



# Safe Quiet Lakes

2020 Presentation

# Presentation Overview

- Overview of Safe Quiet Lakes
- New programs introduced in 2020
- Opportunities to work together



# The Boater's Code

## BOATER'S CODE

Respectful boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

1. I will never operate my boat beyond the level of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of my boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on shorelines, docks, structures and people.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and wildlife.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who travels in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and within the law.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not create excessive noise or operate my boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.



## Mission

*Make the Muskoka lakes safer and quieter to ensure the sustainable enjoyment of a treasured shared resource.*

We believe that positive, grass root conversations, and education are important drivers of change. We created this – the Boater's Code - to help get the conversation started.



# We are a Fact-based Organization

## Results of 2 comprehensive surveys tell us:

- People are passionate about our lake environment
- Safety is a universal priority but only 31% rate their lake as “Very Safe”. The 3 top safety concerns are:
  - Power boats not following “the rules of the road”
  - Boats travelling at high speeds
  - Large wakes that can endanger others
- Enjoyment of our lakes is directly related to:

**Safety, Noise, and Boat Traffic**



# These Results Drive our Priorities

## The Safe Quiet Lakes Action Plan:

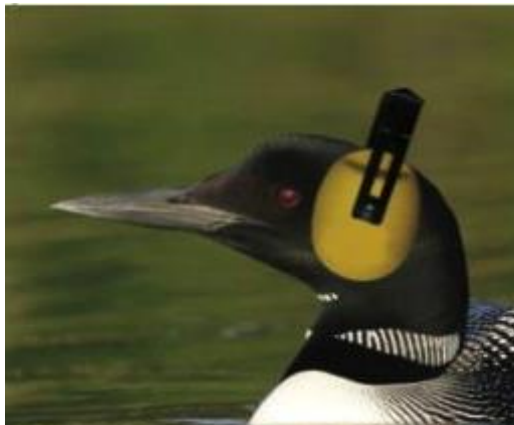
- 1. Outreach & Education:** Promoting safe and responsible boating with our stakeholders: associations, marinas, municipalities. Share the Lakes Award. No wake zones- Mirror Lake Signs and Buoys project
- 2. Advocacy platform includes:** Decibel limit legislation, incident reporting, lake capacity evaluation tools.
- 3. Building Partnerships:** Partnering with organizations to ensure we reach our goals: boating organizations, OPP, ....

**We are committed to working with the lake community to achieve positive change.**



# Focus on Outreach and Education

What are the rules about engine noise?



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### Slow down, bow down

Leave your wake on the lake

- Obey speed zones
- Check your wake

Reducing Your Wake

What is the speed limit?

**10 KM  
NO WAKE  
WITHIN 30 METRES  
FROM SHORE**

30 METRES IS EQUIVALENT TO

- x7
- x6
- x20
- x38

Learn more about responsible boating and the impact of wakes at [safequiet.ca](http://safequiet.ca)



Report dangerous boating to the OPP  
1-888-310-1122

# Growing Reach



## 2019 Summer Results:

- 125 Code Signs at marinas and public launches
- 6500 Boater's Code postcards distributed by OPP, marina and resorts.
- Presented at 12 AGM's & 4 events
- Digital presence: 2 Newsletters were sent to over 2000 contacts.

# New: Wakes and Speed Pilot Project



To test tactics to reduce wakes and speed on the Indian River and Mirror Lake.

- With TML, reinstalling 9 km/hr signs where applicable,
- installing no wake signage and buoys,
- educating the public about the speed and no wake restrictions,
- and working with the OPP to enforce these restrictions.

Positive outcomes will enable us to deploy these resources across Muskoka.





# New: The Decibel Coalition

Enhancing Existing Legislation to include Decibel Limits:

- Excessive boat noise is a persistent and pervasive problem
- Current Canadian law requires muffler but no noise limits
- US and EU have had decibel legislation for many years (27 states already have similar legislation )
- Straight forward / uncomplicated for law enforcement
- Compliance for most current excessively loud boats is not difficult
- Safe Quiet Lakes to gather broad national coalition.

**We want reasonable standards, consistent with the USA and the EU and that are easy to enforce.**



# New: Property Rental Program

- **NEW:** Outreach to local real estate companies and cottage rental agencies to offer our materials



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# Outreach to Marinas and Rentals



- Each year, we make sure every marina and many municipal; boat launches in the area have our Boaters Code Sign and our educational materials at their gas pump
- **NEW:** Focus on a online education program developed by the Canadian Safe Boating Council and Transport Canada on Best Practices in Rental Boat Safety:

➤ [rentalboat.ca](http://rentalboat.ca)



# Opportunities to Work Together

## We can help you start the conversation:

1. Include articles in your newsletter, social media, mailings, website. Follow on your socials. Distribute our cards by dock drop. Look for our quiz later this spring.
2. Engage local marinas, and resorts – thank them for installing Code Signs and distributing materials.
3. Host education events – Safe Boating Awareness week
4. Discuss enforcement issues with local OPP
5. Participate in our annual Stakeholder meeting

Contact Lauren at [Lauren@safequiet.ca](mailto:Lauren@safequiet.ca) for more information.



# Our Sponsors – 2020

We are grateful for leadership support from the following organizations and individuals over the past year

## Premier Sponsor



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Elizabeth and Rob Jennings  
Carolyn Kennedy





# Safe Quiet Lakes

Be Respectful. Share the Space.

To learn more or make a donation please visit

[safequiet.ca](http://safequiet.ca)