

Long Lake Community Presentation on Boating Safety

Addressing the Boating Concerns on Long Lake



Community Concerns from Summer 2024

- Wake boat conflicts with kayakers, pontoons, swimmers
- Concern about large waves damaging docks and shorelines
- Community frustration with lack of clear enforcement or regulatory solutions
- Right to enjoy watersports, significant investments
- Right to enjoy waterfront property, also significant investments
- Clogging of lake water intake pipes from displaced lakebed materials



Stakeholders in Watercraft Use Regulations

- Transport Canada
 - Governs waterway use and enforces marine regulations
 - Processes VORR applications for restricting activities on waterways
- Greater Sudbury Police Service (GSPS)
 - Enforces Transport Canada's regulations
 - Provides safety education and conflict resolution
- Municipality
 - Collaborates with residents and agencies
 - Submits V.O.R.R. applications if requested
- Conservation Sudbury
 - Focuses on shoreline preservation and environmental health



GSPS Marine Unit

- The Marine Unit is maintained within the Integrated Traffic Safety Unit (ITSU) to police the navigable waters within the City of Greater Sudbury.



GSPS Marine Unit

- ITSU consists of:
 - 4 Rural Unit Constables (Marine Operators)
 - 8 Traffic Management Unit officers (Crew Members)
 - 1 Sergeant



GSPS Marine Unit

- According to the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) webpage (2023) the CGS is “*home to 330 lakes and contains more lakes than any other municipality in Canada*”.
- 15 of these lakes are typically identified for marine patrols



GSPS Marine Unit Responsibilities

- The objective of the GSPS Marine Unit is to police the navigable waters within the CGS and respond to incidents on waterways including:
 - Missing or overdue vessels and persons;
 - Vessels and/or persons in distress;
 - Medical emergencies;
 - Vessel fires, collisions/accidents;
 - Boat thefts;
 - Enforcement of appropriate statutes and regulations in respect to marine vessels;
 - Detection of impaired operation of vessels and other criminal violations;
 - Public education and special events



Legislation and Authorities

Canada Shipping Act, 2001

- Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations (COPCR)
- Canada Shipping Act
- Collision Regulations
- Private Buoy Regulations
- Small Vessel Regulations
- Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (V.O.R.R.)



Legislated Requirements

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019

Part III Provision of Policing - Responsibility for Providing Policing

Policing responsibility

- **10 (1)** The police service boards and the Commissioner shall ensure adequate and effective policing is provided in the area for which they have policing responsibility in accordance with the needs of the population in the area and having regard for the diversity of the population in the area. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, s. 10 (1); 2023, c. 12, Sched. 1, s. 6 (1).

Waterways

- (6) A police service board, or the Commissioner, shall provide policing in respect of all navigable bodies and courses of water in the area for which the board or the Commissioner has policing responsibility. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, s. 10 (6).



Reporting Incidents

- Several options for reporting marine related incidents of concern:
 - Police related calls:
 - Emergency: 9-1-1
 - Non-emergent: 705-675-9171 or online at www.gspss.ca
 - Conservation Sudbury: 705-674-5249 or ndca@ConservationSudbury.ca
 - Transport Canada Office of Boating Safety: 1-877-281-8824



GSPS Marine Unit Calls for Service

City Wide Calls for Service

Type and Subtype	2022	2023	2024
Focused Patrol			
Marine	31	29	31
Marine	7	4	8
• Emergency	1	0	1
• Complaint	6	4	7
Grand Total	38	33	39

Long Lake Calls for Service

Type and Subtype	2022	2023	2024
Focused Patrols	2	3	5
Education	11	4	23
Enforcement	1	0	2
Patrol Duration	5.5	6	12
Contacts	44	16	165
Calls for Service	0	0	1

Comparison of Patrols

Lake	2022 Patrols	2023 Patrols	2024 Patrols
Ramsey Lake	8	8	7
Wanapitei Lake	5	3	4
Whitewater Lake	5	0	6
Fairbanks Lake	3	1	1
Vermillion Lake/River	2	4	5
Long Lake	2	3	5
Lake Panache	2	2	2
Windy Lake	1	1	1
Nepahwin Lake	1	0	0
Nelson Lake	1	0	0
Onwatin Lake	1	0	0
McCharles Lake	1	0	0
Onaping River	1	0	0
Other (miscellaneous)	4	10	8
Total	38	33	39



