

## Statistics

Alcohol is involved in 36% of all preventable water-related fatalities.

Alcohol is involved in over 50% of all power boating accidents.

Over 95% of drowning victims were not wearing lifejackets or PFDs.

In 1997, power boating surpassed swimming as the specific recreational activity accounting for the most water-related deaths.

Young males between 18 and 24 years have the highest preventable water-related death rate of all age groups.

Risk-taking behaviour is cited as the most common singular factor in boating fatalities.

## Rules for Youth

Children under 12 years of age cannot operate a powerboat with more than a 10 hp motor.

Youth 12 - 15 years of age may only operate a boat with a motor over 40 hp if accompanied and directly supervised by someone 16 years or older.

Minimum age to operate a sea-doo/jet-ski is 16 years.

*Help keep your family & friends safe, be a responsible neighbour, help keep our shorelines healthy, and our property in good repair while boating on our lakes.*

**See an unsafe boater?  
Please call the OPP at  
1-888-310-1122**

Have available the following info:

- description of boat
- location on the lake where offense took place
- registration number of boat
- any other info you can get without confrontation

## Additional References

*Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

*Canada Shipping Act: Small Vessel Regulations, Collision Regulations & Boating Restriction Regulations*

*Canadian Coast Guard*

*Safe Boating Guide  
[www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca)*

*This pamphlet is a quick reference to boating safety only. For complete boating regulations refer to the Safe Boating Guide.*

## RLCA Safe Boating Guide



## Redstone Lake Cottage Association

**As of September 2009**

All operators of all powerboats and personal watercrafts must have proof of operator competency by having their Pleasure Craft Operator Card on them at all times when operating any powered boat or face a fine of \$250.

*It's the Law*

Obtain license at: [www.boaterexam.com](http://www.boaterexam.com)



## Safety Equipment

### *Pleasure craft operators must:*

Carry specific safety equipment on board their vessel. The type and amount is determined by the size of the craft. In general, all pleasure crafts should contain the following or face a minimum fine as indicated in brackets:

- the Pleasure Craft Operator Card of the driver (\$250)
- one Government of Canada approved PFD or life-jacket of appropriate size for each person on board (\$200)
- a sound signaling device such as a whistle (\$100)
- a watertight flashlight in working order (\$100)
- a buoyant heaving line 15m or more in length (\$100)
- a fire extinguisher (\$100)
- a bailer (\$100)
- navigation lights at dusk (\$100)
- a manual propelling device such as a paddle or an anchor with 15 m or more rope/chain (\$100)

## Collision Regulations

### *Canada Shipping Act & the Criminal Code of Canada*

### *Pleasure craft operators must:*

not operate their boat in a dangerous manner.

not drive under the influence (alcohol, drugs etc).

use all available means to avoid accidents...adjust speed, keep well clear, exhibit vigilance, be alert, be aware, use caution, be watchful to everything around them.

yield the right of way to boats with lesser maneuver ability including vessels engaged in fishing, kayaks, canoes, sculls, sailboats, and float planes in the process of landing or taking off.

turn navigation lights on at sunset.

## Criminal Code of Canada

### *Dangerous Driving Section 249:*

Everyone commits an offence who operates a vessel or any water skis, surf board, water sled or other towed object on or over any internal waters of Canada in a manner that is dangerous to the public.

Everyone who commits an offence under this section may be sentenced to imprisonment up to 14 years depending on the outcome of the event such as bodily harm or death.

### *Impaired Operation of a Vessel Section 253:*

There is no distinction between driving a car and driving a boat. If the operator is impaired; the offense is the same. No one on board can consume alcohol while the boat is being operated.

## Safe Towing

### *Canada Shipping Act & the Criminal Code of Canada*

- Do not take any person out to be towed unless they know all hand signals for communicating with the driver including: faster (thumb up), slower (thumb down), cut the engine (hand slice across neck), take me home (head tap) and, I'm OK (should they fall) (wave).
- Do not take any person out to be towed without a dedicated & responsible spotter at any time. (Boat operators and toddlers are not considered spotters.)
- Do not tow with a sea-doo/ jet-ski unless there is an empty seat for each person being towed including the spotter.

Always pick up a fallen skier on the driver's side downwind of the skier to help ensure that he/she is always visible to you.



## Your Wake

Each wave has the power to injure & damage.  
**-BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR-**

- Collision regulations specify that boat operators are responsible for the impact of their wake and wash on other people, the shoreline & property.
- All boat operators must adjust their speed so that the waves generated by their craft do not cause injury to people, erosion of the shoreline or damage to the property of others.
- Boat operators need to trim their craft to minimize their boat wake at all times. *Keep the bow down.* (Super slow speeds disperse the least amount of water.)
- Boat operators must use courtesy & common sense to not create a hazard, threat, stress or irritant to others, the environment, and wildlife.
- Section 6(5.2) of the Canada Shipping Act states that within 30m from the shore speeds of over 10 km/h are strictly prohibited.
- Wakeboarders and tubers should only be towed in the largest and most open areas of the lake during daylight hours.

**Please have a family member stand on your dock to observe your wake while you drive each of your boats by at varying speeds & distances.**

**KNOWING YOUR OWN WAKE HELPS US ALL!**