

# Welcome Boaters!



## Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society

### Oxford Otter says:

“Enjoy your boating experience, be safe, and be a good neighbour!”



## Your Holiday, Our Home!

### Be Safe:

- Watch for swimmers, small boats and wildlife, and adjust your speed accordingly.
- Prevent shoreline erosion and property damage by keeping your wake down and staying away from shore.

### Be Quiet:

- Play your music with the volume down. Allow others the choice of enjoying their own or having none at all.
- Run your boats with an effective muffling system. If your exhaust noise is clearly audible above all other noise, it is too loud.

### Know and Respect the Law:

- Obtain a “Pleasure Craft Operator Card” and practice safe boating.
- Comply with the Small Vessel Amendments of the Canada Shipping Act and CVRD bylaws.
- Encourage friends and neighbours to obey the law.
- **Report violations to the RCMP (250-749-6668)** Include as much information as possible (date, time, location, boat description, witnesses, registration number, etc...a photo would assist identification).
- **Report all Poachers and Polluters RAPP(1-877-952-7277).**

### What is the Law?

- *Safe Boating Guide* (free publication) [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca)
- *Small Vessel Amendments of the Canada Shipping Act* [www.gazette.gc.ca](http://www.gazette.gc.ca)  
A pleasure boat muffler must be in good working order and in operation at all times to prevent excessive noise, unless the exhaust gases are directed under the water or below the cavitation plate.
- *Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Bylaw No.3723*

“No person shall make or cause, or permit to be made or caused, any noise or sound which: disturbs, or is liable to disturb, the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of individuals or the public; or exceeds the Sound Levels prescribed in this Bylaw.”  
Objectionable Noises includes any motor boat with an exhaust which is unmuffled or is not vented under the surface of the water. These shall not exceed the sound levels noted:

Any Continuous Sound that exceeds the following Sound Levels at the Point of Reception (not less than 5meters from the noise):

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. 60dB

9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. 50dB

Any Non-continuous Sound that exceeds the following Sound Levels at Point of Reception:

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. 80dB

9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. 65 dB

### Did you know?

- Most accidents on BC lakes can be attributed to poor judgment and failure to comply with the law.
- Human-induced noise pollution is an important cause of stress, which has been linked directly to common health problems.
- Sound travels much farther on the water.

### Who are we?

The *Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society* (CLRSS) is a volunteer group of caring neighbours dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Cowichan Lake Watershed.

**“Join us as we work toward a culture of consideration and respect, and a healthy future for Cowichan Lake.”**

To become a member, visit our website, or call Diana Gunderson (250)749-3335

[www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca](http://www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca)