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FOCA Elert - September 2014



Would it be cottage country **WITHOUT** the loon?

In the context of the UN Climate Summit in New York this week, read an open letter from FOCA's Executive Director:

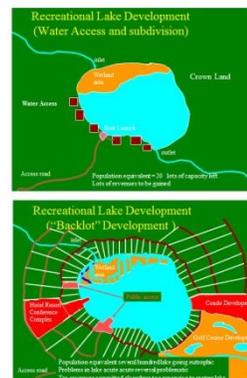
[Click here, or the image above.](#)

Lake Environments

How not to "overdevelop" Ontario's lakes

To ensure we don't "*love our lakes to death*," some limits to growth are needed. FOCA has looked to the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) as the technical leaders in determining where the thresholds are, and how we might measure and enact limits. For a "visual essay" from FOCA on the subject, click the image at right.

A jurisdictional review was recently conducted to provide MOECC, and all interested parties, an opportunity to learn what tools and approaches are used in other jurisdictions, across the Province, and in several US states. You can learn more, and provide your comments on how best to protect your lake, here: <http://foca.on.ca/jurisdictional-review-of-lakeshore-planning-practices-for-ontario/>.



NEW Survey: Lake Plans into Action

Has your Association made a lake plan? How have you put it into action? Share your experiences in this survey. [Get details and a link to the survey here...](#) One lucky participant will receive a \$200 donation to your Association! Draw to be held at Lake Links on October 25th.



FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Cottage Life

Superior
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BLG
Borden Ladner Gervais



Waterfront Living

Septics - Understanding landowners & their systems

As part of "Septic Smart Week," FOCA and Green Communities Canada have released a [joint press release](#) on the important topic of septic systems--a key piece of infrastructure for waterfront property owners!

Remember to participate in the online survey about septic systems in rural Ontario. (This is the one we last mentioned in the August Elert)

[Click here to take the survey](#)

Survey closes on September 30th. Participants can enter to win \$500 to use on septic system maintenance, effluent filter installation, upgrades or repairs!

Looking for more information about septic systems? [Visit the FOCA website](#) for great resources.



Political Affairs

Municipal Elections

Ontario Municipal Elections are now only a month away. The Preliminary Lists of Electors have been delivered to municipalities. Make sure you are **registered to vote on October 27th!**

NOTE: In Ontario Municipal elections, you are entitled to vote where you own property. Therefore, plan to vote at your cottage riding **as well as** your permanent residence.

Visit [Voter Lookup](#) for quick links to your municipality. Be sure to ask your municipality about advance polls or online voting options. Review FOCA's Municipal Election Factsheet, and find additional resources [on FOCA's Municipal Election webpage](#).



Update: Proposed Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Nuclear Waste

A second round of public hearings into the proposed DGR near the shores of Lake Huron wrapped up last week. In addition, a citizen petition against the plan has topped 70,000 signatures, and a new senate resolution has been tabled in the US. [Get updates, here, or by clicking the image at right.](#)



Association Toolkit

Members' Corner

FOCA's last Member Survey indicated that 90% of our Associations saw membership figures steady or up over the previous year. Did you read the Association success stories in the [Lake Stewards Newsletter](#)? Check out page 13, about the *Lake Wahnapiatae Home and Campers Association*, which grew from 25 to 169 members since 2011!



So, how is your membership? What have you done lately to keep existing members and to attract new ones? We want to know. Please send FOCA an [email update](#) with your success stories and case studies.

If your Association is not experiencing membership growth, FOCA is here to help with lots of [useful resources](#) and [member benefits](#).

Did you know:

1. you can now complete your Association's [FOCA membership renewal online](#)
2. FOCA can host a separate [payment portal for your Association](#), so your members can renew and pay online by credit card. (Less chasing people at the lake with hat-in-hand; now, that's a great FOCA-member benefit!)



FOCA's Silver Sponsors



Events

RECENT EVENTS:

Lakeland Regional Meeting

On September 21st, FOCA and the [Lakeland Alliance](#) co-hosted a networking meeting on the north shore of Stoney Lake. This was a valuable opportunity to rekindle old connections, and to share ideas and best practices. Representatives from Haliburton, the Kawarthas, and Hastings County discussed their experiences, common challenges, and resources they can share with one another.



FOCA looks forward to the deployment of these great ideas, for the benefit of our associations, and the 15,000+ member families in the region!

COMING UP:

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

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



Lake Links Workshop (Perth - October 25, 2014)

As mentioned in the Lake Plan survey item (above), this year's Lake Links Workshop will focus on real approaches for getting your lake community into action.

[Get details here.](#)



FOCA Fall Seminar (November, 2014)

To engage all of our far-flung membership, FOCA's 2014 Fall Seminar will be held as a webinar this November. Date and seminar details to follow soon.



About FOCA

Thanks, CFC

Special thanks to the [Canadian Film Centre](#) (CFC) in Toronto, which has graciously provided meeting space to FOCA for many years.

Pictured: members of the Board at the September 2014 meeting, outside CFC. (LtoR): Terry Kennedy, Ian White, Anne McCauley, Kay Soares, Rob Cummins, Jeff Clark, Ken Grant, Jim Kaufman. (Missing: Nancy Salmijarvi)



FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



FOCA Website - a new look!



The FOCA Website has a clean new look - check it out today: www.foca.on.ca

The resources you rely upon are still here, easier to search and in a mobile-friendly format.

There is even "Members-only" content to browse with a dedicated Member Login code. [Find out more here »](#)

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!

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