

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
MEMPHRÉMAGOG REGIONAL COUNCIL
MUNICIPALITY OF AYERS'S CLIFF**

**UNIFORM BYLAW NO. 2026-04
REGARDING THE WASHING OF BOATS TO PREVENT THE INFESTATION OF
INVASIVE EXOTIC SPECIES (IAS) AND REGARDING NUISANCES**

WHEREAS the municipal council wishes to ensure the maintenance of water quality within its territory;

WHEREAS any local municipality may adopt environmental by-laws pursuant to the powers granted by section 19 of the Act respecting municipal powers;

WHEREAS the Municipality believes that it is in its own interest and that of its taxpayers to take all possible measures to help preserve the quality of lakes and waterways;

WHEREAS scientific studies have shown that invasive species can cause considerable damage to flora, fauna, water quality, public health, docks, buoys, dams, and watercraft, and thus pose a direct threat to the maintenance of water quality;

WHEREAS invasive species can spread from one lake to another via boat hulls and engines, trailers, or live bait used in recreational fishing, and that preventive measures must be implemented to counter the spread and infiltration of these species into Lake Massawippi and its tributaries, which could potentially have major impacts on the overall economy and property values of lakeside properties;

WHEREAS the influx of boat users increases the risk of contamination by invasive exotic species;

WHEREAS the introduction and spread of invasive exotic plants and species can have negative social repercussions. In particular, they can affect health by increasing the risk of disease and causing suffering to humans or animals. In the event of an infestation, they may also limit or hinder certain recreational activities practiced on the water or in nature, such as boating and swimming;

WHEREAS one effective way to counter the spread of invasive exotic species is to clean boats that travel from one body of water to another using hot water and high-pressure hoses;

WHEREAS the Municipality wishes to establish a fee structure in accordance with the powers granted by sections 244.1 et seq. of the Municipal Taxation Act, which allows for the full or partial financing of goods, services, and activities to ensure the protection of the lakes within its territory;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Ayer's Cliff adopted Bylaw No. 2015-06 concerning the protection of Lake Massawippi and aimed at preventing zebra mussel infestations, as well as several subsequent amendments;

WHEREAS this bylaw must be replaced to bring it into line with new boat-washing practices, changes in the operation of municipal access points, and the infrastructure put in place pursuant to the MRC Memphrémagog's regional boat-washing strategy;

WHEREAS it is necessary to adopt rules and documents common to all municipalities bordering Lake Massawippi;

WHEREAS a notice of motion was given and a draft bylaw was tabled at the meeting of August 3, 2026;

THEREFORE, it is unanimously resolved that this Bylaw No. 2026-04 be adopted and that the following be enacted and decreed by this Bylaw:

ARTICLE 1 **Preamble**

The preamble forms an integral part of this bylaw.

ARTICLE 2 **Purpose of the Regulation**

The purpose of this bylaw is to require that all watercraft, whether motorized or non-motorized, be cleaned at an approved wash station in order to prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species, such as the zebra mussel, into Lake Massawippi and its tributaries, and to ensure public safety as well as the quality of the water and the environment in a sustainable manner.

ARTICLE 3 **Definitions**

For the purposes of this bylaw, the following words and phrases have the meanings set forth below:

Accessories: Engine, fuel tank, and any equipment that comes into contact with water.

Annual Subscription: A subscription issued annually according to the rates set forth in Appendix A, entitling the holder to an unlimited number of washes.

Private Landing: A location where a boat may be launched and which belongs to a resident living on the shore of the body of water.

Municipal boat launch: A location designated in this bylaw that provides access to a City waterway. This boat launch may not have a barrier, or may have a barrier, whether mechanized or not.

Motorized watercraft: Any floating device, structure, or vessel equipped with an engine and intended for travel on water, with the exception of an aircraft. Sailboats are considered motorized watercraft under this bylaw.

Non-motorized watercraft: Any floating device, structure, or craft that is not equipped with an engine and is intended for travel on water (e.g., canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboard, pedal boat, windsurfing board, etc.).

Utility vessel: Any motorized vessel whose sole purpose is to perform work from the water's surface or to transport equipment across the water's surface. This category includes any motorized vessel used for surveillance by a competent authority, such as the Sûreté du Québec, or any motorized vessel used to collect samples as part of environmental studies.

Invasive exotic species: A plant, animal, insect, or microorganism introduced outside its natural range, the establishment or spread of which poses a threat to the environment, the economy, or society.

