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FOCA Elert - October 2014



To your families, from ours:
Happy Thanksgiving!

Political Affairs

Municipal Elections = October 27th

Mail in ballots are being distributed in many rural Ontario municipalities **now**.

Whether you will be voting by mail, over the telephone or by Internet (depending on what your local options are), or in person on October 27th, this is a critical time to exercise your democratic rights. The individuals that we elect will be our local leaders for the next four years! Get an overview from FOCA, here: <http://foca.on.ca/municipal-election-2014/>



Standing-room-only at a recent municipal candidates meeting, Peterborough

Ontario Ministries set priorities

On September 25, 2014, for the first time, the Premier of Ontario openly released "**mandate letters**" for each Provincial Ministry, providing a window on the direction of the current government as part of efforts to be the "most open government in Canada." Read an overview from FOCA, and link to the letters, here: <http://foca.on.ca/ontario-ministries-set-priorities/>



Pipeline News:

- **LINE 9:** This week, Canada's energy regulator, the National Energy Board (NEB), denied Enbridge's bid to move forward with their plan to reverse the flow of oil in the "Line 9" pipeline in southern Ontario. The NEB cited the need for better water protection, particularly to avoid an uncontrolled product release that would pose a significant risk to the public or the environment. Find out more in the Lake Ontario Waterkeeper Blog post: <http://www.waterkeeper.ca/blog/2014/10/8/enbridge-pipeline-project-delayed-by-water-protection-concerns>
- **Energy East:** the NEB is hosting "NEB 101" information sessions, including information about the assessment process for the [Energy East Pipeline Project](http://www.nsb-one.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rthnb/pplctnsbfrthnb/nrgyst/nrgyst-eng.html#s7). Find out more on the NEB website: <http://www.nsb-one.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rthnb/pplctnsbfrthnb/nrgyst/nrgyst-eng.html#s7>
- **LINE 5:** In June 2014, our stateside neighbours, interested in protecting the waters of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and the regional economy, created the **Michigan Petroleum Pipeline Task Force**: www.michigan.gov/PipelineTaskForce



image: Krystyn Tully (2013),
courtesy Lake Ontario
Waterkeeper

FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Waterfront Living

Cottage Closing

Say it isn't so: time for closing up the cottage for the season? Get tips from FOCA, as posted recently by the Insurance Bureau of Canada in their blog, "Get in the Know:"

<http://foca.on.ca/cottage-closing-tips-from-foca-guest-blog-ibc-sept-2014/>

Save on Snowmobile Trail Permits for Winter 2014-15

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) is selling Seasonal Permits for a special pre-season fee of \$180 when purchased online at www.ofsc.on.ca, on or before November 1st, 2014. **This represents a 30% saving off the regular Seasonal Permit fee of \$260.**



Crane Lake image courtesy
FOCA member Darlene Cade

Lake Environments

Federal, and Ontario Environmental Auditors release reports

The week of October 6th saw the release of reports from both the Federal Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.



As our "Environmental Auditors" these are important pieces of public oversight related to our governments' performance when it comes to effective deployment of public resources and public policy to provide healthy environments in Canada. Get links to the reports, and an overview from FOCA, here: <http://foca.on.ca/environmental-commissioner-2014-reports/>

Blue-green Algae

FOCA participated in an early October workshop at the University of Toronto, related to Canada's changing water conditions, as part of the **Great Lakes Futures Project Action Plan for Sustainability**. The week also included a risk assessment and risk management workshop with a focus on nutrients in the Great Lakes Basin. This work is part of a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) CREATE grant, lead by Dr. Irena Creed at Western University. The grant is focused on freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms (fHABs): Algal Bloom Assessment through Science, Technology and Education (ABATE).



This is the time of year for blue-green algae. Know what to look for! Visit: <http://foca.on.ca/blue-green-algae-know-it-and-report-it/>.

