



LAKE BARRON CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Code of the Environment and Ethics

VERSION: 2.0

PREPARED: May 1, 2015

ARLBLBCA@gmail.com

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Objective

The objective of the Code of The Environment and Ethics (COEE) is to provide guidelines that encourage socially and environmentally responsible practices in and around Lake Barron. This document supports the Lake Barron Citizen's Association (LBCA) in protecting Lake Barron's environment and ensuring the enjoyment of the lake and its surroundings today and in the future.

Background

Lake Barron is a multi-use recreational lake in Gore, Quebec. The LBCA, in conjunction with the Municipality of Gore, has developed this Code of The Environment and Ethics to help address concerns regarding the impact of boating and the increased frequency and size of waves on; the shoreline, water quality, ecosystems, property and wildlife.

A Code of Ethics is a best practice of many lake associations and communities in our region and around the world.

The COEE aims to provide guidelines for lake users that support the protection of Lake Barron's shoreline, help maintain water quality and ensure the safety of swimmers and boaters. It is complimentary to Municipal, Provincial and Federal law. The COEE hopes to help Lake Barron residents understand their responsibilities and ensure the lake environment remains safe and healthy.

Guidelines

The following section of the COEE organizes information and guidelines around an area of ethics and values that the LBCA aims to promote. Associated with each area are references and summaries of external regulations as well as references and specific Lake "citizen" guidelines that aim to help all residents have a safe and happy experience on and off the water.

Please review this COEE and guidelines and discuss them with friends and family before boating and swimming on the lake. This will help to promote awareness for personal safety and environmental security.

Become a yearly member of the LBCA, register and sticker your watercraft and have a vote.

Boating Safely With an Environmental Conscience

The following guidelines include information summarized from Transport Canada that apply to Lake Barron and specific 'Citizen Guidelines' unique to Lake Barron. This is not a comprehensive listing of boating regulations.

1. To reduce the environmental impact, ONLY boats belonging to Lake Barron property owners or those with deeded access, are allowed to access the lake. Please be sure to adhere your LBCA registration sticker to your boat. These stickers will be issued to all members of the LBCA who are current on their dues and register their powerboat with the Association. In addition stickers will be issued to non-motorized boats.
2. Boats must be in good working condition and clean and free of contaminants or vegetation before entering the lake. Your engine must not be contaminating the lake (not leaking gas or oil). Inspect your trailer and boat before launching it into the lake. Use eco-friendly cleaning agents and do not allow the cleaning runoff into the lake.
3. Boaters are responsible for their trim, wake and speed. No one shall operate a watercraft so as to create an excessive wake as measured at the shoreline. Look behind you to see where your wake is traveling.
4. All operators of recreational powered watercraft in Canada regardless of age, engine horsepower or length must have an operator's card. Keep this card in the boat or on your person. There

are many federal laws that apply on Lake Barron. The Police enforce these occasionally and the fines are steep.

5. Boaters must observe the 10 km/hr speed limit when within 30 meters of shoreline to prevent erosion, minimize wild life disturbance, and ensure the security and enjoyment of all persons. Furthermore, the speed of watercraft must never generate, by its passage, injury to persons, erosion of the shoreline or damage to property. Boating should take place in such a manner as to reduce the creation of wakes. Remember to stay as far away as possible from shoreline and shallow waters.

6. Boaters must stay at least 50 meters from wildlife, swimmers and non-motorized watercraft at all times and must obey all markers, posted speed limits and no wake zones.

7. As studies indicate, large waves have a negative environmental impact both above and below the surface of the water and therefore no ballasts should be used due to the impact they have on shoreline erosion, wildlife, ecosystems, individuals, water quality and property. For Lake Barron's size, motors should be 4-stroke and ideally not exceed 70 HP.

8. Always travel in a counter clockwise pattern on Lake Barron and remember when towing (skier, tuber, rider, etc.) to travel as closely to the center of the lake as possible to reduce the impact of the wave motion to the shoreline. Powerboats must depart and return to shore perpendicular to the shore thereby diminishing the effect of the wave impact. Make sure to minimize the wake impact in all narrow areas of the lake by avoiding creating a wake where the lake is narrower than 50 meters.

It is important to note and remember that the Small Vessel Regulations stipulate that the legal speed limit for all motor boats is 10 km/h within 30 meters of any shore.

9. No watercraft should exceed speeds of 35 mph or 55 km/hr.

10. Restrict motor boating to after 8:30 a.m. and before sunset to allow for the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others. All watercraft must have lights on between dusk and sunrise. This is federal law.

