

## FOCA Elert - Thanksgiving Weekend 2018



### FOCA Fall Seminar 2018 - Time to Register!

**Cottage Country: What's Coming & How to Prepare for it**  
Saturday, October 27, 2018 at the Boulevard Club in downtown Toronto

[Click here to register now](#)

Join your lake association peers at the FOCA Fall Seminar this month, to hear about:

- cottage-country extreme weather & risks to shoreline infrastructure
- ways to make your waterfront more resilient
- an update on FOCA's research project on septic inspection programs in Ontario
- news about citizen science water sampling from the Lake Partner Program
- a discussion session with other lake association representatives - bring your group's "burning question"

FOCA 2018 Fall Seminar for Lake Associations

**COTTAGE COUNTRY:**  
□ What's Coming  
□ How to Prepare for it

Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 2018  
9:00am-2:00pm

Featuring:  
"Extreme weather & risks to shoreline infrastructure"  
Speaker: Dan Sandvik  
Canadian Institute of Catastrophic Loss Reduction

Plus:  
• Septic Inspections  
• Water Sampling News  
• Resilient Shorelines  
• Disaster Stories - share experiences & learn from your peers

MEMBERS - REGISTER NOW:  
foca.on.ca/fall-seminar-2018  
**\$60** includes lunch  
(Non-Members pay \$75)

This event is sponsored by:  
Travelers Canada  
underwriters of CottageFirst group insurance

[click to download the poster \(PDF\)](#)

For more information, visit the [Event webpage](#).

*Special thanks to our Event Sponsor: **Travelers Canada**, underwriters of the CottageFirst group insurance program, available exclusively to FOCA members. And thanks to our lunch sponsor: **Yamaha Motor Canada**.*

**TRAVELERS**

~ Never been to a FOCA Seminar before?  
**It's your turn!** Each year we welcome a mix of seasoned veterans and new enthusiasts who come for the updates, the handouts and the



networking. We hope to see you there: [Register now!](#)

## FOCA's Gold-level Sponsors



*Sponsors support our work. Please, support them!*

## Survey Says...

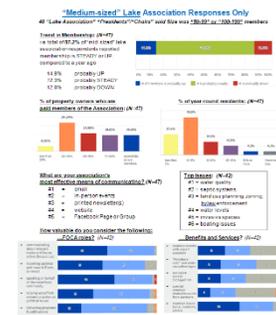
### FOCA 2018 Cottage Country Survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey invitations in August! We had a spectacular **1,298 responses** from members, partners and Elert subscribers. The FOCA Board of Directors has been pouring over all the data, as part of our organization's Strategic Planning process this Fall.

We are pleased to note that **93%** of member respondents who are their Association's President or Chair, reported their own Association membership is **"STEADY"** or **"UP"** over the past year!

Plan to attend the [FOCA Fall Seminar](#) on October 27, 2018 for highlights from the data, including trends in the responses to questions such as:

- What changes are you observing, affecting your waterbody, Association or cottage country experience in general?
- What are your Association's most effective means of communicating to members?
- What are the most highly-valued FOCA member services and benefits?



## Policy Updates & Government Affairs

## FOCA at Queen's Park

FOCA was pleased to meet recently with Rod Phillips, **Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks** (MECP), to discuss our mutual interests around water and sustainable rural communities. For more about FOCA's history of political advocacy, see: <https://foca.on.ca/about/our-history/>.

(image L to R: Bev Thorpe, FOCA Board of Directors; Minister Phillips; Terry Rees, FOCA Executive Director)



## Vote for your Future

**Vote day: October 22, 2018**

Remember that you are entitled to vote in Ontario Municipal elections wherever you or your spouse owns property. **That means you might be voting in more than one location this month!** (Click the image at right to visit FOCA's Facebook post, ready for sharing with friends who might need to be reminded of this.)

A red graphic with white text and images. The text reads: "Remind a friend: property owners can vote in their cottage Municipality, too!". Below this is a small image of a lake with islands. To the right is a ballot box icon with a red checkmark and the text "OTE FOR YOUR FUTURE". At the bottom, it says "Ontario Municipal Elections: Monday, October 22, 2018" and "FOCA &amp; your lake Association remind you: Your Vote Matters!".

