



THE COASTAL WATCHER

The Newsletter for Crime-Conscious Communities

No. 35

April/May/June 2007

Compiled by Cpl A. E. Clarke and N. E. Treen
Contributions by A/Cst Rick Morgan

Coastal Watch Takes to the High Seas!



Bobbing Into a Jetty Near You!

RCMP representatives will be joining the Canadian Coast Guard this summer for a patrol to various communities to promote the Coastal Watch Program and raise awareness about the new Marine Security Operations Centre located in Esquimalt, BC. RCMP members and Auxiliary Constables will visit a number of towns, lighthouses, detachments and Coast Guard bases between Victoria and Port Hardy during the first week in July. This 6-day patrol commences on July 3rd, and will include visits to Ganges, French Creek, Powell River, and Campbell River and will end in Port Hardy on July 8th. For additional information on these community visits, check with your local RCMP detachment or contact the RCMP Coastal Watch Coordinator. Community groups are encouraged to contact the coordinator to arrange a Coastal Watch presentation, and A/Csts are reminded that the Coastal Watch display can be couriered to your local detachment for any events in your area.

- **MAIL:** **ATTN: Coastal Watch Coordinator**
 c/o Island District (South)
 2881 Nanaimo Street
 Victoria BC V8T 4Z8
- **FAX:** **ATTN: Coastal Watch Coordinator**
 250.380.6191
- **PHONE:** **Cpl Anne Clarke**
 250.380.6222

Nanaimo Floating Boat Show

The Floating Boat Show was held June 1-3, 2007 under sunny skies in Nanaimo Harbour. The event was well attended with hundreds of people stopping by the Coastal Watch booth on each of the three days. The people seemed to show more interest in the Coastal Watch Program than in other years, and were also asking many more and trickier questions than in other displays we have been involved in. The Coastal Watch program seems to be gaining more interest with each and every display and talk we put on. Thanks Again for Support of the Coastal Watch Program!
--Auxiliary Constable Rick Morgan



Not wishing to blow our own horn or anything...but we will anyway...



The RCMP Coastal Watch Program in British Columbia has inspired US Coast Guard to create a similar crime-prevention program in Washington State. Once called Northwest



Watch, the Citizens Action Network was launched by the USCG approximately 2 years ago. CAN has been growing in size and scope, and as a result of the close partnership between Canadian and American law enforcement agencies, the RCMP Coastal Watch Program has adapted several of the USCG CAN features. The two programs have gained the attention of the US Department of Homeland Security, and have been nominated as one of five finalists to receive an award. Noblis (formerly Mitretek Systems) and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government will announce the winner of the prestigious Noblis Innovations Award in Homeland Security in the summer of 2007.

Contraventions Reminder

As of April 2005, law enforcement authorities are able to fine boaters for infractions on the spot. Details can be found at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/BoatingSafety/menu.htm> (Click on Regulations in the left-hand column, then Contraventions Regulations-fines and fees). Your sunny weekend get-away aboard your floating boating oasis could cost you. Here's how!

You dust off the old money pit and hook up the trailer to your Ford Explorer. You neglect to note that your trailer's insurance is expired. You are pulled over and your trailer is impounded (at your expense) until you can provide proof that you've insured old Betsy.

As you patiently wait in line for a spot at the boat launch ramp, you decide to throw rocks at some unsuspecting sea cucumbers. Since you are actually standing inside the boundary of a National Park you are fined \$200 for disturbing the wildlife. You launch your craft. You race out of the wake zone.

You are nabbed for speeding. (\$100).

While pulled up alongside, RCMP members ask to see your safety gear. You have lifejackets for all the children, but forgot to bring along some for the adults (\$200). And your operator competency card? Luckily for you, you were born prior to 1983 so you have until September 2009 to write that little test at next year's boat show. (\$250 possible fine).

Okay, off you go again and over to your favorite fishing grounds. Forgot your fishing license? (\$200).

Finally, as this really, really long day draws to a close and the sun begins to set, you head back to the harbour. This is when you notice your port-side navigation light isn't working (You should have really checked that before leaving, no?) (\$100).

In frustration, you abandon the vessel and swim for shore. (\$500).



REPORT SUSPICIOUS MARINE-RELATED CRIME.
CALL THE COASTAL WATCH REPORTING LINE.

