

FRIENDS OF CHERRY BEACH & THE OUTER HARBOUR (FoCBOH)

WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021 - 2022

8,000 people that water sport at Cherry Beach and Outer Harbour (a 2.8km by .9km semi-protected area) were asked nine (9) safety questions to help educate each other and the general public about their sport and safety.

Jessica Campbell, Paul Howard, Steve Hulford, Mike Tindall, Julia McNally, Mark Mattson, Chuck Tatham, Jane Anderson and Jennifer Penney

We are a coalition of clubs and groups with thousands of amateur aquatic-recreation enthusiasts of motorless water-sports based in Toronto's Outer Harbour (Sailors, Rowers, Paddlers, Swimmers, Windsurfers, Wingfoilers, Windfoilers, Kites and Dragonboaters.)



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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHO

- 8,000 Cherry Beach and Outer Harbour non-motorized water users

WHY

- To promote water safety
- To educate other water users and general public
- To learn and share best practices

WHEN

- October 2021 to March 2022

HOW

- Emailed Members
- Posted to Social Media- FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, our Website www.friendsofcherrybeach.com



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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What sport?
2. Why do you do your sport?
3. Why do you choose Cherry Beach/Outer Harbour?
4. What, if any, safety issues do you encounter at Cherry Beach/Outer Harbour?
5. What conditions impact your decision to go out on the water?
6. What resources/apps do you consult?
7. What safety equipment do you bring?
8. What are your safety preparations?
9. What do you wish other water users knew about your sport?



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**WATER
SAFETY
SURVEY
RESULTS
2021-2022**

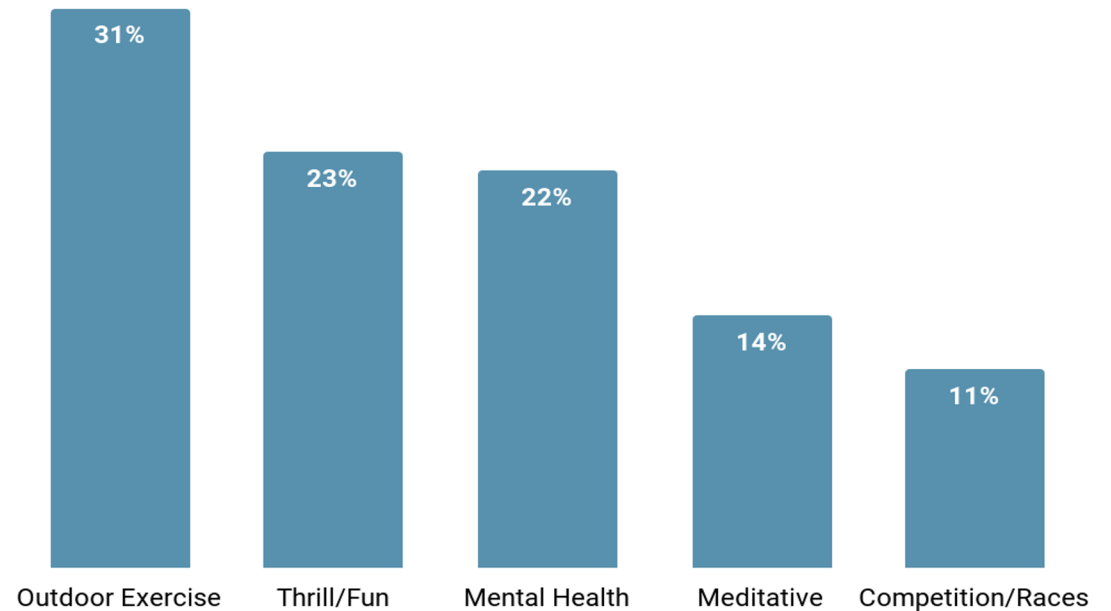
WHAT SPORT? 290 RESPONDENTS

- 92 Windsurfers & Windfoilers
- 63 Kite and Kitefoilers
- 35 Wingfoilers
- 63 Swim & Distance Swimmers
- 55 Paddleboarders
- 26 Canoe & Kayakers
- 15 Rowers
- 1 Dragonboater & 1 Surfer

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WHY DO YOU DO YOUR SPORT?

