



Rideau Lakes

COVID-19 Update: **Now is not the time to head to the cottage.**

Chantry, March 30, 2020 - To help flatten the curve and keep our area hospitals and health care centres from being overwhelmed by COVID-19, we are encouraging everyone to stay home.

As the novel coronavirus continues to spread, some individuals have decided that coming to their other residence, permanent or seasonal, in Rideau Lakes may be a better place to self-isolate than being in a population-dense city.

The Township of Rideau Lakes is recommending that those wishing to come to our area during this time, remain where they are. This would include seasonal campers and vacation rentals (cottages, Airbnb etc.).

Theresa Tam, the **Chief Public Health Officer of Canada** directed her messaging to snowbirds and other travellers returning to Canada, specifically noting: *“Urban dwellers/Cottagers should RESIST THE URGE to head to the cottage and rural properties as these communities have less capacity to manage COVID19.”*

The Federation of Cottagers' Association is reminding its members that rural communities have reduced capacity to accommodate sudden changes in supply demands. Many people wouldn't ordinarily open the cottage until nearer to the May long weekend. As we already know from our local grocery experiences, parts of the supply chain are under strain. Additionally, rural hospitals have limited capacity and resources, and you should consider where your health needs can best be met, in an emergency situation. Information regarding *Shelter in Place: Safety First* is located on the [FOCA website](#).

Mayor Hoogenboom commented, "Rideau Lake's population doubles in the summer. While I am very proud that many call Rideau Lakes their home away from home, now is not the time to come to the cottage, your trailer or a vacation rental. I ask all seasonal residents to stay where they are, if at all possible. This will best ensure our supply chains and healthcare systems can cope during this already difficult time."

Please help to keep Rideau Lakes safe. Help to flatten the curve. Stay Home, Stay Safe, Self-Isolate.