



Safer and Quieter Boating Committee – Notes from Stakeholders Meeting
Wednesday, April 26th 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Port Carling Community Centre

Meeting Facilitator: Greg Wilkinson, Safer Quieter Boating Committee (SQBC)

In attendance:

Wayne	Atkins	Transport Canada
Andy	Bishop	OPP – SAVE NER
John	Bowlby	Director MLA, SQBC
Robert	Butterfield	OPP – Central Region SAVE team
Ron	Campbell	Detachment Commander West Parry Sound OPP
Nancy	Cohen	Lake Joe North, SQBC
Kelly	Collard	Seguin Libraries, SQBC
David	Conn	Mayor Seguin Township
John	Curran	Royal Muskoka Island Assoc., Lake Rosseau
Sandy	Currie	Moon River Prop Owners - Director, Canadian Safe Boating Council
Jane	Evans	Director MLA, SQBC
Doug	Gammage	Lake Rosseau North Assoc
Lea	Gammage	Lake Rosseau North Assoc
Ron	Habel	Browning Island Assoc., Lake Muskoka
Gail	Hepworth	Sucker Lake
Jack	Hepworth	Councilor Seguin – Ward 6
Barry	Johnson	Lake of Bays Assoc
Ann	MacDiarmid	Director, Little Lake Joseph Assoc
Inger	MacKenzie	North lake Joe Assoc
John	MacKenzie	President- North Lake Joseph Association
Brian	McElwain	President MLA
Ed	Medved	Detachment Commander Bracebridge OPP
Keith	Montgomery	North Alport Bay R.A
Dan	Morrow	OPP – SAVE NER
Alice	Murphy	Mayor TML
Ron	Nicholson	Stephens Bay Assoc
Tim	Nicksy	West Parry Sound OPP Detachment
Lisa	Noonan	Office Manager, MLA
Lawten	Osler	Portage Bay Association – Lake Rosseau
Doug	Sainsbury	Councilor Seguin – Ward 4
Burt	Worth	Alport Bay Assoc., Lake Muskoka
Donna	Worth	Alport Bay Assoc., Lake Muskoka

Regrets:

Frances	Carmichael	Director, Lake Joseph North Association, Chair SQBC
Bill	Jennings	MLA
Vahan	Kololian	Lake Joseph
Kelly	Krist	Director of Community Services, Seguin Township
Stan	Shortt	Director, Lake Rosseau North Assoc
Linda	Stockton	Lake Joseph
Rick	Stockton	Lake Joseph
Anita	Wood	Director/President, Lake Rosseau North Assoc

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and agenda overview - Greg Wilkinson – Lake Joseph North Assoc.
 - Individuals introduced themselves and their affiliation
 - Reviewed the objectives of the meeting:
 - Reach high level agreement that we have a problem on our lakes and an opportunity to fix it
 - Share information regarding initiatives and approaches different groups are taking
 - Reach agreement to collaborate as we go forward
 - Identify any immediate next steps
 - Agenda was approved
2. Committee history and mandate- Greg Wilkinson – Lake Joseph North Assoc.
 - Reviewed how we got here. Topic at many association meetings last summer. Four associations got together: North Lake Joe, Lake Rosseau North, MLA, Little Lake Joseph Assoc. Established shared goals & objectives. That led to the creation of the Safer Quieter Boating Committee and the communications plan
3. Safe Quiet Communication Plan overview - Ann MacDiarmid – Little Lake Joseph Assoc
 - Please see attached plan and Power Point presentation
4. Transport Canada Remarks - Wayne Atkins
 - Reviewed Transport Canada rules & regulations & activities in the area of Water Safety: Navigable Waters Protection Program (NWPP): Protect the public right to navigation and the ensure protection of the marine environment. Structures used for recreation (i.e. Swim rafts, Slalom Courses, Wakeboard and Ski Jumps) are subject to review by TC
 - Brought literature from Transport Canada on these topics.
 - Talking to people is the most effective way to get engagement on these issues. Suggestion to walk public docks & boat ramps. Talked about PCCC program – volunteer safety checks
 - Reviewed the types of VORRs & the process for application. Can take a long time to get in place. Responsibility of municipalities to make the request. Requests are reviewed annually.
 - No “No Wake” law in Canada. Reviewed the Universal Shoreline Speed Restriction: “No person shall operate a power-driven vessel at a speed in excess of 10 Km/h within 30 m of the shore”.
5. OPP Remarks - Ed Medved - Detachment Commander Bracebridge OPP
 - Last 10-15 years concerns have ramped up
 - Interested in a communications initiative & awareness education. Prevention & community mobilization. Very interested in partnering in this way.
 - Colleagues at meeting dedicated to water & trail safety
 - 3 officers full time & work jointly plus some students from the time the ice is out
 - Targeted: spend time where activity is. Which is why you do not see OPP everywhere.
 - Challenge to cover all zone
 - Find out so often after the fact. Please call when you see something.

