Leeds and the Thousand Islands St Lawrence River Nautical Speed Zone Assessment and Recommendations

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The Situation

- * The legislation for the current speed zones requires that each zone be posted with regulatory signage
- Currently all the signage is either missing or needs to be replaced
- Compliance is low because the public is unaware and law enforcement can't take place
- * The zones need to be modified to better meet the intended goals

The Situation

- * The goal of the zones is to control vessel wash (commonly referred to as wake) and/or provide a safe speed
- * There are 11 zones with speeds ranging from 9 to 40 km/hr
- * In many cases the selected speeds are ineffective and actually cause problems if adhered to

Recommendation

- * It is easier to gain compliance if laws are consistent and reasonable
- Zones should be limited to one of two speeds, 10 km/hr to control wake or 60 km/hr for safe speed
- Start the legislative process to modify the speed zones to make them more effective, consistent and eliminate redundancies
- Purchase and erect new signage

Overview of each Speed Zone





Canadian Middle Channel

- * The current speed of 18 km/hr is ineffective
- * Recommend changing the speed to 10 km/hr to control the wave action from vessels, provide a safe speed and be consistent with the 30 meter from shore speed limit
- * Signage needs to posted at both ends and in the middle of the zone



The Lost Channel

- * The current speed limit of 15 km/hr is ineffective
- * Recommend changing the speed limit to 10 km/hr and a description for the southwestern portion of the channel to better include the area between Wallace and Hill Islands
- Signage would need to be posted at both ends and the middle of each zone





Pine Island to Benson's Rift

- This is a long narrow winding channel with a redundancy
- Most of the area would be covered by the 30 meter from shore speed limit
- * Recommend removing the zone from legislation



Needle's Eye

- * This is a short narrow channel with a redundancy
- This would be covered by the 30 meter from shore speed limit
- * Recommend removing the zone from legislation



Gananoque Narrows

- * The current speed limit of 15 km/hr is ineffective at controlling wake
- * This channel has a blind approach at the east end and safety is a concern
- Recommend changing the speed limit to 10 km/hr
- Signage would need to be posted at both ends of the channel



Hay Island

- * The current speed limit of 24 km/hr is ineffective
- * Recommend changing the speed limit to 10 km/hr
- * Signage would need to be clearly posted at both ends of the zone



Wanderer's Channel

- * This is a long winding channel with a 9 km/hr limit
- * Historically it has been difficult to gain compliance here due to the slow speed and long length of zone
- Recommend changing into two different speed zones, 10 km/hr for the narrow east end and 60 km/hr west to Indiana Island
- * Signage would need to be posted at each end of each zone and in the middle of the western zone





