



We would like to let you know about important work underway in our cottage community, and to ask for your support towards a positive future for waterfront living in Ontario.

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Inc. (FOCA) is your only Province-wide voice on cottage-related issues. For over 45 years, FOCA has looked out for your interests. Today, our combined voice of over 50,000 waterfront property owners allows for an effective and important presence with government and non-government organizations on issues important to all cottagers both today and in the future.

Since 1963, FOCA has been there for cottagers. Consider the following:

- FOCA continues to work in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Environment to sustain one of the largest volunteer monitoring networks in the world, the *Lake Partner Program*, focused on health of Ontario's freshwater lakes and rivers.
- FOCA is a major presence working on reforms to property taxes, and are your champions within the Coalition After Property Tax Reform (CAPTR) – on this front, our efforts have resulted in over \$100 million in avoided taxes for cottagers over 2007 and 2008 – and our push for longer-term solutions continues!
- FOCA has a long-standing and strong landowner voice with the Ministry of Mines and Northern Affairs, championing property owners' rights.
- FOCA has the only voice for consumers on the Ontario Energy Board, and has achieved reforms in electricity rate structures for cottagers resulting in millions of dollars in savings.
- In partnership with other provincial organizations, FOCA is working very hard on the emerging policies related to clean water and sustainable and thriving biodiversity.
- FOCA was instrumental in gaining a vote for cottagers, by fighting for alternative voting (by mail), which has allowed cottagers to participate in local decision making like never before.

FOCA continues to look out for your interests, and helps to keep you informed:

- We have recently updated the FOCA website www.foca.on.ca for your benefit and use. Our information is cottager-specific and much of it is available nowhere else.
- Our Report to the Membership newsletter and new electronic "Elerts" provide updates on important issues facing every property owner, and their associations.
- FOCA's special events attract the brightest and best talent to discuss important and emerging issues with our members.
- Our liability insurance program has been specifically designed to protect the volunteers working within your local association, with unmatched coverage at affordable premium levels.

It is with the generous support of our membership of local community associations that we are able to deliver on these important initiatives, and can continue to provide leadership on behalf of Ontario's waterfront residents.

We look forward to your support as a member of FOCA, and to including your association as a member of Ontario's "voice of the waterfront".

Sincerely,

Terry Rees, Executive Director, FOCA

JOIN FOCA TODAY!
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations