

## Check Out These Weekly Farmers Markets



As of press time, farmers markets are on Ontario's essential services list. Most of the following weekly markets have posted season opening dates, but unless otherwise indicated visit Farmers Market Ontario for addresses and confirmation of dates: [www.farmersmarketsontario.com](http://www.farmersmarketsontario.com)

- Elmvale Farmers Market, Sunday, June 14, 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- Elmvale Flea and Farmers Market, Sundays and Thursdays, opening Sunday May 10, 9:00am-3:00pm
- Harbour Farmers Market (Victoria Harbour), dates and times TBD; [www.sgbfarmersmarkets.com](http://www.sgbfarmersmarkets.com)
- Midland Summer Market, dates and times TBD; [www.sgbfarmersmarkets.com](http://www.sgbfarmersmarkets.com)
- Wasaga Beach Farmers Market, Thursday, June 4, 4:00-8:00 pm

## Feeling Hungry? Look Who's Serving

The following restaurants are offering take-out, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and/or delivery as of April 26. Call ahead or go online to find out what your options are. For a current list, check our website: [www.tinycottager.org](http://www.tinycottager.org).

### Balm Beach

- Balm Beach Bar & Smokehouse.....  
.....[balmbeachbarandsmokehouse.com](http://balmbeachbarandsmokehouse.com)
- The Surf Bar and Grill ..... 705-361-1612

### Elmvale

- Ace Grill ..... 705-322-6484
- Elmvale Bakery ..... 705-516-3300
- Steelers Restaurant ..... 705-322-2652

### Lafontaine

- LA Café ..... 705-533-4216
- Wendy B's Fine Foods ..... 705-533-1547

### Midland

- Arch Steak House..... 705-526-7313
- Bleu Garden..... 705-527-7302
- Boathouse Eatery..... 705-527-7480
- Boulangers Midland City Bakers ..... 705-526-4149
- Cellarman's Ale House ..... 705-526-8223
- Dillon's Wood Fired Pizza ..... 705-245-1006
- Feast Catering & Events ..... 705-309-5337
- Georgian Bakery ..... 705-526-6509
- Georgian Shores Catering ..... 705-527-0129
- Globe Café..... 705-527-4145
- Grounded Coffee ..... 705-527-5997
- Lilly's Italian Eatery ..... 705-245-0909

- Maple Canadian Pub ..... 705-526-3000
- McDonald's (9195 County Rd. 93 location only) .... 705-526-4631
- Midland Domino Pizza..... 705-526-8000
- Midland Fish & Chips ..... 705-526-9992
- Papa's Pizza, Mama's Chicken ..... 705-527-5577
- Phil's Pub and Eatery ..... 705-549-7858
- Pizza Nova..... [pizzanova.com](http://pizzanova.com)
- Royal Tea on King..... 705-245-4832
- Subway ..... 705-526-0226

### Penetanguishene

- B&R's Takeout & Brenda's Confectionary 705-549-7226
- Dixie Lee Fried Chicken..... 705-999-4435
- Flynn's Irish Pub ..... 705-355-4782
- Pan Mai..... 705-549-0526
- Phil's Casual Dining..... 705-549-7858
- Pizza Delight..... 705-549-9999
- World Famous Dock Lunch ..... 705-549-8111

### Victoria Harbour

- The Queen's Quay British Pub and Restaurant..... 705-534-1211

### Wyebridge

- Sugar Ridge Retreat ..... 705-528-1793

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[www.tinycottager.org](http://www.tinycottager.org)



## The Tiny Cottager Short-Term Rental Survey: What You Told Us

by LYNNE ARCHIBALD, NOTTAWAGA BEACH

Results of a survey FoTTSA conducted in November 2019 indicate that a minority of short-term rentals (STRs) are causing a majority of the problems experienced by neighbours. Among the problems cited: noise, constant partying, trespassing, and misuse of the shoreline. The consequences for some neighbours are so severe that 18 respondents told us they are thinking of selling because of a nearby rental property.

The most mentioned problem was noise, including firecrackers, loud music and loud voices. Almost two-thirds of respondents who identified themselves as neighbours of an STR (61%) said noise was adversely affecting their lives. The next most common complaint (32%) was rude, inconsiderate and aggressive renter behaviour, to the extent that some respondents now feel intimidated while on their own property. Constant partying, overcrowding of the rental property, overcrowding of the beach and misuse of the shoreline were also cited as major concerns. Several respondents noted that it was common for a neighbouring rental cottage sleeping 8 to have 20+ guests over a weekend.

