



*The Lake St-Pierre
Association promotes:*

Safe Boating Makes Good Neighbours



This boater education pamphlet has been developed as part of an awareness program for recreational boating. It identifies five areas which can cause particular problems for other people enjoying the lake. They are: waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding, personal watercraft and noisy boats. This pamphlet outlines guidelines so those activities will have minimal impact on your friends and neighbours.

“Safe Boating” reflects the laws of recreational boating, which are spelled out in the Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide, (publication TP 511). Keep a copy at the cottage and re-read it every year for a valuable refresher. Remember the recognized Canadian speed limit is **10 kilometres per hour within 30 metres of shore**.

Also be aware that:

- 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.
- As of September 15, 2009, operators must carry the original Pleasure Craft Operators Card on board.

“Good Neighbours” summarizes how we should be more considerate of others on the lake.

If you want to report unsafe boating practices to the Police, pictures and movies are useful in providing facts necessary for prosecution



PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

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

“Safe Boating”

- Operators must be 16 years of age or older 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. (Only PWC made to carry three or more people may be used for towing)

“Good Neighbours”

- Keep well away from small boats and people. Buzzing or circling around canoes, 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.

WATERSKIING, TUBING AND WAKEBOARDING

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.

“Safe Boating”

- Towboats must have an operator, a spotter and a seat for each person being towed.
- No towing is allowed when visibility is poor or from one hour after sunset to sunrise.

- 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.

“Good Neighbours”

- 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.
- Avoid towing in rivers or narrows. Your ability to avoid other boats is limited.
- Concentrate! Most boating incidents are caused by operators not paying attention. Boat operators must look ahead. Spotters look behind.

More For Wakeboarding and Wakesurfing:

Present regulations concerning ski boats were designed to control the wake impinging on a shoreline, method of operation and noise emissions from these boats, and were largely successful. For instance, the 30 metres from shore has been generally adequate to allow the average ski boat wake sufficient time and distance to dissipate. 30 metres is completely inadequate and inappropriate for the large disturbance caused by a wakeboat.

“Good Neighbours”

- 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 are profoundly annoying because of swells and noise. Vary your route frequently

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

“Safe Boating”

- 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.

“Good Neighbours”

- Muffle your engine. You are disturbing the peace of those around you. Loud boats show a lack of respect of others and these boats do not belong on our waterway.
- Be cautious at high speeds and keep well clear of slower boats. Plan your manoeuvres well ahead.
- Similar to the ban on open exhausts no boat should have a speaker system specifically designed or positioned to be heard outside of the boat. Your music may not be appreciated by your neighbours.

Boating Offences and Associated Fines

Here are examples of some boating offences and the fines. Note that they do not include administrative charges.

Operating a vessel if you are under age	\$250
Failing to have proof of competency on board	\$250
Failing to have the required pleasure craft licence on board	\$250
Altering/Defacing/Removing hull serial number	\$350
Operating a boat in a careless manner, without due care and attention for others	\$350
Operating a vessel with safety equipment not in good working order or not readily accessible and available for immediate use	\$ 200
Operating human-powered pleasure craft without PFDs or Life jackets of appropriate size for each person on board (\$200). (Plus \$100 for each PFD or lifejacket missing.)	\$ 200 + \$ 100
Operating a power-driven vessel without a muffler that is in good working order	\$250
Operating a vessel to tow a person on water or in air without seating space on board for every person being towed	\$250
Operating a vessel to tow a person on water or in air without a person on board other than the operator keeping watch on every person being towed	\$250
Operating a vessel in an unsafe manner	\$500

You should also know that some boating offences can result in fines to both the operator of the boat as well as to its owner. An example of this would be allowing someone under the age of 16 to operate your PWC.

Fine amounts are subject to change. You can find a complete list of boating offences and current fines under the *Contraventions Regulations*. <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-96-313/page-4.html#h-6>