

FOCA Elert - May 2016



Welcome to the long weekend

Click the image below for a brief video blog from FOCA's Terry Rees:



Get handy **Cottage Opening tips** from FOCA, here: <https://foca.on.ca/cottage-opening-tips/>.

Remember that the water is still very cold - download FOCA's Fact Sheet on [Cold Water Immersion](#). (PDF, 1 pg)

Have a happy and healthy long weekend!

Dock Permit issues: time to add your voice!

Changes to the dock permitting process are in place, likely for the whole of the 2016 season, if not longer. FOCA has yet to hear about any plans from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to amend this process.



The Minister needs to hear from you, and from your associations, if you are concerned about this new approach to permitting. Find FOCA's recent letter to the Minister, as well as an excellent example letter written by Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners Association, and the Minister's contact information, here: <https://foca.on.ca/municipal-authority-over-boathouses-decision/>.

Please copy FOCA on your letters, by email to info@foca.on.ca

Invasive Species - What's your plan?

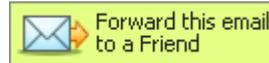
Whether you are boating, hiking, gardening or fishing in cottage country, you are an important part of the plan to prevent invasive species.

FOCA encourages you to [visit this webpage and download a Cottage Action Plan](#) to help you and your guests keep unwanted invaders away. FOCA has partnered with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to bring you these tips and links to online tools.



Association Members: please contact the FOCA office for materials, if you have space for an article or ad on this topic in your Newsletter or online!

Please do your part by sharing this information with others



Lake Partner Program

The season has begun for FOCA's Lake Stewards! If you participate in the Lake Partner Program (LPP), you should have received your 2016 sampling kit by now. It's time to get out and (safely!) do your May sampling. Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of waterfront Ontario. Refresh your sampling memory with this LPP video from FOCA:



Need assistance? Find program contact links here: <https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner->

[program-overview/](#)

On April 21st, FOCA met with our partners from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, and the Dorset Environmental Science Centre to reconfirm our commitment to the LPP. Please stay tuned for new information about the LPP, and about Ontario's fabulous lakes, coming soon.

New Guide to Environmental Grants!

With thanks to our colleagues on the [Stewardship Network of Ontario](#), groups that are interested in funding for environmental projects should have a look at the brand new "**Granting Resources**" list, including funding program descriptions, grant application deadlines, grant amounts etc. For information, visit: <https://foca.on.ca/stewardship-funding-for-stewardship-projects/>



Here's to another great year of community projects on and around Ontario's lakes and rivers!

Cottage Succession Seminars - register now!

Join FOCA and estate lawyer Peter Lilloco to learn about the importance of having a cottage sharing agreement, and how to keep your 'family' in the family cottage.

"The single most important step a parent can take is to ensure that a Cottage Sharing Agreement is developed during their lifetimes with the children as part of the overall cottage succession plan," says Lilloco. "It's not lack of interest, capital gains tax or other financial pressures that result in most family cottages going up for sale, it's a consequence of friction within the family that arises from sharing ownership and usage."



Confirmed in-person dates & locations:

- **Friday, May 27th** (from 2-4pm) @ the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough.

There is a webinar option for this event only - contact the FOCA office to confirm details.

- **Saturday, July 9th** (from 10am-noon) @ the Cavendish Community Centre > co-hosted by the Cavendish Community Ratepayers Association

- **Sunday, August 14th** (12:30-2:30pm) @ the Perth Legion > co-hosted by the Lake Networking Group
- **Sunday, August 21st** (10am-noon) @ the Irondale Community Centre (SouthEast of Minden) > co-hosted by the Salerno Devil's Lake Cottagers' Association

Register now with FOCA to secure your space at any of these events:
info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622

Please share this information with others! 

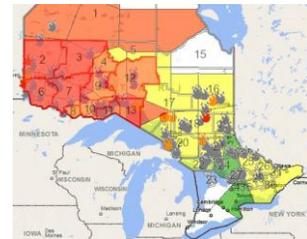
Thank you to FOCA's Gold Sponsors!



Fire Season

Over 65,000 hectares of forest have burned in Ontario already this season, which is fifteen times the 10-year average!

The Northwest region of Ontario is listed as a **Restricted Fire Zone** as we write this message (Wed. May 18th). [Click the image at right](#) to access the current Ontario fire map.



Get fire safety resources from FOCA, including a list of questions to ask about your cottage community's level of fire preparedness, here: <https://foca.on.ca/fire-safety-overview/>

Upcoming Events & Regional News

This Saturday, May 21st is "**Ready, Set, Wear it!**" life jacket day, during Safe Boating week (May 21-27). Communities around the globe will be participating, in an attempt to break last year's world record of 10,917 participants. Will you be part of the 2016 attempt? Get details here: <http://www.readysetwearit.com/about/faq/>



May 27-28, 2016 - It is not too late to register for the **Muskoka Summit on the Environment!** This year's theme is: *Solutions for a Warming World.*



Speakers include Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, and David Miller, President & CEO of the World Wildlife Fund, Canada. FOCA is once again proud to be a Gold Sponsor of this biennial event. [Read the draft program, and Register now!](#)

City of Kawartha Lakes (CKL) - Everyone is invited to the Mayor's Town Hall meetings coming up this summer. Many key decisions that are upcoming affect the service levels, land and assets in the community. Attendees at any of the 10 meetings will receive an update on the Core Service Reviews that have taken place over the last year, and details on the Ward Boundary Review for the municipality. [Meeting dates & details are here](#). (PDF, 1 page)



FOCA has received notice about road works being planned for the **Haliburton region** along Highway 60 (through Algonquin Park) and Highway 118. Please see [the notice from AECOM](#) (PDF, 3 pages) outlining the study steps and how to submit comments about the project.

