

Introduction

Protecting our own 'slice of paradise' here on Lake Weslemkoon is an everyday, automatic act of passion for each of us as lake users. As a community and neighbourhood, we are engaged together in maintaining our pristine water quality and respecting the environment around us so that we may all continue to enjoy our time spent here with family and friends. And, just as importantly, we all understand our obligation to future generations to maintain the good health of our natural surroundings, ensuring they may also enjoy this very special place for many years to come.

This Guide is designed, with the assistance of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), to provide you, your family members and guests with important information relative to life on the lake. You now have at your fingertips an easy reference guide with basic information to guide you on local emergency procedures, our water quality practices, shoreline preservation considerations, boating and fishing regulation overviews, household waste management protocols, information regarding the Township of Addington Highlands and the activities of the Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association (LWCA).

We hope that it will become, not only an easy reference guide in every cottage, home and business, but also a resource for additional educational reading, all with explicit relativity to our Lake.

Obviously, with time, certain facts within this literature will change. Please stay connected with the LWCA, and ensure we have your updated mail and email address, to keep you informed as new information becomes available. This is a 'living' reference book and we hope you will keep it accessible in your cottage for easy use by you, your family and your guests!

Disclaimer

While the volunteers of the LWCA have attempted to obtain the most current information available, the Association must declare that it makes no representations or warranties about the accuracy, reliability, completeness or timeliness of the contents, or about any results to be obtained from using the content of this guide.

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Lake Weslemkoon
Conservation Association

Welcome Message

The LWCA felt that we had collected a lot of information over the years and that it would be useful to have a single way to easily access it without internet. Thank you to all those who volunteer so much time and to all of you who make this place really special. We at the LWCA sincerely hope you will find this handbook a helpful resource.



LWCA virtual board meeting 2020

About the LWCA

The LWCA is a non-profit organization operated by enthusiastic members who volunteer their personal time to actively maintain the objectives of the organization.

Purpose

The purpose of the LWCA is:

- to promote the conservation of the land, water, fish and wildlife of Lake Weslemkoon
- to encourage water and fire safety
- to install and care for lake markers
- to represent members in matters of mutual interest pertaining to their lands on Lake Weslemkoon
- to keep members informed about their property through off season cottage checks as conditions permit
- to promote sound logging practices
- to maintain designated hiking trails and related signage
- to encourage and organize social and recreational activities among its members

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is elected at the Annual General Meeting by the members for a 1 year term. Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board Executive is determined by internal vote by the newly confirmed Board. The President and Vice President are nominated for a 2 year period with the Vice President taking over the role of President for the next 2 year term. Each board term begins and ends upon conclusion of the Annual General Meeting. AGMs are typically held at 10am on the Saturday of the August Civic Holiday (long) weekend. For information on becoming a member of the Board of Directors or any other element of the LWCA, please contact us by email at info@weslemkoon.com.

For a list of the current directors, visit our website at: www.weslemkoon.com

LWCA Membership

If you are not currently a member of the LWCA, we encourage you to join! The Association is not just for cottagers but for everyone who uses and loves the lake. We hold an informative Annual General Meeting with lunch in August and look forward to meeting you there. As a member, the LWCA provides you with a voice in the long-term health and wellbeing of the Lake, but like any association our strength is in our numbers. You can learn more about our organization and how to join it at: www.weslemkoon.com

With the support of its membership and their fees, the Association:

- participates in volunteer water quality testing/monitoring under the Lake Partner Program. Our lake which is designated as a highly sensitive lake trout lake. Only about one percent of Ontario's lakes contain Lake Trout, but this represents 20-25% of all Lake Trout lakes in the world.
- provides, monitors and maintains shoal markers on the lake
- monitors lake levels and communicates with the Ministry of Natural Resources
- to keep members informed about their property through off
- season cottage checks as conditions permit
- organizes Junior Loons events providing fun social opportunities for children on the lake
- monitors forestry activities on the lake
- maintains hiking trails by providing clearing and markers
- publishes the annual Loon Call newsletter
- publishes the membership directory
- works closely with Addington Highlands and the Provincial government to represent members in developing public policy
- provides comments to Addington Highlands on requests for Zoning By-Law exemptions
- organizes the annual AGM meeting and lunch
- develops and monitors the LWCA website

You are part of FOCA

As a member of the LWCA, you are automatically also a member of the **Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)**.

FOCA represents 50,000 member families in more than 500 lake and road associations across Ontario. FOCA has been the voice of the waterfront for over 50 years. As a not-for-profit membership organization, FOCA works year-round on behalf of waterfront property owners. FOCA members can access a variety of special offers and discounts on insurance, magazine subscriptions and more.



We focus on details, so you can enjoy the big picture.

Our priorities include:

- SAFETY
- WATER QUALITY
- FAIR TAXATION
- COTTAGE SUCCESSION

Your Association is a member of FOCA – so are you! As a member, you get access to:

- Timely environmental and legislative updates
- Special rates for Cottage Life magazine
- Exclusive group insurance offer: **CottageFirst** by CICA Association

F O C A | foca.on.ca
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations | 705-749-3622

Find all the current details at:

<https://foca.on.ca/benefits/>.

You can access a wealth of information from FOCA on cottage country topics, including property issues, lake planning practices, environmental hot topics and more at: <https://foca.on.ca/resources/>.

There is strength in numbers! Get on the FOCA EAlert list to show our partners the size and strength of the waterfront community. Sign up for EAlert on the home page of the FOCA website: <https://foca.on.ca>

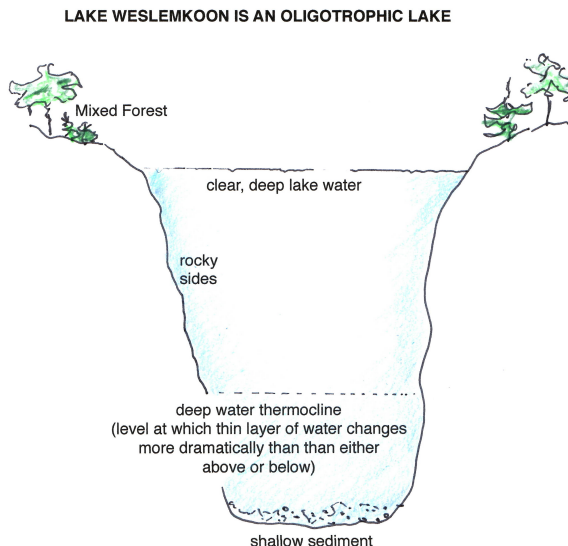
Connect with FOCA on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/foca.on.ca>
You are also entitled to access Members-only materials on the FOCA website. Send an email to communications@foca.on.ca with your name, email and Association affiliation, in order to receive your Member Login.

WATER QUALITY

Our Lake is our very best asset – let's keep it that way!

Lake Weslemkoon is a very rare and special body of water in that it is an oligotrophic lake (low levels of nutrients, high dissolved oxygen levels, and typically deep areas with very cold water) capable of supporting a lake trout population. The Lake Trout is the only major, indigenous sport fish species in Ontario that is adapted to oligotrophic lakes. Its slow growth, late maturity, low reproductive potential and slow replacement rate make it susceptible to a variety of stresses. It is an important component of Ontario's biodiversity, because of the unique character of the species and the unique gene pools of many of its individual stocks. Because the Lake Trout is a sensitive species that is adapted to a narrow range of environmental conditions, it is an excellent indicator of the health of fragile aquatic ecosystems.

Diagram by P. Milne



add lake photo

Water quality is a top concern to protect the lake trout and our lakes' special status. There has been a general decline in both the quality of the sport fishery for lake trout and in their habitat in many lakes. Lake Trout lakes are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of human activities, including exploitation, enrichment from cottage septic systems, acidification, species introductions, and habitat destruction. The LWCA has conducted water quality monitoring for many years.

In addition to monitoring the water, the Lake Association has an ongoing commitment to inform all users of the best practices to maintain our good water quality through our newsletters, website, and membership meetings.

Wetlands

Wetlands are important ecosystems that contribute to the health of our lake by:

- acting as a filter that improves water quality
- reducing flood damage by holding water back/storing water
- reduce erosion
- acting as discharge areas in the spring and recharge areas in the summer
- contributing moisture to the atmosphere
- providing critical habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals

Wetlands need to be conserved and development limited within wetland areas.



Photo by Ruari Milne

Types of Wetlands

Swamps are wooded wetlands typically populated by White Cedar, Silver or Red Maple, White Elm, Black Ash.

Marshes are treeless with cattails, pickerel weed (moose love this), grasses, sedges and low bushes.

A beautiful marsh can be visited by following the snowmobile trail at the end of West Bay.

Bogs are mossy wetlands that contain sphagnum moss, are acidic and get most of their water from rain and snow. They have low levels of oxygen because of the limited water flow.

Fens are similar to bogs but some of their water comes from streams and groundwater making them less acidic. Fens are found near bogs and most eventually become bogs.

Bogs and fens are found at the south end of the lake.



Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands filled with water from snow melt and spring rain. They dry up later in the summer but provide critical spring habitat for breeding frogs and salamanders.

Shoreline - the Beauty of Buffers

One of the most important components of your property is the buffer zone made of the **riparian** and **shoreline** zones. The **riparian zone** is the vegetated/treed strip of land between the shore and your cottage in the upland zone. It is required by the zoning by-law to maintain this zone in its natural state. This undisturbed vegetation buffers the impact of activities on your property from the lake. Plant roots reinforce the soil and sand to help hold it together and keep it from washing into the lake. The **shoreline zone** also needs to be maintained in its natural state. This area can be comprised of fallen trees, branches, washed up logs, natural rocks and stones and native vegetation. The **littoral zone** is the underwater area from the edge of the water until sunlight no longer penetrates. 90% of all lake life spends part of its time in this area. It could also be the home to fish spawning beds which need to be protected from silt erosion.

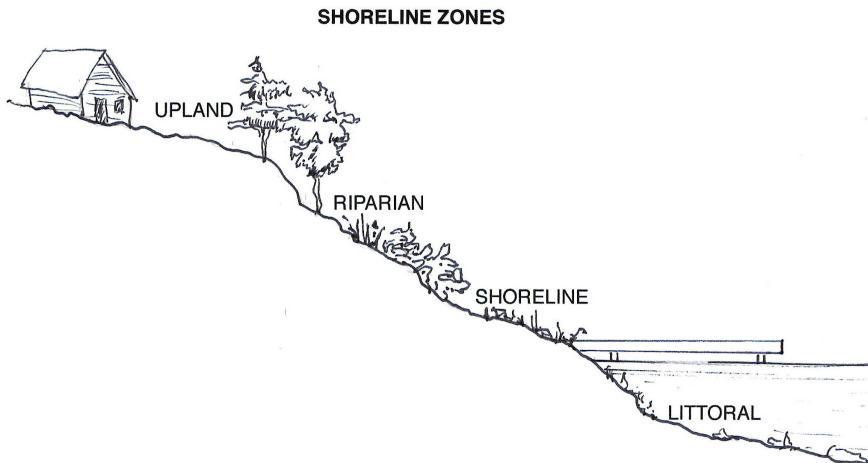


Diagram by P. Milne

Removal of the buffer zones could risk physical loss of land/property through erosion or even charges against you if fish habitat is damaged or destroyed. These areas can also help to protect your property from flooding.

Build a Better Buffer

The best buffers contain a mix of what would normally be found on a natural shore - indigenous vegetation, rocks, logs. Native plants create a low maintenance eco system that can survive periodic droughts and storms without additional irrigation, pesticides or fertilizers.

Don't use chemicals on your property. Phosphorus harms clear, free water by creating algal blooms. This process, known as eutrophication, clouds and turns the water green, and depletes the oxygen for fish and other species, effectively suffocating them.

