

# Kasshabog Cottager Visitor Guide (adapted from the Leech Lake Association, and 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.

**Enjoy** your time here. Be aware that pets, excessive noise and lights can interfere with relaxation or star gazing, or neighbouring kids' bedtimes. Respect your neighbours and remember that noise travels further on the lake than you think!

**Septics** 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.

**Garbage** and recycling is to be dropped off at one of the 4 local landfills. The locations and hours of operation are here: <http://www.hbmtwp.ca/en/living-here/garbage-recycling-and-waste.aspx>. Ask the owner about composting.

**Phosphate free** products are chosen for washing and cleaning. We never wash in the lake.

**Food** is not left outside overnight and **BBQ's** are cleaned so animals are not attracted. Wildlife is viewed from a safe distance for you and them.

**Boats** 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.

**Campfires** 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.

**Vegetation** in and around the shoreline is kept natural and purposely not cut or fertilized

**Lead sinkers** are not used and **fishing line** is retrieved whenever possible

We have a small lake so our neighbors are close. We all unwind in different ways so let's all respect that.

Letting the system break biodegradable waste down limits the possibility of harmful bacteria, phosphorous and nitrogen entering the lake.

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.

Phosphates and other harmful chemicals make the way into the lake promoting excess plant and algae growth.

Wildlife and cottagers live together safely when they respect each other's boundaries.

Invasive species such as zebra mussels can enter the lake causing disease and damage to native species.

The closest fire station is so far away that a spreading fire poses significant danger to all of us!

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.

Line and sinkers left behind can - and have trapped and poisoned wildlife such as loons.

**Enjoy!**