

FOCA Elert - August 2014



Political Affairs

OPP Costs Update

On August 15th, the Province of Ontario announced a new billing model for OPP's contracted police services. The new model will take effect on January 1st, 2015. Policing is often the largest single expenditure in municipal budgets; some cottage-country municipalities (and property taxpayers) will be hard-hit by these new changes! [Visit the FOCA website](#) to learn more, and speak to your municipality about the potential impacts to your local tax bill.



Provincial Land Tax (PLT)

Following on the heels of changes implemented in 2009, the Province is once again taking a look at the PLT - the property tax collected from property owners in areas outside municipal boundaries in Northern Ontario.

Consultations have already started with the approximately 200 Roads Boards and 50 Service Boards, and there will be more opportunities to provide input and to learn more about the government's plans in the months ahead. [Stay tuned to the FOCA PLT pages to learn more.](#)



Larry Hummel, Chief Assessor, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), spoke at the FOCA Fall meeting in 2012

Elections

As the summer season winds up, there are still opportunities to get to know your local candidates, and to make sure you are **registered to vote in the October 27th Municipal elections.**

Your municipal Clerk will post the official registered voters list on September 2nd, so ensure you are on the list. And, if you are really interested in being involved in the future of your municipality, candidates can still declare until September 12th!! [Get more elections info from FOCA, here.](#)



FOCA's Gold Sponsors



CottageLife

Superior
Propane



BLG
Borden Ladner Gervais



Lake Environments

Read the NEW Lake Stewards Newsletter

The 2014 FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter was recently mailed to our member Association contacts. This edition is filled with great information about recent weather trends, the "good" and "bad" of algae, association success stories, risk management and insurance for road groups, and much more. [Access the digital version here.](#)

Association Representatives: please circulate the digital copy among your members. If you are on the executive of your Association but did not receive the Newsletter by mail, [contact the FOCA office](#) to update the information we have on file!



Carp Bioinvasion: *Attack of the Alien Species!*

You may have already heard the horror stories, and seen the videos of invasive jumping carp - a real threat to our lakes and rivers. Learn more on Monday August 25th at 2:00 pm on CBC Radio One, when **CBC Ideas in the Afternoon** airs, or listen to [the original broadcast from April, here.](#)

Waterfront Living

Septics - Understanding landowners & their systems

FOCA is circulating the following survey link on behalf of Green Communities Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to better understand the types of systems in use across the province, how knowledgeable property owners are about them, and what their maintenance practices are. Find the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KXJ8N2K>

Results from the survey will be used to help rural Ontario residents protect their property values, water sources, and the environment.

Survey participants can enter to win \$500 to use on septic system maintenance, effluent filter installation, upgrades or repairs.

Looking for more information about septic? [Visit the FOCA website for great resources.](#)



FOCA's Cottage Succession Seminar Series

"Keeping the 'Family' in the Family Cottage"

Join estate lawyer Peter Lillico this weekend at our last summer seminar:

- **Saturday, August 23rd in Dorset** - beginning at 11am at the Dorset Recreation Centre

FOCA members attend for free!

[Get details and find out how to register, here...](#)

Last weekend, FOCA was in South Frontenac for a Cottage Succession Seminar, co-hosted by member association, the Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association.



FOCA's Silver Sponsors



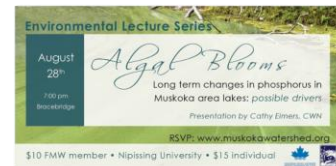
Regional Events

COMING UP:

Muskoka

Register to attend this upcoming lecture on August 28th in Bracebridge - **Algal Blooms**: Long-term changes in phosphorus in the Muskoka area lakes: possible drivers.

Click the event notice at right for details and how to register---



Eastern Ontario

Able-bodied folks from the Otty Lake community are needed to make the second phase of the **Fish Habitat Enhancement project** possible. Work days are being planned for Monday, September 15 and Tuesday, September 16, with a rain date of Thursday, September 18. The use of a pontoon boat would also be appreciated to keep costs down.

If you can help, please contact Jennifer Lamoureux of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority at jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca or call 613-692-3571, ext. 1108. This project is the single largest initiative to rehabilitate and enhance spawning grounds for bass ever undertaken in Eastern Ontario, and has received critical acclaim in the conservation community. See more about the project [on the OLA website](#).

About FOCA

Deanna Panitz

Many thanks to our intern, Deanna, for her enthusiasm and significant contributions to FOCA over the summer of 2014. Deanna will be continuing her environmental schooling at Fleming College in Lindsay this Fall.



Pictured: Deanna in the field with our partners from OFAH on Water Soldier Watch Day on August 7th, 2014, helping to survey the Trent River.

FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



FOCA Website - a new look!



The FOCA Website has a clean new look - check it out today: www.foca.on.ca

The resources you rely upon are still here, easier to search and in a mobile-friendly format.

There is even "Members-only" content to browse with a dedicated Member Login code. [Find out more here »](#)

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Share the information in this Elert with other waterfront property owners!

