Spring 2018

GOLLAGIE GETIPS MAGAZINE

WAYS TO WORK FROM THE COTTAGE

COTTAGE COUNTRY'S LAKE & CABIN SHOW is in WINNIPEG! March 23-25, 2018

PLUS

Guide

Rustic Décor Tips for a New Cottage
Cottage Opening
Checklist
Cottage Buying

COTTAGE ROOF: 7
SHOULD YOU DIY

OR GET A PROFESSIONAL

FIRST ISSUE:
FISHING TIPS,
A TASTY RECIPE,
DECORATING
IDEAS &
MORE

From the editor

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EDITORIAL

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Your Cottage is Your Passion.



The cottage is the place we all go to get away from the chaos of the city, to relax and have some fun, reflect on what's important in life, and enjoy precious moments with family and friends.

That, in a nutshell, is what the cottage is all about, and our mission at Cottage Tips Magazine is to help make your cottage experience as rewarding as possible.

The decision to launch the publication in Winnipeg was an obvious one. Manitobans love their wilderness retreats and the broader region has a long-standing history of cottage culture. The fact that my own cabin is located on the Winnipeg River, also had a part to play.

In our inaugural issue, we explore topics that are dear and true to all cottage owners, and offer some helpful tips for those who are planning to buy their first lakeside property. Many people would love to live full-time at the lake, and our feature article looks at ways to make that dream a reality. Food, décor, wildlife, maintenance, and finance are also covered in this edition, and these themes will expand in the issues to come.

Regardless of the type of property you own, or how you prefer to use it, we know your cottage is your passion. Our goal with the magazine is to inspire, educate, and entertain while supporting your cottage endeavors all along the way.

Thank you for your valuable time, and for helping make the launch of Cottage Tips Magazine a huge success.

Andrew Walker

editor@cottagetips.com

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Should You DIY

the cottage roof or leave it to a professional?

Repairing or changing the cottage roof can be an expensive project, and deciding between the DIY option and using professional roofers requires some careful consideration.

By Cottage Tips Staff

In an effort to reduce costs, many cottage owners lean towards doing the roof themselves, but the actual savings might not turn out to be as big as expected. Here are some things to consider before deciding to do your own cottage roof.

MATERIAL COSTS

Contractors generally get a better deal on shingles, wood, and other materials needed to repair or replace a roof than the average Joe who walks into the store and wants to purchase the supplies. The pros also know exactly what to order, and already own the necessary tools needed to get the job done right.

LABOUR COSTS

Inviting friends and family over for the weekend to help with the roof repair might sound like a cost-effective way of getting the roof done, but the reality can turn out to be quite different. Providing food, drinks, transportation, pocket money, etc. can quickly add up, and in the event the team isn't as efficient as expected, a project that was supposed to take two days can quickly turn into one that has to be done over the course of two or three weekends. In addition, the help can suddenly become unavailable once everyone realizes how difficult it is to be a roofer.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Cottage country tends to see some unpredictable weather, and it is best to get a roof job done as quickly as possible. Being caught with an exposed roof and limited help when a storm arrives isn't a good situation.





DISPOSAL COSTS

In many cases, you have to remove the old shingles and take them to the landfill site or transfer station. Normally, that requires a trailer, a dumpster, or several trips with a boat and a pickup truck. Gas, rental costs, and disposal fees must be considered when making the calculations. Again, the contractors already have the proper equipment, and are generally better at waste-disposal planning.

LIABILITY

DIY roof jobs usually result in a bunch of buddies with a broad range of handyman capabilities pitching in to help. Safety isn't always the first thing on everyone's mind, and you have to consider the possibility that someone could fall off the ladder, put a nail through a foot using the nail gun, or throw a back carrying shingles.

QUALITY OF WORK

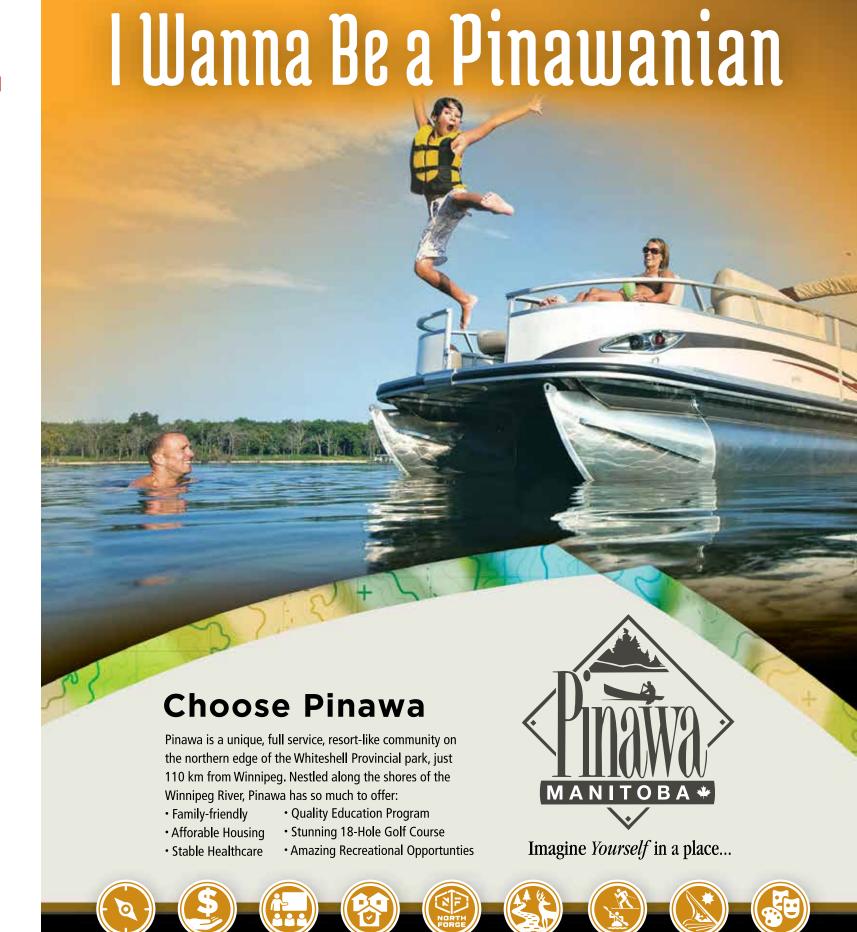
Roofing isn't an easy job, and things can go sideways pretty quickly. The end result could be a much more expensive project than it would have been to simply hire the pros. In the worst-case scenario, you could end up with a major leak and run into trouble with the insurance company because the roof wasn't installed or repaired properly.

LOST TIME

The most important decision might simply come down to the value you place on your time. If you are self-employed, could you be working instead of doing your roof? If you have limited time available to enjoy the cottage, do you really want to spend those precious days slugging shingles up the ladder and boiling away under the summer sun?

THE CASE FOR DIY

A cabin owner with the required skills, equipment, and access to quality help can certainly save some cash by doing his or her own work, especially on a road-access property with a simple roof structure.



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Recycle Everywhere





Bringing Recycling to Every Corner of Manitoba

Recycle Everywhere bins can now be found, well, everywhere. The program, administered through the Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association (CBCRA), is bringing the beverage container recovery rate to new heights by offering outdoor and indoor public spaces free recycling infrastructure.

Founded in 2010, CBCRA is a not-for-profit, industry-funded organization whose membership includes beverage brand owners and distributors. CBCRA is committed to reaching the government-mandated target of recovering 75% of beverage containers sold in Manitoba. Between 2010 and 2017, Recycle Everywhere has helped Manitoba increase the beverage container recovery rate from 42% to 70% by distributing over 55,000 recycling bins to public spaces and over 130,000 bins to residential spaces. Recycle Everywhere strives to educate Manitobans on beverage container recycling, and ensure that it is convenient to recycle empty beverage containers no matter where you live, work, or play.

In an effort to provide recycling infrastructure to Manitoba cottagers and campers, Recycle Everywhere introduced the bin bag in 2016 as a pilot project with a full roll out in 2017. The bin bag is a light-weight, structured yet collapsible recycling bag, with fabric handles making it easy to carry and stow away when not in use. The bin bag has extra capacity to



store a large amount of recyclables and is reusable, making it

the perfect bin for the on-the-go recycler. Last summer, Recycle Everywhere distributed 20,000 Bin Bags to Manitoba cottage locations to enable cottagers and campers to recycle when out at the lake or at their favourite campground.

Recycle Everywhere is proud to once again roll out their Bin Bag program to all Manitobans this summer. The Bin Bag was

designed to help Manitobans recycle when out at the lake or seasonal site and, thanks to the positive feedback received, is now being offered to all Manitobans to use when onthe-go. This program provides free recycling infrastructure



options that are tailored to serve both campers and cottage owners in the Province and, thanks to its versatility, has a multitude of other uses. Through this initiative, Recycle Everywhere is helping to keep Manitoba's lakes and parks cleaner and greener over the busy summer months.

Recycle Everywhere will be distributing 3,000 bin bags at the 2018 Cottage Country's Lake and Cabin Show from March 23-25th.

Not attending the show? Find out where you can pick up your bin bag this summer by visiting RecycleEverywhere.ca/binbags or call 204-942-2284 for more information.







COTTAGE TIPS

Gottage Opening Checklist

Preparing for the First Trip out to the Cottage!

By Cottage Tips Staff

During the summer the weekend cottage routine is pretty much a breeze, but the first spring trip to the cabin requires a bit more planning. In fact, getting ready to open the cottage can be a downright hectic experience.

Here's an opening weekend checklist to help you get organized before you head to the lake.

Insurance

The floods that hit cottagers across Canada in recent summers are an unfriendly reminder of the importance of reviewing the cottage insurance policy every year.

First and foremost we have to ensure the policy has been paid, but it's also a good idea to revisit the coverage and confirm the plan is adequate. Additions, bunkhouses, and major renovations completed at the property in recent years might The
boring stuff
is easy to forget, but
having it can mean the
difference between a fur
opening weekend and
one that is somewhat
uncomfortable.

not be listed on the policy, and that could cause some grief if a claim has to be made.

Kevs

Put the cottage and boat keys in a safe place that guarantees they won't be forgotten when you walk out the door to head to the lake. It's a terrible feeling when you get to the first rest stop and suddenly realize the keys are still sitting on the kitchen counter.

Essential Supplies

Food, refreshments, and fishing gear are often the first things we organize when planning the maiden trip to the cottage, but batteries, bug spray, and toilet paper should probably be at the top of the list.

The boring stuff is easy to forget, but having it can mean the difference between a fun opening weekend and one that is somewhat uncomfortable.

Permits

Speaking of the fish, it is important to renew the fishing permit for the new season before you head to the cabin.

The May long weekend often coincides with the walleye opener, and that tends to bring out the local authorities.



It's great to plan a big spread for the first trip to the lake, but the opening weekend is a busy time and stuff happens.

Sometimes we arrive to discover the BBQ tank is empty, the power is out, or the critters have had such a party over the winter that we really don't want to touch anything until the whole place has been bleached.

Stick with simple and efficient meals, and prepare the food ahead of time in the city.

Check out Kathy's Cabin Chili on page 20.

That's just the beginning of the cottage opening adventure, but being prepared before you leave the city can help ensure the long-anticipated first few days at the lake are enjoyable ones.







Cottage season is bear season, so we thought it might be a good idea to go over some essential tips to avoid uncomfortable encounters with our furry forest friends.

By Cottage Tips Staff

SPRING TIPS

Bears are hungry when they come out of hibernation and there isn't always a wide variety of food available in the first few weeks of the season. As a result, they might be more tempted to visit cabins and cottages in search of an easy meal.

Keep pet food, garbage, and recycling containers locked up in a secure location. In addition, always ensure the cottage BBQ is cleaned thoroughly. This is useful advice for the entire summer, but the early weeks require extra vigilance.

SUMMER TIPS

The arrival of blueberries and wild strawberries is a welcome event for cottage owners, but it is also a critical time of year for the bears, and we don't want to cross paths with a feeding mother and her cubs.

