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Sent: September 1, 2016

FOCA Elert - Labour Day Weekend 2016



FOCA Fall Seminar - register now!

Reverse-Engineering Successful Lake Associations

Join FOCA in Toronto on **Saturday, November 12th** for our Fall Seminar for members, devoted to tools and tips to strengthen Associations. Space is limited, and last year's event sold out!

Get details and a link to register, here:

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



Some comments from past event attendees & survey respondents:

~"The meetings are a great place to network! ... [with] excellent topical speakers."

~"FOCA is the 'hub' of the wheel of like-minded water related organizations."

~"Thank you for a great day. ... Still too excited to think."

Lake Environments

Asian Carp found in Lake Erie

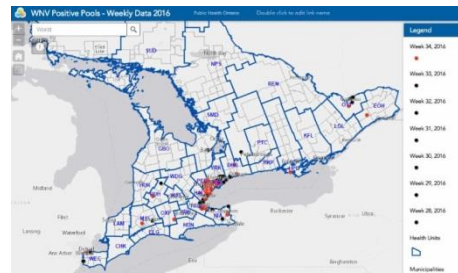
The Ontario Conservation Officers Association reported on August 29th that an Asian Carp was caught in the net of a commercial fisherman off Point Pelee a few days ago. Subsequent tests revealed the fish was fertile. Keep up-to-date on the Asian Carp issue, here: <https://foca.on.ca/asian-carp/>

Pictured at right: the Grass Carp found off Point Pelee. Image courtesy: Ontario Conservation Officers Association.



West Nile Virus

The most recent statistics (as of August 20, 2016) compiled by Public Health Ontario show West Nile Virus has been detected in 94 batches of mosquitoes collected across the province. Almost one-third of these findings came during the week of August 14-20. To date in 2016, one human case of West Nile Virus has been reported in Ontario.



West Nile Virus is a disease carried by mosquitoes. For more information on West Nile Virus, its causes, symptoms, risks, treatment, and prevention, [click here](#). To learn about West Nile surveillance, detection and history in Ontario, visit [Public Health Ontario](#).

Atypical Algae Decrease this week in Lake Erie

Historically, decreases in Lake Erie algae bloom intensity in late August are unusual, yet the folks at NOAA (the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) report that [blooms have diminished this week](#) in all areas of western Lake Erie, and toxin concentrations were found at levels well below recreational risk thresholds. **This is the best condition going into Labour Day weekend since 2012.** To download [this week's report click here](#) (PDF, 2 pages).

Blue-green Algae Blooms

Meanwhile, blue-green algae bloom reports on inland waters continue to emerge, including on [Muskrat Lake](#) in Renfrew County. There is a suspected bloom on Three Mile Lake in Muskoka. ([Download the Public Notice](#); PDF, 1 page)

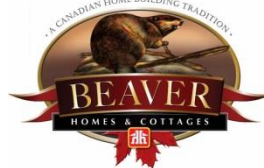


Blue-green algae image courtesy MOECC

Learn more about blue-green algae here: <https://foca.on.ca/blue-green-algae-know-it-and-report-it/>

Read the article about algae in the [FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter](#) (see pages 6-7).

FOCA's Gold-level Sponsors



Waterfront Living

Community Preparedness for Emergencies: Are We Ready?

Ontario communities have different levels of readiness, and recent remarks from emergency management professionals suggest there is much work to be done. Get more information on the FOCA [Emergency Preparedness webpage](#), and take appropriate steps to prepare yourself and your family.



Pictured: FOCA spoke at the N. Bruce Coalition of Property Owners Associations' meeting in July 2016, where emergency preparedness was a topic of discussion.

Upcoming Regional Events

Bruce Trail Geology Hikes

From **September 24th** into October, a series of guided geology hikes will be held in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Find details, here:

<http://brucetrail.org/events/128-bruce-trail-geology-hikes-geology-101-on-foot-fall-2016-september-24-2016>



Lake Links Workshop

Hold the date! The 2016 edition of the Lake Links Workshop will take place in Perth on **Saturday, October 22nd**, and FOCA will be participating in the day's scheduled talks. Stay tuned for more details in the next Elert.



Wild About Nature Gala

On **October 23rd**, 2016 the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is hosting the Wild About Nature Gala event. This annual celebration is a great opportunity to meet and celebrate this year's Enviro-Heroes, participate in live or silent auctions, and enjoy a delicious buffet dinner in the company of your local Land Trust community. Find out how to reserve your tickets, here:



Haliburton
Highlands
Land Trust

<http://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/events-programs-2/wild-about-nature-gala-2016/>

FOCA's Silver-level Sponsors



Recent Events

Cottage Succession Seminars

In recent weeks, FOCA held our final in-person seminars for 2016 on the topic of passing the cottage to the next generation. Estate lawyer Peter Lillico spoke on August 14th in **Perth**, and on August 21st in **Iroindale** (Haliburton) about creating a cottage sharing agreement.

