

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



Labour Day 2019 - Newsletter Summer Updates

Chair's Message

We are delighted to announce our "Share the Lakes" Award.

What does "sharing" the lakes mean? The lakes can be thought of as a "commonage", an archaic term for an area used for the shared enjoyment of many people and many activities. But shared enjoyment recognizes that balance is required and one activity should not adversely impact the enjoyment of the collective.

For most people, a boat they find excessively noisy is not "sharing" the lake, its operator is selfishly "dominating" the lake. Our 2017 survey found 88% of over 3,300 respondents ranked "relaxing on the dock" as very important and 82% "like to be able to hear the sound of nature when I am on the lake". Loud boats were ranked as a major obstacle to this basic enjoyment. Last week, our Chair of Advocacy Greg Wilkinson, wrote an OpEd which was published in the Muskokan and distributed by email. If you missed it, you can read it [here](#) or on our [website](#).

Decibels are a measure of sound and decibel limits are used by many countries to regulate boat noise. Canada does not yet have decibel limits, but instead uses an awkward and difficult to enforce requirement for mufflers. Safe Quiet Lakes believes that Canada should adopt regulations based on decibel limits. Over the coming months we will be developing a cooperative approach to advocating for decibel limits, and will provide background on what the options are.

In addition to tackling boat noise, we are also working on programs to address large destructive wakes, speed too close to shore and enforcement.

Night travel on the water is part of life in our lake communities. The terrible accident on Lake Joseph last weekend is a sobering reminder to operate with additional caution at night. You can read our full statement on this [here](#).

Diana Piquette has recently joined our board. She brings a wealth of executive experience and will be joining the Advocacy committee and chairing the Advisory Council. And we thank Aaron Rusak for his time this summer and wish him well in his next endeavours. Please contact me at chair@safequiet.ca if you are interested getting involved.

Our activities are not possible without financial support from individuals, lake associations, municipalities and our sponsors. For more information and to make a gift online please visit our [website](#). We appreciate your interest and support in expanding the conversation about safe and respectful boating and look forward to your feedback on how we can work together.

Frances Carmichael
Chair

**Nominate a Candidate for the
2019 Safe Quiet Lakes "Share the Lakes" Award!**

This award recognizes an individual or organization whose energy and initiatives have resulted in significant, sustainable action that protects and ensures safe, quiet and respectful boating practices so that current and future generations can continue to enjoy the unique and peaceful environment of the Muskoka Lakes.



Deadline for Nominations: November 1, 2019.

For more information email: info@safequiet.ca or visit our [website](#).

Safety on the Water with the OPP and MLA

New this summer, the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) presented a seminar on boating issues. The July 11th event in Port Carling was hosted by MLA Community Program Chair Penny Middleton and included presentations from the MLA on their radar study on the Joseph River, Safe Quiet Lakes and the OPP Bracebridge Marine Unit. Time was reserved for a Q&A and the attendees came ready with questions.



The OPP's Sgt Salvage noted that the OPP Marine Unit covers an area with 1,600 lakes with their emphasis on prevention as the most important action they take followed by education and then enforcement. Last year, they conducted 3200 vessel checks in Muskoka and Huntsville area lakes and laid 365 charges. He noted that the Marine Unit relies on the public to alert them to problems on their lakes. He encouraged everyone to call 1-888-310-1122 to report dangerous boating.

Safe Quiet Lakes Directors Craig Reith, Karen Dalton, Nancy Cohen, MLA's Penny Middleton and Safe Quiet Lakes Chair Frances Carmichael and MLA President Osler at the MLA Seminar. A summary of the event was carried in the Muskokan. To read more please click [here](#).

The OPP wants to hear from the community about dangerous boating or boats without mufflers.

1-888-310-1122



Please call **1-888-310-1122** if you see unsafe, reckless or illegal boating behaviour such as speeding too close to shore, or boats without mufflers.

When reporting, gather as much information as possible by taking detailed notes or video including: boat registration number, colour, make, model, time, frequency and location of the incident and a description of the operator.