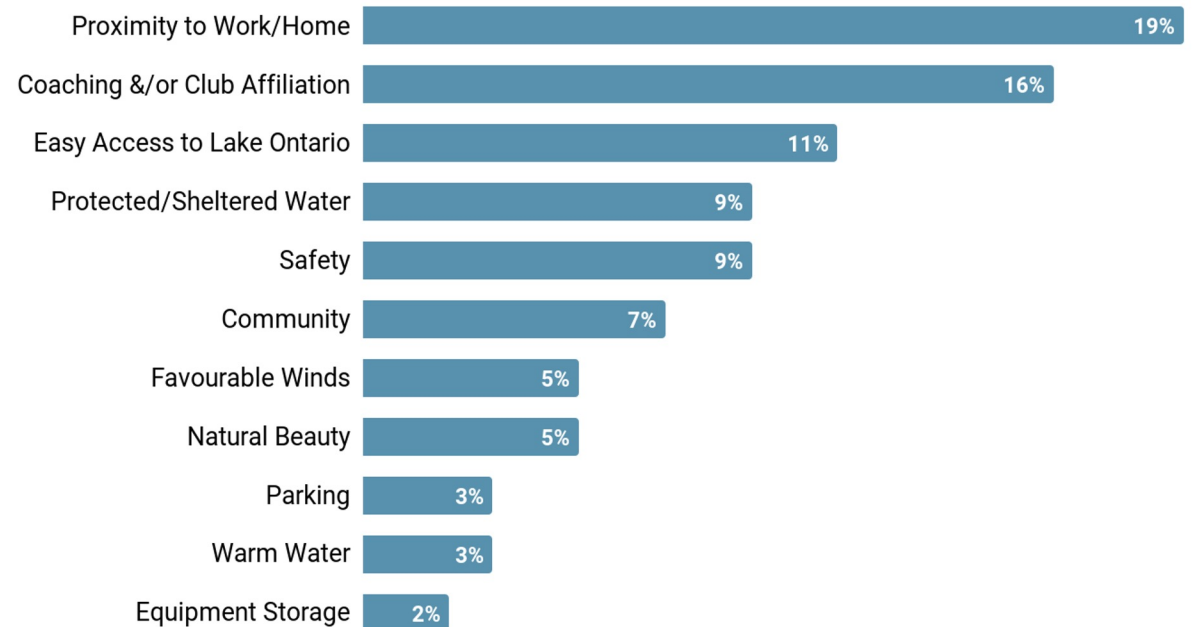
WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022



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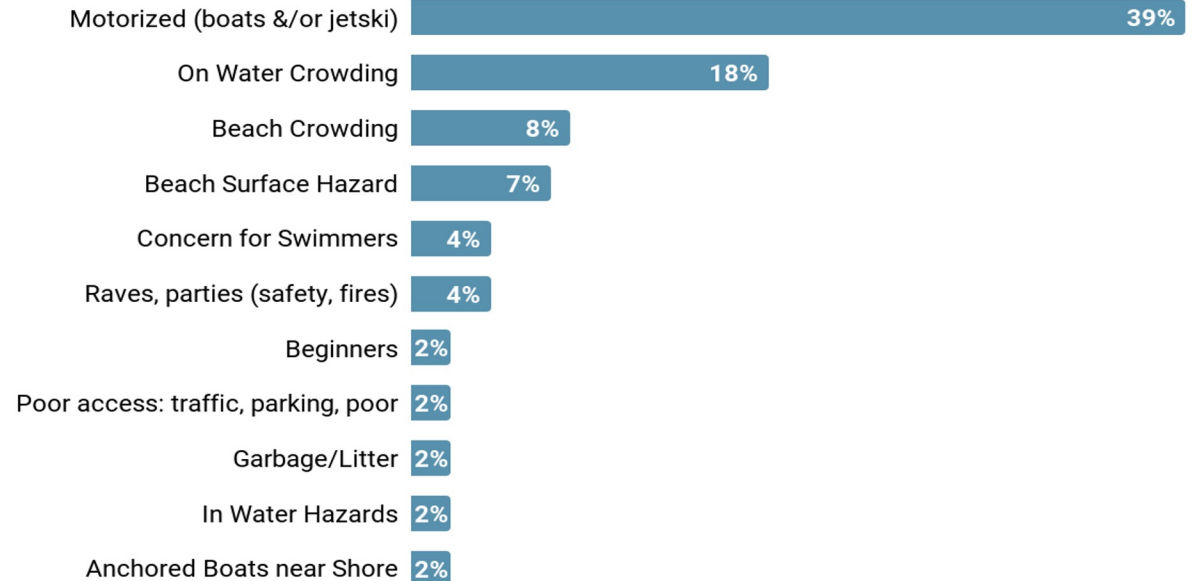
WHY DO YOU CHOOSE CHERRY BEACH/OUTER HARBOUR?



