

An insight to the members of Pocomar,

It is 2:35 a.m. when the piercing tone of the pager slices through the stillness of the night. The urgency of the sound pulls you from sleep and the warmth of your bed. A call has come from the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre-a vessel is in distress somewhere on Lake Erie. The details are scant: no precise location, no guarantees of the outcome, only the knowledge that someone is in peril and time is critical. You, as a crew member, dress quickly, pulling on layers to guard against the cold wind that will meet you on the open water. Within minutes, you are out the door, leaving behind a whispered goodbye to a loved one who will return to bed with a silent prayer for your safety. The night is dark, the harbor still, as your crew gathers. Quiet efficiency replaces sleepiness; each movement reflects hours of training and unwavering dedication. As the SAR vessel slips out of the harbor into the black expanse of Lake Erie, the crew knows this mission could take hours, perhaps even days. They will face cold, fatigue, and the unknown, driven by the hope of bringing someone back to safety. This is what it means to be part of Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (POCOMAR).

Here are the numbers over the last 5 years

Missions: 198

Average Tasking Duration: 1.08 hrs.

Average Response time: 18.90 Mins

Total SAR vessel hours: 327.51

Property saved: \$2,550,500.00

People Assisted: 248

People Saved: 3

Training Exercises: 551

Total training hours: 2090

Classroom sessions: 124

Total Classroom hours: 500

Community Involvement: 2035 hours

Average member hours per year: 800 - 900

Approximate in-service duration: May to November