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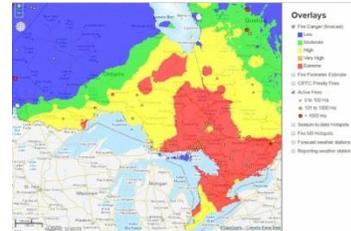


FOCA Elert - August 2016

Safety & Risk Management

Fire Warnings

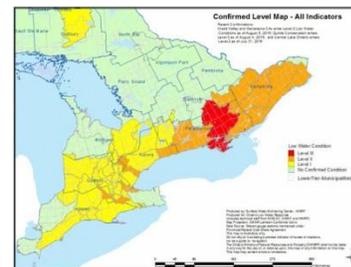
This week, large sections of southern Ontario are forecast at "extreme" danger of fire, according to the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System. **Click the image at right**, to open a larger copy of the fire danger map, at August 9, 2016.



FOCA advises you to be mindful of conditions, and check with [your local municipality](#) about fire restrictions. Get more tips about fire safety in cottage country, including a link to the interactive national fire map, here: <https://foca.on.ca/fire-safety-overview/>

Low Water Warnings

The most recent report of low water conditions in Ontario, produced by the Surface Water Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), shows parts of southeastern Ontario at Level 3 low water conditions. **Click the image at right**, to open a larger copy of the low water map, at August 5, 2016. Conservation Authorities (CA) in many affected areas have issued low water notices, including calls for voluntary reductions of non-essential water use in those regions. To find your local CA in Ontario, [click here](#).

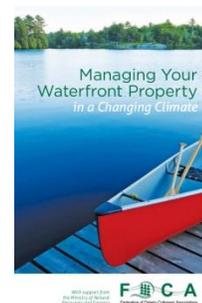


Note that one of the key outstanding recommendations from Ontario's Environmental Commissioner (from the 2011-12 ECO Report) is that the MNR fulfill its commitment to complete a full policy review of the **Ontario Low Water Response Plan (OLWRP)**. Download the full ECO report, [here](#). (PDF; 198 pages; OLWRP recommendations begin on p101)

Climate Change in Cottage Country

Members are reminded to read and share FOCA's new publication, *Managing Your Waterfront Property in a Changing Climate*, about the changes we expect to experience in cottage country, and how to adapt. **Click the image at right**, or follow the link below to access the digital version of the new 20-page booklet from FOCA:

<https://foca.on.ca/managing-your-waterfront-property-in-a-changing-climate/>



Waterfront Living

FOCA Cottage Succession Seminar Series

Last call to join us at one of our **FINAL** Cottage Succession events this summer!

- Sunday, **August 14th** with the Lake Networking Group (Perth)
- Sunday, **August 21st** with the Salerno Devil's Lake Cottagers' Association (Irondale in the Haliburton region)

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

The topic of these 2-hour 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, with estate lawyer Peter Lillico:

"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."



FOCA's Gold-level Sponsors



Publications from FOCA

2016 FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter



Hot off the "digital press" - read the newest FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter, with articles about water quantity, algal blooms, property assessments and much more. **Click the image at right**, or follow this link:

<https://foca.on.ca/2016-foca-lake-stewards-newsletter/>

Please share this information with your friends and neighbours!

A print copy of the Newsletter is provided to the executive members of all of FOCA's member Associations, as well as our individual supporters. Watch your mailbox.



Lake Environments

Blue-Green Algae

With all this warm weather, conditions are favourable for algae growth, some of which may be cyanobacteria (blue-green algae). Read more about efforts to predict algal blooms, on page 6 of the new [FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter](#).

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has launched a new online resource, "**Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)-Associated Illness**," which includes info about sources of exposure, symptoms, prevention and more. Access the HAB site link and related information on FOCA's webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/blue-green-algae-know-it-and-report-it/>



image: Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Invasive Species - What's your Plan?

Whether you're boating, hiking, gardening or fishing, YOU are an important part of the plan to prevent invasive species in cottage country.

Please download the **Cottage Action Plan**, to help you and your guests keep unwanted invaders at bay. Get the plan by clicking the image at right, or follow this link: <http://bit.ly/28OZDAW>



Share this information with others!



Lyme Disease

Watch a brief video interview with FOCA's Executive Director and Peterborough's Medical Officer of Health, discussing what you need to know about Lyme disease in cottage country:



Political Affairs & Policy Updates

Federal Government Provides New Funding for the ELA

On August 10th, the federal government formally committed \$1.7 million over 2 years to support the IISD-Experimental Lakes Area (ELA), a renowned freshwater research station that conducts important long-term and whole-lake experiments. Find out more about the announcement, background on the ELA, and FOCA's support for freshwater science, here:

<https://foca.on.ca/saving-the-ela>



image courtesy IISD-ELA

MNRF Sticking to their Dock Permitting Bureaucracy

As of this date, there is no indication the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will be substantially revising their approach to requiring **permits for docks** over 15 square metres. This, despite considerable input and concern expressed by FOCA and many of our member groups and individuals. Follow this issue, here:

<https://foca.on.ca/municipal-authority-over-boathouses-decision/>



Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights up for Review

Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) was first introduced over 20 years ago, and is a tool that affords citizens the right to participate and be consulted in decision-making on some environmental projects and government decisions. Since the EBR was enacted, a number of important environmental principles have emerged (including concepts such as 'polluter pays' and the 'precautionary principle'); as a result, the [EBR is under review](#). Have your say! **Comment by November 8, 2016**. Final recommendations are expected to be released in March 2017.



Pictured: Environmental Commissioner Dianne Saxe at the FOCA office in early 2016.

Conserving Ontario's Wetlands - Comment Period

The proposed **Wetland Conservation Strategy** for Ontario sets out a series of actions the government will undertake over the next 15 years to improve wetland conservation, and is intended to include a clear vision, goals and outcomes for wetlands in Ontario.

The Strategy and lots of background has been posted on the [Environmental Registry](#) (search for posting # 012-7675). The **public review and comment period** extends for 100 days, until Nov.16, 2016. *Note: "Wetland Conservation in Ontario: A Discussion Paper" provides some background on the consultations that led to the Strategy, and can be found on the [EBR](#) as posting # 012-4464.*



image: Kirk Doughty

FOCA's Silver-level Sponsors



Upcoming Regional Events

Haliburton - Speaker Series: Bev Clark on Lakes

Wednesday August 17th - Bev Clark, scientist and long-time friend of FOCA, will present a mix of fascinating lake science stories mixed with crazy anecdotes collected over his 40 year career in the talk, "**Lakes I have known.**" Read the event notice and how to register, by [clicking here](#).



Stewardship Seguin - Speaker Series: Species at Risk talk

Thursday, August 18th - Jeremy Rouse, Management Biologist with the MNRF will speak about his work on **Species at Risk** in the Parry Sound area since 2000. Bring your snake and turtle questions! (7pm @ Orrville Community Centre; contact Seguin Township 705-732-4300 ext.262)



Great Lakes - Microplastics Collection Project

Saturday, August 20th - citizen scientists around the Great Lakes are invited to assist in **water sampling for microplastics**, as part of a global microplastics project being led by the Marine & Environmental Research Institute, Maine. Get registered as a volunteer, here: <http://exxpedition.com/greatlakes2016/>.



Learn more about the issue of microplastics in our water, here:

<https://foca.on.ca/microplastics-at-alarming-levels-in-canadian-lakes-and-rivers/>

Cade's Corner

Read about "**Cottage Insurance Tips**" in the most recent [FOCA Newsletter](#) (see page 10) for an overview from our partners at Cade Associates Insurance Brokers re: cottage coverages, liability issues, fire protection and rebuilding values.

Members in more than four dozen FOCA member Associations have already taken advantage of this FOCA benefit: access to the **CottageFirst** group insurance package.

When will you get your quote, to find out if you could be saving too?

CottageFirst
Insurance

Get back to carefree

Learn More →

Cottage & Home Insurance Package for FOCA Members

Notices & Opportunities

Public Notice for Parking Projects in Kawartha Highlands

Ontario Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry invites public comment by August 22nd on 4 separate proposals to improve existing parking facilities at Bottle Lake, Cold Lake (Catchacoma Narrows), Anstruther Lake, and Long Lake in Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park. Download the Notice [by clicking here](#). (PDF; 6 pages)



Funding for Community Facilities

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has announced one-time grants starting at \$5,000 to support local capital needs, as part of the 150th anniversary of Ontario's place in Canada in 2017. Associations that have community buildings may be eligible for funds to repair, renovate or retrofit existing community facilities. Apply by 5pm EST on September 14, 2016 for the **Ontario150 Community Capital Program**. Get details here: <http://www.otf.ca/Ontario150>



Directory of Ontario Citizen Science (DOCS)

Looking for other opportunities to become engaged as a citizen scientist? Check out the new online DOCS from Ontario Nature, a searchable tool that connects you with **volunteer opportunities** across the province that have biological, environmental or conservation goals. FOCA's Lake Partner Program is just one of the programs included in the listings!

