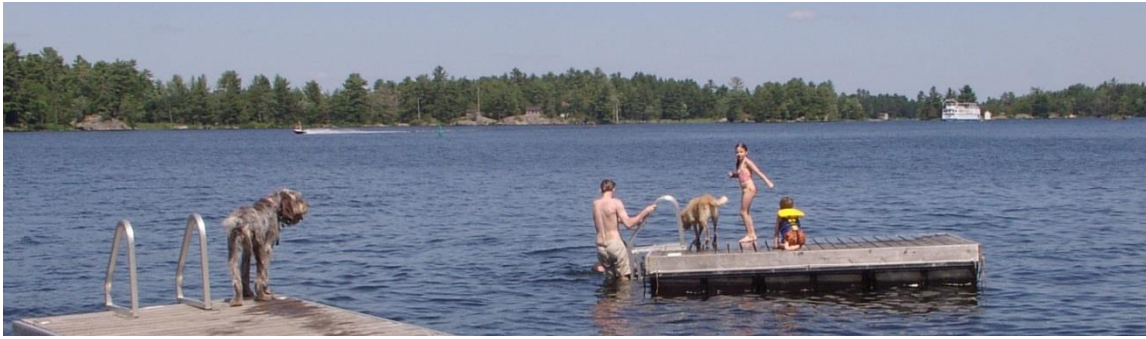


Cottage Opening - Top 10 Safety Tips from FOCA



Start the cottage season right, by following these tips:

1. Check your car's lights, signals, tire pressure and fluids before the trip to the cottage.
2. 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.
3. Review the condition of boat(s), including fuel lines and tanks. Ensure that all required safety equipment is on board and in good repair.
4. 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!
5. Install and maintain cottage smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
6. Remove dry leaves and debris from the cottage roof and/or eavestroughs to reduce fire risk. (Remember: use ladders with caution!)
7. 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/>
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Talk to your neighbours, and plan ahead for emergencies by identifying vulnerable people as well as potential community volunteers.



Please share this information with other waterfront property owners!

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations: <https://foca.on.ca>

Cottage Closing - Top 10 Safety Tips from FOCA



1. **Leave no valuables at the cottage** – electronics, personal items, tools etc. – unless you're prepared to lose them!
2. Sporting goods – fishing rods & equipment, water skis, toys etc. – don't expect them to be there next spring, if they're not secured (locked up, hidden or both).
3. If you are leaving vehicles, make sure they're winterized, secure and disabled – for snow machines, remove track and hide keys, ensure boats are covered and locked, outboard motors locked and slightly disassembled. ATVs disabled – leave nothing on trailers unless it is locked or disabled. Remember – **“Lock it or Lose it!”**
4. Secure your cottage windows and doors – close window curtains or blinds and put up shutters to protect interior from marauders (animals and human).
5. Pack up and take home all alcohol.
6. Do not leave firearms or weapons at the cottage.
7. Marking your personal items can make it difficult for thieves to resell stolen goods, and will make it easier for your items to be identified and returned if found. Record the serial numbers of anything of value left behind.
8. Make a list of the property you are leaving at the cottage, and also a list of the property that will return to your cottage on your first or next trip there.
9. Identify who is your **cottage property key holder** for alarms, thefts, weather damage or animal problems.
10. Know your local OPP Detachment that patrols your cottage community. (search: www.opp.ca › [OPP Home](#) › [Contact Us](#) or call 1-888-310-1122)



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