



## Safe Quiet Lakes - Fall 2017 Update

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

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Safe Quiet Lakes is concerned about the changes the District of Muskoka is considering to its Official Plan. Some of these changes have the potential to have a **significant impact** on the levels of boat traffic across the Muskoka region.

We believe that the long-term risks associated with any potential large scale change to Muskoka shoreline density and boat traffic should be considered very carefully by policy makers. We encourage all boaters and lake stakeholders to be fully informed and engaged on this issue.

Our "[Your Lakes Your Views](#)" [survey report](#) published by ERIN Research this summer found that for Muskoka lake users, "**Boat traffic has an impressively direct impact on perceived quality of experience.**" Of the almost 3,300 respondents to the survey, those who consider their area of the lake to be "*Very Busy*" rate the overall quality of their experience at 6.2 out of 10. Those who consider their area to be "*Very Quiet*" in terms of boat traffic rate overall quality at 9.2 out of 10.

More than half of respondents feel that the Muskoka lakes and waterways are busier and noisier than four years ago and that the **impact of wakes** has become more of an issue. Further, more than 93 per cent of respondents feel that Muskoka residents and visitors have a responsibility to protect the natural state of our lakes for future generations.

Safe Quiet Lakes is very active presenting these results to governments, policy makers and thought leaders.

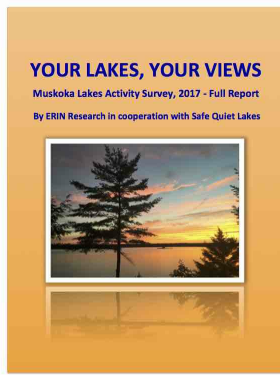
Details of the proposed changes can be found online at the [District website](#). The Muskoka Lakes Association and Lake of Bays Association have posted letters that describe the issues and the risks clearly. Click [here for the MLA letter](#) & [here for the LOBA letter](#).

Your Sincerely,

**Frances Carmichael**  
*Chair, Safe Quiet Lakes*

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We are thrilled with the response to the "Your lakes Your Views" survey from all over Muskoka and beyond. A total of 3291 responses were received -an increase of 44% from our 2013 survey. This response rate indicates the Muskoka lakes community is deeply engaged with the joys and concerns covered in the survey



Further details are available in the research report at [http://safequiet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017\\_Survey\\_Full-Report-Final.pdf](http://safequiet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017_Survey_Full-Report-Final.pdf).

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

**Please help us with a gift of \$25 to \$500 at [safequiet.ca/donate-now](http://safequiet.ca/donate-now).**

We are a not-for-profit community group that brings together stakeholders who care about the lakes to identify and implement solutions to improve safety and respect on the water.

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