<https://www.ontarionature.org/directory-of-citizen-science/home.php>



Native Plants and Site Visits in The Land Between

Shoreline owners on priority sensitive lake habitats, landowners with large upland tracts, or owners of diverse wetland habitats in the Land Between may be eligible for native flowering plants and site visits, as part of "The Greenway Project." [Click here to download the notice](#). (PDF; 1 page)



Partner Profile

Georgian Bay Land Trust - Kids' Conservation Quest events!

"Conservation Quest" is an initiative for kids between ages 8 to 11 with public sessions about the flora and fauna of Georgian Bay, and how to be a good steward. This was the third year of volunteer programming from GBLT.

For more ideas about ways to raise the next generation of lake stewards, see FOCA's article in the newest [Lake Stewards Newsletter](#) (page 16)!



image courtesy GBLT

Recent Events

We've been missing our Executive Director around the FOCA office, and here's why:

FOCA at Golden Lake

On July 2nd, FOCA's Terry Rees attended and spoke at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the [Golden Lake Property Owners Association](#), in Renfrew County. *Pictured at right: Terry (second from the right) with GLPOA representatives.*



FOCA at Minnicock Lake

On July 16th, Terry attended and spoke at the **Minnicock Lake Cottage Association** AGM in Highlands East, Haliburton. *Pictured at left: the lovely outdoor meeting location!*

FOCA at Northern Bruce Peninsula

On July 19th while traveling to Tobermory, Terry spoke at a meeting of the [Northern Bruce Coalition of Property Owners Associations](#). Emergency preparedness was one of several topics featured.



FOCA at Lake Matinenda

On August 6th, Terry was on the road yet again! This time, he journeyed to Lake Matinenda near Blind River to speak at the [Lake Matinenda Cottage Owners Association](#) AGM. He stopped along the North Channel of Lake Huron, to talk about implications of the ongoing hot, dry weather this August. Click the image below to view his video blog:

[see video link on next page!]



FOCA Member Benefits

Benefit Highlight: Discount on Cottage Life Magazine

All FOCA members, including everyone in our member Associations as well as our Supporters, can receive a special discount on subscriptions OR renewals of Cottage Life Magazine!

FOCA Members pay only \$3/issue (that is a total of \$24 for 8 issues), including free digital access. Get details here: <https://foca.on.ca/cottage-life-magazine-an-offer-for-foca-members/>, and use your [FOCA Member Login](#) to access the promo code for this offer!



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!

FOCA's Bronze-level Sponsors



About FOCA

FOCA President receives Honour

Terry Kennedy, President of the FOCA Board of Directors, was recognized together with his wife Judy and others, for **community volunteerism** in their home Township of Central Frontenac. Read the Frontenac Gazette article [by clicking here](#).

Congratulations, Terry and Judy!

You can read more about FOCA's President in the [FOCA Newsletter](#) (page 2).



Seniors of the Year

*Craig Bakay
From left, Arlene Uens, Olden, Marcel Giroux, Judy Kennedy, Kennebec, Dep. Mayor Bill MacDonald, Terry Kennedy, Kennebec, Colleen Steele, Hinchinbrooke. Honoree Wayne Robinson, Oso, had a previous commitment and couldn't attend the ceremony.*

FOCA Member Associations

What's in a (place) name? - Debating Ston(e)y Lake

Several FOCA Member Associations have variant name spellings for their lakes and/or association names. One example is the Jack Lake Association, known to others as the Jack's Lake Association.

Another example surrounds Stony Lake...or is it Stoney? Kawarthas historian Elwood Jones weighs in, with this recent article published by the Peterborough Examiner:

[Is it Stony Lake or Stoney Lake?](#)

Have a name debate raging at your lake? Let us know about it! info@foca.on.ca

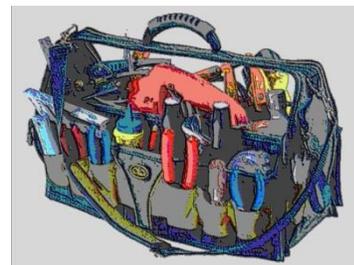
Association Tools

Did you know:

9 out of 10

FOCA member Associations reported that their membership figures last year were steady or up? If your Association is not experiencing growth, FOCA has tools and resources for you, including:

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 us](#) to find out how FOCA can establish a web presence for your Association.
4. There are lots of additional resources from FOCA that are tailored to lake associations' needs. **Start your 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 Lake Association** for the next [FOCA Achievement Award!](#) Large or small, this award celebrates the successes of the waterfront community.

**FOCA Achievement
Award
APPLY NOW!**

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>

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

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

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