

Georgian Bay for *Everyone*

Boaters, cottagers, campers and anglers are all drawn to Georgian Bay for its beauty and to recharge in nature.

The following are suggestions to help us respect one another and get the most pleasure from our time on the Bay.



Boating
Ontario

Enjoy the Natural Beauty and Moor Safely

Anchor out of sight of cottages whenever possible and, when not possible, maintain reasonable sightline distances between boats and cottages. Anchor well away from boating channels. Minimize lighting but always have an anchor light on moored boats.

“Rafting” Etiquette

The noise and activity that results from rafting several boats together can often annoy fellow boaters and cottagers. If you are “rafting”, please ensure that wherever possible you are out of sight and earshot of neighbours.

Know and Control your Speed and Wake

Operate at a safe speed. Adhere to posted speed limits. There is a statutory 10 km speed limit within 30 meters of a shoreline unless in a buoyed channel. Minimize speed and wake where they may cause damage to docks, moored boats, and fish habitat, or create safety concerns for swimmers and smaller boats.

Know the “Rules of the Road”

Adhering to rules such as, “Yield to the right when there is an approaching boat”, is critical to safe boating, particularly in crowded channels.

Refresh your memory of the rules at Transport Canada’s web site before heading out on the water,

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/menu.htm>



Respect Private Property

Refrain from trespassing (people and pets) on private property and respect signage. Many parts of the shoreline host endangered or threatened species, so free ranging dogs are inappropriate. Tie lines to private shoreline are illegal. Do not tamper with docked or moored boats.

Enjoy the Quiet

Sound travels great distances across water, particularly on still nights. Unmuffled motors, power generators, loud music, loose halyards on sail boats and flag poles, and even loud voices, can all intrude on your neighbour's quiet time.



Protect Water Quality

Maintain cottage and boat sewage systems in proper order. Never discharge black water into the Bay. Use environmentally friendly soaps and cleaners. Refrain from bathing directly in the water as even "environmentally friendly" soaps and shampoos strip oxygen from the water as they degrade.

Preserve Public Lands

When you use public lands (Crown land, Provincial and National Parks, Conservation Reserves or Georgian Bay Land Trust properties) check for restrictions before going ashore and/or adhere to posted rules. Be mindful of any fire restrictions. Always leave a site in better condition than when you arrived. Where pets are allowed on shore, pick up and remove their waste.

Talk to your Fellow Georgian Bay Lovers

Many boaters, campers and anglers have long standing relationships with the Bay, as do many cottagers. Make the effort to speak with one another. Most of us have similar concerns about privacy and the environment. Open dialogue and communication will benefit all.

www.georgianbay.ca