

# Lake Stewards Newsletter

Summer 2013

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# FOCA Achievement Award

from Tracy Logan, FOCA

The FOCA Achievement Award is presented to a FOCA member Association each year, at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The award celebrates the successes of the FOCA community, and encourages peer sharing of best-practices.

Congratulations to the 2012/13 FOCA Achievement Award winner, the **Leech Lake Cottagers Association!**

A FOCA member since 2002, the Leech Lake Cottagers Association has 125 members on its 81 hectare lake in the Muskoka region.

The group organized a Stewardship Committee in 2006 with an initial task of developing a mission statement defining the steps necessary to improve water quality in Leech Lake. Since then they have been very busy with many initiatives including coordinating a septic pumping program, completing

a lake assessment in partnership with Fleming College, performing benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring with the District of Muskoka and conducting a survey that showed that 88% of respondents listed water quality as the primary contributor to quality of life on Leech Lake.

FOCA congratulates the Leech Lake Cottagers Association for developing effective partnerships with municipal and institutional partners, and for their success in transitioning from data collection to lake planning and community action.

FOCA extends a special “Thank you” to Judi Brouse of the District of Muskoka who helped to provide the award to Leech Lake Cottagers Association at the FOCA Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2013.

So many FOCA member groups have been doing great work this past year that we are pleased to announce two “Honorable Mentions” for the FOCA Achievement Award. Congratulations to:

## **Bennett & Fagan Lakes Association**

A FOCA member since 1993, this group of more than 100 members is located in Lanark County. They recently worked with their local OPP detachment to implement a cottage watch initiative around the lake, including installing road signs.

## **Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Assoc.**

A FOCA member since 2005, this association is located in the District of Kenora. With more than 4000 members, LOWDPOA is the largest association of this kind in the province of Ontario.

They started the LakeSmart program – an environmental outreach program which visits almost 400 waterfront properties over July and August, leaving information kits



*Pictured (l to r): Valerie McCoy of Leech Lake Cottagers Assoc, Michelle Lewin of FOCA, Donna Doelman of Bennett & Fagan Lakes Assoc, Nancy Salmijarvi of Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association.*



*Ken Grant speaking at the FOCAAGM, March 2013.*



*A group from the Leech Lake Cottagers Association performing benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring.*

and helping cottagers better understand the importance of healthy shorelines to overall water quality.

FOCA also extends congratulations to our Manitoulin members: the Manitoulin Streams Volunteers were the winners of the 2012 National Recreational Fishery Award, earlier this year.

## Nominate an Association

If you are interested in nominating an association for the 2013/14 award please find a nomination form on the FOCA website or contact the office: call 705-749-3622 or email [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca)

The award recipient must be a FOCA member association in good standing whose activities are consistent with FOCA's mission: "to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario." The group's achievements should be current, and relate to one of the following categories:

- environmental stewardship
- land use planning initiatives
- research and/or education
- political involvement
- other innovations or successes in line with FOCA's mission.

Get a copy of the nomination form:

[www.foca.on.ca/FOCA\\_Achievement\\_Award](http://www.foca.on.ca/FOCA_Achievement_Award)



# Meet the New FOCA President



Ken Grant was elected President of the FOCA Board of Directors for 2013.

For thirty years, Ken has been an eastern Ontario cottage owner in North Frontenac. He has been the Environmental Steward for more than 26 years, and President of the Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association for the past decade. Ken joined the FOCA

Board of Directors in 2011.

Ken is a retired Federal Public Service Executive with 28 years of experience in Management and Human Resources. Since retirement, Ken has consulted with several foreign governments including China, Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore. Ken helped to develop a septic re-inspection program for the Municipality of North Frontenac, and sits on the Mississippi River Water Management Plan Advisory Committee.

Ken is interested in all matters of Lake Stewardship including keeping lakes as healthy as possible, minimizing pollution sources from cottages and boats, ensuring that our local fishery is healthy, educating cottagers about their environment and how to maintain it for future generations.





# LAKE STEWARDS' UPDATES

from the Lake Partner Program Coordinator, Anna DeSellas

## Cyanobacterial Monitoring Program 2013

Cyanobacteria, commonly termed blue-green algae, are a type of photosynthetic bacteria that occur in freshwaters. Blue-green algal blooms are commonly found in freshwater bodies throughout the world. Blooms usually occur in late summer or early fall and are dependent on

specific environmental conditions, such as calm water conditions, high temperatures and elevated phosphorous levels.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and partners are working to better understand the environmental factors such as phosphorus levels and weather conditions that contribute to blue-green algal blooms. Between the spring and fall of 2013, FOCA, the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition, and the Ministry will monitor cyanobacteria, water chemistry, lake temperature, dissolved oxygen, and other environmental factors in four lakes in Algoma, an area in the Northern Region that has experienced recurrent blue-green algal blooms. The data collected will be used to investigate the factors that may trigger an algal bloom, and assess why blooms occur in some lakes but not others. Monitoring studies such as the Algoma project, which was made possible by partnerships with lake stewards, are a valuable approach to understanding algal blooms and protecting Ontario lakes.



