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FOCA Elert



ECO visits FOCA

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) Dianne Saxe visited Peterborough last week, for a series of meetings with citizen groups. FOCA was very pleased to host the ECO at the FOCA office during her visit, to discuss topics of mutual interest including healthy shorelines, environmental assessments and the joy of canoeing! We look forward to a productive working relationship with the new Commissioner. Read a recent update from the ECO, here: <http://eco.on.ca/an-update-from-ontarios-new-environmental-commissioner/>



Pictured (from left): FOCA Board Director Steve Kerr, Commissioner Saxe, FOCA Executive Director Terry Rees.

FOCA AGM & Spring Seminar - March 5th, 2016

Last call to join us at the 2016 FOCA Annual General Meeting and Spring Seminar!

When: **Saturday, March 5th, 2016**

Where: Vaughan Estate at Sunnybrook in Toronto - lower level (new!)

Time: 9:30am - 3:30pm

Note: AGM (Business meeting - Members vote) starts at 1:00pm

Register here: <https://foca.on.ca/product/2016-foca-agm-register/>

Has your Association designated a member yet & registered to attend? Online registration closes Tuesday, March 1st at 11:00am, or as soon as available space is filled.

Join us for: a look ahead at 2016 priorities for cottage country, feature speaker **Dave Meslin** with tips for building strong community groups, new property assessment information from **MPAC**, & the FOCA Achievement **Award** presentation. See: <https://foca.on.ca/2016-foca-agm-spring-seminar/>

*Thank you to our Spring Seminar event sponsor: Hydro One
and lunch sponsor: Yamaha Canada*



Lake Partner Program - Water Quality Results

The 2015 Lake Partner Program results are in! Get links to the Total Phosphorus and Secchi Disk results for lakes across Ontario, here:

<https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-sampling-assistance/>



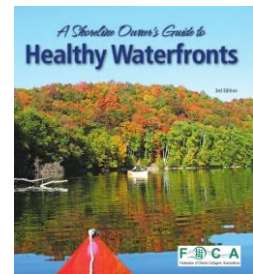
Thank you to FOCA's Gold Sponsors!



Shoreline Owners Guide: now available from FOCA

The **Shoreline Owners Guide to Healthy Waterfronts** is back! FOCA is pleased to announce we have printed a revised edition of this popular publication, which had been out of print. Topics covered include:

- What type of lake do you live by? (and the common characteristics of each type)
- How to limit nutrients and create buffer zones to protect your shoreline
- Fish-friendly dock structures
- All about algae and invasives
- An overview on septic systems and protecting drinking water sources
- and more...



This short booklet is key-reading for new cottage owners at your lake, and a great refresher course for everyone else! Member groups may contact the FOCA office to order copies of this free guide:

info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622

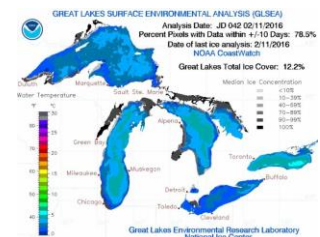
Are you coming to the AGM? Contact us a.s.a.p., and we will bring along multiple copies for your Association, so you can avoid any shipping costs.

Lake Ice Status

Great Lakes ice coverage in early February was near record low levels for this time of year, at only at 5.7% (compared to more than 50% in 2015).

This sets up the possibility of impacts on wildlife, water levels and an increased risk of algal growth this year. Read more from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) program's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL), here:

<http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/ice/#currentConditions>



FOCA's Policy Files - quick update

New information about boathouse or dock permits from MNRF:

Barring any late breaking revisions to the Public Lands Act, property owners should take note that—according to multiple MNRF sources, including mnf.approval@ontario.ca—the current rules require authorization under the Public Lands Act to construct or place a dock or boathouse that occupies (i.e., that is on or above) more than 15 square meters of shore lands. The area of shore lands occupied by a dock or boathouse will typically be calculated based on the perimeter of the structure.

Individuals who wish to construct or place docks or boathouses that occupy more than 15 square meters of shore land should contact their local MNRF District Office to initiate the formal application process.

