



Citizens Take Note: Is Politics Broken?

At 7 p.m. tonight (Wednesday, March 25th), an online discussion is scheduled, moderated by CBC's chief correspondent, Peter Mansbridge.

Two teams of debaters will argue this motion: **"The political process is no longer the most effective way to enact real change."** The debaters include:

- Sheila Copps - a former Liberal MP and author
- Andrew Coyne - Editorials & Comment Editor of the National Post, and a columnist for Postmedia News
- Alison Loat - author, university instructor, and co-founder of Samara
- Dave Meslin - writer, community organiser and trainer
- Aisha Moodie-Mills - an American progressive strategist, policy analyst, and social entrepreneur
- Monte Solberg - a former P.C. MP and is currently a columnist and advisor

The debate will be live streamed across the country at CBCNews.ca, and Canadians can participate in the conversation on social media using the hashtag **#CBCAsks**. This is an opportunity to debate provocative ideas, and help set the tone leading up to the 2015 federal election, this Fall.

FOCA believes that waterfront property owners are an important constituency, and have a role to play in our political landscape.

[Read more on the topic from FOCA, here...](#)



Join us in Toronto this weekend

Spring Cottage Life Show

March 27-29, 2015 - FOCA will be at the Spring Cottage Life Show at the Toronto International Centre. We look forward to seeing you at Booth #156 in Hall 1.



Remember: FOCA members can get a discount of \$3 off the regular adult ticket price, by ordering online and entering the **promo code FOCA15**. [Click here for tickets...](#)

And don't miss the Main Stage presentation by FOCA's Terry Rees: "***The Good, the Bad, and the Incredibly Ugly - Biodiversity in Cottage Country.***" (Friday at 5pm, and Saturday at 10am) Find out what matters, what's changing and what you can do to be part of the solution in protecting biodiversity.



Start your summer fun with a chance to win a Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) at the FOCA booth!

We are celebrating the one-year anniversary of the [CottageFirst](#) group insurance program for FOCA Members, providing discounted premiums and enhanced coverage for cottage, home, watercraft and auto insurance. **Enter the draw at the FOCA booth this weekend for your chance to win.**

Got insurance questions? Our friends from Cade Associates will be with us at the Spring Cottage Life show, to discuss your personal or association insurance needs.



FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Policy Updates



Electricity Rates

The Ontario Energy Board released the final decision on the Hydro One electricity distribution rate proposal. **A significant part of this decision was the elimination of the "Seasonal Class" of customer.** Many questions still remain about specific customer impacts. [Get information here...](#)

Off-Road Vehicle Rules under Review

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is currently reviewing the rules related to off-road vehicles (ORV) in Ontario, including issues of mandatory helmet use, minimum operating age, rider training and the potential to extend on-road access to additional ORV types. MTO encourages input by April 13, 2015 from interested organizations and individuals. Add your voice! [Learn more here...](#)



Hunting and Fishing Rights

In February, a private member's bill was introduced that could make it illegal to interfere with hunting or fishing in Canada. [Find out more here...](#)

Cottage Succession - News & Events

Peter Lillico Talk at Spring Cottage Life Show

Special note: Estate lawyer Peter Lillico will speak on the Main Stage of the Cottage Life Show on Friday at 6pm, right after FOCA's biodiversity talk! Come and get some one-on-one advice about "Targeting Tax - What Cottagers Need to Know About Capital Gains."



April Webinar on Cottage Succession

Due to overwhelming demand, FOCA will again post the 1 hour webinar with Peter Lillico, which we originally broadcast in December 2014. The video recording will be available from noon on Friday, April 17th until midnight on Sunday, April 19th. [Register here](#) to be sent the link in the week leading up to the event.

Last Call for Summer 2015 FOCA Cottage Succession Seminar Events

FOCA and Peter Lillico will be on the road again this summer with the Cottage Succession Seminar, helping you to "Keep the 'Family' Cottage in the Family."



Interested in helping us bringing this event to a venue near you? Contact the FOCA office now to book your spot! info@foca.on.ca or 705-749-3622

FOCA's Silver Sponsors



FOCA Annual General Meeting

The FOCA 2015 Annual General Meeting and Spring Seminar was held on Saturday, March 7th in Toronto.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Vaughan Estate and by webinar! Altogether, we had 115 attendees representing 70 member Associations from across Ontario. Special thanks to our Corporate Sponsors for the many generous door prizes.

