

A STORIED SOJOURN

# Cottaging on the Rocks

By Rebecca Dumais



**W**hen you arrive at the traditional-looking, dark brown wood-clad cottage on Julian Drive in Pike Bay, Ontario, it's like a sturdy hardcover novel which therein lies a story.

On The Rocks, as the property is named, is one of many cottage properties owned by Once Upon a Stay. Aptly named, the cottage is built on part of Whiskey Harbour, a beautiful slate rock area.

The renovated interior, created by renowned designer Regina Sturrock of Regina Sturrock Design, creates a magical vibe of a delicate and dreamy antiquated bygone era. Regina also happens to be the sister of Once Upon a Stay owner Carmen Campanero.

The cottage is deceiving in size, as upon entry you'll immediately be captured by a fairytale genre of Bridgerton proportions. "We opted to continue the fairytale whimsical look that we have done with one of our signature properties called Wish Lake House," says Jaris Edwards, Once Upon a Stay's Corporate Director, Hospitality Group. On the Rocks is delicately adorned in pink and green pastel colours.

The vintage furniture and accessories were carefully chosen. "All three of us love antiquing. So we do find some really unique pieces to fill our properties," he says. The aura may inspire you to browse at length the antique shops along your drive to the cottage, and downtown Wiarton.

The master bedroom is grand, both in size and in its king-sized bed, with sumptuous linens, vaulted ceiling and wood-burning fireplace. Large windows flank the fireplace, providing a glorious view of the gardens and rocky beach of Whiskey Harbour and Whiskey Point beyond. There is also a walk-in closet and large ensuite with a stand-up shower and free-standing tub.

The pale pink kitchen is readily equipped with everything you'll need for a weekend or week-long stay, including a kettle and Nespresso machine. All cleaning supplies, towels and linens are provided.

Between the kitchen and living room sits the dining room, which overlooks the glorious yard and water views.





The antique daybed invites you to sit and read, or to gaze out the window while you wait for your companions to rise. The room is full of elegance and charm (and a smart TV).

Down the hallway are three more bedrooms: two with queen-sized beds and one with a single-over-double bunk bed. Steps away is a separate bunkie, able to accommodate two to three people.

From the rear of the property, a beautiful panoramic view of Lake Huron is complete with gorgeously serene sunsets. The nearest cottage property is distant enough for ultimate seclusion.

After waking up to a singsong of birds and the calming roar of the waves, bring your coffee down to the deck at the water's edge. Reclining in the Muskoka chair is the perfect place to warm yourself in the sun and ponder your day in the serenity of your surroundings.

Following in the footsteps of previous guests, spend some moments of

meditation and build a small inukshuk near the shore. At sunset, the backdrop of the golden amber glow creates an additional layer of comfort. "The Northern Lights are also really nice to see because there's no light pollution," Edwards notes.

A short drive takes you to the nearby general store for staple items – and a bottle of vino, thanks to the LCBO outlet inside. "On the Rocks is the perfect spot to relax but still have a little bit of convenience just around the corner," he says. Nearby, the Bear Cub's Diner is ready to serve you a home-cooked meal.

For additional resources about your accommodations, shopping or sightseeing, Once Upon a Stay offers a personalized concierge service to assist you. "Once you book, you can connect with our dedicated team to prepare everything you need and they'd be more than happy to provide some itinerary ideas and local happenings."

For more information and to book your stay, visit [OnceUponAStay.com](https://www.OnceUponAStay.com)



Photos Supplied By Once Upon a Stay

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