

FOCA Elert - September 2015



Happy Labour Day long weekend from FOCA!

We hope you spend it doing whatever 'labour' you most enjoy, hopefully at the cottage.

EVENT Notice - FOCA Fall Seminar



2015 FOCA Fall Seminar: "Navigating to Association Success"

Saturday, November 7th, 2015

Vaughan Estate, Toronto

Plan to join us for this full-day members' event packed with tips for building and maintaining strong and thriving lake associations. Topics to include:

- stats from FOCA about association membership trends, use of social media, activities undertaken...
- organizing for success: how to maximize engagement at the lake
- rural networks: working with your municipality, regional knowledge & FOCA resources
- case studies and peer sharing from associations in action

FOCA Association members: register now!

Click here: <http://foca.on.ca/product/2015-foca-fall-seminar-register/>



Electricity Pricing

As directed by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) earlier this year, Hydro One responded in early August with their plan to realign their customer classes, and provided their proposal about how to lessen the year-over-year impacts to their customers.



In the face of TRIPLE DIGIT increases coming for some low-use Hydro One customers, FOCA has recently contacted the OEB to voice our concerns.

Learn more on FOCA's Electricity Pricing pages:

<http://foca.on.ca/decision-on-hydro-ones-2015-2019-distribution-rates-application/>

FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Report: Federal Government all but abandons the protection of Canada's lakes and rivers

In 2012, FOCA spoke out about the revisions to the Federal **Fisheries Act**. FOCA's concern was that the changes were less about legislative reform, and more about weakening oversight of our valuable waters. Sadly, a new report confirms that this was exactly the result.



Read more about FOCA's perspectives, and the recently-released research by University of Calgary law professor, Martin Olszynski, on the FOCA website:

<http://foca.on.ca/fisheries-act-revisions-overview/>

Water Management Plans

FOCA recently met with senior staff at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to discuss our concerns about the process for providing input, and new information into water management plans. We discovered that the **changes to the consultation process are very much on the back-burner** while MNR sorts through other pressing issues with waterpower site selection and implementation.



FOCA will remain in touch with MNR and with our members on this important issue related to water quantity management, and flows in watersheds with hydroelectric dams. Read more here: <http://foca.on.ca/water-management-plans-still-in-limbo/>

Permits for work on Crown Lands / above lake beds

Important Update:

As one outcome of the recent Superior Court ruling related to **Municipal Oversight over Boathouses** (see: <http://foca.on.ca/municipal-authority-over-boathouses-decision/>), revisions to the Public Lands Act and/or Ontario's Free Use Policy may be in the works.



This may mean new permit requirements for work done on or abutting Crown Lands, including for docks and boathouses.

FOCA has posted some brief updates here:

<http://foca.on.ca/permits-for-shoreline-work-crown-land/>. Stay tuned!

Aquatic Invasive Species Program update from FOCA

Over two dozen FOCA Member Associations have been out in the field over the past few months, monitoring their water bodies for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) as part of FOCA's AIS Prevention and Monitoring Program: <http://foca.on.ca/ais-monitoring-program/>.

Keep up the good work! And remember to report any sightings of invasive species to the **Invading Species Hotline** at 1-800-563-7711, or visit [Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program online](#).

This summer FOCA has been working closely with a number of our member associations on invasive species awareness at the local level. FOCA looks forward to reports back from these associations about their innovative ideas on educating the public on the topic, as **awareness and education are essential to prevent the spread of AIS**. Tell us what's working in your community.

Email: info@foca.on.ca.



FOCA's Deanna Panitz with Steve Kerr of the Jack Lake Association, with new AIS t-shirts, August 2015

FOCA Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Monitoring Program
Find it. Report it. Monitor it. Prevent the Spread.

OPP Marine Patrol Boats

At a recent lake association meeting, it came to FOCA's attention that Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) boats - which may move from one lake to another - are not inspected for aquatic invasive species, or washed at the end of each day or between individual lake patrols.



FOCA wrote with concerns and received a prompt response from the OPP. Click here for details: <http://foca.on.ca/opp-marine-patrols-invasive-species/>

Voting starts NOW

Canada's **Federal Election** will take place on October 19th, 2015. Did you know:

- you might be able to designate your cottage riding as your vote location for this election?
- there are ways to cast your vote before election day?

Get information and updates from FOCA about key topics in the upcoming election, here: <http://foca.on.ca/federal-election-2015/>



FOCA's Silver Sponsors



Lake Stewards Newsletter

The **2015 FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter** is on its way to Lake Stewards and association executive members of FOCA member groups; watch your mail boxes!

Topics in this year's edition include:

- Why monitor your lake?
- Lyme disease update and tips
- Wind, solar and cell tower issues in cottage country
- a feature about our partners at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre, home of the Lake Partner Program
- dams and hydroelectricity
- an update on the Experimental Lakes Area
- member updates about association success stories and best practices



Read the digital version here: <http://foca.on.ca/2015-foca-lake-stewards-newsletter/>

Association Members: Please share this link with everyone in your association! You are welcome to post the link on your own websites or Facebook pages. Let us know if you'd like a digital version of any of the articles to reproduce in upcoming lake newsletters.

