



Event Summary: FOCA AGM & Spring Seminar

held Saturday, March 4, 2023



We titled our event “**Coming out of our Shells**” as we return to face-to-face events (since this was our first in-person Annual General Meeting since 2020). However, Mother Nature’s best efforts made travel challenging for many that day! Nevertheless, **FOCA’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Spring Seminar** was held by webinar and in-person in Thornhill on Saturday, March 4, 2023. We had about 60 attendees at the Bayview Golf and Country Club and another 150 on the webinar, making this one of FOCA’s largest meetings to date; fitting for our 60th anniversary year!



This document contains the script of FOCA’s presentation, and a summary of the day’s events. All registrants received a separate link to review the event recording. **Below are links to the slide presentations:**

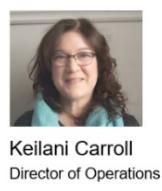
- [FOCA’s 60 year celebration, programs, hot topics & emerging issues overview](#) (PDF, 13 MB) by Ian Crawford, President of the Board and Terry Rees, FOCA Executive Director
- [FOCA 60th Annual General Meeting of members & thanks to retiring Board Members](#) (PDF, 3 MB)
- [Association Success Stories & Presentation of the 2022 FOCA Achievement Award](#) (PDF, 5 MB) by Tony Lepine, Chair of FOCA’s Member Services and Benefits Committee
- [Land Use Planning in a Bill 23 World: what it means for cottage country](#) (PDF, 3 MB) introduced by Deborah Martin-Downs, FOCA Vice President, with guest speaker Theresa McClenaghan, Executive Director of the Canadian Environmental Law Association
- [Climate-Ready Property Tips and Resources](#) (PDF, 3 MB) by Cheryl Evans, Director of Flood & Wildfire Resilience at the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation. Plus, [additional important links from Intact](#).
- [FireSmart Principles for your Waterfront Community](#) (PDF, 5 MB) by Shayne McCool, Fire Advisor; Aviation, Forest Fire & Emergency Services, of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- [Tick Talk: Tracking the spread of ticks that carry Lyme disease in Ontario](#) (PDF, 3 MB) by Manisha Kulkarni, Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network
- [Biodiversity and resiliency: a Call to Action for Nature](#) (PDF, 1 MB) by Tom Hilditch, Chair of the Ontario Biodiversity Council



FOCA's Executive Director Terry Rees emceed the event—his 20th with FOCA! He opened the day with a land acknowledgement:

I'd like to start this meeting by recognizing and thanking the traditional stewards of the lands and waterways where we work and live. The waterfront lands of Ontario are the traditional territories of many diverse Indigenous peoples who recognize the sacredness of water, the interconnectedness of all life and the importance of protecting land and water for the generations yet to come. We are all on a journey towards truth and reconciliation and offer this recognition as an important step in that journey. We are joining this virtual meeting from different locations, and I encourage each of you to dedicate yourselves to move forward in the spirit of respect, reciprocity, learning and sharing that learning.

Terry introduced the FOCA staff, welcomed those joining by webinar, and thanked our audio-visual team from Postel AV and our event photographer for the day, Andy Metelka (below) of the Blackstone Lake Cottagers' Association, whose turtle images grace the event poster and whose amazing underwater pictures have been a staple of FOCA imagery over the years.



Thank you to our
Event Sponsor



hydro one



Terry also thanked our event sponsor, Hydro One, for once again supporting this event and our community over the past year. 2022 was another extraordinary year for weather extremes, both with the derecho in May, and winter storms at Christmas time that took out power in large swaths of cottage country for days or even weeks. Hydro One provided us with a short video recap of the work they did last spring to rebuild power lines across Ontario.

Please share this video message with your fellow association members:

<https://vimeo.com/hydroone/review/716469708/57abf75b83>

We had an in-room and online poll, asking attendees **how long they have known FOCA, or been coming to our events. One quarter of participants were at their first FOCA event (welcome!), and we had a dozen participants who have been engaged with FOCA for 20 years or more. What a great testament to this organization, to have such dedicated, long-standing members & volunteers!**



Board President Ian Crawford, gave some historical context, noting:



We are celebrating 60 years since the creation of FOCA as a province-wide organization dedicated to waterfront property owners, and dedicated to thriving and sustainable waterfronts. This organization started with 40 associations who met in Toronto 60 years ago. Now we have 525 member associations that represent 50,000 member families. The issues that brought FOCA together originally aren't that different from the topics that consume us today: water quality and environmental concerns, development and planning, taxation, safety and rural services.

We are planning a **special event celebrating FOCA's 60 years** which will give us a chance to revisit some of FOCA's accomplishments and thank the volunteers who have shaped this organization over the decades. For now, please save the date: **Saturday, September 23rd**. Stay tuned to the **FOCA Alert** as we reveal more about this event in the coming months.



