



# **ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS CODE**

(EEC ) of the Association des Riverains du Lac Barron

## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of the Environmental and Ethics Code (EEC) is to provide guidelines that encourage socially and environmentally-responsible practices for and around Lac Barron.

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## ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS CODE

### Objective

The objective of the Code of Environment and Ethics (CEE) is to provide guidelines that encourage socially and environmentally-responsible practices for and around Barron Lake. This document supports the Association des Riverains du lac Barron (ARLB) in their initiatives to protect the environment of the lake and its surroundings to ensure its long-term enjoyment. Lac Barron provides a recreational and sports area for the community of Gore.

### Background

Lac Barron is a multi-purpose recreational lake located in Gore, Quebec. The ARLB, in collaboration with the municipality, developed this EEC in response to concerns about the impact of recreational boating, its increasing frequency of boating and its impact on wave size, water quality, ecosystems, wildlife and property.

A code of ethics is a compendium of best practices used by numerous associations and communities in our region and around the world. The EEC provides broad guidelines for lake users who support the protection of Barron Lake's riparian zone by maintaining water

quality and ensuring the safety of swimmers and boaters. It complements municipal, provincial and federal legislation.

The ERC hopes to help Barron Lake residents better understand their responsibilities and ensure that the lake environment remains safe and healthy.

## **Guidelines**

The following section of the EEC structures the information and guidelines based on values that ARLB wishes to promote. Each section draws on references and summaries of external regulations, as well as specific "citizen" guidelines that will enable residents to enjoy a safe and enjoyable experience on and off the water.

Please consult the EEC guidelines and discuss them with friends and family before boating and swimming in the lake. This will help sensitize people to the need to implement personal and environmental safety measures.

Become an ARLB member, register your boat, put a sticker on it and vote.

## **Safe and Environmentally-Conscious Boating**

The following guidelines summarize Transport Canada information that applies to Lac Barron, as well as the "Citizen guidelines". This is not an exhaustive list of boating regulations.

- 1. In order to reduce environmental impact, ONLY boats owned by Lac Barron landowners, or those with deeded access are authorized to access the lake. Make sure your ARLB registration sticker is affixed on your boat. These stickers will be given to all members who have paid their dues and register their motorboat with the Association. In addition, stickers will be issued for non-motorized boats.**
- 2. Boats must be in good working order, clean and free of contaminants or vegetation before entering the lake. Your motor must not contaminate the lake (no gas or oil leaks). Inspect your trailer and boat before launching into the water. Use environmentally friendly cleaning products and don't let harmful cleaning products enter the lake.**
- 3. Boaters are responsible for the good condition of their boats, the speed and wave created by it. No one shall operate a boat that generates an excessive wake on the shore. Look behind you to get an idea of the wake generated by your motorboat.**
- 4. All powerboat operators in Canada, regardless of age, engine power or length, must have an operator's card. Keep this card in your boat or on your person. Lac Barron is**

subject to numerous federal laws. The police will enforce occasionally and the fines are high.

5. **Pleasure boaters must respect the 10 km/h speed limit within thirty (30) meters of the shoreline to prevent erosion, minimize the impact on native aquatic fauna and to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all. In addition, the speed of watercraft must never cause, through its passage, personal injury, shoreline erosion or property damage.**
6. **Pleasure boating should be conducted in such a way as to minimize the creation of waves. Remember to stay as far as possible from the shore and in shallow water.**
7. **Boaters must stay at least fifty (50) meters from wildlife, bathers and non-motorized boats, and must respect buoys, posted speed limits and no-wake zones.**
8. **As studies show, large waves have a negative environmental effect both above and below the water surface and, consequently, no ballast should be used due to the impact they have on shoreline erosion, wildlife, ecosystems, people, water quality and property. For the size of Barron Lake, engines should be 4-stroke and ideally not exceed 70 HP.**
9. **Always travel counter-clockwise on Barron Lake and when towing (skiers, inflatables, etc.) remember to go to the center of the lake to reduce wave movement on shore. Motorboats must leave and return to shore perpendicular to the shoreline. This reduces the effect of wave impact. Take care to minimize the impact of the wake in all narrow areas of the lake, i.e. where the lake is narrower than fifty (50) meters. It is important to note and remember that the Small Vessel Regulations stipulate that the legal speed limit for all motorboats is 10 km/hr within thirty (30) meters of any shoreline.**
10. **No boat should exceed a speed of 35 mph or 55 km/hr.**
11. **Limit motor boating between 8:30 a.m. and sunset to allow local residents to enjoy the lake in peace and quiet. All boats must be lighted between dusk and sunrise. This is a federal law.**
12. **Swimmers must stay close to shore, be visible and not swim alone. Children and less experienced swimmers must always wear a flotation jacket when near, on or in the water.**

**13. Water skiing and other aquatic activities (federal law). The rules governing water skiing also apply to other recreational towing activities such as knee boarding, barefoot skiing and tubing.**

**Here are a few useful rules for boating on Lac Barron:**

**Rule A**

**There must be an observer aboard the boat who can monitor and communicate with you and the person you are towing and you need to retrieve.**

**Rule B**

**There must be an empty seat for each person being towed in case the person needs to come aboard.**

**Rule C**

**Personal watercraft used for towing must be capable of carrying carry three or more persons.**

**Rule D**

**If a person being towed is not wearing a lifejacket or PFD, one must be carried on board the boat.**

**Rule E**

**Towing is forbidden when visibility is poor or between one hour after sunset and sunrise.**

**AS A REMINDER**

**Similar recommendations concerning environmental impact are also approved and prescribed by the Fédération of Water Skiing and Wakeboarding in accordance with the following recommendations:**

- Always comply with codes of conduct, especially with regard to noise control, distance from the boat and skier/tubers near the shore and restricted areas.**
- Stay away from shorelines whenever possible. Always try to avoid harming birds and wildlife when boating or water-skiing. It is strongly recommended for water skiing, to keep a MINIMUM distance of fifty (50) meters from the shoreline in order to reduce the impact of erosion and ensure shoreline protection.**
- New research indicates that certain boat types generate larger and heavier waves, such as wakeboard boats and weighted boats, 300 meters from the shore should be the rule of thumb to avoid damage caused by wake. These types of boats should be restricted to the wider parts of the lake. The wake must dissipate both above and below the water surface**

**before touching the shore. These heavier, wave-generating boats should move towards and away from the wider part of the lake to cause as little environmental impact as possible.**

**➤ It's important to remember that refraining from using ballasts, wakeboarding, wake surfing or any other use will considerably reduce shoreline erosion as well as environmental and property damage. The majority of ARLB team leaders neither encourage nor support the use of these types of boats on Barron Lake due to its size and shape and the fragile nature of the lake.**

**(See diagrams provided.)**

## **Water pollution, septic tanks and septic fields**

### **Septic Fields**

- 1. Keep the lake clean. Don't throw debris into the lake. Do not wash in the lake and do not leave on the dock, boat or shoreline anything that could be blown by the wind.**
- 2. Septic tanks and fields must be in good condition and ensure contaminants from entering the lake. All septic tanks should be examined to ensure that they are working properly. This is a provincial law. Information about these regulations is available from the Municipality. (You can also refer to the documents containing new by-laws as provided by Gore on the last page of the EEC.)**
- 3. At a minimum, seasonal lodgings must have tank cleaned tank every 4 years and provide the receipt to the municipality. This must be done every 2 years for full-time residents. It's a provincial law.**
- 4. Never use bleach. Choose and use phosphate-free cleaning products. Only use hand soaps dishwashing soaps, detergents and cleaning products. This applies to dishwashers, washing machines household cleaning products that can seep into the soil or seep into the ground or septic tank. Do not use antibacterial products, as they are also harmful to your septic system.**
- 5. Never use fertilizers or pesticides. There are Regulations that regulate the use of these products in many municipalities in Canada. Consult the Gore website for regulations and ideas for turf alternatives.**
- 6. Prevent all harmful chemicals from seeping into the lake. This involves solutions for washing cars, boats and house cleaning.**

## **Courtesy and Consideration for Others**

- 1. Noise pollution: Excessive noise of any kind disrupts peace and tranquility and has a negative effect on wildlife. Remember that noise propagates clearly and over a long distance over water. Check the noise rules and be considerate of others.**
- 2. Municipal by-laws stipulate that noise is forbidden prohibited after 10 pm until 7 a.m. Noise must not exceed the limits of your property during these periods. Loud music (on shore and from boat stereos) and the noise of small engines would also fall into this category.**
- 3. Fireworks are dangerous, and toxic pollutants constitute a fire hazard as well as a nuisance. Your Board of Board of Directors does not approve the use of fireworks on Barron Lake. This is also in effect on neighboring lakes. Furthermore, in an attempt discourage their use, the new municipal by-law, no. 188, now requires a permit for fireworks. Please also refer to the section at the end of this document.**
- 4. Household alarms must not be used. The alarm systems should be limited to alerting residents, alarm companies or the police.**
- 5. Property lighting, like noise, is transported across the lake and can be a nuisance to others. Please to maintain an appropriate wattage and turn off your outdoor lights as possible. Be aware that motion sensors can trigger floodlights on a windy day due to wind movement. Disable motion sensors when not in use.**

## **Permits :**

- Permits are required for Structural renovations or upgrades or for any work carried out on their property or shoreline.**
- Permits are required for fireworks or any campfires larger than (1 m x 1 m x 1 m). Campfires must be located at least fifteen (15) meters from the shore and three (3) meters from buildings or property lines. If there is a fire ban in effect, no fires or fireworks are authorized.**
- Call or e-mail the municipality for assistance with any permit requirements. The municipal offices are closed Friday afternoons after 12:00 noon.**
- Renting out your home: Short-term rentals are prohibited in Gore. Article 32 stipulates that a rental period may not be less than thirty (30) days.**

## REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety [Transport Canada Boating Safety](#)

Red Cross Swimming and Boating Safety [Red Cross Swimming and Boating Safety LINK](#)

Impact of Wake from Boats [Be WAKE AWARE! Link](#)

CRE - LAURENTIDES [CRE - LAURENTIDES - LINK](#)

City of GORE Link [City of Gore - By-Laws](#)