

**Sent:** March-30-17 3:35 PM

**Subject:** Cottage Life show ticket discount, another letter to the Premier & more news

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## Elert - March 2017

### Join us this weekend!

#### Spring Cottage Life Show

**Friday, March 31 - Sunday April 2nd, 2017 @ International Centre, Toronto**

Join FOCA at the distant-early-warning party for summer: the Spring Cottage Life Show! Come for the latest information about waterfront living, and see hundreds of cottage country exhibitors and experts. Drop by and say hello - FOCA will be in busy Hall #2, at booth #1216, together with our colleagues from Cade Associates Insurance Brokers, answering your risk management questions. Don't miss FOCA's Terry Rees, speaking on the Cottage Life Main Stage about **climate change in cottage country - what to expect & what to do!** Plan your visit around Terry's talk times: Friday, March 31 at 12:00pm, and Saturday, April 1 at 5:00pm.



FOCA has your discount coupon for show entry: [click here and use our code \*\*foca17\*\*](#) for **\$4-off** one-day adult ticket prices, when you order online before the show. (Remember to print and bring your ticket to the entry doors!)

### Policy Updates from FOCA

#### Electricity Rates

Since our discussions about electricity rates at the FOCA member seminar on March 4th, FOCA has written the Premier for the second time in two months, expressing grave concerns about rural electricity pricing, on behalf of waterfront property owners. Read FOCA's latest letter, here: <https://foca.on.ca/news-electricity-costs-mar-2017/>



## Dock Permits: Status Quo for 2017

The requirement to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) for on-water works (e.g., docks) **remains in place**, likely for the complete summer 2017 season, and until further notice. FOCA, along with representatives from the Georgian Bay Association, met very recently with MNR on this issue. We will be working with the MNR Crown Lands staff to encourage the timely resolution / modernization of their approach to this matter. New regulations that spell out the new approach will eventually be posted for public notice and comment. Follow the issue here: <https://foca.on.ca/municipal-authority-over-boathouses-decision/>



## FOCA at the ECO ENGO Meeting

FOCA participated on March 23rd in the annual meeting of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) with environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS). Commissioner Dianne Saxe spoke to the ongoing work of her office, and encouraged us all to ramp up the public's understanding of, and involvement in, public policy decisions that affect us today, and in the future. Find out more about the Environmental Bill of Rights and you, here: <https://foca.on.ca/environmental-bill-rights-review-2016/>



*During his visit, FOCA's Executive Director snapped a selfie with FOCA's signature publication, [Take the Plunge](#), on the ECO's bookshelf!*

## FOCA & Biodiversity

FOCA participated in the latest [Ontario Biodiversity Council](#) on March 22nd in Toronto, which featured updates on the COP13 international meetings on biodiversity, presentations by the Environmental Commissioner's staff on recent work, biodiversity communications strategies, and discussions about the MNR *Naturally Resilient* climate change proposal. (FYI: the deadline for [comments on that proposal](#) has been extended to March 31st.)



## FOCA's Gold-level Sponsors



## Event Summary:

### 2017 FOCA A.G.M. & Spring Seminar

We had a gorgeous venue and a beautiful sunny day for our latest member meeting on Saturday, March 4th, 2017 at the Boulevard Club in Toronto. Missed it? FOCA members can access the Event Summary, including links to all the slide presentations, here:

<https://foca.on.ca/2017-agm-spring-seminar-event-summary-members-only/>

Note: you will need your Member Login to access these materials:

<https://foca.on.ca/get-login/>



## And the FOCA Achievement Award goes to...

### ...Golden Lake & Bonnechere River Property Owners Association!

We were serenaded at the FOCA Spring Seminar on March 4th by the past *and* current presidents of the Golden Lake & Bonnechere River Property Owners Association, accepting the most recent FOCA Achievement Award for their association's good work.

Didn't have 5 hours to spend with us at the AGM & Spring Seminar? **Spend five minutes, instead, watching this highlights reel.** Click the image below to link to YouTube (yes, you get to hear the singing):



Nominate YOUR great association for an upcoming Achievement Award! Find out more and get the nomination form: <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/foca-achievement-award/>

## Waterfront Living

### Carbon Monoxide Safety

At this time of year when the hardy may plan early season trips to the cottage, and cool nights lead to the use of indoor heaters, FOCA reminds everyone to be vigilant about fire and CO (carbon monoxide) safety. Follow these tips:

1. Ensure your home and cottage have working fire and CO detectors.
2. Replace all the batteries when you start your cottage season.
3. Check the expiry dates on each unit, because they don't work forever!



Get more info and links here: <https://foca.on.ca/beat-the-silent-killer-co-safety/>

## Lyme Disease Awareness

As the cottage country climate changes, species spread into new areas. Lyme disease can be spread by species of ticks, and cottagers are encouraged to take precautions against tick bites when out in wooded areas. For more information, visit: <https://foca.on.ca/lyme-disease/>



## FOCA's Silver-level Sponsors



## Upcoming Events

### Muskoka Stewardship Conference

Friday, May 12 - Port Carling. FOCA will once again participate in this year's Muskoka Stewardship Conference, titled "**50 Shades of Green: all about algae.**" [Register by April 15th](#) to save \$15!



## Notices & Opportunities

### Funding for Events

This is a reminder that the Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) is once again able to offer **small grants to organizations holding events to celebrate International Day for Biodiversity**, May 22nd. The 2017 theme is "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism." Apply for up to \$500 for eligible events that take place between May 1 and June 30, 2017. The deadline for applications has been extended to April 3, 2017. Visit:

<https://biodiversityeducation.ca/international-day-for-biodiversity/application-and-guidelines/>



### Road Work Notice

@ Highway 400 and 4th Line, Innisfil: read the [Notice of Construction](#) and [Detour Details](#), resulting from planned road work that is scheduled between April and November 2017.

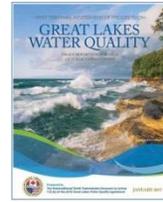
### Native Plant and Tree Sales

Planting more trees can improve air quality, restore Ontario's forests and help to fight climate change. The best time to plant trees in Ontario is in the spring, between April and June. Which trees should you plant in your area? See [Ontario's Trees Atlas](#) & find a local sale:

- **Haliburton** cottagers can order native plants online before April 15, 2017 at [haliburtonstewardship.ca](http://haliburtonstewardship.ca), for pick up in May!
- **Bancroft** area cottagers can order native trees and shrubs through the online store, here: <https://bascstore.ecwid.com/>
- **Lake of the Woods** and region, see: <http://www.lowdpoa.com/events/seedling-day-1>
- **Muskoka**, visit: <https://www.mla.on.ca/Seedling%20Day>

## Speak Up for the Great Lakes

The **International Joint Commission** (IJC) wants public input by April 15th about their draft 3-year assessment (TAP) report on Great Lakes water quality. Get links to the draft report [by clicking here](#). See more background and information about the Great Lakes on the FOCA website: <https://foca.on.ca/great-lakes-strategy-and-action/>



## FOCA's Bronze-level Sponsors



## Lake Association Tools & Tips

### Make plans for Canada150

Consider celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary this summer with a special event at your waterfront. Plan to host your own **BioBlitz!** BioBlitzes bring together experts, citizen scientists and the general public in a time-limited effort to inventory all the flora and fauna (and fungi and more...) in one area. Visit: <http://www.bioblitzcanada.ca/> to find a scheduled event near you. For more resources, see: <http://www.ontariobioblitz.ca/about-us.html>.



image: Ontario Bioblitz

You might choose July 1st (Canada Day 150) for your event, or perhaps June 5th which will be **World Environmental Day**, an international event being hosted this year by Canada. As Minister McKenna said when she announced Canada's role in the 2017 Environmental Day, this will be an opportunity: "to blend pride in our environment with determination to address climate change challenges."

Make some plans with your association, and please [keep FOCA posted](#) about your BioBlitz events!

### Distant Early Warning ~ Municipal Elections 2018

**Now is the time** to check on the options available to your association members for municipal voting in October 2018. Does your municipality offer online or phone options? FOCA encourages you to start asking questions NOW to prepare to have seasonal residents' voices included in the votes next year. **Of particular note:** The deadline to pass by-laws authorizing the use of alternative voting, such as by mail or internet, will be May 1, 2017 for the 2018 election! Find more updates about the next municipal election, here: <https://foca.on.ca/municipal-election/>.



**We want you to share FOCA 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: <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/>



## Cade's Corner

Members in over fifty member Associations have already taken advantage of this FOCA benefit: access to the **CottageFirst** group insurance package.

**CottageFirst**  
Insurance

Get back to carefree

Learn More →

**Cottage & Home Insurance Package for FOCA Members**

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

"Come talk to us at the [Spring Cottage Life Show](#) in Toronto this weekend!"

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

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