If you are, or know of, someone who was involved with FOCA from 1963 to 1993, [please get in touch with us](#) to help us learn more about our organization's earliest volunteers!

Since 2020, our organization has been guided by the 6 **strategic priorities** outlined by the Board of Directors, which have carried FOCA successfully through the last few extraordinary years. Those priorities are:

- promoting healthy lands, lakes and rivers
- serving lake and road associations
- advocating for responsive government
- championing affordable and safe rural living
- building organizational capacity and strategic partnerships
- and, fostering community in rural Ontario.

Ian thanked the volunteer **FOCA Board of Directors** whose thoughtful input and advice continues to make FOCA a strong voice for waterfront landowners. FOCA's directors represent large and small associations, on the Great Lakes and the inland lakes, from all parts of the province. The dedication of all our volunteers has helped to steer this organization, year after year, and decade after decade.

And this year your Board of Directors will be undertaking a **strategic renewal process**, which is an opportunity for us to reflect on where the organization has been, refresh and refocus our priorities for the coming years, based upon our collective experiences and including the feedback you provided to our extensive 2022 member surveys.

Updates for our Member Associations:

We know a great deal **about our member Associations**. We know that many of them are groups with less than 50 members, though some have more than 1,000 member families. We know our Road Associations look somewhat different than associations that are strictly lake and waterfront groups. We know what your peers are charging in annual dues – and it's a spread between the price of a good bottle of wine, to the price to fill your gas tank to get to the cottage – or even more, if you're also paying to maintain a private road.

When the Board President last spoke to members at the 2022 FOCA Fall Seminar, he said the Board of Directors was responsible to regularly review and revise all revenue lines including our **annual FOCA membership dues**, to ensure we are appropriately funded to serve your needs. Despite the recent impacts of inflation, and our full staff compliment which is serving you so well, the Board of Directors has decided not to raise the annual Association Membership Fee at this time. It will remain at a \$125 base fee, plus \$4 per member. This amount is now subject to HST, as the Board President announced in a January email to membership, and you will see this reflected on your renewal invoice this year.

About our Valued Corporate Sponsors:

One other significant source of revenue comes from our valued **Corporate Sponsors**, whose annual contributions help to support FOCA's work. It was great to be back in-person, to have our sponsors with us at the event, and to speak with them about their services and offerings. We welcomed to the event:

- Cade Associates Insurance Brokers: our partners in the FOCA Association Liability Insurance Program, and the CottageFirst group insurance program for all our member families.
- our newest Gold Sponsor, Incinerating Toilets: with waterless, environmentally friendly, propane and electric toilet solutions by Cinderella.
- Make-Way Environmental Technologies: who provide environmentally friendly sewage and wastewater treatment systems, stormwater management and rainwater harvesting systems.
- CD3 Systems: boat washing stations, to help prevent the spread of invasive species; [learn more](#).
- At the sponsor display tables was information from Grid Iron Power who supply standby generators and energy storage products to meet all your cottage country power needs; and from Action First Aid who provide cardiac safety training and offer a FOCA member discount on the purchase of certain Automated External Defibrillators and outdoor "save" stations.

Learn more about all our great FOCA sponsors: <https://foca.on.ca/sponsors/>



Thank you also to our **Lunch Sponsor: [Yamaha Motor Canada!](#)**

Despite the great contributions of our sponsors, as a membership organization we are primarily supported by membership fees, together with the contributions of our Individual Supporters and donors, alongside program funding in the form of program funding that we work hard for year-after-year, and remaining smaller sources of revenue including fee-for-service offerings, such as event registrations.

Your annual investment in FOCA enables our year-round work on behalf of associations and waterfront Ontario. In the context of the Economic Report FOCA released last year, about the impact of the significant \$11.44 billion-dollar annual spend by our waterfront Ontario community – we are certain you will agree that your small annual contribution to FOCA goes a long, long way. FOCA's work involves our government advocacy, our programs, our publications and events, and the educational outreach we do to reach those who are new to cottage-country, to help them understand their important role in the future of waterfront Ontario.

Next, FOCA's Executive Director Terry Rees spoke, providing more details about FOCA's programs, as well as recent and emerging priorities and hot topics for waterfront Ontario.

Words from the Executive Director: FOCA Programs, Priorities, History & Hot Topic Updates



From our surveys – and from looking around the lake – we know things are changing; two-thirds of respondents to our 2022 survey said that their lake property is capable of year-round use, and an additional 8% of survey respondents were planning to winterize in the future. We also know from our 2022 survey that 70% of waterfront properties now have 4-season road access. Over half of respondents are on a private road, while about 10% are on an island or otherwise water-access only. The most recent statistics from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (2022) suggest the water-access-only percentage might be as much as **13%** of all developed waterfront properties. And 1/3 of respondents told FOCA increased use of their waterfront property is limited by digital access or services, such as high-speed internet or cell service.