According to Ontario's Municipal Elections information, your name must be **on the voters' list** in order for you to cast a ballot. And:

*After September 1, you must apply to your municipal clerk if you want to add your name to the list or correct your information. You have until the close of voting on October 22 to apply for any changes. If you are applying to add your name to the voters' list, you will be asked to provide proof that you are eligible to vote. (<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page219.aspx>)*

FOCA suggests you start by finding the link to your Township/Municipality here: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/page1591.aspx>, then look for posted "Election information" on your Municipal website, to learn about your local voting options (in person, internet, mail-in, telephone...) To confirm you are on the voters' list, find the contact information for the Clerk on the Municipal website, or call the Township/Municipality's main contact phone number for further assistance.

**REMEMBER: Your vote matters!**

## ECO report on Climate Change

On September 25, 2018 the **Environmental Commissioner of Ontario** (ECO) Dianne Saxe released the ECO's annual report on climate action in Ontario. The report lays out the known impacts of a warming climate, which include flood events and the related impacts to rivers and lakes. The Commissioner emphasized that the province must have climate change laws that drive down emissions while funding sensible solutions. "It will cost much more if Ontario doesn't start getting ready, and no one is sure who will pay," said Saxe. ***Climate Action in Ontario: What's Next?*** can be downloaded here:

<https://eco.on.ca/our-reports/climate-change/>



## FOCA's Silver-level Sponsors



## Calls for Nominations!

### Canadian Safe Boating Awards

The **Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC)** is seeking nominations **by October 15, 2018** for the annual Canadian Safe Boating Awards (CASBA). Individuals and organizations can qualify in one of several categories, including "Rescue of the Year," "Top Volunteer dedicated to Boating Safety," "Safeguarding the Environment" and many more. Information and nomination forms are here: <https://csbc.ca/en/events/casbas/nomination-form>



### FOCA Achievement Award

Apply **by November 30th, 2018** on behalf of your great Association for the annual **FOCA Achievement Award**, a celebration of our members' successes! Activities or achievements should be current, although they can be long-standing programs, and should relate to at least 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, *"To protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario."*



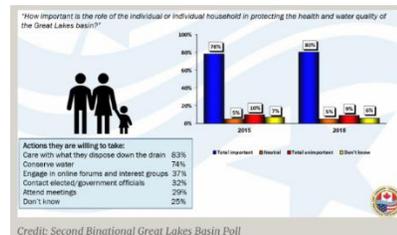
*last year's Award presentation to the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association*

More information and the nomination form is here: <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/foca-achievement-award/>

## Lake Environments

### Results of IJC 2018 Great Lakes Survey

The **International Joint Commission's** Great Lakes Water Quality Board has released survey results that **88%** of over 4,000 Canadian and US respondents believe protecting the Great Lakes is important. Top on the list of potential negative impacts? Invasive species, followed by algae blooms. Link to the survey highlights from the "Current News" section of this FOCA webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/great-lakes-strategy-and-action/>.



Credit: Second Binational Great Lakes Basin Poll

### Another species to watch for: Starry stonewort

FOCA members on Stoney Lake in the Kawarthas have recently reported sightings of **Starry stonewort**. Although it looks like an aquatic plant, it is, in fact, an alga that grows tall and dense, forming floating mats that can interfere with recreation and displace native plant and fish species. Starry stonewort has been the subject of much concern on Lake Scugog in recent years, where it has been researched by the [Scugog Lake Stewards](#) together with the University of



*image: Starry stonewort, UOIT*

Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). [Read more about this threat](#), from UOIT.

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## Muskoka Watershed Reports

The **Muskoka Watershed Council** (MWC) has posted all the 2018 regional **Watershed Report Cards** as infographics on their website. Once every four years, the Report Card provides a science-based evaluation of the health of the water, land, and wetlands in Muskoka and the municipalities that share Muskoka's watersheds. Access the infographics [by clicking here](#).



## Partner Feature: CELA

### CELA now better-positioned to serve Northern Ontario communities with environmental legal services

The **Canadian Environmental Law Association** (CELA) has embarked on a new chapter of its nearly 50-year history, with the expansion of legal services in Northern Ontario.



**Canadian Environmental Law Association**  
EQUITY. JUSTICE. HEALTH.

"We hope to increase our reach in communities which have been historically underserved," says CELA Executive Director and Counsel, Theresa McClenaghan. [Read more in their press release](#). FOCA has worked alongside CELA for years on important files, from Source Water and Great Lakes protection, to toxins reduction and more.

