**Rules of the Road**

**Just like when driving a car, there are rules we have to follow on the Water. Remember unlike a car a boat steers from the rear and doesn’t have brakes.**

**#1 Rule: A Skipper and crew must do everything possible to avoid a collision. Take immediate and decisive action.**

**This necessitates having a proper lookout and traveling at a safe speed. You may know who has the right of way, but the other boater may not!**

**In a power boat:**

**The GREEN light on the starboard side of your boat gives the “go-ahead” for anyone approaching from the right side of your boat to have the right of way.**

**The RED light on the port side of your boat tells boaters approaching from the left side of your boat that you have the right of way.**

**When overtaking from behind, you may pass on either side. The boat being passed must maintain course and speed with caution.**

**In a sail boat:**

**The sailboat ALWAYS has the right of way if it’s under sail. If the sail is down and it’s using its motor, it’s considered a power boat and followed the same rules as above.**

**Aids installed on land are called Daybeacons:**

**Green Square – Port Daybeacon. Keep it to the port (left) side of your boat as you pass it WHEN GOING UPSTREAM.**

**Red Triangle – Starboard Daybeacon. Keep it to the starboard (right) side of your boat as you pass it WHEN GOING UPSTREAM.**

**The red and green buoys in the water are called Lateral Buoys:**

**Green – Port Hand Buoy – Keep it to the port (left) side of your boat as you pass it WHEN GOING UPSTREAM.**

**Red – Starboard Hand Buoy – Keep it to the Starboard (right) side of your boat as you pass it WHEN GOING UPSTREAM.**

**“RED ON THE RIGHT TO RETURN”**

**The glare from the sun and water makes it difficult to see colours, so the red starboard hand buoys always have pointed tops, just like the starboard daybeacons are pointed triangles.**

**Bifurcation Buoys – red and green striped – The colour on the top indicates what it is (green on the top = port hand buoy, red on the top = starboard hand buoy). You can pass in either direction, but the colour on top indicates the main or preferred channel.**

**How do I know if I’m going upstream or downstream?**

**From Bay of Quinte up to Kirkfield Lock, you’re going UPSTREAM.**

**From Kirkfield Lock to Georgian Bay, you’re going DOWNSTREAM.**

**And the reverse…**

**Charts will show you with an arrow – Arrow is pointing UPSTREAM.**