For 60 years, FOCA has been the voice of waterfront Ontario. We are accountable to you – our members – and have worked hard throughout the decades to represent your interests. **During the 1980s** FOCA fought for government action on the issue of acid rain, (were a large voice pushing for reductions in harmful acidic emissions) and lobbied to stop the use of toxic Dombind as a road-dust suppressant. FOCA also secured the [municipal voting rights](#) of waterfront property owners in their cottage ridings, and brought the attention of the Provincial Auditor and Ombudsman to the shortcomings of Ontario's [property taxation system](#).

Over the years, FOCA has advocated on behalf of [rural source water protection](#), [fisheries habitat](#), landowners' rights during [mining and aggregates claim-staking](#) as well as [water management planning](#), [forestry planning](#) and [land use](#) including lake capacity assessments. We have lobbied to secure the ongoing funding for the [Lake Partner Program](#) of volunteer water monitoring of Ontario's inland lakes, to protest [MPAC assessments](#) and the elimination of the seasonal rate class of [electricity customers](#) – each of which have resulted in multi-year phase-ins of legislated changes, to drastically limit the annual impacts on individual families' bills.

FOCA developed a [boating hazard marker program](#) approved by Transport Canada, and has assembled the most comprehensive risk-management program for volunteers in rural environmental groups, through the [FOCA Insurance Program](#). Almost 450 associations across Ontario now protect their volunteers through this cost-effective liability insurance program, a unique FOCA offering. And the [CottageFirst](#) group insurance program is available exclusively to our FOCA member families, providing excellent coverage for cottages, homes, cars, boats and more.

In recent years, FOCA has released reports on [septic re-inspection programs](#), [lake planning](#), and [short-term rental](#) that are used by our member Associations as well as our municipal partners to chart the course in rural Ontario. And, we have championed the importance of lake associations in rural communities throughout the past three pandemic years, advocating for inclusion and tolerance, and working to mitigate sentiments that divide permanent and seasonal populations. Finally, we have served you – our member Associations – throughout the pandemic, by turning our own office operations on a dime to become seamlessly digital, and by supporting your need to keep local association business running by offering FOCA's own Zoom platform to accommodate many of your annual meetings.

Our social media channels have exploded over the past year, enabling FOCA's messaging to reach three-quarters of a million people in 2022. We are spreading the word about sustainable waterfronts, and the important role of volunteer associations in rural Ontario. We have brought you speakers, recordings, and seminars on far-reaching topical issues from rural road issues to [cardiac safety](#) in cottage country, [invasive species](#) and [wake awareness](#), [cottage succession planning](#), and [environmental threats](#) facing waterfront Ontario.

Additional Hot Topic Updates:

ONCA Update: One of our 2022 events was a spring webinar with Community Legal Education Ontario on the topic of ONCA – the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act. After more than a decade, the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act, or ONCA, was finally proclaimed in 2021. If your association is incorporated in Ontario, you have until October 2024 to fully transition to the new rules. It is time to review or update your bylaws, to comply with ONCA. FOCA is reviewing our own bylaws, and if any changes are needed to bring our bylaws into compliance with ONCA, members will vote on them at the 2024 AGM. You will want to do the same with your own incorporated association, as it may require a special resolution vote to make changes at your next AGM; consult your existing bylaws for more information, and review the **member webinar** FOCA held with Community Legal Education Ontario last Spring. Visit: <https://foca.on.ca/association-bmps/#onca> for more.

We have had a few questions about ONCA compliance from our members, including: “**How can a nonprofit get a CompanyKey if the address they have isn’t working on the online Ontario Business Registry?**” The Ontario Nonprofit Network has posted detailed information online, including a link to order your CompanyKey. To figure out if you’ve got the right address for the corporation to match the government file, you may need to pay to order a **Corporate Profile**, and further file a **Notice of Change** through a government-authorized service provider, if the address they have is wrong. However, the OBR requires that you supply the mailing address as well as postal code of the corporation. “**What can a nonprofit do if it uses a PO Box as its address?**” Our contact at CLEO notes this is an outstanding problem, unless you can give the address of an accountant or lawyer’s office that works with the nonprofit, or a community centre or shared space that offers this service; the other alternative is to give the personal address of a director or officer – though this will not work for everyone.

The **Municipal Property Assessment Corporation** (MPAC) has announced there will be no new increase in valuations at this time, and property taxes will continue to be calculated based on January 1, 2016 values until further notice.

