

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



Summer 2017 Newsletter

Getting the Word Out

Chair's Message

Interest in our mission continues to grow and grow. One measure is the tremendous response to the 2017 "Your Lakes, Your Views Survey". A total of 3291 responses were received - an increase of 1,000 or 44% from our 2013 survey. A tremendous thank you to ERIN Research for donating their services to conduct and analyse the survey. The successful distribution of the survey could not have happened without our lake association partners, and a special thank you to Ross Halloran of Sotheby's for a dock drop of 8,000 "Take the survey" posters.



Safe Quiet Lakes' emphasis on education, communication and dialogue continues to be endorsed by cottagers, the OPP and politicians. Noteworthy is Muskoka MPP Norm Miller's statement in the Ontario Legislature commending SQL for its work promoting a safe, responsible and respectful boating culture in cottage country. (Click [here](#) to view it).

This newsletter provides:

- More information on the survey
- A summary of the newspaper and TV coverage from our joint event with the OPP
- A link to our new video
- An update from our Summer Outreach Coordinator
- Wrap-up report of our Spring Stakeholders Meeting

Our activities are not possible without financial support from individuals, lake associations, municipalities and our sponsors Gordon Bay Marine and Sotheby's. **Please support our efforts. For more information and to make your gift online please click safequiet.ca/donate-**

now.

Our Thanks to our [many supporters](#) and our extremely hard working board and committee volunteers.

As always, we are very interested in your comments and feedback. I hope you enjoy this issue of `Getting the Word Out`.

Frances Carmichael

Chair, Safe Quiet Lakes

Great Survey Response – Thank-you!



We are thrilled to report that almost 3,300 members of the Muskoka lake community completed the 2017 Your Lakes, Your Views survey. That's an increase of 44% from the 2013 survey and we also received 274 pages of comments, a 90% increase.

This response rate indicates the larger Muskoka lakes community is deeply engaged with the issues covered in the survey .

Thanks to everyone who took the time to participate and to everyone who helped us promote the survey including: the MLA and more than 20 lake associations along with sponsors such as Gordon Bay Marine and Sotheby's.

Safe Quiet Lakes sets our priorities based on the data from the survey, so having such a huge response and a diverse pool of respondents means we will have clear ideas about what is important to the people who use the lakes. The most consistent message is that people care about these lakes. One participant said what is most enjoyable is "Just being at the lake". Many respondents expressed variations on that feeling of love for life on and near the water.

But there are also many deeply felt concerns about what the right balance for use of the lakes should be. So now the task of understanding the data begins. Our research partner ERIN Research (to whom we are enormously grateful) will be sorting through this mountain of information to identify trends and make recommendations. We plan to announce preliminary findings from the report in August and the full report will be available around the end of September.

'Quiet Campaign' joint media event with the OPP



Safe Quiet Lakes was blessed with beautiful weather the Saturday of Victoria Day weekend for its second annual "Quiet Campaign" media event with OPP at the Lake Rosseau side of the locks in Port Carling.

This event is designed to raise awareness of safe and respectful boating practices, and spelling out clearly the legal requirements for mufflers on all engines on the Muskoka lakes. The resulting media coverage achieved that objective.

Here are links to some of the stories:

[CTV BARRIE](#)

[mymuskokanow.com](#)

[Bracebridge Examiner](#)

[Norm Millers Statement in the House](#)

Summer 2017 Video

Our second video features interviews with Muskoka Lakes Township Mayor Don Furniss, Seguin Township Mayor Bruce Gibbon, OPP marine officers, and Gordon Bay Marine Marketing Manager Jeff Dixon. They provide their perspectives on the relationship they have with Safe Quiet Lakes.

The video is on our website, and will be shown in our outreach presentations at cottage association AGMs throughout the summer.



[Watch the Campaign Video](#)

Want to report boating too close to shore, wakes, noise or other safety issues? Call 1-888-310-1122

Driving an unmuffled boat with pipes venting exhaust above the waterline directly from the engine with no muffler, or bypassing the muffler, is illegal on Muskoka area lakes.

Outboard and inboard/outboard engines comply with the law when they exhaust through the propeller hub under water. Loud isn't illegal, but muffler bypassing on our lakes is.

The OPP wants to hear from you. The more info you can provide, the better: photo, description, location, time, and registration number.

Summer Outreach Activities



I am Taylor Spears, the Summer Distribution Coordinator for Safe Quiet Lakes. My job is to visit marinas and resorts, as well as to make presentations at lake association AGM's across the Muskoka region.

My goal is to develop relationships with those who have not yet taken up our materials, as well as maintain relationships with those who have. I have been to numerous meetings so far, and am available for your's.

If you need a resupply of our ROW stickers, boater's code cards or would have me present at your

AGM this summer, please contact outreach@safequiet.ca.

I have met many wonderful and supportive people in my travels and hope to meet many more along the way. Come follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#) to join the conversation of making our lakes safer and quieter for everybody!

Add Your Support to our Summer Campaign

Over the past six years **Safe Quiet Lakes** has been building support from individuals and organizations such as yourself across our community. With your support we can make this year's outreach and education even more successful.