When venturing out with the gang to collect berries, be sure to clap, sing, talk, or even play music as you approach the berry patch. Even



when it appears the area is bearfree, always ensure someone stands guard while the rest of the family collects nature's tasty treats.

FALL TIPS

The arrival of the fall season is arguably the best time to get out and hike the local trails around the cottage. The bugs are normally bearable, and the changing forest colours are truly something to behold.

The bears, however, might not be overly concerned with what's going on in the treetops as they search for those last essential meals to hold them over until the spring.

Hikers should wear bear bells and carry a horn when out in the forest on a fall trek. Remember to keep one eye on the path ahead, while admiring the surroundings.







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atching young groundhogs (woodchucks) run around the cottage property can provide hours of entertainment, but these critters can also cause cabin owners some serious grief.

When I first bought my cabin, I didn't pay too much attention to the holes under the small shed I would eventually use to store my boat accessories and fishing gear. The structure was old and it appeared to be stable, so I pretty much skipped over it when I inspected the property.

For several years, a family of groundhogs took up residence under the shed. The mother was quite large, and whether or not it was the same old gal that came back each season, or simply one of her daughters that took up the abode after Mom passed away, I'm not sure, but I must admit I spent a significant amount of time sitting on the front deck each season watching the year's batch of young ones play around the property.

The groundhogs devoured clover, trimmed the dandelions, and scrambled on top of the old wooden bench that overlooks the water. They even attempted to climb the oak tree.

One year, the mother had five young ones to look after, and while they originally provided another sound session of entertainment at the beginning of the summer, the group quickly became problematic.

Groundhogs like to dig; that's what they do, and this gang soon started to dig into anything that looked like fun. New entrances and exit holes emerged under the storage shed to the point where the structure started to become

unstable. They also got into the drain that channels water away from the cabin during a storm.

One ambitious youngster even dug a hole underneath the floor of the outhouse. Fortunately, the little explorer didn't make it so far that it fell into the privy, or at least, if it did, it managed to escape without terrorizing any of my family members or guests.

At that point, I figured this would have to be last year for the groundhog games and started to research the best way to encourage them to find somewhere else to call home for the summer.

As it turned out, they simply vanished the following year. A predator might have solved the issue, or it could have been the extreme cold of the previous winter. Whatever the reason, the groundhogs have not returned, and although I'm happy no more damage is being done, I do miss seeing them run around the property.

The groundhogs devoured clover, trimmed the dandelions, and scrambled on top of the old wooden bench that overlooks the water. They even attempted to climb the oak tree.

10 WAYS TO WORK FROM FROM THE COTTAGE

WE WOULD ALL LOVE TO LIVE FULL-TIME AT THE LAKE.

By Cottage Tips Staff

In the past, the notion of working from the cottage was simply a fanciful dream, but advancements in technology have made it much easier to set up shop at the lake. In fact, even people with remote properties can now work from paradise. Here are 10 ways to earn money while living at the cottage.

- 1. WORK AS AN ONLINE CONSULTANT You have built up expertise in a particular field, and now it's time to set up a consulting service and run it from the cottage using video conferencing. Schedule meetings to work around your fishing time.
- 2. WRITE A BOOK Do you have a talent for writing but never had the time to start your novel? The cottage is the place to make it happen. We never know unless we try. Self-publishing and selling online has made it possible for every writer to make his or her work available to the world. Many best sellers start out this way.
- **3. REAL ESTATE SALES AND RENTALS** The best cottage real estate agents tend to be people who actually live in the same area they are selling. You probably know your cottage community very well. Now you can use this expertise to help other people buy, sell, or rent cabins on your lake.
- 4. BE THE MAINTENANCE MAN This is a great option for



5. MAKE COTTAGE HANDICRAFTS Do you have an artistic flair? The cottage is the perfect place to be creative. Woodworking, quilting, and creating handicrafts are all fantastic options for unleashing your inner artist. The money earned by selling artwork online and at the local market during the cottage season might cover the costs of retirement living at the lake. You will certainly meet interesting people and may discover that your creations are very popular.