Contact the office: info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622

Stewardship across borders

Binational Lake Association Network Event a Success

In mid-August, FOCA participated with lake associations within the **Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed** in Canada and the US, to learn about each others' programs and successes and to interact with local experts on water quality, aquatic invasive species, member recruitment and more. See more about the event, here:

<http://foca.on.ca/rainy-river-lake-of-the-woods-binational-stewardship/>



Lake Erie Nutrient Targets

Important bi-national work is also underway to help plan for a clean and healthy future for Lake Erie, and specifically, reducing the nutrient loads to the lake to reduce the incidence of harmful algae blooms.



Read the most recent information and input from FOCA and concerned partner organizations, along with other important Great Lakes updates, here:
<http://foca.on.ca/great-lakes-environmental-research/>

Conservation Authorities Act under review

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) is currently reviewing the Conservation Authorities Act. There are over 250 FOCA member associations in municipalities served by one (or more) of Ontario's Conservation Authorities.



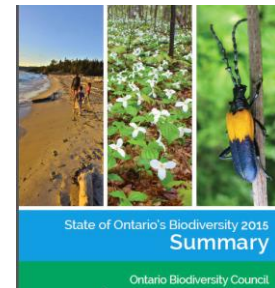
Find out more, and have your say:
<http://foca.on.ca/conservation-authorities-act-under-review/>

Report release: Ontario Biodiversity

The Ontario Biodiversity Council has released their 2015 "**State of Ontario's Biodiversity**" Report.

Find out how Ontario has been progressing towards its biodiversity targets since the 2010 Report, for 45 indicators.

Get a link to the 12-page Summary here:
<http://foca.on.ca/ontario-biodiversity/>



FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



CottageFirst

CottageFirst
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Get back to carefree



Have you gotten a quote yet?

Members in more than forty FOCA Associations have already discovered the advantages of this FOCA Member benefit. Get details here:

<http://foca.on.ca/a-benefit-for-foca-members-cottage-first/>

Exclusively available to members of FOCA, **CottageFirst** is your 'one-stop' insurance solution for Home, Cottage, Watercraft, Automobile & more.

Access a quote from **Cade Associates Insurance Brokers** for this bundled insurance package, offering unique coverages and

FOCA discounts for cottagers. www.cottagefirst.com
1-844-223-3178 (local Toronto: 416-234-9980)

Please spread the word to fellow FOCA members!

Great Lakes Funding available

Apply for a grant - Be a Great Lakes Guardian

Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change is calling on not-for-profit community groups to help protect and restore their part of the Great Lakes.

FOCA member groups have successfully applied for these grants in past years. Is it your association's turn? Apply by **October 23rd, 2015** for a Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund grant for up to \$25,000 to support your community projects with a direct environmental benefit such as:

- planting trees
- creating rain gardens
- restoring wetland habitat
- controlling invasive species
- cleaning up a beach or shoreline
- naturalizing stream banks and shorelines

Get full instructions and download the application form

here: <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/great-lakes-guardian-community-fund>



Recent Events

FOCA has been on the road again! Thank you to everyone who joined us at these events:

- August 2nd at the **Jack Lake Association (JLA) Regatta**, talking about the FOCA Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Monitoring Program. Great new AIS t-shirts created by JLA! - see the image at right.



- August 8th, at the **Baptiste Lake Association** Annual General Meeting, north of Bancroft
- also on August 8th at the **FOCA Cottage Succession Seminar** in Baysville in Muskoka, co-hosted by the **Lake of Bays Association** - with estate lawyer Peter Lillico, speaking about how to keep the 'family' in the family cottage (pictured at right). Missed the seminar? Get more information here:
<http://foca.on.ca/product/foca-cottage-succession-dvd-peter-lillico/>
- August 29th at the Pigeon Lake Draft Management Plan meeting, hosted by the **Kawartha Region Conservation Authority**



While we can't be everywhere, we appreciate all our supporters who wave the FOCA flag at their own AGMs! Please find resources below for use at *your* next local meeting.

Your role

We're counting on you to spread the word about the value of FOCA!

For an overview of FOCA's work on behalf of our 500 member Associations across Ontario, visit: <http://foca.on.ca/foca-year-in-review-2014/>



We want you to share our [news updates](#) and [fact sheets](#). **Members are always welcome to reproduce FOCA materials** from [Elerts](#), [Newsletters](#) and our extensive online [resources](#). Please credit FOCA as the source, and include our web address, where possible: <http://foca.on.ca>



[Contact the office](#) for digital slides about FOCA to use at your lake meeting, or alternate file versions of online materials to distribute through your Association meetings, newsletters or websites.

The Benefits of Membership

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

Note: The 2-page sheet about benefits that is available at the top of that webpage makes a great hand-out about FOCA for your upcoming Association meeting!

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



FOCA believes everyone has a right to hear about issues that affect waterfront Ontario. Those who have an existing business relationship with FOCA may receive email from us based on [Implied Consent](#) in Canadian Anti Spam legislation. You can unsubscribe from FOCA Elerts at any time.