

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
BROME-MISSISQUOI MRC
TOWN OF BROME LAKE**

DRAFT BY-LAW NUMBER 2024-05

**BY-LAW CONCERNING THE CLEANING OF BOATS
ON BROME LAKE**

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

- WHEREAS the introduction of aquatic invasive species into a body of water can have considerable social, ecological and economic repercussions.
- WHEREAS Brome Lake is a collective treasure to be protected.
- WHEREAS Brome Lake attracts a large number of tourists, with more than 1 500 motorboats plying the lake each summer, and more than 50% of boaters come from outside the Municipality.
- WHEREAS the Town of Brome Lake has been involved in a boat cleaning process since 2022 by becoming the owner of the Mobile Boat Cleaning Station and that the Municipal Council deems it appropriate to regulate the boat cleaning process.
- WHEREAS according to a report published in 2022, Brome Lake presents a moderate risk for the introduction of zebra mussels.
- WHEREAS the contamination of lakes Memphrémagog and Massawippi by the zebra mussel increases the risk of introduction into Lake Brome, given their proximity and the fact that many boats navigate between the different bodies of water.
- WHEREAS motorized boats are recognized vectors of aquatic invasive species.

WHEREAS the cleaning of boats is a recognized method of decontamination to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into lakes.

WHEREAS a Notice of Motion was given by Mr. Lee Patterson at the regular meeting of April 2, 2024;

CONSEQUENTLY, COUNCIL DECREES AS FOLLOWS:

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ARTICLE 1 PREAMBLE

The preamble and appendices form an integral part of this bylaw.

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE OF THE BY-LAW

The purpose of this by-law is to require the washing of boats, accessories and trailers launched in Brome Lake, and to regulate the procedure, in order to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic species, and to preserve the uses and biodiversity of the lake.

ARTICLE 3 TERRITORY OF APPLICATION

This by-law applies to Brome Lake and the six main tributaries of the lake (Pearson Creek, Cold Brook, Argyll Creek, Quilliams Creek, Inverness Creek, McLaughlin Creek) in their portion flowing on the territory of the Municipality.

ARTICLE 4 DEFINITIONS

Unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

"Washing Certificate": Official document certifying that the Boat in question has been cleaned at a specific time. The document must show at least the identity of the owner, the description and, if applicable, the licence number of the Craft, the date and time of issue and the period of validity of the Certificate.

"Watercraft": Any "motorized watercraft" and "non-motorized watercraft":

"Motorised craft": Any craft fitted with a mechanical means of propulsion powered by an energy source.

"Non-motorised craft": Any craft without mechanical propulsion powered by an energy source, such as canoes, kayaks, pedalos, paddleboards, sailboards and hoverboards.

"Aquatic invasive species": An aquatic plant, animal or micro-organism introduced outside its natural range which colonises new sites or regions, and whose establishment and spread may constitute a threat to the environment, the economy or society.

"Mooring renter": Any person who moors his or her watercraft around Brome Lake in a marina or at a mooring and who shows proof of rental for the current

year.

"Marina": A tourist complex comprising the marina and surrounding facilities, including Knowlton Marina, Camping Domaine des Érables and the Brome Lake Boat Club.

"Municipality": The Town of Brome Lake.

"Cleaning": Action of washing a boat, including engines, trailer, accessories and compartments likely to contain or accumulate water, at a Boat Cleaning Station before launching. Cleaning is carried out using a pressure washer and hot water to dislodge all organic matter and organisms likely to contaminate Brome Lake.

"Person": Any individual or legal entity.

"Resident": Any person domiciled on the territory of the Municipality or who owns a property.

"Watercraft cleaning station": An installation set up for the purpose of cleaning Watercraft before they are launched, the location of which is designated and recognized by the municipal council. To be recognized by the Municipality, the Station, whether operated or autonomous, must be able to issue a Washing Certificate following the cleaning of a Watercraft.

"User": Any person using or owning a watercraft on Brome Lake and its tributaries, or intended to be used on Brome Lake and its tributaries.

"Emptying": The act of emptying water from boats accessing Brome Lake. This includes all water-carrying compartments, such as bilges, livewells, ballast tanks and engines. Emptying must be carried out more than 30 m from a body of water, using a decontamination method recognized by the Quebec government.

"Vignette": A sticker issued by the Municipality attesting to the resident status of the boat owner.

ARTICLE 5 AND 5.1

OBLIGATIONS BEFORE LAUNCHING A BOAT

Before launching a Watercraft on Brome Lake or its tributaries, each User, subject to the exemption for Residents and Mooring Tenants in Article 6, must clean the Boat at a Cleaning Station recognized by the Municipality, and obtain a valid Washing Certificate. Cleaning must include the engine, trailer, accessories and any compartment likely to contain or accumulate water.

