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FOCA Elert - June 2015



underwater image courtesy A. Metelka

Lake Partner Program - samples away!

Lake Stewards - Don't forget: It is time to start sending in your water samples for the Lake Partner Program to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre. Your kit will indicate how often to sample:

- If your lake is "on" the Canadian Shield be sure to submit your Total Phosphorous readings for May, if you have not already done so.
- For "off" shield lakes be sure to collect and submit your Total Phosphorous data once a month, beginning in May and ending in October.

For both types of lakes, water clarity measurements should be taken with your Secchi disk once every two weeks throughout the ice-free season. These recorded water clarity measurements should be mailed back to DESC in the postage-paid envelope provided or emailed to lakepartner@ontario.ca by no later than December, 2015.



Need some sampling reminder tips? Check out the FOCA video:



and get more info online: <http://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-sampling-assistance/>

FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Invasives Information

FOCA has launched our 2015 digital Toolkit for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Monitoring!

Thank you to all the Association members who have signed up to be involved at their lakes. The goal of the 2015 program is to promote education and awareness of AIS, and to facilitate prevention, early detection, monitoring and reporting using the online tool, EDDMapS Ontario.

AIS toolkit
for Associations

It is not too late to get involved! Click here to get started:

<http://foca.on.ca/ais-monitoring-program/>.

You do not need to be an expert in AIS identification to participate! Associations and individual volunteers are encouraged to access online resources from FOCA by clicking the buttons at the right. (You can also reach these webpages from the general link, above.)

AIS resources
for Volunteers

And Ontario has a new ad campaign targeting invasive species, as well. Click the image at the right to link to the Ministry's "Cottagers Action Plan."

Remember: if you think you've seen an invasive species, call the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 and report it!



Ombudsman releases Hydro One report

In late May 2015, the Ontario Ombudsman released his report on Hydro One's unsuccessful installation of a new customer system in May 2013, which led to major billing failures.

Were you one of the 100,000 customers affected? Read an overview from FOCA, and link to the Ombudsman's full report, here:

<http://foca.on.ca/hydro-one-investigation-by-ontarios-ombudsman/>



Fish Updates

Broad Scale Monitoring

In late May, FOCA sent email notices to member Association Presidents on lakes that will be sampled as part of the 2015 Broad Scale Monitoring Program of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. [Click here for a map of lakes being sampled...](#)



If you encounter sampling on your lake (marked with orange MNRF buoys), please avoid recreational activities between and around the buoys, and do not lift the nets or buoys.

Since 2008, this long-term research has been conducted to monitor the health of Ontario's lakes, to better understand the current state of fish and other aquatic resources, identify stresses on these resources, and report changes over time. For more on the topic from FOCA, see page 6 of the [FOCA Spring 2011 Newsletter](#).

FOCA's Silver Sponsors



FOCA's 2015 Cottage Succession Seminar Series

We're on the road again this summer, with estate lawyer Peter Lillico, talking about steps to take now, to keep your family in the family cottage, down the road.



Plan to join us at an in-person event! [Click here for details...](#)

FOCA Survey: Cottage Succession stumbling blocks

Please take a moment to participate in a FOCA mini-survey about **cottage succession** (passing the cottage to the next generation) and what information you need:

[Click here to take the anonymous survey](#)

Survey

Will you be inheriting the cottage? Passing it along to the next generation? Questions about capital gains tax or the principal residence exemption? Would you like to ask your questions at an in-person meeting or by webinar? Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us!

Healthy people, animals & plants = a healthy economy

Ontario Biodiversity Summit (OBS) - (May 10-22, 2015, Niagara)

Ontario's first "Biodiversity Summit" involved over 300 people interested in, and committed to, healthy environments and healthy communities.

It was the launch for an updated report card on the health of Ontario's ecosystems, and much more.

FOCA participated in this event in a continued effort to help make sure Ontario's 250,000+ waterfront property owners are informed and involved in a healthy future for our lands and our treasured waters. Learn more here: <http://foca.on.ca/landowners-collaborating-for-biodiversity/>



Pictured at right: FOCA's Terry Rees led the panel discussion on stewardship at the OBS.

Forestry & forest management in cottage country

Ontario's beautiful lakes and rivers are part of a natural web of life that includes our streams, rivers, wetlands and forests.

In southern Ontario, the vast majority of property is in private hands, but in the north and near-north, the Province is in charge of the use and management of our natural resources. The interaction between industrial activities like forestry, and cottaging and other land uses can be a source of conflict but also offers opportunities for public involvement.



Learn how cottage associations can make a difference in local forestry plans: <http://foca.on.ca/using-our-forest-resources-sustainably>

Green Energy Proposals - FOCA Asked

In the face of many questions about the approvals and public consultations process related to the siting and installation of large scale **solar and wind energy projects**, FOCA asked the Ministry of Energy's Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO) about the procurement and the approvals processes for renewable energy projects.



