



ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

Since its inception, The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund has granted funds to the following organisations:

1. "Camp Courage" The First Responder's Society
2. Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Central & Arctic)
3. Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Pacific)
4. Canadian Coast Guard, Office of Boating Safety
5. Canadian Hydrographic Conference
6. Canadian Red Cross
7. Canadian Safe Boating Council
8. Dalhousie University
9. Durham Region Critical Incident Stress Support Team
10. Golden & District Search and Rescue Society, Yellowhead Search and Rescue, Kimberley Search and Rescue, Bluewater Search and Rescue
11. Kimberley Search and Rescue
12. Knowledge Network
13. Lifesaving Society
14. Lifesaving Saskatchewan
15. Living Lakes Canada
16. National Research Council
17. Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and the Upper Thames
18. River Conservation Authority
19. Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
20. Ontario Provincial Police
21. Ottawa-Carleton Police
22. Royal Canadian Mounted Police
23. Saskatchewan Council for Water Safety
24. Search and Rescue Dog Association of Alberta
25. Shaolin Monks Dragon Boat Team
26. Toronto Police Services
27. Town of St. Marys - Pyramid Recreation Centre
28. Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
29. Water Incident Research Alliance



Cook-Rees has also undertaken the following initiatives:

- Publication of a Reader's Digest safe boating insert (2001)
- Development and dissemination of a public service announcement about new boating regulations (2000)
- Collation and distribution of water safety teaching aids and information to children and adults at the Stratford Lions' Pool annual Canada Day Free Swim (2000-2004)
- Supported the Greg Cook Memorial Hockey Tournament

Cook-Rees has sponsored Water and Boating Safety Events such as the:

- Canadian Safe Boating Council Symposium (annually)
- Canadian Safe Boating Awards (annually)
- Launch of Safe Boating Week
- Stratford Ontario Dragon Boat Festival

Cook-Rees has sent representatives to attend and make presentations at international conferences:

- The First World Congress on Drowning (Amsterdam, 2002)
- The International Boating and Water Safety Summit (Nashville 2001, Daytona 2002, Las Vegas 2003, Newport Beach 2005)
- The National Transportation Safety Board (US) Forum on Personal Flotation Devices in Recreational Boating (Washington 2004)

FUNDING IN ACTION

“Camp Courage” The First Responder’s Society

CRMF sponsored safety equipment for this camp in 2024. This program is offered to young females and gender-diverse youth, assisting them to excel in emergency services. Their week-long course includes a day dedicated to the Coast Guard and water safety.



Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Central & Arctic)

In 2004, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Central & Arctic) was provided with funds to purchase night vision equipment for units that respond to calls from the Arctic through to the Great Lakes. This equipment allows these units, which are largely made up of volunteers, to operate with greater efficiency and safety while conducting search and rescue operations after dark.

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Pacific)

In 2006 a grant was given to the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Pacific) for the printing of 1,000 copies of "The Search and Rescue Crew Manual", to help make this valuable resource more widely available to staff and volunteers

Canadian Coast Guard, Office of Boating Safety

In 2004, the Cook-Rees Memorial Fund donated 70 canoes to assist in launching a new boating safety program in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Office of Boating Safety, a department of the Canadian Coast Guard, in partnership with the Department of Education, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, has designed this program that will teach boating safety to 7,000 Grade 9 students per year.

Canadian Hydrographic Conference (CHC)

The Fund was a proud sponsor of the CHC in 2002. This conference is an important forum for the marine community and is a focus for navigators, inshore and offshore fishers, recreational boaters, engineers, scientists and educators, as well as for government and industry representatives.

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Canadian Red Cross

In 2006 a grant was approved for the Canadian Red Cross amount of \$10,082.87 has been approved for the printing of Modules 1 and 2 of the Canadian Red Cross' "10 Years of Drowning Research" report.



Canadian Safe Boating Council

In 2002 The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund sponsored "Will It Float?", a groundbreaking report prepared for the Canadian Safe Boating Council by SMARTRISK, which investigated issues surrounding mandatory use of personal flotation devices.

Dalhousie University

The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund sponsored the 2003 Maritime Risk and Safety Conference hosted by Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This conference brought together leading researchers and practitioners in the area of maritime risk management and analysis.

Durham Region Critical Incident Stress Support Team

A donation was approved for the Durham Region Critical Incident Stress Support Team, to be used to provide in-depth crisis intervention training to the volunteer team members who support emergency personnel in the Durham region.

Golden & District Search and Rescue Society, Yellowhead Search and Rescue, Kimberley Search and Rescue, Bluewater Search and Rescue

Between 2001 and 2004, donations by The Cook-Rees Fund purchased much-needed equipment and provided training for search and rescue associations across Canada. These associations are largely composed of volunteers, and the Fund's support has helped them to act more swiftly, safely and confidently to save lives.

Kimberley Search and Rescue

A grant was approved for "Inland Water Rescue Team Development," to be used for training and the purchase of equipment.

Knowledge Network

In 2004, the Fund partnered with the Knowledge Network (British Columbia's public educational broadcaster, which is also shown on satellite television across the country) to deliver six half-hour television programs on boating safety. The programs' subject matter will fulfil specific learning objectives connected with recent boating legislation, and will encourage viewers to obtain safe boating certification. The Government of Canada's Office of Boating Safety has offered its expertise to Knowledge Network staff as the shows are developed for airing in the spring of 2005.



Lifesaving Society

The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund has partnered with the Lifesaving Society and several applicants to bring projects to fruition. A Dragon Boat Safety Handbook was developed, and a Training and Certification Day for dragon boat officials and competitors was sponsored in Toronto in September of 2001.

