel was equipped with the 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.

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 observed 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 2014. Community events in which the vessel and crew took part included:

- The Richmond Maritime Festival
- The Ships to Shore Steveston Event
- City of Richmond Canada Day Fireworks
- The Steveston Dragon Boat Festival

Partner Agencies

In 2014, while on patrol or when responding to calls for service, Richmond RCMP Marine Section members worked hand-in-hand with the following agencies:

- Richmond Fire Rescue
- Vancouver Police Department (Marine Unit)
- RCMP Support Services (Air Services, RCMP Shiprider, Police Dog Services)
- Coquitlam RCMP (Marine Unit)
- North Vancouver RCMP (Marine Unit)
- New West Police Department (Marine Unit)
- Delta Police Department
- Canada Coast Guard
- Transport Canada
- Steveston Harbour Authority
- Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

- Fisheries & Oceans Canada

Conclusion

The Marine Patrol Program was proposed to conduct marine patrols in the waterways surrounding the City of Richmond; to interact with the marine community and to detect, deter and investigate criminal activity in these waterways.

The Richmond RCMP Marine Program has demonstrated to be a valuable asset to the Richmond RCMP Detachment and the City of Richmond. This is clearly evident in the over 260 documented vessel safety checks conducted over the course of 54 patrols in 2014.

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 2014 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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MS:jl