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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**National Safe Boating Council Announces the Transport Canada, Office of Boating Safety, Ontario Region as the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Boating Education Advancement Award Winners**



Manassas, VA (May 12, 2006) –National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) Chairman Ed Carter and Coors Brewing Company Representative Deanna Rice presented Transport Canada, Office of Boating Safety, Ontario Region with the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Region Boating Education Advancement Award (BEAA) at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Palm Harbor, Florida. Sponsored by Coors Brewing Company, the BEAA awards are given out annually to recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals and organizations that have developed and implemented new and innovative boating education programs that reach out to boaters and address some of the major safety concerns of today's vessel operator.

Transport Canada, Office of Boating Safety, Ontario Region became the first Canadian recipient of the BEA Award, after Canada was added to the regions eligible for the award this year. The “Rental Boat Safety Program” worked to ensure that those renting vessels were receiving the safest possible product so that the renters would feel comfortable that the vessels met the basic safety standards administered by Transport Canada. This also allowed the rental companies to be confident that the vessels they were renting out were safe and met the appropriate government standards. Transport Canada is donating their winnings to the Canadian Safe Boating Council who will use the grant to promote the BEAA program in Canada and pay for the regional winner to travel to the CSBC's national conference to present their program to the conference participants.

Boating Education Advancement Award Winners are selected from the three regional (Northern, Southern, Western) and Canadian award recipients. Regional winners receive an award and \$1500. The National Award Winner is selected from the four regional winners and presented with an award and \$2500 at the annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit. The BEAA Awards were established by the NSBC, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education. The NSBC is comprised of over 333 national, regional, and local boating and water safety agencies, organizations and corporations that are all committed to boating safety.