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FOCA Elert - July 2015



Lake Partner Program

In mid-June, FOCA and the key management and personnel from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), met at the MOECC Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC) to discuss the [Lake Partner Program](#).

FOCA recently renewed a 5-year agreement with MOECC related to this important long-term water quality program, which is supported by hundreds of lake association volunteers every year!



Pictured at DESC (left to right): **Jenny Winters** (Supervisor, MOECC Environmental Biomonitoring Section, MOECC Toronto), **Terry Rees** (FOCA), **Christie Davies** (FOCA Lake Partner Assistant Coordinator, DESC), **Anna Desellas** (MOECC Inland Lakes Scientist, DESC), **Rachael Fletcher** (Manager, Environmental Biomonitoring Section, MOECC Toronto), **Keith Somers** (MOECC Inland Lakes Scientist, DESC Site Supervisor), **Andrew Paterson** (MOECC Inland Lakes Scientist, DESC), **Deanna Panitz** (FOCA Programs Coordinator) and **Steve Kerr** (FOCA Board of Directors).

Algonquin Land Claim AIP signed

On June 12, 2015, the Algonquin Land Claim Agreement-in-Principle was signed by the three parties. Learn more, here:

<http://foca.on.ca/land-claim-agreement-in-principle-signed/>



Hydro rates

As directed by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), Hydro One will be proposing to the OEB in early August **revised distribution rates for all 153,000 customers formerly classified as "Seasonal."** FOCA is pushing for a fair and reasonable transition to the new model. Learn more: <http://foca.on.ca/decision-on-hydro-ones-2015-2019-distribution-rates-application/>

OPP report Boating Fatality Numbers

As we begin the busy July and August boating season, OPP reminds us that boating safety is up to each of us. The decisions we make on the water can lead to great family times, or potentially tragedy. Read more, including an OPP report on boating incident statistics from the last 10 years in Ontario: <http://foca.on.ca/boating-safety-is-everybodys-business/>



FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Cottage Succession Seminar: live or on DVD

FOCA is on the road again this summer, with estate lawyer Peter Lillico, talking about steps to take now, to keep your family in the family cottage, down the road. Plan to join us at an in-person event! [Click here for event schedule...](#)

NEW! DVD option for FOCA members: Contact the FOCA office if your Association would like to purchase a **DVD copy** of the Cottage Succession Webinar with Peter Lillico that FOCA originally posted as a one-hour webinar in December 2014. To order, call 705-749-3622 or email info@foca.on.ca



Preventing Lyme Disease at the cottage

As we head out for our summer adventures, it is important to avoid ticks, and the scourge of Lyme disease. Health officials from [Sudbury](#), [Halton](#), [Peterborough](#) and the [Thousand Islands](#) districts are all providing important advice about prevention, symptoms and treatment. Watch for more information about lyme disease in the upcoming **FOCA 2015 Lake Stewards Newsletter** this summer, and take steps to stay safe in the bush!



Municipal Authority over boathouses - Court decision

An important clarification and confirmation of municipal jurisdiction of the permitting and approvals of structures built over water was recently rendered in Ontario Superior Court. Read more and see the full decision, here: <http://foca.on.ca/municipal-authority-over-boathouses-decision/>



New Air Quality Notifications for Ontario

Ontario cottagers can now access more complete and timely information about the quality of the air in their community.

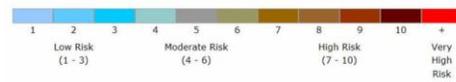
Click here to find out more:

<http://foca.on.ca/new-air-quality-notifications/>

Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)

The Air Quality Health Index replaced the Air Quality Index on June 24, 2015. For more information about the new AQHI index, see [What is the Air Quality Health Index?](#)

Air Quality Health Index Categories, Values and Associated Colours



Moving Ontario Forward

The Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure announced this week that public feedback will be sought about **eastern Ontario's infrastructure needs** and priorities, as part of Ontario's plan to allocate infrastructure investment outside the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Roundtable consultation meetings will be held in the following communities:

Cobourg	July 6
Cornwall	July 7
Ottawa	July 8
Casselman	July 9
Kingston	July 10



Ontarians can also provide feedback [online](#) or in writing by September 18, 2015.