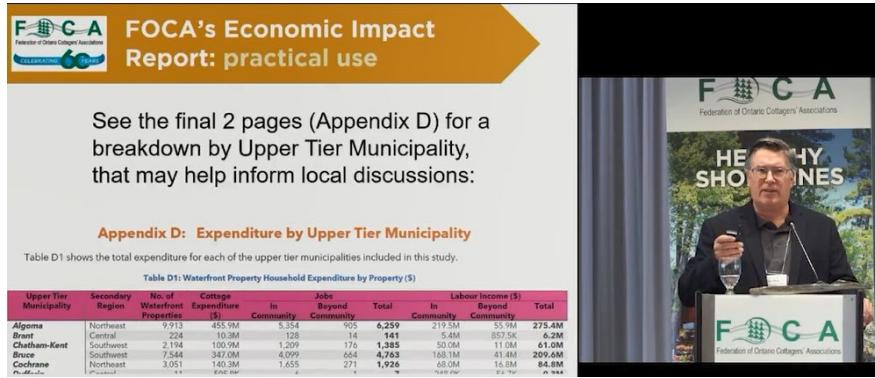
The **Underused Housing Tax** (or UHT) is an annual tax of 1% of your property value levied by CRA for non-resident owners. This new tax only applies to non-Canadian residents, who submit a UHT form by April 30 annually even if they are exempt from the tax. Residents in seasonal-only properties may fall under one of the exemptions. If you do not have a Canadian Social Insurance Number (SIN) you must file using an Individual Tax Number (ITN) which you can apply for online. We are seeking some clarification about how to apply while awaiting an ITN and also what to do if you don’t have a postal code for your property. Stay tuned to the FOCA website for more updates: <https://foca.on.ca/property-taxation-assessment/#uht>

FOCA has been following the issue of “**floating accommodations**” or “camping over water” for some time now, and has participated on a committee led by the Georgian Bay Association and the Gloucester Pool Cottagers’ Association. Efforts continue with Transport Canada to tighten up their rules and enforcement of what is a “vessel”, and the latest development is a posting by the Province related to the “camping” aspects. The ERO posting is #019-6590; get a link to it here: <https://foca.on.ca/floating-accommodations/> and comment by April 11, 2023.

Of course, **Bill 23** has also been a hot topic, as the Province wrestles with the best way to deal with housing affordability and availability issues – which FOCA feels strongly cannot come at the expense of our ecosystem services, and without adequate due process. For more, see the “Bill 23” presentation in our seminar, from our colleagues at the Canadian Environmental Law Association.

Transport Canada is set to launch a public comment period soon, through their “Let’s Talk Transportation” online portal, about proposed **mandatory wearing of personal floatation devices** (PFDs) in response to concerns from water safety advocates and law enforcement about boating fatalities amongst people not wearing PFDs. We’ll keep you updated on developments through the FOCA Elert and on our boating webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/boating/>

We remind you that FOCA's 2022 Report on the [Economic Impact of Waterfront Property Owners](#) contains



The slide features the FOCA logo and the title "FOCA's Economic Impact Report: practical use". It includes a callout box with text about Appendix D and a screenshot of a presentation slide titled "HEALTHY SHORELINES" showing a man speaking at a podium.

See the final 2 pages (Appendix D) for a breakdown by Upper Tier Municipality, that may help inform local discussions:

Appendix D: Expenditure by Upper Tier Municipality

Table D1 shows the total expenditure for each of the upper tier municipalities included in this study.

Upper Tier Municipality	Secondary Region	No. of Waterfront Properties	Cottage Expenditure			Jobs Beyond Community			Labour Income (\$)			Total
			In Community	Beyond Community	Total	In Community	Beyond Community	Total				
Algoma	Northeast	9,913	455.9M	5,354	905	6,259	219.5M	55.9M	275.4M	6.2M		
Brant	Central	224	10.3M	128	14	141	5.4M	857.5K	6.2M			
Chatham-Kent	Southwest	2,194	10.3M	1,209	176	1,385	50.1M	11.0M	6.2M			
Bruce	Central	7,544	347.0M	4,099	644	4,763	160.1M	41.0M	209.4M			
Cochrane	Northeast	3,051	140.3M	1,655	271	1,926	68.0M	16.8M	84.8M			
Pelham	Central	4	1.0M	4	4	4	0.0M	0.0M	0.0M			
<i>Total</i>												

details about the \$11.44 billion annual spend by this community, which supports 157,000 jobs across the province, mostly in the local waterfront communities themselves. There are some figures broken out in Appendix D of the report, by upper-tier municipality, so you can give some high-level information to your own municipal partners about the number of waterfront properties in your own community, and the estimated impact of their spending.

FOCA Program Highlights:

Invasives – Boater Pathways: FOCA supported the amendment to the Invasive Species Act by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, that regulated watercraft (including: boats, canoes and kayaks) as a potential carrier of invasive species. This past year, FOCA informed lake users of these new regulations and how they will help us prevent and slow the spread of invasive species through our website, social media, newsletters and a webinar. Visit <https://foca.on.ca/invasive-species/> for more.