Do maintain a natural shoreline. Naturally vegetated land anchors the soil and prevents the shoreline from being washed away. These plants act like sponges, removing impurities found in rainwater runoff, such as soil, pet wastes, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, fuels, leaves, and septic output.

Don't cut down trees near shore in the riparian zone. This zone is protected under the zoning by-laws to filter run-off and prevent erosion.

"A natural vegetative buffer strip shall be maintained between the setbacks...and the water's edge to filter pollutants from runoff. Within this buffer area, clear cutting of trees and shrubs is not permitted."

Do create meandering pathways using a "softscape" such as wood, absorbent pea gravel or woodchips to delay runoff.

Don't plant grass. Manicured lawns encourage erosion and allow as much as 55% of unfiltered runoff to reach our lake.

Don't disturb the lake bottom. The area from the water's edge to where the sunlight no longer penetrates acts as a home and food corridor to 90% of all aquatic species. By leaving logs, rocks and plant material in the water, good algae, spawning fish, ducks, loons, turtles and crayfish can live, hide and feed upon the billions of microorganisms that this "debris" provides.

Get more tips here:

foca.on.ca/shoreline-owners-guide-to-healthy-waterfronts



Wastewater & Septic Systems

Proper maintenance of your septic system is **THE** most important thing that you can do to protect the lake. Check your tank or have it inspected. Generally, once the level of solids reaches 1/3 of the tank it is time for a pump (typically every 6-8 years for seasonal use). You can test this simply by taking a long stick, mark off 1 foot intervals, dip it into the tank, feel it passing through the liquid layers to the sludge in the bottom, note where the sludge starts on the stick and how deep it is.

Kawartha Utility Services provides water access pumping services. They keep a running list of properties that have requested pumping, once this list reaches 12 cottages, the pumper is scheduled to visit the lake. You may contact them at:

1-705-654-4000

terri.kus@nexicom.net

Geoff Gordon at Citadel Home Inspections can review your system:

1-613-334-9050

geoff@citadelhomeinspections.ca

Septic Tips

Here are some tips to keep your septic system healthy:

Do make sure your septic system is large enough to meet your needs; reduce the amount of wastewater that enters the septic system - effluent from sump pumps and roof drains should not go into the septic system. Adding fixtures such as a washing machine or dishwasher this will have an effect on your system as it was designed for a set number of fixtures.

Do maintain non-woody plants on top of your leaching bed but don't allow trees and shrubs too close to the bed or tank as their roots can clog your leaching bed.

Do watch what goes in your septic tank as it requires live bacteria to function properly. Many cleaners and household products will kill bacteria.

Do keep a record of when your tank was pumped.

Do minimize the amount of water entering the system, too much and you can flood it causing solids to flow into the tile bed.

Don't put fats or oils, paints, gasoline or antifreeze, drain and toilet bowl cleaners, bleaches, feminine hygiene products, diapers, plastics, kitchen waste (coffee grounds, egg shells), cigarette filters into the septic system. Wipe oily dishes and pots out before washing.

Don't use special additives, you don't need them.

Don't allow machinery, ATV's or snowmobiles to cross the leaching bed. If snow is compacted, the leaching bed can freeze and the tank may overflow.

Don't ignore signs of a problem such as your system backing up, foul odours, effluent on the surface or soggy ground in the leaching bed, system freezing, toilet and drains gurgling or draining slowly. Have your septic system inspected regularly, and pumped out when necessary.

Watch this video about septic system maintenance, parts, signs of trouble:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VeTGVnkYA4>

Bill 228

FOCA supports Bill 228, Keeping Polystyrene Out of Ontario's Lakes and Rivers Act, 2020.

As stewards of our precious freshwaters, waterfront property owners see firsthand the impact of microplastics and other contaminants on our biodiversity. Polystyrene foam is a major plastics pollution source in our lakes. In Ontario, the genesis of much of this material is from unencapsulated polystyrene foam used primarily in the construction of floating docks.

This Bill (unanimously passed its 2nd reading in 2021) will require all polystyrene floatation to be fully encapsulated to prevent it breaking up and polluting the waters.

Be pro-active - please check for any unencapsulated polystyrene and remove/replace it. It is common in dock flotation and under the seats of aluminum fishing boats.



Water testing photo by Ian MacKanzie

Water Quality Monitoring Program

The LWCA has had a water testing program in place as a core part of our mandate. Sampling for our Lake is done by the Water Quality Director and a team of volunteers throughout the year, with the samples sent to a testing lab for scientific analysis of total phosphorus, oxygen and sect readings (water clarity).

All the data is published, www.weslemkoon.com/watertesting

Best Practices

Maintaining good water quality, to protect the lake trout and so that we may continue to enjoy the lake for swimming and water activities, is a community initiative and requires support from everyone using the lake.

Don't use any form of soap or shampoo in the lake;
biodegradable soaps only break down on land; soap in the lake lasts forever

Don't use boat wash to clean your boat in the lake; use clean water and a brush only or, if using a cleaner, pull your boat out at a marina and wash away from the shore, rinse thoroughly before launching

Don't put anything in the lake that you wouldn't drink

Additional Resources

www.ontario.ca/ministry-environment-and-climate-change

Lake Partner Program <http://desc.ca/programs/lpp>

Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association - www.oowa.org

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) foca.on.ca/resources/

Boating

Lake Markers and Hazards

A portion of the membership fees for the LWCA go to maintaining the system of markers on the lake. The markers are installed each spring and removed in the fall for storage over the winter. They are checked and repaired before reinstallation in the spring.

In general, except for the large marker in the main south channel, these are courtesy markers denoting hazards in main travel areas such as shoals or submerged rocks. They are not navigation markers and you should **not** follow them through areas such as between the lighthouse and the adjacent island.

If you notice that a marker is missing, a light is not functioning, or that there is a hazard in the lake please notify the LWCA.

info@weslemkoon.com



Installing marker lights on a floating hazard

Photo by Steve Latto

Marinas on the Lake

Four Loons (south end) - gas, launch, storage
5736 Weslemkoon Lake Rd, Gilmour, ON K0L 1W0
(613) 474-2596

Smiths Landing - private, boat storage only

Tanglewood (north end) - gas, gas, store, launch, storage
2300 Hartsmere Rd, McArthurs Mills, ON K0L 2M0
(613) 474-1111

Weslemkoon Marina (south end) - gas, store, launch, storage
188 Grannys Lane, Gilmour, ON K0L 1W0
(613) 474-5201

Repairs and Servicing:

Allen Beaudrie - boat mechanic services
613-334-7444
carguy0881@yahoo.ca

Boat Rentals

Hidden Cove Cottages
1 (613) 474-3284
longmuirhiddencove@outlook.com

Pioneer Point Cottages
(613) 474-2000
darnel@hotmail.ca

Best Practices

When boating, be aware/steer clear/reduce wake for others near you, such as swimmers, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, paddle boats, paddle boards, wildlife, etc.

SLOW – NO WAKE PLEASE - 10km/hr when boating close to the shore (less than 30 metres/ approx. 100 feet), or in channels such as the Northwest Passage and the south channel (**IT'S THE LAW**) to avoid swimmers and prevent damage to shorelines, docks/boats and nesting habitat. Remember that not only are you responsible for any damage you cause but a washed out loon nest may lose its eggs and young for the entire season. Also, remember that there may be people swimming and enjoying water activities near the shore.

Do - boaters **must** give way to swimmers and vessels that have less manoeuvrability e.g., sails have right of way over canoes which have right of way over motorized boats.

Do - respect your neighbours and the environment.

Use the '**BOATER'S CODE**' (included in this Boating Section) as your guideline to safe and respectful boating practices

Do - take steps to reduce noise pollution with watercraft.

Do - maintain watercraft and motors to reduce contamination from fuels, waste water and other hazardous or toxic chemicals. Consider decommissioning older-2 stroke engines in favour of 4-stroke or E-Tec engines.

Do - reduce the chance of importing invasive species by rinsing your boat whenever you trailer it for transport to another body of water.

Do - give the "boater's wave"!

Basic Boating Rules & Regulations

Pleasure Craft Operator's Card

Since September 15, 2009, all persons operating a pleasure craft in Canada that is fitted with a motor require proof of operator competency, such as the **Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC)**. You can get the card by taking a boating safety course in-person or online, and passing the test at the end of the course. The PCOC is good for life and you can order multiple cards to keep one in each boat.

Age and Horsepower Restrictions

- **under 12 years of age with no direct supervision, a person may operate a boat with up to 7.5 kW (10 hp)**
- **ages 12 to under 16 with no direct supervision, a person may operate a boat with up to 30 kW (40 hp)**
- **16 years of age or older: no horsepower restrictions**
- **you must be 16 years of age or older to drive a PWC**

*Direct supervision means a person (16 years of age or older) is in the boat and directly supervising the operator.

Speed Limits

The maximum speed limit is **10km/hr for boats traveling within 30 metres (approximately 100 feet) of shore.**

There are 3 exceptions to this rule:

- waterskiing, where the boat follows a trajectory perpendicular to the shore.
- in rivers that are less than 100 m (approximately 330 feet) in width, or canals or buoyed channels.
- in waters where another speed is prescribed under a schedule to the regulations.

Safety Equipment

It is strongly recommended that a lifejacket or PFD be worn at all times. Almost 90% of the 180 Canadians (on average) who die every year in boating incidents were not properly wearing a lifejacket or PFD . Nearly 70% capsized or fell overboard from a small open boat. At a recent FOCA presentation, an OPP officer stated that they don't bring bodies from the bottom of the lake wearing PFDs. He also pointed out that many of the bodies that they recover were termed good swimmers.

All watercraft must have safety equipment on board; the specific equipment depends on the type of craft, but in general, the average boat (motorized craft no greater than 6 metres - 19 feet 8 inches - in length, incl. PWCs) will require:

- **an appropriately sized, Canadian-approved personal flotation device (PFD) or lifejacket, for each person**
- **a buoyant heaving line (15 metres in length)**
- **manual propelling device (paddle) or anchor with at least 15 metres of rope, cable or chain**
- **a bailer or hand pump**
- **a sound signalling device (whistle or air horn)**
- **navigation lights if the craft is used between sunset and sunrise or during periods of reduced visibility, i.e. fog**
- **a class 5BC fire extinguisher for any craft equipped with an inboard motor, fixed fuel tank, and/or any fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigeration units**
- **proof of competency (PCOC)**
- **personal identification**
- **pleasure craft licence (for 10hp or more)**

Stand-Up Paddleboards must have onboard one Canadian approved lifejacket/personal floatation device (PFD), a sound signalling device (i.e. whistle) and a 15m (49.3') buoyant heaving line (unless wearing a PFD).

Alcohol Consumption

In Ontario NO ONE can consume alcoholic beverages while a boat is being operated. Transporting of alcohol can only be done if the containers are un opened and stored away.

Respectful boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

1. I will never operate my boat beyond the level of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of my boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on shorelines, docks, structures and people.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and wildlife.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who travels in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and within the law.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not create excessive noise or operate my boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.

Resources

Transport Canada – www.tc.gc.ca Go to the Marine section for information on Pleasure Craft licenses, Operator Competency programs, and the Safe Boating Guide.

FOCA's Boating Safety tips - <https://foca.on.ca/safe-boating/> includes links to the OPP's "Boat Notes," cold water immersion info, and the many online resources of the Canadian Safe Boating Council.

Safe Quiet Lakes - <http://safequiet.ca/>

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In Case of Emergency

You will need to know your Municipal Address. The municipal address for your property is a reflective green metal sign with white letters / numbers. If you have a road access cottage you will have one sign mounted on a metal post at the end of your driveway and one sign mounted on or near your dock for visibility from the water. If you are water access only, you will just have a sign mounted on or near your dock for visibility from the water.