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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

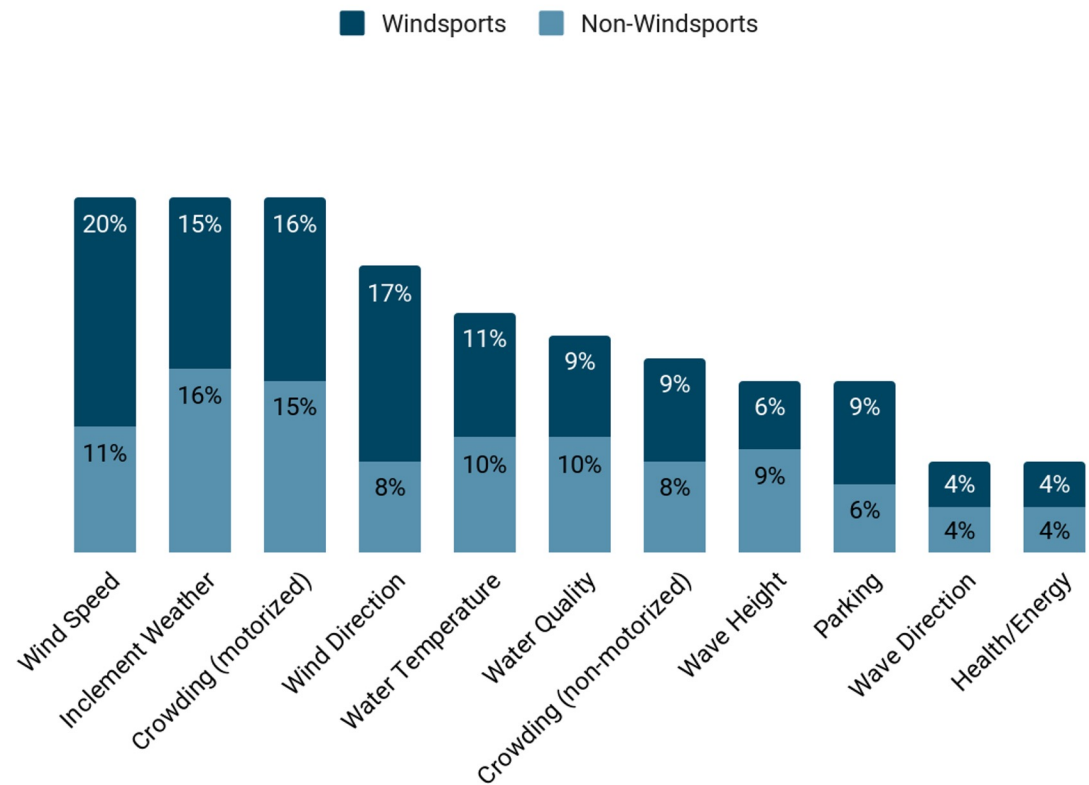
WHAT, IF ANY, SAFETY CHALLENGES DO YOU ENCOUNTER AT CHERRY BEACH/OUTER HARBOUR?



