

# COTTAGE CONSIDERATIONS

*Thank you for your care and consideration !*

- Extremely Sensitive Septic System. Absolutely **NO** foodstuffs down drain. Please wipe plates clean with paper towel before washing or putting into the dishwasher. No hair, Qtips, bandaids, etc. down washroom toilet ... please use toilet paper sparingly.
- No oil or fat down sink. All used oil, fat, etc. must be poured into can or container provided.
- Please keep main doors closed, due to bugs and ants.
- **NO GLASS OUTSIDE OR AT BEACH - NO GLASS BEER BOTTLES OUTSIDE OR AT BEACH - We have lots of plastic.**
- Be sure to clean BBQ after each use.
- **NO SMOKING IN THE COTTAGE - Please - use "Butt Buckets" and ashtrays outside and at beach.**
- Please - no "outdoor shoes" inside cottage - bring an extra pair of slippers, socks, sandals or "indoor shoes" for inside cottage.
  
- Please be sure to close down beach umbrellas at night.
- All long distance telephone charges to your home.
- Please - only use plastic utensils on T-Fal pots and pans.
- Please do not feed chipmunks, animals, etc. near cottage.
- **GARBAGE MUST BE PUT INTO GARBAGE PAILS AND INSIDE GARBAGE BIN AT SIDE OF ROAD. KEEP OVERNIGHT INSIDE COTTAGE - NOT OUTSIDE, due to animals.**
- **NO PETS AT THE COTTAGE.**
- Before you leave - please clean up any toys from outside cottage, at beach etc.
- If you move any furniture/toys, etc., around - please move them back
- If you need something or cannot find something - please call us.

USE GARBAGE  
TABS FOR  
ALL  
4 BARS

## WHAT YOU DO "NOT" HAVE TO BRING TO THE COTTAGE

- spices, condiments, flour, sugar,
- all kitchen utensils, dishes, pots, pans, etc.
- umbrellas, beach chairs, sand toys, water toys
- toys, books, games, videos
- first aid supplies
- shampoo, soap, toilet paper, kleenex
- flashlights, nightlights
- blankets, pillows,
- all bedding and towels\* - except baby (crib/playpen) - please bring your own baby bedding = WE DO HAVE BABY BEDDING -
- baby/toddler stuff - we have double stroller + 2 single strollers, crib + playpen, 2 highchairs, baby swing, change table, diaper pail, potty seats, infant "beach bed basket" - except baby dishes, cutlery, cups, etc. - please bring your own baby kitchen stuff, bottles, etc.
- clocks and watches - we have them - but ... cottage rules say we're not allowed to use them !!

Please note we have "extras" of *everything* at the cottage - extra hats, shoes, slippers, sandals, sweatshirts, bathing suits, Tshirts, sunglasses, etc... if you have forgotten to bring something ... no problem ... please use ours!

\* with laundry option included

## SUGGESTIONS TO BRING TO COTTAGE

- slippers, socks, sandals or “inside shoes” to wear inside
- insect repellent
- sun screen
- tin foil ; saran wrap ; napkins ; paper towels
- paper plates, cutlery, cups, etc. – no dishes to do on holiday !
- tin foil cooking pans - cook, serve, store leftovers in fridge - then - throw out - no pots or pans or serving bowls to clean !
- water - buy water in town - then fill jugs for fridge - do not drink the water at the cottage. It is ok for cleaning fruits and vegetables, washing dishes, brushing teeth, etc. ... but we would not suggest to drink or use cottage water to make coffee, juice, etc.
- ~~if you are bringing up your own sheets, pillowcases and towels - just put your sheets and pillow cases over ours - then, when you leave - just remove yours.~~
- if you are not bringing up your own sheets, pillowcases and towels - please try to put all used towels into the main bathroom in the main cottage. Leave any used beds “unmade” , so cleaning lady will know which sheets to change.
- PS - support Bala - do your grocery shopping in cottage country - no need to pack food from home -
- if you cannot find something - please call us - we probably have it somewhere.
- Please note - anything that is in the cupboards, fridge, shelves, drawers, etc. is there for you to use. For anything that is not for you to use - it has been labeled :  
“Lebo Personal - Please Do Not Use”

