

Wakeboarding & Wakeboard Boats on Kawagama

The sport of Wakeboarding has exploded around the world and Kawagama is no exception. Each year, we see more and more wakeboard boats on our lake along with many other boats that are becoming “wakeboarding friendly” (towers installed, more weight added, etc.)

As a fellow wakeboarder and wakeboard boat owner, I am writing this article to inform you that we all need to be very conscious of the impact wakeboarding can have on other boaters, cottagers and the environment. If enjoyed in a considerate manner, our sport will continue to grow and attract more riders of all ages. If we aren't careful, we can really affect the way others enjoy our lake in a negative way.

Much like tubing and *unlike* waterskiing, wakeboarding is best enjoyed behind a boat that creates a large wake. Large wakes can be a problem if created without care and understanding

Please take a moment to review the following DO's and DON'T's when driving a wakeboard boat:

- DO make sure that the boat is not overloaded. Your boat has a metal plate up front or near the transom that tells you how many people can fit safely in the boat.
- DO stay far away from shore, particularly far away from docks and other boaters
- DO be conscious of the environment. Large waves hitting the shore create erosion. If you ride in the larger areas of the lake, the waves will dissipate significantly before hitting shorelines.
- DO drive straight! Some boat drivers will drive in a constant, sweeping arch. It drives riders and other boaters crazy. Not only do you chop up the whole lake, but your wake won't be crisp while you're turning, and the centrifugal force will whip your rider towards the outside (making it hard to control the board and leading to some nasty falls) or giving them slack on the inside.
- DON'T start riding from your dock (dock starts), all this does is send big waves to your neighbors. Not cool. Start riding far away from shore, practice deep water starts instead.
- DON'T ride in a populated bay. We all like to find calm water, but riding in a Bay where there are lots of cottagers can damage boats, docks, and property
- DON'T make "power turns." A power turn is where you throttle all the way through your turn-around to pick up a downed rider. It sends your wake all the way across the lake, chopping it up for everyone. Power-turns are unnecessary. They are not any quicker than slowing down, idling around your turn, and then heading back towards your rider. And they are an obvious sign of an inexperienced (or inconsiderate) boat driver.
- DON'T act like a goof. Goof behaviour includes drinking alcohol on the boat, playing music too loud, riding after dark, using bad language, etc.

In the past few years, the KLCA and the Marinas on our lake have fielded many complaints about wakeboard boats and wakeboard boat drivers. Wakeboarding is developing a bad reputation. Let's work hard to change this. The sport is far too much fun!!

- BE COURTEOUS
- BE SAFE
- HAVE A BLAST!

Peter Evans
705-766-9888
July 5th, 2014

