



Have a Safe, Courteous, and Green Boating Season

Without question, it is the quality of our beautiful lakes that draws cottagers and tourists alike back to the Upper Gatineau year after year. There are many ways to enjoy our lakes: bathing and swimming, sightseeing and fishing, canoeing and kayaking, sailing and windsurfing, and - of course - operating pleasure craft such as motor boats and sea-doo's. If you are one of those lucky enough to own a motorized water craft, be sure that you operate it in a safe and responsible manner, and that you do not pollute our waters or leave angry neighbours in your wake.

Before you put your boat in the water, **wash it thoroughly far away from the shore**. This is especially important if you have operated your watercraft in another lake or river as that body of water may harbour plants or animals that could seriously affect the ecology of another lake. When invasive species are introduced to a new lake, the impact on both the lake and those that enjoy it can be incalculable.

Make safety your primary concern when operating your boat or personal watercraft, and when towing a waterskier, a wakeboarder, or a tuber. Keep well away from small boats, swimmers, and the shoreline and confine acrobatic manoeuvres to the middle of the lake. Remember, that operators must be 16 years of age or over and in possession of a valid operator's card signifying that they have successfully completed the training required to operate their motorized craft. Consult the Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide (publication TP511) for more information on safe boating.

Be a good neighbour both on and off the lake. Keep well beyond the 30 metre limit to avoid swimmers and boaters near the shore. Don't swing your riders in front of other people's docks. Avoid multiple runs in the same area. Be sure to give kayakers, canoeists, and other operators of small boats a wide berth and avoid disturbing them with your wake. Also, make sure that your boat has a properly functioning muffler and exhaust system and that it does not emit excessive noise or noxious fumes.

Practice "Green" Boating. Use environmentally friendly products when cleaning your boat, trailer and bilge tank. Save fuel by keeping your engine tuned and turning it off when anchored, floating, or parked at the dock. Avoid shallow areas and do not drive your boat through beds of aquatic plants - disturbing them with your propeller/turbine engine helps them spread. Properly dispose of all hazardous products used in maintaining your boat.

These are just a few general reminders. For more information on safe, courteous and green boating, check with your local municipality and visit the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association website (www.associationblueseas.org/en/boaters). Have a great summer!

A contribution of the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association

Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association 70, rue Principale, Messines QC J0X 2J0
Telephone: Blue Sea: 819-463-2261; Messines: 819-465-2323 www.associationblueseas.org info@associationblueseas.org

“To protect and preserve for future generations”