



Long weekend thoughts

"Making Ontario's Roads Safer" Act

New regulations from the Province, passed in June, will mean stricter penalties and new rules for distracted driving and cycling, higher fines and demerit points for some convictions.

Find out more, via this quick reference posting from CAA:

<http://www.caasco.com/OM/Community-Action/HeadsUpOntario/Home.aspx>



Bracing for electricity rate decisions

The first week of August will be FOCA's opportunity to review Hydro One's final proposal to the Ontario Energy Board, **introducing new distribution rates, including phased-in rates for former "seasonal" customers - some of whom are in for large increases**. Stay tuned for updates in the months ahead.

You can read the latest news, and see FOCA's recent letter to the Minister of Energy, here: <http://foca.on.ca/decision-on-hydro-ones-2015-2019-distribution-rates-application/>

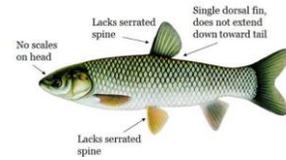


Asian carp sighting

Two live Grass carp were found this week in a Toronto pond.

Get the update, here: <http://foca.on.ca/asian-carp/>

Grass carp image: *Invading Species Awareness Program*



Water Management Plans still in limbo

Hydroelectric dams affect water levels on many of our rivers and lakes.

FOCA asks: **Why has the MNR shut down their own process to use local Water Management Plans** to consider all the social, economic and environmental aspects of dam operation?



Read the latest from FOCA, here: <http://foca.on.ca/water-management-plans-still-in-limbo/>

Federal Election about to get underway

The longest campaign in modern Canadian history is about to begin!

While there will be a few dominant issues prominently featured in every Party's information and ads, **it will be up to us as residents of waterfront Ontario to keep our concerns top of mind with the candidates.**

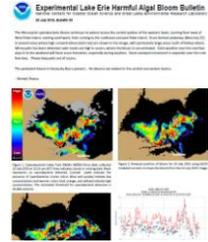
FOCA has started a primer on Federal issues for cottagers, here: <http://foca.on.ca/federal-election-2015/>



image: HillTimes.com

Lake Erie Algae Update

Despite spring projections of a better than average algae situation for Lake Erie in 2015, **recent reports are less optimistic**. Late and persistent spring rains and recent hot weather have meant increased nutrient loads, and ideal conditions for the formation of blue-green algae blooms.



Learn more about Great Lakes algae, nutrients, and related information, here: <http://foca.on.ca/great-lakes-environmental-research/>

FOCA's Gold Sponsors



Cottage Life



CottageLINK
rental management

Superior
Propane

EVENT Notice - FOCA Fall Seminar

HOLD THE DATE! Saturday, November 7, 2015

2015 FOCA Fall Seminar:
"Navigating to Association Success"



Plan to join us November 7th for a full-day members' event in Toronto, devoted to building and maintaining strong and thriving lake associations. Full details will follow soon!



Cottage Succession Seminar: live or on DVD

FOCA is on the road again this summer, with estate lawyer Peter Lillico, talking about steps to take now, to keep your family in the family cottage.



Pictured at the right: Peter spoke to a full room at the Cavendish Ratepayers Community Association on July 11th.

Register now! to join us at our last in-person **FOCA Cottage Succession Seminar** event for 2015: on **Saturday, August 8th in Baysville** (east of Bracebridge), co-hosted by the Lake of Bays Association.

This event is free to all FOCA members, and \$10 at the door for non-members. Contact the FOCA office now, to secure your space: info@foca.on.ca or 705-749-3622

DVD option for FOCA members:

Contact the FOCA office if your Association would like to purchase a **DVD copy** of the Cottage Succession Webinar with Peter Lillico from the FOCA webinar held in December 2014. [Click here for details...](#)



Algonquin Land Claim - Recent (if rare) update from the Government

At a July 2015 meeting in Toronto with senior staff from the Ministries of Aboriginal Affairs, and Natural Resources and Forestry, FOCA was informed that **there are still 5-10 (or more) years of significant work ahead on this land claim**, between the current Agreement in Principle (AIP), and a final, signed Treaty.

Timeline

This work, including consultations on land disposition, access to Crown Lands and other matters, hinges firstly on the Algonquins of Ontario signing off on the whole AIP. Learn more, here: <http://foca.on.ca/algonquin-land-claim-agreement-in-principle-signed/>

FOCA's Silver Sponsors

Action still required to eliminate toxic antibacterials

With no action seen to date, FOCA and dozens of other community groups have sent an urgent appeal to the Minister of the Environment this week, seeking Federal action on the Environment Canada Assessment Report on Triclosan.