More than 10% of STR neighbour respondents complained about each of the following: trespassing, garbage and recycling issues, problems with cars and parking, and overall loss of quality of life. Multiple respondents also told us about problems with fires, dogs and alcohol.

### What defines good and bad STR owners

Survey results indicate that, while some STRs cause considerable problems, most don't bother their neighbours. A key factor appears to be the rental period: 80% of respondents agreed there is a big difference between 1- or 2-week renters, who return to the same properties every year, and renters who come once for 2-3 nights only.

But rental period isn't the only differentiator. For instance, many respondents who rent out their properties said they

- rent for seven days or more at a time
- know and/or screen prospective renters
- rent to the same people year after year
- don't post listings online
- have clear guidelines for renters
- know their neighbours and use their property during the rental season
- give their contact information to neighbours in the event issues arise
- are a part of their community

### Conversely, respondents linked problem properties with these traits: the property owners

- rent to anyone by using essentially anonymous websites
- rent for just a weekend at a time

- have no rules, and if they do have rules don't enforce them
- don't know their neighbours and can't be reached if a problem arises
- rarely or never use their properties themselves and consequently do not know or respect the neighbourhood

### How FoTTSA conducted the survey

In November 2019 FoTTSA sent a link to a 10-question survey on short-term rentals (STRs) to *The Tiny Cottager*/FoTTSA Flash opt-in email list — mostly of full-time and seasonal residents of Tiny. We also posted a link to the survey on social media and our website.

We received an overwhelming response, with 395 readers filling in the survey and over 130 taking time to add written comments.

The largest group of respondents (197, or 50%) identified themselves as STR neighbours. Another 92 respondents (23%) were not immediate neighbours but were concerned about STRs in Tiny. We had 44 owners of STRs (11%) respond. We heard from only a few renters — primarily readers who had rented in the past and now own.

For complete survey results, go to [www.tinycottager.org](http://www.tinycottager.org). While online, check out the Township of Tiny STR web page: [www.tiny.ca/Pages/Short-Term-Rental-Information.aspx](http://www.tiny.ca/Pages/Short-Term-Rental-Information.aspx)

FoTTSA recognizes that short-term accommodations (STAs) contribute to the economic vitality of Tiny Township, and enable many owners to keep their properties. As one survey respondent told us: "If I couldn't rent my property, I would have to sell it, as I depend upon the income to pay the taxes, insurance and upkeep."

Based on feedback from respondents, FoTTSA submitted a number of recommendations to the township, including the following:

- Create a new STA by-law to govern rental properties available for less than 7 nights at a time.
- Require STA owners to register their property with the township at no cost (supported by 40% of respondents).
- Draft a new STA Guide for Guests information page.
- Send an updated STA owner/neighbour information brochure to all households with their next tax bill.
- Log all STA calls received by the Municipal Law Enforcement Department; create a complaints database and monitor compliance.
- Require all registered STAs to acquire an annual permit (supported by 45% of respondents); suggested fee \$250, based on one night's average rental price. Deny permits to repeat offenders.
- Hire an additional by-law officer.

**How to Be a Good STR Owner**

Good renters are gold. So are good neighbours. These seven tips can help you maintain good relationships with both.

1. Devise a set of house rules, including a maximum number of overnights guests. Set clear expectations of behaviour. State grounds for eviction. Share the rules and expectations with prospective renters.
2. If you don't know your prospective renters, screen them and ask for references. Trust your gut. If you don't have a good feeling about a prospective renter, don't proceed.
3. Request a significant damage deposit. If the prospective renters balk, don't rent to them.
4. Inform renters of local by-laws and restrictions (e.g., parking, open fires, noise, etc.). Download and print the Township of Tiny brochure, *Short Term Rental Information* [www.tiny.ca/Pages/Short-Term-Rental-Information.aspx](http://www.tiny.ca/Pages/Short-Term-Rental-Information.aspx).
5. Have renters sign an agreement that they will abide by all rules, expectations and by-laws.
6. Inform neighbours of your rental plans. Provide contact information so neighbours can advise of inappropriate renter behaviour.
7. After the rental period ends, ask neighbours if they experienced any problems, and take steps to prevent them in future.