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FOCA Elert - November 2014



Political Affairs

Update: Invasive Species Act

Ontario has re-introduced the Invasive Species Act, which is intended to protect Ontario from invasive plants and animals through prevention, early detection, rapid response and eradication.

Forest pests like Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Long Horned Beetle, aquatic species including Asian carp, and plants like water soldier have the real potential to upset Ontario's natural biodiversity and can be an economic nightmare.

Learn about invasive species, the EDDMapS tracking program, and the new Invasive Species Act, on the FOCA website. [Get information here...](#)



image: Ted Lawrence

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

November 18, 2014: The DGR Joint Review Panel announced the close of public comments, with receipt of over 1900 submissions since January 2102. But the report may not come until May 2015.

[Follow this issue here...](#)



FOCA's Gold Sponsors



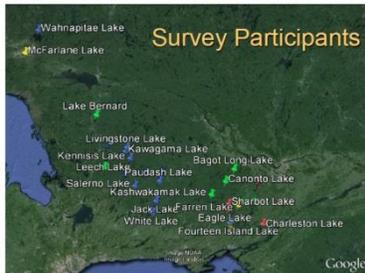
Lake Environments

Our Members Asked...underwater cables

Decommissioned underwater electrical cables - should they be removed? FOCA was contacted recently by a member Association with this question, and went directly to the source and asked Hydro One for an answer. [Read the reply, here...](#)



Image: A.Metelka



Last Call for Survey: Lake Plans into Action

Thanks to everyone who already replied to the Lake Plan Survey; more than 40 responses have been collected to date. The winner of the \$200 draw, announced by Randy French at the Lake Links Workshop, was Kawagama Lake Cottagers Association!

It's not too late to add your voice to the collected wisdom - **the survey deadline has been extended to November 28th.**

The survey contains 9 questions, and should take about 15 minutes to complete. Add your lake planning experience to the conversation. Access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/lakelinkslakeplansurvey>

Waterfront Living

High Speed Internet for Eastern Ontario - Project Completed

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), Ontario's largest rural broadband network project, recently announced completion of its project to make high-speed Internet a reality for Eastern Ontario rural residents! [Read more here...](#)



FOCA's Silver Sponsors



FOCA Fall Seminar - by Webinar!

UPDATE: To accommodate our members who reside far and near, this year's FOCA "Fall Seminar" will be held as a [two-part series of webinars](#), rather than an in-person meeting. (Therefore, our next *in-person* meeting will be in Toronto at the **FOCA Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2015**. Mark your calendar!) **See next page...**

Webinar #1: Wednesday, December 3, 2014 - FOCA's Cottage Succession Seminar:

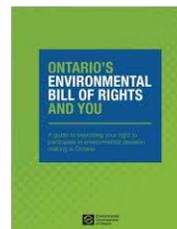
Learn how to "**Keep the 'family' in the family cottage,**" with estate lawyer Peter Lillico. Join us for this web-based edition of the road-trip seminars that have been attended by more than 1,500 people around Ontario over the past 5 years.

**** FOCA members: you will be sent registration instructions by email in the coming days.** Watch your Inbox for details, and please invite all members of your local association.



Webinar #2: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 - Ontario's Environment Commissioner - the Environmental Bill of Rights and You

This webinar will help FOCA members interested in participating in environmental law-making that impacts your waterfront experience and communities - through Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR).



Toronto International Boat Show - FREE TICKETS!

We are very excited that FOCA will be part of the "Boating Community Program" at the Toronto International Boat Show from January 10-18, 2015, meeting boaters, and dreaming of an early summer! Plan to join us there.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: We have negotiated **2 free tickets to the Boat Show** for each and every FOCA Member Association in good standing. (Yes, that is a whopping 1,000 tickets for our member Associations!)

[Click here for the details...](#)



(above = sample only!)

Recent Events

Lake Huron - Georgian Bay Summit

October 29-30, 2014 - FOCA joined nearly 85 colleagues to discuss dedication to environmental action in the Lake Huron - Georgian Bay watershed. [Find out more here...](#)

Lake Links Workshop

October 25, 2014 - FOCA participated in the Lake Links Workshop in Perth, with the theme, "*Lake Communities in Action.*" [Find out more, and get links to the day's great presentations, here...](#) Thanks to Board Member Terry Kennedy for attending Lake Links on FOCA's behalf, and to volunteer Marcia Maxwell for bringing the FOCA shirts, mugs and water bottles!



Site visit during Lake Huron - Georgian Bay Summit

Fall Cottage Life Show

October 24-26, 2014 - FOCA met with enthusiastic cottagers at the Fall Cottage Life Show. FOCA's Terry Rees spoke on the main stage about Municipal Tax Issues - the weekend before the Municipal Election.

Special thanks to our friends at [CottageFirst](#), who were on hand to answer cottage liability questions. And extra thanks to our new friends and fellow-exhibitors, [Rafters of Muskoka](#), who provided an ultra-comfy couch, lamp and coffee table for our "conversation zone." In 21 years of Cottage Life shows, we can't recall EVER being so cozy.



Stewardship - Building the Network

October 16, 2014 - FOCA participated in a Campbellford gathering of partner organizations, coordinated by the MNR Partnership Specialists within Peterborough District as an Eastern Ontario stewardship networking event.



FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



FOCA Member Spotlight: Kushog Lake Property Owners Association

Kushog Lake is passionate about protecting their loons! As described in their Fall 2014 Newsletter, the Kushog Lake "Loon Watchers" were out this past summer observing and protecting their loon population, and spreading the word to lake residents about how to coexist and keep loons on the lake.

This active team has built and installed floating loon nesting platforms to combat fluctuating water levels (they are on the Trent Severn Waterway), and have floated "Loon Nesting - Do Not Disturb" signs 30 feet



Don Kerr's Nesting Platform with Caution Sign

away, to encourage boats to slow down and avoid the nests. Loons can be affected by water fluctuations, boat wake and individuals approaching or disturbing nesting sites.

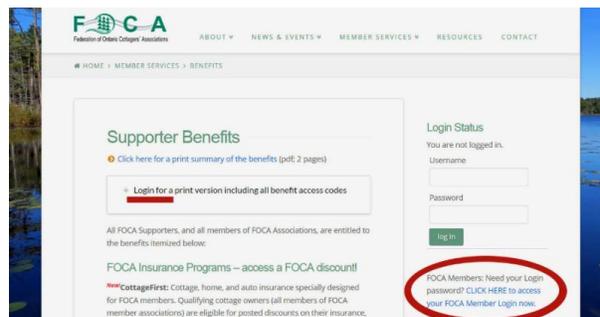
Do you have an association story to share with FOCA? We love to hear about your activities and successes! info@foca.on.ca

The Benefits of FOCA Membership

All FOCA Supporters and all members of FOCA Associations are entitled to these benefits: <http://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>

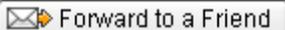
Note: Some offers from our partners and sponsors require **special access codes**; members can see this information when they **Login** to the FOCA website using their member Username and Password.

Don't have your Login yet? Refer to the image at right to find the link (circled in red) [or click here](#) to apply for your Login quickly and easily. Join hundreds of fellow-members who have Logged In for member-only materials!



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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