Washing: The act of cleaning a vessel and its accessories at a recognized washing station, prior to launching, using a pressure washer without detergent or acid, in order to remove any invasive exotic species that may be present from the vessel and its accessories.

Marina: A port complex comprising a recreational marina and facilities for residents, tourists, and boaters.

Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha* and *Dreissena burgensis*): A small freshwater bivalve mollusk.

Non-resident: Any individual or legal entity that does not meet the definition of “resident” as set forth in this bylaw.

Designated Responsible Officer: Refers to the person appointed by resolution of the municipal council to enforce this bylaw.

Person: A natural person or a legal entity.

Body of water: The body of water known as “Lake Massawippi,” the portion of the river known as the “Massawippi River,” and the portion of the river known as the “Tomifobia River.”

Proof of Cleaning: A paper or digital access coupon issued by an approved cleaning station indicating that the boat has been cleaned in accordance with these regulations.

Trailer: Any equipment used to transport a boat.

Resident: Any person who owns a building (real property), who holds a lease with a term of at least three (3) months, or who is the occupant of a business establishment, as defined in the Municipal Taxation Act (R.S.Q. c. F-21), or who holds an annual lease for a slip in a marina or a campsite located within the Municipality's territory.

Waterfront resident: Any person who owns a parcel of land, with or without a residential or commercial building, or who holds a lease with a term of at least three (3) months, or who is the occupant of a business establishment as defined in the Municipal Taxation Act (R.S.Q. c. F-21), located on the shore of a body of water within the Municipality's territory.

Approved boat wash station: A physical facility established for the purpose of washing boats before they are launched, the location of which is designated in Appendix B of this bylaw.

User: Any person having custody and control of a motorized or non-motorized watercraft.

ARTICLE 4 **Application**

This bylaw applies to all bodies of water located wholly or partly within the Municipality's territory.

ARTICLE 5 **Designated Responsible Officer**

The municipal council may, by resolution, authorize any measure necessary to put an end to any violation of this bylaw and may mandate any specifically designated person to initiate criminal or civil proceedings on behalf of the Municipality for a violation of this bylaw in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure (R.S.Q., c. C-25.1).

The designated enforcement officer is appointed by resolution of the council for the enforcement of this bylaw.

This officer has the authority to prohibit access to bodies of water by any motorized or non-motorized watercraft on which animal or plant species are visibly present. This authority also applies if the user does not possess a valid boating permit or valid proof of cleaning.

The designated officer in charge may enforce these regulations by conducting a water patrol, a land-based inspection, reviewing surveillance camera footage from municipal car washes and boat landings, or by any other means.

The designated person is authorized to be accompanied during their duties by any person who can assist them in performing their functions.

For the purposes of paragraph 4^e of this section, the designated officer may board and inspect any vessel to verify compliance with this bylaw.

ARTICLE 6 **Requirement to Wash Boats and Their Accessories**

Any user who moves their watercraft to a different body of water or who launches it must wash the watercraft, its accessories, the trailer, and the part of the vehicle normally submerged during launch at an approved wash station and obtain proof of washing.

Notwithstanding the first paragraph, a resident may, provided they have signed a commitment when applying for an annual water body subscription, launch the boat for which the annual subscription was issued without washing it, provided the boat has been parked on the waterfront property and has not been used on another body of water. The trailer to be used must be washed in accordance with these regulations if it has been used on another body of water.

The locations of approved washing stations are specified in Appendix B of these regulations.

ARTICLE 7 **Proof of Washing**

Any user whose boat is on a body of water within the municipality must have in their possession a valid proof of cleaning, with the correct date and boat category.

ARTICLE 8 **Annual Subscription – Exemption from Cleaning Requirements**

Subject to Article 11, any watercraft belonging to the following is exempt from the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of this bylaw:

- 1) Any resident of the Municipality who parks this motorized or non-motorized boat on a shore or at a dock on the body of water and whose boat is not and has not been used on any other body of water.

The exemption in the first paragraph applies under the following conditions:

- The vessel has not been on another body of water;
- The watercraft is launched from the resident's property;
- The trailer to be used must be washed in accordance with these regulations if it has been used on another body of water;
- Sign a commitment form when applying for an annual membership for the body of water;

Utility boats used by an emergency service during an emergency situation are also exempt from this regulation. In this context, utility boats must be cleaned upon leaving the body of water.

This exemption is granted only if all conditions are met and at the full discretion of the Municipality.