## Recent Events

### Ontario East Municipal Conference

September 12-14, 2018, Cornwall - FOCA presented at the **Ontario East Municipal Conference** about our research project, "**Waterfront property owners as economic development contributors in rural Ontario**." Find out more about the report, here: <https://foca.on.ca/waterfront-property-owners-and-rural-economic-development/>

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## FOCA on the Road: Lake Erie

September 20, 2018 - Our Executive Director spent the day off Long Point on Lake Erie, as he was interviewed for an upcoming film about **the threat of invasive Asian carps entering the Great Lakes**. He's on "carpatrol" in this image, alongside a Department of Fisheries and Oceans research vessel. Find out more about the threat of Asian carps, here: <https://foca.on.ca/asian-carp/>



## Aquatic & Species-at-Risk Symposium

September 30th, 2018 at Black Creek Pioneer Village - FOCA was proud to be an event sponsor for our partners at [Emerging Leaders for Biodiversity](#) (ELB). Sessions included basic benthic macro-invertebrate and fish identification skills, and updates from aquatic ecology sector industry leaders.



Know a young leader in your community? Connect them with ELB! (Image: <https://twitter.com/el4biodiversity>)

## Upcoming Events & Regional Notices

### Forest Management Planning

FOCA members in the **French Severn Forest region** and those in the **Nipissing Forest region** were recently sent email notices about upcoming meetings related to Forest Management Plans for those area. Missed the notice? Take a minute to [update your email information](#) on file with FOCA, for the Elert as well as regional updates to members.

To learn more about forest management across Ontario, and link to the "*Find a Forest Plan*" webpage of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, visit: <https://foca.on.ca/using-our-forest-resources-sustainably/>



## Kawartha Lake Stewards Association AGM

**Saturday, October 13, 2018** - Buckhorn. All are welcome for a morning of scientific inquiry, presentations, and conversation regarding the health of the Kawartha Lakes. Guest presentation by Dr. Eric Sager (Trent U.), "*Wumps, weevils and the zombie plant.*" [Download event details](#) (PDF, 1 page)

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### Lake Links Workshop

**Saturday, October 20, 2018** - Perth. The 17th annual **Lake Links Workshop** is titled, "*Our Lake, My Responsibility - Our Reward.*" The day-long workshop brings together individuals and scientists to discuss freshwater issues. FOCA is pleased to once again be a Supporting Partner for this event. The agenda and registration details are here: <https://watersheds.ca/lakelinks2018/>

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### FOCA Fall Seminar for Lake Associations

**Saturday, October 27, 2018** - Toronto. Join us at our annual lake association gathering, to discuss "*Cottage Country: What's Coming, and How to Prepare for it*." Details are at the top of this Elert, or visit the event webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/fall-seminar-2018/>

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### Latornell Conservation Symposium

**November 13-15, 2018** - Alliston, Ontario. FOCA will present on Day 1 of this annual science symposium, as part of a session about education, monitoring and management of priority invasives at the community level across Ontario. This is the 25th annual Latornell Conservation Symposium, and this year's theme is "*Lands to Great Lakes: relationship status - it's complicated.*" Information is posted here: <http://www.latornell.ca/program/2018-program/>



**FOCA's Bronze-level Sponsors**



## FOCA Programs

### 2018 Aquatic Invasive Species Program

This summer, FOCA worked with 29 of our member Associations across Ontario on projects aimed at addressing **aquatic invasive species** (AIS) at the local level. We were fortunate to have 2 consultants who conducted site visits to a few of our Member Associations, to assess for AIS and provide recommendations.



The pictures are rolling in from our member groups! If you have images to share, send them to our Programs Coordinator at [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca). Find out more about invasive species, here: <https://foca.on.ca/invasive-species/>

## Association News

### Celebrating a Golden Anniversary

Last month, FOCA received the following update from our member group:

*Family and friends of the **Bagot Long Lake Cottage Association** (Calabogie) gathered on September 2, 2018 to celebrate 50 years at our beautiful lake. In 1968, the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, released 25 Crown land lots for sale on Bagot Long Lake, with the stipulation that, "To qualify for patent, an applicant must within two years of the date of sale, construct a cottage on the site having a minimum value of \$1000.00, and a minimum floor space of 320 square feet."*

The original pioneer families were ambitious. Without the luxury of a road or hydro, the property owners had to boat or hike through forest in order to access and clear their lot. They had to get building materials to their property and diligently work with Lands and Forests, contractors, and collect communal money for construction of the Bagot Long Lake Road (completed 1969). Hydro lines and service arrived 1969-1970.