*Cyanobacterial monitoring workshop in Algoma, April 2013*

## Lake Partner Program

The Lake Partner Program (LPP) is Ontario's volunteer-based water quality monitoring program for inland lakes. FOCA has been a proud partner of the MOE Lake Partner Program since its inception in 1996.

In 2013, it is projected that over 600 LPP volunteers will sample 778 sites on Ontario's inland lakes. This equates to a 10% increase in the number of lakes being sampled since 2011, making the LPP the largest low-level total phosphorus monitoring program in North America. There are now 291 lakes in the province with at least 10 years of



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continuous high quality phosphorus data collected by volunteers. Many of these lakes have lake associations that are FOCA members. MOE and FOCA thank you for your hard work and dedication towards protecting and understanding Ontario's inland waters.

[www.foca.on.ca/lake-partner](http://www.foca.on.ca/lake-partner)

## Update on the Broadscale Monitoring Program

The Ontario Ministries of Natural Resources and the Environment have also been collecting valuable water quality and fisheries data from lakes across the province as part of their Broadscale Monitoring Program. The Broadscale Monitoring Program works on a five year cycle. The program completed its first five-year cycle in 2012 with just over 800 lakes being sampled. These lakes are divided into two groups of approximately equal numbers: Fixed lakes and variable lakes. Long-term sampling will be conducted on the fixed lakes. These lakes were selected to provide a representative sample of provincial lakes which contain walleye, lake trout or brook trout. These species are top predators and are good indicators of the health of cold water and cool water lakes. Each of these lakes will be visited once in each five year cycle. This sampling will provide a measure of how the fisheries resource changes throughout time and will give feedback on the success or failure of regulatory and management efforts.

The second group, or variable lakes, will be selected randomly at the beginning of each five year cycle. Sampling these lakes is designed to yield a broad overall picture of provincial lakes. It will give a snapshot look at the state of the fisheries resource in general. If the lake on which you cottage or live has been selected as a "fixed lake", it will be visited once in each of the 5 year cycles. If it has not been selected as a fixed lake, it might still be chosen as a variable lake sometime in the future and be sampled for at least one year and perhaps more often.

The water chemistry data obtained from the Broadscale Monitoring Program will give us important insights on the current state of Ontario's inland lakes. Cycle two of this program was scheduled to begin in the spring of 2013, and approximately 130 lakes will be monitored for temperature, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, water quality, fish abundance and other characteristics, and invasive species.

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Advocacy updates from Terry Rees, FOCA Executive Director

## Great Lakes Updates

**Low Water:** In February 2013, Lakes Huron and Michigan hit their lowest water levels ever recorded since record keeping began in 1918, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The International Joint Commission, a U.S.-Canadian agency that deals with shared waterways, released a statement on April 15, 2013, following hearings and review of more than 3,500 public comments. The IJC recommended that the two governments investigate structural options in the St. Clair River that could increase water levels over a 10-year period. However, response to the report—even among those sitting directly on the Commission—has been mixed, reflecting concerns that climate change may be the most significant factor affecting lower water levels, and that further structural interventions could cause unintended results.

**Great Lakes Protection Act:** FOCA continues to advocate for the adoption of the Great Lakes Protection Act, a bill originally introduced in the Ontario legislature in June 2012, and re-introduced in February 2013, by Minister of the Environment, Jim Bradley. FOCA maintains regular communication with his ministry.

**Nuclear Waste storage facility proposed near Lake Huron:** FOCA is concerned about any adverse effects to human health or the environment, including Lake Huron and the Great Lakes, from the proposed “Deep Geologic Repository” for long-term nuclear waste storage underground near Kincardine, Ontario. FOCA concurs with our partners at the Canadian Environmental Law

Association, in that, “regardless of our respective opinions about the merits of the technology, a common goal must be a strong, reliable, publicly credible regulatory process for this industry and there is major room for improvement in this sphere in Canada’s regulatory system.” FOCA notes the motion circulated by Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley in late 2012, asking the 90 members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative for no low-level waste site to be approved until it has been debated by, “all government bodies including federal, provincial and municipal, and representatives from the United States.” For more on these topics: [www.foca.on.ca/Great\\_Lakes\\_Issues](http://www.foca.on.ca/Great_Lakes_Issues).

## Experimental Lakes Area

FOCA has remained vocal about the importance of the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA), since the closure announcement by the Federal Government in April 2012.

On April 24th of this year, after ongoing pressure from FOCA and others, FOCA was encouraged to hear Ontario



Terry Rees and Tracy Logan of FOCA protest to save ELA at the Spring Cottage Life Show in Toronto, April 5, 2013.

Premier Kathleen Wynne state that, “We are committed to finding a solution. I think this is an important gem. I don’t believe provincially, regionally, nationally or internationally we can afford to let it go.”

FOCA is cautiously enthusiastic about the proposed management role of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), a Winnipeg-based policy

institute. FOCA’s Executive Director met with IISD while in Winnipeg for the Lake of the Woods District Property Owners’ Association Annual General Meeting in early May. A joint press release issued May 9, 2013 by IISD and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans indicated that the framework of an agreement has been reached to allow IISD to operate the ELA facility.

FOCA continues to call upon the federal government to finalize a timely agreement that will appropriately fund this internationally-significant research facility near Kenora in northwestern Ontario. [www.foca.on.ca/ela](http://www.foca.on.ca/ela)

"In the short span of one or two generations, the majority of the 9 billion people on Earth will be living under the handicap of severe pressure on fresh water, an absolutely essential natural resource for which there is no substitute. This handicap will be self-inflicted and is, we believe, entirely avoidable.

Stewardship requires balancing the needs of human-kind and the needs of nature through the protection of ecosystems and the services that they provide. Without such a design framework, we anticipate highly fragmented decision-making and the persistence of maladaptive approaches to water management."

from: Global Water Systems Project (GWSP) **The Bonn Declaration on Global Water Security**, May 2013.

Founded in 2004, the GWSP is an international organization based at the University of Bonn, Germany, dedicated to monitoring freshwater resources around the globe. [www.gwsp.org](http://www.gwsp.org)

## Severe Weather Warning

The waterfront property community has always been self-reliant and resilient in the face of adversity. This spirit was put to the test this April, when snow melt due to warm temperatures combined with sudden heavy rain to produce flooding in several parts of cottage country.

Earth Day celebrations rang out on April 22nd, 2013, with the eerie theme of "the face of climate change." Only six weeks earlier on March 2nd, Gary Nielsen, Climate Change Project Coordinator of the Ministry of Natural Resources, had given a timely presentation on the subject of climate change at the FOCA A.G.M. Nielsen explained that Ontario's ecosystem is under stress, with a decreased amount of natural areas, wetlands and forests, alongside increases in air and water temperatures, shortened periods of winter ice cover and earlier snow melt. He cautioned that we must learn to adapt where we cannot mitigate these changes, to reduce our vulnerabilities.

Before the waters subsided in Ontario in early May, a state of emergency had been declared in the towns of Bracebridge and Huntsville and the City of Kawartha Lakes, as well as Minden Hills, South Algonquin, Bancroft and Markstay-Warren east of Sudbury. Many permanent and seasonal residents experienced damage to their properties and scrambled for updates.

In the aftermath of the spring flooding, FOCA had

*continued on page 9*



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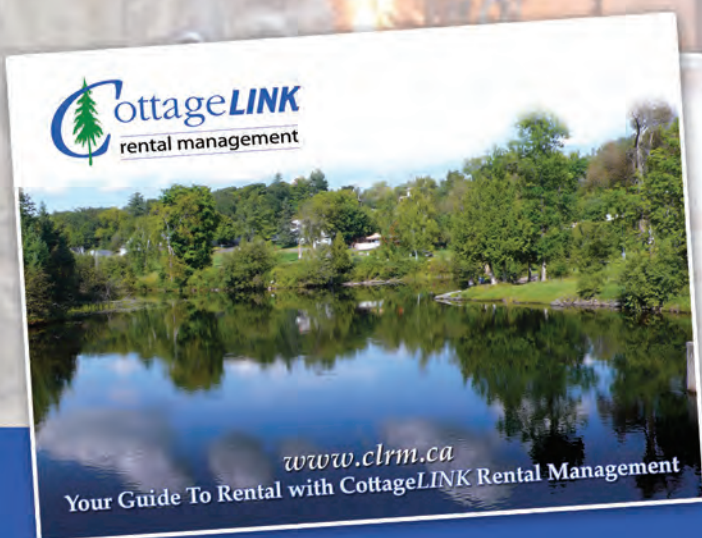
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Heather Boyer  
(President, CottageLINK Rental Management)



## Severe Weather Warning...

*continued from page 7*

questions about community preparedness in Ontario. We contacted MNR's Surface Water Monitoring Group, Parks' Canada Trent Severn Waterway, Emergency Management Ontario (EMO), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as well as county and municipal partners, seeking better information on these recent events, and the responses of the organizations implicated. We share the following reply from EMO:

*Dear Mr. Rees:*

*Thank you for your questions. It is encouraging to hear that your organization is being proactive on flood mitigation for its members. Responses to your specific EMO questions are as follows:*

**Are municipalities required to have a designated emergency contact?** *Yes. Under the Emergency Management & Civil Protection Act (EMCPA), every municipality must have a designated Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC). CEMC contact information can be gained by contacting the respective municipal office.*

**Are they required to have an emergency response plan?** *Yes. The EMCPA states that each municipality must have an Emergency Response Plan (ERP).*

**Is there any minimum content for such a plan?** *The ERP, as a minimum, must include roles and responsibilities of the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG), and procedures for contacting each member of the MECG. EMO also encourages the inclusion of an Emergency Information Plan, Telecommunications Plan, an Evacuation Plan and a Resource Listing, among other things.*

**Are there requirements for testing local emergency response plans?** *Yes. Under the EMCPA, each municipality is required to test their ERP through an exercise every year. The exercise should focus on a hazard that has been identified as a risk by the municipality. EMO often provides advice and assistance in the conduct of these exercises.*

**Who is responsible for vetting or reviewing emergency response plans?** *It is up to the municipality's Emergency Management Program Committee to ensure the ERP meets the needs of the municipality. The ERP is then approved and adopted*

*by by-law through council. EMO ensures that the plan exists, meets the requirements of the EMCPA as described above, and is reviewed annually.*

*We trust this answers your questions. If you have more questions please do not hesitate to contact EMO.*

FOCA encourages you to ask your municipality when they last reviewed their Emergency Response Plan. For a list of Ontario Municipalities and contact information, visit [www.foca.on.ca/Hot\\_Topics](http://www.foca.on.ca/Hot_Topics) (under: "Who's in Charge")



FOCA advocates personal responsibility for every waterfront property owner, as part of good risk management. Whether flood, fire or other severe weather events, it falls to each of us to be reasonably prepared for emergencies that arrive with force and little warning.

FOCA is working with EMO and other partners to help communicate the importance of preparedness to our communities. "Safety for Ontarians begins at home, or at the cottage," says Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief of EMO, Allison Stuart. "Ensuring your family is prepared in case of a disaster should be a key priority for cottagers. Resilient families make resilient communities."

For more on how to help your family get prepared, visit [www.foca.on.ca/rural-services](http://www.foca.on.ca/rural-services)

## Federal Fisheries Act changes

Starting with significant changes first proposed in the June 2012 Federal budget, Fisheries and Oceans Canada is slowly developing the regulations and technical guidance to define the new Fisheries Act.

FOCA has been vocal along the way, firstly about the importance of habitat to fish, but also that habitat protection provides precautionary protection for aquatic life and fisheries, whether directly part of a commercial fishery or not. FOCA feels that many questions remain, related to fisheries management in Ontario, including: which species and water bodies will be afforded protection, and who will make these determinations or enforce the rules.

FOCA members are encouraged to visit FOCA's Hot Topics, and Environment webpages for ongoing updates on proposed changes, and to learn how you can have your say about this important piece of waterfront legislation.

# Algonquin Land Claim

FOCA has been very active on this file, on behalf of our members in eastern Ontario. With roots stretching back more than 200 years, the Algonquin Land Claim preliminary draft agreement-in-principle (AIP) was finally released for public review in December 2012. As part of the Stakeholder Committee, FOCA was vocal through Fall 2012 about the

sessions for municipal, provincial and federal officials in late May and early June. Potts insists this is still an “information-gathering” stage and that changes and consultations continue. Discussion of property taxation, land-use planning and access to hunt camps and snowmobile trails are all on the table. More than 8,000 Algonquins will vote on the draft

AIP, likely this year. It is estimated that it will take at least another five to ten years to transfer the land to an Algonquin system, in consultation with municipalities over the coming years.

Did you miss FOCA's info sessions on this subject, earlier this year? Watch a webcast of Terry Rees' presentation, review the maps, and ensure you submit comments and

feedback directly to the negotiation teams. Follow the links from: [www.foca.on.ca/Algonquin-Land-Claim](http://www.foca.on.ca/Algonquin-Land-Claim)



Public meeting co-hosted by FOCA in Stittsville, February 2013

need for public consultation as soon as possible in the process.

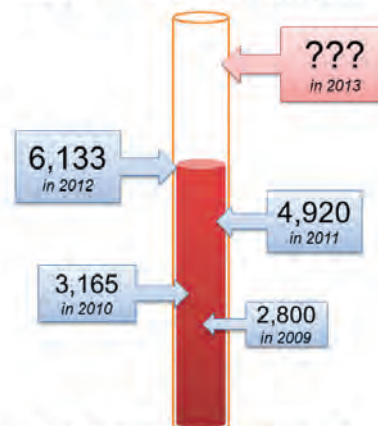
Following the release of maps marking crown land proposed for transfer to the Algonquins, FOCA co-hosted a series of meetings with OFAH and CSIA through February and early March 2013, to bring this information to the attention of the public in Bancroft, Perth, Stittsville, North Bay and Pembroke. (Note: these meetings were separate from the official public information sessions held by the governments of Ontario and Canada during mid-March 2013.)

FOCA does not dispute the rights of the Algonquins of Ontario in this aboriginal treaty agreement. FOCA has, however, lobbied for more transparency and public consultation that appropriately engages landowners adjacent to the 117,500 acres of crown land to be transferred in over 200 parcels in the claim area.

The chief negotiator for the Algonquins of Ontario, lawyer Bob Potts, responded to calls for improved consultation with stakeholders by arranging a series of additional information

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# ONCA Update

*"Hi FOCA: I am writing in my capacity as treasurer of our association. We have our AGM coming up. Can you let me know if the "guidance package" for navigating not for profit changes is available yet? All the best, P."*

## FOCA responded:

Thanks for checking in about the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). The short answer is "no" it has not been finalized. The long answer is... well... longer.

Proclamation of the Act by the Ministry of Consumer Services has been delayed to "no sooner than January 2014," which means FOCA has also pushed back the creation of any support information for members who are incorporated in Ontario.

We understand that changes are still being negotiated to the wording of the Act, in part due to pressure from the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN), of which FOCA is a member. ONN has been lobbying for changes that would make the new Act less onerous for groups like our associations (e.g., regarding the rights of members, and whether you can continue to have non-voting member categories like "Family Member" or "Junior Member").

The catch is that the wording of the Act has not yet been set in stone, thus having a vote on revised member categories may be an unnecessary step! Outside of this member issue, it seems there will be a 3 year phase-in period during which you can rework other parts of your Bylaws, if needed to comply with the new Act.

