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FOCA Elert - January 2016



Taking the Pulse of Cottage Associations

Thank you to the hundreds of members who took part in our **FOCA Association Survey**, late last year. We have a great deal of updated information about our member Associations' statistics and needs.

We will talk about our survey findings at the FOCA Annual General Meeting (details are below), and a summary of the survey results will be made available to all our association members in March.

Q3 What region most closely describes the location of your Association?



Congratulations to our 3 survey draw winners!

V. McCulloch (Friends of Stoco Lake) \$100 Mountain Equipment Coop gift certificate

S. Lawrence (Cedarwood Lane Cottage Assoc.) \$100 Canoe Museum gift certificate

S. Clift (Talpines Property Owners Assoc.) \$100 MEC gift certificate

FOCA AGM & Spring Seminar - March 5th, 2016

Plan to join us for FOCA's Annual General Meeting and Spring Seminar!

When: **Saturday, March 5th, 2016**

Where: York Reception Centre, Toronto (DVP & Don Mills)

Building upon the success of our Fall 2015 Seminar event, we have planned for lots of association peer-sharing, alongside our Business Meeting.



Get event details & registration link, here:

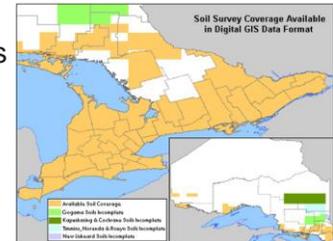
<https://foca.on.ca/2016-foca-agm-spring-seminar/>

More about 'Pulses'... and Statistics...

The United Nations has proclaimed 2016 as the "International Year of Pulses," to raise awareness of the role of these protein-rich foods in feeding the world. Pulses are part of the legume family, and refer to the dried seed, such as chickpeas, lentils or dried peas. Get information, here: <http://iyp2016.org/resources/what-are-pulses>. Canada's pulse industry serves the needs of over 150 markets around the world.



2015 was the International Year of Soils, and late last year Ontario designated "Guelph Soil" as the official Provincial Soil. This glacial-till-derived mix of loams helps Ontario's farmers grow corn, wheat, and other legumes. The Guelph Soil Series was one of the first described in the Ontario Soil Survey, which was launched in 1914. **For current soil mapping** (although much of cottage country remains unclassified), click the image at right, or visit: http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/gis/soils_ont.htm#f1



Another fun fact: Ontario's geology is another resource that has been extensively mapped, beginning in the mid-1800's, through the Canadian and **Ontario Geological Surveys**. See a slide presentation about the OGS, here: <http://www.authorstream.com/Presentation/andyfyon-1992209-ontario-geological-survey-2013-overview/>

Finally, check out this link to the **history of mineral exploration** in Canada: <http://www.republicofmining.com/2010/07/23/brief-history-of-ontario-mining/>

On the topic of statistics, FOCA reminds members that 2016 is a Census year. Every 5 years, the **Canada Census Program** provides a statistical portrait of our country. On behalf of our 50,000 members across Ontario, FOCA will bring you info as it becomes available.

Census jobs

The 2016 Census is staffing 35,000 jobs across Canada

At the moment, there are 35,000 census-related jobs that require filling! Get details, here: <https://foca.on.ca/canadas-census-supporting-our-communities/>

FOCA contributing to Onsite Wastewater discussion

After concerns last year about municipal plans for septage management, FOCA wrote an article on the topic in the recent edition of the OOWA **Onsite** Newsletter. [Read FOCA's comments here...](#) (download PDF)



As part of **Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association's** 17th annual conference, FOCA's Executive Director will be discussing the perspective from waterfront landowners with the industry leaders who service rural Ontario. FOCA's presentation on March 8th will wrap up the conference, taking place in Kingston. More OOWA conference info is available here: <http://www.oowa.org/eventsmenu/oowa-conference/>

Thank you to FOCA's Gold Sponsors!



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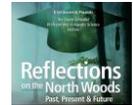
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More Upcoming Events of note

March 10, 2016 - Trent University's annual **Schindler Lecture in Aquatic Science**, featuring speaker Dr. John Pastor with "Reflections on the North Woods." [Get details here.](#) (PDF)



April 1-3, 2016 - [Spring Cottage Life Show](#), Toronto. Come visit the FOCA booth at this season-starting event!

May 27-28, 2016 - **Muskoka Summit on the Environment: Solutions for a Warming World** - FOCA is once again proud to be a Gold Sponsor of this biennial event. Look for details in the next Elert.



Thank you to FOCA's Silver Sponsors



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Recent Event: Great Lakes Talk



FOCA participated in a January event titled, "Sense of Place," hosted by the Kawartha Land Trust and Trent University.

The feature speaker was John Riley of NCC, speaking about ***The Once and Future Great Lakes Country.***



Click the image below [see next panel] to link to video of the talk:



Says Riley, "**Great lakes country is a blessed part of the world. We are about two-thirds of one percent of humanity that are responsible for almost twenty percent of the globe's surface fresh water. This is prime real estate.**"

Warming Trends

FOCA heard of **more than one** cottager who went water skiing over the Christmas break, and the talk at the moment is all about ice thickness and patches of open water!

Last month, a global study was released, reporting the world's lakes are warming surprisingly quickly due to climate change. In particular, Canadian lakes and those that are ice-covered in winter are warming twice as fast as many others.

Find a link to the study on FOCA's Climate Change webpage:
<https://foca.on.ca/climate-change-and-waterfront-ontario/>



Snowmobile Safety

The OPP and Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs issued a [joint release](#) last week, on the topic of safe snowmobiling.

Beyond the basic concerns of checking for ice safety, snowmobilers are encouraged to service and inspect sleds before riding; stay connected using GPS, cell or other tracking technology; prepare for first aid or survival needs, and refresh familiarity with safety tips.

Get caught up, here: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/snowmobile-safety.shtml>



Thank you to FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



The early bird gets the lock pass...

Parks Canada has announced that avid boaters can take advantage of their "Early Bird Offer" until March 31st:

- receive 10% off mooring with the purchase of a seasonal lockage & mooring package (\$1 off per foot), or one free night of mooring with the purchase of a 6-day permit.



You can even purchase online. Get info and links on FOCA's TSW/Rideau Waterways webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/tsw-and-rideau-canal-water-management-updates/>

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 Elets at any time.

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