



316 Beach Blvd. Hamilton, Ont. L8H 6W2
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2013 Year End Report

OUR UNIT

Members of the Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit are on-call 24 hours each day, 7 days each week ready to assist with marine emergencies in the Hamilton Harbour (Burlington Bay) and western Lake Ontario.

Every qualified member carries a pager directly accessible by both the Hamilton Police Service and the Canadian Coast Guard. Upon receiving a page, a crew responds within minutes to our base on Beach Blvd., and the appropriate resources are launched.

In 2013 our members committed over 2000 volunteer hours to the unit, and our crews responded to situations requiring assistance on average at least once per week during the summer boating season.

Our crews also conduct regular patrols on Lake Ontario every Saturday, Sunday and statutory holiday during the boating season. Patrols commenced this year on June 29 and concluded September 2 for a total of 25 patrol days. On summer weekends, our unit has a vessel on the water from 12h00 to 18h00. Two or three members of our unit, including a senior officer, are on every patrol. We patrol the western end of Lake Ontario, primarily between the Burlington Ship Canal and 50 Point Marina as well as the Hamilton Harbour.

We are the only volunteer rescue unit west of Toronto with both summer and winter operations capabilities. Our crews are capable of responding to marine emergencies, ice rescue, and have in the past assisted the City of Hamilton during flood conditions in the city proper. This flexibility stems from our use of a 100% trailerable fleet – another feature that makes the Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit unique when compared with units elsewhere on Lake Ontario.

During the summer months we station our 22' Limestone rescue boat in a gas powered lift at the foot of Lakeside Ave, Hamilton. The Limestone is always ready for immediate launch. Dedicated telephone service is available at the lift location in a call box to ensure up-to-date information is available from Hamilton Police and/or the Canadian Coast Guard during a launch. The boat lift is a sizable structure that is put in, and removed, from the lake each year by our volunteers with the generous support of the Canadian Coast Guard who provide one of their large vessels to assist with the process.

We took possession of a new a new 27' Stanley rescue vessel in 2012, fully equipped with the latest electronics and rescue equipment. This vessel underwent its first full year of service in 2013 and now serves as the main rescue vessel in our fleet. The Stanley is designed for missions that exceed the service profile of our rapid launch vessel. We are grateful to the City of Hamilton for their support as we planned and executed this significant upgrade to our rescue equipment. The Stanley is kept in a state of readiness at our base station garage, and crews can have this vessel in the water at Fisherman's Pier within 15 minutes of a call. (The Limestone is always launched first, unless lake conditions dictate the larger Stanley vessel should be used for safety reasons.) Our capital planning process is now preparing for the renewal of the Limestone as it nears the end of its duty service life.

We also have a number of smaller vessels (such as aluminum runabouts) that are used for training purposes, rescues in the smaller bodies of water in the Hamilton Region and ice rescue.

This report provides an overview of our many activities during the 2013 calendar year and is organized as follows:

Section 1 - Training Activities

Section 2 - Emergency Response and On-water Assistance Calls

Section 3 - Special Activities

Our unit was formed almost 55 years ago, and today thrives as a result of our 100% volunteer crews and the generous support of the City of Hamilton and the people of Hamilton. It is a pleasure and an honour to serve as the unit's Chief.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions that may arise.

Respectfully Submitted

Chief Mark Dean

Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit.

Section 1 TRAINING

Our group of volunteers meets every Monday from 19h00 to 21h00 year round at our training and base facility located at 316 Beach Blvd in Hamilton. During winter months, Monday training activities focus on developing the skills of our members. New members take courses designed to prepare them for joining our crews in responding to calls. Seasoned members take courses designed to deepen their skillset in planning and managing emergency response calls, as well as refresher courses to ensure that everyone is a capable and competent crew member.

A variety of courses are delivered by our qualified instructor teams during the winter months. A sample of courses includes:

- First Aid & CPR
- Basic Search and Rescue
- Search and Rescue Operations
- Small Vessel Handling
- Marine Radio Operations

Some of these courses are part of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary's member qualification process and include examinations that must be passed by our members.

