

## We are a fact-based organization

Safe Quiet Lakes has fielded the most comprehensive and professional surveys of lake users ever conducted in Ontario. Over 3,300 individuals responded to our most recent survey representing a cross-section of boaters and lake users. These surveys form the basis of our actions and priorities.

- The majority of respondents are concerned that there is more boat traffic, more boat noise, and a greater impact from boat wakes than occurred in the 4 previous years.
- Safety continues to be a universal priority and only 31% rate their lake as "Very Safe".
- 72% of respondents support an increase in "education and communication about responsible boating" to address the most frequently mentioned safety concerns:
  - The danger created by boats going too fast, too close to shore
  - The disturbance caused by loud boat engines, especially from personal watercraft and sound systems
  - Damage and erosion from large wakes
- A majority favour:
  - Establishing "no wake" zones
  - Enforcing laws on illegal mufflers
  - Enforcing laws on boating under the influence
  - Establishing clear decibel limits on noise

## The Safe Quiet Lakes Action Plan

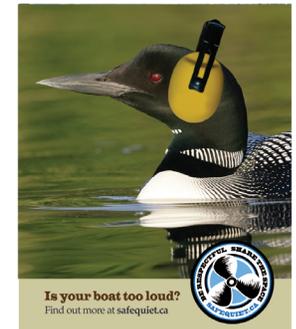
Our action plans are based on the survey results and input from from you.

Safe Quiet Lakes is successfully creating change by:

- The creation of a Boaters Code to help educate boaters on how to be a respectful boaters that is displayed prominently around waterways in Muskoka
- The execution of an extensive outreach program to marinas, trade shows, lake associations and local events to promote conversation about respectful boating practices including noise reduction, avoidance of speed too close to shore, and damaging wakes
- The creation of an annual summer-long awareness and safety campaign and video in cooperation and with support from the Ontario Provincial Police, resulting in the callout: The OPP wants to hear from the community about dangerous boating or boats without mufflers:  
Call **1-888-310-1122**



- A Strong Advocacy Platform focusing on:
  - Boating Operating Behaviours: No wake zones & Muffler enforcement
  - Land Development: Use of lake load tools (Recreational Carrying Capacity, Boating Impact Studies) for development assessments
  - Boat Design and Construction: Reduction in the Decibel limit
  - The orchestration of a Stakeholder meeting in the spring bringing together those who care about the lakes to discuss and implement solutions for safer, quieter lakes
  - Partnering with organizations that champion safe and respectful boating
  - Dialogue to influence public policy



*Past advertising campaigns and communications for Safe Quiet Lakes*



## Our Conclusions

Our surveys confirm that there is a direct correlation between perceptions of safety and quietness of the lake environment and how much people enjoy the lakes.

We believe the Lakes should be:

- Safe for everyone – for swimmers and all types of watercraft users.
- Quiet enough for everyone to enjoy nature's sounds and without excessively loud noises.
- Sustainable environmentally so we can share this resource with future generations.
- A shared responsibility of residents, businesses and visitors to keep our lakes safe, quiet and sustainable.

We believe that we can all do something to make our lakes safer and more enjoyable.



## About Safe Quiet Lakes...

Safe Quiet Lakes SUPPORTS safe, respectful boating and the adoption of the Safe Quiet Lakes Boater's Code.

Our mission is to make the lakes safer and quieter to ensure the sustainable enjoyment of a treasured shared resource.

The organization started as a multi-lake movement of boaters in 2011, growing out of concerns raised at lake associations about inconsiderate behavior by some boaters.

Safe Quiet Lakes is a not-for-profit community group in the Muskoka Region funded by lake associations, municipalities and individuals and by in-kind contributions of communication, research and professional services.

Data collection, education and promoting conversation are the critical components of our strategy to ensure that Safe Quiet Lakes addresses the concerns of the majority of boaters and lake users.

## Join Us

We are a grass roots organization run by volunteers. We are committed to working with the lake community to achieve positive change. If you would like to learn more, receive our newsletter, make a contribution or share a lake story, please visit [safequiet.ca](http://safequiet.ca) or email us at [outreach@safequiet.ca](mailto:outreach@safequiet.ca)

Tell us your opinion, we value your views

# BOATER'S CODE

Respectful boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

1. I will never operate my boat beyond the level of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of my boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on shorelines, docks, structures and people.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and wildlife.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who travels in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and within the law.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not create excessive noise or operate my boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.

Be respectful. Share the space.

[www.safequiet.ca](http://www.safequiet.ca)