6. BECOME A COTTAGE BED AND BREAKFAST If you love to entertain and are looking for a way to finance an early retirement at the cottage, why not set yourself up as a cottage Bed & Breakfast. It takes careful planning and

consideration of the space and amenities you would like to offer, but this could be the most rewarding decision you will ever make at the lake.

7. START A GUIDE SERVICE Tourists and cottage renters all need help. Whether it's locating the fishing holes, navigating the hidden reefs and islands, hiking the local trails, or evaluating a property, there is always demand for a local expert to provide assistance. If you have owned your cottage for a number of years, and know the area like the back of your hand, you may be the perfect person for the job. Set up a basic website listing your services, and you are off to the races.

8. COTTAGE DELIVERY SERVICES Groceries, lumber, fishing supplies, guests and renters all have to get from the mainland to those exclusive water-access properties. An opportunity may exist to make life a lot easier for your island neighbours and put a few bucks in your pocket to boot.

9. TRADE STOCKS AND CURRENCIES Reliable satellite Internet connections are now available throughout most of cottage country. If stock markets or currency markets are already your area of expertise, trading from the lake is much more comfortable than sitting in an office in the city.

10. OFFER COTTAGE CATERING Family reunions, weddings, and corporate retreats all require help getting everyone fed, and there is a great opportunity for someone with a passion for food to step up and provide the service. A quick e-mail or a text message might be all you need to launch this venture.

Is it time to move to the cottage? Identifying your skills is the key to making the transition. This could be related to your profession, developed through a hobby, or simply acquired after years of cottaging. It takes some courage, and might mean a reduction in income, but the time has never been better to embrace full-time living at the lake.



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Cottage Buying Guide

Sorting out the Finances By Cottage Tips Staff

A sound financial plan is essential when planning to buy a cottage. Let's take a look at some of the items to consider at the beginning of the process.

GET PRE-APPROVED

Secure a mortgage approval before you start the search. It keeps you focused on your price range and provides the opportunity to move quickly when the perfect cottage becomes available.

INSURANCE

Talk to your existing homeowner insurance company to get an estimate for what you will pay to add the cottage to your policy.

PROPERTY TAXES

These costs can be substantial when the property lies within the nearest town's school district zone.

UTILITIES

Electricity, phone, Internet, generator fuel, and propane costs all need to be considered. Most cabins have a wood stove to provide heat, but many cottages also have electric baseboard heaters, which can be very expensive to operate.

BOAT MOTOR FUEL

Don't underestimate this significant cost. Operating a boat is very expensive and the fuel costs for running around the lake all weekend can blow your budget right out of the water.

PARKING AND DOCKING

Water-access properties require a place to leave the car while you are at the cabin, and a spot to leave the boat when you are in the city. Don't forget to factor in your winter storage costs for the boat.

COMMUTING COSTS

Budgeting for fuel costs and extra wear and tear on the family vehicle requires a reasonable guess of both the number of times you will commute to the cottage and the average price of gas.

FOOD AND DRINK

Managing these costs takes some serious discipline. A few extra bottles of wine along with your favourite high quality steaks each weekend will drive you way over budget in no time.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

Unless you are buying a brand new cottage, be prepared for significant annual outlays. A harsh winter can damage the dock and cottage roof, while mischievous critters regularly break through screens and chew through floors and walls.

RENTAL INCOME

Are you planning to rent the cottage to other people for part of the season? If so, be conservative about your net income estimates. The extra costs associated with finding renters and cleaning up after they leave will eat into the additional cash.







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KATHY'S COTTAGE KITCHEN

Kathy's Cabin Chili

Kathy Walker has been crafting lakeside meals for more than 40 years, using everything from camping gear to antique cooking pots to create her fantastic dishes.

The cottage-opening weekend always presents some interesting challenges, and Kathy's go-to meal every year is her signature chili.

Preparation Time: 25 Minutes Cooking Time: 2 to 3 hours Serves: 4-6 people

INGREDIENTS

1 kg of lean ground beef

1 can of tomato sauce 680ml

1 can of tomato paste 398ml

1 can of diced tomatoes 540ml

1 or 2 cans of dark red kidney beans

1 medium size onion - chopped

1 cup of celery - chopped

1 medium size carrot - shredded

2 packages of chili seasoning mix

1.5 cups of chicken stock

2 cloves of garlic – minced

THE GEAR YOU NEED

Large stock pot or Dutch oven
Shredder - for the carrot
Mincer - for the garlic

HOW TO PREPARE THE CHILI

In the pot or Dutch oven sauté the onions, carrot, and celery until tender. Remove them from the pot and set them aside.

In the same pot, brown the ground beef, draining off any grease or liquid in the bottom after browning.

Next, add the onion, carrot, celery, and garlic to the browned meat.

Mix in the packets of chili seasoning while stirring the chili well.

Now add the tomato paste to the meat mixture while stirring and cooking for 2 to 3 minutes.

Add in the diced tomatoes and kidney beans (including the juices). Do not drain them.

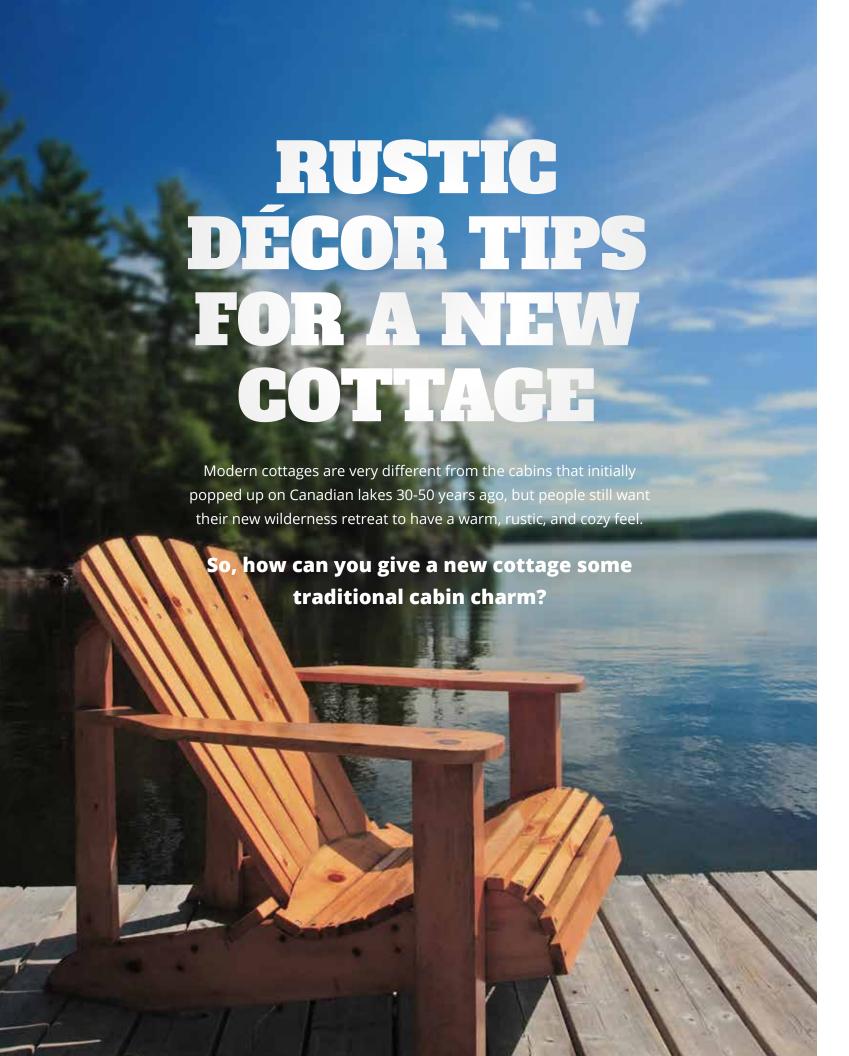
Let the entire batch simmer for 2 to 3 hours.