ARTICLE 9 **Requirements for Obtaining Proof of Cleaning for Motorized and Non-Motorized Boats**

To obtain proof of washing, all users must:

- 1) Wash the boat, the motor, the trailer, the submerged portion of the towing vehicle, and all accessories, if any, at an approved car wash;
- 2) Pay the washing fee set forth in the table in Appendix A;
- 3) Obtain proof of washing in the form of a receipt or a text message containing a QR code and the validity information for that wash.

Notwithstanding the first paragraph, an annual subscription is considered proof of washing when it is issued for the body of water and used in accordance with the conditions set forth in the second paragraph of Section 6.

To obtain an annual pass, with or without a washing exemption, any user or lakeshore resident must:

- 1) Submit an application for this purpose on the Massawippi Regional Park Authority's online portal, providing the following information:
 - a) Their last name, first name, address, phone number, and a form of identification that includes a photograph;
 - b) A description of their boat, specifying its category, make, color, dimensions, and serial number;
 - c) Be able to provide proof of residence by submitting supporting documents such as a property tax bill;
 - d) Be able to provide the address of the waterfront property where your boat is moored for the season, if applicable;
 - e) For users who are not residents of the Municipality, be able to provide an annual lease for a marina or campground berth, if applicable.

2) Pay the annual subscription fee set forth in the table in Appendix A.

ARTICLE 10 **Requirement to Present Proof of Cleaning**

The operator of a motorized or non-motorized watercraft on any body of water located within the Municipality’s territory must, upon request by the designated officer in charge, present proof of cleaning along with proof of identity.

ARTICLE 11 **Validity of the Navigation Authorization Certificate and Proof of Washing**

The proof of washing is valid for 24 hours after the motorized or non-motorized watercraft has been washed prior to launching, and this applies to an unlimited number of entries and exits on the same body of water. If the watercraft has not been launched during this period, the user must wash the watercraft again.

The proof of washing expires 21 days after washing or when the boat, which had been authorized to operate, leaves the body of water, whichever occurs first. The 21-day period does not apply to proof of washing for a boat associated with an annual subscription.

A user who wishes to regain access to the same body of water or to another body of water must return to the approved washing station, wash the vessel, and obtain a new proof of washing. Pursuant to Section 6, this paragraph does not apply to a boat that has an exemption and has not been on another body of water since its last trip on the lake associated with the annual subscription.

The annual subscription, with or without an exemption, expires on December 31 of each year, and the user must submit a new application before launching the boat the following year.

The annual subscription also ceases to be valid when any of the following situations occurs:

- 1) The boat has changed owners;
- 2) The holder of the annual permit has failed to comply with any provision of these regulations.

To bring a vessel back into compliance if the annual permit with an exemption expires before December 31, valid proof of cleaning must be presented to validate a new application for a cleaning exemption.

ARTICLE 12 **Launching**

Access to a body of water for a motorboat and a sailboat—both for launching and hauling out—must be via one of the municipal boat ramps or automated municipal boat ramps. The municipal boat ramps are listed in Appendix C.

This provision does not apply to a waterfront resident who uses their waterfront property to launch their motorboat, provided they comply with the provisions of this bylaw, including the washing of boats.

The use of a private boat launch by any person who is not a waterfront resident of the property is prohibited.

Notwithstanding the first paragraph, any individual, legal entity, or association that owns or operates a municipal or private boat launch—such as a campground or marina located on or near the bodies of water covered by this bylaw—must ensure that the operator of a motorized or non-motorized watercraft has a valid proof of washing or a valid certificate of authorization to navigate before launching the watercraft.

ARTICLE 13 **Washing Procedure**

The washing of motorized and non-motorized watercraft must be performed by the user by following these steps:

- 1) **Visual Inspection:** This involves inspecting all equipment associated with the watercraft, including: the hull, the trailer, the engine, and any other equipment or accessories that will come into direct or indirect contact with the water. During the inspection, look for any animal or plant organisms that may be attached to the equipment or the watercraft;
- 2) **Manual cleaning of equipment:** This involves manually removing the unwanted organisms identified in the first step and disposing of them in a trash bin designated for landfilling (not composting or recycling);
- 3) **Propeller cleaning (motorized boat):** This involves cleaning and removing plants or other unwanted organisms wrapped around the propeller;
- 4) **Draining tanks:** This involves emptying all types of water containers (ballast tanks, water tanks, livewells, bait containers, etc.) at a location far from a lake or waterway where the residual water can seep into the ground;
- 5) **High-pressure washing:** This involves washing the boat, its livewells, equipment, and accessories using hot water (60 degrees Celsius) at high pressure (at least 2,600 PSI) to dislodge the most resistant organisms. The residual water must be directed to the same location as the tank drainage;
- 6) **2^e Visual inspection:** This involves repeating the inspection as defined in paragraph 1 to verify the effectiveness of the washing.

