
FW: Decibel Coalition Newsletter

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NEWS LETTER March 10, 2021.

Hello Decibel Coalition Members,

We are very encouraged by the progress of the Decibel Coalition since the first newsletter last August and want to take this opportunity to update all of our members. Later in this letter is news that is perhaps the most important of all!

Growing the Decibel Coalition Membership

Starting in November 2019, the first months of the Coalition were spent getting organized, developing our strategy, gathering information, researching lake associations across the country and making initial contacts with our stakeholders.

From the original five we now have over 20 lake associations as members and our geography now includes Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. Together they represent over 10,000 waterfront property owners and their families. We continue to add new members almost every week. You can see the list of current members with links to their websites at the end of this newsletter.

New Members of your Committee

Our hard working committee of six Safe Quiet Lake ("SQL") board members has expanded to nine. We very much welcome Alan Drinkwater of Vancouver and Lake Shuswap. Alan is to be thanked for all our BC members. Alan joined a fellow Shuswap resident, Gary Milne to form a local coalition called Shuswap and Mara Lakes Decibel Coalition ("SMLDC") which is 100% aligned with the national Coalition as well as focused on the specific problems and solutions for boat motor noise in that area. Attached is their first newsletter. Alan has enthusiastically assumed responsibility for getting new members for all of western Canada!

We also welcome Robert Benoit from Lac Memphremagog. Robert is the Volunteer President of Memphremagog Conservation Inc. and was instrumental in getting them to become a member of the Coalition. Robert is very knowledgeable on how things work in Quebec and is bringing his energy and connections to help expand the Coalition in that province.

Nancy Croitoru joined the SQL Board and became a member of the Decibel Coalition committee. She brings a wealth of experience ranging from public relations to television production and industry association CEO. Nancy can be thanked for many of our new members in Ontario.

Next Phase – Municipalities We can use your help!

Your committee continues its bi-weekly meetings having not missed one since it was formed in November 2019. As well as adding lake associations, we are now expanding our focus to municipal governments. In Ontario, we know the Muskoka town and township governments well and have started the process to delegate to their councils. Robert is using his contacts in the eastern townships. SMLDC will wait until it has a few more members in the Shuswap area before approaching municipal governments.

We would like your help to expand the municipal list. Local knowledge of councils and how best to approach them is important. If you would like us to delegate to your local municipality and can help, please contact Rob Bosomworth, the Chair of the Coalition. We have a power point deck and a draft resolution ready to go. The more municipalities, the better the influence we will have.

Enforcement Agencies

Enforcement agencies input to Transport Canada will be critical to getting the Regulations changed. Our relationship with the OPP is very good and we have every reason to believe they will welcome these changes and will work with Transport Canada to that end. We have

also established a contact with the RCMP in western Canada and will start working with them immediately.

Marine Industry

Late last December, we had a joint meeting with the National Marine Manufacturers Association and Boat BC, Boating Ontario and Boating Atlantic. Although they declined to join the Decibel Coalition, they are in favour of updating the Small Vessel Regulations with respect to mufflers.

Transport Canada – Exciting News

Finally, as promised, the most important news! We were delighted to learn that Transport Canada (“TC”), at the Canadian Marine Advisory Council (“CMAC” a council run by TC) meeting on November 12, 2020, has opened the topic of boat mufflers to “discuss and receive comments on possible options for the future”. They have heard community input including from SQL that excessive boat muffler noise is a growing concern on Canadian waterways. A link to their presentation is attached.

We have recently met with Transport Canada, started the dialogue and provided them with some information and contacts to aid their work. This is very encouraging as it may mean the route to success could be significantly shortened. It also means we need to pick up the pace for expanding the membership base, especially with municipalities.

We have come a long way in just over a year. What we thought could take up to five years may be less. We all remain very committed to success. I can’t stress enough how effective and committed your committee is and I thank them all for it.

Next Few Months

The next three to six months are both critical and exciting as we actively engage with the staff at Transport Canada. We need to keep the momentum going and would be very happy to hear from you with your suggestions and ideas especially on how best to approach your local municipal council.

As your associations proceed with your summer plans, please consider promoting the Decibel Coalition. We have all noted significant increases in boating on our waterways since the pandemic started and expect to see more this summer. Many are new-comers to boating so education and awareness campaigns are more relevant. For consideration are: updates on your websites; including the Decibel Coalition in your promotions and advertising; and putting up signage at local boat launches and marinas. The Decibel Coalition committee and SQL staff can help.

Finally, if you know of other lake associations in your area who would be interested in joining the Decibel Coalition please connect them with us and we will gladly contact them.

Thanks again for your support and let us hope for a much better spring this year as we can now see our way to relief from this terrible pandemic.

Regards,

Rob Bosomworth

Chair, the Decibel Coalition

Director, Safe Quiet Lakes

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Attachments

Shuswap and Mara Lakes Decibel Coalition News Letter

Shuswap & Mara Lakes Decibel Coalition



Update Fall 2020

Our History

In the summer of 2019 a concerned member of our Totem Pole Resort community, Dr. Doug Armstrong started a petition to deal with boating fatalities on the Shuswap as a result of high performance boats driven recklessly. I took over the file and posted our petition on Change.org, now 700+ supporters. A member of SWOA, Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association, reached out and told us about the national Decibel Coalition.

Formed by *Safe Quiet Lakes*, the Decibel Coalition is a national organization whose objective is to strengthen federal legislation to include decibel limits on motorboat noise that are easily enforced. Alan Drinkwater, Shuswap cottage owner, joined our mission in Spring 2020 and our momentum has taken off from there.

Mara Lake joins Coalition

Mara Lake cottage owner Alison Maher is our representative for Mara Lake.

Decibel Coalition BC Representative

Alan Drinkwater, fellow founding member of the Shuswap Lake Decibel Coalition, is now the national Decibel Coalition BC representative

Transport Canada

Is working with the national Decibel Coalition to develop a strategy to enable enforcement action against illegal boat exhaust systems; this will be a collective process with RCMP & OPP.
<https://safequiet.ca/decibel-coalition>

BC RCMP

At this point the RCMP Marine Patrol is limited to a total of 5 days per season to patrol Shuswap & Mara Lakes. Their primary role is safety inspection and drinking infractions. The RCMP Nationally must be part of Boating Noise abatement enforcement in Canada. The CSRD have no teeth : jurisdiction over the lakes is federal.

Mission & Objectives process

The S.M.L.D.C. (Shuswap Mara Lakes Decibel Coalition) will be developing Missions & Objectives to better define our purpose for the coming year. We'll consider education opps, connecting with communities and organizations like SWOA, Influencers and advocacy. We will circulate our Missions & Objectives end of November.

Volunteers

Thanks to new friends who have come forward from our Change.org petition and the recent SWOA newsletter. We will be reaching out with opportunities to help us as we define our purpose.

Contact: Gary Milne garyjamesmilne1@gmail.com
Member of National Decibel Coalition <https://safequiet.ca/decibel-coalition/>

Transport Canada Presentation at November, 2020 Canadian Marine Advisory Council

Here is a link to all presentations from the fall CMAC:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NpEL-01gtY558VEQ2VCBu9728E4pTuA7?usp=sharing>

To navigate to the presentation, double click on either “English” or “French” and then on the “November 12 – Recreational Boating” button. The presentation is Item 12 “Noise Emission”

Decibel Coalition Members







WASA

WASA & AREA SAFETY ADVOCATES

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