

Billeting Frequently Asked Questions

Billeting is an old tradition of hosting travellers to ensure that they have safe, accessible and affordable accommodations. We are hoping to see woodlot owners in the Niagara, Brant and Haldimand areas open their properties and homes to woodlot owners travelling to the conference. This is a way for us to shake out the last bits of isolation and generate camaraderie of being back in-person.



At the same time, woodlot owners from across the province can connect over shared interests and have an opportunity to show off their properties and activities.

If you are interested in hosting or staying with a host, please [click here](#) to complete the billeting survey.

Why should I host?

By opening your home as a potential host, you are ensuring that fellow members have barrier free access to our Annual Meeting and events. It ensures safe and comfortable accommodations and is a great opportunity to make new connections across our membership.

What information must I provide as a host?

We will ask that you please provide the number of people you can host, the type of accommodation you can provide (e.g. room in your home and on which level, out building, etc., and accessibility [ie., stairs]), relative location to the event venue, available parking and any pets you have. We'd also like for you to let us know a little bit about yourselves and your property. Please make your home expectations known while guests are staying on your premise (we don't need you to be waiting up for a guest so let them know about usual routines and quiet times). Provide information about how a guest will be able to access the accommodation, both location and the actual premises (will there be an extra key or a phone number to call or will someone always be around), and areas guests can access on the property such as walking trails, as well as areas to avoid! Pictures are a bonus, but not necessary.

What information must I provide as a visiting/travelling member?

Please provide a little information about yourself so the host knows who is coming to stay in their homes.

What are the expectations for a host?

As a host you are expected to provide safe and clean accommodations with bedding (if possible). We'll ask that you please inform guests if they need to bring bedding/sleeping bags/pillows. Most meals will be available at the conference, there is no expectation to be providing meals to guests. But please do include whether guests should be expected to bring their own coffee or tea or bottled water if necessary. As well let the guests know if they need to bring their own towels. Your guest will need to have some sort of access to your accommodations and it is not expected that you make all your plans to attend the conference together.

What are the expectations for a visiting/travelling member?

Respect will go both ways for this to work! As a visiting member you are expected to adhere to 'house rules'. You are expected to be respectful, clean, and aware of your surroundings. Please keep your belongings in your provided area. Know how the host would like you to access the home, space and their property. Discuss your itinerary with the host to ensure that no one gets locked out, and they know when they can expect you back to lock up for the night. You may need to bring some of your own bedding/towels etc., and any snacks, food, beverages to make yourself comfortable. Money will not be exchanged for this arrangement, but a small token in the form a thoughtful thank you note or a small gift is appreciated.

How will hosts and visiting members connect?

OWA staff will initially connect hosts and travelling members via email, which will be facilitated by Sionaid Eggett our Field Operations Coordinator. We will help make as best a connection as possible, however the final decision of whom hosts can accommodate will be up to them. This will be based on best matches for the accommodations provided, accessibility and location.

Once a connection has been set you can then choose to stick to communications by email, to have a phone call or meet over zoom before hosting commences. Which ever would make both parties the most comfortable and to start building new connections!

When do I need to provide this information?

The sooner the better to help members make travel plans and no later than three weeks before the event (April 4, 2023).

Next steps:

Fill in the survey below to host or if you are interested in staying with as a guest. Sionaid will email you with more information once the surveys are complete.

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T39YKRJ>