IsampleON Program: IsampleON stands for Invasive Species Awareness Monitoring Program & Lake Education in Ontario. In 2021, FOCA launched the IsampleON program with our colleagues at the Invasive Species Centre (or ISC) and we were pleased to be able to continue the program in 2022. The intent of the program is to do targeted outreach, education and sampling for invasive mussels and spiny water flea in lakes on the Canadian shield. 29 lakes were selected from within FOCA's membership with over 50 volunteers representing those lakes. The volunteers collected 3 water samples + 1 eDNA sample from their lake and sent them back to the ISC for lab analysis. Volunteers also posted and shared information about invasive species prevention in their community. Thank you to the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the program! We know early detection is essential to protect against the negative impacts aquatic invaders can have on these key ecosystems. Visit <https://foca.on.ca/isampleon/> for more.

Green Shovels – Phragmites Program: For the past two years, FOCA has worked with conservation partners on the Green Shovels Collaborative. The Collaborative is a group of organizations with a shared interest in protecting nature and the economy. Through this alignment, FOCA has been able to fund many on-the-ground Phragmites projects aimed at addressing invasive phragmites through education and outreach, control, management, and eradication. Thank you to everyone who participated in this program in 2022! Visit <https://foca.on.ca/phragmites> for more.

Asian Carps: FOCA also works with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to educate everyone about the threat posed to the Great Lakes by Asian Carps, so that our members can be part of an early warning system to protect our waterways from these invaders. If you live or cottage along the Great Lakes, please watch the video: "*cottager perspectives on Asian Carp prevention*" and our **webinar with DFO** from 2022, both available on our webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/carps>.

FireSmart: In 2022, FOCA worked with the MNRF to educate waterfront property owners about wildfire prevention and FireSmart. You may have noticed articles in the [Lake Stewards Newsletter](#) and [Elert](#) about Waterbomber safety, and not to fly drones within 9 km of a wildland fire area as firefighting aircraft cannot share airspace with drones. See more in the FireSmart presentation from the seminar today, and on our webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/fire-safety>.

Cottage Succession Program: FOCA and estate lawyer Peter Lillico have been teaching families about cottage succession planning for the past decade! Our traditional in-person seminars shifted to digital over the past couple of years. These events are free to FOCA members, and the slides are shared with registrants after the events. And as a reminder, if it is inconvenient for you to attend, you can always purchase access to the digital recordings to watch at your leisure. Thank you to our member associations who were the local hosts in 2022. We already have several seminars scheduled for 2023. If your association is interested in hosting a webinar, please get in touch with Deanna at the office as soon as possible. Email: programs@foca.on.ca and learn more online: <https://foca.on.ca/cottage-succession> for more.

Lake Partner Program: The Lake Partner Program is our long-standing citizen science initiative between FOCA's Lake Stewards and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks which analyzes annual water samples and Secchi depth recordings taken by over 700 volunteers to track long-term trends in our waters. We appreciate all the fantastic volunteer effort that each of you as volunteers contributes to this program! Visit <https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program/> for more.

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About FOCA's Member Services: We are continuing to build FOCA's staff capacity and to expand our partnerships. Watch for more great FOCA events, publications, and webinars coming this year. We've just moved into our new website layout, with new login features coming soon! Please check it out: <https://foca.on.ca>. We will be onboarding our member associations over the coming months at the time of your annual renewal month. For now, you'll just keep using the "**focamember**" login and the password that is shared between all members. There is a prominent "search" bar at the top of each webpage that should help with topic searches. As always, [contact the office](#) if you need help accessing member materials!

About Your Role: You help our work by being FOCA Association members, individual supporters, and Elert subscribers. The Elert – FOCA's monthly e-newsletter – has grown from a few hundred emails in the early 2000s, to over 18,000 subscribers today.

Our goal is to reach 25,000 subscribers in this, our 60th anniversary year! (That means we need about 600 new subscribers each month.)

Please share this link:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/wElI9od/FOCA25000> and encourage fellow members to get on the FOCA Elert list.

We benefit by spreading the word to more connected and committed waterfront residents, and showing our partners the scale and engagement of this waterfront audience. And YOU benefit because your members will see the value of FOCA – their membership dollars at work – each month throughout the year, so that they already know the work we're doing on their behalf, when it comes time for your own AGM.

Pssst... Pass it on! You can help us expand the community and contribute to FOCA's future financial stability

by helping us connect with new potential Member Associations and Supporters. Do you know of another association, or a waterfront enthusiast, who is not yet a member?

"Pssst... pass it on!"