- For general occurrence/non-emergency call 1-888-310-1122. They will send someone by road or by boat
 - Most frequent complaints: aggressive boating behaviour, liquor, PFD's, noise
6. OPP Remarks - Ron Campbell - Detachment Commander West Parry Sound OPP
 - Dedicated marine unit 4 people covering 46 inland lakes plus Georgian bay archipelago
 - Liquor, PFD's, lights, licenses are main focus
 - Education and working together with the community are key
 - Tickets do get people's attention
 - Complaints are hard to resolve for speed and noise
 - Community has to police themselves
 7. Seguin Township Remarks – presented by Jack Hepworth, remarks by David Conn
 - Document presented by Jack Hepworth (attached below) summarizing concerns & activities by Seguin
 - Too fast & too noisy is an issue throughout the 186 lakes in Seguin
 - OPP does not have the resources to be everywhere on the lakes
 - We always tell you that you have to talk to your neighbours. Best way to resolve is to communicate door to door, person to person
 8. Muskoka Township Remarks – Alice Murphy
 - Passionate about this issue
 - Challenge for officers,
 - Focus on behaviours
 - Need to endorse a shift in mindset, focus on the areas where the problems are
 - Need to make a dent in people wallets to change behaviours in addition to a communications strategy
 9. Presentation of Creative Concepts – Ann MacDiarmid
 10. Facilitated Discussion and Questions/Information Sharing
 - Comments & thoughts discussed:
 - Have had people charged even if OPP not present through use of video evidence from neighbor
 - What do I do if I see something? Call 1-888-310-1122 & they will dispatch closest officers. Description of the boat is needed to ID the operator. Need evidence re disturbance. Every incident is investigated. If road accessible then will drive to take info.
 - Note boats are allowed closer than 30 m to allow safe water skiing. Must leave perpendicular to shore.
 - Code of behaviour/ Golden Rules in use in Trout Bay of Lake Joseph & has worked well for 12 years. Neighbors are asked to sign on when they move in. John MacKenzie will send to those that are interested.
 - Sharing limited resources
 - Just talking directly with the operator can make a big difference

- MLA has been working on this for years in various ways. Associations should work together with consistent message for best results.
- New cottagers always need education
- Common concern across the whole
- Lack of coordinated message is always a challenge
- Collection of safe boating resources available on the web at <http://www.smartboater.ca/>. It is a consumer oriented site created by the Canadian Safe Boating Council (<http://www.csbc.ca/>). Translated into French at <http://www.plaisancieraverti.ca/>.
- Note the National Safe Boating conference is at the Marriot in Gravenhurst this year on 24, 25, 26 September.
- Boiling down to awareness and behaviour
- Boat Licensing is tightening up over the years and is continually being reviewed and improved. Still some are unscrupulous and issue licenses improperly.
- Need a long term, consistent, message that deals with the soft issues/peer pressure
- Canadian Power Squadron courses are still active but not what they once were.
- MLA is planning a safe boating course for this summer
- Noise laws for boats reviewed.
- OPP checked numerous vessels the Friday evening of the poker run. Every vessel checked was in compliance. Did training last year for all officers re noise laws.
- In recent years the Boat Mfg Assoc discussed addressing sound pressure for boats and did a proposal. Muskoka is the largest single market in Canada & is w/o sound pressure regulations. Not general across North America. In Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand all have testing & regulations. All major manufacturers test for the world standards. Transport Canada decided most recently not to include these standards. Most products sold in Canada do conform to international standards.
- There must be consequences for long-term change.
- Importance of talking to neighbours
- Metrics: OPP & Life saving society do collect. Contacts were provided.
- MLA has etiquette re behaviour to send to all. Also on its site.