11. Swimmers should stay close to the shoreline, be visible and not swim alone. Children and weak swimmers should always wear a life jacket when near, on, or in the water.

12. Waterskiing and Other Recreational Towing Activities (federal law).

The rules that govern waterskiing also apply to other recreational towing activities like, wakeboarding, barefoot skiing and tubing. The following are a few rules that are useful on Lake Barron.

Rule A

You must have a spotter on board the boat who can keep watch on each person you are towing and communicate with you.

Rule B

There must be an empty seat on any towboat for each person being towed in case they need to come on board.

Rule C

Personal watercraft used for towing must be capable of carrying three or more people.

Rule D

If someone towed is not wearing a lifejacket or PFD, there must be one on board the boat for them.

Rule E

No towing is permitted when visibility is poor or from one hour after sunset to sunrise.

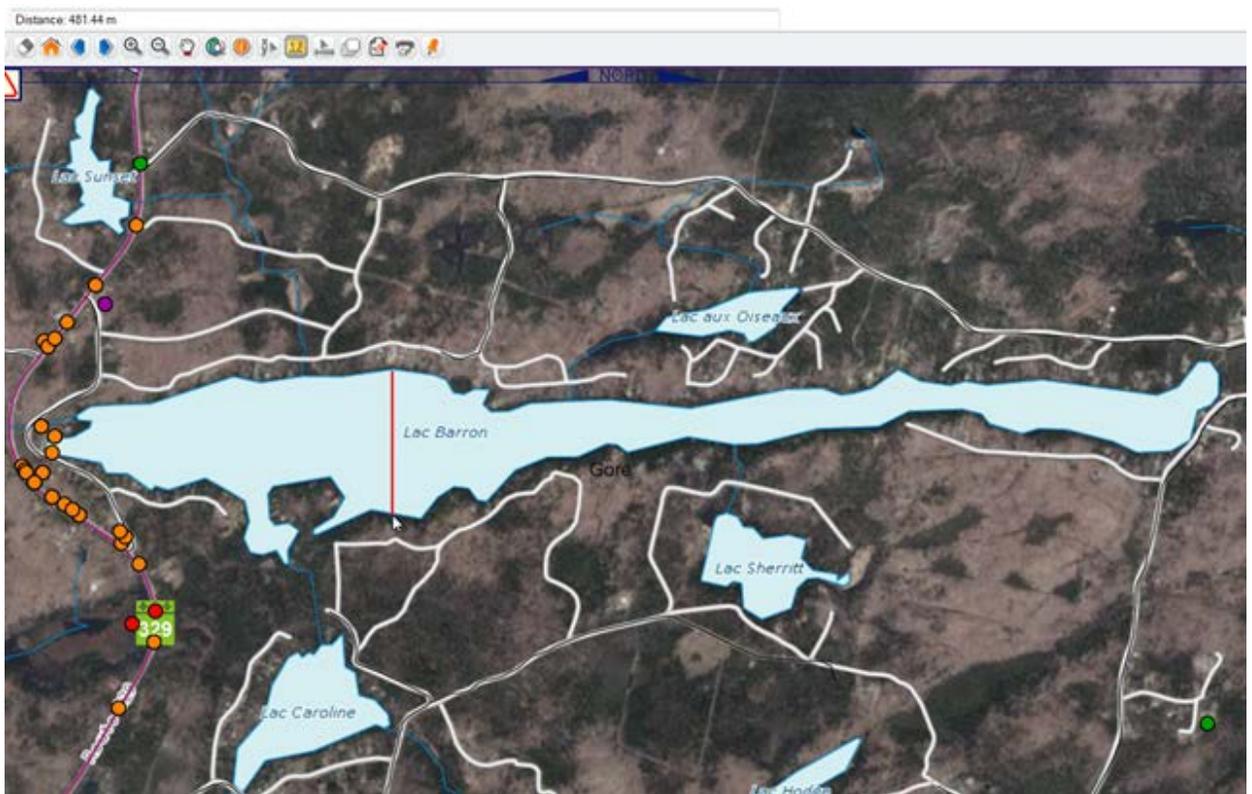
AS A REMINDER

Similar recommendations with regard to environmental impact are also endorsed and prescribed by the *International Waterski and Wakeboard Federation* as per the following quote and recommendations: Always Respect Codes of Conduct especially with regards to noise control, distance of boat and skier/rider from shoreline and restricted zones. Stay away from shorelines whenever possible. Always try to avoid disturbing birds and wildlife when boating, riding or skiing. It is strongly recommended for water skiers that a MINIMUM of 50 meters from shore be maintained in order to reduce the impact of shoreline erosion and disturbance.

