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FOCA Elert - November 2015



FOCA receives International Award

FOCA was recently presented with the "Leadership and Service - Education and Outreach" award from the **North American Lake Management Society (NALMS)**, at their 35th annual symposium in Saratoga Springs, NY.



The award is given to individuals or groups for the design, facilitation or performance of exceptional education and outreach activity that furthers the understanding of and appreciation for lake management science. Selection criteria include innovation, creativity, impact, and dedication.

To FOCA's many association volunteers, lake stewards, and to the Board and staff of FOCA - congratulations, all, on this award!

A new Federal Government for Canada

FOCA recently wrote to the new federal Ministers in key departments, to remind our government leaders of Ontario's important waterfront issues, and that we are watching on behalf of our members across Ontario.



See a complete list of Federal representatives, and read FOCA's letters to MPs, here:

<http://foca.on.ca/federal-election-2015/>

Safety Tips



'Tis the season for woodstoves, so FOCA reminds you to ensure there are functioning fire AND **carbon monoxide** (CO) detectors at your permanent and seasonal residences. [Click here for tips to beat CO](#), the silent killer.



November is **Radon Gas Awareness Month**. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you can't see, smell or taste, and is the leading cause of lung cancer

after smoking. Find out more about radon here: <http://foca.on.ca/radon-in-your-home-be-aware>

Asian carp update

FOCA notes that Asian grass carp found in Lake Ontario during Summer 2015 were likely born in U.S. fish farms, not in the Great Lakes. Oxygen levels and other chemical indicators in the ear bones of the fish captured near Toronto showed they are between 11 and 15 years old. Link to the CTV News story, and get other recent updates on the subject, here: <http://foca.on.ca/asian-carp/>

FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Cottage Life



Partners in Powerful Communities



Navigating to Association Success: FOCA Fall Seminar re-cap

FOCA hosted over 100 attendees at our busy Fall Seminar on November 7, 2015. The day featured preliminary stats from our recent Members' Survey, tips for building and sustaining local communities, an overview of FOCA resources and member benefits, and first-hand accounts from lake association representatives.

A summary of the day's events, including links to presentation slides, has been circulated by email to all registrants.



Missed the notice, or **weren't able to attend in person**? Access the information and materials here: <http://foca.on.ca/foca-fall-seminar-2015-summary-slides/> (**Note:** you will need your Member Login to access these online materials; get it here: <http://foca.on.ca/get-login/>.)

Not yet a FOCA member Association? Contact us for access to these and so many other benefits: info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622

Mapping FOCA's Member Associations

FOCA has over 500 member Associations all over Ontario, from Kingston to Kenora, and all points beyond and in-between!

At the recent FOCA Fall Seminar, we were very pleased to launch a new resource: an online map listing all our 500+ member groups across Ontario. Member Associations can access this map here: <http://foca.on.ca/map-of-foca-associations/>



Why an interactive map? We hope this online tool will help you to visualize the great scope of the FOCA community, and to identify member groups near you!

Note: FOCA never releases the personal contact information of any member group; however, we are pleased to connect your group with fellow members on request, if you need advice on a particular issue or want to connect with regional peers.

Last call to participate in the FOCA Member Survey

Thank you to the hundreds of FOCA members who have already completed the **2015 FOCA Association survey**.

If you are on the executive of your Association, but haven't taken the survey yet, we need your input by the end of November! Please click the survey link in the special email message FOCA sent you on October 8th, or contact the FOCA office if you require assistance: info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622

Survey

FOCA's Silver Sponsors



Apply for the FOCA Achievement Award

FOCA member Associations are encouraged to apply now to be considered for the FOCA Achievement Award. The Award celebrates the successes of the lake Association community in Ontario.

Send us your success stories! Get more details about the Award, and how to apply, here: <http://foca.on.ca/member-services/foca-achievement-award/>

FOCA Achievement Award
APPLY NOW!

From the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO)

About Water Quantity Management:

In the latest report from the ECO, entitled "Small Things Matter," (November 2015), the Commissioner comments extensively about the Province's approach to water management.



Read this summary interview with the ECO in Water Canada magazine: <http://watercanada.net/2015/droplet-interview-with-ellen-schwartzel-acting-environmental-commissioner-of-ontario/>

Quotable from the ECO:

"So the public debate is: can Ontario afford a more twenty-first century approach to water quantity management? I would say, we can't afford not to."

Learn more about the public's right to know, and how you can access important environmental policy information - review the FOCA webinar from early 2015 with the Environmental Commissioner: <http://foca.on.ca/webinar-eb-january-2015/>

Protecting Public Participation in Public Decisions - New law now in effect!

Ontario has enacted new legislation, which will be good news for lake associations or individuals who seek to speak up and participate in public decisions affecting them, and their lakes. FOCA has been supportive of this important protection of public intervenors in the land use planning process.



Learn more: <http://foca.on.ca/slapp-protection-of-participation-act/>

Anti Spam and E-News

The topic of e-newsletters and CASL (Canada's anti-spam legislation) was discussed during the Communications presentation at the FOCA Fall Seminar earlier this month.