Fifty years later, 10 of the original pioneer families (or descendants) still embrace Bagot Long Lake. The Cottage Association is a supporter of Calabogie, the Calabogie Volunteer Fire Department, and a long-time member of FOCA and the Lake Partner Program.



Thanks for sharing, Bagot Long Lake Cottage Association, and congratulations on your anniversary and your ongoing efforts!

Got an Association milestone or story to share? Please send it to us: [communications@foca.on.ca](mailto:communications@foca.on.ca)

## Association Tools

### Member Benefits

**Do your members know about all their FOCA benefits?** In addition to FOCA's ongoing work on behalf of waterfront Ontario, members have access to discounts, special offers and more!

Review the details online:

<https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>  
or download a [print version](#). (PDF, 2 pages)

NOTE: to print a copy that includes the **MEMBER ACCESS CODES** for these offers, you will need to use your FOCA web Login on the Benefits webpage.

Don't have your Member Login? [Contact the office for assistance](#).

## Waterfront Living

### Cottage Closing - Tips from FOCA

**FOCA Member Services & Benefits:**

**Tools for your Association:**

- Membership Growth & Retention**—see resources from FOCA and your group: <https://foca.on.ca/membership>
- Association Liability**—find policies—get a FOCA member discount! With various options for lake associations, road groups & land trusts, as well as fire and other coverage. Call 416-334-8882 or visit [www.membershipresources.com](http://www.membershipresources.com)
- Accessibility Communications**—members get a special offer! Infoconferences for only 2.5¢ a minute per participant. You must purchase FOCA when you call 1-877-885-2283 or email [com@accessibility.com](mailto:com@accessibility.com)
- Members-only Online Resources**—access them on the FOCA website with your member login

**Offers & Discounts for you:**

- joined June 2016**—After FOCA on Calabogie CottageFire—the first group insurance program dedicated for cottagers! Get access to great coverage on your cottage, home, car & more. Exclusive to FOCA member families. See Code Resources Insurance Brokers. Get your code: 1-888-CASE-1317 [www.cottagefire.com](http://www.cottagefire.com)
- Coleman Canada**—20% discount when you shop online and use the Access Code® at checkout! [www.colemancanada.ca](http://www.colemancanada.ca)
- Action First**—All FOCA members get 10% off Philips Home Duster filters
- DuckDuckGo**—FOCA members can access a 20% FOCA discount on a duck frame system OR a boat lift. [www.duckduckgo.com/](http://www.duckduckgo.com/)
- Travel**—use the FOCA Access Code for a 7.5% discount on glass rail systems for your home or cottage. [focairail.com](http://focairail.com)
- Canadian Canoe Museum**—use the FOCA Access Code for a FREE 1-year Individual Membership to the Museum (\$85 value). Phone 1-800-542-2862, email [info@canoeuseum.ca](mailto:info@canoeuseum.ca)
- Cottage Life Magazine**—use the FOCA Access Code for a special discount on new subscriptions OR renewals pay only \$3/issue (other \$24 for 6 issues, incl. free digital access)
- FOCA discounts only to current Members**

**FOCA Program Highlights:**

- Lake Partner Program**—FOCA's Lake Stewardship program is the backbone of the long-term water quality monitoring effort, ensuring early detection before you see it.
- Invasive Species Monitoring**—Observe your cottage to help plan to help prevent the spread of aquatic species in cottage nearby.
- Risk Management Program**—for use as a benefit, FOCA leads insurance programs, offers life insurance excellent coverage, and a member discount.
- Cottage Succession Seminars**—together with estate lawyer Peter Dale, FOCA helps families plan how to help the family cottage.

More info: <https://foca.on.ca/resources>

**Your Roles:**

1. Show the FOCA website—the county depends on how often you show the website
2. Be a FOCA member—connect with FOCA on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, and share our posts with your network and family.
3. Attend Member Events—connect with your lake association peers & get inspired for the future from

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations  
[info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca) • <https://foca.on.ca/> • 705-749-3022

Read FOCA's **tips for cottage closing**, here: <https://foca.on.ca/cottage-closing-checklist>. This webpage also contains a 2-page PDF download that you are welcome to share with fellow members.

## Cottage Closing Tips

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

info@foca.on.ca | 705-749-3622 | <https://foca.on.ca>