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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

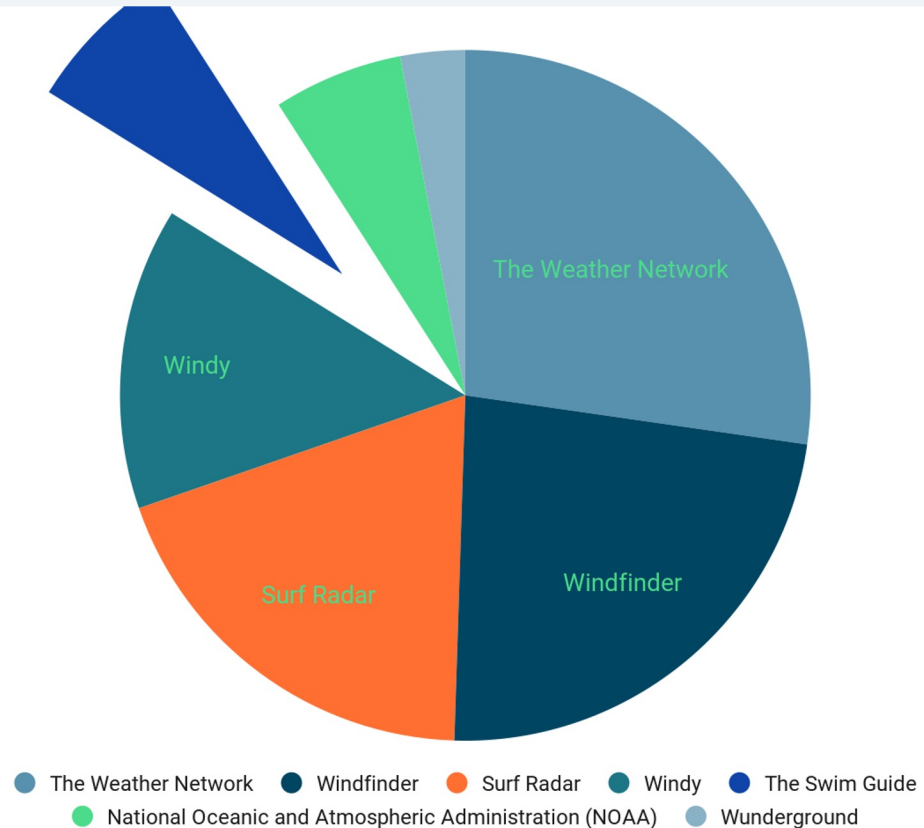
WHAT CONDITIONS IMPACT YOUR DECISION TO GO OUT ON THE WATER?



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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

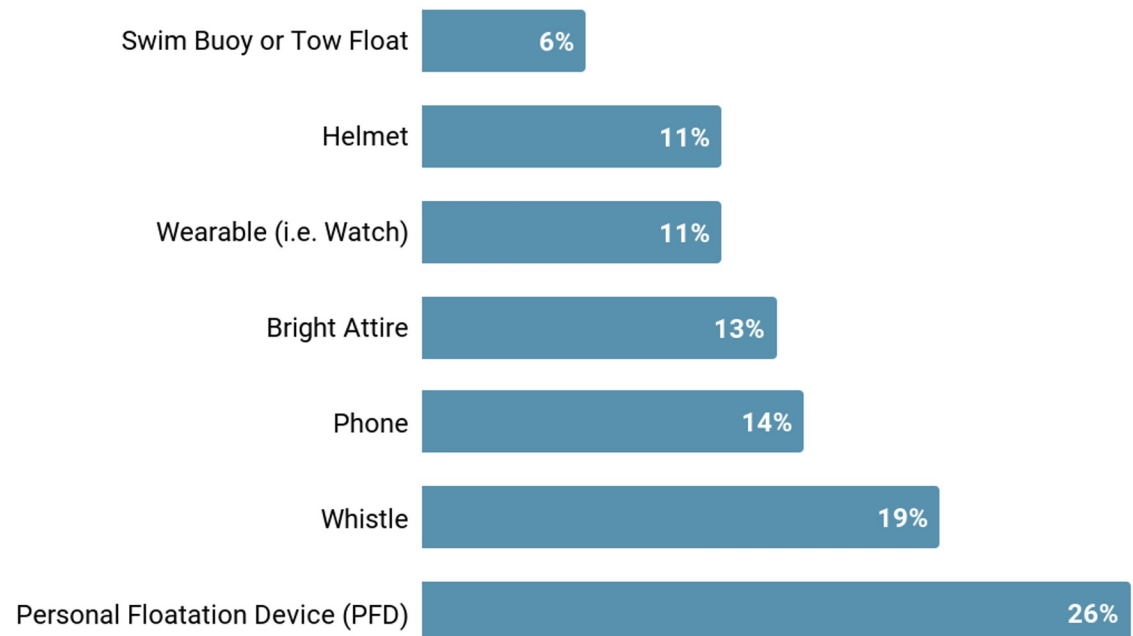
WHAT RESOURCES/APPS DO YOU CONSULT BEFORE GOING TO CHERRY BEACH/OUTER HARBOUR?



