Maranacook Lake Association

"Keep our Lake Alive"

For the love of the lake,

LAKEFRONT HOMEOWNERS PLEASE HELP PROTECT MARANACOOK LAKE'S WATER QUALITY

Check camp roads and driveways to make sure muddy water and spring materials are NOT running into the lake. Divert all to wooded or vegetated areas.

Why: Runoff of these materials from camp roads and driveways is one of the leading causes of increased algae and pollution in lakes.

Don't rake any leaves, pine needles or spring vegetation into the lake. Also, avoid raking to bare soil or raking away all materials.

Why: These materials in the lake smother aquatic habitat and use up oxygen to decompose. Leaving a light layer of pine needles or vegetation on the land will help absorb rain and keep soil in place.

If you must use fertilizer on lawns or gardens, make sure the middle number of the three numbers on the fertilizer bag is "0". Make sure property workers are adhering to this guide, too.

Why: The middle number in a fertilizer is Phosphorus. Rain can carry phosphorus from fertilizer to the lake in runoff, and too much phosphorus in lakes causes algae and increased pollution. A "0" indicates the product doesn't have any phosphorus.

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Make sure to have your septic tank pumped and inspected every 3-5 years.

Why?: Human waste is very rich in phosphorus . Properly functioning septic systems prevent phosphorus from getting into the lake where it could cause algae blooms. If a septic tank gets too full of solids the leach field can clog, which will cause wastewater to break out on the surface and potentially run into the lake, as well as costing the homeowner money to repair.

Check with your local code officer before beginning projects on the shore line zone.

Why? Many common landscaping and excavation activities are not appropriate for shoreline areas because they are detrimental to water quality, and are therefore prohibited. Protect the lake and protect yourself from being cited for a violation.

Leave all landscapes around the lake front natural.

Why? Healthy native vegetation in the form of trees and shrubs holds soil in place and absorbs rainfall and runoff. This stabilizes the shoreline and treats the pollutants carried to the lake in runoff. Removing this vegetation is not allowed without a permit.

Make sure you have a 25-foot-wide buffer between the lake and your lawn.

Why? Rainwater running across a lawn will pick up nutrients like phosphorus, and possibly soil. A buffer will prevent some of this from reaching the lake. A 25-foot setback from the lake is a general minimum recommendation for existing lawns, and larger buffers would be more effective. New lawns generally require a 100-foot setback per Shoreland Zoning regulations.

Protect and repair eroding areas along shore lines, streams, and drainage ditches.

Why? Eroded soil washing into the lake causes harm to lake health in two ways. Soil particles contain phosphorus which promotes the growth of algae. Soil also will make the lake water cloudy, and then settle on the bottom where it can smother habitat for aquatic organisms.

For more information, please email the Maranacook Lake Association at maranacooklakeassociation@gmail.com

IMPORTANT
NEW MAINE BOATING LAW
REGARDING
"DISTANCE TO SHORE"

Any boat's wake can cause serious damage when it hits our shores too hard. It can erode the shoreline, disturb sediment and bring nutrients into the lake which contribute to algae growth. Wakes also hurt our loon population by washing over nests and eggs before chicks safely hatch. (Read about the impact on loons on the next page.)

200 FEET FROM SHORE FOR ALL BOATS

Maine already has a "boater safety zone" law requiring ALL boats to maintain headway speed within 200 feet of shore, but that distance won't dampen the impact of the larger waves created by wake boats.

> *Note: Headway speed means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the watercraft.*

300 FEET FROM SHORE FOR WAKE BOATS

The Maine legislature passed LD2284 on April 3, 2024. This law requires all wakesurfing activity to take place 300 feet from shore and in waters at least 15 feet deep. Because of the ballast tanks and other mechanical systems designed to enhance the size of the boat's wake for surfing, the additional requirements to stay further from shore are necessary to protect our shores and wildlife.

5OO FEET FROM SHORE FOR WAKE BOATS

Many states require wake boats to stay 500 feet from shore and in waters at least 20 feet deep. Although it is not Maine law, we ask all wake boats to consider taking this extra precaution.

To learn more, visit https://mainelakes.org/boaters/

BOATING CAN HARM LOONS

Loons mate and build their nest (fragile structures of sticks and grass.) from mid-May to mid-June. Then they incubate their eggs for another 29 days. This means their **nests are vulnerable to our boats' wakes from Mid-May to mid-July.** Wakes can damage nests, wash them into the water, or wash eggs out of the nest.

Most loons prefer islands for their nests, preferably hidden in vegetation with a 180-degree view so they can watch for predators by land, water or air. Also, because loons have a difficult time walking on land, they place their nests very close to the water. Once their chicks have hatched, adult loons have been known to roll their new chicks straight into the water from the nests.

Boaters' actions make a difference for loons. To protect our loons, please:

- Stay away from our islands from Mid-May to Mid-July because a nesting loon might be tucked away in the grasses out of sight.
- If you drive near our islands, proceed carefully -- stay at least 200 feet from shore and do not leave a wake behind your boat.
- Please drive with care whenever passing swimming loons. Not only are the adults vulnerable, but baby and juvenile loons are harder to see and are often near their parents. Many loons are killed each year when hit by boats.

Maranacook has about 32 adults loons who return every year. Usually nesting success produces around 2-3 new chicks. Let's do everything to protect them all.

Photo courtesy of Rob True and Maine Audubon

NEW MAINE BOATING LAW
FOR EVERYONE BORN AFTER JANUARY 1, 1999

25+ HORSEPOWER MOTORBOAT

Beginning January 1, 2024, a person born on or after January 1, 1999, may not operate a motorboat greater than 25 horsepower for recreational purposes on Maine inland waters or territorial waters, unless that person is **age 12 or older and has completed a Boater Safety & Education Course**. **Also, they must present their Boater Safety & Education Course Certificate** for inspection when requested by a law enforcement officer.

There are a few exemptions. Please see the F requently Asked Questions on Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's website for more information: **maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html#faq**

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT(JET SKI)

Beginning January 1, 2024, a person born on or after Jan 1, 1999, may not operate a personal watercraft (jet ski) on Maine inland waters or territorial waters, unless that person is **age 16 or older and has completed a Boater Safety & Education Course**. **Also, they must present their Boater Safety & Education Course Certificate** for inspection when requested by a law enforcement officer.

SUPERVISE A CHILD UNDER 12

A person born after January 1, 1999 is also required to **complete a Boater Safety & Education Course and be at least age 16** to supervise a child under age 12 who is operating a motorboat. As stated above, they must carry the course certificate.

BOATER SAFETY & EDUCATION COURSE

The Maine IF&W course can be completed in person or online or through the equivalency exam. To learn more, visit: maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html

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Not yet a member of MLA?

We encourage all community members to join! We all enjoy our beautiful lake and it takes a village to keep it clean and healthy!

Scan the qr code or visit: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/mla-membership-campaign

Like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/maranacooklake

WATCH FOR UPDATES AND EVENTS!!