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## FOCA Elert - November 2016



### Recap of the 2016 FOCA Fall Seminar

We had a full house at our latest member seminar, held Saturday, November 12, 2016 in Toronto. The event, "Reverse Engineering successful Lake Associations," featured lively panel discussions about association success stories, how to work with your municipality for the good of the lake, trends about lake associations in 2016, and tips for looking for the next generation of lake leaders.



### FOCA Members: access all the Fall Seminar materials online here:

<https://foca.on.ca/foca-fall-seminar-2016-event-summary-members-only/>

Note: You need your [Member Login](#) for this web post. Contact the office if you need assistance: [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca) 705-749-3622

Our event attendees were greeted by a video address from the Ontario Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Glen Murray. Click the video link below to listen to his message:



Many thanks to our speakers, our Board of Directors and all the attendees who participated in this energizing day of peer-sharing.



***BORROW THIS IDEA:** We have heard back from one member attendee who has already **booked a meeting with his own cottage municipality** to discuss what he heard at the FOCA Fall Seminar about effective communications tools being used by rural municipalities to reach more seasonal residents!*

## Political Affairs & Policy Updates

### Energy Update

For the first time in eight years, electricity rates per kWh in Ontario did not rise on November 1st. However, distribution rates will change as of January 1st, 2017, and will impact many FOCA members. Get details here: <https://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing-fall-2016-winter-2017/>

### Algonquin Land Claim: AIP is signed

After many years of negotiation and consultation, the Algonquins of Ontario signed the Algonquin Land Claim Agreement in Principle (AIP) with the Governments of Ontario and Canada in mid-October 2016. This is the end of one phase of the process, and the start of another. Get info here:

<https://foca.on.ca/algonquin-land-claim-agreement-in-principle-signed/>



### Cottage development restrictions on Crown land in Northwestern Ontario

Read this [Thunder Bay News Watch article](#), posted October 23rd, 2016.

## Waterfront Living

### Early Winter Weather Forecast

The Environmental Visualization Lab of **NOAA** (U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association) reports that the temperatures of the Great Lakes are the warmest they've been since at least 2010 for this late in the month of November. Extra warm Great Lakes could mean later freezing, and heavy lake effect snows. To see related maps and graphs, click the image, or this link:



<http://www.nnvl.noaa.gov/MediaDetail2.php?MediaID=1968&MediaTypeID=1>

### Flood Matters

According to FOCA's colleagues at FloodSmart Canada, most Canadians don't realize they are at risk, and don't have a plan to protect themselves from flood. Even if you don't live near water, your home or business could be at risk. Download an info sheet by clicking the image, or this link:



[https://foca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/P4A\\_floodmatters\\_FOCA-1.pdf](https://foca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/P4A_floodmatters_FOCA-1.pdf) (PDF, 1 page)



## Environmental Reports & Updates

### Restoring lost protections for fish habitat

Recent consultations on updates to the federal Fisheries Act could lead to significant improvements in the approach to our shorelines and our waterways. The proof will be in the delivery of any new policy approaches. See what FOCA had to say about it, and more, here: <https://foca.on.ca/fisheries-act-revisions-overview/>

### Annual Report from Ontario's Environmental Commissioner

October 26 - In her first annual Environmental Protection Report, [Small Steps Forward](#), ECO Dianne Saxe warned Queen's Park that the provincial government must fill several key gaps. "The government often talks the talk when it comes to conserving Ontario's biodiversity, but that's not enough-- they need to walk the walk," said Saxe. "New laws like the Invasive Species Act are commendable, but **most of the hard front-line work is still left to municipalities, conservation authorities and private landowners**. They can't do it all without provincial guidance, help, co-ordination or funding." [emphasis added by FOCA]



### Federal Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development - Fall 2016 Report

FOCA was among a group presented with the findings from the [latest reports from Federal Commissioner](#) Julie Gelfand, released last month. The reports covered a wide variety of issues. Notably, they indicate that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission could not show that site inspections were sufficient to verify that Canadian nuclear facilities were complying with all their requirements, and that there were significant gaps in the information that Fisheries and Oceans Canada had about the health of Canada's major fish stocks.



image: Canadian Press, Sean Kilpatrick

Commissioner Gelfand also measured Federal government progress towards sustainable development in Canada. To learn more about Sustainable Development Goals and the implications for our lakes and rivers, visit: <https://foca.on.ca/sustainability-goals-for-the-world-and-for-our-lakes/>



### Plastic Pollution Update

According to recent research about our lakes and rivers, plastics are throughout the water column, and in sediments and, "They're definitely ingested by fish and other organisms," notes a scientist with the US Geological Survey (see Oct.26 news item at the link, below). More work is underway to determine the impacts on fish health. See more on this recent US research, and info & links: <https://foca.on.ca/microplastics-at-alarming-levels-in-canadian-lakes-and-rivers/>

### U.S. F.D.A. declares antibacterial agent "harmful" while Canada says it's OK

According to a news article in the Globe and Mail last Friday, the Canadian federal government has determined triclosan is not hazardous to human health, and will continue to allow the chemical to be used as an ingredient in hand soap and other personal care products, even as the United States implements a ban. See more perspective, and link to the most recent news here: <https://foca.on.ca/foca-calls-for-antibacterial-chemical-ban/>

## Cottage Succession

**Our members asked:** Does the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) change announced in October related to **principle residence exemption** affect me or my cottage planning?