• Kids Arts + Crafts Supplies + Bubbles

\*  
BRING  
OWN  
BATH  
TOWELS\*

**Please be advised the following repairs still need to be completed :**

**A. fans in cottages can only be used on low – some ok for medium FANS CANNOT BE USED ON HIGH. PLEASE ALSO NOTE : DO NOT USE FANS IN BEDROOMS IF ANYONE SLEEPING IN TOP BUNKBEDS. We have air conditioning as well as several portable fans – located in basements – should be ok without fans on “high”**

**a. fan in bathroom of guest house not working – we left air freshener spray for you !!**

**b. Please also note that we have had several water toys/blow up boat/ raft etc. broken. We have left blow up boats/rafts/water toys in basement of guest house. PLEASE ADVISE US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE THESE – and please note if broken, they will have to be replaced by you!!**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED : GARBAGE COLLECTION HAS CHANGED ! Muskoka Lakes has changed garbage collection- MAXIMUM 4 BAGS Some guys will take all garbage ... others will only take maximum 4 bags. Garbage is early, early Wednesdays – please make sure any/all garbage and blue boxes out Tuesday evenings. IF THEY DO NOT TAKE YOUR GARBAGE (ie if over 4 bag limit) YOU MUST TAKE GARBAGE TO THE DUMP – marked on map on fridge of main house – aprx. 10-15 minute drive – no cost to take to dump.**

**Please also be advised – FOOD GARBAGE MUST BE PUT INTO GREEN METAL “BEARPROOF” GARBAGE BIN. BROWN WOODEN GARBAGE BIN ONLY FOR “NON-FOOD” STUFFS**

*MUST USE GARBAGE BAGS (provided)*

**Lastly, please note: CHECK IN 6 pm – GUEST HOUSE WILL BE READY FOR YOU FOR 4 pm – MAIN HOUSE NOT READY UNTIL 6**

**Cleaning lady will come in on day you leave aprx 9-10 am – WILL START ON GUEST HOUSE FIRST – You’ll be able to probably leave out of main house by 11am – PLEASE NOTE TO VACATE PROPERTY BY 2pm – Please also note: once houses cleaned – no one to be back in house**

**Thank you so very much – have a great time at LEBOLAND !!**

**Please note the following**

**for all of us to enjoy :**

**a. extra BBQ tank – PLEASE NOTE IF BBQ TANK IS EMPTY ON YOUR ARRIVAL – PLEASE ADVISE US – IF YOU EMPTY A TANK, YOU SHOULD HAVE AN EXTRA ONE, FULL TO USE. PLEASE ALSO NOTE TO PLEASE FILL UP THE EMPTY ONE YOU USED FOR NEXT GUESTS – CAN “SWAP” TANKS AT GENERAL STORE IN TOWN**

**b. life jackets – please make sure hung up in beach shed after use**

**c. water cooler for main house – we still have jugs to fill for guest house – have left 2 large empty water jugs for refilling ( \$10 deposit) can “swap” water bottles at main supermarket – be sure to show them you are bringing in an “empty” – PLEASE BE SURE TO LEAVE WATER FOR NEXT GUESTS – IF WATER IS EMPTY ON YOUR ARRIVAL – PLEASE ADVISE US. Also note you can refill water jugs for free – map on fridge in main house will tell you 3 choices in town to fill up with “good water” – for free !!**

**COTTAGE CONSIDERATIONS**

**ADDITIONAL NOTES TO TAKE NOTE OF :**

- *Please note that on the day that you are leaving, the cleaning lady will be coming in, first thing in the morning.*
- *Please put any/all laundry, dirty towels, kitchen towels, etc., that you may have used into the laundry basket, in the main house bathroom*
- *Be sure to take all of your leftovers / perishables from the fridge*
- *Although we do have a cleaning lady coming in after you leave, please be careful to keep the cottage clean - especially of any foodstuffs on counters, floors, couches, etc., due to bugs*
- *Please note that you are responsible for cleaning outside of cottage. Please put away any/all toys back into toy shed, off beach. Turn over canoe and rowboat, if used. Place canoe/rowboat paddles under boats. Close up beach umbrellas, etc. etc. etc.*
- *Make sure doors/windows etc., are closed and locked*