FOCA will keep members posted as more information becomes available. Updates will be posted here: [www.foca.on.ca/support-for-associates](http://www.foca.on.ca/support-for-associates)

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# ***“Time is Muscle” – Cottage Heart Attacks***

from Blake Hurst, Heart and Stroke BLS Instructor

When a person is experiencing a heart attack it is because heart muscle is not receiving oxygen and is therefore beginning to die. Less than two hours after symptom onset some heart muscle may be dead and muscle will continue to die until the patient is treated.

In cottage country time is a challenge. If having the patient sit down and relax does not bring symptom relief quickly, commit to action and CALL 9-1-1. The best possible outcomes are achieved for patients that arrive at the hospital shortly after symptom onset.

The very best way to get a heart attack patient to the hospital is in an ambulance. In cottage country this often presents challenges. It may be helpful to work with the dispatcher to co-ordinate a meeting place somewhere along the route. Patients that arrive at the ER by ambulance often are seen by a doctor sooner, because paramedics can do a primary assessment and call ahead if they feel the situation is serious.

## **Common Primary Symptoms**

- chest pain: Intense pain or tightness originating behind the sternum
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- profuse sweating, often alternating with paleness and a cool, clammy sensation

## **What to do: CALL 9-1-1**

## **Common Secondary Symptoms**

- dizziness, light-headedness, vertigo
- nausea or upset stomach
- denial or a sense of doom

## **Common Symptoms in Women**

- pain may be centered between the shoulder blades and into the low back
- shortness of breath and sweating may be acute
- symptoms may be vague, a general feeling of unwellness



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# Diving into Lake Stewardship to Save Turtles

from FOCA's partners at Adopt-a-Pond

For the last four years the Toronto Zoo's Adopt-A-Pond programme has applied the process and tools of Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) to develop and implement conservation programs for turtles with Lake Associations in Ontario. This endeavor, made possible through support from Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, resulted in the pilot of the Healthy Water – Healthy Wildlife initiative in 2011.

At the onset of this initiative, Adopt-A-Pond surveyed turtle biologists to identify actions that would most benefit the recovery of species at risk turtles. Subsequently, waterfront property owners were identified as a particularly important target group for turtle conservation programming. Recognizing the valuable role they can play in addressing the threats of both habitat loss and degradation, a series of focus groups and surveys with cottagers were carried out to better understand personal values and possible barriers to environmental stewardship action for waterfront property owners. The result was invaluable information regarding audience needs and wants, important advertising messages, and likelihood of adoption of specific conservation behaviours.

Using this knowledge of what our participants valued

most, a pilot program was developed and implemented with three lake communities. These programmes were developed in partnership with French Planning Services,

Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations. The primary goal of the Healthy Water – Healthy Wildlife initiative is to give lake communities the information that they desire about maintaining water quality, local wildlife species and habitats and to ensure that they have a framework for conservation in place that is consistent with their values and needs. To achieve this, a facilitated focus group session is held on each lake and community members are asked to work together to

create a wildlife strategy and associated list of stewardship actions that they see as valuable to the lake. Of the wildlife strategies developed during the pilot stage, recommended projects ranged from shoreline assessments, to species inventories, to educational hikes and workshop for kids, to having local wetlands designated as Provincially Significant. While lake communities were working to develop their action plans, wetland biologists made visits to each lake to identify important wetlands and species at risk habitat. The resulting maps are then used by both the lake community and Adopt-A-Pond to set priorities for conservation and landowner stewardship actions. Beyond this, the maps provide the community with important and desired information about their lake and the valuable role it plays in supporting biodiversity.

Now, with continued support from the Toronto Zoo and our stewardship partner organizations, each lake is working towards their own stewardship goals, and engaging the local community to achieve their objectives. We slowly continue to add new lakes into our program and help others to have an influential role in helping Ontario's turtles, one healthy lake at a time.

If your lake has an interest in starting some active wildlife stewardship, check out our citizen science programmes, Ontario Turtle Tally and FrogWatch Ontario. You can find more information on all of our initiatives on our website

[www.torontozoo.ca/adoptapond](http://www.torontozoo.ca/adoptapond)



*Turtle nest restoration project, Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Assoc, 2012*



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# Peace of Mind for Your Piece of Heaven

from Michelle Lewin, FOCA

FOCA is pleased to partner in Ontario's 7th annual fire and carbon monoxide (CO) safety outreach: Peace of Mind for Your Piece of Heaven. This summer's campaign is bigger than ever, as provincial and local experts join forces to help make fire and carbon monoxide safety a priority in cottage country. The campaign is a combined effort of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council, cottage country fire departments, and Kidde Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms, with support from several additional safety focused organizations.

What should you do? First, follow this year's campaign slogan, and "check 'em and replace 'em." Check the age of all smoke and carbon monoxide alarms today. Then make smoke alarm maintenance and replacement a priority in your seasonal cottage start-up routine. Immediately replace smoke alarms over 10 years old and CO alarms over 5-10 years depending on the manufacturer. This is required

whether alarms are plug-in, hardwired or battery powered.

"Don't overlook the importance of protecting your family from carbon monoxide, the Silent Killer," says Carol Heller, a fire safety expert with Kidde Canada. "If your cottage has any potential source of CO – wood or gas fireplace or woodstove, an oil or gas or propane heating system or appliance – your only protection is a CSA-approved CO alarm."

