



"Have you registered yet?"

2015 FOCA Fall Seminar: "Navigating to Success" Saturday, November 7th, 2015 in Toronto

Join us at this full-day members' event packed with tips for building and maintaining strong and thriving lake associations.

Get statistics about Ontario's lake associations, first-hand accounts of successful engagement tactics and peer support from your fellow association representatives.

Click the poster at right to link to more about the event.

Register now:

<http://foca.on.ca/product/2015-foca-fall-seminar-register/>



Questions for your Candidates

With less than a month to go before the Federal Election, FOCA encourages you to make your voice heard - by VOTING on October 19th.

FOCA has sent an Open Letter to the Federal Party Leaders, posing questions on some of our priorities.

Visit FOCA's Federal Election webpage (<http://foca.on.ca/federal-election-2015/>) to read FOCA's letter, access links to the info you need about relevant "waterfront" issues as well as **some questions FOCA wants you to ask your local candidates**, and other handy voter information.



FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Cottage Life



Parents!

FOCA hears from our members - regularly - that they can't get the younger generation involved...

If your kids are 18+, and need some inspiration from their peers, forward them this "**Get out the Vote**" video, featuring students from St. FX University (oh, and Rick Mercer).

Click the image at right to launch the short YouTube video.



Asian carp update

There have been new sightings of Asian carp in the Great Lakes since our last FOCA Elert.

Get the news, plus important tips, video and tools for identifying carp, here:

<http://foca.on.ca/asian-carp/>



All the Policy Updates one Elert can hold...

Bill 66: The Great Lakes Protection Act (GLPA) - FOCA appeared before the Legislative Committee on September 23rd, in support of the Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015. FOCA appreciates the Bill's focus on setting targets, measures and timelines, and strong community involvement in its implementation. Find out more from FOCA, here: <http://foca.on.ca/new-great-lakes-protection-act/>



Bill 37: The Invasive Species Act - This bill, to give the government more powers to fight invasive species, passed second reading with a 95 to zero unanimous vote. FOCA has submitted comments in favour of the Bill. Read our comments and follow the issue here: <http://foca.on.ca/invasive-species-act-for-ontario/>



Bill 52 - Anti-SLAPP - This bill, the **Protection of Public Participation Act**, to curb "strategic litigation against public participation" (SLAPP) lawsuits in Ontario, passed second reading and was sent to committee. Learn more here: <http://foca.on.ca/slapp-protection-of-participation-act/>



Former Bill 85 - Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) - The Province has delayed this legislation once again. This Act, when it finally arrives, will have implications for many FOCA-member Associations. Read more on the subject, here: <http://foca.on.ca/onca-on-hold/>

O.N.C.A.

Septics, Infrastructure and Resilient Communities

FOCA is a proud member of OOWA, the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association. On September 30th, FOCA participated in the day-long "[Decentralized Wastewater Symposium](#)" in Peterborough, investigating water treatment options for resilient communities, and redefining infrastructure investment and economic development for municipalities.



If you are interested in **septic inspection programs**, you will want to read the concise summary OOWA published in their recent Summer 2015 Newsletter, about progress on source protection plans and septic system maintenance programs implemented to date across Ontario. **Download a copy** of the 4-page article from FOCA's Septic System webpage: <http://foca.on.ca/septic-systems/>

New Appointments in Provincial Oversight

Lawyer Dianne Saxe has been appointed for a five-year term as the new **Environmental Commissioner of Ontario** (ECO), replacing Gord Miller.

FOCA's Executive Director contacted the new ECO to offer congratulations, and received the following reply: *"Thank you so much Terry. I hope to have strong support from you and your members."* FOCA has had a productive and thoughtful relationship with the ECO's office and staff for many years, and looks forward to this next chapter!