SPECIAL TIP:

This chili recipe is great for the opening weekend, as it can be prepared ahead of time in the city before the trip to the cabin. The meal freezes well and is quickly reheated on the stove or in the microwave at the cottage.

Consider freezing the chili in serving-size bags or containers that can be used to keep other food cool on the way to the cabin. The containers are easily washed and used again later, making this a garbage-free meal.





IRVIN GOODON ANTLER FIXTURES



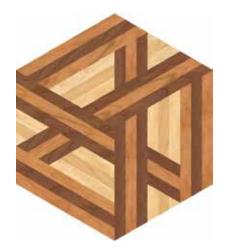




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Walleye Fishing 101: Where to Find the Fish

By Andrew Walker

CATCHING WALLEYE REQUIRES USING THE RIGHT ROD AND REEL COMBO, THE BEST BAITS, AND APPLYING SITUATION-SPECIFIC TECHNIQUES.

None of that matters, however, if you can't find the fish. Let's take a quick look at some beginner tips for catching walleye at the cottage.

Where do you find Walleye?

Identifying key underwater structure, acknowledging the value of weed beds, and monitoring weather conditions can help anglers locate walleye.

During the day, walleye often sit in holes along the bottom of the lake or river, but they can also be found in other areas.

Sometimes, the fish are suspended near a rock shelf, submerged island, or off a point. This is particularly the case when walleye are feeding on minnows.

In windy conditions, islands and reefs are good locations for finding walleye. Start fishing near the shallow part of the island and work your way out until you find the depth range of 15 feet to 25 feet. Perch and small pike often ambush minnows from the range of eight feet of water down to 15 feet. The walleye are



often located in the next zone.

Rough water and cloudy days will bring walleye closer to shore.

After the sun sets, walleye will move into shallow water to feed on schools of minnows. This is a great time to cast lures off of a dock or from a shoreline that has a quick drop off to deeper water.

Walleye and Weeds

Anglers often seek out walleye on the rocky bottom of the lake or river, but the fish are also regularly found around shallow weed beds. This might go against the belief that walleye prefer deeper water, especially on sunny days, but it is common to find the odd walleye cruising the weeds.

Anglers often catch these "rogue" walleye during the day when fishing for pike or bass. Unlike the walleye

that are sitting in large schools at the bottom of the lake or river, the walleye roaming the weed beds tend to be found alone or in small groups.

Walleye Rod and Reel

A good all-round walleye combo is a six-foot medium-action rod with a very sensitive tip and a spinning reel with 8-pound line.

Walleye Lures

Jig heads with rubber tails, diving stick-baits, small spoons, and spinner baits are all effective at different times.

Live Bait For Walleye

Minnows, night crawlers, and leeches fished with jigs, spinner baits, or bottom bouncers are popular options for catching walleye. Always check the local rules for using live bait.



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Timber Ridge Homes 5 Steps to Building Your Dream Cottage

When you build a Timber Ridge custom timber frame home or cottage, we work with you from dream to completion. Our process is comprehensive and seamless to allow for a positive turn-key experience every step of the way.

1) Initial Consultation Each project begins with an initial meeting. This meeting should take place approximately one year prior to your ideal project start date. This consultation allows us to gain a good understanding of the project and it allows you, the client to learn about how your project will unfold. We ask our clients to bring as much information to this meeting as possible and whenever possible, this meeting takes place on-site.

2) Commitment & Design

During this step, you commit to the project and we select a start date. We will establish a timeline for your project and our in house design team will begin the exciting process of putting dream to paper! It is critical for the design phase to not be rushed, as it is one of the most important phases in the building process. We work diligently to come up with a fully custom design that exceeds your needs and expectations.