1.888.855.6655

The Dangers of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless odourless gas that is produced when a carbon-based fuel (such as gasoline, propane, charcoal, or oil) burns. CO enters your blood stream through the lungs, and takes the place of oxygen in your red blood cells, resulting in oxygen starvation throughout the body. It can make you sick in seconds and, depending on the concentrations, even a few breaths can prove fatal.



Symptoms:

Early symptoms are often confused with sea-sickness or intoxication, so often those affected do not get the medical aid they require. The symptoms include:

- Irritated Eyes
- Headache
- Nausea
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Confusion

Treatment:

CO poisoning or toxicity is an emergency with possible tragic results and requires immediate action. **PROCEED WITH EXTREME CAUTION.** If the area contains a high concentration of carbon monoxide, you could be exposed to the fumes and fatally overcome.

- Evaluate the situation and ventilate the area if possible
- Evacuate the area
- Move affected persons to fresh air
- Administer oxygen if available
- Contact medical help
- Perform CPR if victim is not breathing

Protect Yourself:

- Know where and how CO may accumulate in and around your boat (ie inadequately ventilated canvas enclosures, trapped exhaust in enclosed cabins, blocked exhaust outlets, back drafting, another vessel's exhaust)
- If you can smell engine exhaust, you are inhaling CO
- Follow all warning and instructions for canvas, engine operations, etc.
- Maintain fresh air circulation throughout the boat at all times
- Stay off the swim platforms while the engines are running
- Install and maintain marine grade approved CO detectors

Gardener Loses Home Over Grow-Op

(The Province, April 25, 2007)

Judy Ann Craig had been featured in Garden West Magazine for her impressive flowering clematis that enveloped the outside of her two-storey North Vancouver home. It turned out that she was using her green thumb for more than just clematis – inside her house was a grow-op. Craig, a 54-year-old former realtor, grew more than \$100,000 worth of marijuana in her home from 1998 until her 2003 arrest. She was charged and pled guilty two years ago, and her sentence included a year's conditional sentence, a \$100,000 fine, and a \$15,000 victim surcharge. Most recently, federal crown prosecutors won an appeal to have the \$567,000 house in Lonsdale forfeited to the government as proceeds of crime under federal drug laws.



Operation Trident Fury

Operation Trident Fury, an international military exercise by sea and air took place in the waters off Esquimalt, BC May 7-18. Participants included four Canadian Pacific Fleet warships, 1 US Coast Guard and 3 US Navy vessels. The air contingent was made up of Canadian Forces, US Air Force, US Navy, US Air National Guard, and the Royal Australian Air Force. The main event was the sinking of ex-HMCS Huron. She was towed 140 nautical miles from Esquimalt, and, after a barrage of naval and air force gunnery, began listing to starboard before her bow rose gallantly above the water and she slipped under the waves to her final watery resting place.

Be Aware and Declare!

Every traveller entering Canada plays a key role in protecting Canadians, animals and plants from foreign diseases, viruses and pests. The worldwide situation is constantly changing, so before traveling it is your responsibility to research the most current restrictions. The following items are commonly carried by travellers and should be declared:



- Meat, meat products
- Wood, wood products
- Feathers, down
- Cream, milk, cheese
- Fruits, vegetables
- Seeds, nuts
- Plants, trees, cut flowers
- Pets, birds, live animals
- Baby formula

For a complete list of products restrictions and instructions on applying for import permits visit www.beaware.gc.ca or call 1800 O-Canada.

Employee Stole Yacht, One Piece at a Time.

(www.telegraph.co.uk) It took him 7 years to gather the hundreds of items from junction boxes, to stern lights, to a radar mast. James Light, a boat engineer working for Sunseeker boat manufacturer in Poole, Dorset, had hoped to build his own boat, piece by piece. His plans were thwarted when his bosses became suspicious after finding a Sunseeker DVD player hidden inside his toolbox and called in the police to investigate. A search of his garage revealed more than 100 boxes containing everything from a 4 ft radar system to tiny packets of electrical connectors, worth an estimated £55,000. He claimed to have obtained the parts legitimately from a third party, but admitted to 17 counts of handling stolen goods and two counts of theft in Bournemouth Crown Court. He was sentenced to 12 months jail time, to be suspended for two years.



Did you know?

Transport Canada Office of Boating Safety posts a list of marine related product recalls, including PFD's and engines.

Visit <http://www.tc.gc.ca/BoatingSafety/recalls.htm>

And One Final Thought...

Two boaters sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

