

BOAT RIGHT BE POLITE

Boat Right:Be Polite is the slogan of a boater education program developed after the Lake of Bays Association conducted a recreational boating survey, which found that five activities - water skiing, tubing, wakeboarding and operating personal watercraft or noisy boats cause particular problems for other people enjoying the lake. This pamphlet outlines guidelines so those activities have minimal impact on your friends and neighbours.

Boat Right: Be Polite is a partnership program with Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association

“Boat Right” reflects the laws of recreational boating, which are spelled out in the Canadian Coast Guard's Safe Boating Guide, (publication TP 511). Keep a copy at the cottage and re-read it every year for a valuable refresher. In particular, remember the speed limit is **10 kilometres per hour within 30 metres of shore**. And be warned: operating carelessly, without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for others is an offence under the Small Vessel Regulations. Operating in a way that's dangerous to the public, including while impaired, is a Criminal Code offence.

“Be Polite” summarizes the feedback to our recreational boating survey by you and your fellow cottagers on how we should be more considerate of others on the lake.

WATER-SKIING, BOARDING AND TUBING

Your first consideration in any of these activities should be safety - and if you're operating safely, you're much less likely to annoy your neighbours as well.

Boat Right:

- Towboats must have an operator, a spotter and a seat for each person being towed.
- Do not tow before sunrise or one hour after sunset.
- Those towed must wear an approved personal flotation device.
- Know and obey the right-of-way rules.
- You can take off from shore at speed provided you drive straight out from shore.

Be Polite:

- Keep well beyond the 30 metre limit to avoid swimmers and boaters near shore.
- Don't swing your riders in front of other people's docks. Drop them outside the 30-metre limit or come in and out perpendicular to your dock.
- Avoid multiple runs in the same area. Vary your route to share the pain.
- Keep a safe distance from other tow boats, which stop and turn unpredictably.
- Don't tow around canoes, kayaks, sailboats or small outboards. They may cross your rider's path, and your wake can capsize them.
- Concentrate! Most boating incidents are caused by operators not paying attention.

More For Boarding:

- Keep at least 300 metres off shore. Your wake is damaging to docks, moored boats, the shoreline, and wildlife habitat. The 30 metre limit is not enough for your wake to dissipate.
- Repeated runs in front of the same cottages is profoundly annoying because of swells and noise. Vary your route frequently.



If you want to report unsafe boating practices to the OPP,

**call 1-888-310-1122
or dial 911.**

Make sure you have the facts available when you call

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

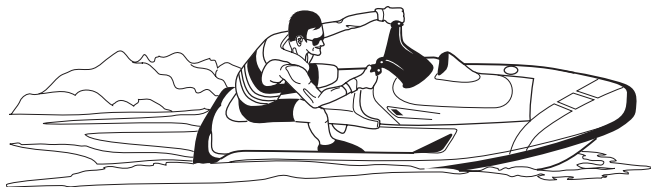
Your boat is designed for joyriding, so go out and have fun. But be careful. Personal watercraft are involved in a disproportionate share of boating accidents.

Boat Right:

- Operators must be over 15, and have an operator's card on board.
- When towing, you must have an operator, a spotter and a seat available for each person being towed.

Be Polite:

- Keep well away from small boats and people. Buzzing or circling around canoes and kayaks or swimmers poses a safety hazard.
- If you must do repetitive doughnuts, go to the middle of the lake.
- Avoid manoeuvres close to other vessels, even if they're friends or relatives.



NOISY BOATS

Boats with through-hull exhaust and little or no muffling are the greatest source of annoyance to others on our waterways. It is so bad that small vessel regulations have been passed to control them. In the Lake of Bays survey, 70 per cent of respondents said noisy boats disrupted their cottage enjoyment.

Boat Right:

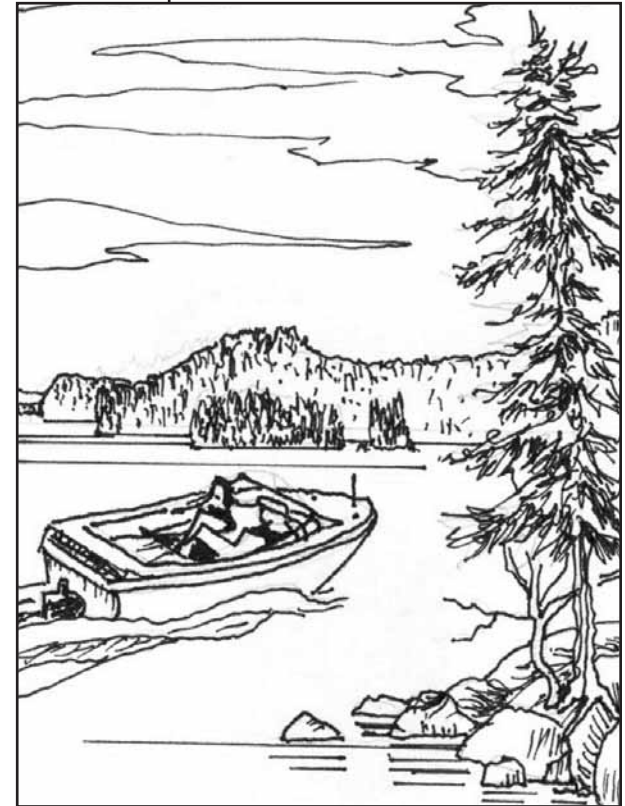
- Boats must have a muffler designed to eliminate excessive or unusual noise and be in good working order at all times.
- If you have no muffler, the exhaust must be directed through the propeller hub or underwater unless you are 5 miles from shore.
- Outboards and inboard/outboards must direct the exhaust through the propeller hub or below the cavitation plate.

Be Polite:

- Muffle your engine. You are destroying the peace of those around you. People respond that loud boats are disrespectful of others and that they do not belong on our waterway.
- Be cautious at high speeds and keep well clear of slower boats. Plan your manoeuvres well ahead.
- If you need to let the noise loose, take your offshore boat where it was designed to run; offshore.

BOAT RIGHT BE POLITE

A guide for sharing the waters with your fellow cottagers and boaters!



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From the Lake of Bays Association
Recreation & Safety Committee