Local District office contacts can be found here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry-regional-and-district-offices>



See more about recent court decisions and municipal / provincial authority related to boathouses and docks: <https://foca.on.ca/municipal-authority-over-boathouses-decision/>

Climate Corner

Climate change adaptation for Communities

FOCA recently participated in a discussion related to community preparedness for climate change, held in conjunction with the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority AGM in Fraserville, Ontario. The guest speaker at the event was Professor Blair Feltmate, Head of the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation (ICCA) at the University of Waterloo.



Pictured (from left): Prof. Blair Feltmate, Warden of Peterborough County J. Murray Jones, Mayor of the City of Peterborough Daryl Bennett, and Terry Rees of FOCA

Asian Carp News



Could **sound** be the answer to keeping invasive silver carp out of the Great Lakes? Find out more about a recent study, including a link to hear a sample of one of the sound files researchers used, here: <https://foca.on.ca/asian-carp/>

IISD - ELA



FOCA was pleased to connect with Matthew McCandless, Executive Director of the International Institute of Sustainable Development - Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA), on February 24th at the FOCA office in Peterborough.

Terry and Matt discussed trends in ice cover, and other emerging impacts of climate change on fish populations. Read more about the IISD-ELA in the last edition of the [Lake Stewards Newsletter](#) (see p.21)

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Regional News

Conservation Sudbury is delivering a **tree planting program** for interested landowners living in the watersheds of the Vermilion, Wanapitei, or Whitefish rivers (and potentially some surrounding areas).

As a Planting Delivery Agency (PDA), Conservation Sudbury will work directly with landowners to determine site eligibility, create a planting plan, allocate funding and design and coordinate planting. If you are interested in participating, visit:

<http://www.nickeldistrict.ca/en/tree-planting-program.html>



Image: Conservation Sudbury

Upcoming Events

March 5, 2016 - [FOCA Annual General Meeting and Spring Seminar](#), Toronto.

March 8, 2016 - FOCA's Executive Director will speak at the [Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association's](#) annual Conference in Kingston.

April 1-3, 2016 - [Spring Cottage Life Show](#), Toronto. Come visit the FOCA booth at this season-starting event. Buy your tickets online at a \$3 discount! [Click here to order](#), and remember to use Promo Code: **FOCA16**



May 27-28, 2016 - **Muskoka Summit on the Environment:**

This year's theme is: *Solutions for a Warming World*. Speakers include Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, and David Miller, President & CEO of the World Wildlife Fund, Canada. FOCA is once again proud to be a [Gold Sponsor](#) of this biennial event.



Cade's Corner - Weathering a Late Winter Storm

Winters in Ontario are beautiful. But, when the snow starts falling and the temperature drops, severe winter storms have the potential to knock out power, interrupt infrastructure, and bring transportation to a halt. Some easy preparation goes a long way towards keeping your home and family warm and safe... [Click here to read more.](#)



Welcome to "Cade's Corner" - a new *EAlert* feature, from FOCA's colleagues at Cade Associates Insurance Brokers. **Got an insurance question for a future blog? [Let us know!](#)**

Click below for details about CottageFirst, the first group insurance program built for cottagers:

CottageFirst
Insurance

Get back to carefree

Learn More →

Cottage & Home Insurance Package for FOCA Members

Funding Opportunity

Ontario Community Environment Fund

Not-for-profit organizations can get government grants for local projects in their watersheds. This year, \$325,000 from the Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF) will be shared among 19 watersheds across the province where environmental penalties were collected.

Past projects have successfully restored riverbanks by planting native trees and plants, helped protect the Great Lakes from invasive species, improved fish and wildlife habitat, and helped improve air quality and fight climate change in communities across Ontario. The deadline to submit an application is March 31, 2016. [Click here for details.](#)

Thank you to FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



Your Role

How can you help FOCA?

There are many ways to help us with our mission: **To protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario**, including:

- support your local lake Association
- encourage a friend or colleague to get on the [FOCA Elerit](#) list - join nearly 10,000 subscribers who receive our monthly updates about waterfront Ontario!
- connect with FOCA on social media:



Like us on Facebook

Follow us on twitter

View our videos on YouTube

Find out more about your role, here: <https://foca.on.ca/about/your-role/>

FOCA believes everyone has a right to hear about issues that affect waterfront Ontario.

Those who have an existing business relationship with FOCA may receive email from us based on [Implied Consent](#) in Canadian Anti Spam legislation.

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations,
#201-159 King Street, Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8