# Wakeboarding

## HAVING FUN WHILE MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

*There is concern with large waves which can cause:*

- *Land Erosion*
- *Water Quality Degradation*
- *Dock and Boat Damage*
- *Wildlife/Fish Habitat Destruction*

*Wakeboarding has increased substantially in the recent years and with it has come the popularity of wake boats designed to create ever bigger waves. While the challenge and excitement this sport provides are attractive, there are unintentional effects of these waves which may be seriously impacting shorelines, lake water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, docks and boats.*

*If you are a wakeboarder, please consider the following information on how waves generated during wakeboarding can impact the surrounding ecosystem and lakeshore properties.*

### *What is the Impact of Wakeboard Waves?*

Because this sport relies on the generation of very large waves, the impact on the surrounding shoreline can be as drastic as the most severe storm, especially when water levels are high. On sensitive, or soft, shorelines where soil rather than rock dominates, large swells will erode the shoreline faster. This erosion can create suspended sediment in our lakes. These sediments can reduce the clarity of the lake, clog or scratch fish gills, suffocate fish eggs, and add large amounts of nutrients into the water.

*over…*

*Our waterways are for all of us to enjoy, so*

*PLEASE:*

- *protect water quality*
- *respect aquatic life and wildlife*
- *respect other's rights to enjoy the lakes*

The nutrient *phosphorus* is the leading cause of algal blooms, which harms our water quality. Fish spawning habitat destruction also occurs as small rocks and sand that house eggs are scattered by wave action.

## *Where Can I Wakeboard and Not Cause Shoreline Damage?*

1. Find large open areas where waves will diminish before reaching shore. Avoid small bays, channels and enclosed areas, especially during high water periods.
2. Observe the type of shoreline you are wakeboarding near – select a location where:
   a. The shoreline is rocky, not soft or marshy, to avoid erosion
   b. There is minimal development (i.e. docks, boats, cottages) to avoid property damage
   c. There are no marshy areas where fish habitat is likely to exist
   d. You can maintain a distance of at least 300m offshore to allow for waves to lose their energy before reaching the shore
3. Always leave and approach the shore in a straight line – turning generates large waves.

By considering these simple choices, you can contribute to the long term health of our lakes while continuing to enjoy your sport.

- For more information about fish habitat –contact DFO Kenora, (807) 468-6441 or visit www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- For more information on water quality of your lake – contact the Ministry of the Environment's Lake Partner Program at (705) 766-2254 or visit www.ene.gov.on.ca
- Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association at (807) 468-8715 or www.lowdpoa.com

## *Ride Right*

Discuss your wakeboarding with your neighbours to see if they have concerns. Look behind your boat to see where your wake is headed.

Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association

Mid-Canada Marine Dealers Association

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario