

OUR MISSION: Make the Muskoka lakes safer and quieter to ensure the sustainable enjoyment of a treasured shared resource



Spring 2016 Newsletter

2016 expected to be busier than ever

**Gearing up for boating season
Supporters are essential.**

Chair's report

Welcome to Safe Quiet Lakes 2016 spring newsletter. Here you find a summary of SQL's very busy and productive 2015, a report on our highly successful fifth annual Stakeholder meeting on April 8, and importantly SQL's plans for this summer including the launch of a quiet respectful boating campaign.

Our thanks to SQL's financial and in-kind donors. Without this support our activities would not be possible. In particular we would like to thank our Platinum and Founding donors, Muskoka Lakes Association, Lake Joe North Association, Seguin Township, Little Lake Joe Association, Lake Rosseau North Association and the Lake of Bays Association for their continuing financial assistance since our inception five years ago. For the complete list of our partners please go to our website <http://safequiet.ca/about-us/partners/>.

Have a safe, quiet, respectful and FUN summer of boating on the lake.




Frances Carmichael
Chair, Safe Quiet Lakes

Safe Quiet Lakes

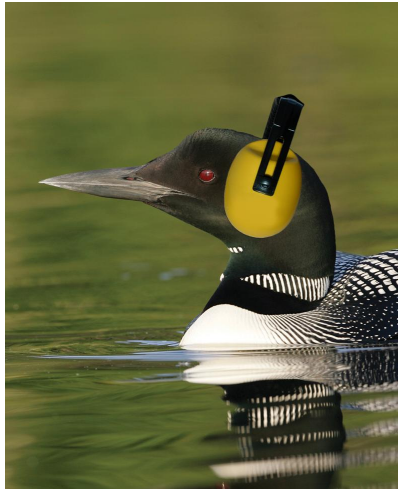
- People dedicated to safe, quiet boating.
- Our lakes are a precious shared space.
- Start the conversation. Boat respectfully.



**You're not alone
on the water.**

With a financial contribution from Transport Canada.   

SQL and OPP undertake "Quiet Campaign"



We are undertaking an ambitious joint media campaign with the OPP on education/outreach to raise awareness of boating safety and excessive boat noise, and how owners can mitigate the noise.

The Quiet Campaign launch was on Saturday May 21 (Victoria Day weekend) at Port Carling. It included ride-along in an OPP patrol boat as officers inspected boats along the Indian River. Numerous media outlets picked up the launch story, and several attended the media event with the OPP. Here are links to some stories:

[COGECO TV Muskoka](#)

[CTV 2 News](#)

[bayshore broadcasting](#)

[MyMuskokaNow](#)



[Read more about the campaign online.](#)

Getting the Word Out - 2016 Stakeholder Meeting

Our fifth annual stakeholders meeting was held in April and was bigger than ever before. Police, lake associations, boating organizations, marinas and municipalities all gathered to explore the theme of "Getting the Word Out."

[Here are some highlights from a very productive day](#)



OPP Partnership for Summer 2016

The OPP marine patrol's main focus on the water is education, Sergeant Todd Selvage from the Bracebridge Detachment told the SQL stakeholders' meeting. Enforcement comes second.

The top priorities are life jackets, speeding, and the use of alcohol. If there's a violation in any of those areas, there is no discretion allowed.



Breakout Sessions & Participant Feedback

Following the presentations we had a freewheeling Q&A session with OPP representatives and speakers.

The meeting concluded with six breakout sessions which gave participants the opportunity to provide input to SQL strategic direction, tactics and plans.

The feedback we got was terrific, and very helpful in shaping our path forward.

[A complete summary of the meeting and feedback can be viewed online.](#)

2015 Strong year - Plans for 2016 Boaters Always Care

Our summer outreach activities include talking to boaters at events and lake association meetings, the installation of Boaters Code signs at marinas, resorts and municipal boat launches throughout Muskoka. If you would like to invite us to speak at in your area this summer, please be in-touch at safequieter@gmail.ca.

The 2015 Boaters Always Care Initiative promotes 3 key themes:

- **Boaters** operate with caution and courtesy
- **Always** keep a 360 degree watch and minimize wake and noise
- **Care** for passengers, respect regulations and offer PFD's and safety instruction.





On-Water Training

SQL is a strong supporter of on-water boat training for new and experienced boaters. This type of education is important in encouraging safe and courteous boating. In the near future we will be posting a list of suppliers of on-water training.

Please help compile that list by contacting us with us names of suppliers. Send your suggestions to safequieter@gmail.com.

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