

*Gearing up for a great season...*

## **LIFE AT THE LAKE**

Peck's Lake and its surrounds – including the pristine waters and beautiful woodlands for which the Adirondacks are well known -- are comprised of entirely private property. That means that besides all the laws and regulations of state, county, town and the Adirondack Park, the properties of Peck's Lake are also governed by covenants or deed restrictions. Taken together, the rules and guidelines outlined below are aimed at keeping the lake waters safe, the natural environment healthy, and the neighborhood community peaceful. Please share this with your guests and ensure that they also abide by these rules and guidelines.

### **Keeping the lake waters safe...**

**Boat capacity and speed** are governed by the property deed covenants that cover land uses and structures as well as boating and watersports<sup>1</sup>: The motor capacity of a boat may not exceed 40HP, and speeds must be less than 15 mph (except in the ski zone, see below).

**Along the shoreline**, boats must maintain a speed **at or below** 5 MPH within 200 feet of shore or anchored boats. This is not only a courtesy to those affected by the boat's wake (including nesting loons!), but also a protection against shoreline erosion.

**Safe boating** and adherence to applicable law, rules and regulations is expected – for both motorized boats and canoes/kayaks/paddleboats<sup>2</sup>. Jet skis are not permitted. Be sure that you have a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)/life jacket for every occupant in the boat. New York State law<sup>3</sup> requires wearing a PFD for:

- **All** children under the age of 12 aboard any vessel (including kayaks, rowboats, etc)
- **Anyone**, regardless of age, being towed (as in waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding, and so on)
- **Everyone**, between November 1 and May 1

**Watersports** (such as waterskiing, tubing, etc.) are restricted to the designated area (marked with buoys), and to the hours between 11am and 5pm.

### **Keeping the natural environment healthy...**

**Aquatic invasive plants** have become a significant threat to the ecology and economy of many Adirondack lakes. Invasives travel to new waters on boats (hull, bilge, trailer...). If you bring a boat, canoe, kayak or fishing gear from another body of water to Peck's Lake, please inspect and clean it of all plant life. There is a free boat wash station located across from Caroga Town Hall on Routes 10 and 29A, open from 8 AM to 6 PM from Monday to Thursday and from 7 AM to 7 PM on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. It is only a short 10 minute drive from Peck's Lake.

**Loose fishing line** and other fishing gear or debris can entangle loons and other aquatic life – if you see stray line or debris in the water, please remove and safely discard in trash away from the water.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://plpa.org/images/archives/boating%20and%20watersports%20regulations%20-%20april.2018.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/documents/NYSBoatersGuide.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/safe-boating/life-jackets.aspx>

**Lead fishing weights** are poisonous for loons, eagles, and other wildlife. Although weights smaller than a half ounce are no longer sold in NYS, there may still be some in your tacklebox. Please discard these safely away from the water, and make sure that your tackle is lead-free<sup>4</sup>.

**Campfires** can quickly turn into wildfires! The Department of Environmental Conservation prohibits open burning of brush, leaves, and other debris without a permit, and offers guidance about fire safety<sup>5</sup>: If burning outdoors, use an existing campfire ring, away from overhanging branches and other combustible material. Fires must be less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in diameter, and must not be left unattended until fully extinguished. If a fire is out-of-control, call 911; the local fire department will respond, and probably also the DEC Forest Ranger.

**The skies over Peck's Lake offer incredible views**, and with no human sources of light, the night sky is rich with stars. A resident at our neighboring Canada Lake pointed out that "*Astronomers call the Adirondack region's night sky a "dark puddle," highly desirable for stargazing, with the Milky Way easily visible. But our puddle is becoming lighter, affected by light pollution from places as far away as Montreal and as nearby as our neighbor's dock light.*"<sup>6</sup> As dark as it gets, please shield your outside lights, keep them on only when needed, and re-consider any automatic dusk-to-dawn lights you may have.

#### **Keeping the neighborhood community peaceful...**

**Go slow!** The posted speed limit on the North and South Shore Roads is 30 mph. With many residents and guests walking and biking, and children playing near the roadways, please drive slowly and safely! ATV's are not permitted.

**The acoustics of a lake are remarkable** – sound carries farther than you might think, and a word spoken in the middle of the lake can be heard on shore! When sounds are louder – as in raised voices or music or motors – that effect is magnified. Keep in mind that your merriment, music, and motors will be heard far beyond your location! Your neighbors enjoying the peaceful quiet of the lake – next door and across the lake -- will appreciate it if you keep your sound-making low.

**Not everyone loves dogs** – particularly those that bark while their owners are away, run at will, and leave messes. Please keep your pups happily quiet and contained on your property, and pick up after them on your walks.

#### **See something? Say something!**

If you see or hear something that is outside the bounds of the rules and guidelines, please say something! A civil conversation with the individuals involved or with the property owner is a good first strategy. Issues with watercraft and watersports can also be directed to Peck's Lake Marina at (518) 725-1294; if staff are available, they'll go out to check things out. For issues that can't be resolved by direct contact, contact the Sheriff's Department at (518) 736-2100, or, in cases of emergency, call 911.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7908.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7827.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://canadalake.mylaketown.com/Light-pollution>