Topics covered during our classroom training activities include:

- Navigation skills (chart reading and course plotting)
- Ice Rescue (how to deal with winter conditions and lake ice)
- Equipment familiarization (what equipment we have on board, where it is stored, practical training on how to use the equipment)
- Hypothermia: recognition, prevention, and survival using the industry leading "Cold Water Bootcamp" course (we have a certified Cold Water Bootcamp trainer in our unit)
- Fire Prevention (extinguishers, hazardous chemical training in firefighting)
- Firefighting (our crews do not fight fires, but we are equipped with a dewatering pump that can be used to facilitate rescue of persons on burning vessels)
- Electronics familiarization (using our Raymarine chartplotter and radar installation)
- Marine radio procedures
- Distress signaling (flares, flags, and hand signals)
- Search and rescue training to Canadian Coast Guard standards
- Safe towing procedures
- Line handling and knots
- Safety (all aspects of boating safety and required equipment)

From April through October when our boats are in the water, our Monday training activities move onto Lake Ontario where our crews hone their on-water practical skills by practicing skills such as executing precision search patterns, recovering persons in the water (we use a specially designed "dummy" that simulates the weight of a live person) and safe towing practices.

Monday evenings are also used to ensure that all of our equipment is in a state of readiness that will allow us to respond promptly to an emergency call.

Section 2

**ACTIVITIES, EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND ON-WATER ASSISTANCE CALLS
2013**

In 2013, our crews responded to 22 calls for assistance. Some calls originate from the Hamilton Police Service, some from the Canadian Coast Guard, and in some cases our crews come across vessels in need of assistance during our patrols.

A summary of our activities, emergency response and on-water assistance calls is provided below.

Date	Nature of Activity/Call
19 May	Fishing vessel lost engine off boardwalk shoreline
05 June	Kayak adrift - unknown if PIW off Burlington shore
25 June	Overtaken Seadoo. 3PIW reported in water, possible injuries
29 June	Patrol
30 June	Tow from Stelco to Fisherman's as Vessel of Opportunity
30 June	Patrol
01 July	MAYDAY call - person overboard in Hamilton Harbour near RHY
01 July	Sailboat out of power in Burlington Shipping canal
01 July	Patrol
06 July	Patrol
06 July	Patrol
07 July	Overdue swimmer off Shell Pier
13 July	Patrol
14 July	Patrol
14 July	Assist Hamilton Police with emergency flare signal off Hamilton
20 July	Beach
21 July	Patrol
21 July	Vessel disabled 1km off Burlington Pier
27 July	Patrol
27 July	Rescued 2 canoeists caught in current and returned to shore
28 July	Patrol
30 July	Hamilton Fire familiarisation trip
30 July	Mayday Relay - repositioned vessel to assist
03 Aug	Person on Wagner's Beach in difficulty. EMS on scene. 911 call.
03 Aug	Patrol
04 Aug	Patrol
05 Aug	Possible vessel in distress in Hamilton Harbour
10 Aug	Patrol
10 Aug	Capsized Sailboat with 2 persons-in-water near 50 Point
11 Aug	Patrol

HAMILTON BEACH RESCUE UNIT 1958-2014













SIEMENS 2740
JUNE 11, 2009
Pay To HAMILTON BEACH RESCUE UNIT \$10,000
TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS
NEW BOAT
38848322514975823
SIGNATURE







DANGER

DANGER
- NO -
TRESPASSING

C114080N

HAMILTON BEACH RESCUE UNIT

RESCUE

OCEAN CITY
COASTGUARD
AUXILIARY

RUDE

DANGER
- NO -
TRESPASSING



The QEW and Burlington Street this afternoon around 3pm. The highway was closed in both directions for approx 90 minutes after flooding occurred and many drivers became trapped and unable to move. All access ramps to and from the Red Hill Valley and Burlington Street were closed as well. Submitted by David.











Seaford

HAMILTON BEACH RESCUE

EXPLORER 2.5

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YAMAHA

























