

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



Fall 2018 - Newsletter

Getting the Word Out

Chair's Message

One of the pressing issues across our region is resort and subdivision development pressures on our lakefronts. Safe Quiet Lakes encourages all eligible voters to participate in this very important election and vote to ensure that we have elected officials in municipal government who will protect our waterfronts, lakes and the environment.

Our "Your Lakes Your Views" survey report published by ERIN Research last summer found that for Muskoka lake users, "Boat traffic has an impressively direct impact on perceived quality of experience." More than half of the 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.

Safe Quiet Lakes is very active presenting these survey results to governments, policy makers and thought leaders. We are committed to working with the lake community to achieve positive change.

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

As always, we are very interested in your comments and feedback. Your interest, support and participation are so very important to us. I can be reached at chair@safequiet.ca .

Frances Carmichael
Chair, Safe Quiet Lakes

Municipal election day is October 22 - Vote for candidates who endorse sustainable development of our lakes.

Election day is Monday, October 22, 2018. Voting will be done by internet or telephone and, depending on your municipality, can be done over the 10 to 12 days preceding Election Day. Please be sure that you are on the voters list. You will find more information on how to vote on your municipal website .

Carefully considered sustainable development policies are required to ensure long-term, safe, enjoyable use of our lakes. Safe Quiet Lakes believes that Recreational Carrying Capacity (RCC) and Boating Impact Studies (BIS) are effective planning tools to objectively quantify sustainable development and act as a brake on potential over development. We believe that candidates should support the adoption of these tools as one element of policy making and these tools should be embedded in official plans. Ask your candidates for their position on this important issue and let them know how you feel about sustainable development of our lakes.

The promotion of Recreational Carrying Capacity as a planning tool is gaining traction as shown in this recent article in **Metroland Media**.



*These issues are very real in Minett and Wallace Bay where boat traffic has already been shown to be over capacity on some days. Here's a photo of the Sound the Alarm boat rally in August. More coverage is on the **Friends of Muskoka Website** .*

Links to more information about the Candidates

During this fall's municipal elections, Safe Quiet Lakes will encourage debate on sustainable development policies that sustain safe and responsible boating. However we will not be endorsing specific candidates.

Safe Quiet Lakes is urging you to vote for candidates that support sustainable development. The local lake associations including the MLA and the Friends of Muskoka have recommended candidates that are aligned with their and our values. Some other associations such as the LRNA and the MRA have

posted answers from candidates on specific questions. Many of the candidates have their own websites where they outline their policies and platforms. Here's a selection of links to local association websites. We hope you find it helpful.

- **Friends of Muskoka**
- **Muskoka Lakes Association**
- **Muskoka Ratepayers Association**
- **Georgian Bay Association**
- **Lake Of Bays**
- **Lake Joseph North Association**
- **Lake Rosseau North Association**

Expanding our Reach

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

Many thanks to the many lake associations, marinas and townships who are using our tools to reach their community: posting the boaters' code at docks, in their newsletters and on their website. Working together, we can effect change.

Thanks also to the many people who stopped by at our booth at the boat shows around the region. Congratulations to the winner of our Summer Draw. Thank you to **CatalystGolf.com** for sponsoring the prize.

Let's keep the conversation going. Please share this newsletter with your friends and neighbours and encourage them to **signup** for our list.



About Safe Quiet Lakes

Safe Quiet Lakes is a not-for-profit community group of boaters that promotes:

- Safe, respectful boating and the adoption of the SQL boaters' code – Boaters Always Care.
- The preservation of the community culture in the Muskoka region through respectful and safe use of our shared waterways.



For more information, to make a donation or to get involved, please visit safequiet.ca.

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