

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 maneuvers close to other vessels, even if they're friends or relatives.



NOISY BOATS

Boats with little or no muffling are the greatest source of annoyance to others. In the Lake of Bays survey, 70 percent of respondents said noisy boats disrupted their enjoyment of the lake.

BOAT RIGHT:

- Current legislation requires that a boat must be five nautical miles offshore to operate without a muffler, so *there is nowhere on Lake of Bays where a boat can legally operate without a muffler* (some antique boats manufactured without a muffler are the only exception).
- A proper muffler system blows the exhaust from the engine through the propeller hub under the water.
- Boats equipped with a 'silent choice' switch must have the switch mounted away from the helm so that the operator cannot operate the switch while driving.
- The fine for operating a boat without a muffler is \$500.

BE POLITE:

- Muffle your engine. You are destroying the peace and being disrespectful of those around you.

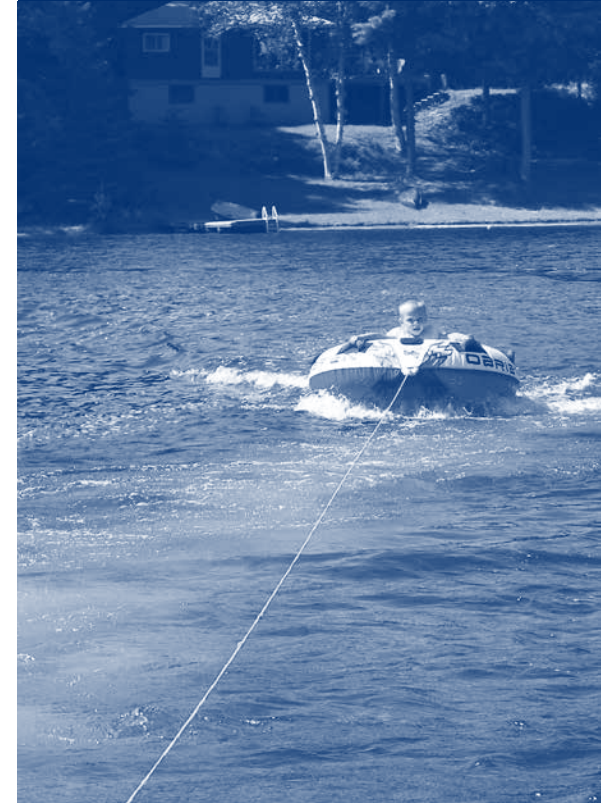


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BOAT RIGHT BE POLITE

A guide for sharing the waters with
your fellow boaters!



Lake of Bays Association
Safety Committee
www.loba.ca

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**” reflects the laws of recreational boating which are spelled out in the Canadian Coast Guard’s Safe Boating Guide (Publication TP 511), available on the Transport Canada website www.tc.gc.ca.

IT’S THE LAW! DON’T FORGET THESE IMPORTANT RULES...

- The speed limit is 10 kilometres per hour within 30 metres of shore.
- All boat operators must carry their original Pleasure Craft Operator’s Card on board.
- Operating a boat carelessly, without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for others is an offense under the Small Vessel Regulations.
- Operating a boat while impaired is a criminal offense. Drunk boaters are subject to the same suspension penalties that apply to drunk drivers. Alcohol cannot be consumed by the operator or passengers while the vessel is underway. Alcohol is not allowed on board unless the boat is equipped with cooking, sleeping and sanitation devices.

“**BE POLITE**” summarizes feedback from you and your fellow boaters on how we should be more considerate of each other on the water. Please use common sense and be mindful of how your activity is impacting those around you.

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.
- 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.

WATCH YOUR WAKE

- Your wake is damaging to docks, moored boats, shoreline erosion, waterfowl nests and other sensitive wildlife.
- If you are wakeboarding or wakesurfing, please stay at least 300 metres offshore. The 30 metre limit is not enough for your wake to dissipate.
- Know your boat’s no-wake speed and use it in no-wake zones.



To report unsafe boating to the OPP

Call **1-888-310-1122**

or Dial

***OPP (*677) on your cell phone**

**Make sure you have the facts
available when you call**

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911