

# Guest Information Sheet – Otter Lake Cottage Rentals

## Welcome!

You likely came to cottage country for the same reasons we do. Escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life into the great outdoors. You've come to the right place! We have fresh air, a clean spring-fed lake, abundant wildlife, starry skies and so much more. Here is what we all do to keep it that way & why.

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**Garbage** is put out in keeping with cottage owner's specific instructions: you may be asked to take it with you; placed out early on pick-up day only; or overnight garbage is placed in an animal proof bin.

Garbage left overnight can be attacked by animals and birds. Then the remains of the torn apart garbage need to be cleaned by others.

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**Phosphate free** products are chosen for washing and cleaning. We never wash in the lake.

Phosphates and other harmful chemicals make the way into the lake promoting excess plant and algae growth.

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**Septics** are kept in good working order by limiting the water entering them, regular pumping, and keeping chemicals and non-degradable items out of them.

Letting the system break biodegradable waste down limits the possibility of harmful bacteria, phosphorus and nitrogen entering the lake.

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**Food** is not left outside overnight and *BBQ's* are cleaned so animals are not attracted. Never leave food out overnight or in tents.

Wildlife and cottagers live together safely when they respect each other's boundaries.

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**Boats** used in other water bodies are cleaned, dried and drained before launching in our lake. Bait buckets and live bait are never emptied into the lake. Obey all laws regarding boat operation and watch your wake and speed.

Invasive species such as zebra mussels and spiny water fleas can spread between water bodies causing disease and damage in native species.

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**Campfires** are enjoyed safely. Limits to fire width and height are 1m x 1m (3ft x 3ft). Fires aren't set when windy. To check for fire bans call Rideau Lakes Fire Chief 1-800-928-2250, ext. 237 or check website [www.rideaulakes.ca](http://www.rideaulakes.ca).

Don't leave your fire unattended. Keep a water source handy. Douse your fire thoroughly when finished. The closest fire station is far away enough that a spreading fire poses significant danger to all of us! If necessary, call 9-1-1 and provide accurate address information.

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**Lead sinkers** are not used and *fishing line* is retrieved whenever possible.

Line and sinkers left behind can - and have - trapped and poisoned wildlife such as loons.

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**Wildlife** is viewed from a safe distance and not harassed. Power boats stay 100M from loons.

We value the creatures here for their beauty and a sign of a healthy environment.

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**Etiquette** is key to enjoying your time here. Be aware if pets, excessive noise and lights are interfering with relaxation or star gazing.

Our neighbors are close and sound carries, especially over water. We all unwind in different ways so let's all respect that.

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*We hope you take home some great memories of your stay!*