Safety and Risk Management

It is Fire Prevention Week

The fire service reminds us that working smoke alarms save lives. Please test yours this weekend! It is the law for all Ontario homes, cottages, cabins and seasonal homes to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. To minimize fire risks, review [cottage fire safety tips](#) from the Office of the Fire Marshal.



FOCA's Silver Sponsors



Events

RECENT EVENTS:

Living Waters Rally

FOCA took part in the Living Waters Rally 2014 in Ottawa last week, joining over 100 delegates from across Canada at this biennial gathering of leaders from recreational, indigenous, cottage association, faith, philanthropic, environmental, business, academic, and arts and culture groups. **Read some perspectives and a declaration about the future of Canada's waters**, and watch FOCA's videoblog by clicking the image at right, or here: <http://foca.on.ca/living-waters-rally-2014/>



COMING SOON:

Lake Links Workshop (Saturday, October 25, 2014)

Plan to attend this year's Lake Links Workshop in Perth, with a focus on real approaches for getting your lake community into action. [Get more details here.](#)



Fall Cottage Life Show (Toronto - October 24-26, 2014)

Get \$3 off the regular adult admission, when you use your FOCA code and order tickets online, before you go. [Click here to order](#) - remember to use Promo code: **FOCAFALL14**



Calls for Nominations!

FOCA Achievement Award

Do you know an Association success story? Nominate a [FOCA Member Association](#) for the annual FOCA Achievement Award before November 15th! The award will be presented next March, at the FOCA Annual General Meeting. Get the details, and the nomination form, here: <http://foca.on.ca/member-services/foca-achievement-award/>



Last winner: Pike Lake Community Association

Canadian Safe Boating Awards (CASBA)

It's time to nominate someone you know for the "people's choice awards of safe boating." Categories include:

- Rescue of the Year
- Marine Professional of the Year
- Top Volunteer Dedicated to Safe Boating

...and more! Download the [nomination form, here](#) (pdf; 1 pg) and return it by email to casba@scbc.ca by November 7th. The awards will be presented by the [Canadian Safe Boating Council](#) next January in Toronto.



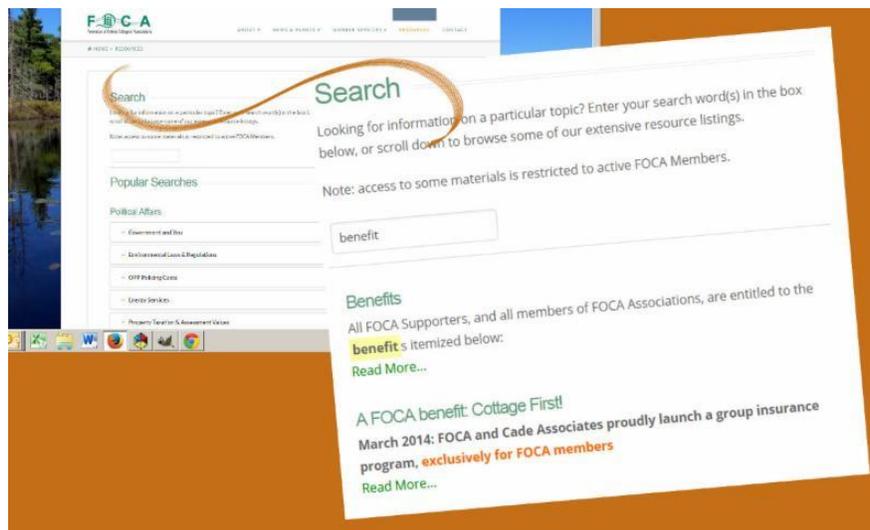
FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



FOCA Website - "I have a question"

How to search for resources on the new FOCA website:

1. find the orange "question mark" button on the FOCA Homepage, www.foca.on.ca, and click "**I have a question**" (or use the Resources tab at top right)
2. scroll down to click through Popular Search terms, or type a word into the search box; click "enter" on your keyboard, and related FOCA resources will appear below:



some popular searches include:

septics ONCA Lake Partner OPP
Great Lakes invasive roads wake member offers

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

