



LIFESAVING SOCIETY® **BOAT OPERATOR ACCREDITED TRAINING**

The Lifeguarding Experts

GET A PCO CARD WITH BOAT TRAINING

How can writing an exam or taking an 8 hour classroom course prove competence as a boater? It's a good start toward safer waters for all boaters and toward raising awareness of the need for more safety on the water. That can only help improve the current statistics which show the severity of the problem.

Already, Canada has more recreational boaters per capita than the United States, and in fact represents the largest boating population in the world. With so many people using our waterways it's inevitable that incidents will occur. With more people on the water every year, something must be done to help prevent incidents.

In 1999, the Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) program was introduced in Canada to be phased in over ten years with initial training focusing on youth and small recreational boats. By September 15, 2009 all pleasure craft operators must be able to show their Pleasure Craft Operator (PCO) competency card. To date a small percentage of those who are required to carry the card have obtained it. With the final milestone looming, it is expected that many boaters will be looking for a location where they can obtain their PCO card.

One of the leaders in the boater competency training is the Lifesaving Society, a national not-for-profit organization committed to prevention of drowning and aquatic-related injury. As with their traditional Lifesaving Society programs, such as Bronze Medallion, the Boat Operator Accredited Training (BOAT) program is run at local swimming pools. Course and exam-writing opportunities are available on their website www.lifesaving.bc.ca The Society also provides an excellent BOAT Study Guide containing all the knowledge required to pass the test for your PCO card. It can be ordered from their website or call the Society office at 604.299.5450.

BOAT is an 8 hour course providing basic boating safety knowledge and includes the exam required to obtain the PCO card. Although the course is encouraged to ensure better boater knowledge, the exam is an option for experienced boaters.

Contact the Branch Office for further information or to become a BOAT instructor or proctor.

BC & Yukon Branch

#112 - 3989 Henning Dr Burnaby, BC V5C 6N5
Telephone: 604.299.5450 Fax: 604.299.5795
E-mail: info@lifesaving.bc.ca
Web: www.lifesaving.bc.ca