



# OTTER LAKE Mandatory Boat Washing



## Mandatory Boat Washing By-law 02-09-2020

### Otter Lake Taxpayers

- Before launching your boat, you must wash it at the hot water pressure wash station at 15 Palmer.
- First, get your magnetic card at the Municipal Office to exempt you from payment.
- Attest to understanding and complying with the by-law.
- Swipe the card at the payment kiosk located at the boat wash station and wash your boat.
- The payment kiosk issues a “wash certificate” and “receipt”.

### Otter Lake Visitors

- Before launching your boat, you must wash it at the hot water pressure wash station at 15 Palmer
- A nominal fee for motorized boats is payable at the payment kiosk.
- Once your boat is washed, the kiosk issues a “wash certificate” and “receipt”.
- Keep the “wash certificate” on your person as proof and place the “receipt” in a visible location on the dashboard of the vehicle used to transport the boat to the launch site.

### Everyone

- Help protect our lakes:
- Communicate to others the importance of boat washing
  - Alert the Municipality if you are aware of someone not following the mandatory boat washing by-law.
  - You are key to protecting the water ways where you play and live.

### Boat Washing Rules

- Remove water from live wells or compartments that hold water.
- Ensure all signs of plants attached to the boat, motor and trailer are removed by the pressure washer.
- Non-motorized crafts (e.g. paddle boards, canoes) must also be washed (free of charge).
- Boats moved to another body of water must be washed again before launching.

### Enforcement

- Fines shall be levied for individuals not complying with the by-law. ([www.otterlakequebec.ca/bylaws](http://www.otterlakequebec.ca/bylaws))
- Boat wash station and launch areas are monitored.

### Why Wash Your Boat?

With its natural beauty and the abundance of fish in its surrounding lakes, the Municipality of Otter Lake is currently a jewel of a destination.

This will be destroyed if we are infected with “invasive species”. Less than 100 KM away, lakes are already infected with the invasive species of Eurasian milfoil and zebra mussels. Our lakes could be next.

Hot water pressure washing of boats before launching is the best way to prevent the spread of invasive species.

- Shoreline taxpayers who leave their boat permanently on the same body of water are issued a sticker to affix to the front of their boat.
- Boats moved to another body of water must be washed again before launching.
- Do not allow others to use your magnetic card to wash their boat.

- Once waterways are infected, invasive species are impossible to remove.
- Lakes can become non-swimmable
- Fish population declines/dies.
- Waterfront property values decline which results in higher taxes for all.
- Tourism declines which hurts local businesses.

### Impact Of Infected Lakes

Zebra Mussels



Eurasian Milfoil



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