

Cottage Opening Tips from FOCA

Start the cottage season right, by following these tips:

- Check your car's lights, signals, tire pressure and fluids *before* the trip to the cottage.
- Assemble a first-aid kit for your cottage *and* your car. Already got these? Review the contents of the kits, and replace any missing or expired supplies.
- Review the condition of boats, including fuel lines and tanks. Ensure that all required safety equipment is on board and in good repair.
- Check your [electricity](#) meter and interior wiring, cords and plugs for any signs of gnawing or other damage before turning on your power for the season.
- Install and maintain cottage smoke detectors & [carbon monoxide](#) detectors. Change the batteries once a year. (Yes—now!)
- Remove dry leaves and debris from the cottage roof or eavestroughs to [reduce fire risk](#). (Remember: use ladders with caution.)
- Boating in spring weather? Beware of the dangers of cold water immersion. Get more tips for boating and cold water safety, here: <https://foca.on.ca/safe-boating/>
- Talk to your [insurance representative](#) to review your cottage, car and boat coverage. Bear in mind that many property insurance policies carry exclusions related to water damage – check yours and be sure you understand what you are covered for.
- Prepare for [extreme weather](#) events by creating a family emergency preparedness plan for the cottage. Just like at home, consider what your family would need to survive at the cottage for 72 hours in a time of emergency.
- Pay your annual lake association dues! Your association supports so many important parts of your waterfront community. [Connect with your local association here.](#)
- Talk to your neighbours, and plan ahead for emergencies by identifying vulnerable people and potential community volunteers.
- Subscribe to receive [FOCA's E!ert](#) for free important cottage country updates by email each month.

Please share this information with other waterfront property owners!

Find out more about FOCA, and **Your Role** in the future of waterfront Ontario:

<https://foca.on.ca/about/your-role/>



Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations