

**A Beginner's Guide to: CATCHING BIG NORTHERN PIKE!**

Spring / Summer 2023

# CottageTIPS MAGAZINE

## DOCK OPTIONS FOR A COTTAGE

PLUS  
10 MONEY  
TIPS FOR  
BUYERS

## GARDENING AT THE CABIN

**Staining Cottage Siding**

**Being a Good Cottage Guest**

**Kathy's Cottage Kitchen:  
Banana Chocolate  
Chip Muffins**



**Spend more time enjoying the water with EZ Dock.**

*Makin' Lake Life*  
**"EZ"**

**We ARE how fun gets on the water.**



**Nor Col EZ Dock  
Master Distributor**

**Proudly Serving  
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, N.W. Ontario  
204-642-7064 / 800-654-8168**

**NOR COL  
EZDOCK**  
[www.norcolezdock.com](http://www.norcolezdock.com)  
**1.800.654.8168**

# Table of Contents

SPRING / SUMMER 2023



## 10 MONEY TIPS FOR COTTAGE BUYERS

**p18** In the current market it helps to have all the numbers nailed down ahead of time so you and your family can make a swift decision when you find the perfect cabin.



## BEING A GOOD COTTAGE GUEST

**p6** Everyone enjoys being asked to spend a weekend at a cottage, but many people don't know how to be good cottage guests.



## BANANA CHOCOLATE CHIP MUFFINS

**p10** Muffins are a fantastic option when looking for food ideas on your cottage weekend.



## STAINING THE COTTAGE

**p12** Staining the cottage is one of those maintenance projects that cabin owners love to avoid.



## CABIN GARDENING GUIDE

**p14** With a freedom that goes far beyond the restrictions of the city you can design the cottage garden any way you like.



## DOCK OPTIONS FOR THE COTTAGE

**p22** Cottage owners have several types of docks to choose from when building a new cabin or replacing an old dock structure.



## CATCHING PIKE

**p26** Northern pike are aggressive predators and can grow to be four feet long in many Canadian lakes and rivers.

## FROM THE EDITOR

### EDITOR

Andrew Walker

### CONTRIBUTORS

Cottage Tips Staff  
Kathy Walker

Graphic Design  
Dynamite Design

### ON THE WEB

CottageTips.com



COTTAGE TIPS MAGAZINE is published by Cottage Tips Media Corp.  
116 Albert Street, Suite 300  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G3

### EDITORIAL

Do you have an interesting story, cottage tip, or awesome recipe for the lake that you would like to share? Email us at [editor@cottagetips.com](mailto:editor@cottagetips.com)

### ADVERTISE

If you would like to advertise in Cottage Tips Magazine email [sales@cottagetips.com](mailto:sales@cottagetips.com)

All rights reserved © 2023 by Cottage Tips Media Corp.

Printed in Canada

## Welcome Back to the Cottage!



The past few years have certainly been challenging ones and we are all looking forward to getting back to a normal cabin season, with a few adjustments.

Anticipating severe weather conditions is now a reality at the lake after the devastating flood of 2022. The new high-water mark might never be breached, but it would be wise to take a cautious approach when rebuilding lost structures.

Hundreds of cottagers will, unfortunately, need to repair or replace their docks. This is frustrating and costly, but it also gives cabin owners a chance to consider new dock options for their properties. Our article on the types of docks to choose from might be useful if you find yourself in this boat.

Cottagers who couldn't access their properties in 2022 had to put off regular maintenance work. Staining the cabin siding is one of those lovely chores. We have some tips on the topic that should help make the job go smoothly.

Are you in the mood for flowers and soothing scents at the lake this summer? One way to add beauty to the cabin property and secure fresh herbs for cooking is to create a cottage garden. Keeping the deer and other critters away will require strategic planning. The gardening article offers helpful advice to get the project started.

Cabin gatherings will hopefully return to normal this year and that means finding simple and tasty ways to keep everyone fed. Try Kathy's banana chocolate chip muffins recipe for something sweet to go with the morning coffee on the new dock.

Guests who missed opportunities to visit friends and family at a cottage in recent summers might finally get a chance to head to the lake in 2023. If you are fortunate enough to receive an invite, our piece on being a good cottage guest provides some tips to ensure the weekend goes well.

Those who like to fish might also want to check out the article on catching big northern pike.

Cottage buyers should be able to reach a greater number of properties this year and it might be a calmer market. Our guide to getting the finances sorted out ahead of time will prove useful if you are planning to take the plunge.

We have no idea what this season will bring, but the cabin will always be our sanctuary. It remains a wonderful place to refocus our energy and spend important time with family and friends, despite all the maintenance and occasional surprises.

All the best for 2023!

Andrew  
[editor@cottagetips.com](mailto:editor@cottagetips.com)



## KENORA'S OUTDOOR STORE

YOUR FOUR-SEASON, ALL WEATHER, ONE STOP SHOP

VISIT US IN STORE OR ONLINE TO SEE OUR NEW SELECTION!



**HUNTING  
& FISHING**

We now have a full hunting and fishing PRO Shop. Visit us for Kenora's best gun selection!



**PATIO SETS  
& BBQ**

Extensive display of patio furniture, barbeques, and everything you'll need to get ready for summer.



**KITCHEN  
& GARDENING**

Transform outdoor gatherings with our extensive kitchen & cookware and top-notch gardening tool selection.



**CANADA'S  
GARAGE**

We provide expert auto repair and maintenance services at our garage, with a courtesy shuttle.

807.468.3014

1229 HIGHWAY 17, KENORA, ON P9N 1L9 | [CANADIANTIRE.CA](http://CANADIANTIRE.CA)

# Being a Good Cottage Guest

*Everyone enjoys being asked to spend a weekend at a cottage, but many people don't know how to be good cottage guests. The following considerations will help you impress your hosts and ensure that your invitation gets repeated.*

## BEFORE YOU GO

Confirm the number of people that you will bring to the cabin. Cottage visits tend to be overnight affairs. Arriving with an extra guest or two may embarrass the hosts if there is not enough space for the surprise visitors.

This not only causes grief for sleeping arrangements, but it could also cause trouble if you bring an extra vehicle. Parking spaces are often limited, especially when the owners have a water-access property and reserve spots at the local marina.

## PERSONAL CARE

Check with the hosts about the availability of toiletries. Many cottages are located a long way from the nearest town or store. Make sure you bring all the basics you need unless the owners tell you otherwise. Toilet paper, bug repellent, sunblock, and bath products should be at the top of your list.

## GIFT BASKET

There are a number of practical gifts you can bring for the cottage owner. The traditional bottle of wine is appreciated as a cottage gift, but other simple items will also put a smile on your host's face. Organic soap products, for example, are always a good choice. Use your imagination and throw together a cottage gift basket full of useful goodies.

## PERMITS AND LICENCES

Get the proper permits and licences you will need for your cottage holiday. The penalty for not having a fishing permit or a boat operator licence is expensive.

## INSURANCE

If you are crossing the border or heading to another province you may need to have extra health insurance. Accidents can happen at a cottage or on the way to the lake. Be sure to give specific details to the insurance company about where you are going and for how long.

## PETS

When possible, leave the family pet in the city. A cottage can be a dangerous place for a dog or cat. Wild animals, ticks, and fungi can all turn the trip into a disaster.

If you must take your pet to the cottage, be prepared. Get a tick collar, keep the animal on a leash, and make sure you have the directions and phone number for a veterinarian.

## DRIVING TO THE COTTAGE

Request very specific directions for the trip. Make sure you know exactly how to get to your friend's cottage and plan the drive carefully. Highway traffic, pit stops, bad weather, and unpaved or damaged side roads will add time to the trip. It is better to be early than late.

Many cottages are located on islands and you will be required to meet the owner at a marina. In other cases, cabins are situated on a secluded private road and you will have to meet your friends at the highway turn-off. It is inconvenient if the cottage owners are forced to wait. In addition, boating at night is dangerous in some areas.

If the drive is long, say more than three hours, you should call the hosts to give them an update about halfway into the trip and again before you turn off the main highway. Cell phone signals are often weak or non-existent once you get onto the rural side roads.

## BE HELPFUL

Offer to help around the cottage. Many cottage owners only have the weekend to work on cottage maintenance. Lending a hand with yard work, cleaning dishes, and bonfire preparations will enrich your cottage experience and take some pressure off the hosts. Just make sure that you are actually helping, rather than making things more stressful for the cottage owner. Don't offer to cut the firewood if you have never used an axe or a chainsaw.

## RELAX AND EMBRACE THE LIFESTYLE

Different food, games, and outdoor activities are all part of the cabin experience. Cottage owners tend to be a special crowd, and your friends from the city might show you a whole new side of their personalities when they are at the lake. Relax, have fun, and take it all in with a positive approach. There is nothing wrong with learning a new game, eating a strange fish, or paddling a canoe for the first time.

## STAY IN CONTROL

Cottage communities are generally quiet places. In the evening, especially when there isn't much wind, noise travels more than you would expect. Follow the lead of your hosts. If they suggest a singalong or get into boisterous conversations, then by all means, join the fun. Otherwise, moderate the party-animal instincts.

Cottages also have very thin walls. Keep this in mind when embracing the romantic spirit of the woods.

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE COTTAGE TO GO HOME

Your hosts might have treated you like royalty, but it is expected that you will help clean up before heading out. Leave

the guest room in better condition than how you found it. Be ready to go at the agreed time. As much as you like being at the cabin, it is important to stick to the departure plan. The hosts likely have a lot to do once they get back to the city and you don't want them sitting in the boat or on the back deck waiting for you to find a lost sock.

## TAKE THE RUBBISH

Offer to take the garbage with you when you leave. The rubbish can't stay at the cabin and most cottages don't have a pick-up service. The hosts often have a full car or truck loaded with other things to take back, especially if they had to bring extra supplies to accommodate your visit.

## GET INVITED BACK

With a bit of forethought, planning, and common courtesy you can be the perfect cottage guest. If you enjoyed your time, let the hosts know, and look forward to a repeat invitation!

By Cottage Tips Staff





# COTTAGE COUNTRY'S

---

## Lake & Cabin Show



**The top event for cottage enthusiasts in Manitoba and Lake of the Woods.**

*Everything you need for your cottage project, from concept to completion, all in one place!*

**[www.lakeandcabinshow.ca](http://www.lakeandcabinshow.ca)**

Timber frame and log home builders

Designers and architects

Rustic and contemporary cottage furniture

Boats and marine equipment

Spas, hot tubs, BBQs and leisure products

Deck, dock, shed, and sunroom builders

Communications services

Indoor and outdoor décor products

Landscaping and maintenance gear

Roofing, siding, windows, flooring and doors

Insurance, real estate and finance experts

Cuisine

Custom kitchens, bathrooms, and blinds

Solar and security systems

Water treatment systems

Septic systems

Tree services and pest control

Cottage games

And so much more!

***Great food for all occasions!***

*Catering, Drop-Off or Pick-Up*

*Retail Store with Pies,  
Smoked Meats & Sausages,  
Frozen Meats and more!*



Pork  
Beef  
Turkey  
Chicken  
Brisket  
Whole Hog



**DANNY'S**  
**BARBEQUE & SMOKEHOUSE**

*We'll bring the flavour!*

***Bringing You the Flavour  
for Over 20 Years!***

Call 204-344-5675

[DANNYSWHOLEHOG.COM](http://DANNYSWHOLEHOG.COM)

431-997-BBQS Online Store: [shop.dannyswholehog.ca](http://shop.dannyswholehog.ca)

# Banana Chocolate Chip Muffins

Muffins are a fantastic option when looking for food ideas on your cottage weekend. They go great with the morning coffee or tea on the dock, make excellent snacks while fishing or cruising, and are a perfect travel treat for the whole family during the long drive up to the cabin.