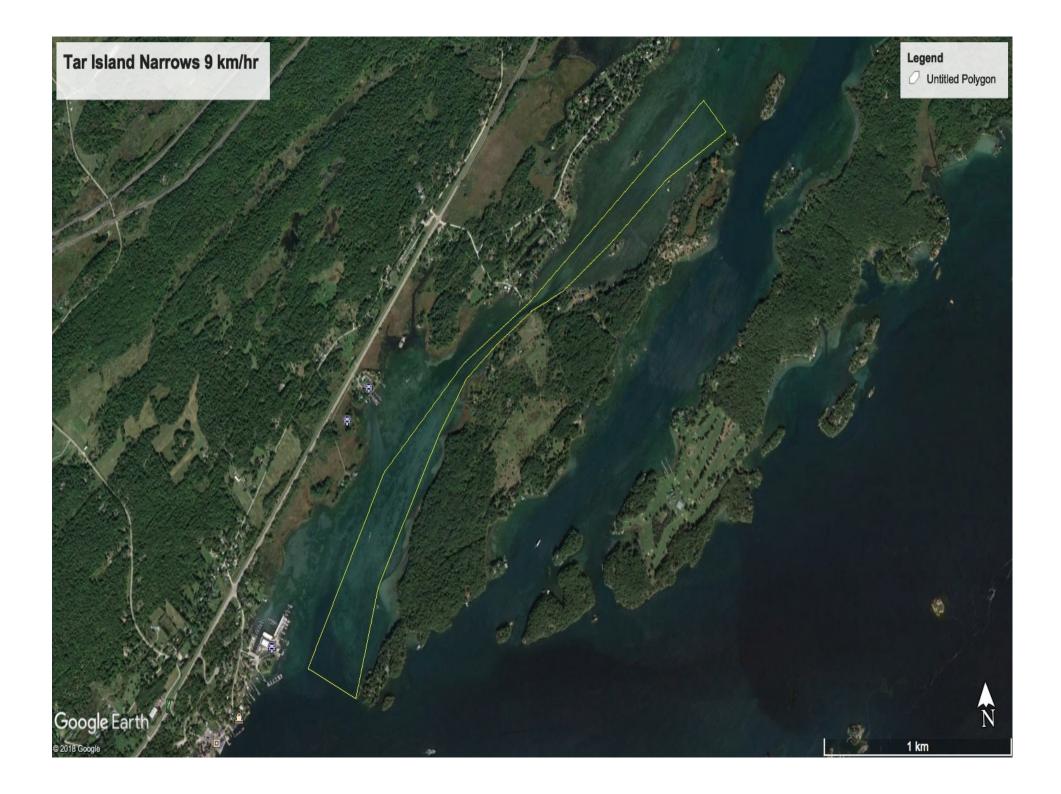
Raft Narrows

- This is the busiest area of the Canadian part of the Thousand Islands
- This speed zone was never posted therefore it was never enforced
- * It would be very difficult to effectively post the area
- * Recommended removing the zone from legislation



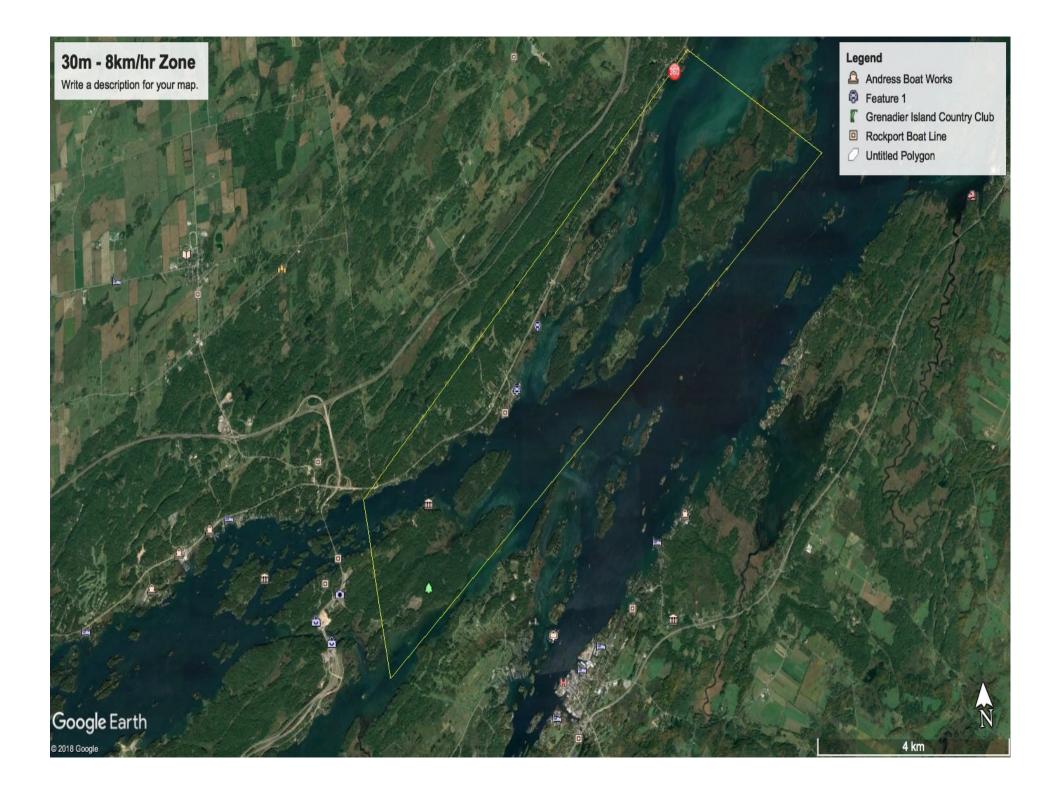
Canadian Small Vessel Channel

- * This is a 40 km/hr zone that was enacted to provide a safe speed without a concern for wake
- * Recommended changing the speed to 60 km/hr
- This a more reasonable speed for vessels to maintain a state of plane, while considering safety



Tar Island Narrows

- * This is a long shallow water channel with a slow speed of 9 km/hr
- * This area is mostly used by local residents and the narrow area of concern would be subject to the 30 meter from shore speed limit of 10 km/hr
- Recommend to remove this zone from legislation



30 meters from shore – 8 km/hr zone

- * This zone was never posted
- * It conflicts with the blanket 10 km/hr limit within 30 meters of shore
- Recommend that the zone be removed from legislation

Questions?