GSPS Marine Unit

Enforcement and Education in 2024

Enforcement Type	PON	Warning	Total
Registration Numbers (missing or obscured)	1	3	4
Pleasure Craft Operators Card (fail to surrender)	0	36	36
Safety Equipment (batteries, whistles, bailer, buoyant line)	4	44	48
Lifejacket / PFD (warnings for inaccessible or not wearing auto-inflate)	1	11	12
Improper Towing (no spotter on vessel)	0	2	2
LLA	1	0	1
Fish and Game	0	0	0
Other Provincial Statutes	0	0	0
Total	7	96	103



Common Marine Complaints

- Excessive speeds near shoreline (30/10 rule)
- Nuisance operation of Personal Watercraft (PWC)
- Underage operation of PWC
- Operation with open alcohol on board
- Wakeboard boats (causing damage to shoreline and personal property)



Addressing Complaints

- Promote dialogue between lake users to address concerns.
- Report concern to the appropriate agency.
- Collaborate with stakeholders for consistent messaging.
- Use education over enforcement to foster voluntary compliance.
- Explore feasibility of a V.O.R.R. with input from residents and agencies.



V.O.R.R.

- Approach to enforcing V.O.R.R.s:
 - V.O.R.R.s are intended to improve the safety of navigation.
 - Officers may direct the movement of vessels to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.
 - Officer's authority is restricted to ensuring compliance.
 - Depending on the situation officers can provide education or take enforcement action.

GSPS can enforce existing Transport Canada regulations but cannot impose local bans or limitations unless a V.O.R.R. is in place.










Applying for a vessel operation restriction – *Local Authorities' Guide*

- Step 1: Preliminary assessment of the problem
- Step 2: Preparing and submitting a formal request for regulation
- Step 3: Review of the application by Transport Canada
- Step 4: Preparing a Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement
- Step 5: Publication in the Canada Gazette
- Step 6: Putting the restriction in place

Submit any minor amendment or update request (such as changing the geographical coordinates) to your nearest regional office. All regulatory amendment requests require a formal application to **Transport Canada**.



Types of Vessel Operation Restrictions

Schedule of the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations	Title of the schedule	Signage indicating the restriction in effect	Description of the signage
Schedule 1	Waters on which all vessels are prohibited		A diamond with a cross through it, in international orange
Schedule 2	Waters on which motorized vessels (including power-driven vessels and electric powered vessels) are prohibited		A circle around a propeller, with a line through it, in international orange
Schedule 3	Waters on which power-driven vessels are prohibited (vessels propelled by an internal combustion engine or a steam engine)		A circle around a propeller and gas tank, with a line through it, in international orange
Schedule 4	Waters in public parks and controlled access bodies of water on which motorized vessels (including power-driven vessels and electric powered vessels) are subject to an engine power limit		A circle around the maximum power limit in kilowatts, in international orange
Schedule 5 – Repealed	No title. Schedule 5 was repealed in 2017, and the contents were merged into Schedule 6.	N/A	N/A
Schedule 6 *	Waters on which motorized vessels (including power-driven vessels and electric powered vessels) are subject to a maximum speed limit (standardized, e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 km/h, etc.) * (not standardized, e.g. 6, 14, 22 km/h, etc.)		A circle around the maximum speed limit in kilometres per hour, in international orange
Schedule 7	Waters in which towing a person on any sporting or recreational equipment, or allowing a person to wake surf, is prohibited except during the permitted hours		A circle around the word "ski", with a line through it, in international orange
Schedule 8	Waters in which a sporting, recreational or public event or activity is prohibited		A circle around the word "regatta", with a line through it, in international orange



Next Steps

- As a community, collaborate on solutions, engage on exploring partnerships and mutual agreements
- Host Safe Boating sessions, invite local authorities to engage with community and answer questions and provide direction
- Report unsafe boating practices: 9-1-1 for emergencies only, if not an emergency, online reporting or non-emergency line
- Have video and photographic evidence of offenders to support claims
- Explore feasibility, impact, and effectiveness of requesting a V.O.R.R.
- Contact GSPS ITSU supervisor with further questions: Sgt. Ramsay blair.ramsay@gspss.ca (may transfer your request to an available Marine Officer)

