

---

# Things to Do This Summer

## The Chutes Coulonge

The Chutes of Coulonge is an enjoyable and educational excursion. I have found that young and old enjoy the beauty and sense of past at the former logging chutes once owned by George Bryson. The admission is very reasonable and the walking tour takes you back in time when our ancestors felled the pine and ran the logs. My 91-year-old grandmother, who is legally blind, was able with a little assistance to navigate the walkways and stairs that follow along the Coulonge River. The walkways are safe but are in keeping with the natural setting. On one of the decks overlooking the falls, you will usually find artists painting scenes of the falls. This place is a gem in the Pontiac so if you want something to do or want visitors to get a feel for our history, head for the Chutes.

## Exposition of Art on Allumette Island and Shores

Another fun thing to do is to take the artists' tour of Allumette Island. The artists open up their home studios for you. Many of them are situated in lovely settings along the river or on a farm. They never press to sell their works but they are hospitable, friendly, and eager to share their love of art with visitors. Last spring, this tour was organized by Claudette Spence, an accomplished artist, and she has done a fine job of pulling together artists of different media. Pamphlets are available on local businesses around the island. The tour is well marked with signs that look like artists' palettes. You've probably seen them along the roads. We will provide some pamphlets at the next annual meeting.

## Boater's Exam

This website licenses Canada's boaters: «[www.BoaterExam.com](http://www.BoaterExam.com)».

---

# The Cottage Environment

By Joann McCann

Margaret Mead, the renowned anthropologist, said that people can make changes: "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." With that in mind, and the fact that there are over half a million cottages across Canada, cottagers can have a positive impact on the environment. Perhaps we can all try to contribute to healthier shorelines along the Ottawa. A great website with helpful tips for healthy lakes/river shorelines can be found at «[www.livingbywater.ca](http://www.livingbywater.ca)».

1) "Shorelines are Ribbons of Life" according to the *Living by Water Project*, a Canadian organization that works toward healthier human and wildlife habitat along the shorelines of Canada. Their credo is to present choices and avoid preaching. So If you want to protect your shoreline, these are some actions that you can take:

### Shoreline:

- 🌲 Start a buffer strip by leaving some grass uncut near the water's edge
- 🌲 Protect a strip of native plants along my shoreline.
- 🌲 Replant native shrubs and trees along my shoreline.
- 🌲 Check regularly for invasive plants and remove them carefully
- 🌲 Let imported beach sand erode naturally and let native plants grow back.
- 🌲 Let natural debris (e.g., driftwood and fallen trees) accumulate as much as possible.
- 🌲 Build a low-impact dock (check local regulations)
- 🌲 Keep pets and or livestock away from shoreline or streamside.

### Yard:

- 🌲 Minimize the amount of trees and plants cleared during construction projects.
- 🌲 Prune trees to obtain a better view, instead of removing them.
- 🌲 Reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides and use native species of plants.
- 🌲 Handle fuels, oil, and other chemicals with great care, and be prepared for spills.

### Cottage:

- 🌲 Use phosphate free soaps and cleaners.
- 🌲 Use alternative cleaners like baking soda and vinegar instead of toxic products.
- 🌲 Pump the septic tank regularly (for a field system, every 2-3 years)
- 🌲 Avoid overloading the septic system by staggering full laundry loads through the week.
- 🌲 Conserve water by using low-flow showerheads and toilets.
- 🌲 Do not bathe in the River.



Boating:

- 🌲 Use oil-absorbing bilge cloths instead bilge cleaners.
- 🌲 Practice safe refuelling.
- 🌲 Reduce the wake by slowing down to 5km/hr within 160 m. (500 feet) from shore.
- 🌲 Purchase or use a 2- or 4-stroke motor that meets EPA 2006 guidelines.
- 🌲 Maintain the boat motor and have it inspected regularly.

2) Again I refer to of my favourite websites concerning the ecology of the Ottawa River, «[www.ottawariverkeeper.ca](http://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca)». This one has a report on the state of the River. There is an alarming statistic from a report: Lake Ontario gets 38% of the Ontario's sewage effluent and the Ottawa River gets 9% of the province's effluent. «[www.ottawariverinstitute.ca](http://www.ottawariverinstitute.ca)»

---

## Shoal Island Outhouse

At our last annual meeting, we approved the expenditure for an outhouse on Shoal Island, located between Irving (Bluff) and Oak Islands. It is occasionally used for day picnics and some cottagers camp there overnight. This is our second outhouse for the islands and we can all be proud that we are contributing to the healthy ecology of the islands and the River. Bill Brennan again constructed the outhouse and he, Andrew Perrault, and Kirk McCann and others helped to install it. Thank you to all of you. The outhouse, transportation, and installation cost \$845. It may seem like a lot of money but a good outhouse will last many years.



**Sit down and enjoy the view: the new outhouse**