The 2012 report had proposed that Triclosan should be declared 'toxic' under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Triclosan - which has been detected in drinking water, breast milk and household dust - has been shown to harm wildlife living in rivers and lakes. Learn more, and read the new appeal, here: <http://foca.on.ca/foca-calls-for-antibacterial-chemical-ban/>

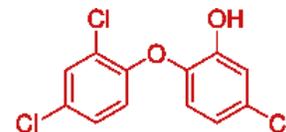


image: the chemical compound Triclosan, used in some antibacterial products

Widespread and "alarming" amounts of plastics in Canadian Lakes (Report)

It's not just giant floating islands of water bottles in the ocean; Canada's lakes and rivers are full of tiny fragments of plastics - from many sources.

Find out more, here: <http://foca.on.ca/microplastics-at-alarming-levels-in-canadian-lakes-and-rivers/>



image: Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, via Ottawa Riverkeeper

Regional Notices

Lake Simcoe & South-eastern Georgian Bay

The Lake Simcoe / South-eastern Georgian Bay **Clean-Up Fund** is now accepting Letters of Intent and Detailed Proposals for projects starting April 1, 2016 that will help reduce phosphorous inputs, improve water quality and conserve critical aquatic habitat and associated species in these waters. Get details and the application form, here:

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=EBF944F0-1>



Calling all NW Ontario Lake Associations!

FINAL call for registration (closes Friday, July 31st) for the upcoming inaugural **Binational Lake Association Network Event for the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed**. Join **FOCA's Terry Rees**, and other Canadian and US partners and lake association members, to discuss stewardship opportunities. For detailed agenda, speaker abstracts and registration information, visit: <http://www.lowwsf.com/register>

Kawarthas-area Survey

Help Kawartha Conservation's **Blue Canoe Program** by participating in a survey about actions you might have already taken, or would consider taking, at your lake to protect and enhance your waterfront. Click here for information and to access the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bluecanoe>



The Blue Canoe team will be visiting the following lakes over the coming week: Scugog, North Pigeon, Big Bald, Balsam and Crystal. Get all the details here: <http://www.kawarthaconservation.com/bluecanoe> (scroll down to find the calendar).

Two South Central Ontario Forestry Plans for review

Interested residents are encouraged to review and comment as appropriate on the **Bancroft-Minden**, and **Mazinaw Lanark** Forestry Plans. Once finalized, these plans determine the scope, scale and location of logging and other woodland operations for the 5-year period from 2016-2021.



Have your say! Learn more, and link to the forestry plan notices, here: <http://foca.on.ca/using-our-forest-resources-sustainably/>

FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



"Bright lights" at FOCA

Welcome, Paul!

Paul Dainard has joined the FOCA team as a summer student, supporting our environmental programming. Paul has completed his B.Sc. in Environmental Chemistry, and a M.Sc. in Environmental and Life Sciences from Trent University, and will be continuing his freshwater studies at the University of Waterloo in the Fall.



You can read more about Paul, and find out about all the FOCA staff and Board of Directors here: <http://foca.on.ca/about/team/>

Also at the FOCA Office...

In other news, with support from Peterborough's electrical utility, FOCA's landlord, Cherney Realty, recently completed the high efficiency lighting retrofits for all of FOCA's office space. The result is lovely and bright, and better for the planet!

Recent Events

As usual, FOCA is on the road this summer. This is a great time of year for us to visit our member Associations!

We were most recently at:

- ✦ [Jack Lake Asssociation](#) AGM on July 5th
- ✦ [Chandos Lake Property Owners Association](#) AGM on July 11th (image at right)
- ✦ [North Pigeon Lake Ratepayers Association](#) AGM on July 18th



image courtesy Jim O'Shea

While we can't be everywhere, we appreciate all our supporters who wave the FOCA flag at their own AGMs. Thanks to our local "FOCA reps" who recently brought our materials to the [Otty Lake Association AGM](#) on July 11, and to the upcoming [Clearwater Beach Ratepayers Association AGM](#) this weekend!

Please look below for resources you can use at your own local meeting.

Your role

Many of our member Associations will hold lake meetings this summer, and we're counting on you to spread the word about the value of FOCA!



For an overview of FOCA's work on behalf of our 500 member Associations across

Ontario, visit: <http://foca.on.ca/foca-year-in-review-2014/>

We want you to share our [news updates](#) and [fact sheets](#). Members are always welcome to reproduce FOCA materials from [Elerts](#), [Newsletters](#) and our extensive online [resources](#). Please credit FOCA as the source, and include our web address, where possible: <http://foca.on.ca>



[Contact the office](#) for digital slides about FOCA to use at your lake meeting, or alternate file versions of online materials to distribute through your Association meetings, newsletters or websites.

The Benefits of Membership

Remember: All FOCA members can access special offers from our partners. For a current list of benefits, including member access codes, visit: <http://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>

Note: The 2-page sheet about benefits that is available at the top of that webpage makes a great hand-out about FOCA for your upcoming Association meeting!

Final Long Weekend Thoughts

Wherever you're heading this weekend, take a minute with Terry, FOCA's Executive Director, and enjoy this long weekend video blog about shorelines:



Happy long weekend, from FOCA!
Please note: the FOCA office will be closed on Monday, August 3rd for the Civic Holiday.