FOCA's Silver Sponsors



FOCA joins call for action on Great Lakes toxins

FOCA signed a joint letter sent to officials on both sides of the Canada/US border, calling for more urgent action on persistent toxins, and better public disclosure in the process of eliminating these risks to human and environmental health.

Canada and the US both need to step up to meet their commitments under the bi-national Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Read more, here:

<http://foca.on.ca/slow-progress-on-great-lakes-toxins/>



ADVANCING PREVENTION OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN:

An ENGO perspective on current binational efforts



the FOCA Board of Directors

Leading into the summer season, the FOCA Board of Directors and staff convened for a Board Meeting on June 16th, 2015, at the Greenhouse of the Canadian Film Centre in Toronto. Topics discussed included hydro rate changes, communicating FOCA's value, and seeking out new Directors to sit on the FOCA Board.

For more about your staff and Board of Directors, [click here](#).



FOCA staff news

Our very best wishes go out to FOCA's Membership & Programs Coordinator, **Tracy Logan** (pictured at right), who recently welcomed baby Ferguson to her family! Tracy is currently on maternity leave.



And, a hearty welcome to **Deanna Panitz** (pictured at left) who has stepped into the role of Membership & Programs Coordinator for FOCA, after finishing her studies in environmental sciences. Reach Deanna at the FOCA office by email at info@foca.on.ca or phone 705-749-3622, for membership questions or program enquiries.

Your role

Many of our member Associations will hold lake meetings this summer, and we're counting on you to spread the word about the value of FOCA!



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/>

We want you to share our [news updates](#) and [fact sheets](#). **Members are always welcome to reproduce FOCA materials** from [Elerts](#), [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.

The Benefits of Membership

Remember: 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!

FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



Recent Event: Roads Summit

On June 13th, FOCA participated in a **Road Issues Summit** at Round Lake in the Kawarthas. This was a joint effort on the part of several local member Associations, including Belmont Lake Cottagers' Association and others. Topics discussed included liability issues, road maintenance best practices, legal considerations and much more.



Remember: FOCA has a wealth of information available to our road Association members, here: <http://foca.on.ca/cottage-roads/>

Risk Management: summer concerns

Does your Association mark **rocks and shoals** along your waterway?

As with many other "Good Samaritan" activities, rock and shoal marking can unfortunately expose an Association and its members to the risk of being named in a legal action.

Get important information on the topic from our friends at Cade Associates Insurance Brokers, here:

<http://cadeinsurance.com/2015/06/29/rock-shoal-marking-insurance-risk-management/>



Trent Severn Waterway funding announcement

The Federal Government recently announced a major infrastructure commitment for the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW). [Read the news here...](#)

The **\$285-million investment** is intended for repairs or replacements to dams and bridges, and for improvements to Parks Canada's water management models and water and weather monitoring equipment.

The investment, and a discussion on where to go from here, was part of an event held in Buckhorn on June 28th by the [Voices for the Trent Severn Waterway](#).



Canada Day news: for the first time, canal boaters can take advantage of **FREE LOCKAGE** on Wednesday, July 1, 2015, throughout the Rideau Canal and the TSW. Get details and lock station information, here: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/index.aspx>

Flag Etiquette

Congratulations to FOCA member **Crowe Lake Waterways Association (CLWA)**, celebrating their 75th anniversary as a group!



Thanks also to CLWA for providing FOCA with a copy of their newsletter article on **flag etiquette**, since 2015 is the National Flag of Canada's 50th anniversary year.

[Review the flag tips by clicking here](#) (PDF, 1 page)



Happy Canada Day, from FOCA!

FOCA Members are welcome to reproduce FOCA information. Please credit FOCA as the source, and include our web address where possible: www.foca.on.ca

FOCA believes everyone has a right to hear about issues that affect waterfront Ontario. Encourage everyone to get on the Elert list - [click here to sign up](#)