Make sure your Municipal Address is posted near your telephone or printed on your Emergency Call Sheet. (see sample, following.)

Orange emergency helicopters will try to land at either the south or north ends of the lake, please tell 911 which is closest to you.

Emergency Preparation

Get ready ahead of time, and encourage everyone in your family or who regularly attends your cottage to know what to do in case of an emergency.

Post an Emergency Response Locator sheet in a visible area, where anyone including visitors can find it. (See next page, or download: foca.on.ca/emergency-response-in-remote-areas/)

Develop a Family Emergency Plan at the lake, and practice it as a family. Get information and links from FOCA about Emergency Preparedness, developing an Emergency Plan, creating Emergency Supply Kits and what to do in the event of a major emergency: <https://foca.on.ca/weather-extremes-and-emergency-preparedness/>. Also see <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca> on the Government of Canada website for disaster and planning information.

Inform guests about Fire Safety, your emergency plan and what to do in the event of an emergency.

Take a Wilderness and Remote First Aid / CPR course.

Emergency Response Locator Sheet

Fire/Ambulance/Police Emergency: call **911**

You are located on: Lake Weslemkoon (or Otter Lake)

County: Lennox and Addington

Township: Addington Highlands

Island Name, or water access property: _____

911 number: _____
(your cottage number from the green sign, ex: cottage 630, West Bay, Lake Weslemkoon)

GPS coordinates: _____

Telephone number (land or cell): _____

Owner's Name(s): _____

Nearest Fire Pump Location: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Nearest Defibrillator/AED Location: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Useful Phone Numbers

ALL Emergencies, including Fire	911
MNRF to Report an active Forest Fire	705-754-1902 ex 5001
TeleHealth Ontario	1-866-797-0000
Poison Control Centre	1-800-268-9017
Hydro One	
(hydro emergency or power outage report)	1-800-434-1235
OPP Non-emergency Bancroft	1-613-332-2112
OPP Non-emergency Madoc	1-613-473-4234
Bancroft Hospital, 1-H Manor Ln	1-613-332-2825
Belleville Hospital, 265 Dundas St E	1-613-969-7400
Bell Animal Hospital, 222 Bell Blvd, Unit 7B, Belleville	1-613-967-9800
After Hours Pet Emergencies	1-613-332-2112

FIRE SAFETY

Fire Safety should always be top of mind, learned and discussed. It should be taught to our children and reinforced. Fire Safety should be planned, and practiced. Fire Safety should be a way of life at home, and at the cottage. There are many 'common sense' things you can do to prevent fire, safeguard lives and property, and mitigate damage.

What To Do in the Event of Fire

If the Fire is on Private Property or is a Cottage or Structure Fire:
Call 911

If the Fire is a Bush Fire / Forest Fire:

If you observe a forest fire or if the bush is threatened by a cottage fire, call:

MNRF fire reporting line: 705-754-1902 ex 5001

If you have put out a bush fire without official support, you should notify the MNRF, fires can burn undetected underground for weeks before erupting again.

Haliburton Fire Management Headquarters, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

1204 Stanhope Airport Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Phone: 705-754-1902

Fire Operations Supervisor

trevor.marshall@ontario.ca

Office: 705-754-1902 ex. 5022

Cell: 705-455-2967

If the fire was on your property and you have extinguished it yourself, notify Addington Highlands.

Casey Cuddy, Fire Chief 613-336-1851

kbfdchief@xplornet.ca

I would still copy the MNR as sometimes they will check if they have a crew in the area.



A fire pump in action behind a cottage fire in 2020.

Fire Pumps

Fires can happen very quickly. A fire pump could save your cottage, it is worthwhile to consider the purchase of one. Also, there are numerous privately owned fire pumps on the lake. Please find out who has a pump near you (noted in the LWCA Directory) and only use it if it is safe to do so. Keep a safe distance from fires.



Smoke Alarms

Ontario Law states that **you must have at least one working smoke alarm on each floor of a house (or cottage) and located near sleeping areas**, including bunkies. Failure to comply with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements could result in a ticket for \$360 or upon conviction, a fine of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for corporations. **It could also save your of life.**

There are two main types of smoke alarms: “Ionization” detector (this type more quickly registers open flames or fast moving fires) and “Photoelectric” (this type more quickly detects smoke or smouldering fires). You can buy alarms that incorporate both of these into one unit or you can buy them individually and install both types. You can also buy alarms that incorporate both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors into one unit. If you have a hard wired alarm and live in an area prone to power failures, make sure alarms have a battery backup or buy separate battery operated units to supplement the hard wired type. To reduce the risk of a defective alarm, install a minimum of 2 alarms in every building. If one fails, you have a backup. More is better!

Test alarms at least monthly. Vacuum any dust buildup. Do not paint a smoke alarm. Change alarm batteries annually. You should never remove your alarm batteries because of a nuisance alarm such as burnt toast. If this happens often, move the smoke alarm or purchase an alarm with a temporary silencing button. These are not expensive and readily available. If you are having problems with your alarm, replace it. They are not expensive.

Check the manufacturing date or expiry date and replace any units past the recommended lifespan, usually 10 years. Old alarms can be disposed of in regular municipal garbage (not recycling).

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Ontario law requires a CO detector in all homes that have appliances that generate carbon monoxide (CO), or have an attached garage or carport. The National Fire Protection Association recommends at least one CO detector on each floor of your home.

Carbon monoxide is an odourless, tasteless and colourless gas that is undetectable by human senses, and it can be deadly. Early symptoms of CO poisoning such as headaches, nausea and fatigue are often mistaken for the flu and the gas goes undetected in the home. Prolonged exposure to CO can lead to brain damage and even death. Carbon Monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in North America.

Alarms With Voice Alert

New alarms with the sound of a human voice have been found in some research to be more effective at waking children than the standard high pitch tone of conventional alarms.



Fire Extinguishers

Currently, Fire Extinguishers are not yet required by law in Ontario in private residences, but it is prudent to have at least two on hand. The most common for residential applications is the dry-powder chemical type.

There are 3 primary categories of fires that the powder in the fire extinguishers are designed to extinguish.

Class A - Combustible materials such as paper, wood, fabric, refuse

Class B - Flammable liquids and gases (oil, gasoline, propane, etc.)

Class C - Electrical - Note that electricity does not burn, however if the fire is electrically energized (i.e. an electrical short ignites a combustible material), electrocution could occur if the fire is fought with water. If the power is turned off, the fire can then be fought as a Class A or B.

Choose a fire extinguisher which is rated for all 3 classes.

Familiarize yourself with the operation of your fire extinguishers and memorize the “PASS” procedure:

P - Pull the pin

A - Aim at the base of the flames

S - Squeeze the handle to eject the chemical

S - Use a **sweeping** motion back and forth centering on the base of the flames

Fire Safety Planning

We live on a large lake where many properties have no road access. It is a good idea to buy or have access to a fire pump. Familiarize yourself with the location of any pumps near you.

Every cottage should have a “Fire Safety Plan” in the event of the unthinkable happening.

Elements of a good Fire Safety Plan include:

Know all the exits for escape. If a fire is detected indoors, exit the building immediately and close the door behind you to slow the spread of the fire. If you are in a room with a closed door, feel the door with the back of your hand to see if it is hot. If it is hot, don't open it.

Every room should have 2 exit options. If access to an exit door is blocked by fire, you may be able to exit through a window, depending on the height off the ground. Collapsible emergency Fire Escape ladders are available in stores like Canadian Tire for about \$70.

Have a designated location, outside of the cottage, to meet after escaping from the fire; do a head count.

Call 911 as early as it is safely practical to do, so help will be on the way to extinguish the fire.

Review your Fire Safety Plan regularly with all of the family. Things like checking doors for heat and using a window to exit may be obvious to an adult, but this should be covered in your plan with young children. A child's first instinct is to hide from danger, which could mean hiding under a bed when there is a fire.

The key is to cover all aspects of your fire safety plan before there is a fire. Smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors are a great start, but things like the proper location and use of Fire Extinguishers and Safety Ladders, meeting locations, etc., must be planned for early, reviewed frequently, and updated as necessary.

Storing Flammable Materials

Flammable materials such as gasoline, kerosene, propane tanks, oils, paint thinner, etc., should never be stored in the cottage or any attached buildings. Keep these items in a separate shed located away from the cottage. Don't store lumber under your cottage, it can both provide a home for unwanted animals and fuel for a fire.

Preventing Chimney Fires

As more of us are using our cottages year round, the possibility of a chimney fire is increased. A chimney fire starts when super-heated gases from your wood stove or fireplace ignite creosote which builds up on the walls of your chimney.

- burn hard wood, such as maple, birch or oak; evergreens have resins in them that cause a lot of creosote build-up when they are burned slowly.
- don't burn green wood, dry (seasoned) wood produces less creosote.
- keep your fire hot (above 225 degrees Fahrenheit if you have a chimney thermometer), a colder or smoldering fire allows resins to condense and cause creosote. If you are keeping a wood stove burning all day, burn a hot fire (at least 500 degrees F) a couple of times a day, to help burn off the small amount of daily accumulation
- ensure your chimney size suits your stove or fireplace; creosote builds up faster in an oversized chimney.
- never use a liquid accelerant to start your fire.
- inspect your chimney annually for creosote buildup. If you are not comfortable cleaning it yourself or don't have the proper tools, have it cleaned professionally.

Have your wood stove / fireplace and chimney professionally inspected periodically by a WETT certified technician to identify damage and any repairs/replacements that may be required. If you are purchasing a property that has a solid fuel burning system such as a wood stove, your Insurer will require a WETT Certificate before they will insure the structure against fire. This often means replacing the existing wood stove.

Local By-laws Related to Fire

Outdoor Burning

Outdoor fires are governed by the Addington Highlands By-Laws. The full by-laws may be found at: <http://addingtonhighlands.ca/burn2006.html>

Here is a summary of some of the key rules:

No person shall start a fire outdoors without ensuring that;

- the conditions are safe
- there are adequate adults competent to control the fire
- there are no *fire bans* in place at the time.
- there is adequate equipment/water to control and extinguish the fire
- the fire is on bare mineral soil or rock and is at least 3 meters (9.75 ft.) from any flammable material

Except for cooking or warmth no fires shall be set out of doors in the Township of Addington Highlands between the hours of (7) seven a.m. and (7) seven p.m. from the first (1) day of April to the thirty-first (31) day of October inclusive.

The *Fire Chief* or his/her designate at his/her discretion may restrict/ban open air burning or all outdoor fires (*fire ban*) depending on conditions.

No piles to be burned shall be greater than 2 meters (6.5 ft.) high and 2 meters (6.5 ft.) in diameter. Piles must be separated by a minimum of 10 meters (32.5 ft.)

No person shall set an outdoor fire where it may cause inconvenience, irritation or detriment to others.

No person shall set a fire directly under/near telephone or power lines.

No person shall burn any material restricted by the MOE such as rubber, plastics, treated wood, or any material which causes toxic or *noxious* gasses.

Any person starting an outdoor fire shall ensure that adequate personnel, equipment and water are available to contain and extinguish the said fire and if said fire cannot be contained and extinguished the person(s) responsible shall notify the Fire Department immediately.

The *Fire Chief* or his/her designate may order any fire extinguished.

Every person who starts a fire shall be responsible and liable for damage to property, or injury to persons occasioned by the fire.

Fire Hazard Rating Signs

Fire Hazard Ratings must be strictly followed. Signs declaring the current hazard rating are posted at conspicuous locations on local highways, Weslemkoon Lake Road and Hartsmere Road. The marinas can usually also provide an update and you can check on line at <http://addingtonhighlands.ca>

Fire bans are a frequent occurrence. “Fire Ban” means a total fire ban and shall prohibit: burning of debris, burning in an outdoor incinerator, outdoor fire places including chimineas, fireworks displays, campfires of any type, and charcoal installations.





NOTE: during a fire ban a BBQ or Hibachis (charcoal installation) may be used provided the installation is used within 100 meters of a permanent structure used as a dwelling that you occupy, or in an organized campground, is at least 2 meters from any flammable material and the ashes and coals produced are completely extinguished and safely disposed of.

Fact: Wildfires destroy an average of 200,000 hectares (494,211 acres) of forested land each year in Ontario!

Please remember that the geography and abundance of vegetation within our area increases the risk of a fire spreading rapidly. Outdoor burning regulations are in place and enforced in order to prevent wildfires and property damage. Fires can be extremely dangerous and each year a number of preventable wildfires occur from improper use and handling. Don't become a statistic – Be Safety Conscious!

FIRE RATINGS



 Fire Rating: LOW	 Fire Rating: MODERATE	 Fire Rating: HIGH	 Fire Rating: EXTREME
LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME
<p>LOW and MODERATE FIRE RATINGS:</p> <p>No person shall start a fire outdoors during the Fire Season (April 1st to October 31st) unless the fire is started not earlier than 6:00 p.m. in the evening, and is extinguished not later than 2:00 a.m. the following day or earlier.</p> <p>Fires for cooking and warmth permitted</p>		<p>Fire Danger is SERIOUS</p> <p>NO OPEN BURNING except contained campfires for cooking and warmth</p> <p>FIREWORKS PROHIBITED</p>	<p>Fire Danger is EXTREMELY HIGH</p> <p>NO OPEN BURNING of any kind!</p> <p>TOTAL FIRE BAN DECLARED + FIREWORKS PROHIBITED</p>

Fireworks, Firecrackers and Sky Lanterns

The Township of Addington Highlands regulates the setting off of Fireworks; the by-laws **ONLY PERMIT** fireworks on **Victoria Day** (the last Monday before May 25th), **Canada Day** (July 1st) and **Labour Day** (first Monday of September).

Many of us love Fireworks! To minimize their impact we encourage people to enjoy the community displays put on at the south end of the lake on Victoria Day weekend and labour Day weekend and limit their use otherwise.

Fireworks & The Environment

Fireworks contain several chemicals which are dangerous to the environment and dangerous for humans to inhale. The smoke can contain sulfur-coal compounds and traces of heavy metals. The fallout from fireworks falls into the water or onto the land where rain carries it into our lakes and rivers. This can harm fish and change the balance of the water.

The noise and light can disrupt nocturnal creatures' cycles and behaviour.

Embers from fireworks fallout can start fires. In the densely forested area surrounding our lake, the risk is greatly heightened, and there is the potential for catastrophic consequences if a forest fire is started.

If you do set off fireworks at the cottage, use extreme caution and common sense; obey the rules and the safety precautions contained in the by-law, including prohibitions during high or extreme (total fire ban) fire hazard ratings.

IMPORTANT: "Flying lanterns" are never a good idea, particularly when released over forested areas! Find out more, here: <https://foca.on.ca/flying-fire-lanterns/>.

RECYCLABLE MATERIALS AND HOW TO PREP FOR THE WASTE SITE

ACCEPTED ITEMS	EXAMPLES	INSTRUCTIONS
Aluminum Foil & Plates	Rigid foil containers (i.e. pie plates), fast food trays, aluminum foil wrap	Flatten if preferred. Must be clean – no food residue. Place with cans & plastic. No foil with paper or plastic lamination, no cardboard lids, no butter/candy/cigarette wrap, no peel off lids, no metalized chip bags
Aerosol Cans	Paint, hairspray, room fresheners, household cleaners, herbicides, auto, etc.	All cans must be empty. Spray nozzles and paper labels may remain. Place with plastics and cans.
Boxboard	Boxes from cereal, cookies, tissue, detergent, shoes, paper egg cartons, empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls	Empty and flatten cardboard and tie in bundles no larger than 24" x 24" x 8". Can be placed in a larger box for containment. Can be put with newspapers, magazines and junk mail.
Corrugated Cardboard & Brown Paper Bags	Heavy cardboard boxes, empty bags from pet food, farm products, etc.	
Empty Paint Cans	Up to 4 litres or 1 gallon size. NO PLASTIC PAINT CANS	Can must be empty of liquid paint. May have no more than 1/4" dried paint on bottom. Remove lid and place with scrap metals. If can contains paint, it must go to the Hazardous Waste Depot in Cloyne or Renfrew.
Food & Drink Cans	Pop, soup, vegetable cans, etc.	Rinse cans of residue. Labels may remain. Cans do not need to be flattened. Place metals lids from cans in the bottom of the can, and pinch the top of the can to trap the lid inside – required safety measure. Place with plastics and cans.
Glass	Clear and coloured glass – FOOD & BEVERAGE BOTTLES NO DRINKING GLASSES/CERAMIC CUPS, WINDOW PANES, DINNER PLATES, MIRRORS/CARLIGHTS, LIGHTBULBS	Rinse of residue and place with plastic and cans.
Milk & Juice Cartons, Tetra Boxes & Soup Boxes		
Newspaper, Magazines, Junk Mail, Phone Books, Gift Wrap	Newspapers, flyers, magazines, catalogues, envelopes, computer/printer paper, paper cups, paper plates, tissue paper, greeting cards, novels & hardcover books.	Items must be tied together or bagged.
Office Mixed Paper	Paper, file folders, etc. NO CARBON OR CONSTRUCTION PAPER	All materials placed in clear plastic bag.
Styrofoam (Polystyrene)	Packaging from appliances, packaging pellets, cups, plastic cutlery, meat trays, bakery trays, flower pots NO SPONGE/RUBBER-LIKE FOAM, NO PINK/BLUE CONSTRUCTION FOAM	Must be rinsed clean of residue. Place all types in a clear plastic bag separate from other waste/recycling. Do not place with plastics and cans.
Plastic Film #4 (see additional list under Blue Box Rules)	Grocery bags, flyer bags, outer milk bags, vegetable bags, Ziploc baggies	All bags must be clean (no residue or receipts). Place together in a plastic bag separate from other waste/recycling. Do not place with plastics and cans.
Plastic Bottles & Jugs (#1- #7)	Beverage containers (pop, water, juice), cleaner bottles (Windex, Mr. Clean, dish soap) NO MOTOR OIL CONTAINERS NO VEG. OIL CONTAINERS (UNLESS THOROUGHLY WASHED)	Drain, rinse and discard caps and place with plastics and cans.
Plastic Tubs & Lids (#2 - #7)	Margarine, yogurt, sour cream, ice cream, etc.	Rinse clean of residue, remove lids, and place with plastic and cans.

The following items are accepted **free of charge** at all Waste Sites (effective April 2010):

Televisions	Calculators with printers	Desktop computers	Scanner	Photocopiers	Fax machines	Typewriters
Answering machines	Digital projectors	Home stereo systems	DVD players	Computer monitors	Desktop printers	Modems
Cordless phones	Rotary/touch tone phones	Digital photo frames	Home stereo amps	AM/FM radios	VCRs/video projectors	Home theatre systems
Label makers	Turntables	Speaker systems	Portable computers	Computer accessories	POS receipt printers	Floor-standing printers
Professional display devices		After-market vehicle audio devices		Desktop multi-function devices		

The recycling guide is also available online at:
http://www.addingtonhighlands.ca/Waste_&_Recycling_Brochure_Side_2_15Apr19.pdf

Waste Management

The Township/Municipality of Addington Highlands handles waste and recycling for the lake. Locations and hours at:

<http://www.addingtonhighlands.ca/WasteSiteHours.pdf>

Kaladar 10618 Hwy 41
Hours: Mon: 8-12 Wed: 11-4 Fri: 8-1 Sat: 8-4 (2021)

Mackavoy 18471 Hwy 41
September 16 – June 30 Wed: 8-12 Sun: 10-4
July 1 – September 15 Wed: 8-12 Sun 1-7

Hartsmere 1943 Hartsemere Road
Apr 1 - Sept 30 Sat 8-12 Sun 1:30-6 Wed 8-3
May 1-Sept 30 HOLIDAY MONDAY: 12-6
Oct 1 - Mar 31 Sat 10-4 Wed 10-4

Weslemkoon 4792 Weslemkoon Lake Road
Apr 1 - Sept 30 (2020) Sat 8-12 Sun 1:30-6 Wed 8-3
May 1-Sept 30 HOLIDAY MONDAY: 12-6

Cloyne 202 Skootamatta Lake Road
refer to the website

Vennachar 1090 Buckshot Lake Road
refer to the website

Municipal Hazardous & Special Waste (MHSW) items are collected for FREE at the MHSW Depot located at the 506 Waste Site, 3444 Road 506 Cloyne.

506 MHSW Depot opens May 15th until October 1st.
2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month – 1:30 to 6:00 p.m.,
and the 1st Saturday of each month – 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.

MUNICIPAL HAZARDOUS & SPECIAL WASTE

NOTE – Changes to Operating Hours

Municipal Hazardous & Special Waste (MHSW) items are collected for **FREE** at the MHSW Depot located at the 506 Waste Site, **3444 Road 506** Cloyne, Ontario

506 MHSW Depot opens May 15th until October 1st.

Wednesday's – 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.,

and the 2nd Saturday of each month – 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.

DROP OFF FOR RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIPS OF NORTH FRONTENAC & ADDINGTON HIGHLANDS



AUTOMOTIVE –

Automotive Antifreeze used for coolant, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.
Used motor oil and liquid fuels such as gas, diesel, camp fuel;
Oil Filters – used in hydraulic, transmission or internal combustion engine applications.
Autobody filler; glazing and spot putty.



CONTAINERS –

Aerosol containers such as hairspray, spray paint, etc. Oil Containers including hydraulic fluid and transmission fluids; Antifreeze Containers; Pressurized Containers such as seamless and welded cylinders and tubes and insulated cylinders such as helium, Freon, acetylene, propane, nitrogen, oxygen and other compressed gases; Fire Extinguishers.



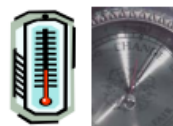
GARDEN –

Pesticides - such as fungicides, herbicides and insecticides; flea/tick collars; insect repellents; weed killers; pest control products; sanitizers and disinfectants containing fungicides; pool chemicals containing herbicides, pesticides, fungicides (eg., algae removers; Ph reducer); and fertilizers, such as lawn, rose, shrub and tree; multipurpose and potting soils which contain fertilizers.



HOUSEHOLD –

Paints, stains, coatings, primers (latex and alkyd) and their containers; solvents such as thinners for paint; lacquer; contact cement; paint strippers; acetone; degreasers and their containers;
Single use dry cell batteries; Rechargeable batteries; Cell Phones; Pagers and Two-way hand-held radio batteries;
Irritants such as cleaners; corrosives such as chlorine, drain openers, ammonia; stain and scale removers; silicones; drywall compound;
Foundation coating; roof repair cement; spray foam insulation containers;
Fluorescent light bulbs and tubes and compact fluorescent lamps (whole, not broken).



MERCURY DEVICES –

Thermometers (fever & non fever); manometers, hydrometers, barometers.
Mercury Switches - such as those found in vehicles, appliances, float switches;
temperature switches; flame sensors, bilge pumps; pressure switches; tilt switches.



PERSONAL CARE –

Non-prescription/over-the-counter medications for humans and pets; orally ingested medications such as cough and cold remedies, stomach remedies, vitamins; topical antibiotic and anti-fungal creams (eg., acne preparations) pills, capsules, analgesics.
PLEASE REFER TO Ontario Medications Return Program (OMRP) and Ontario Sharps Collection Program (OSCP) to determine accepted items and where to take it.
www.healthsteward.ca/returns/ontario

VISITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The beauty of our lake draws all types of visitors, from avid anglers to campers and cottage renters. Please also refer to the Fishing section for a helpful guide.

Rentals

The occasional rental of cottage properties has become a financial reality for some owners.

FOCA supports a philosophy of responsible rental that encourages owners to:

- educate and inform all guests (visitors or renters) about cottage country living and etiquette (see a sample visitor information sheet on the next page),
- work with neighbours to promote harmonious relationships,
- be environmental stewards by ensuring the sustainable use of cottage properties, recognizing the limits of the existing septic system, road capacity and other community considerations.

Additionally, owners should be aware that most cottage insurance policies do not provide automatic coverage for short-term rentals. You should talk to your insurance agent or broker to find out if you have, or can get, coverage. Many policies have limits to the number of weeks you can rent each year, or other restrictions on occupancy.

Some municipalities are contemplating or have already implemented zoning, permitting or other regulations for short-term rentals; check local rules and zoning by-laws first, or face penalties. Get more information from FOCA, here:

<https://foca.on.ca/responsible-cottage-rental/>

Quick Visitor Guide

[adapted by FOCA, with thanks to the Leech Lake Cottagers Association]

Welcome to our Community! You likely came to cottage country for the same reasons we all 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 wonderful clean and safe lake, abundant wildlife, starry skies and so much more. Here is what we all do to keep it that way:

Enjoy your time here. Be aware that pets, excessive noise and lights can interfere with relaxation, star gazing, and neighbouring bedtimes.

Septics are kept in good working order by limiting your water use, and by keeping chemicals and non-degradable items out.

Garbage and recycling is to be dropped off at one of the local landfills. Ask the owner about composting.

We **NEVER** bath or wash boats in the lake.

Food is not left outside overnight and **BBQ's** are cleaned so animals are not attracted. Wildlife is viewed from a safe distance for you and them.

Boats used in other water bodies are cleaned, dried and drained before launching in our lake. Use only native bait. Bait buckets and live bait are never emptied into the lake.

Campfires are enjoyed safely. The status of the Forest Fire danger is posted on area roads. Daytime burning is banned in the summer, and fires should never be set when windy. Don't leave your fire unattended. Keep a water source handy. Douse your fire thoroughly when finished.

Vegetation in and around the shoreline is kept natural and purposely not cut or fertilized.

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

Camping Guide

Your Campsite – Whenever possible pitch your tent on an established camping surface that has already been cleared and try to keep your campsite as small as possible.

Campfires – Be aware of local fire bans before planning your campfire by calling the Township at (613) 336-1851. A fire ban includes all types of fires, and fireworks. Purchase wood locally instead of gathering dead branches. Construct your campfire close to the water and keep it contained in a fire pit or a ring of large stones. Do not burn garbage in the fire pit, apart from soiled toilet paper. Put the fire out at least 45 minutes before you go to bed or leave the site by pouring water on it and stirring the ash several times. **Make sure that the fire is dead out before leaving, a forest fire in 2020 was the result of a stray camp fire ember.** Only fires for warmth or cooking are allowed between 7 am & 7 pm from April 1-October 31.

Minimize Waste - try to minimize your waste by using reusable containers and pack out and garbage that you have.

Stop the Invasion - Avoid introducing and transporting invasive (non-native) species by cleaning boats, all camping equipment and buying firewood locally. Be aware of live bait restrictions and leave all rocks and plants where you find them.

Nature Calls – If your campsite does not have a thunder box, you will need to bring either a portable camp toilet or a small shovel, toilet paper and a paper bag with you. Find a spot at least 50 m (164 feet) from your campsite and the water's edge to locate your latrine then dig a hole at least 15 cm (6 inches) deep to contain your waste. Put soiled toilet paper into the bag to throw out in the garbage, or burn it in your campfire.

Washing Up – Use only biodegradable dishwashing soap, hand soap and shampoo and remember to ensure that no soap of any kind gets into the lake water. Biodegradable soap only breaks down upon contact with the earth, and can harm the water. Castille soap (Dr. Bronner's or Green Beaver make this type of soap) is a great choice for camping and cottaging as it is completely plant based and does not contain any synthetic foaming agents. Look for the EcoCert logo as verification that the products you choose will not harm the environment.

Sun Safety – Adhere to the Slip Slap Slop policy of Slip on a Shirt, Slap on a hat then Slop sunscreen on what skin remains exposed. To protect yourself and the lake from chemical exposure choose sunscreens that are mineral based (zinc oxide or titanium dioxide) and free from chemicals such as Oxybenzone (see EWG.org for more sunscreen tips). Look for "Reef Safe" sunscreens if you will be wearing your sunscreen into the water. And let your sunscreen soak in for at least 20 minutes before going into the lake.

Dispose of Garbage Properly – Follow the "pack it in, pack it out" philosophy by carrying out all your garbage, compostables and recyclables for disposal through your local facilities. If you need to dispose of your waste before you get home, Addington Highlands has a disposal facility located on Lake Weslemkoon Road and another on Hartsmere Road. Waste site hours are posted on their website www.addingtonhighlands.ca.

On the Trails – walk single file on the established trails being sure not to disturb the plants or wildlife. This will help preserve the beauty of the forests and will also help you to avoid encountering deer ticks and poison ivy. Lake maps showing trail locations are available to purchase at the marinas

Enjoy the Silence – be considerate of other campers and cottagers by keeping loud noise to a minimum so that everyone can enjoy the sounds of nature.



Camping Sites

In addition to privately owned, road access camp grounds, camping is permitted on crown land in Ontario. Canadian citizens and people who have lived in Canada for at least 7 months of the preceding 12-month period may camp for free up to 21 days on any one site in a calendar year. This ensures sites are available to others and helps reduce environmental impacts.

There are 3 designated provincial campsites on Lake Weslemkoon, shown as black tent symbols on the adjacent map. These sites are not maintained so please ensure that you leave a site as clean, or even cleaner, than you found it.

insert photo

Water Levels

Water Levels

The water levels on the lake are maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNRF). The LWCA communicates with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNRF) and relays members comments to them.

The water levels on the lake are managed using the dam at the north end under the Madawaska River Water Management Plan. This plan is a complex document that sets the water level operational ranges for the lake and the Madawaska River system.



One of the main concerns in managing water levels on the lake is protecting the lake trout and coordinating with the spawning cycles. The lake trout spawn after Labour Day, laying their eggs in the shallow gravel shoals. Water levels cannot be changed from this time until the spring freshet (melt) when the eggs hatch.

The water management plan can be found here:

www.opg.com>document>madawaska-river-water-management-plan

The current readings from the dam gauge can be found here:

<https://datagarrison.com/users/300234010709980/300234010800000/plots.php>



FORESTRY AND TRAILS

Trails

The LWCA has a series of maintained hiking trails accessible from marked points on the lake. The trail heads are noted on the LWCA lake map.

- Pikes Peak Trail - 10-15 minute short, easy climb to a picturesque cabin and a spectacular lake view
- Mink Lake Trail - 45 minute hike to beautiful swimming lake surrounded by crown land
- Little Long Lake Trail - short walk to the lake itself with the option to hike an easy trail to a picnic site
- Mackenzie Lake Trail -
- Canoe Lake Trail - 45 minute hike to lake surrounded by crown land
- Sleeper/Green Lake Trail - 20 minute hike to very clear lake with lovely deep green hues
- Shiner Lake Trail -
- Little Weslemkoon Lake Trail -
- Ashby Lake Trail -
- High Dam Lake Trail -
- Buck Lake Trail - 45 minute easy flat hike, part of trail is on dirt logging road

If you notice that a trail needs maintenance, from fallen trees to fading markers, please contact us at:

info@weslemkoon.com

insert photo of Sawyer beetle vs Asian

Pests and Diseases

The most common conditions/pests that infect our forest area are:

- brown spot needle blight
- spruce budworm
- gypsy moth

Species to watch for are:

- emerald ash borer
- Asian long horned beetle

Sawyer (pine) beetles are native and common to our area and can be mistaken for Asian long horned beetles. The body of the white-spotted sawyer beetle is browner in colour, the segments of its antennae are uniform in colour and appearance and it has a white spot on the back of its neck. It is classified as a secondary pest that feeds on weakened, dying, or recently dead trees, such as those left after a fire. The Asian long horned beetle is a black-bodied beetle from Asia, and the segments of its antennae are black and white in appearance. It feeds on native hardwoods and has no natural predators.

Please never bring in firewood or kindling from outside our area, it can import unwanted insects and diseases.

The MNRF monitors forest health conditions on an annual basis. To see what insects and conditions are predominant and any treatments:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-health-conditions>

Forestry

Our lake is surrounded by crown land, which provides a valuable resource and source of employment for the local economy. One very important job that the LWCA performs is coordination with the MNRF and forestry companies to maintain a viable and sustainable forestry industry that respects the environment and the other users of the lake.

insert photo of trail maintenance

What You Can Do

Our properties play an important role in a healthy forest and in maintaining water quality.

As noted in the previous section on shorelines, keeping a healthy riparian zone between your cottage and the lake is one of the most important things that you can do.

There is a fantastic Tree & Shrub Program provided by the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council (BASC). The program offers low-cost tree and shrub species suitable for naturalizing shorelines and / or bolstering the riparian zone at your cottage. All orders are placed using the BASC online store at: www.bascstore.ecwid.com

To volunteer for trail maintenance, visit the website:

<https://weslemkoon.com/forestry>

Land Use Planning and Construction

Shore Road Allowance

What is the shore road allowance and why do I have it?

The initial laying out of road allowances in Ontario included the establishment of shore road allowances 66 feet in width from adjacent to navigable rivers and lakes.

For shore road allowances that are deemed to have no foreseeable future public use, you can apply to the Township to have that section closed and deeded to the adjacent property owner.

Prior to obtaining a building permit, you may need to purchase your shore road allowance if any work is proposed in this area and/or if your existing cottage is located in it.

insert photo of pl line stake

Township By-Law Description

Zoning By-Laws

The Township of Addington Highlands administers the District Official Plan through the zoning by-law which controls land use. The Township undertakes approvals such as building permits, consents (land severances), minor amendments and re-zonings.

The Addington Highlands Zoning By-Law is on-line at:

<http://www.addingtonhighlands.ca/PTR-Ver2.pdf>

Under the Zoning By-Law, every property is given a designation which can be found on the zoning map. The maps are appended to the end of this section and can be found online at:

<http://www.addingtonhighlands.ca/zonebylawmaps.html>

The designation symbols found on our lake and their classifications are:

C3 - recreational commercial

RLS - residential limited service

RU - rural

Most of the cottage properties on our lake are located in an RLS area.

The permitted uses in this type of area are:

- an existing single unit dwelling;
- seasonal dwelling;
- a home occupation within an existing single unit dwelling;
- guest cabin;
- uses, buildings and structures accessory to any of the permitted uses in the General Provisions of the By-law.
- one accessory guest cabin is permitted up to 20m (215sf), but a building over 10m (107sf) requires a building permit.

Here are a few key by-laws for an RLS property:

4.1.8 BOAT HOUSE, PUMP HOUSE AND DOCKING FACILITIES

4.1.8.1 A boat house or pump house may be erected and used in the required yard of a lot abutting a waterbody provided such accessory building or structure is not located closer than 1.0 metre to the interior side lot line and provided no such building contains areas used for human habitation including sleeping quarters, washrooms, cooking facilities.