Dianne Saxe, ECO

Also, Barbara Finlay was recently appointed as the **Acting Ombudsman**, replacing Andre Marin. The ECO announcement is here: <http://eco.on.ca/congratulations-and-welcome-to-the-new-commissioner/>, and both appointments are mentioned in this CTV News item: <http://bit.ly/1NuGm8m>

FOCA's Silver Sponsors



Climate Update - What's coming for waterfront Ontario?

FOCA caught up with Bob Sandford recently, and asked the Canadian water expert for an update on the topic of changing climate impacts.

Click the video link at right to hear Bob's latest thoughts, in a short interview with Terry Rees of FOCA.

FOCA Members can revisit Bob's 2013 presentation to FOCA on the topic of climate change and cottage country impacts, here: <http://foca.on.ca/foca-2013-fall-meeting/>.



Find out more about Bob Sandford here: <http://www.rwsandford.ca/>

Upcoming Events & Regional Notices

October 3: **Kawartha Lake Stewards Association** annual Fall Meeting. Click here for details: <https://klsa.wordpress.com/>

October 6: **Radioactive Waste Storage in the Great Lakes basin** - Public meeting in Toronto Council chambers, hosted a panel of experts, elected officials and others opposed to the plan. Get details about the meeting, and follow this issue here: <http://foca.on.ca/radioactive-waste-storage-in-the-great-lakes-basin-overview/>

October 10: **Great Muskoka Paddling Experience** for all ages and skill levels! The event starts at Bracebridge Bay. Get details here: <http://www.muskokapaddlingexperience.com/>

October 24: **Lake Links Workshop**, Perth. "Lake Fisheries Management," strategies with a focus on fish habitat restoration, and Lake Association best practices. Get details here: <http://watersheds.ca/lake-links-2015/>

FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



Calls for Nominations

Apply by November 30th: FOCA Achievement Award

Nominate your association for this annual award, celebrating the successes of FOCA member associations! Get details about the award, and a link to the application form, here:

<http://foca.on.ca/member-services/foca-achievement-award/>



Apply by November 6th: Canadian Safe Boating Awards (CASBAs)

Recognize the efforts of those who make on-water activities safer and environmentally sustainable, for national recognition for "Rescue of the Year," "Top Volunteer Dedicated to Safe Boating," and more. Get details, here:

<http://www.csbc.ca/en/events/casbas/nomination-form>



Recent Events

On September 21, FOCA participated in the 1st Task Force meeting of the **Climate Change Action Plan** for the Greater Peterborough Area. Over 90 contributors began the planning to reduce local contributions to climate change and prepare the community for present and future changes. See more at:

<http://sustainablepeterborough.ca/projects/climate-change-action-plan/>



On September 25, FOCA, along with local MPP and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Jeff Leal, City Councillors and Federal candidates, attended the official announcement of the new facilities for the Peterborough City County **Health Unit** (PCCHU). Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, the Medical Officer of Health for PCCHU (pictured at right with FOCA's Terry Rees), was a feature contributor to the [2015 Lake Stewards Newsletter](#), on the subject of Lyme Disease (see article, page 10).



Bats in your Belfry?

FOCA was recently contacted by a University of Winnipeg researcher about the Canadian **Neighbourhood Bat Watch**, looking for bats living in your cottage, house, bat box, garage or anywhere else, for that matter!

Get details about the important role of bats in our ecology, current threats to their survival, and map your sightings, here: <http://batwatch.ca/>



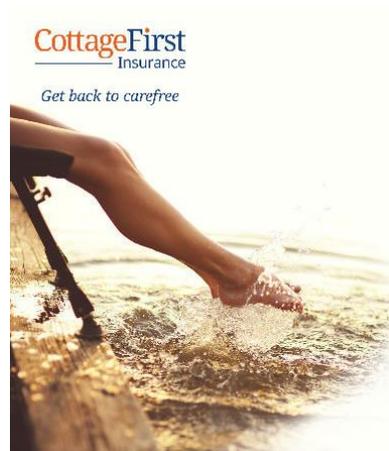
CottageFirst

Got your quote yet?