Users of motorized Watercraft must drain the water contained in the Watercraft before launching it, at a distance of more than 30 metres from a body of water, a

ditch, a storm water system or the Municipality's sewer system.

5.1 Launching

No person may launch or permit the launching of a Watercraft from private property or from any other location, whether private, public or commercial, without having first cleaned it in accordance with the conditions set out in the present by-law and without having obtained a valid Washing Certificate.

ARTICLE 6

EXEMPTION: OBLIGATIONS FOR RESIDENTS AND MOORING TENANTS

Any Resident or Tenant is exempt from the obligations described in articles 5 and 5.1 if his Watercraft has not been launched on another body of water since its last use. To benefit from this exemption, the Resident or Tenant must hold a Vignette valid for the current year and have signed the Commitment for Boat Owners (Appendix 1 of these regulations).

ARTICLE 7

WASHING CERTIFICATE

All Users, subject to the exemption for Residents and Tenants of a mooring in article 8, must obtain a Washing Certificate prior to launching their Boat.

7.1 Obtaining

To obtain a Washing Certificate, all Users must :

- a) Inspect, clean and dry his Watercraft, including accessories and trailer, at a cleaning station recognized by the Municipality;
- b) Drain all water from the Watercraft, motors and compartments;
- c) Pay, if applicable, the fees for the Washing Certificate set out in the By-law decreeing the rates for the financing of certain goods and services for the year 2024 or subsequent years.

7.2 Contents

The Washing Certificate (Appendix 2 of this by-law) certifies that the Watercraft, motors, accessories and trailer have been washed in accordance with the applicable rules and indicates at least the following :

- a) The owner's identity;
- b) License number, if applicable, and description of the Watercraft;
- c) The date and time of issue of the Certificate;
- d) The period of validity of the Certificate;
- e) The signature of the Boat Cleaning Station attendant, if applicable;

f) Identification of the Boat Cleaning Station.

7.3 Validity

The Washing Certificate is valid for a period of 24 hours. It expires when the boat leaves the lake.

7.4 Possession

For control purposes, a Wash Certificate must remain accessible at all times. No one may use a Washing Certificate with a Boat other than the one for which it was issued.

ARTICLE 8

STICKER - FOR RESIDENTS AND MOORING TENANTS

Any resident or mooring tenant owning a boat and wishing to navigate on Brome Lake must hold a Vignette supplied by the Municipality. The Vignette must be affixed to the glass or hull at the front of the boat so that it is visible at all times.

The Vignette allows residents and mooring tenants :

- i) exemption from the obligation to obtain a Washing Certificate;
- ii) the right to have their Boat washed free of charge at the Cleaning Station.

8.1 Obtaining

Any resident or mooring tenant wishing to obtain a Vignette must complete the Vignette application form (Appendix 3 of this by-law) and pay the fees set out in the By-law decreeing the rates for the financing of certain goods and services for the year 2024 or subsequent years. To do so, please contact the Town Hall reception desk or visit the Municipality's website.

In order to adequately assess eligibility for the status of Resident and Tenant of a mooring, the applicant must provide the attached additional information:

a) Resident :

- A piece of identification
- A document showing a match between the Resident's name and Town of Brome Lake address (e.g. copy of tax bill);
- Where applicable, the permit number of the motorized Watercraft concerned, and the name and address shown on the permit.

b) Mooring tenant :

- Photo ID and address;
- Proof of rental of a berth in a marina or other location (e.g. rental lease) valid for

the current year. The rental period must be indicated. The proof must indicate the Watercraft's license number;

- Where applicable, the license number of the Watercraft concerned, and the name and address shown on the license.

8.2 Watercraft replacement

A Vignette will be issued free of charge to the owner of a Watercraft already in possession of a Vignette for the current year, if he demonstrates the replacement of his Watercraft.

ARTICLE 9

APPLICATION OF THE BY-LAW

The Municipal Council authorizes, by resolution, any designated person to issue statements of offence for this purpose. Such notices may be served at the time of or after the commission of the offence.

ARTICLE 10

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Any person who contravenes or allows the contravention of the present by-law commits an offence and is liable, in addition to applicable fees, to a fine of \$200 if the offender is a physical person, or to a fine of \$400 if the offender is a legal person.

In the case of a repeat offence, within two years of conviction for the same offence, the offender is liable, in addition to the costs for each offence, to a fixed fine of \$400 if the offender is a physical person, or a fixed fine of \$800 if the offender is a legal entity.

ARTICLE 11

COMING INTO FORCE

The present by-law will come into force in accordance with the law.

Richard Burcombe
Mayor

Me Owen Falquero, LL. B J.D
Clerk

Follow-up:

Notice of motion:	April 2, 2024
Project presentation:	April 2, 2024
Project filing:	April 2, 2024
Adoption of by-law:	Mai 6, 2024
Public notice:	May 29, 2024
Publication :	May 29, 2024
Coming into force :	May 29, 2024

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