

Safe Quiet Lakes

Wakes and Speed Pilot Project

Executive Summary

In October 2019, Safe Quiet Lakes deployed a survey for residents and cottagers of the Mirror Lake/Indian River area

- We received 60 responses
- Unknown number of households participated in this survey
- We have representation from all parts of the targeted area
- We estimate that there are approximately 120 residences in the proposed pilot project area
- High level of engagement, numerous comments on the issue
- Most respondents have significant concerns about the safety, boating behaviour, and the environmental impacts of this behaviour

General Question Results

- 87% of those surveyed felt that the impact of wakes has increased over the past few boating seasons
- 80% felt that the noise has increased
- 90% stated that they were concerned or very concerned about the impact of wakes
- 91% were concerned or very concerned about the lack of safety knowledge of boaters

Past Action Questions Results

- 75% of those surveyed had discussed their concerns with a family member or a neighbour
- Of this group 30% went to the OPP with their concerns, 16% to their Lake Association and 13% to the municipality
- 50% of all respondents have attempted to influence boating behaviour through words and actions, 16% have put up their own signs and 11% have placed their own buoys

Support for Potential Action

- 77% supported additional municipal signs to be created and placed with regard to speed
- 79% felt municipal signs should be placed with regard to wake
- 85% felt there should be more buoys
- 69% would post a wake related sign on their property
- 82% would maintain a buoy if provided to them.

Top Line Conclusions

- Residents of the Indian River/Mirror Lake have strong and valid concerns about the boating behaviour displayed in their area
- They are frustrated with the OPP and their lack of ability to help and their resource constraints
- Small preference for buoy usage to adjust behaviour over signage
- There are concerns about makeshift buoys and signage

Given this feedback SQL has an opportunity to make a strong impact in the area through working with the TML and other stakeholders to help the members of this community through

the development of wake related signage, educational and legal buoys along with publicity and direct education

Project Next Steps

Winter 2020

- Meeting with TML to discuss their potential involvement
- Design Signage
- Discuss buoy viability and placement –
- Discussion with FOCA re: Synergies
- Discussion with MLA – on going
- Creation of assets
- Meet and discuss project with OPP

Spring/Summer 2020

- Signage fundraising
- Distribute signage and place buoys (planned date May long weekend)
- Media awareness of initiative
- Ongoing education for transient boaters (locks outreach, Port Carling in store and dining)
- Post resident survey in Fall 2020
- Report results
- Develop case study