OTTER LAKE RESIDENTS Important Contact Numbers

Emergencies (Police, Fire, Ambulance) 911

West Parry Sound Health Centre 705-746-9321

Township of Seguin 705-732-4300



Welcome New Cottage Owners and Visitors

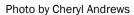


Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association

Email us at: info@olra.ca

Photo by Cathy Morrison

www.olra.ca



Welcome to Otter Lake

Otter Lake is one of Sequin Township's most beautiful and pristine recreational lakes. As you probably know many lakes become green with algae bloom during the late and hot summer months. This has not happened to Otter Lake in recent years due to the fact that the phosphorous levels are below the threshold that would cause this green bloom. It is in part through the careful actions of residents of this lake that we are able to maintain it in such pristine condition.

It is a fairly large lake in comparison to those surrounding it with a surface area of 506.3 hectares. The perimeter of the lake is 38 km with 6.6 km of island shoreline. The maximum depth of the lake is 44.8 metres, with a mean depth of 10.8 metres

Otter Lake is easily distinguishable on an area map due to its unique shape. The 'Long Arm', a long and narrow portion, stretches out at the southeast end of the lake. 'Little Otter' is a smaller, shallower part of the lake at the northeast end, separated from Big Otter by 'The Narrows". A dam at the Boyne River in Little Otter controls the water level.

This lake is valued by all of the residents for its recreational attributes as well as the lake water that many of us use for household purposes. To maintain the lake in this condition we must avoid using lawn and garden fertilizers within 20 metres of the lake and then only once a year applications if necessary. We should also avoid bathing with shampoo and soaps in the lake. As residents of this lake region, we all have a responsibility to ensure that we do everything we can to protect the lake and our local environment.

This brochure is intended to provide you with helpful ideas and requirements for living on Otter Lake and preserving this heritage for our children and our grandchildren as well as all future generations.

Recommended House Rules

Owning or renting a cottage on sensitive northern lakes such as Otter Lake requires a serious amount of responsibility.

Here are some helpful guidelines:

- Even though you are in a rural area you are never far from your neighbour and noise carries whether hosting a party or in your everyday activities. Consider the time of day and noise levels.
- When hosting parties or gatherings of groups of people avoid excessive noise after 11:00 p.m.
- We are on septic systems so avoid the use of harsh chemicals in your sinks and toilets. The longevity of your septic system is impart due to the way you treat it.
- Many of us take our water directly from the lake so avoid the use of soaps, shampoos and other chemicals in and around the lake.
 These products, even if biodegradable, may contribute to the phosphorous levels in the lake.
- Avoid driving your boat over 10 km/hr within 30 metres of the shore. It's the law!
- If you have pets avoid letting them wander alone in wooded areas as there may be animals which could harm your dog or cat such as bears, porcupines, fishers, etc.

Outdoor Fires:

- During fire season from April 1 Oct. 31
 permits are required for outdoor burning
 subject to restricted size and all fires are to be
 supervised.
- Permits are not required for burning small fires in campfire pits or incinerators.
- In all cases supervision is required and fires should not be started during windy weather.

For further details and more fire information contact Sequin Township Fire Dept. @ 705-732-4300.

Sustainable living practices for Sequin Township*

The following Sequin regulations are intended to prevent extensive topographical change and to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

"You are a resident of Sequin Township"

The Shoreline Buffer:

- Must contain a minimum of 90% naturally vegetated area with no lawns.
- No clear cutting of trees and vegetation.
- Permitted minor alterations include trails, docks, water pumps and restoration.
- Trees may be trimmed and pruned to provide viewing windows.
- Dead, diseased or hazardous trees may be removed at any time.
- No landscaping that would alter the grade or topography in a manner that would increase the flow of water to neighbouring lands or adjacent lakes and streams.
- No blasting.

Buildings and Structures:

- All buildings and structures greater than 10 square metres require a building permit.
- All development must be sensitive to the preservation of tree cover and vegetation.
- All buildings and structures must be set back a minimum of 20 metres from the shoreline.
- Pump houses, gazebos and saunas are permitted in the shoreline setback but must not exceed 24 square metres.
- Docks and boathouses must not occupy more than 25% or 23 metres of shoreline frontage.
- Only one boathouse or boat port is allowed per lot . (Permits required)
- Maximum dock length is 15 metres.
 - * Taken from -"Living Sustainably in Sequin Township", a Sequin Township publication

For more information contact: www.sequin.ca 705 732 4300 or 1-877-473-4846