

FOCA Elert - May 2015



The Long Weekend Welcome

This Elert is jam packed with news!
Thank goodness the long weekend approaches, for a little extra reading time.
Click below for a video message from FOCA's Executive Director, to start off the season:



All of us at FOCA wish you a safe and happy Victoria Day weekend,
and hope you enjoy your time at the waterfront.

#CottageSafety

The waterfront is a great place to relax and forget about everyday routines; taking steps to keep your family safe and secure will help ensure a happy long weekend - and throughout the cottage season.

FOCA has partnered with the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) to bring you "**Top 10 Tips**" for the start of cottage season. See FOCA's blog here: <http://getintheknow.ibc.ca/Blog/2015/May-2015/Cottage-Safety-for-the-May-Long-Weekend>,

and click the infographic below, to review the Top 10 #CottageSafety tips:



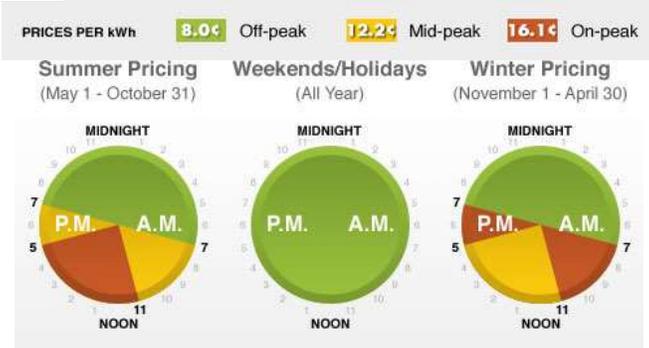
What is your role?

- put these tips into action right away
- share this information with others - reproduce the #CottageSafety infographic in your Association Newsletter, or on social media from FOCA's Facebook page:



Electricity rates still on the move

May 1, 2015 saw the introduction of [summer electricity rates](#) and new delivery rates in accordance with the [recent OEB decision](#).



Still to come are decisions about the reassignment of 153,000 customers (formerly classified as "seasonal") and related cost implications. Future changes to an all-fixed distribution charge may reduce the overall costs for the largest electricity users, but **may significantly increase costs for low-consumption customers**. FOCA will continue to push for more stable and affordable electricity rates in the face of these never-ending increases.

FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Lake Environments

Lake Partner Program results

Thank you to FOCA's lake stewards, and all those who help to sample Ontario's water bodies through the Lake Partner Program (LPP).

The most recent results (2014) for Total phosphorus and secchi depth are now available here: <http://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-sampling-assistance/>

To learn more about the LPP and how to get involved, visit: <http://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-overview/>



News: Radioactive Waste storage - Great Lakes basin

May 7, 2015 - the Joint Review Panel has released its report on the proposal to bury nuclear waste near the shore of Lake Huron. **Get the latest news here, and find out what happens next:**

<http://foca.on.ca/radioactive-waste-storage-in-the-great-lakes-basin-overview/>



Boating

May 16-22nd is North American Safe Boating Awareness Week

Our colleagues at the Canadian Safe Boating Council remind wearing a lifejacket or PFD could save your life, and the lives of family. [Get tips, here...](#)

Be Prepared

Check out CSBC's reminder, "*Why You Should Always Bring a Repair Kit*," on Paddle Canada's blog:

<http://www.paddlecanada.com/news/1415-why-you-should-bring-a-boat-repair-kit.html>



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[always-](#)

And speaking of Paddle Canada, they have reminded FOCA that **National Paddling Week** approaches, from **June 5-14th, 2015**. Register your local event, or find out about others, here:

<http://www.paddleweek.ca/default/index.cfm/events/events-calendar/>

Need to brush-up on your boating skills? Check out the course offerings from **Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons**: <http://www.cps-ecp.ca/>

In case you missed these policy updates...

Here's your quick link from FOCA to recent policy developments impacting the Ontario waterfront: <http://foca.on.ca/foca-brief-policy-updates-may-2015>

Policy
Updates

FOCA's Silver Sponsors



Invasive Species Updates

FOCA's Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Monitoring Program

All the resources you need are now available online, so please get your Association and your volunteers into action to help prevent and monitor for aquatic invasive species (AIS) on Ontario waterways.