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup of white sugar
- ½ cup of butter
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 1 egg
- 3 or 4 ripe bananas
- 2 cups of flour
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- 1 or 2 cups of chocolate chips

## BAKING GEAR YOU NEED

- Electric mixer
- Large bowl
- Muffin tin to make 12 muffins
- Paper cups for muffins
- Ice cream scoop
- Spatula
- Measuring cups

## HOW TO MAKE THE MUFFINS

Cottage Moms who are already seasoned bakers will find the directions a bit obvious, but we also want the guys to give it a go!

Heat the oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl use an electric mixer to blend the butter, sugar, and vanilla together. Add the egg and mix completely. Then add the bananas and blend it all together. The riper the bananas the better. Green bananas result in dry muffins.

Next, add in the salt, flour, baking soda, and baking powder and blend well. Finally, mix in the chocolate chips.

Using the ice cream scoop, pour your mixture into each of the paper cups in the muffin tray. Place the tray in the oven and bake the muffins for 25 minutes.

When taking the muffins to the cabin, place them in a plastic bag you can seal or in a plastic container. This reduces waste and makes packing a lot easier.

This recipe works well in either a conventional oven or a large toaster oven that you might have at the cabin if you decide to bake the muffins at the lake.

Preparation Time: 10 Minutes  
Baking Time: 25 Minutes  
Makes: 12 muffins



By Cottage Tips Staff

## 6 Tips for Staining Cottage Siding

Staining the cottage is one of those maintenance projects that cabin owners love to avoid. However, it is important to ensure the wood siding on the cottage remains protected. This also keeps the cabin looking great.

### 1. RIGHT TYPE OF STAIN

Choose the right type of stain that works best for your cabin. Your local paint store can help you make the choice. Experts have traditionally recommended using a combination of classic oil and acrylic. However, there are now also bio options on the market.

The hybrid mix makes the application easier. It is a good choice when you don't know if the previous coat is oil or acrylic, as the hybrid stain should work in both situations. Cleanup is also less stressful with a hybrid mix than when you go with purely an oil-based stain.

### 2. BEST TIME TO STAIN

A day that is 20 degrees Celsius and partly cloudy would be ideal weather to stain the cabin. In most cases, stain requires a day or two to dry. As such, it is best to avoid starting the project if there is a chance of rain for the next 48 hours.

Sometimes you don't have the luxury of waiting for a perfect day to stain the cottage. On hot and sunny days it is helpful to plan the work strategically. Try to stay on the side of the cottage that is still in the shade. Staining or painting in direct sunlight is painfully uncomfortable. In addition, the intensity of the sun's rays might impact the quality of the job.

### 3. KEEP THE PROJECT SIMPLE AND EFFICIENT

Pour about 25% of the stain from the main container into a small bucket, pail, or can to use when you climb the ladder. This minimizes the mess in the event there is a spill. The strategy also enables you to use the stain efficiently.

Sometimes the remaining stain that is in the container at the end of the day is dirty. Pine needles, leaves, or bugs might fall into the can while you are working, so it is a good idea to minimize the amount of stain you have to pour back into the original container at the end of the job.

### 4. COMBINE STAIN CANS

When multiple cans of stain are needed during the same project it is advisable to combine the cans in your paint bucket before you start. This ensures the colour won't change when the stain in one can runs out and you open a new container. Ideally, the hardware store matches the mix exactly in each can, but that's not always the case. Stir frequently to maintain steady tint.

### 5. USE A TEST SPOT

Pick a small area of the siding that is not easily visible to do a test spot. It is better to check to make sure the siding absorbs the stain properly and that the colour appears as expected before starting the job.

### 6. USE THE BEST STAINING TECHNIQUE

Strive to apply a consistent wet edge. Lap marks might turn up when the stain dries if the application isn't done properly. Focus on two or three boards at a time and stain the complete board across the wall. Begin at the top of the cottage and work your way down.

# Lasting Beauty. Solid Performance. Peace of Mind.



## Naturally Perfect® Wood Protection

Sansin SDF - a high-performance, penetrating wood finish that delivers exceptional UV resistance while allowing wood to breathe, preventing moisture from getting trapped. With wood protection for everything from siding and decks to fences and outdoor furniture, Sansin SDF will help keep your home beautiful for years to come.



Winkler Tel: (204) 325-8387	Brandon Tel: (204) 727-7717	Winnipeg Tel: (204) 783-0707
Portage Tel: (204) 239-1411	Steinbach Tel: (204) 326-8387	



# Cabin Gardening Guide

By Andrew Walker

Cottage gardening involves battling deer, bugs, sore knees, and a bad back. This might not sound like the best way to spend your time at the lake, but planting a flower garden at the cabin can also be very rewarding.

With a freedom that goes far beyond the restrictions of the city you can design the cottage garden any way you like. It can be immaculately landscaped, weeded and groomed, or simply left completely wild. Regardless of how you set it up, the hummingbirds, butterflies, and honey bees will all benefit from your efforts. Here are a few things to consider before embarking on the cottage garden adventure.

## Time

It is important to be honest about how much time you realistically have available to dedicate to the cottage garden. If you are barely keeping up with the regular cabin maintenance, it might be a good idea to start with a simple garden project.

## Wildlife

Cottage gardeners have to consider the forest residents when choosing flowers and shrubs for the project. The plants should attract hummingbirds and butterflies, but you want to avoid setting up a buffet for the deer and bears.

## Budget

Annuals can get expensive and are a lot of work. Perennials will reseed themselves. Wildflowers are cheap and maintenance-free. Mix and match according to time and budget.

