

## Cordova Lake Cottager Visitor Guide (adapted from other Lake Associations & FOCA)

For those that entertain guests or rent their cottage, below are some tips.

### 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 & why.

<b>What</b>	<b>Why</b>
<b>Noise/Light Pollution - Enjoy</b> your time here. Be aware that pets, excessive noise (e.g., fireworks) and lights can interfere with relaxation or stargazing, or neighbouring kids' bedtimes. Respect your neighbours and remember that noise travels further on the lake than you think!	We have a medium size lake so our neighbors are close. We all unwind in different ways so let's all respect that.
<b>Holding Tanks/Septic Systems</b> are kept in good working order by limiting your water use, and by keeping chemicals and non-degradable items out of them. Overloading your cottage with guests (and your septic system) is discouraged.	Letting the system break biodegradable waste down limits the possibility of harmful bacteria, phosphorus and nitrogen entering the lake.
<b>Garbage</b> and recycling are to be dropped off at one of the 4 local landfills (Closest = 6 <sup>th</sup> Line Transfer Station). The locations and hours of operation are here: <a href="http://hbmtwp.ca">Garbage, Recycling and Waste (hbmtwp.ca)</a> . Ask the owner about composting.	Garbage left overnight can be attacked by animals including bears. Bears will return to the same spot they found "food" in for up to 5 years. Then the remains of the torn apart garbage need to be cleaned by others.
<b>Phosphate free</b> products are chosen for washing and cleaning. We <b>never</b> wash or bathe in the lake.	Phosphates and other harmful chemicals make the way into the lake promoting excess plant and algae growth.
<b>Food</b> is not left outside overnight and <b>BBQs</b> are cleaned so animals are not attracted. Wildlife is viewed from a safe distance for you and them.	Wildlife and cottagers live together safely when they respect each other's boundaries.
<b>Boats</b> used in other water bodies are cleaned, dried and drained before launching in our lake. Bait buckets and live bait are never emptied into the lake. Also be wake aware.	Invasive species, such as zebra mussels, can enter the lake causing disease and damage to native species. Wake causes erosion of the shoreline.
<b>Lead fishing tackle (e.g., sinkers)</b> are not used; and <b>fishing line</b> should be retrieved whenever possible.	Line and sinkers left behind can - and have trapped and poisoned wildlife, such as loons.
<b>Campfires</b> 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.	The closest fire station is a distance away, so that a spreading fire poses significant danger to all of us!
<b>Vegetation</b> in and around the shoreline should be kept natural and purposely not cut or fertilized, whenever possible.	Shoreline vegetation filters out septic effluent and run-off. It is a home for fish, frogs, and turtles. Short grass attracts Canada geese, which can be a nuisance.

**Enjoy!**