Just in time for the summer, Kidde has introduced new "Worry-Free" Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms, with features that are of noteworthy interest, including lights that illuminate your way to safety, tamper-proof designs, back-up power, and new intelligent photoelectric alarm technology to help differentiate between different types of fires and false alarms. The Worry-Free product family also features Carbon Monoxide alarms with a lifespan of 10 years, marking a first for Canada.

Next, prepare and practice a cottage fire escape plan. Download a free cottage fire escape planning grid at [www.safeathome.ca](http://www.safeathome.ca), the info-packed website for the Peace of Mind campaign. While online, enter to win great prizes in this year's contest: to be eligible, cottagers are asked to confirm that they have checked the expiry dates on all cottage alarms!

Finally, spread the word about safety. "This is an Ontario-wide effort designed to increase awareness and save lives," says Heller. Arm yourself with the know-how to protect your family and guests.

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# FOCA Invasive Species Corner

from Tracy Logan, FOCA

No matter how they arrive at your waterfront area, invasive species are never a welcome sight! They come in all shapes and sizes, as plants, insects, fish or mollusks. Unfortunately, many can already be found in Ontario.

**Asian Carp** – Bighead and Silver (jumping) carp species are invasive fish with the potential to devastate the Great Lakes ecosystem by consuming enormous amounts of food and displacing native fish. Currently, an electric barrier in Chicago is the last line of defence, intended to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. Although recent studies have shown traces of eDNA in Lake Erie, no established reproducing population of Asian carp has been confirmed yet.

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** – The grub-like larvae of this invasive beetle bore under ash bark to feed on the tree tissues, eventually destroying the tree. EAB was first found in the Detroit/Windsor area in 2002 and has quickly spread throughout much of southern Ontario, mostly due to human transmission of infested wood. The Canadian Food and Inspection Agency (CFIA) has established regulated areas; ash tree materials and firewood of all species cannot be removed from these infested regions. CFIA is now working with cities, municipalities and other local groups on prevention and monitoring in hopes of reducing spread. Learn the signs and symptoms of EAB infestation. Buy and burn firewood locally. Don't move wood!

**Japanese Knotweed** - This invasive plant grows quickly in tall, dense clumps, and is unfortunately becoming familiar to cottage country residents. Once established, the plant grows aggressively and its extensive underground root system is extremely hard to eradicate. Catch it early in small clumps for the best chance of management. Control by

removing roots and stalks of the plant; place in black plastic bags and dispose in regular garbage, rather than composting.

**Eurasian Watermilfoil** – Originally introduced to North America through the ballast water of 19th century ships, this invasive plant may have also spread due to use as an aquarium species and in water gardens. A fast-growing perennial under the water surface, milfoil has become one of the most widely distributed invasive aquatic plants on the continent, choking out other species and affecting oxygen levels in the water. Tiny pieces can develop into new plants, so cutting or harvesting (or boat propeller action in infested areas) can intensify the problem! There is a biological control available that uses the native milfoil weevil, stocked by biologists, as a natural predator of the plant.

**Hydrilla** – Although it has not yet been detected in Canada, this aggressive aquatic plant has been found in upstate New York and is working its way north. Early detection and containment will be critical.

**What can you do?** Some general best practices are: garden using only non-invasive plants, dispose of bait properly, buy firewood locally and inspect and clean your boat and motor when changing water bodies. Know what to look for and then take action! Find images and more at [www.foca.on.ca/environment](http://www.foca.on.ca/environment).

If you identify any invading species near your cottage this summer call the Invading Species hotline at 1-800-563-7711.



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## Bridging the Divide: *Internet in cottage country*

from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network

Work to expand high-speed internet access throughout Eastern Ontario is in the final stretch!

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), Ontario's largest rural broadband project, will be complete by March 2014. A mix of internet technologies, including "Digital Subscriber Line" (DSL or wired) and wireless is being used to expand Internet access in the region, which is 50,000 square kilometres and has a population of nearly one million. Already, large swaths of Eastern Ontario's cottage country have improved access to broadband through a variety of technologies. The quality of wireless internet services has improved greatly through the project's substantial investment in new infrastructure, including scores of new towers and equipment upgrades.

"The sparse population, lakes and rugged terrain of our region make it a beautiful destination. But these features also mean that we need to use different internet technologies to overcome the challenges," said Jim Pine, Chief Administrative Officer of Hastings County and co-lead of the project. The EORN project involved construction of a

5,500-km fibre optic backbone, which was completed in late 2012. This included laying 520 kilometres of new cable to connect existing fibre, and building or upgrading 160 access points, where internet service providers can tap into the backbone and deliver high-speed internet to homes and businesses.

Each technology is capable of reaching different communities efficiently:

- DSL service, for example, requires being located close enough to the fibre optic backbone.
- Wireless service can reach more remote regions, as long as trees or terrain don't interfere with the radio signal.
- Satellite is the best fit for the most remote regions.

So far, infrastructure to improve access has been built in several areas, and service progresses in others; see the map (next page) for details. To find out more about when service will be available in your area, visit [www.eorn.ca](http://www.eorn.ca) and use the Service Locator tool to find your address.

