



## FOCA Webinars

### RECAP of WEBINAR #1 -

In early December 2014, we held FOCA's first online-only webinar, on the topic of **Cottage Succession**. We were thrilled that almost 500 of you signed up to participate. We are still sifting through the event survey responses, and have had a number of requests to make a DVD of the event, or to repeat it in 2015. *Stay tuned for developments!*



### COMING UP NEXT -

Webinar #2: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 - **Environmental Commissioner of Ontario - the Environmental Bill of Rights and You**

This webinar will help FOCA members interested in participating in environmental law-making that impacts your waterfront experience and communities - through Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR).

**FOCA members: Watch your Inbox for sign-up details in mid-January!**



## FOCA's Gold Sponsors



CottageLife

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## Toronto International Boat Show - FREE TICKETS!

We are very excited that FOCA will be part of the "Boating Community Program" at the **Toronto International Boat Show** from January 10-18, 2015, where we will be meeting boaters, and dreaming of an early summer... Plan to join us there.

### LAST CALL for free tickets!

FOCA has **2 free tickets to the Boat Show** for each and every one of our member associations. Thanks to all the Associations who have already contacted us to claim their tickets.



(above = sample only)

IMPORTANT: Associations **MUST email FOCA by December 31, 2014** with the designated names for the 2 tickets, which will be held at the entry to the Boat Show. [Click here for the details...](#)

## Political Affairs

### Ontario Auditor General releases Annual (2014) Report

The Auditor General of Ontario is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly that conducts value-for-money and financial audits of the provincial government, its ministries and agencies. On December 9, 2014, Bonnie Lysyk released her 595-page [annual report](#). In addition to investigations into infrastructure spending, financial oversight and other matters, she also dedicated a significant amount of her report to the Province's activities on source water protection, and smart meters.



- [Get an overview from FOCA](#) on issues surrounding **source water protection**, and FOCA's long-standing involvement in the process.
- With regard to the installation of almost 5 million "**smart meters**," the auditor noted significant cost overruns and a lack of accountability. She pointed out that, despite great expectations, the Province has not met its targets for reducing peak electricity demand through load shifting. [Read the full chapter on smart meters here...](#) (PDF download)

### New Municipal Councils now in place

December 1st was the first day for the newly sworn-in [municipal councils in Ontario](#). Congratulations to all the successful candidates now sitting as councillors, mayors and reeves. FOCA looks forward to a long and productive relationship between local government and the waterfront property-owning community, represented through local cottage, lake and road associations.



### A message from FOCA to Municipal Councils:

We encourage you to utilize the considerable resources within local residents' associations! As stakeholders in nearly 300 Ontario municipalities, FOCA's 50,000 members not only provide a significant amount of local property tax revenue (over \$800-million/year), but also have important perspectives on local living, land use planning, economic development and maintaining sustainable local environments.

### A message from FOCA to our members:

We encourage you to make yourselves known to your elected officials; they are making decisions that will affect you and your community for the next 4 years! One important time to get involved is [during the municipal budget process](#).

## FOCA's Silver Sponsors



## Lake Environments

### Aquatic Invasive Plants Monitoring - WE NEED YOU! Toolkit coming Spring 2015

Assist FOCA with the next phase of our program: the creation of an aquatic invasive plants monitoring toolkit for associations, coming in Spring 2015.

We are in the process of developing the toolkit, and seek volunteers from FOCA lake associations to review materials and provide feedback. Help us ensure the end product is great, for your members!



Individual volunteers will receive the materials by email in early 2015. Interested in assisting with the review? Please email [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca) and identify yourself for this phase of the program!

## Waterfront Living

### Winter Safety

FOCA reminds you that early season freeze up is the time to remember that "[no ice is 100% safe.](#)"

Sticking to snowmobile trails, instead? Get condition updates from the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs' interactive Trail Guide. (Click the image at right to access the online resource.)



## FOCA's Bronze Sponsors





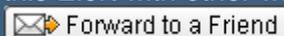
## Seasons Greetings



**Happy Holidays from the FOCA staff!**

Tracy, Terry, Michelle

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