



# Watch Your Wake



## HAS THIS HAPPENED TO YOU?

"...waves from a cruiser caused damage as items fell and crashed in the boat..."

"...fridge and cupboard contents strewn..."

"... I had concern for my safety in the canoe, where I had little ability to escape their path – most boat captains were unaware of the affect of their wake on small craft..."

"...while repairing our dock, the wash from a fast boat was so violent it threw my husband off his feet onto the dock and he cracked three ribs..."

"...commonly a wash is so violent that it throws water six or more feet high and soaks an area four feet from the shoreline – my fear is that one day a child will be thrown into the water as a result of the dangerous wash..."

"... in mid-summer, we were asked to tow a customer's pontoon boat which, while stopped in the water, had been turtled by a quick series of intense washes..."



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The Rideau Canal  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2007

Le canal Rideau  
inscrit sur la Liste du  
patrimoine mondial en 2007



## FINES Historic Canals Regulations:



Section 8: Failure to comply with a posted sign **\$100.00**

Section 11(2)(f): Alter or destroy a natural resource **\$200.00**

Section 30(a): Operating a vessel in a manner that endangers persons or property **\$200.00**

Section 30(b): Failure to control wake resulting in danger to the safety of persons or property **\$200.00**

## NO WAKE ZONE

Boat wake and wash is a major problem along the Rideau Canal. While cruising close to shore, in narrow channels, near other boats, swimmers and docks, operate as close to dead slow as possible while maintaining steerage and control of your craft.



## SPEED LIMITS

The Ontario Provincial Police patrol from Kingston to Burritts Rapids and the Ottawa Police Service patrols from Burritts Rapids through Ottawa. Speed zones have been established along the navigation channels. All zones are posted with signs and regulated under the Boating Restrictions Regulations, part of the Canada Shipping Act.



There are two types of signs – the boundary markers (arrow signs) which identify the beginning and end of a speed zone, and speed limit signs (circles), which remind boaters to obey the speed limit while they are in the zone. Both types of signs are either posted on the shoreline, on structures, or are attached to floating white buoys adjacent to the navigation channel. Where posted, the speed limit is 10 km/hr (6 mph).

Even where speed signs are not posted, speed limits may still apply, such as: **Canada Shipping Act - Boating Restriction Regulations** PROHIBITIONS Section 6 (5.2) Speed Zones: Within 30 m from shore the speed limit is 10 km/hr, unless in a channel of less than 100 m, or waterskiing following a path directly perpendicularly away from the shore.

## CARELESS OPERATION

Rideau Canal Management will continue to work in partnership with enforcement agencies to provide a safe environment along the waterway. It is however, up to those witnessing careless operation of vessels to report these incidents.

Local police enforce not only the **Historical Canal Regulations**, but also the **Canada Shipping Act, Small Vessel Regulations** such as: "No person shall operate a small vessel in a careless manner without due care and without reasonable consideration for other persons." Punishable with a set fine of \$250.00.

Remember that you are responsible for the cost of repair or restitution for damage and discomfort your boat causes to people, objects, wildlife and shoreline. Under the **Contraventions Act**, enforcement authorities can ticket offenders on the spot, instead of requiring them to appear in court.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

- Watch your wash. As you travel, watch behind you. If your wash is sending other boats rolling, forcing them sideways or causing occupants to

