

Mind Your Wake

Be aware, be polite and be respectful
on the water



Boating has an etiquette which is the customary code of accepted behavior on and around the water. This pamphlet is to remind us all about safe behavior and being respectful towards others while boating. For generations to come, everyone needs to be safe, have fun, and enjoy this beautiful lake.

Remember to make the **right kind of waves!** These are guidelines and should not serve as a replacement for learning the rules, regulations and laws. Learn more by taking a boating safety course.



Here are some **guidelines for respectful boating**. Let's navigate the boating world with ease while not creating a stir among fellow users of the water.

1. Own your wake. The fastest way to make the wrong kinds of waves is to literally throw a big, obtrusive wave at another boat, swimmer, angler or shoreline owner. It's your wake and the damage caused is yours.

2. Keep the tunes in check. Sound travels much farther than you think on the water. Creating excessive noise or operating a boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of others on the lake is being disrespectful.

3. Watch your Wake. There is a speed limit or slow-no-wake restriction on Lake Kashagawigamog. It's your responsibility to know it and respect it. Responsible boaters should reduce speed within 30 metres of the shore. Look behind you and see the size and effect that your wake is having on others.



You are Responsible

The lake means many things to many people. It can mean a leisurely canoe or kayak paddle,

fishing with friends, time alone, zipping around on a jet ski, sitting on a dock, swimming, or water skiing. A simple error

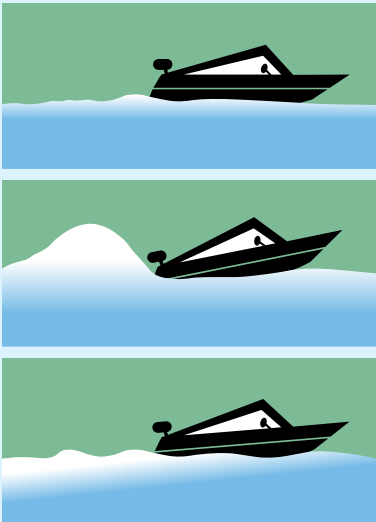
or misjudgment can have life altering consequences for others.

The Small Vessel Regulations state that “no person shall operate a small vessel in a careless manner, without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons.”¹

Under the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations, boaters are required to slow down when within 30 metres of shore. Failure to comply with this regulation can result in a fine.²

Tips to Reduce Your Wake

- Travel 30 metres from your dock to deeper water before accelerating to a higher speed.
- When accelerating, make sure to pass through the transition phase smoothly and safely, getting the boat to plane without delay.
- Within 30 metres of shore and in narrow channels, reduce speed to LEAVE NO WAKE.
- Stay at least 30 metres from the shoreline, docks and other boaters.



Displacement Speed

The slowest speed for most boats and creates the least wake. Bow is down.

Transition Speed

As you increase power to plane, the bow rises and the stern lowers. Largest wake is created.

Planing Speed

When planing, the bow drops down. This speed creates less wake than transition but more than displacement.

When accelerating, be sure to pass through the transition phase smoothly and safely, getting the boat to plane without delay.

Source: FOCA. Boat Illustration: Vighnesh Anvekar

Why do I need to worry about MY boat wake?

Lakes are fragile environments. Boat wake and prop wash churn up sediments in shallow water which releases dormant nutrients. These dormant nutrients promote weed growth, algae blooms, e-coli and can increase aquatic invasive species.³

Fish, wildlife habitat, shorelines and shoreline structures are vulnerable to damage from boat wakes. A boat wake can drown the nests of loons and other birds that nest along the shore. Wakes can damage boats



secured to docks. A large wake taken broadside causes a boat to rock severely or breakaway, no matter how tightly it is tied to the dock. A large wake taken on the stern or bow can pull mooring hardware from the boat, the dock, or both!

Wakes can topple canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddlers,

sailboats and swimmers. Be aware of the effect your wake is having on other lake users. If you are engaging in an activity that can affect others



such as water skiing, tubing, wakeboarding or jet skiing, consider taking a break or move to another part of the lake. Spending time in the same area can be challenging for others who are enjoying the lake in a different way.

Boating is all about having fun and being part of the wonderful boating community! Be considerate of others, so we can all enjoy the lake for many years. Let's make a day on the water, a day to remember and to create memories.

1. and 2. Government of Canada Website (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-2010-91/>)

3. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Website (https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/docs/Wake%20Boat%20Petition%20Submission_03092022.pdf)

Source: Muskoka Watershed Council