## Water

Rainfall can be unpredictable at the cottage. Depending on the location of the garden, carrying water from the lake might be difficult. Consider setting up a rain barrel to capture water when you are away from the property or look for plants that can handle dry conditions.

## Sunlight

Watch the sun move across the property for a day to see how much light hits the planned garden area. Choose plants that grow well in your specific situation.

## How to Extend Plant Flowering Time

To extend the flowering time of plants you can remove the flowers before they start to go to seed. Once the flower has fully bloomed and begins to droop or change colour, remove it with a pair of garden shears to encourage the plant to bloom again.

This process is called deadheading. The general rule is to cut back to the next developing bud or set of leaves. Some flowers that bloom at the end of a long stem should be cut off right at the base of the stem. It will take some trial and error to get the best results, but don't be afraid, most flowers are quite resilient.

## Deer-Proof Plants?

While a number of plants are considered deer-resistant, the truth is that the deer will eat different things in different seasons and even in different years. Availability of their preferred natural plants is the main determiner of what deer will eat. If the deer population around the cottage is high, and the growing conditions for their usual forage are weak, the cottage garden is likely to become a deer hangout.

Some deer-resistant plants include: snapdragons, marigolds, chives, sage, and the beautiful iris.

One strategy is to plant a border of something the deer love to eat around the edge of the garden or the property. Hopefully they will be content to stay at the fringe.

## Homemade Deer Repellent

It may be worth trying a homemade remedy to help keep deer from eating the garden plants. Place some soap shavings in a sachet and hang it in the area frequented by deer. A traditional repellent spray can also be used on shrubs and plants that you don't plan to eat.

4 gallons water

1 beaten egg

1 tablespoon cooking oil

1 tablespoon dish soap

½ cup milk

Mix this in a large pail and place the lid loosely on top. Allow the mixture to brew for two days and then pour it into a sprayer or watering can and cover the plants in the area that needs protection.

A contact repellent is another option to deter deer. Make a water-based solution that uses hot sauce and dish detergent.

1 teaspoon of liquid dish detergent

1 ounce of hot sauce

1 quart of water

Place the ingredients in a watering can and then sprinkle the mixture on the vegetation the deer have sampled. The detergent apparently helps the hot sauce stick to the leaves. These homemade repellents are environmentally friendly and should not harm the deer.

*Some deer-resistant plants include: snapdragons, marigolds, chives, sage, and the beautiful iris.*



**SPA BOY®**

**monitors & helps**  
maintain ideal spa water conditions  
Hot Tubbing has never been so easy!

**Ask us about it!**



**ArcticSpasManitoba.ca**  
Or join us at our Booth

**ENGINEERED  
FOR THE WORLD'S  
HARSHTEST CLIMATES**  
You Deserve it!



**CORNERSTONE  
TIMBERFRAMES**

**YOUR DREAM  
BEGINS HERE**

*A revolution is underway that is renewing our craft,  
allowing timber to reach farther, while adding greater  
accuracy, innovative possibilities, and sustainability to  
what we build and where we build it.*

**LET'S GET STARTED.**



**CORNERSTONETIMBERFRAMES.COM**

# 10 MONEY TIPS: For Cottage Buyers

By Cottage Tips Staff

Buying a cottage is a wonderful and emotional experience. It is also becoming very competitive for top properties. In the current market it helps to have all the numbers nailed down ahead of time so you and your family can make a swift decision when you find the perfect cabin.

## MORTGAGE APPROVAL

Get a mortgage approval done before you begin searching for your ideal lakeside retreat. Knowing how much you can afford makes the process more efficient. The pre-approval also gives you the flexibility to pounce when you find your dream property.

## INSURANCE

Cottage insurance can be expensive depending on the type of building and its location. Reach out to your current insurance company to see what they charge to add a cottage to the existing policy. You might have to use a separate provider to get the best deal.

## PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes for cottages located in unorganized territories can be very cheap. Cottages that fall within a city's school district, however, often have very high taxes. The seller will have the details, but it is important to include the taxes in your annual budget calculation when beginning your search.

## DRIVING TO THE COTTAGE

Properties located within a two-hour drive of the city tend to be very expensive. The farther you have to drive, the cheaper the price. However, a four-hour commute each way every weekend takes a greater toll on the vehicle and pushes up fuel costs.

## PARTY BUDGET

People like to entertain friends and family at the cottage. This can get expensive. Even if you simply use the cabin as your personal getaway, the bottles of wine, cases of beer, and succulent steaks add up quickly.

It's all part of the pleasure of lakeside living, but the costs should be anticipated.

## UTILITIES

In the old days, people wanted off-grid island retreats with no amenities. Today, most cottage buyers prefer to have all the comforts of home.

That means internet services and electricity, at the very least.

In addition, new buyers should anticipate costs for fuel, such as propane. Some properties also have municipal water services and are connected to sewers. Otherwise, you need to bring water to drink and might need to budget for getting a septic tank emptied.

If you plan to buy a four-season cabin, remember that the heating expenses in the winter can be substantial if the cottage uses electric baseboards.

## BOAT EXPENSES

Every cottage owner has a boat.

If you don't already own a boat, it is important to do some research

Check for availability at a marina that is close to the property. Ask the real estate agent to find out up front if you can assume the spot used by the current owners. Don't forget to set cash aside for winter storage costs.

## COTTAGE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

A new cottage requires very little maintenance for the first several years. It might be worthwhile to pay up to get a newer place and avoid all the repair headaches.

Otherwise, DIY types can save a lot on the purchase price by picking up an older cottage. However, these



ahead of time. The boat you need is often determined by the location of the cottage.

Cottages situated on big lakes might require a larger boat to navigate rough conditions. Cabins located on small lakes or river systems can get by with a more modest vessel. Choosing between aluminum or fibreglass also comes into play depending on the conditions in the surrounding area.

Be sure to budget appropriately for fuel and maintenance, as well.

