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FOCA
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

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FOCA Elert

February 2014

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March 1st**

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Last Call for the FOCA Annual General Meeting this Saturday, March 1st, 2014

Only a handful of seats remain for the 2014 FOCA AGM and Spring Seminar, this Saturday, March 1st, in Toronto!

[Click here to register now...](#)

(Online registration closes at noon Thursday, or sooner if available space is filled.)



[Read the Agenda...](#)

Webinar option: Association members may participate in the Business Meeting votes by webinar from 9:30am - 11:00am on Saturday, March 1st. **IMPORTANT:** There is no charge to participate by webinar, but you must pre-register with the office for the webinar link and sign-in details! info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622

Thank you to FOCA's Gold Sponsors:



XPLORNET

Policing costs set to dramatically impact municipal property taxes - Property owners urged to ACT NOW!

FOCA is speaking out against the proposed changes to the OPP Billing model, which will significantly alter the amount that rural municipalities will pay for policing services. For properties assessed above the township average (typically those on waterfront), this change could have a profound impact on your property tax bill.



FOCA strongly encourages our members to write their MPP to express their concerns. Feel free to refer to the letter to FOCA members, and other background, on the [FOCA Policing Costs webpage](#). Please speak up!

New Provincial Policy Statement Released

For the past three years, FOCA has been looking out for waterfront interests through our participation in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) Review, as part of the Northern and Rural Working Group. The PPS provides policy direction for land use planning; however, this province-wide tool, largely focused on urban growth, has not always effectively served the interests of rural, northern or waterfront communities.

You can find a full copy of the new **PPS 2014**, and a list of the significant policies affected by the update, on the [FOCA Land Use Planning webpage](#).

Stay tuned for more information on the practical implications for property owners and waterfront communities as a result of this new policy update.

Electricity rates set to rise

Hydro One Networks has filed a rate application for their regulated prices, covering the period 2015-2019.

FOCA is seeking intervenor status at the Ontario Energy Board, to represent the interests of residential waterfront property owners who comprise a significant portion of Hydro One's customer base, including the majority of customers classified as "seasonal."



No date(s) for these hearing are as yet confirmed. Stay tuned to the [FOCA Energy webpage](#) for updates.

Significant Hydro One billing issues under investigation by Ontario's Ombudsman

In response to increased complaints about Hydro One electricity bills that are wrong, excessive, duplicated, unreasonably delayed, or unclear, Andre Marin is undertaking an investigation of billing practices and customer responsiveness at the utility. More information about the Ombudsman's investigation can be found [here...](#)

The Ombudsman asks anyone who has information relevant to the investigation to contact his office at 1-800-263-1830/1-800-26, [file an online complaint](#), or email info@ombudsman.on.ca

It's not just about the fish

A "who's who" of fisheries scientists recently published a paper, responding to the lack of evidence-based principles to guide fisheries management in Canada, and the fact that recent Federal legislative changes were both unsupported by scientific evidence and have negative implications for fish species across the country.

See more, under the heading "It's not just about the fish" on the [FOCA Hot Topics page](#) (the news item is listed just under the Hot Topics links).



Image: Andy Metelka

Welcome: Superior Propane, our Gold Sponsor

In business since 1951, Superior Propane proudly services cottage country throughout Ontario.

Of particular significance to FOCA members, Superior Propane recently introduced a new remote tank monitoring system that can accurately and reliably monitor propane tank levels using secure, wireless technology.

Propane is the safe, reliable and environment-friendly fuel of choice for many cottager owners. An integral member of the community, Superior Propane is conveniently located to efficiently serve customers' needs. To learn more about what Superior Propane has to offer FOCA members, click the Superior Propane logo, to find your local representative.



FOCA welcomes Superior Propane as our newest Corporate Sponsor. Thank you for contributing to enable us to continue with FOCA's work, "to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario."

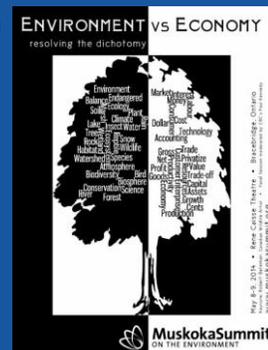
Upcoming Event: Muskoka Summit on the Environment

FOCA is proud to be a Gold sponsor of the **3rd Muskoka Summit on the Environment (MSE)**, being hosted by the Muskoka Watershed Council on May 8-9, 2014 in Bracebridge.

The MSE is a biennial event for the purpose of educating and promoting healthy debate on science-based environmental matters. This year's theme is "Environment vs Economy: Resolving the Dichotomy."

Keynote speaker: Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman. Also featured: Bob Sandford (*who spoke at the FOCA 2013 Fall Seminar*), and a panel discussion hosted by CBC's Paul Kennedy.

More information and online registration is [here...](#)



Upcoming Event: John Smol Lecture

Lake Stewards, take note: **Trent University** presents the David Schindler Professorship in Aquatic Science Lecture on March 27, 2014, featuring a presentation by **Dr. John Smol**, "Exploring the Past to Protect our Future: Using Lake Sediments to Study Water Quality Issues."

This free event is open to the public. Register by phone 705-748-1011 ext.7176 or email julieenglish@trentu.ca



Support FOCA

FOCA works all year long on your behalf, to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario. How can you help?

Please make a donation to support FOCA today. Click the "support" button to find out more.

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Finally, make sure you are on the **FOCA Elerst list** so we can keep you apprised of the issues that matter. If this message did not land in your Inbox directly from FOCA, [click here to reach the FOCA website](#), then look for the red "SIGN UP" box at the right to enter your preferred email address.

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Thank you also to our Silver and Bronze level sponsors:



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FOCA believes that everyone has the right to be alerted to issues that could affect their waterfront property investment.

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