The funds that **Safe Quiet Lakes** receives from Muskoka area residents are used to create informational videos and maintain our website, print Boater's Code signs and cards, attend lake association annual general meetings and events of interest to boaters and residents. This summer we will be reporting on the results of the Safe Quiet survey and your financial support will ensure that all levels of government and policy makers will hear the findings.

Please support our efforts with a gift of \$25 to \$500 online at safequiet.ca/donate- now or by mailing a cheque with a completed [donation form](#) to: Safe Quiet Lakes, P.O. Box 358, Rosseau, ON, P0C 1J0.

As a thank you, we will send you the **Safe Quiet Lakes** Boater's Code and one decal for your boat or personal watercraft to show your support for our shared goals. For a gift of \$100 or more, you will also be recognized as a Supporter.

2 New Apps provide you with key boating info

Going boating?

Boat Safely
from Port to
Port.



Just launched! The Discover Boating Safety app is designed to keep you, your friends and family safe when you're out on the water. It has all the info, tips and tools you need for boating safely in Canada, including navigation buoys, checklists, emergency contacts and much more. It works online, offline and offshore.

Of course the **Discover Boating Safety** app is **FREE** and available from the **Apple** and **Google Play** store. For details and links, visit www.DiscoverBoating.ca/Boat-Safely.

Match Boating
Information With YOUR
Boating Style

- Vessel specific information
- Equipment checklists
- Quick tips
- FAQs



Boat Notes is an APP tailored to your boating style and vessel type.

With the CSBC Boat Notes APP, you'll get customized boating information tailored to you, your boat and your boating style. Find information on topics like Required Safety Equipment, Pre-Departure Checklists, Rules of the Road and lots more!

Download it free from the [iTunes Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

Stakeholder Meeting Wrap-up Report



"This is a great place to live, raise our kids and enjoy the great outdoors. Keep doing what you're doing!" @TonyClementCPC #muskoka



RETWEET 1

LIKES 4

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Over 65 people drove through bad weather to attend the sixth annual Safe Quiet Lakes stakeholder meeting in Port Carling on Friday April 7th. We wish to thank all of the presenters and attendees for making this our most successful meeting to date.

The meeting featured presentations from key stakeholders, including ERIN RESEARCH representative George Spears who discussed results of the 2013 Safe Quiet Lakes survey and plans for this year's survey. OPP Sergeant Todd Selvage provided an overview of OPP marine activities last year, and WakeBoard Canada representative and Summer Water Sports owner Geordie Newlands explained Transport Canada regulations regarding permits for anything moored to the lake bed (e.g. ski courses, rafts, markers).

Presentations were followed by breakout sessions in which six discussion groups explored two important topics:

- incidents on the lakes and,
- boat wakes.

Discussion was animated, and provided valuable perspectives into problems as well as suggestions for creative and concrete solutions.

ERIN Research summarized the group notes into a report which is now posted to our website. Click [here](#) to download your copy.



Ask an Expert - PFDs and the Law

By John Gullick, Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons

Manager of Government and Special Programmes and member of our Advisory Group

- There must be a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or lifejacket of an appropriate size and in good working condition for each person on board any pleasure craft, powered or non powered.

- All PFDs or lifejackets must be approved by the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or any combination of the above. This approval label must be permanently attached or printed on every PFD or lifejacket. PFDs or lifejackets approved by US authorities are NOT approved for use in Canada.
- When the vessel is under way all PFDs and lifejackets must be “readily accessible” which means capable of being reached easily and safely under emergency conditions without the use of tools. Don’t keep them stored in a locker when under way. Have them close at hand.
- PFDs and lifejackets cannot be altered in a way that compromises its original structural integrity or diminishes the integrity or readability of its approval label. If a PFD or lifejacket is badly faded or requires any sort of repair it must be rendered unusable by others, discarded and replaced.
- A PFD or lifejacket that is required by the Small Vessel Regulations does not have to be an appropriate size for an infant who weighs less than 9 kg (20 lbs) or a person whose chest size is more than 140 cm (55 in).
- A PFD or lifejacket that is required by the Small Vessel Regulations may be of an inflatable type only if it is worn at all times when under way.

(a) in the case of an open vessel, by every person on board; and

(b) in the case of a vessel that is not open, by every person on deck or in the cockpit.

- If a PFD or lifejacket that must be carried on board a pleasure craft is to be worn by a person less than 16 years of age or weighing less than 36.3 kg (80 lbs), it shall be inherently buoyant. They cannot use an inflatable PFD.
- A PFD or lifejacket that is required by the Small Vessel Regulations to be carried on board a personal watercraft shall be inherently buoyant. This means that it contains the required amount of floatation material without having to be inflated.
- Lifesaving cushions are not approved as safety equipment on any boat.

Most of the points above are direct quotes regarding Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) or lifejackets taken from the Canadian Small Vessel Regulations. Fines for not having an approved PFD or lifejacket of the appropriate size and in good working condition can be well in excess of \$250 per person. Transport Canada’s Safe Boating Guide clearly states:

**“A PFD or lifejacket is the best insurance you can have.
So, find one that suits your needs and wear it.”**

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