FOCA Members have received a special Elert message with links to the slide presentations and an attendee overview of the AGM & Spring Seminar. If you missed this notice on March 17th, please contact the FOCA office: info@foca.on.ca



Cheryl of Gloucester Pool Cottagers' Association won a Beaver Homes & Cottages Dream Design book and a Home Hardware gift card, for being the first AGM registrant this year!



The **FOCA Achievement Award** was presented at the AGM to **Redstone Lake Cottagers Association**. Congratulations on your efforts at the lake! Share success stories with others; nominate your Association today for next year's award. [Get details and the Application form here...](#)

Spring is the time to watch for flooding

Residents across waterfront Ontario need to be vigilant year 'round, but especially in the Spring when we can experience lots of melting snow and ice, heavy rainfalls, and high water flows on lakes and rivers.

[Learn more, in this posting from FOCA...](#)



image: Kay Soares, Spring 2013

Recent Events

FOCA Invasives Workshop Recap



The FOCA Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Monitoring workshop was held on March 13th in Perth, Ontario with a great turnout of 50 individuals representing 23 lake associations and 7 local environmental groups. Workshop attendees learned about aquatic invasive plants, pathways and prevention techniques. They also learned about the new **FOCA AIS Prevention and Monitoring**

Toolkit for associations, and how they can utilize it to educate members about aquatic invasive species prevention, monitoring and reporting.

[Get more information on the Program and the AIS Toolkit here...](#)

Environmental Recognition Awards

Pictured: Ross Morton (North Pigeon Lake Ratepayers) and Doug Erlandson (Balsam Lake Association) accept the Partner Award as part of the 2015 Kawartha Conservation Environmental Recognition Awards on behalf of the [Lake Management Community Advisory group](#) at the 2015 Kawartha Conservation Authority AGM in Lindsay, ON in early March. Also recognized was long-time volunteer Barbara Karthein of the Scugog Lake Stewards. Congratulations to all!



Funding

Apply for Event Funding

International Biodiversity Day occurs annually on May 22nd.



The Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) promotes a day of local action and awareness to involve Ontarians in the conservation and improvement of biodiversity.

You can plan BioBlitzs, invasive plant pulls, nature hikes and more. Applications are due Friday, April 3rd, 2015. [Get all the details here!](#)

Upcoming Events

Muskoka Stewardship Conference

Saturday, May 2, 2015 in Bracebridge - This year's theme is, "Living in Cottage Country: What you need to know." Registration is now open. [Details are here...](#)



Ontario Biodiversity Summit - Protecting What Sustains Us

May 19-22, 2015 - FOCA's Terry Rees will lead a discussion about stewardship at the upcoming Summit, which will be the first of its kind in Ontario. The early bird registration deadline is this Friday, March 27th! [Get details here...](#)



FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



Spread the Word!

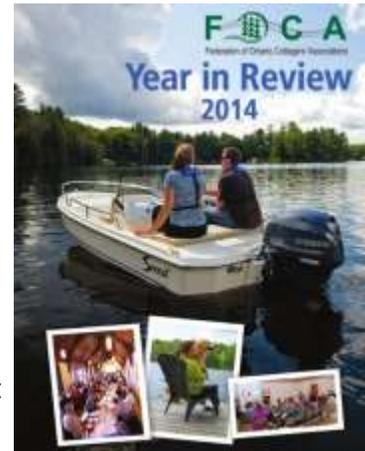
Year in Review

Read the **2014 FOCA Year in Review** for an overview about FOCA's ongoing work on behalf of waterfront Ontario:

<http://foca.on.ca/foca-year-in-review-2014/>

How you can help:

Share this link with other waterfront property owners!



What FOCA sees

You might just see a picture-perfect lake, but FOCA sees more. Check out our ad campaign, "What FOCA sees" by [clicking here](#).

How you can help:

Reproduce this ad in your local Newsletter, or add it to your website with a link to FOCA at <http://foca.on.ca>! Contact the FOCA office for a high-resolution copy of this image: communications@foca.on.ca

FOCA Members are welcome to reproduce FOCA information.
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