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Happy Canada Day long weekend!



FOCA Elert - July Long Weekend 2016

Spend a minute with FOCA's Executive Director, with a dock permit update, and a request!
Click the image below to view the YouTube video:



For more information about FOCA's work on this file over the past year, and links to letters to the Minister written by FOCA and our Member Associations, visit:
<https://foca.on.ca/municipal-authority-over-boathouses-decision/>

Safety & Risk Management

Fire Concerns

As of June 29th, all of north- and south-eastern Ontario is posted as either HIGH or EXTREME fire danger. FOCA urges you to observe all local fire restrictions, to ensure everyone has a safe long weekend! Find out more about current fire conditions and related information from the Ontario Forest Fire webpage: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires>



image: Kawartha Now

You can also read a new article about fire safety and flying lanterns, from Kawartha Now: <http://www.kawarthanow.com/kawarthanowguide/2016/06/28/canada-day-fire-safety/>

FOCA's Gold-level Sponsors



Lake Environments

It's Report Card Time - for Ontario's Lakes!

FOCA and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change are pleased to release the **Lake Partner Program Report Card**. This new publication provides a snapshot of the state of Ontario's lakes, along with important information and links.

Visit FOCA's Lake Partner webpage to access a copy of the Report Card, and related information:

<https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-overview/>



Climate Change Legislation

In May, Ontario passed new legislation, the *Climate Change Mitigation and Low-Carbon Economy Act*, which will raise money from Ontario's cap and trade program for a new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account to invest in green projects and initiatives that reduce emissions. For more from the province on this topic, visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change-strategy>



June 29th (Ottawa) - Read about how our North American political leaders are committing to [show global leadership in addressing climate change](#).

NEW! Climate Change Publication from FOCA

FOCA has created a new resource titled, ***Managing Your Waterfront Property in a Changing Climate***. Find out about the signs of climate change in cottage country, and get tips to help adapt your own property to these conditions. Members may contact the FOCA office to request print copies, which will be available shortly!

Visit the FOCA website to download a PDF copy of the publication: <https://foca.on.ca/managing-your-waterfront-property-in-a-changing-climate/>



Political Affairs & Policy Updates

Federal and Provincial Ministers - Updates

Earlier this month, the Ontario Premier shuffled the Provincial Cabinet and announced several new Ministers, including some key posts related to FOCA's ongoing advocacy efforts. See the complete Ontario Cabinet list on FOCA's Who's Who webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/provincial-government-whos-who-the-cabinet/>

In separate news: [Dominique LeBlanc](#) has recently been appointed as the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, replacing Hunter Tootoo, and will be the key player in reviewing and restoring the important protections afforded our lakes and rivers through the [Fisheries Act](#).

Property Taxation - MPAC Assessments

Property Assessments continue to roll out across Ontario, with large sections of cottage country due for release mid-July including: Haliburton, Muskoka, Parry Sound and the Kawartha Lakes region. Once the new assessments are released for your area, you can review [market trends](#).

Visit FOCA's webpage for information about how to file a Request for Reconsideration if you think MPAC got your assessment wrong: <https://foca.on.ca/how-to-challenge-your-property-assessment/>. Also, see the link on that webpage to a new video by MPAC about their online portal, "About My Property," to learn more about how your property was assessed, see the information MPAC has on file, and compare your property to others in your neighbourhood.



Waterfront Living

Cottage Succession Seminar Series:

Join FOCA and lawyer Peter Lillico at one of our in-person events this summer:

- Saturday, July 9th with the Cavendish Community Ratepayers Association (Kawarthas)
- Sunday, August 14th with the Lake Networking Group (Eastern Ontario)
- Sunday, August 21st with the Salerno Devil's Lake Cottagers' Association (Haliburton)

The topic of these sessions is "**Cottage Sharing Agreements**," a critical part of the process, whether your cottage changes hands this year or later. Learn about the pitfalls, and how to set your family up for success. Lillico explains:

"The single most important step a parent can take is to ensure that a Cottage Sharing Agreement is developed during their lifetimes with the children as part of the overall cottage succession plan. It is not lack of interest, capital gains tax or other financial pressures that result in most family cottages going up for sale; it is a consequence of friction within the family that arises from sharing ownership and usage."



These events are FREE to FOCA Members or \$10 at the door for non-members. **Register now** to receive location details and to secure your spot: info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622

FOCA's Silver-level Sponsors



Upcoming Regional Events

Rideau Canal Management Plan - Meeting date change!

FOCA had previously sent notice to our eastern Ontario members about a series of upcoming meetings about canal management. **PLEASE NOTE:** Parks Canada notified us this week that the event planned for Kingston on Thursday, **June 30, 2016 has been cancelled** and will be re-scheduled... stay tuned. Remember, you can still submit comments about the Rideau by email to rideaucanal@infoapc.gc.ca.

