

Seagull deaths cost pest control company

BY LARA HOWSAM, NORTH SHORE NEWS JULY 25, 2010

A pest control company is \$6,000 poorer after two employees were caught in possession of a migratory bird.

Poulin's Pest Control pleaded guilty July 7 in North Vancouver provincial court to unlawfully possessing migratory birds, contrary to the Migratory Birds Convention Act of 1994.

The incident occurred in July 2009 at an apartment building on Clyde Avenue in West Vancouver. A Poulin's employee was called to deal with a tenant complaint about the presence of seagulls outside of a penthouse apartment.

The same Poulin's employee had been called to the residence a few months previously and was back after residents claimed they were still having problems with the gulls.

The employee told the building manager that he would have to install more bird spikes.

Two residents of a nearby apartment building later observed the employee carrying a plastic bag with a caulking gun, caulking and two live fledging gulls. The neighbour seized the bag from the employee and turned the two gulls over to the West Vancouver SPCA.

One of the gulls died shortly after it was brought in. Both gulls were then given to an Environment of Canada federal wildlife officer who then passed the live gull on to the Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. for treatment. This bird also later died.

The two birds were identified as laridae gulls; which are classified as migratory non-game birds.

The Migratory Birds Convention Act protects these birds from harmful human activity. The act bans all activities that may be harmful to the well-being of the birds protected under the act.

In some cases a permit can be issued, but Poulin's Pest Control possessed no such permit.

Judge William Rodgers ordered N.L. Poulin Ltd. to pay a \$1,000 fine, along with \$5,000 to be paid directly to the Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia.

N.L. Poulin does not have any previous record for convictions under the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

The judge ordered that the fine must be paid by July 21.