

Are you out and about in your area and care about your home and other cabins around you?

Do you enjoy leisurely walks or drives? We need you!

It's quite simple and will only take minutes of your time to help.

Belair Properties Owners' Association

Winter Watch Program

What is it?

The BPOA Winter Watch Program is an organized volunteer-based initiative comprised of resident volunteers, or "Watch Captains", who conduct external property checks throughout the off-season for paid members of the BPOA. We currently have over 90 members who would receive this value-added service, when they otherwise may not be able to do it themselves.

Benefits

- Reduce potential property crime when it is known that a Watch Program is in effect.
- Owners are notified more quickly about unusual activity affecting their property.
- Increased peace of mind that your community is watching out for your property when you are not there.

Who is eligible?

Paid members of the Belair Properties Owners' Association who also live within the boundaries of the BPOA support area, which includes properties from:

- Mary Glenn Road to Zebrun Road (North to South), and
- Lake-front homes all the way to Lakeshore Road (West to East)

How does it work?

A volunteer 'Watch Captain' walks or drives around a designated street or bay in the Belair Properties Area a **minimum of once every two weeks** to check for unusual or suspicious activities at designated member properties. Depending on the Watch Captain's availability, the frequency could be daily, weekly or bi-weekly, but they are committed to a minimum of every 2 weeks.

If an unusual or suspicious activity is identified, then the Watch Captain notifies a designated person on the BPOA Executive Team. That designate then notifies the property owner. No names will be shared or posted.

Examples of unusual or suspicious activity:

- Fallen tree on structures or hydro lines (note that trees on hydro lines will be reported to Manitoba Hydro regardless of membership status)
- Open or damaged house or garage doors
- Footprints or car tracks on properties where we know owners never come up (these situations need to be reported to us prior to the start of the off-season)

Safety Precautions

To protect our volunteer Watch Captains, they are advised to not engage with any person/people that may be on your property. Unusual activity will be reported and then it will be up to the home/cabin owner to take action on what to do next. Not the volunteers.

Watch Captains will also **not** walk/drive on your property. Rather, they will be viewing your property from the street.

When would the Program be in effect?

5 Months from November 1 - March 31.

NOTE: This is a new program concept, and as such, this announcement launches the beginning of our Watch Captain recruitment. As Watch Captains are identified, we will slowly trial the Program till the end of this Winter season (until April 2026). Our goal is to officially launch the Program across the whole community in the Fall of 2026 with sufficient Watch Captains in place.

Watch Captain Recruitment

If you can volunteer as a 'Watch Captain', please email belairpoa.mb@gmail.com with your Belair address. The Program Lead will contact you to review the Program and your designated streets and homes.

Ideal Candidates will:

- be either full-time residents or seasonal cottage owners who can commit to a minimum of every two weeks, and
- stay on as a Watch Captain for a minimum of two years.

Join the BPOA Membership

If you would like your cabin or home to be on the 'Watch List', we encourage you to become a member of BPOA.

Information on our Membership program can be found at <https://www.belairpoa.com/membership>.