

Re: CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS - REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN
CONTROL OF NOISE FROM POWER BOAT OPERATION
(ITEM 2, REPORT NO. 37, MAY 14, 1973)
(ITEM 1, REPORT NO. 7, FEBRUARY 3, 1975)

Appearing on the Council agenda for the July 18, 1977 meeting as correspondence is a letter from Mr. A. T. Harrison, Administrator, Regional District of Central Okanagan. The letter requests support for a resolution which has been submitted to the U.B.C.M. convention asking for changes to the Boating Restriction Regulations and provisions of the Canada Shipping Act "...to provide for regulation of noise caused by the operation of power boats operating on navigable water."

Council may recall that the District of Burnaby was also concerned about the use of power boats, particularly on Burnaby and Deer Lakes which are also classed as navigable waters. There is a procedure under which the regulations can be amended to provide specifically for local conditions. Attached for Council's information is a copy of a report which was submitted to Council on May 14, 1973 which outlines the concerns of Burnaby at that time and the proposed course of action. The actions recommended in that report were taken and, in fact, Burnaby and Deer Lakes were added to the regulations with restrictions on power boats.

This was accomplished on May 1, 1974 with the issuance of Federal Order-in-Council SOR/DORS74-282. Under this Order-in-Council Burnaby and Deer Lakes were included in Schedule "B" of the Federal Government Boating Restriction Regulations.

It should be noted by Council that the primary concerns at the time of Burnaby's application were related to the effect of power boats on the ecological system and on the safety of people engaging in other recreational activities. The question of noise while not covered in the attached report, was also a very real concern at that time.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report item be forwarded to the Regional District of Central Okanagan for its information.

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ITEM 2
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2. Re: Proposed Restrictions on Burnaby and Deer Lakes

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The Department of Transport in 1972 promulgated Boating Restriction Regulations under which the Department, on the advice of Provinces, is allowed to place restrictions on the use of boats in designated waters by means of Federal Orders-in-Council. The main categories of restrictions are as follows:

1. Waters on which all vessels are prohibited except with the authority of the minister.
2. Waters on which power driven boats are prohibited except with the authority of the minister.
3. Waters on which power driven boats are subject to a maximum speed limit.
4. Waters on which a power driven boat towing a person on water skis, a surf board or any other such equipment is prohibited.

The Department of Transport will accept proposed restrictions and forward them once each year during early winter to Ottawa for inclusion in an amending Order-in-Council to become effective for the boating season of the following summer.

It is the opinion of staff that the senior governments should be requested to officially acknowledge in the Boating Restriction Regulations the prohibition of power driven vessels on both Burnaby and Deer Lakes. This restriction is considered necessary because:

A. BURNABY LAKE

1. Motor boats on the Lake would cause a sloughing effect on the channel in which the rowing course is located.

Associated Engineering Services Limited, a consulting firm which was instrumental in preparing a comprehensive study of Burnaby Lake, has expressed the opinion that the effect of wash from speed boats upon the side slopes of the dredged area of the rowing course is a matter of continuing concern. The Consultants advise that "there is not only a danger of bank erosion and slough in, but also washes may well cause premature break away of mud islands from the course edges and slopes. It is recognized that the use of speed boats during the period of the Canada Summer Games 1973 and any rowing regatta thereafter is essential, and that attendant risks must be accepted. However, speed boat activity on the Lake should be restricted to these periods and not allowed as a general rule." (The power boats to be used in connection with the Summer Games and on occasions when rowing events are held on the Lake should, in the opinion of the Consultants, be small aluminum or fibre glass boats no larger than fourteen feet in length and powered by a maximum 10 h.p. motor).

2. This area would be severely damaged and possibly destroyed as a wintering place for waterfowl if unregulated power boating activities were allowed.
3. A few aircraft occasionally land on and take off from the Lake and we hope that they use the Still Creek and Deer Lake channels entering the Lake as well as the Brunette River channel leaving the Lake rather than the rowing course itself.

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B. DEER LAKE

Deer Lake is a relatively small lake (approximately 1/2 mile long and 1/4 mile wide) located in an attractive residential area of modest density. Because of its setting and accessibility, it is heavily used by swimmers, sunbathers and picnickers during the spring and summer months.

Power boats on Deer Lake, in the opinion of the Parks and Recreation Administrator and the Recreation Director, in addition to conflicting with the residential surroundings and types of activities that typify the characteristics of the Lake, but would also create a serious hazard to the large number of people who use the Lake for recreational purposes.

The Parks and Recreation Commission on May 9, 1973, expressed its approval to have the Department of Transport add to the Boating Restriction Regulations the prohibition of power driven boats over 10 h.p. on Burnaby and Deer Lakes, with exceptions as noted below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Department of Transport be advised by the Manager that the Corporation of the District of Burnaby wishes to have added to the Boating Restriction Regulations in British Columbia the prohibition of power driven boats on Burnaby and Deer Lakes, except that boats powered with motors of 10 h.p. or less should be allowed on Burnaby Lake with the written permission of the Corporation of Burnaby only for the purpose of training rowers, scullers and canoeists, and for the conducting of rowing, sculling and canoeing events; and

THAT the prohibitions should not extend to agencies of government carrying out their official duties, or to consultants and contractors engaged by government agencies to do work on the lakes.