All users must clean their motorized and non-motorized watercraft in accordance with the procedure posted at the designated wash station.

ARTICLE 14 **Live Bait**

It is strictly prohibited to transport live bait for fishing in a container containing water from a body of water other than the one where fishing will take place, or to release the contents within 30 meters of a body of water within the Municipality.

ARTICLE 15 **Discharge of Water**

It is strictly prohibited to discharge water from engine cooling systems, ballast water, livewells, or any other accessory, equipment, or system within 30 meters of a body of water, into a ditch, or into the Municipality's stormwater or sewer systems.

ARTICLE 16 **Prohibition**

It is strictly prohibited for any person to release or allow the release, by any means whatsoever, of invasive exotic species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil, as well as any other harmful substance or species, into a body of water within the Municipality.

It is prohibited to use an annual pass or proof of washing that does not correspond to the correct category.

ARTICLE 17 **False Statement**

Any false statement regarding these regulations shall result in the immediate cancellation of any annual subscription or proof of washing issued in the name of the user who made the false statement, or of any other person residing at or occupying the same address in the case of an annual subscription.

ARTICLE 18 **Penalty**

Failure to comply with any of Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, or paragraph 3° of Article 20 constitutes a violation of these regulations and is punishable by a fine as provided for in Article 20.

The officer designated to enforce these regulations may issue to any offender, either at the scene of the violation or at a later time, a violation report specifying the nature of the violation or a notice of violation in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure of Quebec (R.S.Q., c. C-25.1).

ARTICLE 19 **Violation**

Any person who violates or fails to comply with any provision of these regulations commits an offense and is liable to a fine.

Any continuing violation of any provision of these regulations constitutes a separate and distinct violation for each day it continues.

ARTICLE 20 **Amount of the Fine**

The minimum and maximum amounts of the fine described in Article 18 are as follows:

Person	First violation	Subsequent Offense
Individual	\$400 to \$2,000	\$800 to \$4,000
Legal entity	\$800 to \$4,000	\$1,600 to \$8,000

The amount of the fine does not include legal costs. These are paid by the offender.

The deadline for payment of fines and costs imposed under this section, and the consequences of failing to pay such fines and costs within the prescribed time limits, are established in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure of Québec (R.S.Q., c. C-25.1).

ARTICLE 21 **Repeal of Previous Regulations**

This regulation repeals and replaces Regulation No. 2015-06 and its amendments, as well as any prior regulations on this matter.

ARTICLE 22 **Effective Date**

This bylaw shall take effect in accordance with the Act.

Notice of Motion: August 3, 2026
Tabling of the draft regulation: August 3, 2026
Adoption of the regulation: September 8, 2026
Notice of entry into force: September 16, 2026

APPENDIX A

Fee Schedule

PERMIT FEES (PER BOAT)	RESIDENTS (PER YEAR)	NON- RESIDENTS (PER YEAR)
Annual Subscription (with or without exemption)		
Motorboat and/or with trailer	\$40	\$350 *Residence permit holder: \$195
Small boat with an electric motor	\$20	\$100
Non-motorized boat	\$10	\$10
Proof of cleaning		
Motorized boat	\$30	\$30
Non-motorized boat	\$5	\$5

¹ The annual subscription provides an unlimited number of washes for motorized boats at authorized wash stations during the current season and serves as proof of washing for users eligible for an exemption.

APPENDIX B

List and Locations of Approved Car Wash Stations

- ✓ Ayer’s Cliff (Massawippi Beach) – 465 Main Street
Ayer’s Cliff, QC J0B 1C0
- ✓ North Hatley (Municipal Dock) – Main Street
North Hatley, QC J0B 2C0

APPENDIX C

List and Locations of Municipal Landing Sites

- ✓ Ayer's Cliff (Massawippi Beach) – 465 Main Street
Ayer's Cliff, QC J0B 1C0
- ✓ North Hatley (Municipal Pier) – Main Street
North Hatley, QC J0B 2C0
- ✓ North Hatley (Marina Dock) – Mill Street
North Hatley, QC J0B 2C0
- ✓ Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley (Municipal ramp for residents) – Ayer's Cliff Road,
near Hooper Street, Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley, QC J0B 1W0