



UPDATE FROM SAFE QUIET LAKES

Our objective: To make the lakes safer and quieter to ensure the sustainable enjoyment of a treasured shared resource by starting the conversation with all stakeholders.

News from the second annual stakeholder update:

On April 19th, 2013, more than 50 directors of lake associations, local politicians and law enforcement gathered to review the Year 1 activities of Safe Quiet Lakes and learn about specific plans for the 2013 boating season. Presentations helped us to understand how best to talk to inconsiderate boaters, report incidents, consider special signage or marker buoys and generally work together to educate and inform thought leaders and boaters.



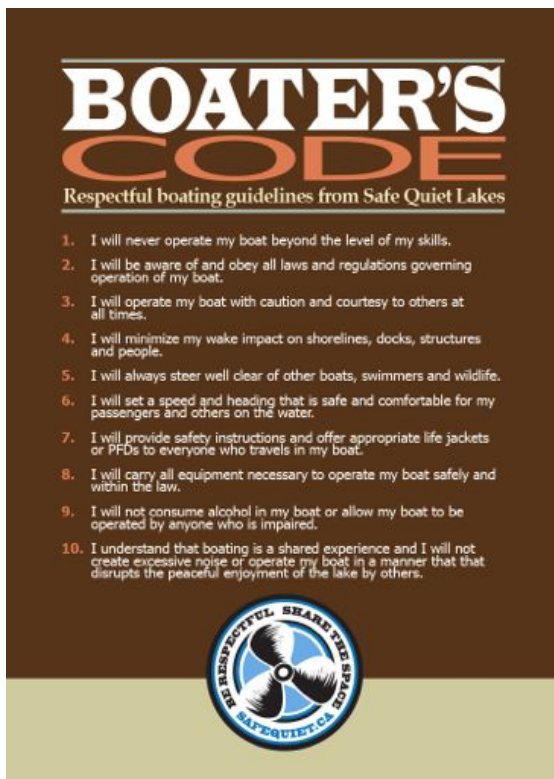
Reporting unsafe or irresponsible boating to the OPP

Sargeant Butterfield of the Central Region S.A.V.E. unit, Commander Ron Campbell and Officer Nicky of the West Parry Sound Detachment spoke on behalf of the OPP. They described the where, when and why of their boating enforcement activities and answered questions about muffler regulations and enforcement, marine officer training, and how to report incidents. They advise community members to call the OPP Communication Centre (1-888-310-1122) or *OPP (*677) on your cell phone for any incidents. Calls to 9-1-1 should be for emergency situations only. Officers will be dispatched from the closest detachment. Be ready to describe the boating location and activity, the boat registration number, make, size and colour of the boat. The OPP report that a photograph or video of unsafe boating is very helpful and has led to convictions in the past. Other information that is useful is a description of the pattern of behavior such as the time of day it usually occurs and any conversations you may have had with the boat driver. They report that during the 2012 boating season, the Parry Sound OPP detachment attended 3 accidents in the northern part of Lake Joseph. All 3 involved personal injury and in all 3 cases charges were laid.

VORR Signage & Regulations for Markers Buoys

Tania Havelka (Manager, Boating Safety) and Jonathan Doan (Boating Safety Development Officer) from the Marine Safety and Security office of Transport Canada- Ontario Region presented an overview of two areas of marine regulation. First was information on how VORRs (Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations) are imposed, how restrictions are enforced, and the various types of restriction signs. They also reviewed the regulations for private buoys. It will come as no surprise that empty bleach bottles do not constitute acceptable buoys and most types of swim rafts and floating mega toys do not conform to federal regulations. Please inform yourselves about the Navigable Waters Protection Program before adding any markers or floating items to your shoreline by visiting <http://www.tc.gc.ca/Publications/en/TP14799/PDF/HR/TP14799E.pdf>. More links and information provided by Transport Canada are posted at <http://safequiet.ca/information/boating-safety/>.

Plans for 2013 - New Educational Materials, Budget & Fundraising



Safe Quiet Lakes unveiled new creative materials and including an updated Boaters Code. The new postcards were distributed to attendees. Over the summer, Safe Quiet lakes will develop further distribution channels to reach more boaters in direct interactions including water-side events, public speaking and face-to-face opportunities. Public Service Announcements for television and radio are also being produced and we look forward to working again with area media to share the messages of Safe Quiet Lakes.

Projected expenses for this year are \$15 to \$25K - principally for the production of communications materials. Committed support to date includes funds from our 4 Founding Associations, several other Lake Associations and local government. We are happy to report that we are more than half way to our goal of \$25,000. Reaching our fundraising goal early in the season would enable us to broaden our reach.

The meeting concluded with a general discussion including questions and answers on regulation governing rental boats (link to the Rental Boat Safety Checklist is posted on our site). Attendees shared their stories and best practices over a light lunch. Many thanks to the presenters and all attendees for your interest and support.

Lake Activity Survey

One of our most important activities for the 2013 season is the launch of an online survey. This is a critical step to establish baseline data about boating attitudes and behaviours. Erin Research, an experienced and nationally known research firm has undertaken this project. The survey will give community members a voice to help direct the communication, education and advocacy priorities of Safe Quiet Lakes. Survey is being distributed by email through partner lake associations or will be available at www.safequiet.ca from mid May to mid June.

Get Involved

We all share in the responsibility of keeping our lakes safe, quiet and sustainable. You can help by championing these ideas with your neighbours and friends, volunteering with Safe Quiet Lakes or making a donation to support our objectives.

Volunteers Needed: We are a grass roots organization run by volunteers. We need you and your friends and family to help distribute materials, staff a booth at special events and local fairs, assist with fund raising and spread the word about Safe Quiet Lakes. To get involved, please contact Frances Carmichael at fcarmichael@elink.iol.ie, or visit <http://safequiet.ca/get-involved/>.

Support Us: While a major part of the effort in allowing Safe Quiet Lakes to build a presence in Muskoka Parry Sound is the volunteer time and expertise of our members, we still need some funds for materials and expertise not available on a pro bono basis. We encourage readers to consider a donation to allow us to carry out our communications and advocacy efforts in 2013. Send your cheque made out to Safe Quiet Lakes, P.O. Box 358, Rosseau, Ontario, P0C 1J0. Donations can also be made on our <http://safequiet.ca/get-involved/#donate>.

Contact Us

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| Bob Topp | Fundraising and Outreach Chair | bobtopp1@gmail.com |
| Nancy Cohen | Secretary | nscohen@rogers.com |
| Frances Carmichael | Chair | fcarmichael@elink.iol.ie |

Our email is safequieter@gmail.com for general questions. If you would like to learn more, make a contribution or share a boating story, please visit <http://safequiet.ca>.

We look forward to your continued support.