



## **Pike Lake Spring Opening Checklist**

Protect Water Quality from Day One - Small spring actions prevent big summer problems.



### **Septic & Water Systems**

- Confirm septic pumping schedule (every 3–5 years).
- Inspect for leaks, odours, or soggy areas.
- Ensure intake lines are properly positioned after ice-out.



### **Shoreline & Yard**

- Leave natural vegetation in place — avoid trimming buffers.
- Check for erosion after snowmelt and high water.
- Direct roof and driveway runoff away from the lake.
- Skip fertilizers — natural shorelines filter nutrients.



### **Boats & Docks**

- Clean–Drain–Dry boats and equipment before launching.
- Inspect docks and lifts for safe installation and stability.
- Stay under 10 km/h within 30 m of shore.



### **Wildlife Awareness**

- Watch for loon and bald eagle nesting areas and stay away.
- Keep pets supervised near shore.
- Use lead-free fishing tackle.



### **Lake Stewardship**

- Note water clarity and water levels at ice-out.
- Watch for early algae signs.
- Report unusual plants, animals, or water concerns.

### **Cottage Opening**

- Inspect roof, propane lines, wiring, and chimney.
- Test detectors and alarms.
- Flush plumbing and check for leaks.

## **Pike Lake Fall Closing Checklist**

Protect the Lake Through Winter - How you close the cottage influences spring water quality.

### **Septic & Water Systems**

- Pump septic if due before closing.
- Reduce water use before shutdown.
- Insulate tank, pipes and system components from freezing; consider using straw, leaves or a septic blanket; allow grass and vegetation to grow over the drain field to provide natural insulation

### **Shoreline & Yard**

- Leave shoreline vegetation standing over winter.
- Do not remove natural buffers.
- Store materials away from flood-prone areas.
- Identify spots vulnerable to spring runoff.

### **Boats & Docks**

- Clean–Drain–Dry boats before storage.
- Remove seasonal docks safely.
- Store fuel and chemicals securely.

### **Wildlife & Habitat**

- Remove fishing line and tackle debris.
- Leave woody debris for habitat.
- Unplug any unnecessary exterior lighting.

### **Lake Stewardship**

- Note fall water clarity and water levels.
- Record unusual summer observations.
- Share information with the Lake Steward.

### **Cottage Closing**

- Drain water lines properly.
- Remove perishables.
- Secure valuables.
- Shut off propane and power where appropriate.

### **Year-Round Message**

Healthy shorelines, responsible water use, and early reporting work together to protect water quality, fish habitat, wildlife, and shoreline stability.

## **PIKE LAKE COTTAGE SAFETY**

### **Indoor • Property • Waterfront**

Guidance informed by:

- Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Cottage Life

### **Why It Matters**

- Emergency response times are longer in rural areas.
- Most cottage fires, CO incidents, and boating injuries are preventable.
- Storms and wildfire risk are increasing in Ontario.

### **Science Says**

- Smoke alarms significantly reduce fire fatalities.
- Carbon monoxide is invisible and odourless — detectors save lives.
- Wearing a lifejacket dramatically lowers drowning risk.
- Defensible space reduces wildfire spread.

### **Quick Safety Checks**

#### **Indoors**

- Test smoke & CO alarms at opening
- Keep extinguishers accessible
- Never run generators indoors
- Check wiring for rodent damage

#### **Property**

- Clear brush within 10 m of cottage
- Secure docks before storms
- Lock sheds, boats & fuel

#### **Waterfront**

- Wear a lifejacket — every time
- No alcohol while boating
- Slow to 10 km/h within 30 m of shore