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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHAT SAFETY EQUIPMENT DO YOU BRING?



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PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR SAFETY PREPARATIONS BEFORE YOU GO OUT ON THE WATER.

WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

Weather check and ensure sufficient daylight

Wait 48 hours after heavy rain

File a plan with friend/club/other

Warm up/exercise before I set out

Accompany safety craft in challenging conditions

Go when water less crowded (e.g. early or late, not during events)

Assume people on water do not know ROW rules

Buddy-up: participate with others

Q1 & 2. WHAT SPORT AND WHY DO YOU DO YOUR SPORT?



Sail

61

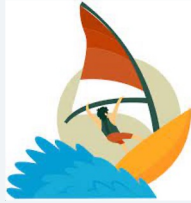
Outdoor Exercise

Thrill/Fun

Mental Health

Competition/Races

Meditative



Windsurf &
Windfoil

92

Outdoor Exercise

Thrill/Fun

Mental Health

Meditative

Competition/Races



Kite & Kitefoil

63

Outdoor Exercise

Mental Health

Thrill/Fun

Meditative

Competition/Races



Wingfoil

35

Outdoor Exercise

Thrill/Fun

Mental Health

Meditative

Competition/Races



Swim &
Distance Swim

63

Outdoor Exercise

Mental Health

Competition/Races

Thrill/Fun

Meditative



Paddleboard
(SUP & Prone)

55

Outdoor Exercise

Thrill/Fun

Mental Health

Meditative

Competition/Races



Kayak & Canoe

26

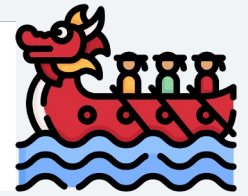
Outdoor Exercise

Mental Health

Thrill/Fun

Meditative

Competition/Races



Row &
Dragonboat

16

Outdoor Exercise

Mental Health

Competition/Races

Thrill/Fun

Meditative

Q3. WHY DO YOU DO YOUR SPORT AT CHERRY BEACH AND OUTER HARBOUR?



Sail



Windsurf & Windfoil



Kite & Kitefoil



Wingfoil



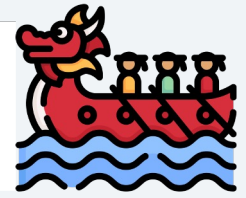
Swim & Distance Swim



Paddleboard (SUP & Prone)



Kayak & Canoe



Row & Dragonboat

Coaching &/or Club Affiliation

Coaching &/or Club Affiliation

Proximity to Work/Home

Proximity to Work/Home

Proximity to Work/Home

Proximity to Work/Home

Proximity to Work/Home

Proximity to Work/Home

Proximity to Work/Home

Safety

Safety

Favourable Winds

Warm Water

Easy Access to Lake Ontario

Coaching &/or Club Affiliation

Coaching &/or Club Affiliation

Easy Access to Lake Ontario

Easy Access to Lake Ontario

Easy Access to Lake Ontario

Safety

Protected/Sheltered Water

Coaching &/or Club Affiliation

Natural Beauty

Protected/Sheltered Water

Protected/Sheltered Water

Proximity to Work/Home

Favourable Winds

Community

Safety

Protected/Sheltered Water

Easy Access to Lake Ontario

Easy Access to Lake Ontario

Natural Beauty

Community

Community

Easy Access to Lake Ontario

Community

Community

Protected/Sheltered Water

Natural Beauty

Q4. WHAT, IF ANY, SAFETY CHALLENGES DO YOU ENCOUNTER AT CHERRY BEACH AND OUTER HARBOUR?



