



Loon's Echo

Summer 2026 is finally here!

The RLRA Board Members would like to welcome all to the Summer at Rosen Lake. This additional newsletter presents information on a recent discovery of Whirling Disease in Kootenay Lake. The entire Columbia Basin is now at risk. The Board would also like to remind all boaters of the Boating Traditions on Rosen Lake, and the Transport Canada Regulations on Boating.

A reminder of the RLRA AGM to be held at the Jaffray Community Hall on July 18, 2026 at 9 AM



Whirling Disease

General information: Whirling disease is caused by a fresh water parasite (*Myxobolus cerebralis*) that infects salmonids (rainbow and cutthroat trout, some brown trout and brook trout). It was first discovered in Europe, then travelled to Pennsylvania in 1956. Since then it has migrated to Alberta (Banff, Bow R., Oldman R., Red Deer R) in 2018, and has now been found in Kootenay Lake. The entire Columbia Basin is considered high risk.

Significance: Whirling disease attacks the brain and central nervous system of fingerling trout, which results in a twisted body shape which results in circular swimming patterns (whirling).

The disease is fatal to 90% of trout. Fortunately, the disease does not affect humans. The parasite decimated trout populations in Montana, Idaho and Colorado. However, the fish are making a comeback with the evolution of more resistant trout through natural selection. The recovery in the US has taken over 10 years, but may never recover fully.

What can be done: The parasite is often transported by boots or boats which have been in contact with the parasite, in particular mud which houses the spores and the parasite. Cleaning mud, and washing and drying your boat is crucial to help prevent the spread of this parasite. Although water birds, migrating fish and animals can spread the disease, the jumping from one watershed to another can often be traced to humans. Any water craft, clothing such as boots and waders, fishing equipment or water toys should be washed and cleaned and dried. Any organic material such as weeds, water lilies or algae should be removed from your boat. Common cleaning agents would be a 10:1 dilution of bleach, or quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC). Felt soled wading boots are particularly vulnerable. Transport of fish or cleaning fish from an infected waterway in another watershed should be avoided at all costs.

Water in ballast tanks and in bilges should be rinsed and disinfected when travelling to another watershed. Pulling the drain plug during transport and storage of your boat is also important.

Reference: bcinvasives.ca; [Wildsight.ca-whirling disease](http://Wildsight.ca-whirling-disease); Montana FWP- whirling disease



Zebra Mussels

General information: Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) were introduced to North American waters from the Black and Caspian Seas by water in ship ballasts in the 1980's. Since then they have spread throughout the Great Lakes Regions and have been progressively moving outwards.

Significance: The mussels grow rapidly and are highly aggressive invaders binding and clogging pipes, boat, intake valves, hydroelectric facilities, irrigation systems and motors and hulls, causing millions of dollars in damage. They consume huge amounts of phytoplankton and can create toxic blue algae blooms. The end result is damage to irrigation systems, boats,

infrastructure and can change the ecologic system of the waterbody. As of yet they have not appeared in BC or Alberta.

What can be done: As with Whirling Disease, clean dry and drain your boat is the best defence against this invading mollusk. All boats and watercraft must be inspected at all inspection stations as well as being monitored and inspected by their owners.

Reference: bcinvasives.ca; bcwatershedteam.ca; Gov.bc.ca – zebra mussels



Eurasian Milfoil

General Information: Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is a highly invasive and prolific aquatic plant which is widespread throughout British Columbia. First identified in Okanagan Lake in the 1970's, it has since spread to the Shuswap system, the Kootenays and the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. The Okanagan Valley Basin Water Board has spent millions harvesting the plant with special rototiller boats in the winter. The plant has long slender stems, reddish brown in color with small red or yellow flowers and can protrude above the water surface by up to 10 cm.

Significance: The rapid spread of this weed mat chokes the watershed and creates both a swimming and boating hazard along with environmental damage. . The plant forms dense mats of vegetation which displaces native vegetation, clogs waterways, obstructs boating and swimming and reduces water quality. The plant spreads rapidly when it is disturbed and stems fragment and are carried by currents or boats. These fragments take root readily wherever they settle.

What can be done: As with the previous invasive species, the best defence is to insure your boat is clean of mud and vegetation, and has been thoroughly washed and dried. Carefully inspect bilges and propellers for attached vegetation, mud or roots.

Reference: bcinvasives.ca; csrd.bc.ca – milfoil control; obwb.ca – Eurasian milfoil



Rosen Lake Boating Regulations and Rules by Tradition

The boating regulations and Traditions on Rosen Lake are there for everyone on the Lake. They provide safe and enjoyable activities on the water for all users. Regulations are enforced by Transport Canada, and the Traditions are accepted courtesies by the residents of Rosen Lake and the RLRA.

Traditions:

1. Use of all motorized watercraft, at anything more than idle speed should be restricted between the hours of 10 AM and 8 PM- This is a Rosen Lake Tradition.
2. Boats should use the wake zone or center portion of the Lake for surfing and large wake activities and stay as far from shore as possible.
3. All users of Rosen Lake are encouraged to use discretion and good judgement to moderate their activities appropriate to the volume of activity on the lake.
4. All motorized craft should travel counter-clockwise
5. All motorized watercraft including those towing skiers and tubers must enter the stream of traffic only when clear and safe to do so and only at an angle that allows the watercraft to immediately be going counterclockwise

Regulations:

1. All watercraft should be inspected for weeds, aquatic life and debris before entering the lake.
2. Speed limits of 10KmH or less within 30 m off shore. This applies to all inland waters in BC (Safe boating guide Transport Canada)
3. When towing, a person other than the driver must be on board to act as a spotter

4. Towing with a personal watercraft must be rated for three people (driver, spotter and towed skier/tuber)
5. All watercraft are responsible for their wakes
6. Do not harass wildlife or harm their sanctuaries. Wildlife are protected by law

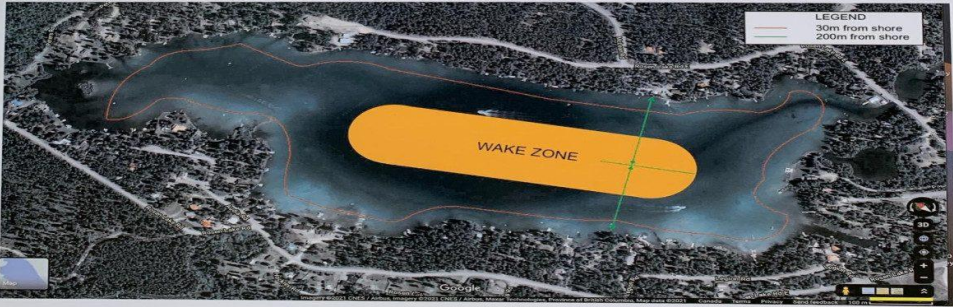
A complete list of rules and regulations can be found at

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/vessels-pleasure-1279.htm>

ATTENTION BOATERS

Rosen Lake Traditions

1. Use of all motorized Watercraft, at anything more than idle speed, should be restricted to the hours between 10 AM and 8 PM.
2. All motorized watercraft must travel counter clockwise. Motorized watercraft includes personal watercraft such as Sea-Doos.
3. Boats should use the wake zone for surfing and large wake activities. Stay as far from shore as possible.
4. As per Transport Canada guidelines, boats exceeding 10km/hr must maintain a distance of 30m (98.5ft) off shore.
5. All users of Rosen Lake are encouraged to use discretion and good judgement to moderate their activities appropriate to the volume of activity on the lake.



Please Use Caution, Courtesy and Good Judgement

The members of the RLRA Board would like to wish everyone a healthy, happy and safe Summer