

N.S. News, Sunday 1995 April 2

Lifeboat society seeks better boats

\$190,000 needed to upgrade

TWO AGING rescue boats moored on the North Shore need to be replaced, but the new boats won't come cheaply.

By Ian Noble

News Reporter

The updated vessels go for \$95,000 each, and fundraisers are looking to you for help.

North Shore Lifeboat Society president Paul Atterton said the volunteer, non-profit society has been knocking on a lot of doors, including those in government in Ottawa and Victoria.

But there is only \$20,000 in the kitty for the new vessels so far and plans call for the new boats to be purchased in mid-1995.

The old boats, currently moored in Fisherman's Cove and Deep Cove, are not up to rescue tasks, Atterton said.

"The quick and short of it is these boats are not designed for prolonged search and rescue," he said.

The Fisherman's Cove boat serves parts of Howe Sound and areas east to Second Narrows Bridge. The six-metre-long (20-foot-long) vessel does not protect crew or passengers from the elements.

The new boats will be 8.5 metres (28 ft.) and be able to reach speeds of 35 knots.



NEWS photo Cindy Goodman

AS NORTH Shore Lifeboat Society members Doug Harstrom, Tully Waisman and Paul Atterton seek funding for new vessels, they must perform difficult search and rescue work with inadequate boats.

They will be radar-equipped and have enhanced search and rescue equipment, so they will be much more dependable, said the society.

During the past 10 years the society's lifeboats have responded to more than 700 life-threatening calls.

In 1994, the NSLS assisted more than 200 people in distress, said Atterton.

Copies of the NSLS fundraising proposal may be obtained by calling Atterton at 984-9553 or treasurer Harvie Walford at 926-0367.

Donations may be made to the North Shore Lifeboat Society at Box 91369, West Vancouver, B.C., V7V 3P1.

P. ATTERTON
FINANCE