Sail



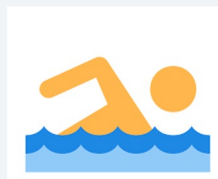
Windsurf & Windfoil



Kite & Kitefoil



Wingfoil



Swim & Distance Swim



Paddleboard (SUP & Prone)



Kayak & Canoe



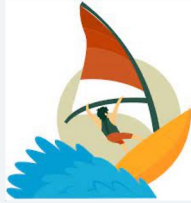
Row & Dragonboat

Motorized (boats &/or jetski) Traffic	Motorized (boats &/or jetski) Traffic	Beach Crowding	Motorized (boats &/or jetski) Traffic	Motorized (boats &/or jetski) Traffic	Motorized (boats &/or jetski) Traffic	Motorized (boats &/or jetski) Traffic	Motorized (boats &/or jetski) Traffic
On Water Crowding	On Water Crowding	Motorized (boats &/or jetski) Traffic	On Water Crowding	On Water Crowding	On Water Crowding	On Water Crowding	Concern for Swimmers
Beach Surface Hazard	Beach Crowding	On Water Crowding	Beach Crowding	Beach Surface Hazard	Beach Crowding	Beach Surface Hazard	On Water Crowding
Aggressive Behaviour (non-motorized)	Raves, parties	Beach Surface Hazard	Concern for Swimmers	Rowers (going backwards and not seeing)	Raves, parties	Water Quality	Beginners
Beginners	Beach Surface Hazard	Concern for Swimmers	Poor access: traffic, parking, poor transit	Not confident I am seen	Dogs	Eastern Gap	Beach Surface Hazard

Q5. WHAT CONDITIONS IMPACT YOUR DECISION TO GO OUT ON THE WATER?



Sail



Windsurf & Windfoil



Kite & Kitefoil



Wingfoil



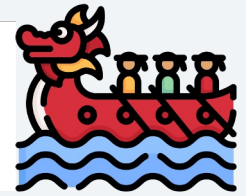
Swim & Distance Swim



Paddleboard (SUP & Prone)



Kayak & Canoe



Row & Dragonboat

Windspeed

Windspeed

Wind Direction

Wind Direction

Inclement Weather

Crowding (motorized)

Inclement Weather

Wave Height

Inclement Weather

Wind Direction

Windspeed

Windspeed

Water Quality

Windspeed

Wave Height

Inclement Weather

Wave Height

Crowding (motorized)

Parking

Parking

Crowding (motorized)

Inclement Weather

Windspeed

Windspeed

Crowding (motorized)

Inclement Weather

Crowding (motorized)

Crowding (motorized)

Water Temperature

Wind Direction

Crowding (motorized)

Crowding (motorized)

Water Temperature

Water Temperature

Crowding (non-motorized)

Inclement Weather

Crowding (non-motorized)

Crowding (non-motorized)

Water Temperature

Wind Direction

Q6. WHAT RESOURCES/APPS DO YOU CONSULT BEFORE GOING OUT ON THE WATER?



Sail



Windsurf & Windfoil



Kite & Kitefoil



Wingfoil



Swim & Distance Swim



Paddleboard (SUP & Prone)



Kayak & Canoe



Row & Dragonboat

Windfinder

Surf Radar

Surf Radar

Surf Radar

The Weather Network

The Weather Network

The Weather Network

The Weather Network

The Weather Network

The Weather Network

The Weather Network

The Weather Network

The Swim Guide

Windfinder

Windfinder

Windfinder

Windy

Windfinder

Windfinder

Windfinder

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Surf Radar

Windy

Windy

Surf Radar

Windy

Windy

Windy

Windfinder

Windy

The Swim Guide

Surf Radar

(NOAA)

Wunderground

(NOAA)

(NOAA)

Windy

The Swim Guide

Surf Radar

Wunderground

Q7. WHAT SAFETY EQUIPMENT DO YOU BRING OUT ON THE WATER?



