

NEWS FROM THE NORTH:

Randy Whaley
Chairman
Canadian Safe Boating Council

Safe Boating Awareness Week

The Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) and Transport Canada launched Safe Boating Awareness week in Canada at a national press conference on May 19th in Ottawa.

Mr. Brian Jean, Secretary of State for Transport Canada thanked CSBC on behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians for the development and implementation of a Safe Boating Awareness Program that was designed to reach out to boaters through community newspapers, radio and television media.

Mr. Jean also pointed out that while Safe Boating Awareness Week brings attention to water safety the messages should be remembered throughout Canada's boating season and that Safe Boating Awareness is consistent with the Government of Canada's commitment to the security for Canadians.

Randy Whaley, Chairman of CSBC added that CSBC's Safe Boating Awareness initiative was the most successful campaign to date and that with over 70 regional volunteers to organize local events and liaise with the media more boaters would be seeing and hearing the key messages of the initiative – Wear Your PFD, Don't Go Boating While Impaired and to be water wise by getting your Pleasure Craft Operator Certification.

Canadian Safe Boating Council – 2006 Symposium

Plans are underway for CSBC's 2006 Symposium, which will be held in Quebec City from September 21st through 23rd, 2006. The program will include a "Toast and Topics" session providing a stage for the attendees to discuss developing boating safety issues across Canada. The Symposium is a great networking opportunity as all parties that are interested in the promotion of safe and responsible recreational boating in Canada will be attending.

The Symposium attracts a cross section of Government, private businesses, non-profit associations, educational associations, regulatory groups, private individuals and media. This year's agenda will cover CSBC future plans, Search and Rescue, Safety Programs, Boat Safety Training and many updates on activities within the recreational boating sector.

There will also be off site activities and a welcome reception that you will not want to miss. We encourage everyone to attend, as this year's event is right in the heart of the old city of Quebec City.

For more information about this year's Symposium visit www.csbc.ca

CONFLUENCE AWARDS

The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) was proud to announce the recipients of the prestigious 2006 Confluence Awards at the fifth annual Congressional Reception held on May 16, 2006 in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington D.C. The Confluence Awards were presented by NSBC Executive Director Virgil Chambers and Vice-Chair Ruth Wood. To those members of Congress and other individuals in government who have brought



Virgil Chambers, Senator Kohl, Charlie Sledd



Virgil Chambers, Ruth Wood, Congressman Shaw

together people, resources and vision toward the betterment of safer boating on America's waters. Through their positions of prestige and responsibility, these individuals have fought for funding, legislation, programs, laws and regulations for boating safety.

The NSBC recognized five individuals who have made great strides and contributions to the field of boating safety. The recipients of the Confluence Awards for 2006 were: Senators Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, Senator John Warner of Virginia, Representatives E. Clay Shaw (4th year) of Florida,

THE FIRST "TAKE EM' BOATING" GRANT IS AWARDED BY THE NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL

The "Take 'em Boating" Grant supports programs that educate the next generation of boaters. Any program presenting an opportunity to get kids in boats will be favored. In addition to educating the next generation, this program will help promote the future of the marine industry through environmental education and safety awareness. It will embrace all aspects of recreational boating for grades K - 12, looking at innovative opportunities, including adaptive boating, paddle sports, sailing, and powerboat safety programs. That was what the judges were looking for to award the first Take Em' Boating grant.

The Perseus House, Charter School of Excellence at the Maritime Center in Erie, PA fit the bill. Their program, "Keeping Kids Afloat" is aimed at children in Erie who live near the waters of Lake Erie, but have never gotten out on the lake. The kids in the present program reflect the diversity and struggles of Erie, whose school population is 90% eligible for the Federal lunch program. Surrounded by water, many of the students have never had the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this natural resource, and for most it has been their first experience learning about this resource or even being on a boat.

They begin by exploring the coast line in a 60 foot steel fishing vessel to see the environment from a different angle. Then they are turned on to boat building projects. They are completing a 28 foot mid 18th Century fishing boat, and a 42 foot wooden sailing vessel. During the winter, they work on ice boats.

The kids are given a certified 8 hour boating class, learn how to swim in a Boys and Girls Club pool, and learn about the maritime heritage of the area. They also work on personal boat building projects, and get out on the water under close supervision. This year-old program has created an excellent track record of core academic subjects, enhanced by boating, sailing, hands on maritime skills and has garnered partnerships with various community groups and environmental projects, tying in with Pennsylvania standards.

The waiting list grows for this program, daily attendance is outstanding, and 60% of the kids arrive well before starting time. Success of this program is assured, and the Take Em' Boating grant will enable Perseus House to expand the program to reach more children.

The Council is very impressed with this effort, as are state officials and other boaters who have direct knowledge of the program. We are proud to award the first OMC Foundation "Take 'Em Boating" grant of \$5,000 to Perseus House to support this outstanding program for kids.

and Jeanne Timmons from the U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Boating Safety. Their efforts and dedication are greatly appreciated by the NSBC, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, the U.S. Coast Guard as well as the 78 million boaters that take to the water each year.

The Congressional Reception was co-hosted by the NSBC, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the United States Coast Guard. NSBC Patron members Coors Brewing Company and MetLife Auto and Home sponsored the Reception.



Ruth Wood, Jeanne Timmons, Virgil Chambers