Safe Quiet Lakes would like to track complaints to determine trends and identify troubled locations. We meet regularly with the OPP to discuss issues and this kind of information is very useful. [CLICK HERE TO SEND US A COPY OF YOUR REPORT](#)

You must be the complainant. We cannot call the police on your behalf as we were not a witness. Always call 911 in an emergency!

Lake Associations and Municipalities are Important Partners

Over the summer Safe Quiet Lakes directors have been busy speaking at lake association

AGMs including: Clear Lake, Pine Lake, Go Home Lake, Lake Rosseau North, Seguin Estate Rate Payers, and we have been present at other events, such as the In Water Boat show, to encourage discussion of safe and responsible boating. These associations and events are very important partners in getting the Safe Quiet Lakes message out.

Questions and discussion at these events tell us about the issues that are important to you. This feedback confirms that the three important issues are noisy boating, reckless boating particularly close to shore and wakes from various sources. The speaking calendar gets very crowded in July and August, so please contact us early if your association would like Safe Quiet Lakes to present in 2020.

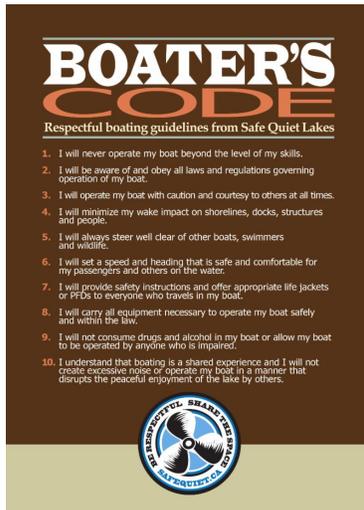
We are working throughout the year to help lake associations, and municipalities develop safe and responsible boating education initiatives for their area. Please be in touch at outreach@safequiet.ca to discuss what might work for you.



Our message is spreading: Cecebe Waterways Association has begun a program on their lake: installing this sign and others on Lake Cecebe just west of Burk's Falls.



Our booth at the LRNA's: Rosseau Regatta



Add Your Support to our Fundraising Campaign

Over the past eight years, Safe Quiet Lakes has been building support from individuals and organizations such as yourself across our community.

This summer, we are continuing to work with lake associations, municipalities and marinas to distribute our Boater's Code signs and post cards and talking to many boaters at area events. Our Boaters' Code signs are now up at over 100 marinas and boat launches.

In addition to these educational initiatives, we have ambitious action plans focusing on wakes, noise, speed and safety and need your help to make them happen.

Please consider making a personal contribution of \$25 to \$500 online at safequiet.ca/donate or by sending a cheque by mail to us at P.O. Box 358, Rosseau, ON, POC 1J0.

We receive financial support through municipal grants, corporate sponsors and lake association donations but we do rely on the generosity of the individuals to be able to continue our educational and advocacy initiatives. Every donation is acknowledged and appreciated.

Sailing on the Muskoka Lakes: MLA's Sailing Network



We all enjoy many types of recreational activity on the water. Sailing is an important activity on these lakes and is a great way to learn about water etiquette. The Muskoka Lakes Association, a founding and the Platinum Safe Quiet Lakes partner, further demonstrates its commitment to responsible boating by, supporting sailing clubs. Barbara Triskan, Co-Chair of the MLA Sailing Regatta says: *"We encourage all sailors, young and old, in any boat, beginner or expert to come out and sail with us."* For more information please visit : [MLA Website](#) | [Sailing Network](#)

About Safe Quiet Lakes

Safe Quiet Lakes is a not-for-profit community group of boaters that promote safe, respectful boating.

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



We launched a new video this summer about our programs. Please click the image to watch it.

Our Sponsors: Summer 2019

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Platinum Sponsors



Thank you!

Thank you to the dozens of Individuals, Marinas, Lake Associations, Boating Organizations and Municipalities who support us and share our messages.

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