

FOCA Elert - May 2020



Safe waterfront living during the pandemic

Watch a new video update from FOCA's Executive Director and Dr. Rosana Salvaterra, Medical Officer of Health, Peterborough Public Health:



Associations: please circulate this information to your members prior to the weekend! Share the link: <https://youtu.be/ovrqCzVtK-c>

In discussions with our members and elected representatives from across the Province, FOCA has weighed in to share the best practical advice about special considerations at the waterfront, during this pandemic. Whether you are travelling to, or living at, your waterfront home, you will find lots of helpful tips, links and news updates, here: <https://foca.on.ca/covid-19-update-from-foca/>

News of note on FOCA's update webpage:

- on May 14, the Premier of Ontario announced more easing, including the opening of **marinas and boat launches on Saturday, May 16**
- **EDITED SINCE ORIGINAL SEND:** Ontario **extended the Emergency Order to June 2** (see May 12 item) ~~May 19~~ (see May 6 item)
- Parks Canada has delayed the opening of the [Trent-Severn and Rideau Waterways](#) until **at least May 31** (see April 15 item)
- the Canada/U.S. **border remains closed to May 21** (see April 18 item)

FOCA will continue to post news to our website, and to provide monthly e-news updates. [Ensure we have your consent](#) to continue sending you the Elert!

FOCA's Gold-level Sponsors



Advocacy, Policy & Program Updates

Lake Partner Program: 2019 data released

The data from the 2019 season of Lake Partner Program (LPP) water sampling has been released by the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP), and can be accessed from FOCA's webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-sampling-assistance/>



LPP Lab services on hold

On May 5, FOCA was informed in writing that MECP is currently assessing the safest way to continue the program for 2020, while keeping volunteers and Ministry staff safe. **At this time, MECP asks that volunteers DO NOT gather or submit any samples to the Ministry lab in Dorset.** Read the letter from MECP on our LPP webpage, at the link above.

2020 FOCA Invasive Species Program

FOCA is working with the Invasive Species Centre (ISC) to continue FOCA's important work around invasive species spread, prevention and awareness.

This summer, FOCA seeks participation from a select number of our Member

Associations to run projects aimed at addressing aquatic invasive species at the local level. FOCA will provide eligible lake associations with funding and/or resources to carry out these projects. Project proposals are due on **June 15, 2020**. [Download information](#) (PDF, 2 pages) including a template for your Project Proposal Outline.

Please note: Project eligibility is subject to the appropriate easing of restrictions related to COVID-19.



Electricity News

Ontario has extended the suspension on Time-of-use pricing **until May 31st**, as part of the Province's Emergency Order. Follow this issue and get background about FOCA's work on the electricity file: <https://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing/>

Electricity rates & prices

Off-peak	Mid-peak	On-peak
10.1	10.1	10.1
¢/kWh	¢/kWh	¢/kWh

Event recap: FOCA webinar #2

Association governance during the pandemic

Practical Tips & Legal Guidance with FOCA and Katherine Carre of Borden Ladner Gervais, LLP

On May 6, 2020 FOCA hosted a webinar for our lake association members. 200 representatives registered and attendee feedback was positive:

FOCA Member Webinar

Association Governance & COVID-19
Wednesday, May 6, 2020 @ 7:00pm



- *"good up to date information - the lawyer's comments helped our executive make some decisions around our AGM"*
- *"Timely information for our cottage association. Succinct and useful."*
- *"Several notes that will result in our directors looking a little closer at our incorporation document."*

Until May 19th, FOCA Members can watch the webinar & download the slides, here: <https://foca.on.ca/covid-19-update-from-foca/>

* *You will need your FOCA Member Web Login to access this material. Don't have, or recall, the Login? [Contact us by email](#), clarifying your association affiliation or member status; we will reply during business hours with details.*

Member Benefits

Tools for Lake Associations

Member Associations are encouraged to access all the resources posted for them on the FOCA website, here: <https://foca.on.ca/toolkit-overview/>. In particular, find resources related to governance during the pandemic, including a **new fact sheet** from FOCA about how to conduct association banking, if your organization currently functions with 2 signatories for cheques.



Next Member Webinar

Cottage Succession Planning

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm by webinar

How will your family manage the generational transfer of the cottage ownership? Learn what you need to do NOW, to protect the family cottage for the future.



Join FOCA and estate lawyer **Peter Lillico** for a webinar about **"Keeping the 'Family' in the Family Cottage."** This session provides a cottage succession planning introduction, with an overview of the legal, tax and family issues to be addressed.

Peter will answer questions! Please supply your question in writing by email after you register, or plan to use the "Chat" feature during the webinar.



Pre-registration for this event is required before 5:00pm on June 3rd:

[Click here to submit your registration for this webinar](#)

Important Notes:

- if you want to watch with family members who are at different locations, you will each need a unique registration link.
- **FOCA members register at no charge.** Please identify your Association affiliation or indicate your FOCA Supporter status in the "Organization" field during registration (see link above). Once you have been confirmed by FOCA, you will receive the webinar link by follow-up email during business hours.
- **Non-members** may register for this webinar for **\$10 for each email address that wants access to the webinar.** During registration, indicate "Non-member" in the "Organization" field. FOCA will follow-up with a payment link, and then send the final webinar link after payment has been confirmed, during business hours.