The **Ontario Waterpower Association** (OWA) is conducting a series of workshops about new small-scale waterpower development. Although the target audience for the workshops is municipal officials, OWA has also provided an invitation through FOCA for lake associations to send a representative to these sessions. [Click here for meeting dates and locations](#). (PDF, 1 page)



image: Kirk Doughty

FOCA Members in **North Kawartha Township**, take note of an upcoming meeting of [NORKLA](#) (the North Kawartha Lakes Association) on June 24th, 2016. For further details, contact dougwellman@gmail.com. Anyone interested in FOCA materials (such as the Shoreline Owners' Guide - see end of this Elert!) can pick them up at the NORKLA meeting; contact info@foca.on.ca to make arrangements with Deanna Panitz in the FOCA office.

Traps near Trails

In December 2014, a family dog was killed by a baited kill-trap just steps off a public snowmobile trail on Crown Land in cottage country. Currently, traps can be legally set all year round on trails, including on Crown Land, in Provincial Parks, in lakes, ponds and beaver dams, and beside roadways; there are no minimum setbacks and no requirement to warn the public that the traps are there.

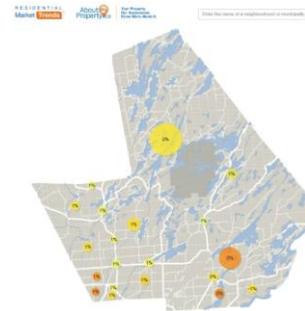
Interested individuals should [click here](#) to sign a petition to change the rules for traps near trails, to make it safer for people and pets to be in these multi-use zones.

Property Tax Re-assessments rolling out

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) property tax re-assessments continue to roll out across Ontario.

Market trend results are now available for Manitoulin, Kenora, Frontenac and more. To see the trends in your neighbourhood, or find out when your local figures will become available, click the image at right or visit:

<https://markettrends.trimap.com/?l=en#/>



Remember: if you disagree with your MPAC assessment, take advantage of the "request for reconsideration" process, which **has changed this year**. FOCA has posted the newest info here: <https://foca.on.ca/how-to-challenge-your-property-assessment/>

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Recent Events

May 5, 2016 - FOCA met with **Great Lakes water network** leaders in Orillia as part of a Sustainability Network workshop. (see **group picture at right**) This event focused on opportunities for collaboration on joint projects, coordinated responses to government policy, and building stronger coalitions. Input for this initiative came from over 140 Great Lakes organizations from across the basin. For more on Great Lakes issues, visit:

<https://foca.on.ca/great-lakes-strategy-and-action/>



May 7, 2016 - FOCA attended the **Kawartha Lake Stewards Association (KLSA)** Annual General Meeting and seminar, held in Bobcaygeon. **Click the image at right** to enlarge a graph from the KLSA's 2015 **Lake Water Quality Report**, showing phosphorus trends through the Kawartha Lakes, and particularly the effect of dilution at Burleigh Falls. Access a

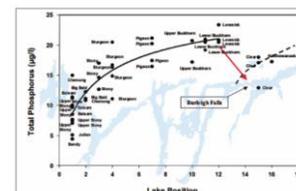
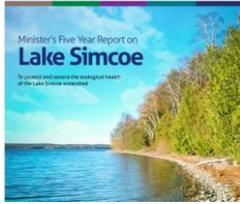


Figure 2. Range of May 2015 data showing decreasing water total P levels on a west to east gradient along the Kawartha Lakes (adapted from KLSA 2015). Lake Position is defined as 1 plus the number of lakes that immediately feed into it. A dilution occurs at Burleigh Falls, which feeds into Upper George Lake, and results in a decrease in P concentrations in George Lake.

PDF of the full report, "*Protecting the Natural Beauty Around Us*," posted online here: <https://klsa.wordpress.com/published-material/>



May 11, 2016 - FOCA attended a meeting of the [Lake Simcoe Stewardship Network](#) for important updates on key activities ongoing in the watershed, including a [5-year Review of Lake Monitoring](#) (PDF, 54 pages) from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Water Soldier eradication efforts, invasive species detection tips from the [Ontario Invasive Plant Council](#), and

a profile of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Stewardship Prioritization Mapping Tool.



May 14, 2016 - FOCA was pleased to attend and be part of the annual [Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association](#) Lake Stewards meeting in Stanhope. (see **image at right**) There are great things happening in the region, and local lake associations are at the centre of the action!