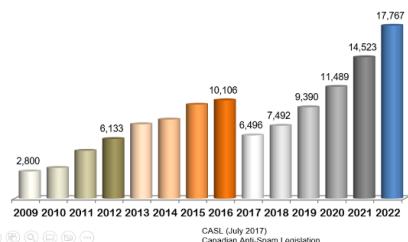
If someone you refer signs up, your name will be entered in a draw for great prizes this year. Please watch for the launch of the digital campaign in the next FOCA Elert.



Your Role in 2023

How to raise our collective voice:
get the Elert list to 25,000 emails this year!

[Get on the FOCA Elert list](#)



CASL (July 2011)
Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation

PSSST!
Pass it on.

Image courtesy of Andy Metello

Know of a Lake or Road Association that isn't a FOCA member?
Share the news about FOCA! To celebrate our 60th anniversary this year, refer a new Member to FOCA and you'll be entered into a draw for great prizes throughout the year!

Your lake. Your lifestyle. Your legacy. - Pass it on!

The 60th FOCA Annual General Meeting of Members was chaired by Ian Crawford, FOCA Board President. Quorum (25 Member Associations) was met. Treasurer Daryle Moffatt presented the Financial Statements and budget projections. All items of business passed:

- Approve the Minutes of FOCA's 2022 AGM
- Receive the Financial Statements for the year ended September 30, 2022
- Authorize the FOCA Board of Directors to appoint Clarkson Rouble LLP as FOCA's auditor for the 2022–2023 fiscal year
- Amend item 6.2 of the FOCA bylaws to read:
"A Director who has completed 2 consecutive terms of office shall not be eligible for re-election for one year following the completion of their second term as Director." Also, "The Board of Directors at its discretion may extend the term of the Director serving in any Officer role for an additional year, to a maximum of two additional years."
- Elect the slate of Directors recommended by the FOCA Governance & Nominating Committee
- Motion to adjourn the AGM.

Download the AGM slides from a link on the first page of this summary.



And thank you to our retiring Board Members:

This is an important opportunity for us to thank the FOCA Directors who have served the organization with distinction over the past term. On behalf of FOCA, we thank you for your time, dedication and wise counsel on the board and committees! If you are interested in lending your skills to the FOCA Board of Directors, please make yourself known to the office, and someone from the Governance and Nominating Committee will be in touch! (Email: info@foca.on.ca)



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2022 FOCA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Congratulations to the **Wolfe Lake Association Westport** in South Frontenac, who are the recipients of the 2022 FOCA Achievement Award! This Award celebrates the successes of the FOCA community and encourages us all to share success stories and best practices among member associations.



The Wolfe Lake Association is celebrated for their "**Let's Get the Lead Out**" initiative. Over 170 pounds of lead fishing tackle was collected in 2022, keeping this source of contamination out of the waterway. Neighbouring lake associations joined the initiative, and a grant from South Frontenac Township helped to fund \$10 vouchers for each person who turned in lead fishing tackle to local businesses. Learn more online at <https://wolfelake.org/fish-lead-free>.



The award was received for the association by Margie Manthey, one of the project leads on the Lead Tackle Buy-Back Program. Congratulations!

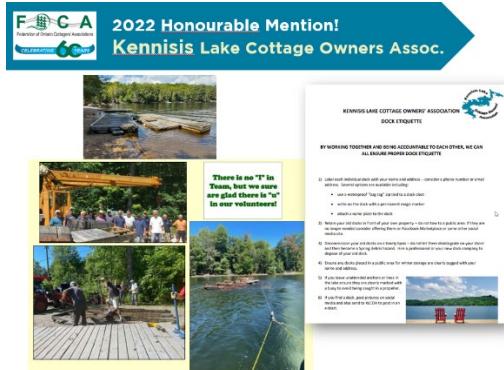
We also awarded a number of “Honourable Mentions” for 2022 Association accomplishments:

Kamaniskeg Area Property Owners was honoured for holding their 10th annual Poker Run in 2022; altogether, they have raised just shy of \$150,000 over the past decade, to help the local hospital foundation fund critical equipment.



Menominee Lake Association was honoured for participation in several citizen science and monitoring programs, and community events including reviving their annual BBQ and boat parade. The association made a special “call-out” to their youth volunteer Hanna Marshall who led some of the environmental programming.

Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners Association was honoured for a “Dock Etiquette” awareness and education program as well as an “Abandoned Dock Initiative” to identify docks that had been left (or drifted) to public areas around the lake, becoming unsightly hazards to navigation. 11 abandoned docks were corralled in a bay adjacent to a public boat launch. 27 volunteers dismantled the docks, salvaging what they could and taking 10 trailer loads of debris to the local landfill for disposal.