*Thank you for taking care of our cottage ... as though it was your own !!*

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**EXTREMELY SENSITIVE**  
**SEPTIC SYSTEM**

*Please - absolutely nothing “extra” down toilet - no hair, bandaids, Qtips, etc. Please - use toilet paper sparingly.*

*Thank you so much.*

**EXTREMELY SENSITIVE**  
**SEPTIC SYSTEM**

*Absolutely no foodstuffs down drain. Please wipe plates clean with paper towel before washing or putting into dishwasher. Please - no used oil or fat down drain. All used oil, fat, etc. must be poured into can/container provided.*

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE LEBO COTTAGE**

- get onto Highway 400 North
- Highway “splits” just after Barrie - **STAY TO THE RIGHT - STAY ON HIGHWAY 400 - DO NOT GO “ORILLIA”**
- you’ll pass Horseshoe Valley - pass Honey Harbour - pass 6-Mile Lake Provincial Park
- *when you see “GIBSON LAKE” ... **SLOW RIGHT DOWN !!***
- **immediately after Gibson Lake** - look for **MUSKOKA ROAD 38** - this has “Bala” written on it .. watch for it !!
- turn right onto Muskoka Road 38 - this is a long, beautiful, winding road - when it ends - you are in Bala
- at the end of Muskoka Road 38 - turn right to go outside of the town
- pass the TD Bank ... pass the hotel ... pass the beer store
- aprx. 1 mile - you’ll see a single restaurant by itself on the left hand side - this is the “Bala Diner” - go past - you’re almost there
- on your right - look for **LONG LAKE ROAD ... SLOW RIGHT DOWN !!**
- the next possible road - about 10 feet immediately after the “Long Lake Road” sign is Long Lake Road - the actual road does not have a sign - the sign is just before the road. If you pass this sign and you go over the railroad tracks to “Torrence” - you’ve gone too far.
- turn right onto Long Lake Road - go aprx 1 km - we are on the left hand side - our name is on the tree - we are Number 1087

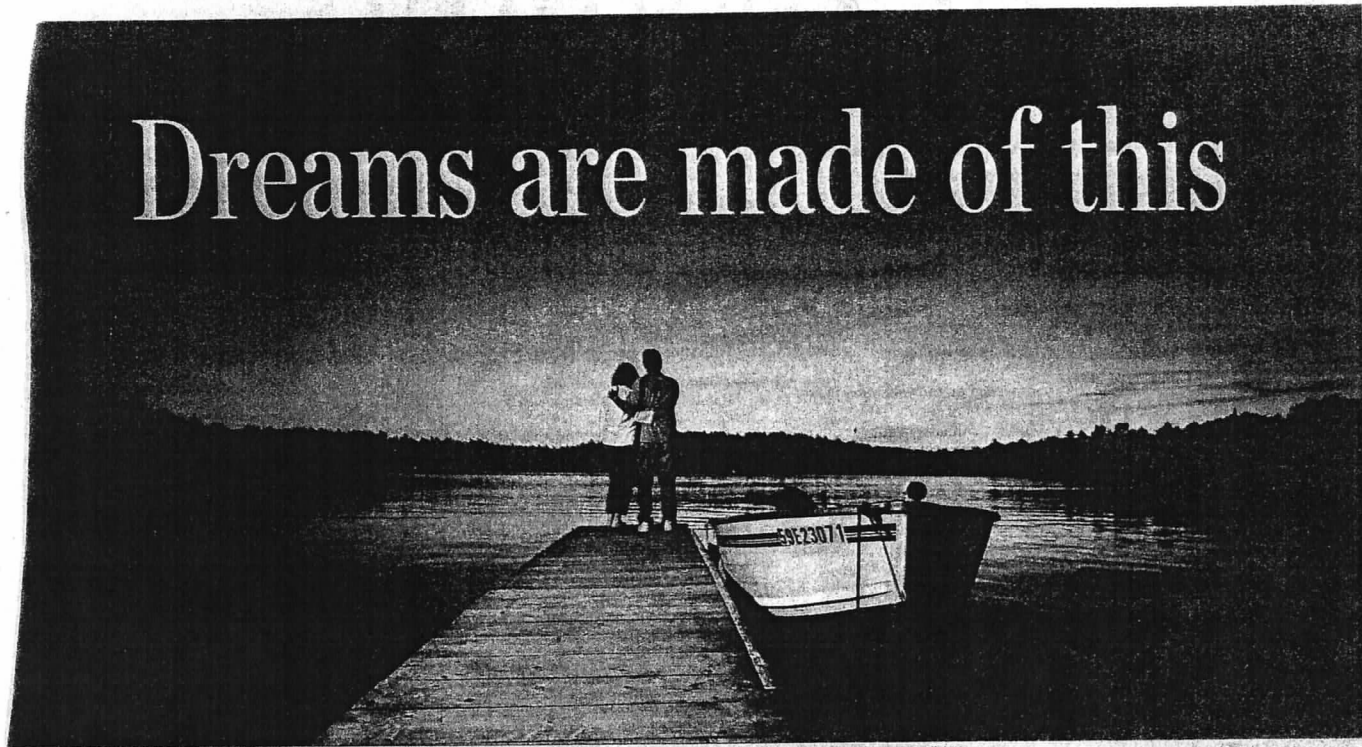
**WELCOME TO LEBOLAND !!!**  
**1087 Long Lake Road, Bala, Ontario**

