



UPDATE FROM SAFE QUIET LAKES

Summer is here and after a late spring we are now starting to enjoy the warmer weather and the busiest part of the boating season on the Lakes. The last few months have been productive for Safe Quiet Lakes and we hope you enjoy this update.

Stakeholder Meeting – April 2014

Safe Quiet Lakes hosted our third annual stakeholders meeting in Port Carling on April 14, 2014. The diversity of the sixty three attendees was striking and representative of SQL's philosophy of engagement and dialogue with everyone who cares about the lakes.

During the meeting we heard remarks from the Hon. Tony Clement MP as well as updates and reports from Safe Quiet Lakes, the OPP and Transport Canada. The participants then split into four discussion groups for energetic and passionate dialogue about the four highest priorities that were identified by the almost 2300 respondents to the 2013 Lake Activity Survey:

- Boats going too fast too close to shore;
- Loud boat engines;
- Large wakes; and,
- Unsafe and inconsiderate boating.

The output from the four groups can be seen online at safequiet.ca/news/. There were a lot of

promising ideas, including ideas like "360 degree boating" to pay attention to what is behind you on the lake. We also heard from new participants to the stakeholder meeting such as boat manufactures, marinas and the Wakeboard and Waterski Canada who added fresh perspectives to the dialogue. David Patterson, CEO of Water Ski and Wakeboard Canada, who attended the Port Carling meeting, said, "We, at Water Ski and Wakeboard Canada, were pleased to be part of the dialogue towards ensuring safe accessible waterways for all Canadians. We were also encouraged to hear some real enthusiasm in the room about our towed water sports driving courses, which provide education geared for boat drivers creating a safe environment for everyone involved."



Education Program 2014



Introducing our first ever summer intern. John Joseph Mitchell will be spending his summer working with marinas, resorts, lake associations and at events to get the message out about Safe Quiet Lakes and why it is valuable to all of us to be respectful and share the space. This initiative is supported in part by a generous grant from Transport Canada's Boating Safety Contribution Program.

John Joseph writes: " I am originally from Barrie but my true heart lies in Muskoka as a fourth generation cottager. I have just finished my first year at the University of Western Ontario studying English and Philosophy with a pre-acceptance to Richard Ivey School of Business. I am an outgoing person with a competitive sports background looking to learn from all the different experiences I take part in throughout this summer with Safe Quiet Lakes. "

This photo shows John Joseph with Greg De Marco at the Muskoka Wharf Marina with one of our new weather proof Boaters Code signs. Thanks to the

Transport Canada grant, we have 20 X 30 weatherproof signs available to be installed on your lake, marina or public dock. Please be in touch with John Joseph (at safequieter@gmail.com) to get one for your area.

Please be in touch at safequieter@gmail.com if you would like:

- A speaker at your association meeting, boating related event or regatta.
- Boaters code sign or cards for your area or association members.

John Joseph is looking forward to meeting you.

The word is spreading ...

Safe Quiet Lakes will be more visible again this summer. We have already put in place 10 Boaters Code signs at marinas throughout Muskoka and we expect to have dozens more in place by the end of the summer. We are posting photos and news of each of our activities regularly on social media.

We hope you've noticed our two billboards with the reminder that "You're Not Alone on the Water". The billboards are on highway 141 south of Rosseau and highway 11 south of Bracebridge.

Listen for our short public service announcement that is focused on the concern about speed close to shore and the resulting noise and risk. The PSA - [Summer Sounds, Be Respectful, Share the Space](#) will be running on TV and radio in the area and can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

Thanks to the MLA and our media partners at [Dockside magazine](#) and the [Muskokan](#) , we are publishing a series of articles, editorials and ads through the summer months. Links to each article will appear on our website at safequiet.ca/news/.

Our printed materials are free of charge within Muskoka and to all partner organizations. Associations wishing to get copies of our cards or other materials to distribute to their membership can contact us. Or visit our website to download the Boater's Code or other materials. Thank-you to the over 25 lake associations, organizations, local bloggers and media outlets that supported us as partners and/or featured our material on their websites and newsletters In 2013.

Changes for Boater Renters from Transport Canada

Transport Canada has introduced a Rental Boat Safety Checklist Pilot Project. The new checklists feature visual icons and plainly written statement in a ready-to-use format. They are designed to help rental agency staff easily review important safety information with their clients. There is one for each of five types of motorized boats. More information on the Canadian Safe Boating Council website: <http://csbc.ca/index.php/en/component/content/article/45-csbc-articles/335-rental-safety-checklist>.

We encourage you to use these checklists and to send your feedback and questions to <mailto:pcoc-ccep@tc.gc.ca>.

Also is the works are changes to the regulation governing boat rental companies and cottagers who rent their boats. Our Research and Advocacy Committee will be following this closely. We will post an update on our website as soon as we can.

What you can do

Share your boating stories. Respectful and responsible boating is a shared responsibility. You can do your part by discussing safety and courtesy with your neighbours and friends and on our website at www.safequiet.ca. Together we can create the change we all want to see.

Follow our most recent activities on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram & be part of the conversation. As always, we look forward to your feedback at safequieter@gmail.com.

Update your association members about our progress on your website or in your newsletter.

Help us expand our programs. You can make a donation using PayPal on our website at www.safequiet.ca or by cheque mail to P.O. Box 358, Rosseau, ON, P0C 1J0. Your donations help us keep our programs afloat.

Have fun on the water this summer and remember to be respectful and share the space!