May 17, 2016 - FOCA celebrated the **International Day of Biodiversity** with partners in the Kawarthas, at a day of talks and displays in Peterborough. For more about the importance of biodiversity, visit: <https://foca.on.ca/ontario-biodiversity/>. **Pictured at left:** Kyle Borrowman of the Invasive Species Program and Deanna Panitz of FOCA, during the day's events.

Water Quantity Management

FOCA's interest and concerns on this issue continue. FOCA is meeting in the coming weeks with senior staff at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to review our concerns about stalled reforms in the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, and specifically Water Management Plan reviews. Stay up-to-date on this issue, here:

<https://foca.on.ca/water-management-plans-still-in-limbo/>



Partners for Action on Flooding

Flood happens. How can our communities weather the storm?

FOCA is a member of the Stakeholder Group of the University of Waterloo's "Partners for Action" (P4A) initiative. P4A is facilitating collaboration between researchers, government, and non-governmental organizations towards making strategic decisions to improve flood resiliency in our communities.



click to download the infographic (PDF, 1pg)

Click the image at right to see an infographic about "Flood Matters."

Member Associations: you are welcome to use this infographic in your local Newsletters or online; please let FOCA know if you circulate the image, so we can keep our partners informed!

For more on flooding and other effects of climate change in cottage country, see: <https://foca.on.ca/climate-change-and-waterfront-ontario/>

Your Role

How can you help FOCA? There are many ways to help us with our mission, **To protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario**, including:

1. support your local lake Association
2. encourage a friend or colleague to get on the [FOCA Eler](#) list - join 10,000 subscribers who receive our monthly updates about waterfront Ontario!
3. connect with FOCA on social media:

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  **twitter**

View our videos on  **YouTube**

Find out more about your role, here: <https://foca.on.ca/about/your-role/>

Did you know?

You can always find FOCA's Facebook, Twitter and YouTube channels quickly and easily: look for the social media icons located along the bottom of every page of the FOCA website: <https://foca.on.ca>
(See the image at right, where the links have been circled in red)



Please share the news, and connect with us on social media today!

The logo for CottageFirst Insurance, with 'Cottage' in orange and 'First' in blue, and 'Insurance' in a smaller blue font below it.

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Cottage & Home Insurance Package for FOCA

Nuclear Waste Storage

FOCA remains concerned about any adverse effects to human health or the environment from the proposed long-term storage of nuclear waste in the subject location, about one kilometre inland from the shore of Lake Huron, just north of Kincardine, ON.

See updates on the proposal, input from concerned groups, and information about how you can weigh in, here: <https://foca.on.ca/radioactive-waste-storage-in-the-great-lakes-basin-overview/>

Association Tools

ONCA status

According to information received this week from Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO), ONCA (Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010) **remains on indefinite hold**. "Most organizations should not make changes to comply with the ONCA yet," CLEO reports, "as the proposed amendments, if passed, will change some details." Get details and links to resources here: <https://foca.on.ca/onca-on-hold/>

O.N.C.A.

Articles, Handouts, Tips, Fact Sheets

Looking for material for your local Newsletter, social media or web posts?

Start here: <https://foca.on.ca/fact-sheets-videos/>

or use FOCA's online SEARCH feature, here: <https://foca.on.ca/resources/>



Please credit FOCA as the source and include our web address, where possible: <https://foca.on.ca>. Thanks for spreading the word!

Thank you to FOCA's Bronze Sponsors



Municipal Call-out

FOCA has decided to highlight examples of cottage-country Municipalities making efforts to keep seasonal and waterfront residents informed and engaged. *Here's one example worth sharing:*

The **Township of Selwyn** in the Kawarthas has an active [Facebook page](#), a clear [website](#) and a superb monthly e-newsletter filled with updates and tips for residents.



Check out the recent [May edition](#) of Selwyn's e-news which includes landfill summer hours, burn permit reminders, and notices about local road closures and free sump pump inspections. Way to go, Selwyn!

Share this information with contacts at [your waterfront Municipality](#), and please encourage them to [get on the FOCA Elerst list](#), to stay in-the-know about cottage country issues.

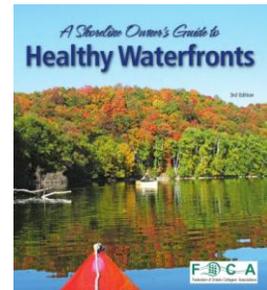
If you received this message from a friend, you can get on the FOCA Elerst list quickly and easily by clicking the "Sign Up" button at right.



Shoreline Reading

Read the digital version of the new **Shoreline Owners' Guide to Healthy Waterfronts**, about what YOU can do at your own property to help with FOCA's mission, "to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario."

Here's the link: <https://foca.on.ca/shoreline-owners-guide-to-healthy-waterfronts/> (or click the image at right)



Did you know that FOCA Member Associations can order multiple copies of the **Shoreline Owners' Guide**? It makes a super handout at your AGM, or as part of a Welcome Package for new property owners in your community. While the guide is **free to members**, there is a cost for shipping; alternately, arrange to pick up copies at the FOCA office at no cost, or connect with us at one of our [events](#) around Ontario this summer. Contact FOCA to make arrangements: info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622