This fall, FOCA will release a video recording of the 2016 seminar, "**Cottage Sharing Agreements**," for those who were not able to join us in person, or who want to review this topic with family members. [Contact the FOCA office](#) to be updated when the new video is released!



FOCA and Science Partners in Dorset

On August 18, FOCA participated in an Inland Lakes & Northern Science Unit **Science Day** with our partners at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC). Presentations were made on inland lake research including the Lake Partner Program (LPP), understanding multiple stressors on lakes, Zooplankton eDNA research, long-term lake recovery studies, and more.



FOCA and partners at Science Day

An Update about the Lake Partner Program:

Christie Davies, the FOCA Assistant Lake Stewardship Coordinator at DESC reports that **1,160 water sampling kits have been received back** at DESC this summer, resulting in approximately 2,320 Total Phosphorus samples run by the lab, and another 540 Calcium samples tested. Read more about the LPP and Christie's ongoing work on page 22 of the [FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter](#).



Lake Partners: please return your samples to DESC, if you haven't already! Many thanks to all the incredible volunteers who make this program such a success.

Cade's Corner

Fall Reno Plans?

If you are considering new construction or a renovation project, remember that insurance is an important piece of the puzzle that requires attention **BEFORE** work begins, to ensure your construction investment is properly protected. For more, see: <http://cadeinsurance.com/2016/07/01/renovations-new-builds/>



CottageFirst
Insurance

Get back to carefree

Learn More 

Cottage & Home Insurance Package for FOCA Members

Members in more than 60 FOCA member Associations have already taken advantage of this great FOCA benefit: access to the **CottageFirst** group insurance package.
When will you get your quote, to find out if you could be saving too?

Notices & Opportunities

Minden Hills: Public Consultation - Parks & Trails Plan

Council is seeking public input on the development of the Draft Master Parks and Trails Plan. Two surveys can be completed online, here: <http://mindenhills.ca/master-parks-trails-plan/>. Survey submission deadline is Tuesday, **October 11th** at noon. Results will be shared at a Public Meeting scheduled for October 24th in Minden.



Funding for the 150th Anniversary of Confederation

Ontario is offering various funding programs for events and initiatives. Municipalities and community organizations (like our Lake Association members) are among the groups who will be able to access funds for programs designed to bring people together. Click links below for details & note the different deadlines!:



- [Community Celebration Program](#) - supporting communities and community organizations holding appropriate 150th Anniversary events or initiatives (apply by **Sept.2**, 2016)
- [Community Capital Program](#) - for municipalities and non-profit organizations to renovate, repair and retrofit existing community buildings (apply by **Sept.14**, 2016)
- [Partnership Program](#) - supporting collaborations that empower youth (apply by **Sept.30**, 2016)

Performing Arts in Rural Communities

SPARC (the Symposium for Performing Arts in Rural Communities) will take place in Haliburton from **October 27-30, 2016**. Join discussions about creation, production and presentation of dance, theatre, music and media arts in rural settings. For details, visit: www.sparcperformingarts.com



FOCA Member Benefits

Benefit Highlight: Canadian Canoe Museum

All FOCA members, including everyone in our member Associations as well as our Supporters, can receive a special offer from our partners at the Canadian Canoe Museum:

- 1 year free individual membership** (a \$30 value)
- > includes discounts in the Museum store, and on Museum programs



Get details here: <https://foca.on.ca/canadian-canoe-museum-special-offer/>

Click here to see all your FOCA Benefits

Note: The 2-page sheet about FOCA on the Benefits webpage could make a great article for your Association Newsletter!

FOCA's Bronze-level Sponsors



About FOCA

FOCA Achievement Award - Nominate Now

It is time to nominate your Lake Association to be considered for the next FOCA Achievement Award! (The award will be presented at the FOCA Annual General Meeting in March, 2017.)

Whether your Association is large or small, this award celebrates the successes of the waterfront community across Ontario.

Nominations should be received by November 30th, 2016.

Follow this link for details, the application form, and a list of past recipients:

<https://foca.on.ca/member-services/foca-achievement-award/>



The last Award was presented to Jack's Lake Association in March 2016

Association Tools

Data Security for Lake Associations

Your Association likely collects various kinds of private information: names, email addresses, credit card numbers. How is this data stored? What are your obligations? Get some tips from the fantastic folks at [TechSoup Canada](#), in this recent post targeted at non-profit organizations:

<https://www.techsoupcanada.ca/en/community/blog/privacy-and-data-concerns-for-nonprofits>



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

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.

Publications from FOCA

2016 FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter

The FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter was recently mailed to the executive members of all of FOCA's member Associations. Topics include:

- Algal Blooms
- Water Quantity Communications
- Broadscale Monitoring & Lake Partner Program
- Involving Youth in Lake Associations



Access a digital copy of the full Newsletter by clicking the image at right, or here: <https://foca.on.ca/2016-foca-lake-stewards-newsletter/>

[Contact FOCA](#) if you'd like to reproduce an article in your Association newsletter!

Happy Long Weekend!

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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