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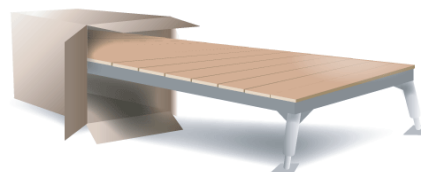


The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus created the Eastern Ontario Regional Network to improve high-speed Internet access across the region by 2014. Learn more at [www.eorn.ca](http://www.eorn.ca).



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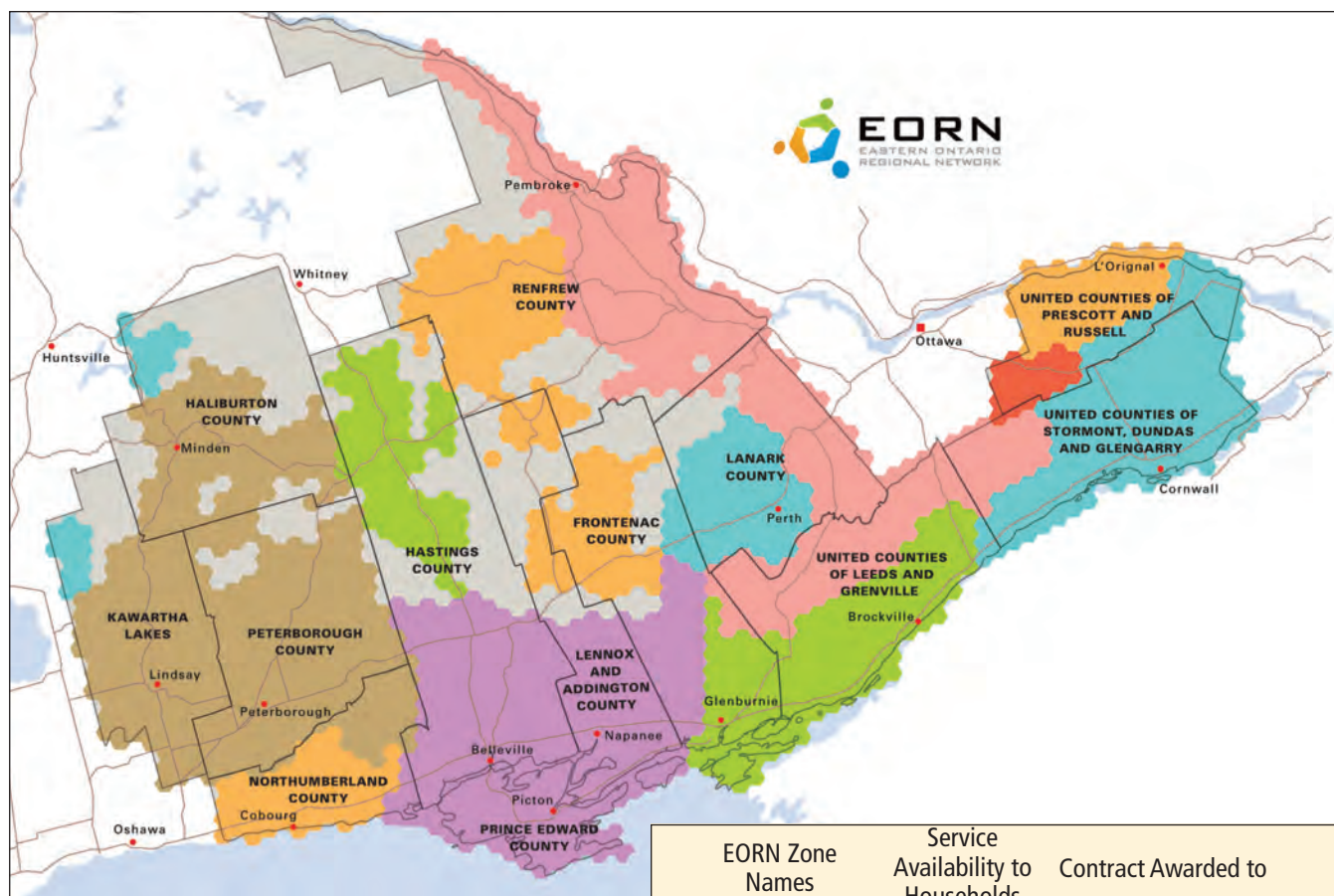


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Another goal of the project is closing the urban-rural price gap. When awarding local access contracts, EORN has placed a high priority on competitive pricing. "EORN awarded competitive bids based on how well ISPs could deliver service to the greatest number of residents," said Pine. The project is funded by federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as through substantial investment by private sector partners. In fact, the initial \$170 million project has grown in value to nearly \$260 million once private sector in-kind contributions and service commitments are included.

