

EMERGENCY SERVICES IN WINTER

Police, Fire, Ambulance

The circumstances of our location and its accessibility in the off-season have implications for our access to emergency services. Those who enjoy The Bay at those times should be aware of how service differs in the off-season.

POLICE:

- Until freeze up and during break up, lake conditions are variable and the lake may be partially covered with ice. The marinas can transport the OPP to your cottage if OPP boats are not available and water and ice conditions permit. Please be aware that some areas may not be accessible at these times except by the OPP/Search and Rescue helicopter, providing a safe landing spot is available and has access to the emergency site.

FIRE:

- There is **NO forest fire fighting service from November 1 – to March 31st** unless a dry or early forest fire season results in an extension of these dates. The need for caution with campfires and cookouts is important anytime and vital in the off-season, even in winter when the protective snowfall can be minimal.
- The MBA fire pumps are not in service in winter.

AMBULANCE:

- The OPP's ability to transport paramedics to your cottage on the lake is limited or impossible in the off-season if ice is either forming or melting. Some parts of the bay are more accessible than others depending on ice and water conditions.
- You can ask the dispatcher to allow the marina operators to transport paramedics to you if your location is water accessible and the OPP boats are not available.
- If available, both the Air Ambulance (ORNGE) and the OPP/Search and Rescue helicopters can transport paramedics to you and can transfer you to a hospital, all year round, as long as there is a safe landing spot for the helicopter that allows paramedics access to the emergency site.
- If it's available, the OPP/Search and Rescue chopper can fly to you after dark for medical emergencies.
- When the lake is safely frozen, the OPP/Search and Rescue is equipped to come to your cottage by snowmobile with a covered transport stretcher to transport a sick or injured person to the land ambulance at the Birch Island marinas. Paramedics are not equipped to be transported to McGregor Bay cottages over the ice.
- the ORNGE Air Ambulance generally doesn't land on the lake ice and it's the pilot's call as to whether your island/property suits a landing.
- The OPP/Search and Rescue helicopter will assess the feasibility and safety of landing on the lake. Again, it's the pilot's call.