

## 2009 FOCA Fall Seminar

October 24, 2009  
Meeting Summary

FOCA hosted our annual Fall Seminar on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the York Reception Center in Toronto. The meeting provided an opportunity to learn about Ontario's green energy future through presentations and an open panel discussion. As requested in the past there was plenty of time for networking between attendees.



Introductory remarks were provided by the Vice-President of the FOCA Board, Roslyn Moore, thanking the members for their continued support and interest in FOCA activities and events. Roslyn also reminded the group that as a volunteer organization FOCA is always looking for input and suggestions to improve communication with FOCA members.

Terry Rees, FOCA Executive Director, welcomed the attendees and provided an update on FOCA's priorities which include broadening partnerships and providing members with information through the website and E-lets. He introduced and thanked the work of the FOCA board and staff. Terry reviewed the work that has taken place over the past year including the completion and distribution of the Lake Planning Handbook and The Guide to Healthy Shorelines, which are having a great uptake. The Take the Plunge Guide has also been completed and FOCA is now taking orders for copies. Also mentioned were the topics of a renewed commitment to the Lake Partner Program with MOE.

Peter Chown reviewed FOCA activities related to the sourcing of legal buoys in accordance with the "Owners Guide to Private Buoys", a copy of which can be obtained by contacting the FOCA office.

Terry explained that after 7 years of efforts on the Minister's Mining Act Advisory Committee, with Ted Spence representing FOCA's concerns, the third and final reading of the Mining Act recently took place. Now we are awaiting the regulations which will give the revised Act the rules to make a difference. He also mentioned that FOCA participated in the Cottagers' Against Uranium Mining rally at Queens Park on September 27<sup>th</sup> 2009.

A thanks was given to the supporters present at the meeting including BOATsmart! Canada, Sunlife and event participants Eco Patron. Corporate sponsor Yamaha Motor Canada were the lunch sponsors.

Terry Rees introduced the new FOCA Programs Coordinator, Tracy Logan. She gave a brief update on the issue of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) and encouraged attendees to write to the Premier and apply pressure to pass Anti- SLAPP legislation, in order to protect the voice of our community involvement in the public planning process.

Roslyn Moore presented the 2009 Jerry Strickland Award to the Point Clark Beach Association. Don Thorpe (President) and Gib Mcilwrath (Past-president) accepted the award on behalf of the association.



Gib Mcilwrath, Don Thorpe, Roslyn Moore, Tracy Logan

This was followed by presentations and a panel discussion on Ontario's Green Energy Future. Jonathan Cheszes of Ontario Power Authority (OPA) presented on the OPA Feed-in Tariff Program. Kristopher Stevens from the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association spoke about Green Energy Opportunities for Ontario's Cottagers and Jeremy Gawen of the Georgian Bay Association spoke about their experiences and concerns with wind power. The presentations were followed by a very informative question period.



Jonathan Cheszes, Ontario Power Authority



Kristopher Stevens from the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association



Jeremy Gawen of the Georgian Bay Association

Terry Rees provided the group with an update on the partnerships and programs that FOCA are currently involved with including FireSmart, BOATsmart! and Cottage Watch. This was followed by a presentation by Raj Sud of the Ontario Provincial Police on the Cottage Watch program and Cameron Taylor on BOATsmart!.

This concluded the 2009 FOCA Fall Seminar.

Following the FOCA meeting, the Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT) conducted their Annual General Meeting. For more information on WRAFT, visit their website [www.wraft.com](http://www.wraft.com).