

Jerry Johnson, 935 West Lake Samish Drive 35 years on the lake

I have been asked to read a statement that was sent to me by e-mail:

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Source: James Cornforth, Property Manager, 941 W. Lake Samish Dr. #3, Bellingham, WA 98229

The boating traffic that I have experienced in the 19 years I have lived on Lake Samish has increasingly become more of a nuisance and disruptive each year. Jet ski boats and wakeboard boats are causing wake as high as 2 feet. These waves are lifting and rocking lake property docks, loosening boards on the docks causing continual repair, and damaging the shoreline which erodes causing the road to be undermined and potentially avalanche into the lake. This has happened a couple of times causing necessary road repair and detouring until fixed.

I am completely in favor of expanding the homeowners right to place boys out to 300 feet from the dock as the Lake Whatcom rule allows. I also am in favor of expanding the "Slow, No Wake" zones in the narrows by the bridge in order to reduce all wake for safety and property protection.

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My statement:

1. I ask that you pass the ordinance as matter of safety for swimmers and non-motorboat owner recreationists, as well as protection of the environment by slowing erosion.
2. As I am confident that the ordinance will be passed, four things are needed if the ordinance it to have any effect:
 - (A) There is a need to prepare a handout and distribute it to people who are using the boat ramp to access the lake...that is to educate them as to the rules and regulations for the lake....including statements about age requirements, night-time boating, and the fact that they are visitors using our drinking water source
 - (B) This same handout needs to be handed out or sent to the 450+ homeowners in the Lake Samish water basin, as some of the worst offenders—speed and reckless boat operation—are sometimes neighbors.
 - (C) The demarcation for the expanded no-wake zone needs to be clearly marked via a system of buoys at both he entry/exits areas on both sides of the bridge. The current two-buoys are not sufficient, as they are often used as a slalom course by some jet-ski drivers.
 - (D) Some form of increased sheriff enforcement is needed throughout this first summer, perhaps 2-3 days per week, even if it is for minimal time periods.

Thank you for considering the ordinance as a request to make water regulations uniform for both Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish. This is an action that should have taken place in 1990 but is definitely needed today.