Talpines Property Owners Association was honoured for creating a Community Garden beside a children’s playground to engage new families during the pandemic, and create a place for people to connect with each other and nature in a safe way. One of the aims was to support the work of Truth and Reconciliation, and a local neighbour agreed to be their Indigenous Advisor for the project. She suggested planting the four Sacred Medicines of the Anishinaabeg in the garden: tobacco, cedar, sage, and sweetgrass. They also planted the Three Sisters of Haudenosaunee origin (corn, beans, and squash) as a model for building community, because the Three Sisters are all different but they cooperate in a way that produces more food than if they were planted alone. Over the year they held a Planting Ceremony, National Indigenous Day Social, Harvest Festival, and Pumpkin Carving, among other events. They secured some tree stumps which were painted by adults and kids to create a story circle, and held Friday night music jams in the park, and Saturday morning drop-ins for garden work.

Congratulations on all your initiatives. Continue to share your success stories with us, and apply on behalf of YOUR great association for the next FOCA Achievement Award. We all benefit from your shared stories.

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

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Land Use Planning in a Bill 23 World: what it means for cottage country was introduced by Deborah Martin-Downs, FOCA Vice President, with guest speaker Theresa McClenaghan, Executive Director of the Canadian Environmental Law Association. (See link on page 1 to download the slides.) Introductory words by Deb Martin-Downs:

It is my privilege today to introduce our next topic and guest speaker. I expect that I don't have to tell you that the health and sustainability of our waterfront communities is highly influenced by the way we use the landscapes around our lakes and rivers. Some of you got involved with your lake association because of issues related to water quality, boating, or maybe because of development. Despite the idyllic cottage life we lead year round or seasonally, we must be ever vigilant about what is happening in our backyard.



NEXT SESSION:

Land Use Planning is a Bill 23 World
& what it means for Cottage Country



Theresa McClenaghan
Executive Director
Canadian Environmental
Law Association



Introduced by: Deborah Martin-Downs
FOCA Vice President Muskoka Lakes Association

What gets built and where is a function of official plans and local zoning bylaws but is driven by rules dictated by the Province of Ontario through the Planning Act and the Provincial Policy Statement (or PPS) and other associated acts. One of these provincial acts Bill 23 known as the More Homes Built Faster Act, has featured prominently in the media since it was introduced in October of last year and approved in November – one month later. The changes in Bill 23 have meant significant changes about how planning takes place in our waterfront communities, how people participate in decisions, and what kind of protections are afforded to important natural features.

There is no one better to explain the act and its implications to us than Theresa McClenaghan, Executive Director and Counsel with the Canadian Environmental Law Association know as CELA. FOCA has been fortunate enough to work alongside Theresa and her colleagues on many files over the years and we are privileged to have her here today to provide some perspective on our land use planning challenges.

~

Climate-Ready Property Tips was presented by Cheryl Evans, Director of Flood and Wildfire Resilience at the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation. (See page 1 for link to slides & homeowner resources.) Introductory words from FOCA:

FOCA has been actively involved in many committees and with a variety of partners over the last 10+ years on issues related to our changing climate, including what this will mean for our biodiversity, the risks from wildfire, and especially on how and when and how much water shows up. The Intact Centre has been a strong voice for adaptation and for action - from government, industry, and from community groups and families. We're pleased today to introduce Cheryl Evans who will talk to us about some practical tips to create a Climate-ready Property. Cheryl is Director of Flood & Wildfire Resilience at the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, an applied research centre with a national focus, within the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo.

UNDERSTAND YOUR RISKS TO PLAN AND BUILD SAFELY WITH CLIMATE-RESILIENCE IN MIND

INTACT CENTRE ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Conservation Authorities

- Local flood messaging (river and shoreline flood status)
- Flood risk mapping
- Regulation and permits- e.g. construction, renovation, shoreline/ riverbank amendments, safe egress

Areas Not Serviced by a Conservation Authority

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Regional and District Offices

Municipalities

- Development approvals and by-law enforcement
- On-the-ground flood response

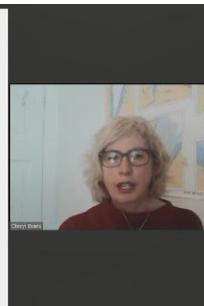
Flood Status

Lake Huron	Rivers	Groundwater
Low	Low	Low
Medium	Medium	Medium
High	High	High

Low Water Status

Normal	Low
Normal	Low

Source: Saugeen Conservation website



~

FireSmart Principles for your Waterfront Community was presented by Shayne McCool, Fire Advisor – Northeast Region for Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES), of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. (See page 1 for link to slides.) Introductory words from FOCA for this session:



Homeowners in waterfront Ontario face some unique and increasing risks due to our changing climate; being prepared needs the attention of all of us who live in the bush, and who want to keep our families and our neighbours safe in the event of a wildfire. We've worked with the Aviation and Fire group from MNRF for years on fire safety, and most recently to help educate rural and northern landowners about being safe around wildfire suppression operations. Shayne is here to talk about FireSmart principles for your waterfront property and community.

