



HOW TO MAINTAIN THE BEAUTY OF OUR LAKE

Welcome to Blue Sea Lake! It gets its name from the crystal-clear colour of the water. It has a surface area of 14km² and lies between the municipalities of Messines and Blue Sea. At a time when the railway ran along its shores, the lake attracted many visitors, some of which bought land to build cottages on, to enjoy the beauty the lake has to offer. At present day, there are many that choose to live on the shores of this amazing lake year-round.

In order to maintain its' beauty, here are a few recommendations and regulations that should be respected:

- All soaps, shampoos and other cleaning products, including biodegradable forms, can contaminate fresh water and its marine habitat, and therefore should not be used in or near the lake.
- Urine is also damaging to the lake and its marine habitat, please avoid this practice. A good rule of thumb: if you wouldn't drink it, keep it out of the lake.
- Avoid launching fireworks in or near the lake as they are detrimental to marine habitat.
- Fires on the shore must be at least 10 meters from the lake. No fires are permitted on the ice in the winter.
- When fishing on the lake, please ensure to follow the Québec fishing regulations found here: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/tourism-and-recreation/sporting-and-outdoor-activities/sport-fishing/fishing-quebec>
- Avoid feeding aquatic birds such as ducks as it increases the frequency of shoreline contamination.

Best practices for watercraft preparation and use:

- Watercraft and trailer washing is critical to preserving the environment in our lake. Visitors must pay \$25 at the wash station to obtain their "Wash Certificate," as required by bylaw. The Wash Certificate must be prominently displayed on the windshield of the watercraft. Failure to comply may result in a \$300 fine. Wash stations can be found throughout the Outaouais region, including the boat ramps in Messines and Blue Sea.
- Avoid approaching the yellow buoys found throughout the lake as they mark locations containing Eurasian Milfoil, an invasive species that can be spread when in contact with watercrafts. For more information on this invasive species, please visit the following link: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-aquatic-plants/eurasian-water-milfoil/>
- Avoid boat circulation in proximity of shorelines at intermediate speeds as this can lead to the erosion of shorelines.

We are happy to share the beauty of Blue Sea Lake with you, and hope that you enjoy your stay!