11. Sample Campaign Artwork presented and discussed

- Reactions were generally positive. Message/text great appeal.
- Discussions on where and how we can get the message out. Distribution methods should be sure to include renters (via agents). Public affairs campaign & press
- Suggestion to include QR code
- Some suggestions on layout and the desire to have an additional creative option with a more visual theme.

12. Next Steps

- Meeting notes, PowerPoint and artwork will be shared with meeting participants.
- Safer & Quieter committee has registered a domain (www.safequiet.ca) and would like to launch the campaign as soon as the website is ready
- Committee needs financial support to proceed with production of the materials. Estimate is about \$15,000 required to print card, clings and posters. Artwork & strategy has been provided on a pro-bono basis.
- Committee will test existing and new creative options to develop a portfolio of communication tools
- Committee also needs volunteers to assist in distribution and on the committee; No commitments for either were received by the committee at the meeting.
- There were however strong expressions of support and a general consensus that this is the right strategy.

Prepared by Nancy Cohen, Secretary SQBC



INFORMATION SHARING AND PLANNING

Safe Quiet Boating Committee

Thursday April 26, 2012

10:00 AM to 12:00 noon

**Port Carling Memorial and Community Centre
3 Bailey Street, Port Carling, ON, POB 1J0**

Seguin Township Remarks

Mayor David Conn, Councillors Doug Sainsbury & Jack Hepworth

Concerns

- The water safety fatality record in Seguin for 2011 – Fatalities in 3 separate drowning incidences all preventable with compliance to vessel regulations regarding PFD's and safe swimming practices. Visitors to the area as temporary tenants or guest of a facility are often unfamiliar with boating safety regulations and are not always water wise recognizing the natural hazards related to water safety and safe swimming practices.
- Concerns expressed by shoreline residents regarding excessive noise and high speed operation by some marine operators.
- The size of vessels operating in appropriate sized water bodies with the issues of excessive wake is also a common concern.
- Frustration from constituents who expect a municipal enforcement of regulations which are mandated under federal jurisdiction.

What are we doing about Safe Boating in Seguin

- The 2011 Township Strategic Plan directed staff to investigate legislation to determine if there are any municipal strategies to regulate boat usage and behavior on lakes. Staff prepared a report DPS-PL-2011-049 tabled June 6, 2011 which presents a summary of the regulatory regime affecting boating restrictions in Canada and Ontario – See Appendix 1 – Staff Report DPS-PL-2011-049
- Jonathan Doan Boating Safety Officer of the Office of Boating Safety attended the June 20th meeting of Council to provide information on the Vessel Operating Restriction Regulations (VORR) procedures.
- The pertinent information from Staff Report No. DPSPL- 2011-049. On the process of VORR was posted on the Township's website. June 20th
- As recommended by Council staff was directed to purchase 15 to 20 Universal Shoreline Speed Restriction signs in order to have in stock for ratepayers/associations who wish to erect the signs on waterways.
- Staff was also asked to erect Universal Shoreline Speed Restriction signs at public boat launches in the Township.

- Mr Doan provided the Members of Council with a copy of the Ontario Boating Safety presentation on Vessel Operating Restrictions Regulations (VORR) and a copy of the presentation file was forwarded electronically to Ratepayer Associations as information.
- Seguin proceeded with the purchase and distribution/installation of Vessel Operating Restriction Regulation (VORR) signs. Resolution No. 2011-290.

Concluding Comments

Municipalities at the local level cannot impose regulations affecting the operation of vessels. However through the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (VORR) various types of restrictions on the use of water bodies are available subject to an application and review process. The onus of all background studies and public consultation (including costs) rests with the proponent of the proposed restriction. The final decision on imposition of a VORR ultimately rests with the Federal Government and no “appeal” mechanism is available to the applicant.

VORR Signage A Boater’s Guide to Signage at www.boatingsafety.gc.ca.