Sail



Windsurf & Windfoil



Kite & Kitefoil



Wingfoil



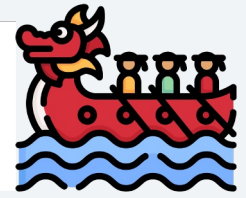
Swim & Distance Swim



Paddleboard (SUP & Prone)



Kayak & Canoe



Row & Dragonboat

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Swim Buoy or Tow Float

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Whistle

Whistle

Helmet

Helmet

Bright Attire

Whistle

Whistle

Bright Attire

Phone

Helmet

Whistle

Whistle

Wearable (i.e. Watch)

Phone

Phone

Phone

Bright Attire

Phone

Phone

Bright Attire

Phone

Wearable (i.e. Watch)

Bright Attire

Whistle

Wearable (i.e. Watch)

Bright Attire

Bright Attire

Wearable (i.e. Watch)

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Bright Attire

Wearable (i.e. Watch)

Wearable (i.e. Watch)

Q8. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR SAFETY PREPARATIONS BEFORE YOU GO OUT ON THE WATER.



Sail

File a plan with friend/club/other



Windsurf & Windfoil

File a plan with friend/club/other

Light gymnastics to prepare for the sport



Kite & Kitefoil

Go with a buddy

File a plan with friend/club/other

Check the beachcam

Check if any events are scheduled (avoid crowding)



Wingfoil

Check number of water users (on beach & in water)

Inform friends/family of my plans



Swim & Distance Swim

Swim with a buddy

Let people know my swim plan

Swim early or late when less busy

Wait 24 hours after heavy rainfall



Paddleboard (SUP & Prone)

Avoid offshore wind

Let people know I am out

Buddy system

Check the water isn't too crowded



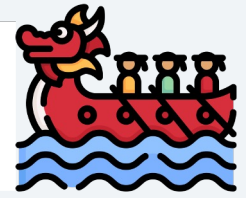
Kayak & Canoe

Bring a buddy

Adequate clothing

Let people know I'm out

Ensure sufficient daylight



Row & Dragonboat

Buddy system

Let people know I'm out

Accompany motorboat in cold water conditions

Assume people on water don't know ROW rules

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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHAT DO SAILORS WISH OTHERS KNEW?

“Sail boats can be limited in the direction in which they can sail.”

“We don’t turn on a dime, and definitely don’t stop on one.”



“Know that dinghies are less maneuverable than powered vessels: we can't react quickly to sudden and unexpected moves.”

“We can’t sail into the wind and when it’s very windy, tracking or gybing to change direction can be difficult.”

“Big wake waves make it harder, uncomfortable and unsafe conditions to sail in.
Please keep speed down.”

“Excluding commercial vessels, vessels under sail have right of way.”

“We are always on the lookout for you, but if you are a solo individual in the water or maneuvering quickly in close proximity we may not see you!”

“All should be aware of races / courses and out of respect as well as for safety reasons, stay away from racers.”

“They would have more fun if they sold their power boats and bought sail boats :-)”

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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHAT DO WINDSURFERS/WINGERS WISH OTHERS KNEW?



"Windsurfers depend on wind direction, their craft is not as maneuverable as motorboats. The windsurf is also smaller and less visible to large motorboats. Please observe your surroundings carefully, obey water traffic rules, slow down and do not come close to the windsurfer."

"I speed up and slow down randomly because of gusts. You may think we won't collide, but my speed and course are subject to ... the wind."

- "1. Windsurfers have a really long mast, don't sneak up on them on kayak/SUP.
2. Wake from motor boats make it harder to get on the board and going... and as a result enjoy the sport."

"Windsurfer is smaller than other watercraft, therefore vulnerable in the event of a collision. Inexperienced beginners may struggle to gracefully control their intended course and speed and would appreciate some extra room to maneuver."

"I can't turn on a dime. I am at the mercy of the winds. Pumping will only get me so far. At times, I feel like I'm on a bicycle (my windsurfing board) trying to follow the rules while the cowboys in their trucks (big motorized craft), cars (smaller motorized craft and bigger sailboats), motorbikes (sea-dos and new motorized boards) make up their own rules as they go along. Of course, there are many sailors who do follow the rules."

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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHAT DO **KITERS** WISH OTHERS KNEW?



“Light winds may require unexpected kite landing. If I can smell your cologne on the water as you boat past me - you are wearing too much. There are few places we can launch and land in the city and we appreciate being able to cooperate with other beach users.”