Members in more than forty FOCA Associations have already discovered the advantages of this FOCA Member benefit. Get details here: <http://foca.on.ca/a-benefit-for-foca-members-cottage-first/>

Exclusively available to members of FOCA, **CottageFirst** is your 'one-stop' insurance solution for Home, Cottage, Watercraft, Automobile & more.

Access a quote from **Cade Associates Insurance Brokers** for this bundled insurance package, offering unique coverages and FOCA discounts for cottagers. www.cottagefirst.com 1-844-223-3178 (local Toronto: 416-234-9980)



Please spread the word to fellow FOCA members!

More Benefits of Membership

All FOCA members can access special offers from our partners. **For a current list of benefits, including member access codes**, visit: <http://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>.



Note: The 2-page sheet about benefits that is available at the top of that webpage makes a great hand-out about FOCA for your upcoming Association meeting.

For an overview of FOCA's work on behalf of our 500 member Associations across Ontario, visit: <http://foca.on.ca/foca-year-in-review-2014/>

Seasonal Reminders from FOCA

As the nights get cooler and Autumn settles in around us, FOCA offers the following tips:

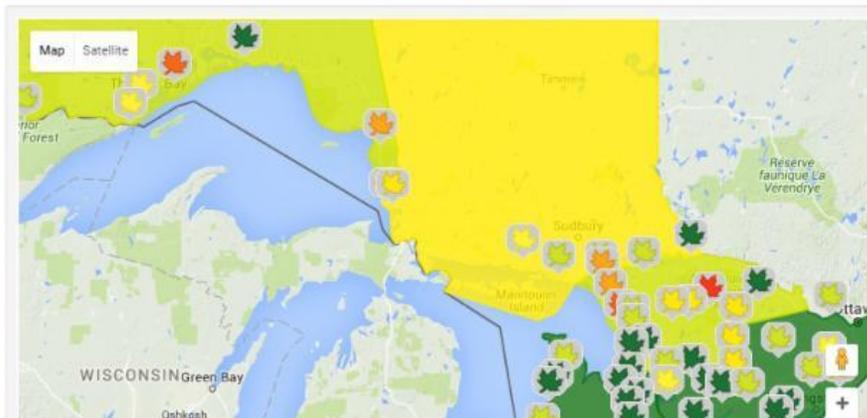
1 If you use a woodstove, propane or gas heater in your cottage, ensure your **Carbon Monoxide detectors** are functioning properly. Test them to be sure!

Before you put away the boat for the season, make a tour of the lake with an eye to any new, unusual plant growth. As you remove your dock or lifts, check for **signs of invasive species**. Get tips here: <http://foca.on.ca/ais-monitoring-volunteer-resources/> and links to report sightings!

3 Doing some grounds-work to tidy up before the end of the season? Don't blow grass clippings or rake leaves into the lake. Instead, designate a **leaf compost zone** on your property. Get tips here: <http://cottagelife.com/environment/can-i-safely-compost-garbage-without-attracting-bears>

Start bringing home any tools or electronics you don't plan to use again until next summer. **Leave only what you would be prepared to lose**, if it went missing due to an off-season break-in! Get tips here: <http://foca.on.ca/crime-prevention-tips/>

Fall Colours - a handy link!



Your Role

We're counting on you to spread the word about the value of FOCA!

Tell a friend about the FOCA EAlert and suggest they register to receive it, too.



Please share FOCA [news updates](#) and [fact sheets](#).

Members are always welcome to reproduce FOCA materials from [EAlerts](#), [Newsletters](#) and our extensive online [resources](#).

Please credit FOCA as the source, and include our web address, where possible: <http://foca.on.ca>



[Contact the office](#) for digital slides about FOCA to use at your lake meeting, or alternate file versions of online materials to distribute through your Association meetings, newsletters or websites.

Share the information in this EAlert with other waterfront property owners!



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.