



## **The Decibel Coalition Enhance Existing Legislation to Include Decibel Limits**

GBA has recently joined The Decibel Coalition and we would like to tell you more about it so you can inform your members.

Safe Quiet Lakes (SQL) is a volunteer organization based in Muskoka. Their objective is to make the Muskoka lakes safer and quieter to ensure the sustainable enjoyment of a treasured shared resource through education and advocacy. [www.safequiet.ca](http://www.safequiet.ca) .

Excessive boat noise is persistent, pervasive and growing problem on Canadian inland waterways. From Lake Memphremegog in Quebec through cottage country in Ontario and out to lakes Okanagan and Shuswap in BC the increase in the number of high performance boats with little or no mufflers is spoiling the cottage experience. A number of municipalities in BC have attempted to control boat motor noise by enacting by-laws. SQL did a survey in 2017 with 3,300 respondents, one of the largest surveys of its type in North America. Sixty-seven percent wanted muffler laws enforced and 61% wanted decibel legislation. Canada is unique among the USA and Europe to not have decibel limits for boat motor noise. Current legislation, that requires a muffler, is so difficult to enforce that the police will not issue tickets. To learn more about Canadian boat muffler regulations visit: <https://safequiet.ca/engine-mufflers/> .

In 2019 SQL started work to establish a broad national coalition to lobby the federal government to enhance the existing Canada Small Vessel Regulations (SOR/2010-91) to include decibel limits and efficient, effective means for enforcement. They have named it the “Decibel Coalition”. To date they have official support from Ontario lake associations including the GBA, Muskoka Lakes Association, Lake Joseph North Association and the Memphremegog Conservation Inc. Equally important is support from the boat manufacturing industry – the National Marine Manufacturers Association and strong, but not yet official, encouragement from the OPP. When fully established and a national mandate in hand, the Decibel Coalition will approach Transport Canada to begin the process to get parliament to update the legislation.

We encourage you to inform your members about this very important initiative spearheaded by SQL. Rob Bosomworth, a director of SQL and a Lake Rosseau cottager is the chairman of the Decibel Coalition. He can supply material and information and would be pleased to present to your board and/or members, if you would like him to. He can be reached at 416-576-4719 or [rbosomworth@gmail.com](mailto:rbosomworth@gmail.com)

To learn more and lend your support please visit: <https://safequiet.ca/decibel-coalition/> .