

# About FOCA for our municipal partners

FOCA is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

## Who is FOCA?

**FOCA is the largest non-farm landowner group in rural Ontario.**



Our not-for-profit membership organization represents 50,000 member families in more than 500 lake and road Associations across Ontario.

For over fifty-five years, FOCA has been the voice of the waterfront community. [Connect with us!](#)

## FOCA's members are your rural residents

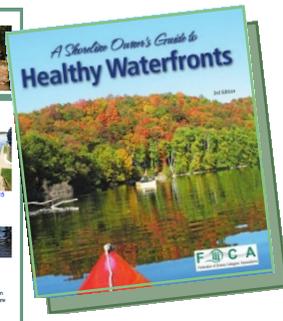
**'Cottage Country' matters to Ontario's economy**

**Waterfront property owners are a major economic force in rural Ontario.**

FOCA is a bridge to the 250,000 waterfront property families in rural Ontario who contribute a combined \$800-million in annual property taxes, steward 15,000 kilometres of shorelines, and own 50,000 hectares of land. Billions are spent each year by waterfront property owners in this province—on watercraft, septic systems, furnishings, food and drink, and more.

Our members care about clean and safe lakes, are concerned about affordability, and treasure family time in cottage country. Find out more: <https://foca.on.ca/about/our-community/>

## FOCA works with Municipal Partners



**Thriving and sustainable rural communities are our common goal! Let's help each other.**

**Get on FOCA's EAlert list** (e-news) - Join 10,000 subscribers across Ontario who rely on FOCA for monthly policy and event updates by email. Send us your updates and notices—we can help to circulate your news. [Join the EAlert list.](#)

**Use FOCA resources** - FOCA has cottage country resources about septic systems, property issues, lake planning, environmental hot topics, and more. Search at: [foca.on.ca](http://foca.on.ca)

FOCA's [Shoreline Owners' Guide to Healthy Waterfronts](#) is a free guide for rural residents on topics such as septic systems, fish-friendly dock structures and shorelines, algae and invasive species concerns. **More than 10,000 free copies were distributed last year.** Contact FOCA for your free copies!



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*FOCA is ...  
protecting thriving and sustainable  
waterfronts across Ontario*

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## Municipal Success Stories

FOCA celebrates and shares examples of work by Ontario municipalities that are making great efforts to keep seasonal and waterfront residents informed and involved in their rural communities.

**Here are some success stories from your colleagues:**

[Selwyn Township](#) live-streams their Council and Committee of Adjustment meetings. Residents can watch Council business from the comfort of home, by visiting the Township website. Recordings of past meetings and Minutes are accessible online.

[Township of North Kawartha](#) has instituted an eNewsletter so that interested residents can sign up to receive notices, from Council News to Fire Bans, Road Closures and other important public notices.

[Seguin Township](#) prides itself on the sustainability of the environment, believes in the preservation of their unique natural heritage, and has embraced an “environment first” principle. They developed a Lake Stewardship Handbook as a road map to protect the health of lakes, with common sense approaches for shoreline property owners. They have launched a “Stewardship Seguin” program that recognizes and applauds property owners for making improvements to their environment, using self-surveys and rating cards to mark their accomplishments.

[The Municipality of Dysart et al](#) has posted great video resources on their webpage! Check out “Conserve – a Cottage Story” and much more.

### Got your own municipal success story to share?

Please let FOCA know what YOUR MUNICIPALITY is doing to communicate effectively with seasonal residents and the waterfront community in your area.



*Rural Mayors at FOCA's event panel , Nov.2016, spoke to 100 lake association representatives at the FOCA Fall Seminar for Associations*