**COTTAGE PHONE NUMBER : (705) 762-3325 (we have call answer)**  
**Code to pick up cottage voicemail = 12345**

**LEBO in TORONTO : (905) 709-2272**



# Dreams are made of this



KEITH BEATY / TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

A couple takes in the sunset view from a cottage dock. The vast majority of Canadians do not own a vacation home, but that doesn't stop us from wishing and hoping.

Only 7% of Canadians own a cottage — that leaves most of us fantasizing about the perfect vacation home

**TRISH CRAWFORD**  
LIVING REPORTER

When people call Bob Laing to inquire about renting his cottage, he's careful to set the record straight. "What people like about us is the lake is so big, with so few cottages that it's not wrecked," says Laing, 62, of his Happynest Cottage on Lake Kawigamog, north of Parry Sound. "Still the closest town (Loring) is only 15 minutes away."

The tiny marina is a former hotel, now equipped with an ice-cream machine and gas pumps. However, if you're looking for a beer-soaked beach scene, the non-stop cacophony of water sports or cheek-by-jowl proximity to your neighbours, Laing will bluntly say, "You'd better not come here."

When it comes to the perfect cottage holiday, says Laing, "Everyone has their own concept." Unfortunately, everyone doesn't have their own cottage.

As surprising as it may seem to anyone who had headed north on a crowded Highway 400 or 11 on a Friday night, most people do not have cottages.

A 2002 Statistics Canada report titled "A Little Place in the Country," reported only seven per cent of Canadians own a vacation home.

The rest rent, happily accept invitations from their cottage-owning friends or just dream.

The *Star* asked some cottage dreamers to describe their fantasy — is it a cabin in the woods, does it have indoor plumbing, a dock?

Their answers illustrate the mystique of cottage life that is a state of mind as much as a place.

tired office administrator, used to rent a cottage each summer when her three daughters were little.

It was a simple existence, she says, "No telephone, no amenities, no car — everything had to be within walking distance."

While her husband is an avowed city guy "who didn't have the patience to sit all day" and only visited on the weekends, Eckler enjoyed cottage life on Lake Simcoe near Barrie.

"The minute I got out of the car, I felt I was home," says Eckler, of Richmond Hill, who would love to recapture those quiet times.

"I have often dreamed about a cottage," she says, adding the most important feature would be a large porch.

**6** It must be on the water and have a private window

**RUTH CHERNIA,**  
ON HER DREAM COTTAGE

"When it rains, we can all sit outside on the porch and watch the raindrops on the lake."

All the meals would be prepared on a barbecue, she says, and there'd be "no cellphones, no iPods, no DVDs, no telephone."

She would like it to be a place for family to gather so it would need lots of bedrooms to accommodate five grandkids.

