

The rural home maintenance calendar

Wells, septic, generators and long driveways — the whole year, on one page.

SPRING April – May

- ☐ **Test the well after snowmelt**
Highest-risk window of the year for surface infiltration. Free through Ottawa Public Health; rural drop-off Tue/Wed only.
- ☐ **Walk the septic bed**
Wet ground or unusually green stripes both mean call this week, not this season.
- ☐ **Book driveway sealing or gravel regrading**
Paving season runs roughly May–October; crews fill up early.
- ☐ **Service the AC before the first heat wave**
- ☐ **Exercise the generator under load**

SUMMER June – August

- ☐ **Mid-year well test**
- ☐ **Deck and fence repairs while the wood is dry**
- ☐ **Watch water pressure during heavy irrigation**
Pressure-tank symptoms — short cycling, pulsing taps — surface in high-demand season.
- ☐ **Deal with wasp and hornet nests while they're small**

FALL September – November

- ☐ **Furnace service**
The big season. Book before the first cold snap fills the schedule.
- ☐ **Chimney sweep and WETT check if you burn wood**
- ☐ **Generator service before storm season**
- ☐ **Final well test of the year**
- ☐ **Septic pump-out if you're in the window**
Every 3–5 years. The tank is cheap; the leaching bed is \$15,000–\$40,000.
- ☐ **Irrigation blow-out**
- ☐ **Line up snow removal — by mid-October**
Rural plow routes finalise early, and long driveways are exactly what fills a route.

WINTER December – March

- ☐ **Watch the pressure tank and heat-traced lines in deep cold**
- ☐ **Check propane level before each storm system**
- ☐ **Keep the generator's battery maintainer on**
- ☐ **Start a long-term radon test**
Levels peak in winter with the house sealed — the most honest number you'll get all year.

KEEP THESE NUMBERS

Free well water testing	Ottawa Public Health — rural drop-off Tue/Wed only
Health advice, 24/7	Health811 — dial 811
Building permits and footing depth	City of Ottawa Building Code Services
Riverside lots: shoreline & building	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Section 28
Electrical permits	Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)

Typical local costs for every job on this list — septic pump-outs, well pumps, generators, driveways — are published and kept current at manotick.co. Nothing here substitutes for a licensed trade or the Ontario Building Code; when a number matters, confirm it with the City.