City of Kawartha Lakes - Environmental Round-up Days

Drop off **hazardous household waste**, electronics, and bulky plastics free-of-charge at these one-day events. Backyard composters will be available for sale. Please check the list of accepted items online before arriving! <https://www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca/residents/solid-waste-services/round-up-days>. Upcoming events (9am to 1pm):
Fenelon Falls - Saturday, July 9 @ Fenelon Falls Community Centre
Bobcaygeon - Saturday, July 23 @ Bobcaygeon Public School

Small-scale Waterpower Development Workshops

In addition to the four meetings held in June, the Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) has now announced one further session in the **Grey County area on August 10th, 2016** at 1pm (@ Council Chambers of Municipality of Grey Highlands). FOCA Members are invited to participate in these discussions with municipalities, public sector entities and other partners in new small-scale waterpower development.

Kawarthas - Blue Canoe Visits are Underway

Kawartha Conservation's "Blue Canoe" program is back this summer on lakes in the Municipality of Trent Lakes and the City of Kawartha Lakes. From June until the end of August, the team will be travelling dock-to-dock sharing lake info, shoreline restoration techniques, and best practices to keep your lake healthy. **This year's effort includes a new native-plant distribution program; you may be eligible to receive \$50 worth of free plant materials through this program!** For a list of upcoming events, or to invite the team to your association AGM, or schedule a Blue Canoe visit near you, visit:

<http://kawarthaconservation.com/BlueCanoe>



Muskoka - Climate Change presentation

Wednesday, July 13th in Gravenhurst - "Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka," Muskoka Watershed Council's Environmental Lectures Series presentation by Dr. Peter Sale. [Details...](#)

Recent Events

Another Informative Muskoka Summit!

FOCA was pleased to participate in the 4th **Muskoka Summit on the Environment (MSE)**, "Solutions for a Warming World," in Bracebridge, May 27-28. In addition to a strong presence of representatives from across cottage country, the Summit featured several internationally renowned speakers: Green Party leader Elizabeth May and David Miller, President of World Wildlife Fund Canada, spoke on the Paris agreement; McGill University's Catherine Potvin on a [sustainable Canadian dialogue](#), Nigel Roulet of McGill University on methane risks from northern development, Stewart Elgie, chair of Sustainable Prosperity and Andy Heintzman of Investeco Capital Corp spoke on a "green" economy and investments.

As is the case from all the previous MSE events, the event resulted in a summarizing Communique. Download here: [Final Communique from the Muskoka Summit](#). (PDF, 4 pages)



FOCA's current E.D. with past President Barry Mitchell @ Muskoka Summit

Ottawa Riverkeeper event



FOCA was pleased to be part of the annual Ottawa Riverkeeper Gala, June 1st. The Ottawa Riverkeeper is one of 290 Waterkeeper organizations protecting waterways in 34 countries. Learn more about the work of the Riverkeeper here: <http://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca/>

Pictured: Terry Rees of FOCA, Ottawa Riverkeeper Meredith Brown and supporters at the Gala. Image, Martin Lipman.

Lake Management Planning Meeting

June 29th - FOCA attended the Community Advisory Panel Meeting at Kawartha Conservation to discuss recent developments in lake management planning in the City of Kawartha Lakes. As a Community Advisory Panel member, FOCA actively participates in the lake plan development process and has a responsibility to promote [Lake Management Planning](#) projects among peers and lake stakeholders. At this meeting the development plans for several lakes were discussed including those for Pigeon Lake, Four Mile Lake and Shadow Lake, among others.



National Canoe Day & a new record!

FOCA congratulates everyone who participated in **National Canoe Day** events on June 26th. In Peterborough, our partners at the Canadian Canoe Museum and many others took part in "Lock n' Paddle," setting a record for the most canoes and kayaks in the Peterborough Lift Lock.

How many craft set the record? **138!**
Image courtesy Parks Canada.

Cade's Corner

Our partners at Cade Associates Insurance Brokers remind you that the Ontario Auto Insurance Policy has changed, with some important reductions in coverage of which you should be aware. These changes impact every auto policy in Ontario on their first renewal on or after June 1st, 2016. [Read more...](#)



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Cottage & Home Insurance Package for FOCA Members

Profiling Conservation Leaders

Partner Profile: Ontario Land Trust Alliance

FOCA has a long-standing commitment to supporting the stewardship of private lands, to ensure our waterfronts remain healthy, thriving and enjoyable places to live. One option for leaving a lasting environmental legacy includes the use of property easements or other legal tools to ensure the property you treasure is managed and maintained in perpetuity, through a Land Trust.

Pictured at right: FOCA's Executive Director with other past and present members of the Board of the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy (now Kawartha Land Trust) celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the KLT in 2011.



To learn more, or to find the land trust in your area, visit:

<http://ontariolandtrusts.ca/find-a-land-trust/>

For our American friends with cottages in Ontario:

In early June, FOCA met up with the **American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (AF)** to discuss the connection between conservation and cottage succession planning for American owners of property in Ontario's cottage country.

