

Safe Boating on Small Lakes

The Clam Lakes are small. If we all keep in mind safe boating practice, common courtesy and the legal restrictions, everyone will have the opportunity to share the beauty of our lakes.

The fastest way to get up to speed with safe boating practices is to ensure you have your proof of competency card¹



Being a safe boater means having a basic level of boating knowledge. That's why the *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations* will shortly require all operators to have proof of competency and to carry it on board at all times while operating a power-driven boat for recreational use.

Perhaps the best way to ensure everyone's safety on our small lakes is to be aware and respect the speed limits that are province wide and OPP enforceable.



Motorized speed is **always** limited to 10 km/h within 30 m (98' 5") from shore on the entire lake, except for waterskiing, where the boat follows a trajectory *perpendicular* to the shore.²

Unfortunately, in some areas, skiers simply do not have the necessary area to turn, making legal skiing impractical.

The speed limit is absolutely necessary for our sandy and often steep shorelines to remain free of unnatural erosion. Wildlife also gain a small measure of protection.

Boaters should be prepared to share waterways with wildlife and swimmers. As an operator, you must respect others on or near the water for them to respect your rights. Operators using courtesy and common sense will not create a hazard, threat, stress or be an irritant to others, to the environment or to wildlife.

Required Items & Mandatory Safety Equipment

¹ <http://www.tc.gc.ca/BoatingSafety/providers/menu.htm> can help you find how to get yours.

² http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/TP/TP511/environment.htm#shore-line_speed_restrictions

Whenever you go boating, make sure you take the following safety equipment on board. That way, you'll have peace of mind knowing you're ready if something goes wrong.



- Pleasure craft license (Make sure your craft is properly licensed and marked and don't forget to carry a (paper) copy of your license on board!)
- Canadian-approved personal flotation device (PFD) or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board (Choose a bright one for better visibility, high-impact PFDs are recommended while using PWCs.)³
- Buoyant heaving line (15 m)
- Watertight flashlight **or** 3 Canadian-approved flares of type A, B or C
- Sound-signalling device
- Bailer or manual pump

NOTE: These are the minimum items. Your craft may require more items. Check your Transport Canada booklet "Your guide to safe boating"⁴

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/TP/TP511/boater.htm> - top

Water-skiing Or Towing

In addition to the existing requirement for a spotter on board, the following new rules will apply:

- Seating must be provided for each person being towed.
- Towing activities such as water-skiing are prohibited from one hour after sunset to sunrise.
- A PFD is required on board for each person being towed if they aren't already wearing it.⁵

Careless Operation

An operator who is doing any of the following could be charged:

- Operating a craft in such a way that could affect the safety of people or property considering weather, boat traffic, hazards, etc.
- Operating in a careless manner, without consideration for other people.



³ An excellent guide to assist in choosing appropriate PFD wear is <http://www.wearalifejacket.com/>

⁴ <http://www.tc.gc.ca/BoatingSafety/equipment.htm>

⁵ <http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/TP/TP511/environment.htm>

Fuelling Safely



Follow these rules to ensure safe fuelling:

- Stop engine and unload passengers.
- Do not smoke.
- Avoid over-filling and wipe up spilled fuel.
- Make sure to ventilate engine compartment by lifting the seat before you start the engine.⁶

Enforcement Of The Law

Under the new *Contraventions Act*, enforcement agencies in many provinces can now ticket offenders on the spot instead of requiring them to appear in court. Tickets can be issued for offences such as not having required safety equipment or violating speed limits.⁷

Ride Responsibly

To ensure that your boat or personal watercraft are always welcome, it's up to you. Respect others on or near the water and show courtesy when you are boating by following these guidelines:

Remember that we all share the responsibility to preserve ecologically sensitive areas.

- Allow enough space between you and other people so you have time to react safely.
- Avoid cutting closely in front of any vessel or concentrating your operation around any one vessel.
- Avoid attempting any quick turns if there are other boats, swimmers or obstructions nearby. Look to both sides and behind you before you turn.
- Respect your neighbours' peace and quiet by moving around the lake rather than operating in just one small area.
- When pulling away from docks, launching ramps or swimming areas, give everyone a wide berth and travel slowly.
- Maintain a constant look-out for other boaters, swimmers, buoys, and hazards such as rocks and shoals.
- Avoid crossing wakes or high waves. It is very easy to capsize or fall off when jumping wakes and/or waves.

It would be foolish to ignore the fact that these requirements severely limit boating movement on our lakes but it is the boat user's responsibility to obey the law to provide a

⁶ http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/TP/TP511/boater.htm#Fuel_safety

⁷ <http://www.tc.gc.ca/BoatingSafety/boating-law-enforcement.htm>

safe environment for everyone. Please learn to judge 30 metres and keep your speed down.

Don't Cruise with Booze

Drinking and driving (whether on land or water) is illegal and punishable under the Criminal Code. Convictions for a first offence can result in heavy punishment: penalties are no less than \$600, prohibition from operating a vessel could be up to three years and imprisonment could be for life!⁸

For the safety of all, please be aware of the zero-tolerance application of this law.

Safe and happy boating!

Provided by the Clam Lake Property Owners Association (CLPOA) for information purposes only.

⁸ http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/TP/TP511/boater.htm#Don%E2%80%99t_cruise_with_booze