In addition, *new research indicates*, that for the larger and heavier wave generating types of boats, such as wakeboard / wakesurf and ballasted boats, their use at 300 meters from the shoreline should be the rule of thumb for avoiding wake damage to the shoreline. These types of boats should be restricted to the widest parts of the lake. The need is for the wake to dissipate both above and below the surface of the water before hitting shore. These types of heavier, large wave generating boats should travel to and from the wider area of the lake with as little environmental impact as possible. Important to remember that refraining the use of ballasts while wake boarding and wake surfing or any other use will significantly reduce shoreline erosion, environmental and property damage. The majority of LBCA executives do not favor nor support the use of these types of boats on Lake Barron due to the size and shape of the lake, its existing environmental condition and fragility. (See diagram included)



This illustration indicates how vulnerable the shoreline is due to how narrow the lake is.



This illustration indicates the widest part of the lake at 480 m.

Water Pollution, Septic Tanks and Septic Fields

1. Keep the lake clean. Do not dispense of items into the lake. Do not bathe in the lake and do not leave things on the dock, boat or shoreline that can blow into the lake.
2. Septic tanks and fields must be in proper working order and contaminants must not be flowing into the lake. All septic systems should be examined to ensure proper function. This is provincial law. Information regarding these regulations is available from the Municipality. (You may also refer to document with new by-laws as provided by Gore on the final page of the COEE)
3. At a minimum, seasonal dwellings must have their properly functioning tanks cleaned out every 4 years and provide the municipality with the receipt. This must be done every 2 years for fulltime residents. This is provincial law.
4. Never use bleach. Select and use household cleaning products that are phosphate free. Use only phosphate free hand soaps, dish soaps, detergents and cleaning products. This applies to dishwashers, washing machines and all household cleaning products that may enter the ground or your septic system. Do not use antibacterial products as these are also damaging to your septic system.
5. Never use fertilizers or pesticides. There are by-laws regarding the use of these products in many municipalities across Canada. Visit the Gore website for by-laws and ideas on alternatives to grass.
6. Prevent all harmful chemicals from leaching into the lake. This includes: car, boat wash and exterior house cleaning solutions.

Courtesy to and Consideration of Others

1. Nuisances: Excessive noise of any sort disturbs peace and tranquility and has a negative effect on wildlife. Remember, noise travels clearly and for a long distance over water. Know your noise by-laws and be considerate of others.
2. The Municipality has by-laws where noise is prohibited after 10 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m. Noise should not travel the limits of your lot during these times. Loud music, (on shore and from boat stereos), and the sound of small engines would fit into this category as well.
3. Fireworks are dangerous and toxic pollutants, and are a fire hazard as well as a nuisance. Your LBCA Board does not approve of the use of fireworks on Lake Barron. This is also the case on neighbouring lakes. Additionally, to try to discourage their use, the new municipal by-law, #188, does now require a permit for fireworks. Please also refer to the specific section on fireworks at the end of this document.
4. External dwelling alarms should not be used. Alarm systems should be limited to alerting the inhabitants, alarm companies or the police.
5. **Lighting** on properties, like noise, is carried across the lake and can be a nuisance for others. Make sure you keep your wattage appropriate and turn your exterior lights off whenever possible. Be aware that motion sensors can set off floodlights on a windy day due to wind motion. Turn off motion sensors when not in use.

Permits:

Renovations to Structures or Property, Burning, and Bonfires.

1. Residents must acquire a permit for any work done to their properties or shorelines.

2. Permits are required for fireworks or any fires larger than a small campfire (1 m x 1 m x 1m). Campfires must be at least 15 metres from the shoreline and 3 meters from buildings or property lines. If there is a fire ban, no fires or fireworks are permitted. Call or email the municipality for help with any permit needs. As a reminder, the office is closed after noon on Fridays.

Renting Out Your Residence to Others:

There is a by-law stating that short stay rentals are not permitted in Gore. Article 32 states that a rental period cannot be less than 30 days.

References and Resources:

Transport Canada Marine Safety:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/media/documents/marinesafety/TP-511e.pdf>

Swimming and Boating Safety

<http://www.redcross.ca/what-we-do/swimming-and-water-safety/swimming-boating-and-water-safety-tips>

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm>

Web Sites on Impact of Wake from Boats

<http://www.actualites.uqam.ca/2014/4701-berges-menacees-wakeboat-vagues>

<http://coalitionnavigation.ca/archives/109>

http://foca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Watching_Your_Wake_for_use_by_other_lakes.pdf

Environment:

<http://www.crelaurentides.org/dossiers/eau-lacs/trousse-des-lacs>