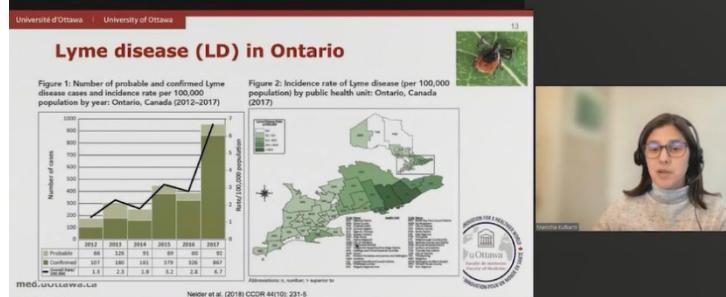
Tips to Make Your Home and Property FireSmart
Download the FireSmart Begins at Home app and do a self-assessment of your home and property.

FireSmart Canada

Tick Talk: Tracking the spread of ticks that carry Lyme disease in Ontario was presented by Manisha Kulkarni of the University of Ottawa, and the Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network. (See page 1 for link to slides.) Introductory words from FOCA:

Part of our ongoing role is to educate Ontario waterfront property owners on issues important to their waterfront experience, including topics related to public health. Since early 2022 FOCA has been involved as a member of the

Community Engagement Advisory Committee with the Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network. We are pleased to have Dr. Manisha Kulkarni with us today. The Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network (CLyDRN) provides national capacity to conduct integrated, multidisciplinary research from academia, public health, health care, and industry. The goal of this research network is to improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease in Canada.



Biodiversity and Resiliency: a Call to Action for Nature was presented by Tom Hilditch, Chair of the Ontario Biodiversity Council. (See page 1 for link to slides.) Introductory words from FOCA:

FOCA has been on the Ontario Biodiversity Council (OBC) and various related Stewardship committees since 2006, as part of an interdisciplinary group of interest holders from NGO's government and industry, to meet our obligations as a society to protect what sustains us. Healthy ecosystems support healthy people, animals and plants, as well as a healthy economy.

Presentation Outline

- Conservation in Cottage Country
- Current Trends; Challenges & Opportunities
- Biodiversity and Species at Risk
- A Path Forward... Mindful Conservation
- Transformative Actions.. One Step at a Time

We need to protect biodiversity and use it in a sustainable way. So we are very pleased today to welcome Tom Hilditch as our final speaker.

He currently serves as Chair of the OBC, the Chair of the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario, and on the Board of the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resources Centre. Tom is a speaker and author; his first book, recently published is called: Becoming an Enlightened Consultant, Awakened by Cancer.





Thank you to everyone who joined us in-person and by webinar!

Congratulations to our door prize winners:

- Bill Wong, Kennebec Lake Association
 - Sue Dougherty, Talpines Property Owners Association
 - John Robson, Lower Beverley Lake Association
 - Steve Owen, Growler Lake Property Owners Association
- > Yamaha prize pack
 - > Yamaha prize pack
 - > Cottage Succession Seminar recording
 - > Cottage Succession Seminar recording



Digital access to
1 Cottage Succession recording
of your choice
(60-90 minutes each)
a \$40 value

[https://foca.on.ca/
cottage-succession/](https://foca.on.ca/cottage-succession/)

Cottage
Succession
A to Z
with estate lawyer
Peter Lillico



Talk #1 - Cottage Succession Planning "A" to "Z" – this is the recommended introductory session that provides an overview of considerations for starting your cottage succession plan (recorded 2021)

Talk #2 - Cottage Sharing Agreements – an in-depth look at considerations for the Cottage Sharing Agreement, one important step in your cottage succession process (recorded 2020)

Talk #3 - Targeting Tax – an in-depth session explaining capital gains tax, and tips to reduce or defer it (recorded 2020)

Talk #4 - Trusting the Cottage – an in-depth look at trust techniques (recorded in 2021)



Please share these updates with your fellow association members.

"Thank you for inviting CD3 Systems to join the 60th FOCA AGM and Spring Seminar!"

I had an excellent time at the event, weather and all! This was a great opportunity to connect with association representatives from across the province. It was great learning more about the area's aquatic invasive species prevention methods and discussing how CD3 Systems can benefit these efforts. If we didn't have a chance to connect and you would like more information, please feel free to reach out; I'd be happy to chat."

~ Jake Utrie jake@cd3systems.com

"Well orchestrated. Excellent content. Very worth the time investment. We are fortunate to have FOCA!"

~ post-event survey comment

"There was a great flow through the presentations. Without duplicating messages, each presentation gained more importance that was apparent from the others. There was an excellent theme of 'You can do this!'"

~post-event survey comment