“We need room to run our lines on the beach. Be careful not to run over our lines if our kite goes down in the water. Offer a tow if our kite goes down in the water.”

“Obey the right of way. Be safe and carry proper safety gear. Always wear a life jacket. Do not go out if weather looks unsafe. Come in if a storm is approaching.”

“Launching/landing is potentially more dangerous than it looks, steer clear”

“Keep beach area at launch clear for people trying to get back to shore (good for launching too, but more important for someone who is returning to shore).”

“Winds can be shifty near shore due to trees and kites can drop out of the sky especially during landing/launching. Take care to stay clear of kites.”

“Stay away from a kites lying on the water and stay clear of lines between the kite and the kiter. Kite lines are typically 15-20 m so be careful not to travel through a kiter's lines while the kite is down in the water to avoid tangles.”

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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHAT DO SWIMMERS WISH OTHERS KNEW?



"Open-water swimming requires learned skills like proper breathing and sighting. It is somewhat meditative when you get into a rhythm. Boat wakes and other users in the lake disrupt this rhythm."

"We can be difficult to see in rough water. We can't move out of the way quickly."

"We are low in the water and have less view of things."

"I sight constantly to scan what is going on in the water, I can't always see well. My goggles fog up!"

"Importance of sighting. I often encounter other swimmers who don't look up and would have crashed into me if I hadn't been sighting!"

When swimming, keep buoys to the right to avoid head-on collisions.

"It would be great if all swimmers who are circling the 5 white buoys swam in a counter clockwise direction."

"Ask people who are swimming alone if they would like to join you."

"ALL Swimmers should use tow floats and wear bright caps."

"It's hard to see swimmers, so please keep an eye out when approaching shore."

"If you are not swimming distance, please do not hang out around the buoys which mark our course."

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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHAT DO **PADDLEBOARDERS** WISH OTHERS KNEW?



“Non motorized watercraft cannot move quickly.
Please give us lots of space and slow down around us.”

“Please don’t speed your motorized vehicle because we have no chance to get out of your way if you don’t pay attention. If you must speed, go away from the shore at least 150 m.”

“When motor boats create wake and waves it makes it a lot harder to SUP and can be very frustrating. Waves and wake make it easier to fall.”

“Power Boaters need to give a SUP a wide berth when passing , same for jet skis.”

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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHAT DO **ROWERS** WISH OTHERS KNEW?



“That we go backwards, so don't assume we see you. Wake from power vehicles can easily flip a rowing shell and they are super hard to get back into (nearly impossible for many). Water temperature is life threatening many months in Toronto.”

“Rowers are rowing backwards. A single rower or the person in the bow seat checks behind them every few strokes, but they don't have eyes in the back of their heads. Unanticipated changes in direction of other watercraft can be tricky for us. And swimmers who are not using a swim buoy or tow float can sometimes be hard to see.”

“It's very very hard to see swimmers who don't use buoys. Please, please use buoys!”

“We sit close to the water and go backwards, we look but appreciate others looking as well.”

“We do not have good visibility of what is ahead.”

“Long rowing boats are not easy to turn, require distance of about 4 boat lengths to change course. Can be stopped in less than one boat length.”

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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHAT DO **CANOERS/KAYAKERS** WISH OTHERS KNEW?



"I can't go as fast as them and not a strong paddler."

"Limitations of what we can and can't easily do."

"Stay farther away, especially if motorized."

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WATER SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS 2021-2022

WHAT DO WE WISH OTHERS KNEW?

"Watch out for each other!"

"That we share the water and need to be respectful and mindful of others in and on the water."

"Be aware of all watercraft."

"Respect each other."

"How dangerous it is for a large boat at speed to get too close."

"Courtesy, civility and a working knowledge of the capabilities of all the other craft on the water."

"Respect for speed limits and right of way."

"Prefer no large power boat waves."

"Powerboaters intentionally creating wake in front of others is unsafe, and messes up races."

"No loud music especially the base!!!! Sound travels over water & many of us love the sound of water & wind."

"Be respectful and keep your distance letting others know you are aware of their presence, by altering your course."

"Right of Way Rules are good and being considerate is best."