## PARKING AND DOCKING

Road-access properties cost more money, but you don't have to pay for parking or for a boat slip at a marina.

Water-access properties tend to be less expensive, but require renting a place on the mainland to park the car and to dock the boat.

properties can quickly become money pits. It is common for cottage owners with older properties to spend thousands of dollars a year on maintenance.

Remember that all the fun toys at the cottage also require maintenance. ATVs, lawn tractors, trimmers and chainsaws are just the start.

## COTTAGE RENTAL INCOME

Cottages are in hot demand for summer vacations. In fact, people will pay big bucks to book a week or two on the lake.

Rental income can help cover a good chunk of the annual costs. However, be sure to budget the time and expenses needed to find good renters and manage the process.

# No septic?

Modern and environmentally friendly toilet solutions

INCINERATINGTOILETS.COM

INCINERATING  
TOILETS INC.

## The Best Alternative to Composting Toilets!

The Cinderella incineration toilet is an easy to use, easy to install plumbing-free solution. Just like being at home.

No waste handling, only one teacup of ash after one weeks use of four people



Safe for children



High capacity | 4 visits per hour



No odour



No frost protection needed



Water supply & drainage connections not required



Requires little space



Electric and propane models available



Cinderella  
Incineration Toilets



## Don't let biting insects chase you inside this summer.

### Season long mosquito and tick control service.

Our licensed and highly trained technicians will treat all the areas on your property to:

- Eliminate harmful mosquitos and ticks, all season long
- Protect your family, friends, and pets
- Effective residual barrier lasts between service treatments
- Proven solution that delivers outstanding results

For effective season long mosquito & tick control, give us a BUZZ at

**1.800.865.BUZZ** (2899)

or visit [www.mosquito.buzz](http://www.mosquito.buzz)

**mosquito.buzz**<sup>TM</sup>  
...stay outside

# How to Choose a Cottage Dock

By Cottage Tips Staff

## Lift-up Docks

In some cases, a combination dock system might work best. Commonly called a lift-up dock, the dock has legs that sit on the bottom of the lake during the summer, but the entire kit is raised out of the water using a winch to protect it during the winter. This is a good dock for shallow-water locations where spring ice flows might damage the dock.

The frame of a lift-up dock is typically made using aluminum and the deck boards are removed and stored for the winter months. This option has a lower impact on the environment and is becoming more common.

On any new dock installation, it is important to consider water levels when designing the length of the dock ramp. A longer ramp will reduce the incline when the lake level drops to its seasonal low points.

*On any new dock installation, it is important to consider water levels when designing the length of the dock ramp. A longer ramp will reduce the incline when the lake level drops to its seasonal low points.*

Cottage owners have several types of docks to choose from when building a new cabin or replacing an old dock structure. Docks are typically categorized as either permanent (fixed) docks or floating docks. In certain conditions, cottagers can get away with a simple roll-in dock.

## Fixed Docks

In situations where water levels don't change, winter ice isn't an issue, and the lake depth is shallow, a permanent dock might work. The structure is fixed to the bottom of the lake and remains in place all year.

## Drilled Pipe

A drilled-pipe dock is common in situations where bedrock exists to support the dock. Holes are drilled into the rock and the steel pipes are inserted, forming the base on which the steel dock frame is built.

Winter tends to be the best time to install the dock as the drilling can be done through the ice.

## Crib

When the conditions are not suitable for pipes, the best option for the permanent dock is to use cribs. These are boxes made with strong timber and filled with rocks. The frame is then built above the cribs. The benefit of a permanent dock is that you don't have to remove it in the fall when you close the cabin.

## Floating Docks

Floating docks vary widely and the best dock to install depends on a number of factors, including the shoreline conditions, the way you use the dock, and your budget. Deck material for a dock platform can be wood, composite, metal, or plastic. The decision on which

material is best to choose depends on cost, and dock use. Many cottages have a floating dock that attaches to a ramp, as well as a permanent platform installed above the high-water point. A floating dock provides good flexibility. Sections can be added easily and the dock is often disconnected and placed in a bay to spend the winter. Boards on the dock ramp can be removed and set aside until the spring. The ramp is often hoisted up in the air during the winter months.

## Wood Docks

A wood dock is usually the cheapest option for a floating dock, although volatile lumber prices can sometimes close the gap between wood and steel or

aluminum. The frame is made of wood. Billets (floats) are attached.

A wood dock is a good choice in situations where the dock isn't subjected to strong winds or high waves. The downside is that a wood dock will eventually wear out from heavy use and exposure to the elements. Maintenance is required to keep it in good shape and boards might need to be repaired or replaced.

## Steel-truss Docks

Docks that need to endure large waves, strong currents, or high winds might require a steel frame. The steel-truss dock tends to be more expensive, but the dock can withstand a challenging environment and should last longer than a wood dock.

## Aluminum Docks

Aluminum docks are similar to steel-truss docks, except the frame is made from a

different metal. These are lighter, tend to be less expensive, and are often chosen for their attractive look.

## Plastic Docks

Low-maintenance plastic docks are also popular. The sections can be combined into various formations and often have attractive add-ons such as ports for PWCs or kayaks. The material lasts longer than a standard wood dock and there is variability in the dock design. This is a good option for situations where docking needs might change in the next few years.

## Dock Accessories and Hardware

Cleats, bumpers, storage boxes, solar lights, ports, and swimming ladders are common accessories for a dock. Some people also install a fish-cleaning station.



