

FOCA Elert - January 2015



FOCA Annual General Meeting

AGM - Saturday, March 7, 2015

Members should plan to join us for the FOCA Annual General Meeting on March 7th in Toronto. This year's event will be held at the Vaughan Estates (near Sunnybrook Hospital).

At the meeting we will be approving the minutes of the 2014 AGM, approving FOCA's audited financials for 2013-14, and approving the slate of Directors for the FOCA Board for 2015-16.

In addition to the official business portion of the meeting, we will be featuring speakers on a number of political files, with updates on the latest FOCA programs and environmental issues.

More details, and the registration link, will come soon from FOCA!



Networking, at last year's event!

FOCA Webinars

REGISTER NOW for FOCA Webinar #2 -

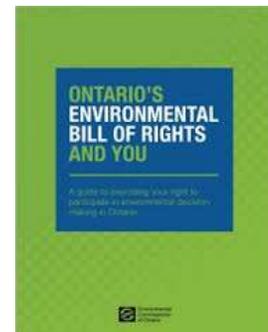
FOCA and the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario present:
The Environmental Bill of Rights and You

Join this webinar, to find out how to participate in environmental law-making that impacts your waterfront experience and community, through Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR).

Date: **Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015**

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm EST

[Click here to register now](#)



NOTE: *this is a LIVE WEBINAR and will be available only at the time & date indicated.*

Recap of FOCA Webinar #1 - Cottage Succession

We were very pleased that close to 500 members registered to participate in our December

webinar about Cottage Succession. Here's what participants told us:

- *"This was my first webinar experience, and I enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity."*
- *"I would like to thank whoever thought of this! It is hard for us to make it to your events, especially this time of year... So, this is a GREAT way to address this and other topics. This is the wave of the future and we need more of this..."*



FOCA plans to post the Cottage Succession presentation again in the Spring. [Make sure you are on our Eler list](#), to receive timely notice!

FOCA's Gold Sponsors



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A special welcome to FOCA's newest Gold Sponsor:



Political Affairs

2014 Minister's Report on Drinking Water

In December 2014, the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change released the 2014 report about municipal drinking water systems and other water issues. [Click here to access the link...](#)



Meeting with the Minister

In December 2014, FOCA met with the Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) to discuss our long-term interests in a number of the MOECC key files, specifically: water quality, our joint interest in the [Lake Partner Program](#), our work on invasive species, source water protection, and our concerns about climate change impacts on our communities and our economy.



OPP Meeting

In December 2014, FOCA also met with representatives from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on the impacts of the new funding model. FOCA will continue to seek out ways to reform the model, which can unintentionally penalize municipalities with seasonal populations. [For FOCA's summary of the issues, click here...](#)

OPP self-reporting for Crime

The off-season is, unfortunately, a time for crime in cottage country. FOCA reminds members that in 2014 the OPP adopted an Internet-based reporting system for certain types of crimes including lost property, theft from vehicles, and property damage without an officer having to be dispatched. (Only occurrences that do not involve an injury, a suspect or evidence are applicable.) [Get details and a link to the online reporting module, here...](#)



Waterfront Living

Join us this week, at the Toronto International Boat Show!

FOCA is enjoying the Boat Show, from January 10-18, 2015 at the Direct Energy Centre in Toronto.

Please drop by to join us, and start thinking SUMMER...

Come see us at Booth G-104, where we are talking about aquatic invasive species, boat safety and much more.



VIDEO: 30 seconds with Terry - at the Toronto International Boat Show!

Lake Environments: Our Lakes Under Threat

Asian Carp Update

There have been new developments in the fight against Asian carp including recent eDNA test results and new US legislation on protecting the Great Lakes. [Read the latest news here.](#)



Find information on other invasive species and the FOCA Aquatic Invasive Monitoring Program by visiting our [Invasive Species web page](#). If your association is interested in being involved in this monitoring program, please contact info@foca.on.ca to get started.

What else is in our water??

FOCA has posted recent news about the threat faced and the actions needed, to reduce the threat to our freshwater resources from [antibacterial chemicals](#) and [microplastics](#). Get informed on these topics, and stay tuned for regular updates from FOCA on these important issues.



FOCA's Silver Sponsors



Recent Events

Community Knowledge Exchange

Serving a large and diverse population using data and knowledge tools is part of FOCA's key to future success. That's why we participated in the [Community Knowledge Exchange](#) in November 2014, along with 400 other community leaders from across Canada.

This event was an opportunity to look at ways to build stronger communities with empowered citizens, and to ensure we are measuring our progress towards:

- resilient and safe communities
- clean water
- vigilant and informed waterfront residents
- thriving, sustainable and affordable communities
- thriving biodiversity



Trudeau Foundation Conference

The hundreds of participating attendees, business leaders, policymakers, NGO representatives, industry heads, researchers, and concerned Canadians made the November 2014 [Trudeau Foundation Conference](#) a real success.

The Conference, entitled *Weathering Change Pathways to Sustainability in Canada*, included a session on the "Contagion of Hope" and many discussions on building resilient economies, and communities. [David Schindler](#) (who, FOCA members will note, was the founding director of the Experimental Lakes Area) is a Trudeau Scholar, and was one of the many dignitaries who attended to share their insights and perspectives about our current predicament, and ideas about the path forward.



FOCA's Executive Director Terry Rees at the Trudeau Foundation Conference with Dr. Schindler

FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



News from FOCA Members

How does your Association stay in touch during the off-season?

Pictured at right is the Boxing Day "parade" hosted by the Big Bald Lake Association recently. (Thanks to FOCA's Tracy Logan for capturing the moment.)

Send us updates about your Association's gatherings!
info@foca.on.ca



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