

# McLean tables bill for boater licensing

The laws of the waterways are too lenient, according to Simcoe East MPP Al McLean.

In the Ontario legislature this week, McLean introduced a private member's bill which is aimed at licensing all motor boat operators whose boats have motors of 25 horsepower or more.

"Boaters must be more responsible for their actions," McLean said. "The bill is basically for their own safety," McLean said. "There should be a way police can have authority to charge boaters who are driving carelessly on the waterways."

McLean said he has noticed a startling increase in the number of boating accidents during summer months as boating becomes more and more popular recreation.

He said operators of boats powered by 25 horsepower motors or greater should be licensed and held accountable for their actions.

"The waterways are just like the highways. There are speed limits and rules of the road which drivers must follow if they wish to keep their licences. The same should be applicable to the waterways," McLean said.

He points to the fact that young children, many under the legal driving age of 16, are able to take boats out to get supplies and groceries.

He said although the bill has received its first reading in the legislature he has no idea when it might become law.

"I've worked on the bill for nine months, in conjunction with the OPP and other organizations. I know it needs some amendments, but at least the basic idea has been put forth," McLean said.

McLean said the bill would prohibit the operation of boats powered by 25 horsepower motors or greater unless the operator has a motor boat operator's licence. The bill requires every person to carry this licence while in control of a boat and to produce the licence when requested by the police.

He said the bill creates the offences of careless operation of a motor boat and impaired operation of a motor boat. Those found to be breaking this law would be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 and the suspension or revocation of the boating licence.

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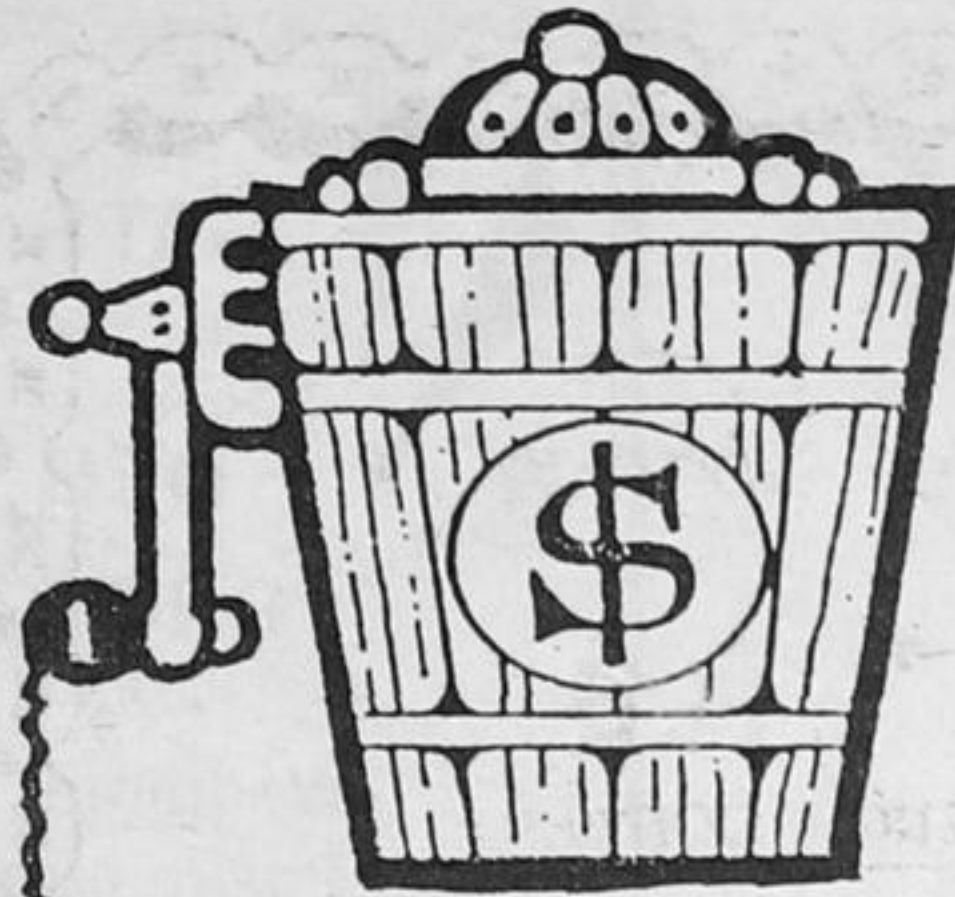
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ELIMINATION	DRAW
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20th. draw	50.00
30th. draw	100.00
40th. draw	100.00
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60th. draw	100.00
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