



BASS: BOATER AWARENESS OF SAFETY SYSTEM

BOAT SAFELY. HAVE FUN!

The Charleston Lake Association (CLA) is dedicated to **keeping Charleston Lake beautiful in every way.**

Our mission is to **preserve and enhance** our beautiful lake by focusing on:

- A **safe lake** for all residents and guests.
- The highest possible **water quality.**
- **Pristine** landscapes and beautiful **natural** vistas.
- **Protecting local species** of fish, birds, mammals and plants, so they can continue to be enjoyed in nature.
- **Tranquility, peace, privacy** and an ambiance that enhances the spirit.
- A sense of **community, family roots and traditions.**

charlestonlakeassociation.ca

- With the support of Transport Canada, CLA is implementing a **boating awareness and safety initiative** that aims to build awareness of how boat operators can enjoy their boats while considering the **interest of other users and residents of the lake, including wildlife.**
- To ensure that Charleston Lake continues to be a **welcoming and safe environment** for individuals to live, visit and explore – the specific goals are:
 - Increasing and improving communications regarding **public safety** and the need to **protect the public and the environment.**
 - Ensuring all users of Charleston Lake know the **rules and regulations** regarding **safe boating.**
 - **Educating boaters** to operate with courtesy and to be **aware of the impact of their speed, wake and noise** on residents, shorelines, other boaters, swimmers and wildlife.
- For more information, go to www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca
- Look for the **new signs at boat launches and other prominent locations** around Charleston Lake.

Charleston Lake
Please enjoy this beautiful lake and respect all of its resources

- 10 km/h**
Within 30m of shore
- Manage your wake**
- Obey all MNR regulations**
- Keep distance from wildlife**
- Take away your garbage**

Charleston Lake Association est. 1890

Cataraqui conservation, Charleston Lake Environmental Association, Transport Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks



Wear Life Jacket



Carry Licence & Safety Gear



Boat Sober



Muffle Your Engine



Control your Speed



Manage your Wake



Have Spotter When Towing

ARE YOU BOATING SAFELY?

Your boat is designed for enjoyment, so go out and have some fun. But be safe and respectful.

REGULATION

- All boat operators require a Pleasure Craft Operator card.
- With no direct supervision, under 12 years may operate a boat up to 10 hp, age 12-16 may operate a boat up to 40 hp, 16 years and older have no horsepower restrictions.
- Boat operators must carry the appropriate **safety equipment**, including approved personal floatation device.
- Operating a boat while **impaired** by alcohol or drugs is a **Criminal Offence**.

BE SAFE

- Keep **well away from small boats and people**. Buzzing or circling around canoes and kayaks poses a safety hazard.
- If you must do repetitive doughnuts, please go far away from shore.
- Avoid manoeuvres close to other vessels, even if they are friends or relatives.



ARE YOU TOWING SAFELY?

Your first consideration when towing water skiers, wake boarders, wake surfers or tubers should be safety – boat operators look ahead, spotters look behind.

REGULATION

- It is a **Criminal Offence** while towing a water skier, boarder or tuber if:
 - There is no spotter.
 - There is no spare seat for each person being towed.
 - Boat operates before sunrise or one hour after sunset.
 - Those towed do not wear an approved personal flotation device.
- You can take off from shore at speed BUT you must drive straight out from shore.

BE SAFE

- Keep **well beyond 30 metres** from shore to avoid swimmers and boaters.
- 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.
- Keep a safe distance from other tow boats as they may stop and turn unpredictably, or may have a rider unexpectedly fall.
- Avoid towing in narrows. You will not be able to follow reduced speed limits without losing your rider.

IS YOUR WAKE TOO BIG?

Big wakes are caused by boats cruising with the bow high and the stern deep. Big wakes can damage shorelines and also swamp loon nests, stress the mother and wash away the eggs.

REGULATION

- Within **30 metres of shore** the limit is 10 km/h. While there is no speed limit in open water, you must be responsible (see below)
- No one shall operate a small vessel in a careless manner, or without reasonable consideration for others. The fine for operating a vessel in a manner that endangers the safety of persons or property and for failure to control wake is \$200.
- You are also responsible for the cost of repair or restitution for damage and discomfort your boat causes to people, objects, wildlife and shoreline.

BE SAFE

- **Minimizing your boat's wake** and wash close to shore will protect the shoreline and wildlife habitat, while you continue to enjoy your favourite boating activity.



IS YOUR BOAT TOO NOISY?

Boats operating with no muffling are the greatest source of annoyance to others around the lake and are against the law.

REGULATION

- Current legislation requires that a boat must be **five nautical miles** offshore to operate without a muffler, so there is nowhere on Charleston Lake where a modern boat can legally operate without a muffler.
- A proper muffler system blows the exhaust from the engine through the propeller hub under the water.
- The fine for operating a boat without a muffler is \$500.

BE SAFE

- **Muffle your engine**. You are destroying the peace and being disrespectful of those around you.
- Operating watercraft in a safe and respectful manner will be beneficial to all.

