



# MUSKOKA TIME: MAXIMIZED

DESIGN BUILD • RENOVATIONS • PROPERTY MAINTENANCE • PAINTING • LANDSCAPING

Which cottage to-do list is more appealing? This one: go waterskiing, read a book, cook lunch over the barbecue, take the boat into town for ice cream, have a nap on the hammock, relax by the fire. Or this one: paint the deck, run the garbage to the dump, cut the lawn, wash the windows, clear out the eavestroughs, spread new gravel on the driveway.

"You come to Muskoka to relax and enjoy your cottage, not spend all of your time whittling away at a long list of maintenance tasks," says Steve MacDonald, owner of PattyMac

Services. "You really have to ask yourself what your time is worth and if it makes sense to have someone else take care of everything for you."

But even hiring someone to do the work can be challenging or time consuming. You want contractors who are going to provide quality work on time while causing as little disruption to your enjoyment of the cottage as possible. And you don't want to spend a lot of time coordinating them all. "You don't need to be fielding calls from five different companies while you're trying to enjoy your

time on the boat or the dock. It's easiest if you have just one person to call," says Steve.

And the sooner you call, the better. "It's not a great idea to let things get out of hand," says Steve. "If your siding is peeling, it's time to have it repainted. If there are weeds, it's time to have landscaping done. If you're proactive and stay on top of maintenance, it can prevent a big job later."

When you do have a big job to do – a boathouse rebuild, a kitchen renovation or a new deck or dock – consider

whether the company you hire will also be able to provide long-term maintenance. "It makes sense to have someone who built part or all of your property and knows it well to continue to maintain it for you," says Steve. PattyMac's design build and renovation clients often have them continue on with smaller maintenance and seasonal jobs.

"I don't think anyone would argue that summer is way too short already," says Steve. "Why make it even shorter by spending your time on maintenance instead of by the lake?"



705-706-3MAC (3622)  
info@pattymac.ca • www.pattymac.ca

Steve MacDonald,  
Owner of PattyMac Services

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL BENNETT