Get details about the AIS Program from FOCA, here:

<http://foca.on.ca/ais-monitoring-program/>



Did you see FOCA's tips for boaters and anglers in the latest online edition of *Boats & Places Magazine*?

Read it here: <http://www.boatsandplaces.com/tips-for-boaters-and-anglers/>. Please share this information with a boating friend!

Associations: use these handy tip sheets from FOCA (to print out, post or reproduce in your Newsletter):

- [AIS Tips for Boaters and Anglers](#)
- [AIS Tips for Waterfront Property Owners](#)



Land Use and Planning

FOCA participates in the new Ontario Mineral Development Strategy

Maintaining important gains made through FOCA's efforts at the Ministers Mining Act Advisory Committee (MMAAC) was the focus of FOCA's recent input to the proposed Renewal of Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy.

Read FOCA's May 2015 submission to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines:

<http://foca.on.ca/foca-input-into-renewed-mineral-development-strategy/>



FOCA's Mining rep. Ted Spence (centre) at the recent mining consultations, Toronto

Lake Plan Survey Results

The results of the recent lake plan survey are in! Thanks to all the participants who shared their experiences. Access the results here: <http://foca.on.ca/lake-plan-survey-2014-results/>

Survey
results

Associations: **be sure to review the final four pages of the report** for a great list of successful lake-level activities that peer associations have undertaken to **increase engagement levels**. (This was a topic of considerable discussion at the FOCA AGM in March, so it is wonderful to have this new resource available to share. Thanks to French Planning and Lake Links for sharing these results with FOCA.)

Prepared for a cottage emergency? FOCA helps

The safety and well-being of rural waterfront residents is of significant importance to FOCA and our member associations, and to all of us who spend time in the out of doors - often many miles from local services. Given the independent and self-sufficient nature of rural living, it is vital that we are prepared in the event of an emergency.



FOCA has created a handy template you can customize and use to capture important information needed by emergency responders in cottage country. Find out more here: <http://foca.on.ca/emergency-response-in-remote-areas/>

FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



Cottage Dreams

The 2015 Cottage Dreams program is under way, and applicant numbers are up from previous years.

How to be a hero:

It is not too late to register with Cottage Dreams, to share the gift of time at your cottage with a family that has survived cancer. Get details here: <http://www.cottagedreams.ca/owners/>



Events

Recent Events:

Muskoka Stewardship Conference (May 2nd, Bracebridge) - FOCA participated in this year's conference, themed "Living in Cottage Country: What you need to know." [Event details are here...](#)

Kawartha Lake Stewards Association Spring Meeting (May 8th, Bobcaygeon) - The KLSA released their 14th annual water quality report, "The Nature of our Lakes," featuring information on phosphorus trends, climate change and invasive species, and a review of their monitoring work planned for 2015. See: <https://klsa.wordpress.com/>.

Note: KLSA were the 2002 recipients of the "FOCA Jerry Strickland Award," now the [FOCA Achievement Award](#).

Lake Stewards Water Quality Workshop/ Seminar (May 9th, Apsley) - FOCA took part in this event, co-hosted by the North Kawartha Lake Association Stewardship Network and the Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park Stewardship Committee. Presentations covered water quality issues, algae, aquatic invasive species and lake sampling protocols.



Coming Up Next:

Ontario Biodiversity Summit - Protecting What Sustains Us

May 19-22, 2015 - FOCA's Terry Rees will lead a discussion about stewardship at the upcoming Summit, which will be the first of its kind in Ontario. [Get details here...](#)

TSW & Rideau Canal offer

Get a second free permit with the purchase of select lockage permits on Parks Canada's historic canals. (Redeem by June 30th.) Details are here: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/progs/lhn-nhs/canaux-canals/can-promo.aspx>



Why Support FOCA?

FOCA is your provincial voice

FOCA sits at the table where individuals cannot. Find out more about our current priorities here: <http://foca.on.ca/category/news/>

Who supports FOCA? Member support drives this organization! Become part of the solution for waterfront Ontario. [Click here for more...](#)

FOCA represents 50,000 member families in more than 500 waterfront groups across Ontario. We support community-building by providing tools for lake associations to help them thrive. Find out more about our half-century of work: <http://foca.on.ca/about/our-history/>



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