**Catchacoma Cottagers Association Hazard & Navigational Buoys**

The Catchacoma Cottagers Association currently puts out hazard and navigation buoys on the lake in early spring, typically on the Thursday before the Victoria Day weekend, and removes them after Thanksgiving weekend. The placement of the buoys is to help identify underwater hazards, shoals and aid in the navigation through some of the busier channels on Catchacoma lake and Catchacoma Narrows.

Currently we deploy 39 hazard buoys in 15 locations throughout the lake. The hazard buoys were updated a few years ago to the current yellow buoys in order to meet Transport Canada approval for hazard markers. When a single or row of buoys located off a point this usually means there are rocks from the buoy position all the way to shore. When there are several buoys in a row or in a group that indicates the general location of a shoal or a sunken island. Some shoals and rock formations are quite large and extend many meters beyond the buoys. Boaters are advised to give the hazard buoys a wide berth.

If you have a concern for an area that you deem hazardous to boaters and that location currently does not have a hazard buoy(s) please email catchacomalake@gmail.com with the location and we will look into it.

Currently we deploy 21 Navigational buoys in 5 locations throughout Catchacoma lake and Catchacoma Narrows. The purpose of the navigation buoys is to aid boaters in traveling though the busier channels and the narrow channel of Catchacoma Narrows.

Port hand buoys are green and starboard hand buoys are red. They show which side of a channel is safest to travel; accordingly, they mark channels or hazards.  Green buoys must be passed on the left side of a craft heading upstream, against the current.  Red buoys must be kept on the right side of a craft when proceeding in the upstream direction.  A simple rule is red to the right when returning. Red, Right, Return.

Port is the left-hand side of a vessel, facing forward. Starboard is the right-hand side, facing forward.

Every effort is made to ensure the buoys are maintained in the correct locations throughout the boating season. The program does not guarantee that buoys that have been deployed haven’t moved and unmarked locations of the lake can be safely navigated. The primary responsibility for safe boating is with the operator of the vessel. Catchacoma Cottagers Association, its directors and volunteers take no responsibility for injury to boaters or damage to boats as a result of contact with navigational hazards.

Fall 2018 Buoy removal team

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