Cook-Rees has also granted funds to the Lifesaving Society to produce an informative insert on drowning fatalities distributed in the magazine SARScene, and at the National Search and Rescue Secretariat's 2002 annual conference.

Living Lakes Canada

The funds allotted were used to continue the charity's work of surveying, mapping and taking inventory of lake shorelines as part of the Foreshore Integrated Management Planning (FIMP) program, and to field-validate the charity's research as staff and volunteers coordinate with the local Nechako First Nation and that community's Environment and Water Stewardship Society. This was granted on condition the charity continued to emphasize the importance of responsible boat use when working with lake-side communities, and encouraged the adoption of boating safety regulations. Volunteers received basic boating safety training before embarking on boat-centred work, and safe boating practices were observed at all times while on the water.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)

The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund has assisted two Conservation Authorities in southwestern Ontario in their efforts to teach young children about river safety since 1998. Community education staff at the UTRCA developed the River Safety Program, and The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority have also delivered this river safety program in their respective watersheds and adapted the activities to suit their needs.

The River Safety Program is a one-hour in-class "stream proofing", consisting of hands-on activities designed for Grade 2 students. The main objective is to help children in watershed areas develop an understanding of river systems, an awareness of the hazards associated with waterways, and the ability to make appropriate safety decisions. With the help of The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund, the River Safety Program has been presented to over 20,000 students in southwestern Ontario.



National Research Council

Canada has been using thermal manikins for immersion suit certification for decades, and is a driving force in the international community to have thermal manikins accepted as tools for research. Canadian subject matter experts and federal departments have invested in-kind time and effort over the years to help move this research forward. Given the experience and effort Canada has put into thermal manikin research, and has the thermal manikin that correlates to human data, it is prudent for Canada to have a set of correlation ensembles, and take the lead in overseeing future correlation of international manikins.

In 2025 the Fund is proud to have supported specialist research for the development of standardized immersion suits, including garment patterns, specifications and assembly instructions for four separate correlation ensembles that can be published in the International Organization for Standardization ISO 15027.

The goal of this project (which is the sixth phase of work in a multi-year research program) is to ultimately have thermal manikins accepted internationally as a test methodology for immersion suits, with Canada overseeing the correlation of other manikins.

Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs

In February of 2003, The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund sponsored a lecture and demonstrations on ice rescue and cold-water immersion for the OFSC. Guest speaker was Dr. Gordon Giesbrecht, a world expert on hypothermia.

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

One of the first pieces of equipment donated with Cook-Rees funds was a side scan sonar presented to the Ontario Provincial Police in 1999. In all, three such units have been donated to search and recovery teams in the province of Ontario. The OPP were also granted funds to obtain a ROV, an underwater remote operated vehicle, which is used in recovery operations.

Ottawa-Carleton Police

In 2001 the Ottawa Carleton Police department was provided with new air tanks for their search and recovery teams. They were also given a Boat Buoy Kit, which is the Lifesaving Society's training kit for boating safety.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

The RCMP has several Underwater Recovery Teams across Canada. In 2003, The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund provided the resources needed to purchase 20 dry suits with mated collars specifically designed for the purpose of minimizing the risks associated with diving in contaminated environments.

Saskatchewan Council for Water Safety

The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund worked with the Canadian Red Cross to support the Saskatchewan Council for Water Safety in 2002 in the production of the Saskatchewan Water Safety Guide, which contained information on boating safety, new safe boating regulations, water rescue, and valuable information on water safety. Seventy thousand copies of the guide were published and inserted in the province's two largest daily newspapers, and were made available to water enthusiasts in Saskatchewan's provincial parks.

Search and Rescue Dog Association of Alberta (SARDAA)

Cook-Rees sponsored the Search and Rescue Dog Association of Alberta's K9 conference in 2001. SARDAA, whose members are volunteers, offers self-sufficient volunteer services in areas such as urban/wilderness search, missing persons retrieval, water search, and disaster-search applications. They have established the use of search and rescue dogs in Alberta, and continue to train teams based on instruction from local and international experts.

Shaolin Monks Dragon Boat Team

In 2002, the Fund sponsored the purchase of Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) to be worn by team members of the Toronto-based Shaolin Monks Dragon Boat Team to promote the mandatory wear of PFDs during all practices and competitions.

Toronto Police Services

In 2001, the Fund sponsored a seminar, Investigating the Water-Related Death. The event was hosted by the Toronto Police Service's Underwater Search and Recovery Team in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner for the Province of Ontario and the Toronto Police Service's Forensic Identification Services.



Town of St. Marys - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Funding was approved for several initiatives: Swimming Lessons to be offered to Newcomers to Canada and for non-Newcomers facing financial barriers; a lifejacket loan program; St Marys Quarry Safety Communication Tools including materials and construction of an on-site kiosk and two iPad-mini devices for communicating safety messages in several languages; and lifeguard training program materials.

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

The CRMF sponsored the River Safety Education Program for school children, raising awareness about being safe around water.

Water Incident Research Alliance

The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Water Incident Research Alliance (WIRA) since its inception in 2000. Contributions from The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund helped WIRA form its business plan, assisted the Alliance as it worked to establish itself, and aided in the design of its web site. In 2005 The Fund will be providing assistance for WIRA's operation as it works to reach its strategic goals for continued development and sustainability.

WIRA is a non-profit alliance of members dedicated to delivering research data regarding water-related incidents, injuries and fatalities. The data provided by WIRA enables member agencies to analyze and interpret these occurrences and develop a course of action.