Find out more, here:

<http://foca.on.ca/approving-green-energy-projects/>

New rules for ATV's start Canada Day

Beginning July 1, 2015, the province of Ontario is implementing the following changes related to Off Road Vehicles (ORV's) and All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's):

- More types of ORVs and ATVs, including two-up ATVs, side-by-side ATVs and utility-terrain vehicles (UTVs), will be allowed to use the shoulder of public roads.
- All riders - including drivers and passengers of all ages - will have to wear a helmet and use a seat belt or foot rests, where applicable.



image courtesy Yamaha Canada

For more information, click here: <http://foca.on.ca/new-rules-for-atvs/>

Boating Tips

Get on board with these [safe boating tips](#) from our friends at Cade Associates Insurance Brokers.



FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



Regional Events - Coming Up

Road Issues Meeting ** THIS WEEKEND **

This Saturday, June 13, 2015, FOCA is participating in a road issues meeting, north of Havelock in Peterborough County. This meeting is aimed at road managers and administrators on local lakes (Kasshabog, Round, Cordova, Jack, Crowe, Methuen, Twin, Oak, Belmont and others) who help manage private roads. A lawyer, insurance agent and peer mentors will be on-hand to answer questions and share best practices. **Everyone is welcome at this free event, and a few spaces remain!** Contact Glen MacDonald at 705-778-9812 or glenedwardmacdonald@gmail.com.



1st Annual Scanlon Creek BioBlitz

(Saturday, June 20th from 7:00am to after dusk) - the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and partners invite you to participate in a BioBlitz! Surveys will be carried out to identify all the birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish, plants and more. [Get event details here...](#)



Frost Lecture at Trent University (Wednesday, June 24th at 7:30 pm) "Phosphorus, Food, and our Future." [Click here for more information.](#)

National Paddling Week is June 5-14th

We are in the midst of [National Paddling Week](#), so grab an extra opportunity to get out and enjoy our beautiful waterways! Thanks to the folks at Paddle Canada for making this canoe and kayak launch interactive map known to us. (**click the image at right to access the map**) Use it to plan routes and find great new places to launch out on an adventure.



Harmful Algae Prediction

In late May 2015, the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab released their Lake Erie Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) Tracker Bulletin, with **an early season prediction about the expected severity of algal blooms on Erie** this year.

Read the update, and get a link to download the HAB Bulletin, here: <http://foca.on.ca/great-lakes-environmental-research/>



Economic Challenges in Cottage Country

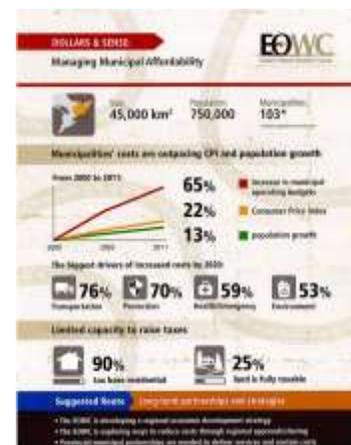
Waterfront residents live in some of the most economically challenged municipalities in Ontario.

As these stats from the [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#) highlight, our communities face an increasing challenge due to a limited (almost exclusively RESIDENTIAL) tax base, and ever-escalating costs of providing essential or even basic public services.

> [Click here to open the 2-page PDF](#)

Financially sustainable communities will require:

- adequately funded public services with the costs fairly shared with all levels of government
- a population that practices "shopping locally" in support of cottage-country merchants and farm-gate vendors



- a long-term strategy and funding to keep our infrastructure (roads, bridges, dams etc.) in good repair

The head of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario told CBC News this week that there need to be creative ways to raise money for infrastructure, or, face annual 8-10% property tax hikes for the next 10 years. [Click here to read the article...](#)

Why Support FOCA?

FOCA is your provincial voice

FOCA sits at the table where individuals cannot. Find out more about our current priorities here:

<http://foca.on.ca/category/news/>

Who supports FOCA?

Member support drives this organization! Become part of the solution for waterfront Ontario.

[Click here to find out how...](#)

FOCA represents 50,000 member families in more than 500 waterfront groups across Ontario. We support community-building by providing tools for lake associations to help them thrive. Find out more about our half-century of work: <http://foca.on.ca/about/our-history/>

The Benefits of Membership

All FOCA members can access special offers from our partners. For a current list of benefits, visit: <http://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>

WHAT FOCA SEES

WHAT YOU SEE

- FAIR TAXATION
- SAFETY
- COTTAGE ACCESSION
- WATER QUALITY

Who supports FOCA?

People like you, who:

- I have family here, I'm a cottage owner
- I've shared time and job here
- I've enjoyed about 40+ lakes

Benefits include:

- I've environmental and recreational activities in my area
- I've been active in my community
- I've enjoyed about 40+ lakes
- I've been active in my community
- I've enjoyed about 40+ lakes
- I've been active in my community

Join us!

FOCA FOCA is your province-wide voice
18,000 waterfront families, 100+ lake associations
www.foca.on.ca

FOCA Members are welcome to reproduce FOCA information.
Please credit FOCA as the source, and include our web address where possible: www.foca.on.ca
Share the information in this Elert with other waterfront property owners!

Forward to a Friend

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