

Building, Renovations and Living Alongside of Otty Lake

Building Permits

Otty Lake is nestled in the municipalities of Tay Valley to the west and Drummond North Elmsley to the east. Refer to the following permit guidelines based upon your location on the lake.

Tay Valley's guide to building:

- <https://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/resident-services/guide-to-building.asp>

Drummond North Elmsley's guide to building:

- <https://www.dnetownship.ca/doing-business/building-permits#download-a-permit>

Upland Development:

Hazard/floodplain mapping is not currently available for Otty Lake, therefore, upland development does not generally require additional permitting from the RVCA. It is, however, recommended that upland development consider the identified Regulated Flood Level of 132.69 metres geodetic.

It is advised to contact Township/Municipal staff for building permits and required setbacks. Planning-related applications (Minor Variance, Site Plan Control, etc.) submitted to the Township/Municipality will be forwarded to RVCA Planning staff for comment. To contact RVCA Planning Staff, please contact planning@rvca.ca

Shoreline Alteration:

All shorelines, whether in a regulated area or not, are subject to RVCA's Development Policies. Contacting RVCA staff prior to commencing any shoreline work to discuss permitting requirements is strongly advised. Shoreline-related inquiries can be directed to development@rvca.ca

Guidelines for Shore Works in the Rideau Valley Watershed

See the [Guidelines for Shoreworks.pdf](#) for an excellent overview of requirements in working the shoreline in accordance with RVCA.

The Rideau Lakes website offers a significant amount of information at

<https://www.rideaulakes.ca/live/home-and-property/developing-your-property/> .

RVCA Waterfront Living

Waterfront living can be so relaxing: always mowing the lawn, raking weeds out of your swimming area and stepping in goose poop...Wait, what?! That's not what owning a waterfront property is all about. But for too many people, that's the reality.

Cottages can become second homes, with all the annoying lawn work and maintenance that comes with them. But it doesn't have to be this way. With a few tweaks, you can get on the path to "the good side" and a more natural waterfront property. So: which side are you on? Scroll over the purple flags to learn how to turn your waterfront property a natural oasis.

Please see this info graphic for details <https://www.rvca.ca/view-all-blog-posts/waterfront-living-which-side-are-you-on> .

Shoreline naturalization is very important to water quality. : <https://www.rvca.ca/view-all-blog-posts/waterfront-living-which-side-are-you-on>.

- **Recommendations for lake friendly cleaning products** are difficult to determine. Buyer beware!! There are many products that state natural/ biodegradable/eco-friendly/etc.on their labels for marketing purposes without any evidence of science. There are many websites and product “certifications” that make strong claims but are also sponsored, so it can be tricky.
All cleaning products should ultimately be headed for your septic system and therefore be “septic safe” to keep your system working effectively. Natural home remedies like vinegar, lemon, baking soda and olive oil are basically fail safe- but not for everyone! Look for phosphate, ammonia free products and minimize the use of bleach.
NO product is safe for “in the lake bathing”!! Biodegradable shampoo is not safe for the lake.
- **Leaf matter should never be blown into the lake!** -- Don't do it! Leaves that fall in naturally are fine. Dumping all your lawn waste into the lake will add extra nutrients as they break down which can cause algal blooms. In addition they will form a gunky black ooze on the bed of the lake creating undesirable swimming conditions and smothering fish spawning habitat. All compost piles should be kept well back from the water's edge, especially on steep slopes prone to erosion. A 30-metre rule is recommended for composting.

RVCA provides the Lake Protection Workbook: A Self-Assessment Tool for Waterfront Property Owners for free online at <https://www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants/lake-association>. If you would sooner a hard copy for use on your property, contact your Area Counsellor for a free copy courtesy of your OLA membership for 2021.