4.1.8.2 No dock shall be located within 2.0 metres of the lot line or projection thereof.

Setbacks for Existing Buildings:

4.5.5 ALTERATIONS TO NON-COMPLYING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Nothing in this By-law shall prevent the enlargement, reconstruction, renovation or repair of an existing, non-complying building or structure provided such enlargement, reconstruction, renovation or repair shall not further reduce any by-law provision with which the use is not in compliance.

Setbacks for New Buildings:

4.7.1 SETBACKS FROM WATERBODIES

ii) **All buildings and structures**, including septic tank disposal systems and tile fields, and non-naturally occurring landscaped open space **shall be setback 300 metres from high water mark** of Ashby, Ashden (Ashby White), Barnard, Buckshot, Crystal, Effingham, Fox, Grimsthorpe, Joeperry, Long Mallory, Rainy, **Weslemkoon**, and Simpson lakes.

iii) Docks, boat houses, and similar structures may be permitted within 30 metres of the high water mark of all waterbodies;

On both Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lakes:

- a) Shoreline areas will be protected from insensitive development that may have the effect of removing natural vegetation, disturbing the existing soil mantle and impairing water quality in the adjacent water body.
- b) The Conservation Authority and/or appropriate provincial ministry shall be consulted on all development proposals affecting shoreline areas...
- c) Development should be creatively designed to enhance and protect the sensitive nature of shoreline resources, avoiding the crowding of buildings, the removal of vegetation and the pollution of ground and surface waters.
- d) *(see section for each lake)*
- e) Only those buildings, structures, and uses requiring proximity to water, such as docks, boat houses or similar accessory uses, may be located within 30 metres of the high water mark of the water body or within the 5 metre floodline elevation as defined by the Conservation Authority provided approval has been given by the appropriate agency. (Ministry Modification No. 25)
- f) A natural vegetative buffer strip shall be maintained between the setbacks as outlined in section 7.7.1. d) above, and the water's edge to filter pollutants from runoff. Within this buffer area, clear cutting of trees and shrubs is not permitted.**
- g) Land covered by water and forming the bed of a water body shall be left in an undisturbed natural condition. No dredging, filling or alteration of the shoreline of any water body shall be permitted without the approval of the appropriate federal and/or provincial ministry, and/or the Conservation Authority.

Lake Weslemkoon has a “**Highly Sensitive Lake Trout Lake**”

Designation:

b) Where a lake is identified as a Highly Sensitive Lake Trout lake, no lots will be created and no buildings, structures or private sewage disposal systems shall be permitted within 300 metres of the shoreline.

c) Any application that involves the creation of a new lot, residential units, or any non-residential development of the shorelines of lakes which have been identified as being At Capacity or Highly Sensitive shall not be considered except under one of the following special circumstances:
(refer to the Zoning By-Law)

Otter Lake has a “**Moderately Sensitive Lake Trout Lake**” designation:

i) Applications to create a lot(s) by consent may be approved with a minimum setback of 30 metres from the high water mark of a moderately sensitive lake trout lake or the Environmental Protection Area shoreline. Site alteration and disturbance of vegetation is not permitted within this setback.

iv) Existing lots of record shall be developed with a minimum setback of 30 metres from the high water mark; or the greatest setback achievable if a 30 metre setback cannot be accommodated. The applicant is required to demonstrate through an EIS that there is no negative impact on the feature or function of the lake. (Ministry Modification No. 27)

The above notes are key points only, the Zoning By-Law is a complex document with many additional requirements and subject to revisions. Please review your property and proposed plans with the Township before undertaking any project. They will also review your proposed project to determine if any other approvals, such as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, are required.

Building Permits

The Township is responsible for enforcing Ontario's Building Code (OBC). It issues permits for the construction, renovation, demolition and changes of use of buildings, and for the installation, alteration, extension or repair of on-site sewage systems.

Why do you need a building permit?

Building permits allow the township/municipality to protect the interest of both individuals and the community as a whole. By reviewing and approving building plans before any work is done, the municipality can ensure that buildings comply with:

- the Building Code, which sets standards for the design and construction of buildings to meet objectives such as health, safety, fire protection, accessibility and resource conservation,
- the Comprehensive Zoning By-law and other planning controls on buildings,
- other applicable legislation, including Ministry of Natural Resources approval and certain requirements under the Environmental Protection Act.

How do you apply for a building permit?

You can get an application for a building permit from the Township/ Municipal website or office. **It's a good idea to talk to staff at the Township before you apply. 1-613-336-2286**

If there is something in your proposal that does not conform to the zoning by-law, you may have to apply for a minor variance or permission before you can apply for a building permit. The building department can tell you what information, drawings and plans you'll have to include with the application and whether you'll need any other permits or approvals.

<http://www.addingtonhighlands.ca/BuildPermApp.pdf>

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO GET A PERMIT?

(from Addington Highlands website)

1. A fully completed Municipality APPLICATION form
2. Two (2) sets of PLANS for the proposed construction, renovations etc.
3. A copy of the roof truss drawings stamped by a P.Eng (if using)
4. A copy of the heat loss calculations (when applicable)
5. A site plan showing the location of the building on the lot i.e. distances from side, rear and front yards
6. Proof of Ownership of Property i.e. copy of registered deed (when Municipal Office has not yet received official notice of change in ownership)
7. A fully completed septic application (when applicable)

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PROCESS A PERMIT?

- Minimum of 5 days for decks & garages
- Minimum of 10 days for house permits

When do you need a building permit?

(from Addington Highlands website)

1. *All new construction*
2. *To remove any partitions*
3. *To move or relocate any plumbing fixtures.*
4. *To construct or replace any roof structure.*
5. *To construct any addition to an existing*
6. *To install any door or window where none*
7. *To install any door or window which is larger*
8. *To construct any footings*
9. *To construct any basement under an existing*
10. *To construct any deck.*
11. *To construct any addition to an existing*
12. *To construct any boat port or boat house or dock.*
13. *To construct any concrete floor which covers
or encases plumbing.*
14. *To install any wood burning, solid fuel burning*
15. *To add a porch (screened or glass) to any*
16. *To add roof to any existing deck.*
17. *To install insulation and vapour barrier.*
18. *To construct a carport.*
19. *To change use of a building.*
20. *To demolish a building, or any part of a building.*
21. *To replace a shingle roof with steel.*
22. *To install, repair, replace septic system or part*

Permit not required:

1. *To re-shingle any roof (shingles to shingles).*
2. *To replace doors or windows of the same size.*
3. *To construct any storage building less than 10
sq. metres (Note: must meet set back requirement)).*

Construction of a Boathouse or Dock

As of June 2020, regulatory changes mean that work permits are only required when a crib for a dock or a boathouse physically touches more than 15 sq. metres of shore lands. Floating and cantilever docks, and structures with cribs less than 15 sq. meters, will not need work permits, as has been the case for years.

Projects must avoid causing serious harm to fish. Find out if DFO needs to review your project: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>

Remember:

A boat house or pump house may not be located closer than 1.0 metre to the interior side lot line and cannot contain areas used for human habitation including sleeping quarters, washrooms, cooking facilities.

And:

No dock shall be located within 2.0 metres of the lot line or projection thereof.

Plumbing Permit

A Plumbing Permit is required prior to installing or altering any plumbing system.

What Happens to your Application?

If you need a zoning change or a minor variance from the zoning by-law, or if the proposed construction does not comply with the Building Code, a permit will not be issued until the zoning change or minor variance has been obtained, or the proposed construction complies with the Building Code. **It can save ALOT of time and money to talk to the Township before you prepare a submission to ensure that you are following the proper process.** They will also tell you if your drawings require the stamp of an architect, structural engineer or registered BCDIN holder.

Once you submit a permit application, with the required drawings and documents, the building department will review it to confirm that the proposed work complies with the Building Code and other applicable laws such as the Comprehensive Zoning By-law. Your application may be sent to other departments for comments.

Applications for a simple alteration or addition can be processed fairly quickly, but more complex proposals may take longer. The Building Code requires that a municipality review a permit application within a certain timeframe.

What if your application is turned down?

If the Township refuses your application, you will be told why and you have the opportunity to resolve any issues. If you can't resolve the problems with the Township, you have a few options for appealing the decision:

If the problem relates to a technical requirement set out in the Building Code, you may apply to the Building Code Commission.

If the problem relates to compliance with other applicable laws, such as interpretation of the zoning by-law, you can appeal to a judge of the Superior Court of Justice, who will review the zoning by-law. You may want to talk to a lawyer first.

What happens during construction?

The Building Code sets out the stages of construction when different types of buildings/ sewage systems require inspections. **It is the responsibility of the permit holder (typically done through your contractor) to contact the Township for an inspection when the project is at the stages of construction set out in the Building Code.**

Inspections can be obtained by calling 613-336-2286 Do NOT call before ready. The Township's building official is required to carry out the inspection within two working days of being notified. For construction of a sewage system, the inspector has five working days to conduct the inspection. During the inspection, a building inspector will inspect the work to determine if it is carried out in accordance with the Building Code, your permit and the approved plans. You will also be required to:

- *show your permit in a window or other place where it can be easily seen,*
- *keep copies of the Township approved/stamped plans on site,*
- *tell the Township about any changes to the proposed construction, which will also have to be approved by the building department.*

The inspector must always be able to see the work. If it's different from the work that was approved and, unless you get permission for a revision to your plans, you will be told to correct it. If you don't, the Township can take enforcement action, such as issuing orders authorized under the Building Code Act, 1992.

Remember, that it is a good thing to have the work inspected, this process really amounts to a check on how the work is executed.

What about insurance?

When constructing or renovating a cottage, insurance is an important piece of the puzzle that requires attention **before the work begins**. Many home and cottage insurance providers remove or significantly limit coverage on a dwelling that is under renovation or major construction. It is essential that you contact your insurance broker or agent before starting your project.

What about demolition?

Before you take down all or part of a building, you will have to apply to the Township for a demolition permit.

What happens if you contravene the Build Code Act, 1992?

Construction started prior to the issuance of a Building Permit is in violation of the Municipality's Building By-law and the property owner will be subject to an administration fee and possible fines and penalties as set out in the Set Fines By-law. In addition a "Stop Work Order" will be issued against the subject construction until a permit is obtained. Failure to comply with an order from the municipal building department is also an offence under the Building Code Act, 1992.

Further Information

For more information about land use planning within the Township, please contact the planning department:

Addington Highlands Office 613 336 2286

For more information regarding the Ministry of Housing or the Ontario Building Code please click on the following links:

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing website:

www.ontario.ca/mah

The Ontario Building Code website: www.ontario.ca/buildingcode

Lake Friendly (and unfriendly) Materials

Pressure Treated Lumber - low price, but treated with rot resistance chemicals that are harmful to fish and other aquatic organisms. Corrosive to untreated metal and aluminum, wood must be disposed of properly at end of lifespan, avoid the use of pressure treated lumber in or near a lake

Eastern White Cedar and Western Red Cedar - expensive but are naturally rot resistant w/o the need of preservatives, and can be burned or left to rot in the woods at end of lifespan

Oak, Eastern Hemlock, Spruce, Douglas Fir, Tamarack - Low price, moderate to high strength, woods best for piles and dock cribbing, long lasting when fully submerged in water, can be burned or left to rot in woods at end of lifespan. Generally not very rot resistant or as long lasting as cedar.

