

FOCA Elert - March 2018



Recent Events

2018 FOCA A.G.M. & Spring Seminar - March 3, 2018

We had a full house and lots of active discussions at our all-day event on March 3rd in Toronto! Thank you to all the attendees, speakers, sponsors and partners who joined us to make this day such a huge success.

FOCA will follow shortly with an event **summary** for members, including links to the day's slide presentations, videos, and materials circulated by speakers and project partners.



If you attended but have not yet completed your **event survey**, please take a moment to add your voice. Click here for the online survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018_FOCA_AGM_Spring_Seminar

Association Successes

"And the FOCA Achievement Award goes to..."

Congratulations to the **Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association** of the Township of Addington Highlands, the recipient of the FOCA Achievement Award as announced on March 3rd, 2018! Their slide presentation about association successes will be part of the event summary circulated to FOCA members soon.



Find out more about our great Associations, and the FOCA Award, here: <https://foca.on.ca/foca-achievement-award/>

You asked, FOCA answers

A member group recently asked, **"How can our Association best use our FOCA membership and the great wealth of info that comes with it?"**

[Click to read FOCA's answer](#), with Top Tips for your own Association!

In related news, we extend a "thank you" to the **Ottawa Lake Association**, and all our other great member Associations who regularly re-purpose FOCA materials in their own print and digital newsletters. Click to download the February 2018 edition of "[Captain Ottawa's Log](#)" (PDF, 8 pages).



Our Member Association Asked:

I hope you can help our Association best use our FOCA information that comes with it. How should we pass part

FOCA Answered:

Thanks for helping to spread the word! Here are our top

- 01 To find additional resources from FOCA that th Association "Toolkit" here: <https://foca.on.ca> specifically tailored to Associations.
- 02 See the FOCA Benefits webpage (<https://foca.on.ca>) we encourage members to link to, since some c page has a downloadable **Benefits sheet** that 'dollar value' benefits of FOCA membership is access to CottageFirst; only FOCA members can apply, and savin
- 03 Encourage your members to get on the FOCA <https://foca.on.ca/news/alerts/>, to see the new: Add a "sign up for FOCA Alerts" call-to-action i
- 04 Your Association and your members can conn (<https://www.facebook.com/foca.on.ca>) and Tw those who prefer to get their news from social i
- 05 Most of our member groups link back to FOCA particularly great job of "recycling" FOCA con a few!) associations who link to FOCA Alerts or

FOCA's Gold-level Sponsors



Sponsors support our work. Please, support them!

Policy & Programs Updates

Septic System Management

In February 2018, FOCA and the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA) launched a formal **Request for Review** through the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, to challenge the current management and maintenance protocols under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and the Ontario

Building Code. Learn all about this request, and get lots of good information about onsite wastewater systems, here:

<https://foca.on.ca/septic-systems/>

And don't forget to check out the new video: [Cottage Country Septic Systems](#), for an overview from FOCA that you can share with friends and neighbours. Click below to watch the video:



Please share this video! Here is a link you can copy and paste:

<https://youtu.be/5VeTGVnkYA4>

Vote for your Future

At the Spring Seminar on March 3rd, FOCA introduced [Vote for your Future](#), our election-year project to engage rural voters in the October municipal elections. More info will be circulated by FOCA this Spring.

In the meantime, you can ensure you are on your Municipal voters' list, here:

<https://www.voterlookup.ca/home.aspx>

HAVE YOUR SAY.
LOG ON TODAY.



Fisheries Act & Navigable Waters Protection Act Reforms

In February 2018, after extensive consultations pursuant to Canada's Review of Environmental and Regulatory Processes, the federal government tabled draft legislation intended to ensure that the Fisheries Act provides "strong and meaningful" protection for fish and fish habitat, and improves certainty for industry. Bill C-68 was introduced "to restore lost protections and incorporate modern safeguards." Learn more here:

<https://foca.on.ca/fisheries-act-revisions-overview/>



image: A. Metelka

More federal environmental law changes, including to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act, can be found here:

<https://foca.on.ca/navigable-waters-protection-act-overview/>

Economic Potential of Waterfront Owners

January 18, 2018 - Official notice was provided to FOCA of funding received through Ontario's Rural Economic Development (RED) program to gather data on the local economic potential of waterfront property owners in rural communities. Hundreds of respondents have provided their input to the project survey, and a final report will be released by FOCA this Spring.