3) Proposal & Contract Once your preliminary project design is complete and approved by you and your family, we will present you with a detailed custom proposal







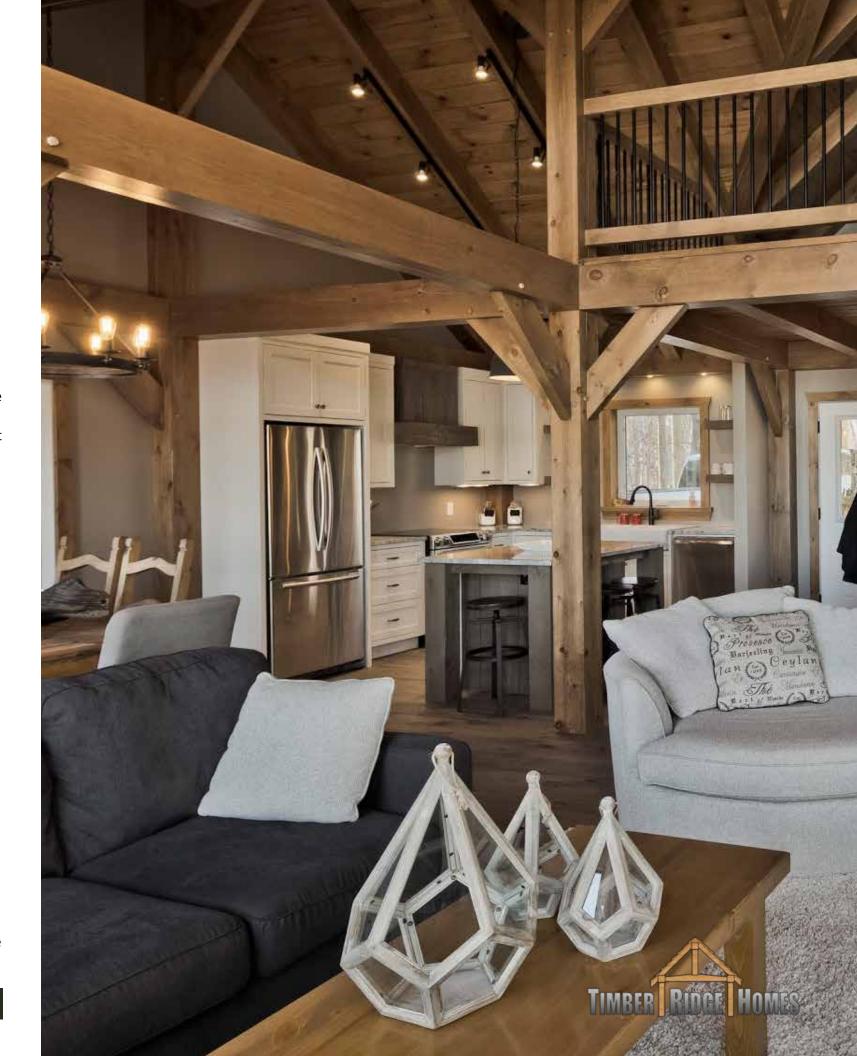


package, which will highlight all of your personalized wish list items. It is good to get an understanding of the building costs prior to completing the full construction set to ensure that the project will meet your investment goals.

4) Implementation We break down and begin construction on your project Throughout the entire building process, we communicate with you every step of the way and ensure you are informed and involved. After all, this is your dream home or cottage and it's our mission and honour to make your dream come to reality.

5) Welcome Home Your project is complete and we turn over the keys to your new dream home or cottage! Every single one of our clients are considered a part of our family. Welcome to the Timber Ridge Family!

If you'd like to build a new home or cottage or would like to learn more about our intricate time frame. design and construction process, contact us to book a consultation. We'd love to make your dreams come true.





TIMBER FRAME

We pride ourselves in being innovative leaders in the timber frame home and cottage building world for central Canada.

CUSTOM

Custom, endless detail is what we do. From the initial blueprints and design to all of the custom features, we build homes and cottages that are like no other.

INTRICATE DESIGN

It takes experience, skill and knowledge to design and build a timber frame home. No dream is too big for us. If you can dream it, we can build it!

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We want to meet you. Come & tour our show home while learning about our unique building process and the many benefits of building a custom Timber Ridge home or cottage.

15 YEARS OF DREAM BUILDING

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We are beyond grateful to be celebrating our 15 year anniversary. We are passionate about our work, our clients and our team and take this as an opportunity to thank you.

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