**AFTER NUMEROUS** summers renting a cottage, Christine Gonsalves says, "I want one."

She grew up on water as her family ran a marina on Lake Ontario near Presqu'île Bay and frequently went on boat rides when she wasn't pumping gas.

She also spent time at her uncle's cottage where they only got one channel on television and the kids ran out in their swimsuits when it

"It was a homey place and I felt very comfortable," says the bookkeeper and mother of two teenagers who has a very clear idea of what she'd like to have one day.

"It would be a little cabin on a piece of land with access to the water."

"It can be simple, rough and ready, the type of place that wouldn't require a great deal of cleaning other than to throw a mop across the floor every so often."

A disastrous summer vacation involving leeches points out the importance of clear, clean water, she says, adding, "I find water very peaceful."

"A dock and raft would be nice, a paddle boat and canoe, but no motorized boats."

**AVID ORNITHOLOGIST** Dawn Laing, 28, is the kind of guest who writes thank-you notes to cottage owners listing the birds and plants she spied on her visit.

A recent trip to Quebec was a bird bonanza.

"I was kayaking beside a family of loons. That's not your typical experience. I also saw Great Blue Herons and osprey."

Birds, trees and water are all pieces of Laing's picture-perfect dream cottage.

"It would be very minimalist," says Laing, whose downtown Toronto loft has its own worm compost. She wants to keep her "footprint" on the environment small.

"I'm looking for the opportunity to escape urban life — one room, with wood, stone and rustic amenities. Running water would be great, but not a requirement."

It's the natural setting that is the most important part, says Laing, adding, "I would like a really cool setting from a biodiversity context."

Being close to a nature conservancy, such as the one she recently visited near Orillia, would be a bonus.

**RUTH CHERNIA** once rented a cot-

tage with a microwave, gas barbecue and dishwasher that she was unable to operate they were so finicky.

"My ideal cottage would not have appliances more difficult than the ones I have at home," laughs Chernia, 59, an editor who loves the Kawartha Lake district.

"It must be on the water and have a picture window," she says, adding, "It's wonderful to watch the wildlife."

She'd also like a screened-in porch for escaping the bugs and a dock where you can lie on your back and count stars.

Chernia was delighted to hear beavers slapping their tails on water and to see a mink slinking around the shoreline at a recent cottage visit that was capped off with the discovery of marks from bear claws on a wooden door.

Cottage living is an escape from Toronto's tempo, she says: "Peace is great, to be relaxing, reading, swimming, lazing in the sun."

**BIOLOGIST ANDREA** Kettle, 38, is an avid downhill skier so she'd prefer to find a cottage on Georgian Bay in the Collingwood area so she could use it year round.

The mother of a 2-year-old son has been spending her summers camping but she's starting to think more and more fondly of a cottage as she gets older.

"I'd want it to be low-maintenance and low-key," says Kettle, of Richmond Hill. "Ideally on the water in a treed lot."

It's important to be private from people and not be bombarded with noisy watercraft, she says, "for peace of mind."

Kettle, who works conserving and protecting natural areas, is keen to be near the Niagara Escarpment as it is a unique landform that is legally protected from most development.

**SALES MANAGER** Brian Dunn, 30, pictures a roaring fire in a log cabin with lots of room for his friends to

visit. "I'd need two to three bedrooms at least, with bunk beds," says Dunn, who is single and often invited to friends' cottages.

The first cottage he ever visited was in the Ottawa Valley, where he was impressed by the casual, friendly way everyone did the chores and went off on their own to relax.

"Solitude is very important if you are going to get away from the pace of daily life. Let me commune."

He'd like to incorporate cliff jumping, driving around in a little boat and a drive from the city that isn't too onerous in his perfect picture, which he thinks might be found somewhere near Parry Sound.

"It should be not so remote that it's a full day's travel to get there, but far enough that it's almost a pain to go and get stuff."

## TOP 10 WISH LIST

A June survey by Royal LePage Real Estate of 574 people who either owned a cottage or were looking to buy listed the 10 top items on their wish lists.

10. Wine cellar
9. A great room
8. High-end amenities
7. Large kitchen
6. Number of bedrooms
5. Surrounding amenities (stores)
4. Proximity to primary residence
3. Low maintenance
2. Four seasons capability
1. Pristine waterfront