SINCE 1996

# Blind Adventures

Custom Blinds and Drapes

Residential and Commercial  
**Your COTTAGE Specialist**

- BLINDS
- DRAPES
- SHUTTERS
- SOLAR SHADES

**ALTA**  
WINDOW FASHIONS  
from **shadeomatic**

In Home Estimates

**Sales, Installations  
& Repairs**

**204-915-6948**



**RON SLOBODIAN**  
OWNER/DECORATOR  
INSTALLER/  
MOTORIZATION  
EXPERT



powerwand lift  
option

[www.blindadventures.ca](http://www.blindadventures.ca)

# I Wanna Be a Pinawanian



## Choose Pinawa

Pinawa is a unique, full service, resort-like community on the northern edge of the Whiteshell Provincial park, just 110 km from Winnipeg. Nestled along the shores of the Winnipeg River, Pinawa has so much to offer:

- Family-friendly
- Quality Education Program
- Affordable Housing
- Stunning 18-Hole Golf Course
- Stable Healthcare
- Amazing Recreational Opportunities



Imagine Yourself in a place...



ADVENTURE  
& FUN



COMMERCIAL  
& RESIDENTIAL  
INCENTIVES



QUALITY  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS



SAFE  
COMMUNITY



BUSINESS  
INCUBATOR  
PROGRAM



NATURE  
AT YOUR  
DOORSTEP



4 SEASON  
RECREATION



HISTORY  
& HERITAGE



ARTS  
& CULTURE

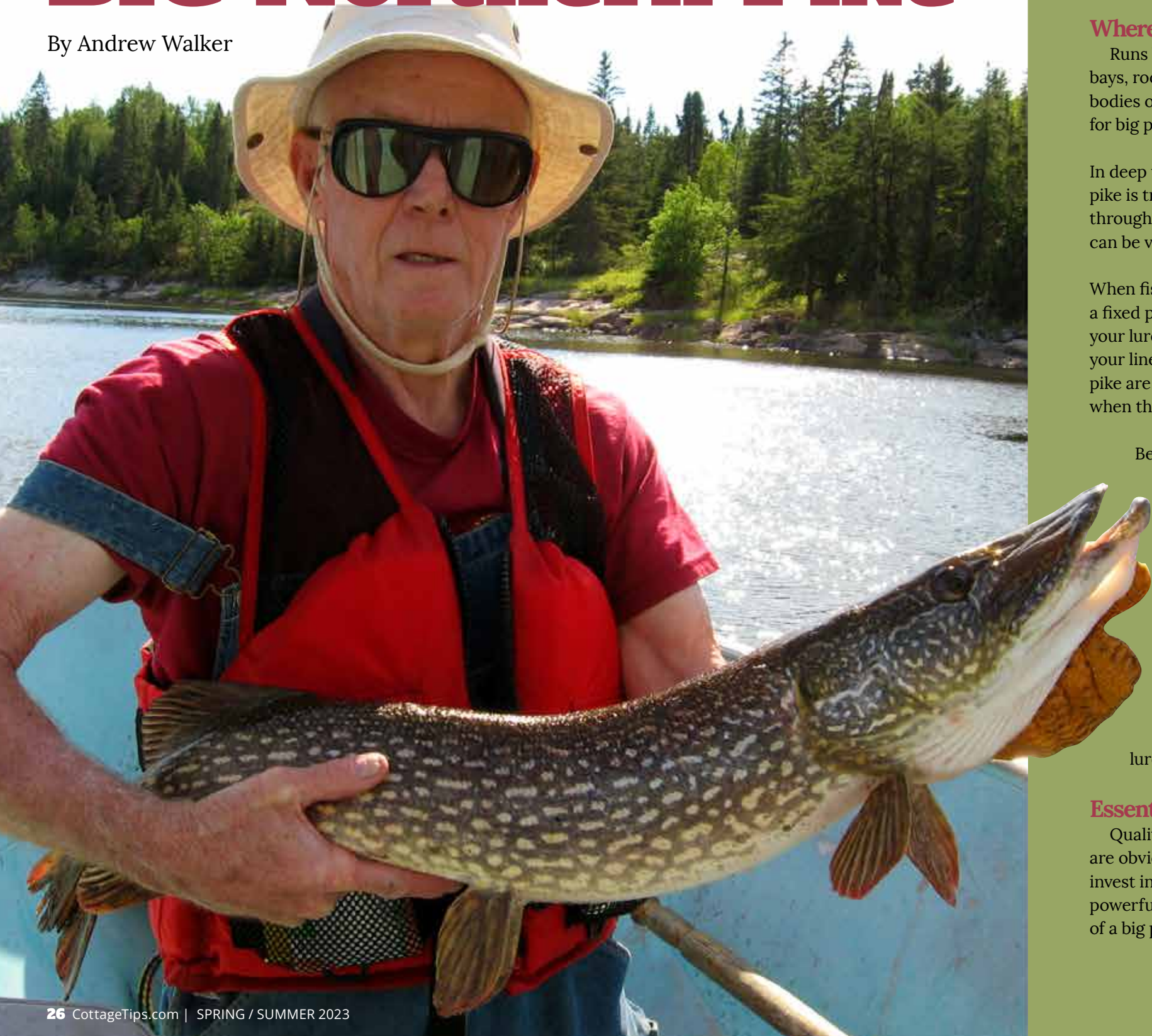
**204-753-5170**

[pinawa.com](http://pinawa.com)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/PinawaCDC) [@PinawaCDC](https://www.instagram.com/PinawaCDC)

# How To Catch BIG Northern Pike

By Andrew Walker



NORTHERN PIKE ARE AGGRESSIVE PREDATORS AND CAN GROW TO BE FOUR FEET LONG IN MANY CANADIAN LAKES AND RIVERS. PIKE USUALLY INHABIT WATERS THAT ARE ALSO PRIME SPOTS FOR CATCHING WALLEYE OR BASS. COTTAGERS OFTEN HEAR STORIES OF ANGLERS WHO ACCIDENTALLY LANDED A MONSTER PIKE AFTER AN ATTACK ON A SMALLER FISH THAT WAS ALREADY ON THE LINE.

## Where and How Do You Catch Trophy Pike?

Runs between islands, drop-offs leading into shallower bays, rocky points, and entry or exit flows between two bodies of water are all areas to explore when searching for big pike.