AF helps U.S. taxpayers learn about and address the challenges of Canadian capital gains, and explore how they can create a conservation strategy for their lands that will meet their financial goals.

Get info, including links to AF, here:
<https://foca.on.ca/land-trusts-partners-in-conservation/>

Hello Americans! Did you know you are (or will be) a Canadian taxpayer?



Our partners say that many aging landowners are trying to determine to whom they should give their cherished lakefront, island or retreat, and how. Unfortunately, Americans are often making estate plans without realizing there will be Canadian tax liabilities that could force their heirs to sell land they love in order to raise money.

The events hosted by Rainy Lake Conservancy, Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust and Georgian Bay Land Trust attracted a total of nearly 60 people eager to protect their properties, and pass them to the next generation. Each of the events featured a Canadian

FOCA's Bronze-level Sponsors



FOCA Member Benefits

NEW offer: Bear resistant garbage bins

In conjunction with our sponsor, Beaver Homes and Cottages, FOCA is very pleased to announce this new member benefit, **available to all FOCA Members, only until July 23rd**:

Click image above to open a [PRINTABLE](#) version of this offer, which is available to all members of our [Association Members](#), and our [FOCA Supporters](#).

(Image not showing? Offer Overview: **Save \$100** on a TyeDee Bin at participating Home Hardware, Home Building Centre, Home Hardware Building Centre Stores. **Offer expires July 23, 2016!** Order in-store; allow 4-7 days for stock delivery.)

Click here to see all your FOCA Benefits

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

Association Tools

Tips for Association Meetings

Many of our member Associations will hold lake meetings this summer, and 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-2015/>

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>



Association Support

If your Association is not experiencing membership growth, FOCA is here to help with lots of useful resources and member benefits. Did you know:

1. you can now complete your [Association's FOCA membership renewal online](#) (especially handy in case of a postal strike)
2. FOCA can host a separate payment portal for your Association, so [your members can renew and pay online by credit card](#). (Less chasing people at the lake with hat-in-hand; now, that's a great FOCA-member benefit!)
3. **FOCA can host your Association webpage!** Big on enthusiasm, but low on technical support? [Contact FOCA](#) to find out how FOCA can establish a web presence for your Association, hosted via the FOCA website.
4. There are lots of additional resources tailored to associations' needs. Search here: <https://foca.on.ca/toolkit-overview/>

A Two-Way Conversation

What have you done lately to keep existing members and to attract new ones? **We want to know!** Please [send FOCA an email update](#) with your success stories and case studies.

And while you're at it, **nominate your Association** for the next [FOCA Achievement Award!](#)

Notices & Opportunities

Haliburton - water level information

The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) has produced a new document, "***What is the Historic Water Level Range on my Lake?***" with a summary of water level fluctuations for the period 1988 to 2013. [Click here to download the document](#). (PDF, 3 pages)

New group formed to stop Lake Huron Nuclear Waste Dump

The citizens' organization that successfully fought a nuclear fuel dump in Port Elgin and Southampton has turned their attention to stopping a planned nuclear waste dump on the shore of Lake Huron. The group formerly known as SOS Saugeen Shores has rebranded as **SOS Great Lakes**, to reflect their objective of building awareness among the 40 million people who rely on the Great Lakes for drinking water. Visit: www.sosgreatlakes.org.

Lifelong Learning

FOCA's member associations are full of passionate and dedicated lake stewards. Many of these lifelong learners may benefit from the online certificate programs offered through the **Contact North | Contact Nord online learning centre** in Muskoka North Simcoe. Course topics include: Climate Change Policy & Practice, Environmental Management, Geographic Informational Systems for Environmental Management, Renewable Energy, and Water Resource Management. Contact: www.learn.environment.utoronto.ca or 1-855-699-6330 for more information.

About FOCA

FOCA Board of Directors

The FOCA Board of Directors held their pre-summer meeting in Peterborough in mid-June. This was an important opportunity to review the year-to-date progress, meet with the staff, and plan for the busy months ahead! For more about your Board of Directors, visit:

<https://foca.on.ca/about/team/>



2016 Project: Assessing Effects of Multiple Stressors on Inland Lakes

In collaboration with our science partners at MOECC and MNR, FOCA is working with the [Melles Lab](#) in the Department of Chemistry and Biology at Ryerson University on a pilot project to develop land-based predictors of multiple stressors for Ontario's inland lakes. This geospatial database will ultimately provide FOCA members with a way to visualize and assess their lake's water quality in relation to other lakes in the Province. This project is being supported in part through Mitacs, a national, non-for-profit organization that works with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from over 50 universities to apply their specialized expertise to applied research challenges.



*Pictured in the FOCA office:
Shoikot Iftekhhar and Dr. Stephanie
Melles of Ryerson University*

FOCA is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations,
the voice of the waterfront for over 50 years

info@foca.on.ca | 705-749-3622 | <https://foca.on.ca>

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FOCA believes everyone has the right to hear about issues that affect waterfront Ontario.

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