

## FOCA Achievement Award – Overview & Notes about Selection Criteria (at 2023)

This information is also posted online here: <https://foca.on.ca/foca-achievement-award/>

### About the Award:

The **FOCA Achievement Award** is presented annually to a FOCA Member Association to celebrate the successes of the FOCA community, and to encourage peer sharing of best practices. The Award has been given out since 1996.

The **Award recipient\*** is selected annually from eligible nominations received by FOCA, and FOCA reserves the right to assign an unlimited number of additional Honourable Mentions in any year.

Nominations are reviewed by the **Selection Committee**, comprised of the Membership Services & Benefits Committee of the FOCA Board of Directors, supported by FOCA staff input, and based on Selection Criteria outlined below.

*\* We refer to the Award “recipient” rather than “winner”, as we recognize and applaud all the accomplishments of all our volunteer association nominees!*

### Who can be Nominated:

Any [current FOCA Member Association](#) in good standing may be nominated. (NOTE: The Award is not open to FOCA Affiliate or Supporting Groups who do not pay per-member annual fees to FOCA, but are nevertheless our valued regional partners.)

Accomplishments should be in line with FOCA’s vision of “*thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario, now and for future generations*” or at least one of FOCA’s strategic priorities:

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

### Association accomplishments in the following areas could include, but are not limited to the following:

- environmental stewardship, monitoring, lake planning, invasives prevention
- science, research, education
- land use planning initiatives
- boating safety initiatives
- successful advocacy/interaction with government partners at any level
- fire safety, emergency preparedness
- membership growth & engagement
- road maintenance, capital programs, planning, novel partnerships
- collaborations with local service clubs, organizations, or communities
- youth, newcomer, or indigenous partner outreach
- innovative programs, events, communications.

Large or small associations are encouraged to apply. Regional diversity among Award recipients is just one of several considerations weighed by the Selection Committee (see Selection Criteria, below). Accomplishments should be current, but can include long-standing efforts that have reached a milestone or feature a recent highlight. *Please **do not apply** if you received the Award for the same or similar accomplishments in the past 5 years, or if the featured accomplishment was funded primarily by FOCA.*

Past Award winners have demonstrated accomplishments beyond the regular scope of day-to-day volunteer Association work, by presenting new or scalable ideas, or successful efforts that set a precedent or can serve as an inspiration to fellow members across the province.

### **Who can Nominate a Member Association:**

Nominations can be made by individuals, associations, umbrella organizations, government partners (municipal/county/provincial), conservancies, FOCA staff and Board, and any other interested parties.

### **How to Nominate a Member Association:**

Complete the [Award Nomination Form](#) (PDF; 2 page fillable form), and return it by email along with any photos and additional support materials to [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca). Nominations received by **October 30<sup>th</sup>** of the year will be considered for that year's Award.

### **Selection Criteria:**

The criteria on the following page will be used by the **Selection Committee** to review all nominations and should be considered by prospective nominees when drafting their submission. Any nominations deemed "ineligible" in section #1 will receive follow-up from the FOCA staff by December 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest, and the Association will have 14 days to remedy the situation (if, for example, the issue is Membership not currently in good standing), to be re-assessed for eligibility. Any nominations deemed "eligible" in section #1 will be presented in their entirety to the Award Selection Committee, with sections #1 and #2 pre-filled by FOCA staff from information already on file and/or information provided in the *Award Nomination Form*.

### **When the Award is Presented:**

The Award recipient will be notified the following February. The Award will be presented at the next **FOCA Annual General Meeting & Spring Seminar** traditionally held on the first Saturday of March; watch for event details in the FOCA EAlert. A representative of the recipient Association is invited to attend the event to receive the Award and make a brief statement about the accomplishment that led to the Award.

**FOCA Achievement Award – Selection Criteria (ver.2022)**  
FOR INTERNAL USE

**1. Eligibility:**

<i>If answer is in grey, not eligible this year</i>	Yes	No
Nominee is a full FOCA Member Association in good standing?		
Received the FOCA Award in the past? If yes, in what year? <i>(If received 5 or fewer years ago = not eligible)</i>		
Accomplishment is current – or, if long-term, there has been a recent milestone or highlight over the past 12-18 months?		
The primary featured program/accomplishment was entirely funded by FOCA or other grant programs? <i>(If yes, must exclude this accomplishment from any rankings in Sections #3 &amp; #4 below.)</i>		

Excluded Accomplishment(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Eligible Accomplishment(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Demographics of the Association:**

Size of Association: \_\_\_\_\_ members most recently reported, of approx. \_\_\_\_\_ properties in area

Year Formed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ Year Joined FOCA: \_\_\_\_\_

Association's Municipality/County/Region: \_\_\_\_\_

When was the most recent FOCA Award recipient from this Region? (year) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Alignment of Eligible Accomplishment(s) with FOCA Vision or Strategic Priority(ies):**

Aligned?:	Yes	No	Unclear
<b>Vision:</b> thriving & sustainable waterfronts, now and for future generations			
<b>Priorities:</b> P1. promotes healthy lands, lakes, rivers			
P2. serves lake or road member associations <i>(the accomplishment is novel or an example of best practices for lake or road volunteer associations)</i>			
P3. advocates for responsive government			
P4. champions affordable and/or safe rural living			
P5. builds organizational capacity and/or converts new supporters			
P6. Fosters community in rural Ontario			

**4. Impacts & Other Considerations:** *(leave entries blank for any that do not apply at all)*

<i>(1= 'not very'; 3= 'fairly/somewhat'; 5= 'extremely')</i>	Score
How much has this accomplishment demonstrated quantifiable benefits?	
How significant is the accomplishment for the size of the association, or number of volunteers involved?	
How novel/innovative is the accomplishment for this association itself?	
How rare is it that FOCA has news to share about this topic, best practice, or type of accomplishment?	
How much will it have effects beyond the immediate local community (regional or provincial implications)?	
How inspiring could this example be to others (worth sharing)?	
How 'reproducible' is it for other member groups (worth doing/able to accomplish)?	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	