In deep water the best strategy for catching a trophy pike is trolling parallel to the shore along a shelf or through the narrows between two islands. Large spoons can be very effective lures in this situation.

When fishing for monster pike in shallow water from a fixed position or by slowly working a shoreline, cast your lure in a high arc. Near the end of the cast, restrict your line so that the lure lands in the water noisily. Big pike are attracted to the disturbance and will investigate when the lure makes a splash as it hits the surface.

Be ready! If a trophy northern pike is anywhere near the spot where the lure lands in the water, the fish will often strike the bait immediately.

If the water is deep enough, let the lure sink for a few seconds before starting to retrieve it after the cast. The pike will often attack the bait as it is dropping into the weeds or past an underwater overhang.

As you reel in the lure, jerk it once in a while and let it fall back for a second or two before continuing the retrieve. If a pike is following the lure, it will often strike when the lure starts to sink.

## Essential Gear When Catching Pike

Quality lures, stiff rods, heavy line, and wire leaders are obviously important, but pike anglers should also invest in some other essential equipment. A pike has powerful jaws lined with sharp teeth. Getting a lure out of a big pike's mouth can be difficult without special gear.

## Mouth spreader

Pike often swallow a lure whole. When this happens, the hook usually gets stuck near the gills, putting your fingers at serious risk when you try to remove the bait.

Any angler who catches northern pike on a regular basis knows that trying to get the jaws open on a small pike can be a challenge, let alone when you are dealing with a large fish. When it comes to pike-fishing accessories, the mouth spreader deserves to be at the top of the buy list.

## Fishing pliers

The next item to buy should be a good set of needle-nose pliers. This is the best way to remove a hook, whether it is stuck in the pike's jaw, or located deep down toward the gills. You can use any basic pair of pliers or pick up a set designed specifically for removing fish hooks.

## Fish glove

Pike are slimy, so trying to hold one without a proper fish glove can result in the fish being dropped. This is hard on the fish. More importantly, a pike that shakes loose of your grasp can quickly embed the hook into a finger, which is bad news for the angler.

## Cradle net

A trophy pike won't easily fit in most regular fishing nets. Trying to use a net that is too small normally ends badly for both the fish and your net.

If you are going to fish in waters where you know big northern pike are present it's worthwhile to have a cradle net that is designed to handle one of these giants. This is safer for the fish and for the angler. The last thing you want to deal with is a big northern pike thrashing around in the bottom of the boat.

## Pike lures

Hundreds of lures are marketed to catch pike, but most anglers who target this aggressive fish know that a pike will hit just about anything that passes by its nose.

That being said, the top all-time pike bait is arguably a spoon. Spinner baits are probably next on the list, followed by stick baits. Jigs with plastic tails can also be effective.

ADVERTISERS

BUILDERS, SUNROOMS, TIMBERFRAMES		
Candlewood Homes	204-327-5575	candlewoodhomes.ca
Canadian Factory Direct Sunrooms	306-900-0934	factorydirectsunrooms.ca
Cornerstone Timberframes	204-377-5000	cornerstonetimberframes.com
Design-Built / Take Place	204-999-0954	design-built.ca
Maric Homes	204-339-2035	marichomes.com
Linwood Homes / T F Leisure Marketing	204-261-5359	linwoodhomes.com
Pine Creek Homes	204-654-9888	pinecreek.ca
Sunspace Sunrooms	204-213-1114	sunspaceldb.ca
Timber Ridge Homes	431-831-5064	timberridgehomes.ca
Toews Timberframes	204-381-1851	toewstimberframes.ca
Tiny Homes on the Prairie	204-381-2221	tinyhomesontheprairie.com
DOCKS AND LIFTS		
Lakeside Enterprises	204-369-5354	lakesideenterprises.ca
Canada Docks	204-786-3881	canadadocks.ca
Gower Electric and Elevator	204-512-0801	gowerelectricandelelevator.com
Nor Col EZ Dock	204-642-7064	norcolezdock.com
Sanflotec	431-877-5116	sanflotec.ca
PopDocks	204-239-1451	popdocks.com
Whitemouth Docks	204-348-2269	whitemouthdocksinc.ca
RPL Docks and Lifts	204-233-7065	rpldocksandlifts.com
SHEDS, BUNKIES, GARAGE		
Horizon Sheds	204-738-3065	horizonstoragesheds.com
Old Hickory Buildings of Canada	519-909-6814	oldhickorybuildings.com
Artspan	204-331-1800	artspaninc.com
Reimer Overhead Doors	204-326-4556	reimeroverheaddoors.com
COMMUNICATIONS, SECURITY, SAFETY		
Accurate Fire and Safety	204-668-9930	accuratefireandsafety.com
Bell MTS	204-225-5687	bellmts.ca/personal
Mantario Communications	204-799-7700	mantariocommunications.com
Telus	855-255-8828	telus.com
RETAIL		
Grunthal Lumber	204-434-6340	grunthallumber.com
McMunn & Yates	855-882-1060	mcmunnandyates.com
Fehr Forgeworks	204-391-6263	fehr-forgeworks-inc.myshopify.com
Cutco Cutlery	204-510-7811	cutco.com
Michaud Toys	888-320-6769	michaudtoys.org
Olympic Building Centre	204-661-8600	olympicbuildingcentre.ca
JAYSix	204-447-0082	jaysix.ca
Firewood Manitoba	204-453-7788	firewoodmanitoba.ca
Be You Canada	416-276-3231	beyoucanada.ca
Soy Harvest Candles	204-421-8838	soyharvest.ca
Timber Pro Coatings	604-270-4244	timberprocoatings.ca
Canadian Tire Kenora	807-468-3014	canadiantire.ca
Janzens Paint	204-325-8387	janzenspaint.com
Danny's Whole Hog	204-344-5675	dannyswholehog.ca
FURNITURE		
Inland Fine Furnishings	204-957-4940	inlandmade.com
Country Classics Furniture	204-348-2129	countryclassics.ca
Custom Repair And Stitchery	204-416-0739	repairandstitch.com
Luxe Furniture Company	204-779-2900	luxefurniture.ca
Whiteshell Chairs	204-348-2770	whiteshellchairs.com
REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE		
Aviva Insurance Canada	800-387-4518	aviva.ca
Century 21 Sun Country	204-268-2011	suncountryrealty.c21.ca
RE/MAX NorthWest Realty	833-323-4573	remaxnorthwestrealty.com
Standard Insurance Brokers	204-943-1441	standardinsurance.ca

