

## Contraventions Act Enforcement in Effect



With summer boating season in full swing, boaters should be reminded that the Contraventions Act is now being enforced. With ticket books in hand, law enforcement personnel have the ability to issue fines on the spot, similar to traffic violations as seen on our motorways. The Act came into force in April 2005; previously, people who committed offences were charged and given a notice to appear, and the resulting court process was often lengthy and time consuming. Some sample fines are as follows:

### Contraventions Act: Sample Fines

• Speeding	\$100
• Operating a vessel in a careless manner	\$250
• Operation of a vessel without prescribed navigation lights	\$100
• Operation of a power-driven vessel without the required competency card	\$250
• Removal, alteration, concealment, damaging, or destruction of authorized sign without consent	\$150

A detailed listing of the fines and fees associated with the Contraventions Act Regulation can be found on the web at [www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety](http://www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety). Click 'regulations' under the list found on the left-hand side of the web page, then Contraventions Regulations – fines and fees.

### Bug Off!

Planning the perfect weekend camping trip? Unsure if you need to pack the mosquito netting and bug spray? Click on [www.weathernetwork.ca/features/bugs](http://www.weathernetwork.ca/features/bugs) to check the bug activity in your area; the site features advice on bug avoidance and other handy tips.



### Colombian Police Train Rats to Find Mines



BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) - Watch out Fido, your days on the force may be numbered. Police in Colombia are training Lola and Espejo, two whiskered, red-eyed rats, to sniff out bombs and land mines. The rodents are part of an experimental six-rat squadron that police are preparing for dangerous missions to defuse the more than 100,000 land mines that litter Colombia's countryside after four decades of war between the government and leftist rebels. Unlike dogs, rats weighing less than half a pound each and "don't trigger any explosions when they walk on a mine," said Col. Javier Cifuentes, director of the Sibate police academy, where basic training is taking place. To earn their stripes, the rats have spent the past year undergoing a daily training regimen in which they are placed in a maze with C-4 explosives and other bomb-making materials. When they detect the target, they're rewarded with a cracker. Trainers estimate it could be six months before the rats are pressed into active duty. Cifuentes said he believes Colombia is the first country to use rats to conduct police work, though larger rodents are being employed for similar purposes in Sudan, he said.

**"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."** – Sally Koch

## German swan falls in love with swan-shaped paddleboat five times his size

BERLIN (Reuters) – A swan has fallen in love with a plastic swan-shaped paddleboat on a pond in the German town of Muenster. Peter Overschmidt, who operates a sailing school and rents the two-seat paddle boat on the Aasee pond, said the black swan with a bright red beak has not left the white swan boat's side since it flew in one day in early May.



"It seems like he's fallen in love," said Overschmidt. "He protects it, sits next to it all the time and chases away any sailboats that get anywhere nearby. He thinks the boat is a strong and attractive swan." Overschmidt said the swan will figure it out sooner or later but hopes he won't be too heartbroken. "I'll wish him all the best and hope that he doesn't make the same mistake again," said Overschmidt.

**"Volunteering is so pervasive it's invisible. We take for granted all the things that have been pioneered by concerned, active volunteers."** – Susan J. Ellis



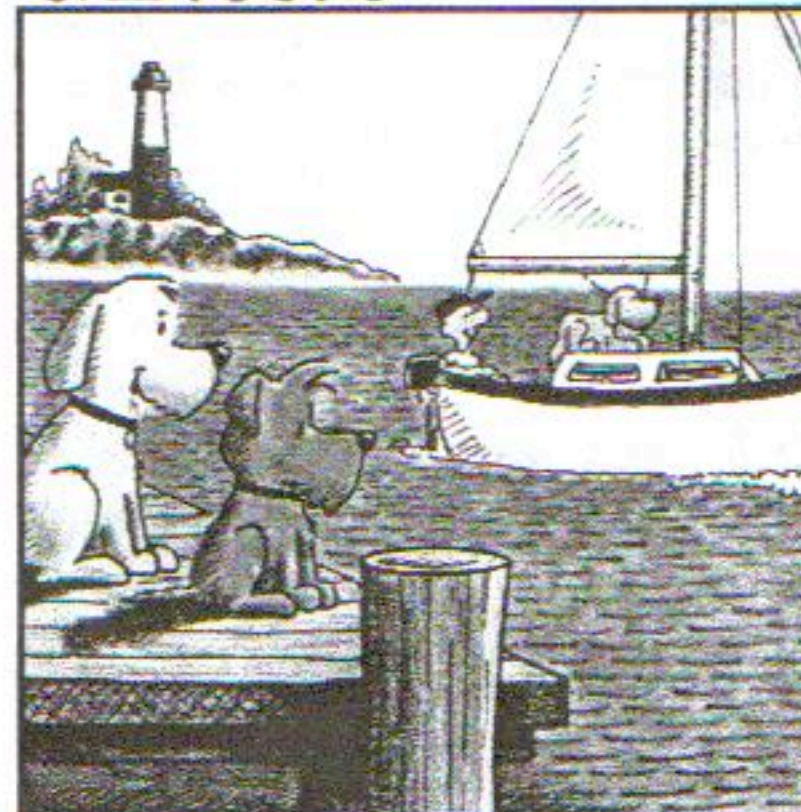
### Did You Know....

You can now apply for your pleasure craft licence at any one of 320 Service Canada Centres across Canada. Under the Small Vessel Regulations of the Canada Shipping Act a pleasure craft licence (or 'K' number) is required for any pleasure craft measuring 12 m or less and powered by an engine 10 horsepower (7.5 kW) or more. There is no cost to obtain a pleasure craft licence, and the number must be displayed on the side of the vessel. This number is used to assist law enforcement and search and rescue organizations in identifying each individual pleasure craft. As of April 1, 2006 CBSA (Canadian Border Services Agency) will no longer be issuing these licences. To find the office nearest to your location, call 1.800.OCANADA (1800.622.6232) or visit [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca). For vessel regulations and licensing information visit [www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety](http://www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety).

**Overheard at the Detachment...** Two detectives were investigating the murder of Juan Gonzalez. "How was he killed?" asked one detective. "With a golf gun," the other detective replied. "A golf gun?! What is a golf gun?" "I don't know, but it sure made a hole in Juan."...



### SAILTOONS by Michael Malzone



HE SAYS IT'S LIKE HANGING YOUR HEAD OUT THE CAR WINDOW BUT MUCH BETTER!