Pictured: Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, with Terry Rees of FOCA, and lead project researcher Katherine Howes. (image: FOCA)



RED is part of the province's effort to help rural Ontario generate investment and create jobs; find out more about the RED program, here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/rural-economic-development-program>

FOCA's Silver-level Sponsors



Waterfront Living

Ice Fishing Hut Removal Dates

We are reminded by the Province that all ice fishing huts on Ontario waterways must be removed before ice breakup, or at the latest by the dates listed here, by Fisheries Management Zone:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ice-fishing#section-4>

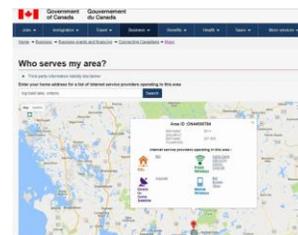


image: K. Doughty

Rural Services - Broadband

The Government of Canada created "**Connecting Canadians**" so that citizens in rural, remote and northern parts of the country can enjoy improved access to high-speed broadband access. Want to see what services are currently available in your region? Enter your cottage address on the service map, here:

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/app/sitt/bbmap/hm.html?lang=eng>



Lake Environments

Report on Phosphorus in Lake Erie

February 2018 - the International Joint Commission has released a report on their extensive analysis of sources of excess phosphorus in the western basin of Lake Erie. Read more, and link to the report, from FOCA's Great Lakes webpage:

<https://foca.on.ca/great-lakes-environmental-research/>



Invasive Species Week: February 26 - March 2, 2018

FOCA took to Twitter to share messaging during [#InvasiveSpecies](https://twitter.com/InvasiveSpecies) Week. Find out what you can do to stop the spread, and get information and tips for cottage country, here: <https://foca.on.ca/invasive-species/>



Remember to connect with FOCA on social media!



FOCA's Bronze-level Sponsors



Upcoming Events & Regional Notices

Spring Cottage Life Show

March 22-25, 2018 - Toronto. Don't miss this annual launch to the cottage season, now in a 4-day show. Get details here:

<http://shows.cottagelife.com/show/spring-cottage-life-show/#show-info>



Invasive Species Info Session

March 22, 2018 - Scarborough campus, University of Toronto. Bring your questions about Asian carps and other invasive species to the "**Aliens Among Us**" event. Space is limited - get details and register, here:

<http://asiancarp.ca/RESOURCES/Public-Information-Session>



Cottage Country Planning Seminar

April 5, 2018 - Bracebridge. Cottage Country Seminar Series: **Planning and Environmental Issues**. Topics for this all-day event include the District of Muskoka Official Plan Review, types of environmental reports, discussion of regulation of short-term accommodation, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, and more. [Download the program and registration details](#) (PDF, 8 pages)

Muskoka Summit on the Environment

May 24-25, 2018 - Bracebridge. Save the date for the next Muskoka Summit on the Environment, "**Restoring our relationship with the natural world.**" FOCA is pleased to be sponsoring this event, once again. Details are here:

<https://muskokasummit.org/2018-summit/>



Notice of Study: work near Port Perry

FOCA has received notice of the commencement of a study on resurfacing and structure rehabilitation at various locations in the Township of Scugog and Township of Brock. Interested parties are invited to comment to the Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study coordinators. [Read the Notice](#) (PDF, 2 pages) and [review the map](#) (PDF, 1 page) of the proposed work.



Municipal Partner Profile

New APP keeps Cottagers Connected

The **City of Kawartha Lakes** has a new website, and a new mobile app called Pingstreet that can deliver weather and emergency notifications directly to your phone. "We would like as many people as possible to download the app before flood season arrives," notes Cheri Davidson, Manager of Communications for the City. "If the power is out or you're out of the area, you can still stay informed on your phone." Get details by [downloading the news release here](#) (PDF, 2 pages) or visit the website: www.kawarthalakes.ca.



Funding Opportunity

International Day for Biodiversity Grant Program

The **Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network** (BEAN) reminds everyone that small grants are available to organizations holding events to celebrate International Day for Biodiversity (May 22nd). The 2018 theme is "*Celebrating 25 years of Action for Biodiversity.*" **Grants of up to \$500** may be available for events, such as BioBlitzes, that take place between May 1 and June 30, 2018. **Apply by March 23, 2018.** [Click here for details from BEAN.](#)



FOCA is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, the voice of the waterfront for over 50 years

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