Contact Numbers

AH Chief Building Inspector
72 Edward St
PO Box 89, Flinton On KOH 1P0
cbo@addingtonhighlands.ca
613 336 2286

KFLA Public Health Unit:
PO Box 59 Cloyne On KOH 1K0
613 336 8989

Addington Highlands Office
613 336 2286

Ministry of Natural Resources:
Mike Scaife, Bancroft District Office
Po Box 500, 106 Monck St, Bancroft On KOL 1C0
613 332 2940 ext 243

Electrical Authority:
1 877 372 7233

ON Hydro
1 800 664 3377

Fishing

Lake Weslemkoon is renowned for its excellent fishing, bringing anglers from far and wide. As of 2016 the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has divided Ontario into 20 Fisheries Management Zones. Lake Weslemkoon is mostly in Fisheries Management Zone 18, with a small section at the end of West Bay in zone 15. The limits and seasons are slightly different for each zone.

Fisheries Management Zone 18

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/fisheries-management-zone-18>

Fisheries Management Zone 15

<https://files.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/fishing/2018/2018-fmz-15-english.pdf>

For a summary of Ontario Fishing Regulations, please visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>

Add fishing photo

Licences

Four times a year, Canadian residents **can fish** in **Ontario** without buying a **fishing licence**

- Family Fishing Weekend in February
- Mother's Day Weekend in May
- Father's Day Weekend in June
- Family Fishing Week in July

You can get the actual dates for each year here:

<http://www.ontariofamilyfishing.com/>

At all other times most Canadian residents need a **Fishing Version Outdoors Card** and **fishing licence tag** (either printed on the back of the card or accompanying the card) to fish in Ontario if they are between the ages of 18 and 64 years old, unless you have purchased a one-day licence. Those under 18 or 65 years or older are exempt. The Sport **licence** allows full catch and possession **fishing** privileges.

There are two versions of the fishing licence – Sport & Conservation. The Sport licence allows full catch and possession fishing privileges. In most cases, the Conservation licence has a catch and possession limit that is lower than the Sport licence. Conservation licences cost less than Sport licences to reflect these reduced limits.

You can get card information by calling:

1.800.387.7011 Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00pm

or order online at: <https://www.huntandfishontario.com>

- * Licences are not required by First Nations people fishing within their traditional territory, or disabled Canadian residents.

Best Practices

As with any natural resource there are numerous things we can do to maintain our fisheries. Lake Weslemkoon is a highly sensitive lake trout lake, it is very important to protect it from invasive species.

Do – clean boats, trailers, equipment, and boots between different locations to avoid the transfer of invasive species.

Do – use live bait caught from the same body of water that it will be used in OR purchase bait from a local bait shop. *It is illegal to dump live bait or bait water into a lake if it wasn't caught in that body of water.*

Do – “Limit Your Catch – Don't Catch Your Limit”. Consider releasing your catch if you don't have plans to consume it.

Do – be careful how you hold a fish if planning to release it. Keep small fish vertical when holding them by the jaw but use a horizontal hold for larger fish. Make sure your hands are wet when handling fish to avoid removing their protective coating.

Do – limit the time the fish is out of the water. When placing the it back in the water revive it carefully by holding it gently in the water with a gentle push forward until it regains its strength and swims away.

Do – educate yourself on invading species and report them when spotted by calling the Invading Species Hotline (1-800-563-7711), or on your smartphone using the EDDMapS Ontario digital reporting system. (See: <http://www.invadingspecies.com/>)

Do – Be licenced to fish.

Non-Canadian residents of any age must possess a valid licence to fish legally in Ontario, at any time of year

Daily Catch Limits are the same as the overall Possession Limits.

Any fish that is not **immediately live-released** is part of your Catch Limit and your Possession Limit.

You are cautioned against transporting your legally caught fish through another Ontario Fisheries Management Zone (or outside of Ontario) with a lower Possession Limit and/or different size restrictions, as you could be subject to fines and/or penalties if you are unable to prove that the fish were caught legally on this lake.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has a hot-line for reporting abuse of our natural resources including fishing abuse – 1-877-847-7667 (1-877-TIPS-MNR)



And please remember to limit your speed to under 10km/h within 30 m (100 feet) of shore. We are all here to relax, take your time to enjoy the lake!

Zone 18 Popular Fishing Seasons and Limits

Species	Season	Limits
Lake Trout	4 th Saturday in May to Sep 8	S-2 and C-1
Large and Small Mouth Bass	3rd Saturday in June to Dec 15	S-6 and C-2
Crappie	All year	S-30 and C-10
Yellow Perch	All year	S-50 and C-25
Sunfish	All year	S-300, only 30 over 18cm, and C-15
Northern Pike	Jan 1 to March 31 and 2nd Saturday in May to Dec 31	S-6 and C-2

S= sport fishing licence

C= conservation licence

Complete fishing chart for Zone 18 available at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/fisheries-management-zone-18#section-1>

Ice Fishing Considerations

- determine if the ice is safe
- dress appropriately for the weather
- bring the proper equipment
- fish in permitted locations
- refer to the seasonal species limits listed above

Get details here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ice-fishing>

Resources

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
(www.ontario.ca/page/fishing) – everything you need to know before fishing in Ontario.

Ontario Family Fishing (<http://www.ontariofamilyfishing.com/>)

Canada's National Fishing Week (<http://www.catchfishing.com/>)

Fish of Ontario (<https://www.ontariotravel.net/en/play/fishing/fish-of-ontario>)

Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program (<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>)

Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (www.ofah.org)
S.A.F.E. Angling Practices (www.recycledfish.org)

add ATV photo

Recreational Vehicles

Enjoying the outdoor activities is one of the main reasons for purchasing cottage or rural property, so it is important that everyone do their part to ensure the water and environment is safe for all.

Best Practices - ATV, ORV, Snowmobiles

Do – know the rules to safely operate your recreational vehicle. Be it a kayak, sail boat, power boat, ATV or snowmobile it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the proper training, documentation and safety equipment on board.

Do - respect your neighbours and the environment.

Do - take steps to reduce noise pollution with all vehicles. Continual or repetitive operation in the same area can aggravate the impact of motorized activities.

Do - maintain motorized vehicles to reduce contamination from fuels, wastewater and other hazardous or toxic chemicals.

Do Not - fuel recreational vehicles while on the ice or near a waterway. If you enjoy winter recreation, don't forget to bring back your garbage for proper disposal.

Do Not - travel across private property without permission.

Do - respect the forest, stay on authorized trails; not everyone wants to see a hiking trail turned into a motorized vehicle track

ATV and Off Road Vehicles

Basic Rules & Regulations:

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has jurisdiction over the use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). They have published a *Driver's Handbook* that includes the rules and requirements for ATVs and ORVs. (see link, following page)

Below are some of the key points covered in the Handbook including some recent changes. Please note that the rules differ depending on where you are riding your vehicle.

Off-Road Riding:

To ride an ATV/ORV off-road you must:

- be at least 12 years old, unless directly supervised by an adult or while driving on land occupied by the owner of the ATV/ORV.
- carry the ATV/ORV's registration permit or a true copy.
- register and display a rear licence plate (except in exempt areas like far northern Ontario).
- insure your vehicle under a motor vehicle liability policy.
- wear an approved motorcycle helmet, securely fastened under the chin with a chin strap.
- not drive if impaired by alcohol or drugs.

And remember the following to be a safe and responsible rider:

be responsible and courteous, and respect others on the trail
ride in designated areas only
preserve the environment and keep noise levels low

On-Road Riding:

To ride an ATV/ORV on a public road, where permitted, you must:

- be at least 16 years old to drive and hold at least a valid G2 or M2 licence
- be a minimum of eight years of age to be a passenger
- wear an approved motorcycle helmet, securely fastened under the chin with a chin strap
- wear a seat belt, where provided
- travel at speeds less than the posted speed limit unless otherwise specified; no more than 20 km/h on roads with a posted speed limit of 50 km/h or less; no more than 50 km/h on roads with a posted speed limit greater than 50 km/h
- be driving in the same direction as traffic
- travel on the shoulder - if the shoulder is unsafe or impassable or not wide enough, an ATV/ORV can be driven on the travelled portion of the road
- have headlights and tail lights on
- not drive if impaired by alcohol or drugs

Please refer to the link below for a complete list of the rules regarding riding ATV/ORVs.

Resources

Ontario Ministry of Transportation Driver's Handbook covers operation of ATVs, ORVs, and Snowmobiles under the Off-road Vehicles section:

www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/driver/handbook.

Snowmobiles

Basic Snowmobile Rules & Regulations:

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has jurisdiction over the use of snowmobiles:

www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/driver/handbook

As with ATV/ORVs, the rules depend on location. If you are driving on recreational trails that are off your own property, then you need to be 12 years old and have a valid **Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's License** (MSVOL). If you wish to drive along or across public roads where snowmobiles are allowed, then you must be at least 16 years of age and have either a valid MSVOL or a driver's license.

All snowmobiles must be registered with the MTO, registration can be transferred upon resale. The registration decal must be displayed on each side of your snowmobile.

To drive the snowmobile off your personal property:

- purchase an annual validation sticker and affix it to your registration decal.
- always carry your MSVOL and proof of registration
- have liability insurance and always carry proof of it
- wear an approved helmet whether you are driving, riding or being towed on a sled
- have a membership to drive on private trails of a snowmobile organization and have permission to drive on any other private land.
- obey the rules of local municipalities that may ban operation of snowmobiles on certain public roads.
- travel at speeds less than the posted speed limit unless otherwise specified; no more than 20 km/h on roads with a posted speed limit of 50 km/h or less; no more than 50 km/h on roads with a posted speed limit greater than 50 km/h
- limit speed to no more than 50 km/h on trails
- never operate a snowmobile when impaired

insert snowmobile photo

Noise and Light Pollution

Light Pollution

The night skies and their star gazing experience are an important part of life at the lake. We are very lucky to be in a relatively undeveloped area with spectacular stars. Please help to keep this experience. Many birds and insects migrate at night and can be distracted by artificial light. Here are some simple tips:

- install shielded outdoor lights that only downlight
- turn off lights at bed time and when not in use
- limit dock lights and use on a timer

insert night sky photo

Noise

Noise is regulated under the Addington Highlands Zoning By-Law. Key items are listed below, but also, please remember that many people are at our lake to relax and enjoy the quiet of its pristine wilderness. Noise is greatly amplified across the water.

There has always been a polite acceptance that people do not start water activities such as tubing and jet skiing until after 10am. This is a much appreciated courtesy to let everyone enjoy some quiet morning time.

Item	Prohibited Time
• fireworks	at all times, except for 3 permitted days
• amplified music	at all times
• pet noise	at all times
• persistent vocal noise	at all times
• domestic power tools	9pm-7am (9am on Sundays)
• construction equipment	8pm-7am (banned Sundays)

We are experiencing an increasing number of power outages on the lake. Many people have installed generators. Please be aware that these are extremely noisy and disruptive to neighbours. It is often not necessary to turn them on unless an outage is lengthy in duration, please consider if their use is essential.

Wildlife

Our remote location makes it ideal for viewing wildlife. However, we want to keep these encounters safe, both for us and the animals.

Bears

To keep them away from your property is simple – make sure you clean up!

- Store garbage in steel bear-proof containers if possible or alternatively in airtight containers secured inside a storage area
- Rinse all recyclables and also store in a secured area
- Clean up outdoor grills after use
- Keep pet food in at night
- Cover compost well with soil and leaves (if unwanted guests still visit – stop composting)
- Never compost meat, dairy products or sweets
- Ensure bird feeders are animal proof and can not spill to the ground
- Feed birds only in late fall to mid April

Beaver

Beavers are excellent forest managers, usually felling fast growing deciduous trees. A beaver will take these trees from the water's edge allowing sunlight through and space for the longer living trees to grow. They do not often harm commercially valuable hardwoods (such as maple or oak) but it is nevertheless very upsetting to arrive and find that your favourite tree has gone missing! To deter beavers, encircle a tree with 2" X 4" X 3' heavy wire fencing – leaving a 6" space between wire and the tree trunk. Anchor firmly.

