



Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

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Saving Lives
on the Water**

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Coast Guard Auxiliary Members to Receive Certificate of Commendation from the International Maritime Organisation

(Ottawa, August 31, 2009) Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary members Bobby Noble and Tejay England from Lewisporte, Newfoundland will be presented with Certificates of Commendation by Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

The formal Award Ceremony for Exceptional Bravery at Sea will take place on the first day of the 26th session of the IMO Assembly, in London, UK on November 23, 2009 in presence of delegates representing 129 countries.

The purpose of the award, established in 2007, is to provide a unique, international recognition for those who, at the risk of losing their life, perform acts of exceptional bravery, displaying outstanding courage at sea.

On August 16, 2008, Captain Bobby Noble and his crew were on their way home after a haul of shrimp off the coast of Cape Freels only to discover in the early hours of the morning that their vessel, the Lynette Marie, was taking on water. Not long after, they found themselves in the Atlantic Ocean.

Bobby sent out a distress message and a vessel from Fogo Island, the Melissa Lori, was already in sight when they entered the water.

Due to the vessel sinking so fast, one of the Lynette Marie's crewmember's was unable to get his survival suit on and jumped in the water completely unprotected. Bobby and Tejay supported him in the water until he was pulled aboard the Melissa Lori.

Bobby then realized that another crew member was actually swimming away from the rescue vessel, perhaps disoriented due to panic. He and Tejay swam on their backs – connected foot to head – out to their fellow crewmember. They hoisted him on top of Bobby to keep him afloat and brought him to the rescue vessel.

Bobby's concern for his crew was instrumental in the successful rescue of all concerned. In keeping with maritime tradition, Bobby was the last person retrieved from the water. When the crew was on dry land, the crew credited Bobby's bravery and calmness for saving their lives.

Bobby Noble and Tejay England are members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA), a volunteer organisation supporting the Canadian Coast Guard Search and Rescue (SAR) program in Canadian waters. The CCGA has 4200 members and 1200 vessels and is involved in about 25% of the maritime SAR tasks taking place in Canada.

For more information:

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