Not yet a member? Get in touch with FOCA to be connected to your local Lake Association, or join FOCA as a Supporter. Details are here:

<https://foca.on.ca/member-services/who-supports-foca/>

FOCA's Silver-level Sponsors



Lake Environments

Water Levels

While this spring we have mostly been spared the terrible flooding of previous years, there remain significant concerns for Great Lakes shoreline communities. Find news and relevant links to check the water situation in your area, on FOCA's webpage:

<https://foca.on.ca/high-water-flood-events-in-cottage-country/>



source: Surface Water Monitoring Centre
April 2020 Confirmed Accumulated
Precipitation Maps

Watch out for turtles

The coming long weekend is due to be wet and warm: ideal conditions for major turtle migrations, but also ideal conditions for an increase in turtle mortality from road accidents.

Turtles can take more than 30 years to replace themselves and are an important part of our aquatic biodiversity. **This is a friendly reminder to watch out on roads, especially from May to July 1, for these invaluable friends.** For tips and a video about what to do if you see a turtle crossing the road, visit:

<https://www.turtleguardians.com/helping-a-turtle-across-the-road/>



Safety & Risk Management

Fire Safety

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs has posted lots of tips for home, cottage and outdoor property **fire safety this Spring**.

How many of these can you answer "yes" to?

- we have an emergency kit at (each of) our residence(s), and in our car
- we have reviewed with family the fire safety plan at (each of) our residence(s)
- we have posted in a prominent place near the phone at (each of) our residence(s) the telephone number for our local fire department (including, at seasonal residences, our "911" property number and location description including road and township details)



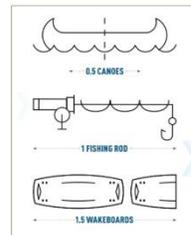
Get links to these, and more, tips here: <https://foca.on.ca/fire-safety-overview/>

Boating Safety

May 16-22, 2020 is **Safe Boating Awareness Week**. With marinas in cottage country accelerating preparations for opening, our partners at the Canadian Safe Boating Council, Boating Ontario, and others have released resources on social distancing best practices for marina visits and when boating. Get links on FOCA's

webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/safe-boating/>

COVID-19: PHYSICAL DISTANCING FOR CANADIAN BOATERS



PLANNING TO TRAVEL BY WATER?

If you are getting out on the water:

- Only take people from your immediate household with you on your boat:
 - ✗ No family members who don't live in your home with you
 - ✗ No boating buddies
 - ✗ No other guests

While preparing to leave shore and on the water, try to keep a distance of at least 2 arm lengths (approximately 2 metres) from other boats and people who don't live in your household. This is the length of approximately:

- ✓ 0.5 Canoe
- ✓ 1 Fishing rod
- ✓ 1.5 Wakeboards

• Consider wearing a non-medical mask or face covering when you can't keep a distance. If so, refer to the Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines on wearing non-medical masks and face coverings and how to make you own.

For more information on COVID-19, visit Canada.ca/COVID19

Regional Notices & Event Updates

Georgian Bay Land Trust LANDMark Series goes virtual

Join GBLT on a Saturday each month from May through August for the **LANDMark Speaker Series**, now scheduled as interactive online presentations on different aspects of Georgian Bay. Details are posted here:

<https://www.gblt.org/events/landmark-speaker-series/>

Survey about Rideau Waterway & Trent-Severn Waterway

Parks Canada is working with academic partners to research the social, ecological and engineering issues and challenges facing the **Rideau and Trent-Severn Waterways**. They want to hear from property-owners, waterway visitors and the general public, and encourage you to share the survey link:

https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/RC_TSW



FOCA's Bronze-level Sponsors



Materials for your Association Newsletters

In addition to FOCA's ongoing work on behalf of waterfront Ontario, our members have access to several specific benefits, offers and discounts from our partners and corporate sponsors. Review member benefits, here:

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

Member Associations: **Do all your members know about their FOCA benefits?** Use a reminder "ad" on your association website, or an upcoming Newsletter.

Could you use a short article about the value FOCA brings to your members? [Contact the office](#) for a draft article and/or a copy of the ad at the side.



FOCA's Operations Continue

In light of the ongoing pandemic, FOCA continues to abide by the Ontario government order related to the closure of non-essential businesses, and has transitioned our staff away from our Peterborough office to physically distance.

We are carrying on serving our members digitally, during regular business hours. [Our contact information is here.](#) You can still leave phone messages, although email inquiries may be addressed more rapidly.

Staying in Touch

Please encourage fellow members and waterfront neighbours to provide their consent to receive monthly Eler messages like this, from FOCA. You can circulate this call-to-action:

Your Role

Get on the Eler list for free cottage country updates from FOCA:
http://bit.ly/FOCA_Eler

This is one of many member benefits that we hope you will highlight to fellow members. For more, visit: <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>.

FOCA is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations,
the voice of the waterfront for over half a century

info@foca.on.ca | 705-749-3622 | <https://foca.on.ca>

Stay Connected with FOCA:



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[Click here to get free FOCA Elers](#)

FOCA believes everyone has the right to hear about issues that affect waterfront Ontario.
You can unsubscribe from Elers at any time, using the 'Safe Unsubscribe' link below.

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