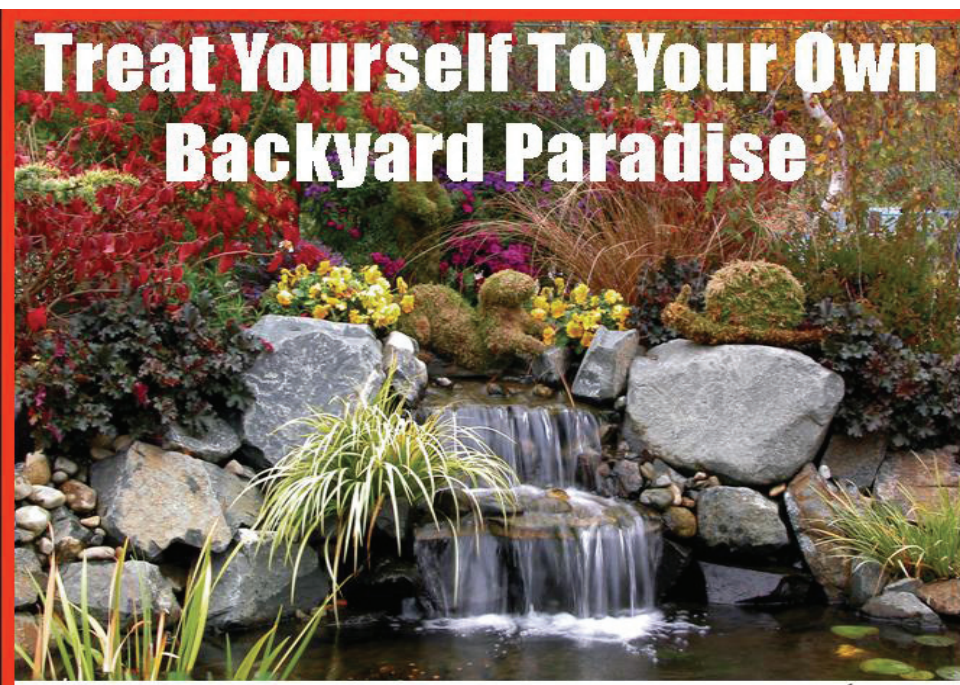


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Don't forget about the cottage when it comes to smoke alarms

It is estimated that fewer than 10% of all cottages in Canada have installed working smoke alarms. It only costs a few pennies a day to provide the recommended number of fire extinguishers, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure protection of your favourite summer get-away.



A smoke alarm should be located on every level of the cottage, and inside bedrooms if sleeping with the door closed. "Both ionization and photoelectric type alarms should be present in the home, since each detects smoke and fire in a different way," says Raffi Nersesian of Kidde Safety (SafeAtHome.ca), a manufacturer of fire safety products. It's also important to understand that smoke alarms do wear out, and if you think your alarms are more than 10 years old, replace them with new ones.

fires at the cottage, fire extinguishers located within reach, are indispensable.

"You should have one fire extinguisher for each 600 square-feet of living space in your cottage," says Nersesian.

Every summer home should have at least one carbon monoxide alarm if there is a fireplace, woodstove, gas water heater or any fuel appliances. After sitting idle during the winter months, appliances should be examined for potential fire hazards.

Fire safety may be the farthest thing from your mind when surrounded by water, but there is always a risk of fire on a boat. Use extinguishers specifically designed for marine use. One "5BC" classified fire extinguisher is required, according to small vessel safety regulations, if the pleasure craft (under 6 metres in length) is equipped with an inboard engine, a fixed fuel tank or a fuel burning cooking, heating, or refrigeration device.

"Be sure the flames of gas and propane stoves are blue," says Nersesian. "A yellow or orange flame is an indication of unburned fuel which is the number one source of carbon monoxide." Digital CO alarms, available in battery, plug-in or hardwire versions, are now capable of displaying accurate concentrations of this deadly gas if present in a home.

As a final precaution for two-story cottages, having a compact fire escape ladder could be the only means of a safe escape out of a window, if the stairway is blocked by fire. Store the ladder under a bed or linen closet where it will be easy to reach in the event of a fire.

To help prevent the spread of small

—News Canada

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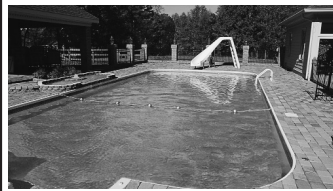
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