While lake associations are unlikely to face the consequences of non-compliance, Rogers Media Inc. recently found out the hard way, paying \$200,000 as part of a settlement with the CRTC for CASL violations which included the sending of commercial electronic messages containing a deficient unsubscribe mechanism. Read more, from BLG:

C.A.S.L.
(anti-spam)

http://www.blg.com/en/NewsAndPublications/Documents/Publication_4312.pdf (download PDF, 1 page)

FOCA reminds member groups who send e-newsletters that you must identify your organization by name in every message, and you must offer an easy unsubscribe option for those who do not wish to continue receiving e-correspondence. For more information about CASL and how to ensure you are in compliance, see FOCA's fact sheet: <http://foca.on.ca/anti-spam-law-report-from-foca-members-only/>

Get Ready to Go Snowmobiling

Ontario's "Get-ready-to-go Snowmobiling Week" is November 24-30th. The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) and its member clubs welcome you to the coming sledding season, and encourage you to prepare your sleds and gear, and to start planning your Ontario rides. There are over 30,000 km of prepared and signed trails that will become available when snow conditions allow.



The OFSC [Interactive Trail Guide](#) provides up-to-date information and status updates. There are mobile APP and GPS versions available.

Note: Seasonal and Classic Snowmobile Trail Permits are still available at pre-December 1st savings, here: permits.ofsc.on.ca, or in local retail outlets.

FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



Sign Says...

FOCA was pleased to work with partners at the [Otonabee Region Conservation Authority](#) this fall, and provided a graphic of healthy shorelines that has been included in new public signage installed in the Kawarthas this year!

The image at right is one of several new signs for Selwyn Township which include tips on planting native species, water protection, rain management and the importance of naturalized shorelines. [Click here for a larger version of the sign.](#) (download PDF, 1 page)



Signage at key locations (boat launches, marinas, public beaches, loon nesting areas) can be an important part of your Association's education and outreach - giving people information or reminders when and where they need it most.

As we heard during one of the panel presentations at the FOCA Fall Seminar, public signage can also provide a great opportunity to highlight your Association and the important work you do in the community!



Did You Know?

One presentation at FOCA's Fall Seminar referred to the installation of "**duck nest boxes.**" Further to the presentation by the Lake Wahnapiatae Home and Campers Association, FOCA offers some additional information on the topic, from our colleagues at **Ducks Unlimited Canada**:

Plans and materials:

http://www.ducks.org/media/Conservation/GLARO/ documents/ library/ landowner/WoodDuck_NestBox.pdf

Videos:

Assembly - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVLwXP-ULsU>

Installation - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY1bYwGnw9c>

Maintenance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZilmuNckol&feature=youtu.be>



Check out these FOCA Member Benefits

FOCA wants your Association to thrive!

We offer lots of Member benefits, including:

Offer your members online fee payments

Let your members renew, easily - FOCA helps Associations offer their members [online payment options](#) via the FOCA secure website. Offer 1-year or multi-year renewal terms, and allow your members pay by credit card. [Contact the FOCA office](#) for details.

Have a web presence

NEW! FOCA can host your Association webpage: Big on digital enthusiasm, but low on technical support? [Contact FOCA today](#), to establish your Association's own online webpage, hosted via the FOCA website and branded with your Association name to facilitate online searches. Secure a web-presence and attract new prospective members.

Teleconference rate offer

NEW! do Association business by phone, and save: FOCA is very pleased to introduce an offer from Audability Communications, for teleconference services at an exclusive rate for FOCA Member Associations. This might be the solution you have been looking for, to keep your Board connected during the off-season. [Check out the details here.](#)

CottageFirst - got your quote yet?

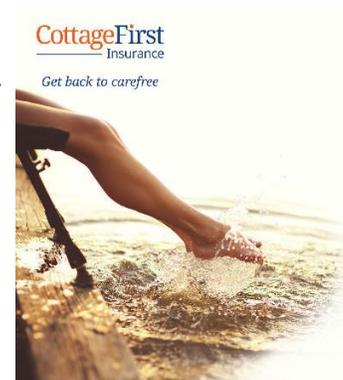
Members in dozens of FOCA Associations have already discovered the advantages of this tremendous program. Exclusively available to members of FOCA, **CottageFirst** is your 'one-stop' insurance solution for Home, Cottage, Watercraft, Automobile & more.

Get details here:

<http://foca.on.ca/a-benefit-for-foca-members-cottage-first/>

Please spread the word - your members deserve the best coverage, and many have already saved hundreds of dollars on their annual premiums!

Access a quote from **Cade Associates Insurance Brokers** for this insurance coverage. www.cottagefirst.com 1-844-223-3178 (local Toronto: 416-234-9980)



Your Role

 Forward to a Friend

1. Tell a friend about the **FOCA Elert** and suggest they sign up to receive it, too.



2. **Become an Individual Supporter of FOCA.**

Click here for details: <http://foca.on.ca/product/individual-support/>.

While you're at it, **gift the gift of FOCA** to a friend or neighbour at the lake, or that Association volunteer who always goes the extra mile!

3. **Members are always welcome to reproduce FOCA materials** from our [Elerts](#), [Newsletters](#) and other extensive online [resources](#). Share FOCA [news updates](#) and [fact sheets](#) through your Association meetings, newsletters, websites or Facebook pages. [Contact the office](#) for digital slides about FOCA to use at your lake meeting, or alternate file versions of any online materials. Please credit FOCA as the source, and include our web address, where possible: <http://foca.on.ca>

FOCA believes everyone has a right to hear about issues that affect waterfront Ontario. Those who have an existing business relationship with FOCA may receive email from us based on [Implied Consent](#) in Canadian Anti Spam legislation.

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