

Code of Ethics

Governing Nautical Practice

Lakes and other waterways are rich ecosystems teeming with life. Many of the species that inhabit them, such as fish, amphibians, insects and certain mammals, depend directly on the aquatic system for their survival. Nevertheless, they share these watery environments with boaters and cottagers who seek out the benefits of the waterways' assets. **However**, inconsiderate behaviour **of some users of our waterways**, often weakens the necessary equilibrium between the various inhabitants and users of the bodies of water.



The objective of implementing a code of ethics to guide nautical activities is to agree on adopting healthy practices respecting both the environment and other users of the bodies of water. Here is a code of ethics assembled from many recommendations as to water activities. Your association of lakes has taken the liberty of adapting the code according to **their** concerns and needs.

Water Quality

By analysing various parameters having to do with the quality of the water, lakes can be classified according to their level of eutrophication. While this is a natural phenomenon of the aging of the lakes and waterways, it can be aggravated by human activity. So to limit the eutrophication process of the lakes and waterways please follow these important **guidelines**:



- 💧 If your boat is equipped with a used-water reservoir, make sure it conforms **to standards** and that it is properly emptied.
- 💧 While refilling your gas tank avoid spillage or pouring the polluting liquid into the water (gasoline, oil).
- 💧 Do not throw garbage into or on the water.
- 💧 Avoid soaps and products containing phosphates and use biodegradable and ecological products.
- 💧 When buying a new motor for your boat, choose a four-stroke motor.
- 💧 Inspect and/or wash your boat before putting it in the water. Be wary of the propagation of invasive exotic creatures.
- 💧 When launching your boat in an appropriate spot, make sure that only your trailer makes contact with the water, not your vehicle.

Noise

If its level is too high, noise is a potential source of sound pollution. It ruins the silence sought by the residents and vacationers. So as you go about your activities, keep in mind these rules:



- 💧 Favour silent and electric motors.
- 💧 Keep the volume of your radio low.
- 💧 Avoid unnecessary and repetitive noise while handling your boat (sharp turns, wave breaks, acrobatics...).
- 💧 Use your alarm systems (sirens and horns) only in cases of emergency.

Boat Speed

All craft should be driven at the appropriate speed for the safety of the passengers and others using the lake or other body of water as well as to limit the impact on the environment as speed increase waves, which erode the shores. When using your boat be mindful of these rules:

- 💧 Navigate at low speed (less than 10 km/h) while you are less than 30 metres from the shore.
- 💧 Reduce your speed when approaching or leaving a shoreline.
- 💧 Try to leave or arrive at shore perpendicularly to the shore.
- 💧 Reduce your speed in bays.
- 💧 Shut off the motor while the boat makes it way in an area where the depth is less than a metre.
- 💧 Manoeuvre your boat in a fashion that is respectful to other users and the environment (attention to waves, circling, capsizing, spillage...).
- 💧 **Use boat launches with low current and equalize loads on the boat.**
- 💧 **For those using sea-doods, wake-boats, powerful boats and rapid launch, navigate in deep waters.**



Good Conduct



Respect for other users implies that safe and healthy conduct is practiced. While on board your boat follow these rules:

- 💧 Give priority to swimmers and un-motorized craft such as kayaks and canoes.
- 💧 Adjust your conduct according to the crowding of the lake or other waterway; be courteous and prudent.
- 💧 Avoid annoying and disruptive conduct.
- 💧 Make sure that your boat is in good condition and is equipped with safety equipment.
- 💧 Respect the rules of safe boating.
- 💧 Have on hand a valid licence to operate a pleasure craft.
- 💧 Respect instructions posted on signs as well as **buoys** in the water.

IMPORTANT: This code of ethics does not replace the laws and regulations associated with boats and nautical safety. It is conceived to inspire behaviour that is in harmony with the environment and other users of the lakes and waterways.

Comité du bassin versant de la rivière du Lièvre
634, rue de la Madone
Mont-Laurier (Québec) J9L 1S9
www.cobali.org



Thanks to our financial partners : Brookfield, Boralex, MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, ville de Gatineau, MRC d'Antoine-Labelle et la Fondation de la MRC d'Antoine-Labelle pour l'environnement