

# IS THAT COTTAGE ON A SEASONAL ROAD?



Michigan has many miles of seasonal roads that lead to pretty lakes, rivers, hunting lodges and more.



Michigan has always been a prime destination for those who love to experience all four seasons, the Great Lakes, and other gorgeous scenery. Many home buyers like to invest in second homes at their vacation spots. However, if you are not from one of Michigan's recreational areas, you may be unfamiliar with the concept of seasonal roads.

**Seasonal roads** are the unpaved trails and back roads that provide access to summer homes on lakes, rivers, woods and recreational activities. They are not your typical roadbeds and are often narrow, swampy and hard to drive on with their sharp turns. Seasonal roads are not designed to handle a lot of traffic, and require slow speeds when passing through.

Michigan has a law that describes how seasonal roads are maintained by the local road commissions. Briefly, the statute reads that a seasonal road will not be maintained from the months of November through April. Furthermore, they will not be open to public traffic during this time. There are signs posted at seasonal roads informing the public of this. Sometimes the signs are lost to vandalism and other factors, which is why educating yourself on seasonal roads before making a cottage or land purchase is very important.

Any property buyer deserves to be informed of all stipulations that come with his or her investments. If you're uncertain of a road status, contact your county road commission or consult your realtor. For the specific statute, visit <http://tinyurl.com/seasonal-road-law>. **Key Search: MCL 247.655a, Sec. 5a**

## STATE TRUNK LINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM (EXCERPT) Act 51 of 1951

### 247.655a Seasonal county road system. Sec. 5a.

(1) The board of county road commissioners of each county may establish a system of seasonal county roads, which may be part of either the county primary road system, the county local road system, or both systems. A board of county road commissioners in establishing a system of seasonal county roads, may declare a road under the jurisdiction of the board to not be open to public travel during the months of November through April, which road shall then not be open to public travel.- (via MI Legislature)