ADVERTISERS

BOATS, SPAS, SAUNAS, AND LEISURE		
Arctic Spas	204-927-7727	arcticspasmanitoba.ca
WSL Sport & Leisure	204-987-5640	wslsport.com
Fitness Experience	204-775-3401	fitnessexperience.ca
Blue Bay Sauna	204-332-2377	blue-bay-sauna.business.site
Faurschou Motor Sports	204-239-0012	faurschouagcenter.com
Swimwear Express	204-791-4319	swimwearexpress.ca
Krevco Lifestyles	204-786-6957	krevco.com
DECOR, INTERIOR DESIGN		
H2 Blinds	204-881-3481	h2blinds.com
Access Window and Door Design	800-249-1216	accesswd.ca
Carrara Tile & Marble	204-453-8014	carraratile.ca
Creekside Timber Products	204-746-4059	creeksidelogproducts.com
Granite Mountain Stone Design	204-345-2765	granitemountain.ca
Rosehill Woodcrafters	204-685-3022	rosehillwoodcrafters.ca
Specialty Interiors	204-819-0033	specialtyinteriors.ca
Stone-N-Counters	204-268-1784	facebook.com/StoneNCounters
Urban Lumber	204-997-1770	urban-lumber.ca
Urban Topcoat	204-791-8024	urbantopcoat.com
Total Flooring	204-783-5742	totalflooring.co
Yarrow Sash and Door	204-586-2794	yarrowssashanddoor.com
Bang On Metal	204-786-3881	bangonmetal.com
Blind Adventures	204-915-5525	blindadventures.ca
LANDSCAPING, DECKS, SIDING		
Top Deck Leveler	204-781-5170	topdeckleveler.com
Advance Tent & Awning	204-786-4901	advancetentandawning.ca
Curb-design	204-392-2720	
Deck City	204-272-0610	deckcity.ca
Geller's Design Build Landscape	204-795-9490	gellerswinnipeg.ca
Goliath Tech	204-461-4443	goliathtechpiles.com
JC Deck and Fence	204-294-3646	jcdecks.net
Keystone Products	204-322-5332	keystone-quality-products.myshopify.com
Leaf Filter	844-211-4281	leafilter.ca
Maibec	800-363-1930	maibec.com/en
Prelude Deck	204-999-5904	preludedecksandfences.com
Stellar Exteriors	204-392-3262	stellarexteriors.pro
Sunshowers Sprinklers	204-895-2331	sunshowersprinklers.ca
MAINTENACE, PLUMBING, POWER, WATER, INSULATION		
Athena Small Equipment Repair	204-786-1900	athenatoolrepair.ca
Dyna-Pro	204-774-5370	dyna-pro.com
Heat-Line	800-584-4944	heatline.com
Incinerating Toilets	888-646-2664	incineratingtoilets.com/ca
Ed and Di Enterprises / Perimeter Drilling	204-782-1526	perimeterdrilling.ca
Ecologic Spray Foam	204-509-3626	ecologicfoam.com
JobJon Portable Solutions	204-502-1933	jobjon.ca
Shorty's Plumbing & Heating	204-809-9829	shortysplumbing.ca
Airborne Coatings	204-223-0373	airbornecoatings.com
Polywest	204-924-8265	polywest.ca
Raysolar	204-414-7297	raysolar.ca
Westrock Battery	204-784-2310	westrock.ca
Mosquito.Buzz	800-865-2899	mosquito.buzz
COMMUNITY, EDUCATION, AND ASSOCIATIONS		
Forestry and Peatlands MB	204-945-6784	gov.mb.ca/nrnd/forest
Aquatic Invasive Species MB	204-945-7787	gov.mb.ca/stopais
Whiteshell Cottagers Association	204-487-0556	whiteshellcottagers.com
Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners	204-345-2206	macoman.com
Pinawa Community Development Corporation	204-753-5170	pinawa.com
Wildlife Haven	204-878-3740	wildlifehaven.ca
Winnipeg Free Press	204-697-7000	winnipegfreepress.com

# Stunning Style

for your home or cottage.



21 Clearsprings Rd E,  
Steinbach, MB  
(204) 326-4556  
reimerdoors.com



**REIMER**  
OVERHEAD DOORS

FUELLING YOUR **OUTDOOR** PASSION



WSLSPORT.COM

LUND



1272 Dugald Road, Winnipeg • 204.987.5640 || 832 Lakeview Drive, Kenora • 807.468.5975

# UPGRADE YOUR SUMMER!



WSLSPORT.COM

LUND



1272 Dugald Road, Winnipeg • 204.987.5640 || 832 Lakeview Drive, Kenora • 855.543.2167

# Aviva Lifestyle

Insurance



**From cottages to boats,  
we've been insuring  
fun for over 60 years.**

**Visit [aviva.ca](https://aviva.ca) or talk to your broker to learn more.**

**Cottages | Boats | Motorhomes | Recreational trailers | Collector cars | Motorcycles | ATV | Snowmobiles**

Insurance products are subject to terms, conditions, restrictions and exclusions, which are outlined in our final policy wording. Please speak with your Aviva insurance broker to learn more. Insurance products are underwritten by Elite Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Aviva Canada Inc. Product availability varies by province. Aviva and the Aviva logo are trademarks used under license by the licensor.

