

Report on Waterfront Property Owners & Rural Economic Development

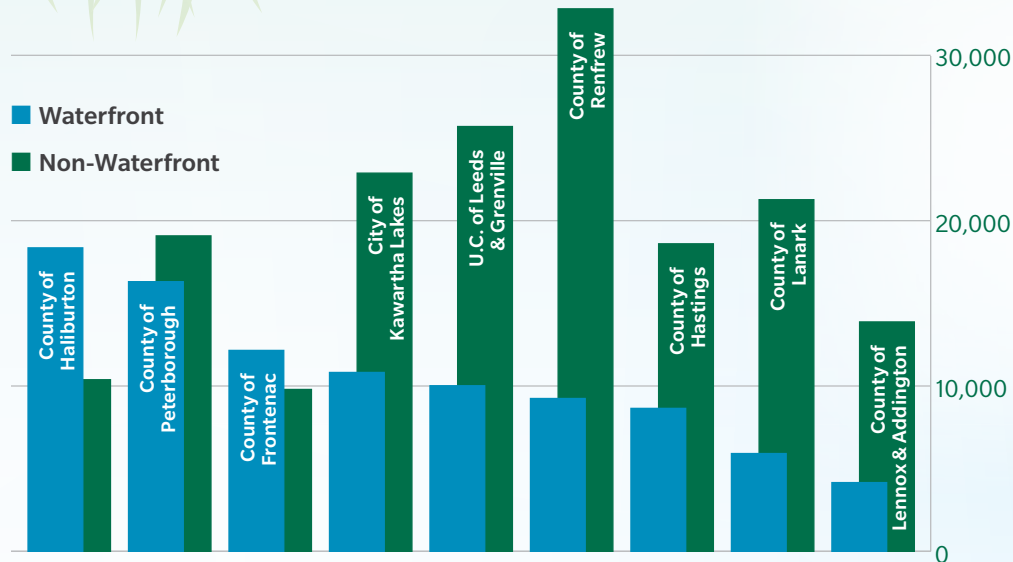
In 2017, FOCA conducted a survey and interviews with **Waterfront Property Owners (WPO)** to investigate their potential to work from their cottages or in their rural communities. WPO represent a significant number of residential property owners in the study area, focussed on eastern Ontario (as defined by the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus). FOCA believes rural economies can be enhanced by attracting and supporting WPO to play an increasing role in the economic development of their rural communities.



View the complete report online at:
<https://foca.on.ca/wpo2018>



How many WPO are out there?



There are approximately
100,000
 waterfront properties
 in the study area.



This represents
35%
 of the total residences.

How many already do some work from their waterfront community?

3 in 10 respondents have worked from their cottage or waterfront community. **ANOTHER 2.5** have considered it.

What motivates them to work there?

- greater access to the **OUTDOORS**
- CONNECTION to PLACE**

"As I transition from my current career to my next I can see more of a need to work remotely anywhere in Canada. Ideally, I would like to see that remote location be our waterfront property."

Who was surveyed?



407 WPO
 from 9 Ontario counties
 participated in the study.

How long have they owned their property?

67% said
 over 15 years



What do WPO see as barriers to working from the cottage?

- gaps in technology ~ Internet/ cell service
- municipal services (garbage pick up, winter road access)
- lack of local professional networks/peer motivators/communication about local economic development opportunities

Read the Report, for first-hand accounts of WPO who have made the move!

What WPO can bring to their rural communities:

- REVITALIZATION**
- INVESTMENT**
- ECONOMIC ENDEAVOURS**
- VOLUNTEERISM**
- COMMUNITY BUILDING**
- CREATIVE SKILL-SETS**