The entire region can already access improved internet services via satellite, thanks to special prices and packages negotiated with Xplornet Communications Inc., which launched a new 4G satellite network last year, and offers both fixed wireless and satellite service to cottagers, residents and businesses across Ontario. Xplornet now deploys up to 10 Mbps download speeds everywhere and has flexible packages with attractive options for seasonal customers. Satellite may continue

EORN Zone Names		Service Availability to Households	Contract Awarded to
	Embrun	Fall 2011	Xplornet
	Quinte-Loyalist	Fall 2012	Xplornet
	Northumberland	Fall 2012	Xplornet
	Highlands	Spring 2013	Bell Aliant
	South Nation	Spring 2013	Xplornet & Bell Aliant
	Haliburton	Summer 2013	Bell Aliant
	Kawartha	Summer 2013	Bell Aliant, Nexicom & Xplornet
	Ottawa Valley N.	Fall 2013	Bell Aliant
	Ottawa Valley S.	Fall 2013	Bell Aliant & Storm
	Lanark	Fall 2013	Bell Aliant & Storm
	SD&G	Fall 2013	Bell Aliant & Xplornet
	Dorset	Fall 2013	Bell Aliant
	Sebright	Fall 2013	Xplornet
	Hastings North	Fall 2013	Bell Aliant
	Thousand Is.	Fall 2013	Xplornet

to be the technology that best serves remote areas or difficult terrain within all EORN Zones.

Contact the FOCA office to arrange a local presentation for your association, to explore your newest internet options at the lake. [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca) 705-749-3622



# Wanted

## Community Champions and fire safe communities

from Tracy Logan, FOCA

Rural waterfront areas can be particularly susceptible to wildfires. FOCA encourages every homeowner to learn how to decrease the risk of losing your homes and how to best protect yourselves in the event of wildfire.

The FireSmart Communities Program is designed to encourage groups like yours to implement solutions for wildfire safety, by planning and working together, with the support of a local wildfire professional.



A day (or half-day) dedicated to cleaning up wildfire hazards can become an annual rallying point for neighbours. Working together is fun and effective, and some outdoor work can make a big difference to the wildfire hazard around your lake. Decrease the risk of losing your home to fire, and learn how to best protect yourself in the event of a wildfire.

The Program utilizes the following template:

- A local FireSmart representative will provide wildfire hazard reduction information designed for your community.
- With their assistance, you and your neighbours form a network to assess the wildfire hazards around you.
- You and your neighbours identify and implement local solutions.

Remember, communities that take steps to reduce their vulnerability have a greater chance of surviving a wildfire, with or without the intervention of the local fire department, or MNR fire crew.

If you are interested to be a Community Champion, contact FOCA to discuss your interests and to put you in touch with a local FireSmart expert. Take the initiative on behalf of your group. Visit: [www.foca.on.ca/fire-smart](http://www.foca.on.ca/fire-smart) or call the office today.

## BE **FireSmart**®

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### Safe Campfires are built:

1. On bare soil or exposed rock
2. Sheltered from the wind
3. At least three metres from the forest, overhanging branches or other flammable material.

### Safe Campfires have:

4. A pail of water and a shovel at hand to control the fire
5. Someone tending them all the time.

### Safe Campfires are:

6. Small ... a small fire is best for cooking, and is easier to control and put out. The forest is no place for a bonfire.
7. Put out as soon as possible. How? Douse with water then stir the ashes with a stick or shovel to uncover hot coals, and douse again.

For more information contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources Fire Office.

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[ontario.ca/fireprevention](http://ontario.ca/fireprevention)

# Movie Night – Borrow this idea!

submitted by Jan Krueger, Paudash Lake Conservation Association

In the chilly, clear twilight of August 18, 2012, cottagers walked, drove or boated to the Paudash Lake Marina to experience our first annual "movie night." The idea was conceived of and helmed by PLCA (Paudash Lake Conservation Association) director Gord Chong and his wife Sheila Griffin and the event was hosted by the marina owners, Tyleen and Rod Copland, who not only supplied the perfect venue but also the free popcorn! The movie, *The Lorax* – a great choice considering its family-friendly rating and emphasis in nature conservation – was projected onto a "heritage" white flannel sheet, courtesy of Allan McKellar, another PLCA director.

As the stars appeared above our heads, loon calls echoed across the water and bats chased down curious moths and rare mosquitos, we set up our lawn chairs, bundled up in blankets and settled in to watch the movie.

The event was well attended, considering the fact that you could actually see your breath that night, but it was great to gather all generations together for an evening

event. One hears of this happening in urban centres such as Central Park or some other city park, where people gather at sunset to watch a movie "en plein air". But this was such a novel thing to do up here in the "hinterland". A first, for sure, for many of us who have spent many, many decades of summers at the lake.

After the show ended, people scattered to find warm lodgings but everyone left smiling or laughing and chattering on about what fun this had been, and what we were going to watch next summer!

## PRESIDENTS TIP

FOCA Newsletters are mailed to individual supporters as well as the Executive of member Associations. We encourage you to share the digital copy with your members – access it online at [www.foca.on.ca/foca-publications](http://www.foca.on.ca/foca-publications).



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## Seeing Turtles?

*Join Turtle Tally and Help Ontario's Turtles*

Just like us, turtles need healthy habitats and clean water, but with few pristine areas like this left 7 of 8 Ontario turtle species are considered to be at risk of extinction.



If you see turtles this season, help protect them and the important habitat they rely on by submitting your sightings to Ontario Turtle Tally at [www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/turtletally.asp](http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/turtletally.asp) or contact Adopt-A-Pond at: 361A Old Finch Ave, Scarborough, ON M1B 5K7

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