



Keep our Lake Echo/Fourteen Islands Lake Healthy.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BOATING AND WATER SPORTS.

April 27, 2020

PURPOSE:

1. Ensure that the conduct of boaters and water sport enthusiasts on Lake Echo/Fourteen Islands Lake (hereafter referred to as **“the Lake”**) is aligned;
2. Protect our lake for future generations;
3. Improve safety and courtesy among different users of the lake;
4. Respect the right to tranquility for the residents of the Lake.

This code does not replace the municipal rules which apply to navigable lakes in Saint-Hippolyte, and we invite citizens to consult rule 1195-20 adopted by the municipality of Saint-Hippolyte, and to obey the rules and obligations prescribed in all federal, provincial and municipal laws and rules concerning boating and the environment.

The characteristics of the Lake include relatively restricted length and width, shallow areas (1.9 meters on average), and by the presence of significant amounts of sediment which has accumulated at the lake bottom. This sediment becomes suspended in the water column by activities not adapted for shallow lakes. These factors justify putting in place certain restrictions for activities judged to be harmful for the health of our Lake.

ARTICLE 1 Swimmers and non-motorized watercraft have the right of way.

In this section, “non-motorized watercraft” includes row boats without motors, canoes, kayaks, windsurfers, sailboats, paddle boards, etc.

Swimmers and non-motorized watercraft have the right of way at all times and in all locations over motorized watercraft.

Motorized watercraft should maneuver so as to avoid driving directly toward a swimmer or non-motorized watercraft. Motorized watercraft should not approach within 50 meters of a swimmer or non-motorized watercraft unless they are invited to do so. If necessary, motorized watercraft should heave to (stop completely) in order to maintain 50 meters separation and allow the right of way of swimmers or non-motorized watercraft.

Swimmers should not swim at a distance greater than 30 meters from the shore, and if they do, they should warn others by being accompanied by another watercraft or through use of a clearly visible buoy such as *Aquam MyFloat* or *Fathom*, which are attached to the swimmer.

ARTICLE 2 Motorized watercraft (except wave boats) towing one or more water skiers, including towing of any other sporting or recreational equipment

a) Distance from the shore:

For the protection of swimmers, non-motorized watercraft and the shoreline, water skiing should take place at a distance of at least 30 meters from the shore. Speed should also be reduced in narrow areas mentioned in article 4a).

b) Hours of operation:

It is proposed that water skiing should be undertaken from 8a.m. until sunset, except in the areas and time periods mentioned in article 4b).

ARTICLE 3 Wake Boats

a) Definition:

The term “wake boat” refers to all wakeboard boats and all boats equipped for or designed to produce waves or wakes sufficiently large enough to allow the activity known as “wakeboarding”, “wakesurfing” or all other water sports which require amplification of the waves/wake normally produced by the boat itself.

b) Rules to Observe:

Due to the specific characteristics of the Lake (dimensions and shallow nature) the rules below are targeted:

i. Distance from shore:

“Wakeboarding” and “wakesurfing” should be practiced at least 50 meters from the shore.

ii. Shallow areas:

It is proposed that activities such as “wakeboarding” and “wakesurfing”, which require the use of wave boats, be practiced in areas of the Lake where the depth is at least 2 meters, except when required to leave or approach the shore to start or finish a course. All activities performed with full ballasts should be undertaken only in the “Baie des baigneurs”, except during the periods outlined in article 4b). Emptying of ballasts is recommended immediately after “wakeboarding” and “wakesurfing” activities. In addition, to avoid contamination of the lake, ballasts should be emptied prior to launching boats in the Lake.

iii. Maneuvers to avoid:

It is recommended that boaters avoid repeated passes along the same stretches of shoreline to avoid inconveniencing neighboring residents as well as to reduce the risk of environmental damage.

iv. Hours of operation:

It is recommended that “wakeboarding” and “wakesurfing” activities using wave boats should take place from 10a.m. until sunset, except where specified in article 4b).

ARTICLE 4: Rules for aligning the different water sports and activities

a) Motorized watercraft speed:

The maximum speed for all motorized watercraft is 5km/hr in all areas where Lake depth is less than or equal to 1 meter. In addition, in the passage on the east side of the Lake between the eastern shore and Normandin Island, speed is also limited to 5km/hr. In the passage on the west side of the island between the western shore and Vallerand Island, we recommend adjusting watercraft speed based on traffic present. Maximum speed anywhere on the Lake should not exceed 60 km/hr.

b) Restricted use zone:

The part of the Lake known as “Baie des baigneurs” is designated as a zone for restricted use. It is delineated by the north shore of the Lake and by a line passing through islands Provost, James and Normandin as illustrated on the map in Appendix A. To permit the safe use of this zone, it is recommended that activities such as “wakeboarding”, “wakesurfing”, waterskiing, towing, and seadoo activity be avoided between 2p.m. and 6p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The maximum speed during this period in the “Baie des baigneurs” is 5 km/hr. However, these watercraft and activities can take place in other areas of the Lake where these activities are permitted during the time period indicated under articles 2b) and 3b) section iv.

c) Silencers:

Because noise travels over long distances over water, particularly on our Lake, motorized watercraft should be equipped with silencers designed to prevent unusual or excessive noise levels, and these should be maintained in good working condition at all times. Free exhaust systems or “Hollywood” style systems do not conform to this goal. To reduce the noise produced by inboard motors we recommend the installation of a “Fresh Air” exhaust system (freshairexhaust.com) or equivalent.

d) Noise from on board watercraft:

Sounds produced by voices, speakers, amplifiers or any other equipment or device aboard a watercraft on the Lake should be adjusted to a level so that they can be heard only by the occupants of the watercraft on which they are located, and in a way which will not interfere with the well-being of other people in the surrounding area.

e) Commercial activities:

Activities on the Lake should be limited to leisure and recreation. No watercraft should be used for commercial purposes of any kind.

f) Recreational towing activities:

During towing of an individual by a motorized watercraft, the driver is required to follow the safety rules described for this activity by Transport Canada.

g) Watercraft:

For the tranquility of surrounding residents, the use of Watercraft is not desired. Launching of Watercraft has not been permitted at their boat ramps for multiple

years by associations on the Lake. This policy should be continued by the associations.

h) Anchoring of boats:

Anchoring of a boat facing a residence should be done at a distance of at least 100 meters from the shore (subject to the rights of the resident to anchor their boat under the rules laid out by the provincial and federal governments).

Anchoring in a group of more than 3 boats in the same location is forbidden.

i) Areas where boats are prohibited:

Boats are prohibited in the zones identified as colonies of “Eurasian water-milfoil”, to avoid the spread of this non-native, invasive plant.

COMMUNICATIONS

ARLEQ intends to modify this Code of conduct annually and is open to all suggestions. Comments and suggestions can be sent to info@arleq.ca

ARLEQ, through the efforts of two sub-committees (Removal of Sediment Committee and Watershed Committee) and the municipality of Saint-Hippolyte are currently exploring multiple possibilities to remove the sediment from the Lake.

ARLEQ is currently adding to its website which contains additional information about its activities.

Last updated: April 27, 2020