**Estate Lawyer Peter Lillico answers:** [Read the Lawyer's reply.](#)

*NOTE: All FOCA members can Login to access this Members-only resource. Need your member Login? [Start here.](#)*

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### NEW Video: Cottage Sharing Agreements

FOCA is pleased to announce the release of a new video which was recorded during a FOCA event earlier this year. [Cottage Sharing Agreements \(DVD\)](#) is ideal for those who were not able to join us in person at one of our 2016 events, or those who want to review this important topic with family members over the holidays. The video covers topics such as: What is a Cottage Sharing Agreement? When is it needed? What are some advantages, restrictions and pitfalls along the route?



[Click here to access the Cottage Sharing Agreements video order form.](#)

This is the second video in FOCA's series with estate lawyer Peter Lillico. For a general intro to start your cottage succession plan, see: [Keeping the 'Family' in the Family Cottage \(DVD #1\).](#)

## FOCA's Silver-level Sponsors



## Recent Events

### Great Lakes Public Forum

Oct.4-6, 2016, Toronto - FOCA's Executive Director Terry Rees moderated a panel at the Great Lakes Public Forum in Toronto, which brought together leaders from Canada and the US on the subject of the Great Lakes. (Terry is at far left in the panel image.) For more, see:

<https://foca.on.ca/great-lakes-public-forum/>



## Kawarthas, Naturally Connected

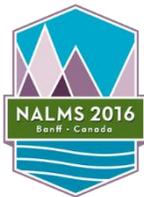
Oct.19, 2016, Bridgenorth - FOCA participated in this official launch event for a Kawarthas [Natural Heritage System](#) and mapping tools.

## Lake Links Workshop

Oct.22, 2016, Perth - FOCA's Executive Director spoke about trends in cottage country residency, as part of the annual [Lake Links Workshop](#).



## NALMS Symposium



November 1-4, 2016, Banff, Alberta - FOCA's Terry Rees took part in this prestigious international event, the North American Lake Management Society's annual symposium.

This year's event was titled, "**Science to Stewardship: Balancing Economic Growth with Lake Sustainability**," and Terry was part of a panel, "Building Bridges: Citizens, Science and Policy."

For more info and links to the NALMS event program, see: <https://foca.on.ca/nalms-symposium-nov-2016/>



## FOCA's Bronze-level Sponsors



## Notices & Opportunities

### Ontario Municipal Board reform

The Government of Ontario is reviewing how the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) operates, and its role in the province's land use planning system. Town Hall Meetings have ended, but the public is still invited to comment by December 19th. [Get details here.](#)



## Environmental Registry revision - Have your say

The Province of Ontario is considering a revamp of their online public notification system, the Environmental Registry, and your comments are needed before December 21st, 2016 to make this tool more user friendly and effective. If you have an interest in getting timely notices and relevant background on key decisions made by the Province on environmental legislation, regulations, or decisions, [visit EBR #012-7929, and take the short survey](#). (Look for the survey link in red under "Additional Information," titled "1. Enhancing the Environmental Registry.")



**Environmental Registry**  
**Registre environnemental**

## Partner Profiles

### Emerging Leaders for Biodiversity



FOCA was pleased to welcome Jackie Hamilton of Emerging Leaders for Biodiversity (EL4B) to our Fall Seminar for Lake Associations on November 12th! EL4B is a group of youth and emerging professionals. The organization exists to help channel youth's passion for biodiversity by focusing ideas and knowledge where it will make a difference across the province of Ontario. Find out more, and connect with them here: <http://www.el4biodiversity.ca/>



Membership and Fundraising  
Jacqueline Hamilton

### Updates from Lake of the Woods

Great work continues to move ahead in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed. Find out what our partners are up to in the latest version of the Watershed News.

[Click here to download.](#) (PDF, 2 pages)

### Water Doc - What Lies Below

FOCA followers will remember Lawrence Gunther's **Blue Fish Radio Program**, where our Executive Director was interviewed about Great Lakes issues, sustainable waterfronts, and the generational motivation behind much of FOCA's work.

[\(Click here to review the podcast from April 2014.\)](#)

Gunther is featured in a new documentary, **What Lies Below**, which was released in late October 2016 at the **Planet in Focus Film Festival**. "My goal," says Gunther, who is a legally blind fishing advocate, "is to open people's eyes to what's really taking place out-of-sight beneath the surface of Canada's rivers, lakes and oceans." Click the image below to reach the documentary's website for a link to the trailer:



## FOCA Member Associations

### FOCA Achievement Award for Associations

**Last call!** - Nominate your local lake association for this award, celebrating the successes of FOCA member associations. It's quick and easy to apply. We encourage you to **share your association's stories**. Get details and a link to the Award application, here: <https://foca.on.ca/nominate-your-association-achievement-award/>

**FOCA Achievement  
Award**  
**APPLY NOW!**



### Cottage & Home Insurance Package for FOCA Members

Members in over 50 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?**

## Sharing Cottage Dreams

### FOCA is a proud supporter of Cottage Dreams Cancer

**Recovery Initiative.** There are many ways you can help a cancer survivor: as a cottage donor, supporter, or by referring someone to the program. Find out more here: <https://foca.on.ca/cottage-dreams-support-a-cancer-survivor/>



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.