A beaver may also decide to move into your dark and very inviting boathouse. If this happens, scatter mothballs and scour areas with bleach, making sure to keep all away from the lake. Once the beaver has left, seal off entry points with wire fencing.

Otters

As many of you know, our lake has a robust otter population. It is truly a joy to encounter them on the lake and watch them at play. It is not quite as enjoyable if they make your dock or boathouse their hang out.

Otters love the smell of fish so make sure that your fishing boat is well cleaned. Try a spray of 50/50 ammonia and cayenne to deter them and repeat on a regular basis.

Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are a frequent sight at the lake. The male is shiny green with a red (ruby) throat patch while the female is a duller green, often appearing almost brown, with a grey-ish white throat patch. Hummingbirds feed on insects, flower nectar and the sap of trees.

Feeders

Hummingbirds are easily attracted to feeders. Use a glass feeder as plastics can break down in the heat/sunlight and add chemicals to the solution. Clean feeders with warm soapy water every 3-4 days rinse well. Do not put out a feeder if you cannot maintain it, humming birds can get very sick and die if mild develops in poorly maintained feeders. Keep extra solution in the fridge. Nectar made with boiling water will last 2-3 weeks, tap or warm water 1 week.

A solution of one part sugar to 4 parts water (do not use honey or food colouring) Be sure to change it at least once a week as bacteria can grow in the feeder and make the birds sick.

Skunks

Skunks are nocturnal and burrowing. They generally live on insects, but will eat just about anything. The young are born between May and June, litters can range in size from 3-10. They leave the dens between 6 and 8 weeks of age. They are lovely, shy animals that are harmless if left alone. If you want to encourage a skunk to leave your property, please wait until late summer or early fall, light and noise are the most effective measures.

De-Skunking your Dog

Make a Solution of:

1 quart of 3-percent hydrogen peroxide (available at any pharmacy)

1/4 cup baking soda

1 teaspoon liquid dishwashing soap

or just use white vinegar diluted with water

or keep a commercial product on hand

Rub into fur (keep out of eyes) and rinse well. Wear gloves. Do not make solution ahead of time a sit could explode in the bottle!

Shampoo and rinse the dog.

Mice

Many of us fight a constant battle against unwelcome mice guests. First, all holes must be sealed to prevent entry. This can be challenging as they can find the smallest hole, including pipes entries in walls. Quick dry cement is best for sealing holes on the outside of buildings. Install 6mm metal screening over vents, under open porches and sheds. Steel wool can be used around pipes in the kitchen, bathroom and basement. Nail sheet metal over cracks. All openings for water pipes, electric wire, etc. must be sealed. Doors and windows must be tight fitting. Plastic sheeting or screening, caulking or wood are unsuitable, as mice will chew through them.

Of course you want to prevent access to all food sources. Dry goods such as sugar, cereals, pasta, nuts and grains should be kept in glass or metal containers with tight lids. Root vegetables should be kept in a rodent-proof cupboard or refrigerator.

For an easy method of mouse removal, simply place a large bucket or garbage bin near a counter with seeds or peanuts on the bottom. Mice will get in but will not be able to get out. However, you need to check every few hours to avoid subjecting the mouse to undue stress and possible inhumane death. You can take the bucket FAR away from the cottage and release the mouse.

- Trapping is not an effective method of rodent control. Unless access points are closed up, more animals will continue to move in.
- Poisons result in a lingering, inhumane death with much suffering and will have the same effects on other animals – including pets.
- Glue boards should never be used as they cause immense suffering from suffocation, dehydration, injury or stress.

Squirrels

Grey or red squirrels generally build their nests high up in trees, where they will spend long hours during winter. Squirrels may take up residence in an attic, roof or shed. Entrance holes can be small as a golf ball. A sure sign of red squirrels nearby is large stores of pinecones, nuts and fungi. Before attempting any removal methods the time of year must be carefully considered. Babies are born and raised between March and May and then again between August and October. Once you see the babies coming outside for food you may encourage squirrels to move out using battery-operated lights and radios. Relocating squirrels is not a viable option as once you remove one, another will move in. Once the squirrels leave, close all entrance points (check eaves, vents and fascia board at the corners of buildings) and offer an alternative – put up a squirrel house!

<https://squirrelrefuge.org/squirrelhousing.html>

Chipmunks

Chipmunks are easy to spot and a common site as they appear during the day and return to their individual burrows at night. They have a short life span of 2-3 years. Young chipmunks are born in the late spring and leave the burrow at 4-7 weeks. They can be tamed but be aware, they can become too tame, making it hard to have a meal outside and will happily enter your cottage.

Racoons

Fortunately our lake racoons seem to be quite respectably wild. Keeping your property clean and bear proof should deter racoons also. If you do have them make an unwanted home, remember that their young are born April and May. Never separate a mother from her young. Not only will they suffer, she will cause a lot of damage trying to get to them. Once they are 10 weeks old, they will join their mother on outdoor trips. Similar to squirrels, radios and light work as a deterrent and then and any holes can be sealed up and chimneys capped.

Bats

Bats were once a common dusk sight but white nose syndrome has decimated their population in Ontario. Bats are wonderful at the lake as they eat mosquitos. The best way to help bats is to provide or maintain homes for them. They love dead trees, if there are no safety concerns, let any dead trees remain. Don't use pesticides, bats ingest these when they eat insects.

Build or purchase a bat house:

<https://www.batcon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/4-Chamber-Nursery-House-Plans.pdf>

<https://batcon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/RocketBoxPlans.pdf>

Bat houses can be purchased online, just remember, a bat house should be at least 24" high x 16" wide as smaller houses do not offer adequate thermal stability. A bat house should not contain fabric or mesh. Roosting boards and landing pads should consist of roughened wood. Houses should be mounted at least 10 feet off the ground on building walls (not trees with risk of predation) in an area that gets at least 6 hours of sunlight for warmth.

Loons

We have a healthy loon population. Recently, the LWCA has started to do a loon survey with volunteers. Generally each large bay on the lake has its own pair of loons. Sometimes an adolescent loon will remain with its parents over additional seasons. It is very important to protect our loons and their nests to ensure that we can enjoy their iconic presence for generations to come.

Loons arrive on the lake shortly after the ice is out and remain until late fall just before the ice sets in. Nesting season is late May through early July. It is very important to not boat/jet ski near shore and watch boat speed at this time as wakes can swamp their nests causing the eggs to be lost.



One of the biggest threats to loons is poisoning by lead fishing tackle. Please do not use any lead based gear. Replace older gear with new lead free alternatives.

The LWCA will be running a sinker exchange at the marinas, "Lead Free Lakes". For every lead sinker brought in you may exchange it for a lead free alternative. Healthier for you too! Please also make sure to collect any lines as birds can become entangled.

Nesting loon photo courtesy of Frank Smith

Turtles

There are 8 common species of turtle in Ontario. Female turtles are often seen in June along the roadsides as they leave the water to nest. The eggs hatch in late summer/early fall. Unfortunately, many turtles are injured as they travel to their nesting and mating sites. Turtles have a remarkable capacity to recover and the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre will take and rehabilitate an injured turtle. Even if a turtle has died, the centre should be contacted as the turtle may have eggs.

**An injured turtle needs medical attention as soon as possible!
705-741-5000**

If you can, place the turtle on a damp towel in a well-ventilated plastic bin with a secure lid. Do not provide any food or water.

Keep the container in a dark, quiet place away from people and pets.

Do not provide any additional heat source for the turtle.

Contact the number above as soon as possible. You can also move the turtle off to the side of the road and call with its location.

Call also if you find a deceased turtle or accidentally exposed eggs.

If you find an uninjured turtle trying to cross the road, and it is safe to do so, pull over out of the way of traffic and help it across the road in the direction that it is travelling. Non-snapping turtles may be simply picked up and moved to the side of the road. Snapping turtles can be quite large and they bite, never grab the shell at the sides. They can be lifted using the back of the shell near the legs and “wheelbarrowed” or dragged across the road. You can also put a car matt or shovel under it and pull it. You can also get the turtle to bite a large stick and use that to drag it. Turtle skin is very tough and can withstand being dragged.

Snakes

There are 9 species of snakes common to our area, none of which are poisonous. 5 of these species actually give birth to live young rather than lay eggs. The Eastern Milk Snake and the Eastern Ribbon Snake are listed as species of concern, while the Eastern Rat Snake is threatened. The Eastern Garter Snake is the most Common and The Eastern Smooth Green Snake the hardest to find. You might also encounter the Northern Water Snake, Northern Brown Snake, Northern Red-Bellied Snake and the Ring Necked Snake. Most of these snakes are active during the day, except for the Milk Snake and the Ring Necked Snake.

Snakes need forest edge habitat to both cool and warm their bodies. Avoid destroying their habitat by disturbing rock piles, tree stumps or dead trees.

These snakes are quite shy and harmless to humans. They are beneficial to the ecosystem and help to keep the rodent population in check. Their love of dark places has led them to take up residence in dock boxes and fishing boats. However, they can be encouraged to leave by leaving the box open or gently picking it up by the tail and relocating.

insert garter snake photo

Invasive Species

Invasive aquatic plants, fish and invertebrates pose the biggest threat to our water system. We have been so lucky to not have an issue to date. Invasive plants can block out native plants and harm fish species.

To prevent the spread and establishment of invasive aquatic species, all recreational equipment must be properly cleaned, drained, and dried when moving between lakes. Furthermore, boats should never be driven through invasive plants to avoid spreading them through fragmentation. Buy bait locally, never bring in bait from outside water bodies.

The eurasian water-milfoil is one of the most common invasive plants. It lives in shallow water 1-3 metres deep and forms dense matts. When these matts decay it can lower the oxygen level in lakes. It has 12 or MORE leaf segments but closely resembles the native northern water-milfoil which has leaves with 10 or FEWER leaf segments.

Zebra mussels are of a particular concern, they are invasive to all of Canada and have been found in the Mississippi River watershed. It is extremely import to:

**CLEAN, DRY AND DRAIN
ALL WATERCRAFT TRAVELLING BETWEEN WATER BODIES**

If you seen any species of concern, please contact the LWCA.

Handy Contacts

(not intended to advertise or endorse,
just a quick reference guide to available services)

Construction

Guy Boudreau 613-334-6425

Andrew Colbeck 613-334-2464

Joe Cook Construction 613-334-2571

Frank Smith Contracting 613-969-8718

Doug Smith 613-318-9946

Snider

Plumbing

Scott Trotter Plumbing 613-473-2444

Electric

Doug Simpson Electric 705-653-8785

Woodstoves, Heating and Cooling

Chamberlain Heating and Cooling 613-849-7388

Firewood

Xx'

Marinas, Rentals, Repairs

Four Loons Marina - south end

(gas, launch, boat storage)

5736 Weslemkoon Lake Rd Box 15, Gilmour, 613-474-2596

Tanglewood Marina & Lodging - north end

(gas, launch, water taxi, boat & cottage rental, boat storage)

2300 Hartsmere Rd 2300 Hartsmere RR#1, McArthurs Mills

Ralph 613-474-0566

Weslemkoon Marina & Water Taxi - south end

(gas, launch, ice cream, some groceries, baking, boat storage)

188 Granny's Lane 613-474-5201

Hidden Cove Cottage Resort

(boat & cottage rental, tackle shop)

300 Hartsmere Rd 2040 Hartsmere Road 613-474-3284

www.hiddencovecottageresort.com

Allen Beaudrie - boat mechanic services

613-334-7444

carguy0881@yahoo.ca

Groceries

Foodland - Madoc and Bancroft; No Frills - Bancroft

LCBO and Beer Stores

Madoc and Bancroft

Government Services and Banking

Madoc and Bancroft