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FOCA Elert - late October 2015



Election Results

Canada has a new Prime Minister who will be sworn in and announce his new cabinet in the coming weeks.

Find out who won in your cottage riding:
<http://foca.on.ca/federal-election-2015/>



FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Cottage Life



Superior Propane

Have you taken the Survey yet?

Thank you to the hundreds of FOCA members who have already completed the **2015 FOCA Association survey**. We are looking forward to sharing some of the results with you at the [FOCA Fall Seminar](#) on November 7th.

If you are on the executive of your Association, but haven't taken the survey yet, we need your input. Please click the survey link in the special email message FOCA sent you on October 8th, or contact the FOCA office for additional assistance: info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622

Survey

Last call for the FOCA Fall Seminar

2015 FOCA Fall Seminar: "Navigating to Success" Saturday, November 7th, 2015 in Toronto

Join us at this full-day members' event packed with tips for building and maintaining strong and thriving lake associations.

[Click here for event details](#)

Register online by October 29th:

<http://foca.on.ca/product/2015-foca-fall-seminar-register/>



Events This Weekend

October 24: FOCA is once again a proud sponsor of the **Lake Links Workshop** in Perth. FOCA's Terry Rees will be at the event. Don't miss this event! You can find details here: <http://watersheds.ca/lake-links-2015/>



October 23-25: the [Fall Cottage Life Show](#) in Toronto. FOCA will not be at this year's fall event, but we will see you at the show again next Spring! In the meantime, catch estate lawyer [Peter Lillico](#) there, speaking on the Main Stage about "**Avoiding Adversity: cottage sharing agreements.**"



FOCA's Silver Sponsors



Legislative Updates

FOCA is pleased to report that Ontario has recently passed two important pieces of legislation: the [Great Lakes Protection Act](#) and the [Invasive Species Act](#).

FOCA recently made comments on the review of the **Conservation Authorities (CA) Act**. Read more and see a new map illustrating FOCA member municipalities with CAs, here: <http://foca.on.ca/conservation-authorities-act-under-review/>



Members should note that the Province is developing a strategic plan to better conserve **Ontario wetlands** and they want public input - by October 30, 2015. Find out more here: <http://foca.on.ca/wetlands-have-your-say/>

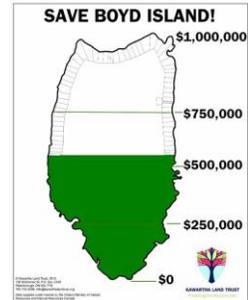
Saving Boyd Island

FOCA member group, the Big Bald Lake Cottagers' Association (BBLCA) has pledged to Sponsor an Acre for \$1,000 as part of the **Save Boyd Island** campaign. "We're challenging other local cottage associations to do the same!" notes BBLCA Director Nancy Boyce.

At 1,165 acres, Boyd Island is the largest undeveloped and unprotected island in southern Ontario. In addition to its ecological values, Boyd Island has enjoyed a rich and diverse cultural history.

Get details here: <http://kawarthalandtrust.org/help-save-boyd-island/>

To find and connect with a land trust in your region, visit <http://olta.ca/land-trust-members/>

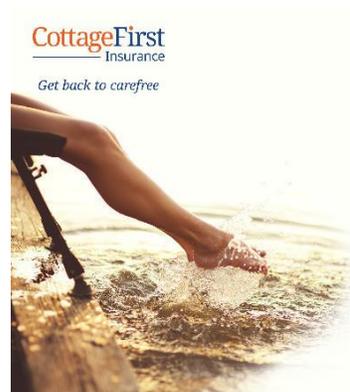


CottageFirst - got your quote yet?

Members in dozens of FOCA Associations have already discovered the advantages of this FOCA Member benefit. Exclusively available to members of FOCA, **CottageFirst** is your 'one-stop' insurance solution for Home, Cottage, Watercraft, Automobile & more.

Access a quote from **Cade Associates Insurance Brokers** for this bundled insurance package, offering unique coverages and FOCA discounts for cottagers. www.cottagefirst.com 1-844-223-3178 (local Toronto: 416-234-9980)

Get details here: <http://foca.on.ca/a-benefit-for-foca-members-cottage-first/>. Please spread the word to fellow FOCA members!



FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



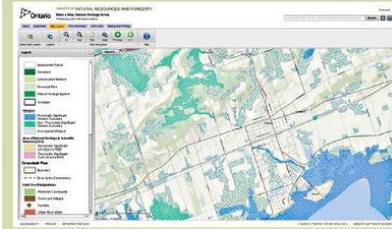
Customizable Natural Heritage Area Map

A new **MNRF web application** allows you to make a custom map of your region's wetlands, natural heritage, and areas of natural and scientific interest, among other features. The tool also shows topographic information such as roads, rivers and municipal boundaries. Check out the map here: <http://www.ontario.ca/page/make-natural-heritage-area-map> or by clicking the image at right.

We are keen to hear how you or your association uses this new resource! Keep FOCA posted: info@foca.on.ca

Make a Custom Wetland Map

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has a web application that anyone can use to make a custom map of wetlands and evaluated wetlands in Ontario. Visit <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/make-natural-heritage-area-map> for more information.



Haliburton Enviro-Heros

On September 27th, the **Haliburton Highlands Land Trust** recognized a number of groups for their work on local environmental causes. FOCA's past President, Ted Spence, accepted one of the awards as chairman of the [Coalition for Equitable Water Flow](#), for their work on integrated water management and partnership with the Trent-Severn Waterway. See the Haliburton Echo's summary of the event, here: <http://www.haliburtonecho.ca/gala-recognizes-environmental-contributions?id=876>



Snowmobilers: Trail Permits ON SALE

The **2016 Seasonal Permit** is now available online only (ofsc.on.ca) until November 1st for \$180 - its lowest fee of the season and a 30% saving off its regular fee of \$260. This permit enables snowmobilers to ride any of the more than 30,000 kilometres of OFSC Prescribed Trails for the entire winter.

Flying Lanterns Update

On October 13th, the City of Kawartha Lakes Council voted to prevent the use and sale of flying lanterns across the municipality.

For a link to the news release, and more on the issue visit: <http://foca.on.ca/flying-fire-lanterns/>



Did You Know?

Earlier this year, one of FOCA's member groups on Georgian Bay brought us this photo of a strange gelatinous blob on their Sturgeon Bay shoreline.

Do you know what it is? This is a bryozoan colony of aquatic invertebrates that feed on algae and plankton, and in turn provide food for fish, aquatic insects and snails.

For more, check out this recent blog by Ottawa Riverkeeper on the topic: <http://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca/meet-your-local-bryozoan-colony/>



image: David Cornish,
Talpines Property Owners Association

Your Role

We're counting on you to spread the word about the value of FOCA!

Tell a friend about the FOCA Elert and suggest they register to receive it, too. Please share FOCA [news updates](#) and [fact sheets](#).



Members are always welcome to reproduce FOCA materials from [Elerts](#), [Newsletters](#) and our extensive online [resources](#). Please credit FOCA as the source, and include our web address, where possible: <http://foca.on.ca>



[Contact the office](#) for digital slides about FOCA to use at your lake meeting, or alternate file versions of online materials to distribute through your Association meetings, newsletters or websites.

Benefits of Membership

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



Note: The 2-page sheet about benefits that is available at the top of that webpage makes a great hand-out about FOCA for your upcoming Association meeting.

For an overview of FOCA's work on behalf of our 500 member Associations across Ontario, visit: <http://foca.on.ca/foca-year-in-review-2014/>

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

