

# Who is FOCA?



The Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations is a non-profit, voluntary organization that represents over 550 rural community groups across Ontario.

FOCA is a province-wide voice looking out for the long-term interests of Ontario's freshwater.



# FOCA's Mission Statement

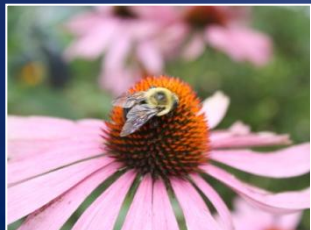


To provide representation, assistance and leadership to and for cottagers' associations on issues affecting their interests, and to encourage good environmental stewardship on the part of every cottager.



# FOCA's Interests:

- Healthy and sustainable environments
- Fair property taxation
- Risk management, and other association-related support
- Emergency services / rural crime / fire safety
- Safe boating
- Land Use Planning, Mining, and other related issues



# FOCA Staff and Board of Directors



Terry Rees - Executive Director  
Tracy Logan - Programs Coordinator  
Lara Griffin - Admin/Membership  
Johanna Kilbridge - Intern

Karl Fiander  
Ivan Battye  
Malcolm Burwash  
Cliff Hatch

Jacqueline Mackie  
Ted Spence  
Bill Cheshire  
Anne McCauley



# FOCA Communications



## Address from the FOCA President

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**WHAT'S INSIDE**

Advocacy remains at the top of the FOCA priority list with continued action on taxation and mining reform. Executive Director Terry Rees and Director Ted Spence have done excellent work on these files. Member surveys have indicated that water quality and environmental issues remain important and FOCA is pleased to announce the introduction of "Take the Plunge" which is a comprehensive manual for waterfront living. During her time as FOCA's Lake Planning Coordinator, Samantha Brown spent many hours on this project supported by dozens of volunteer contributors. FOCA members should also take great pride in our ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Environment's Lake Partner Program. The program is ably coordinated by Annis DeSelas.

With the number of projects underway, volunteers play a huge role in FOCA's success. We certainly look forward to working closely with our member association in the future to better serve the waterfront community.

Karl Flander



*In January it's always a bit hard to remember that summer will return. We thought this picture would remind you.*

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATIONS

**201 - 159 King St. Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8**  
 Tel: 705-749-3622  
 Fax: 705-749-6522  
 info@foca.ca

**Take the Plunge**

Cottagers' environmental resource hits the shelves. See page 3.

**APPLY FOR A GRANT TO ATTEND "ONTARIO'S PREMIER ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT"**  
 FOCA is pleased to announce the May 17 release of the State of Ontario's Biodiversity Report 2010 (SOBR) and hope this important information provides a call ... [read more](#)

**APPLY FOR A GRANT TO ATTEND "ONTARIO'S PREMIER ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT"**  
 Click here to view eligibility and to complete a grant application for the A.D. Latomail Conservation Symposium in Alliston from November 17-19, 2010. Applications will be ... [read more](#)

More News and information can be found on the FOCA [News & Events](#) pages, or you can find information specific to your [Region](#).

ABOUT FOCA PROGRAMS FOCA REGIONS/MEMBERS NEWS & EVENTS LINKS SHOPPING CONTACT US



Home

## FOCA HIGHLIGHTS

**DRY FORESTS LEAD TO INCREASED FOREST FIRE RISK**  
 Be aware of the forest fire risk at your cottage by viewing the current forest fire hazard and forest fire maps. For more information on being FireSmart visit the FOCA ... [read more](#)

**A CALL TO ACTION TO PROTECT ONTARIO'S BIODIVERSITY**  
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**FOCA**

Welcome to the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) website.

Since 1963, FOCA has played a key role in ensuring a healthy future for waterfront Ontario. FOCA developed this website to support your interests in a sustainable future for our precious freshwater lakes, Great Lakes, and is blessed with over 230,000 inland lakes that all need your attention.

FOCA will be pleased to have you at the **Cottage Show** April 9-11, discussing cottage interests and FOCA's role. Many of our members from the Frontenac area, and the Mississippi, Rideau, Rideau and other watersheds. Everyone commented on the early spring and their excitement for the coming summer season!

We were pleased to meet so many of our members and supporters at FOCA's 2010 Annual General Meeting, March 6, 2010 at the York Reception Centre in Toronto.

It was great to see so many supporters and interested cottagers at the [Spring Cottage Life Show](#) in Toronto.

Click [here](#) for more information on upcoming FOCA events.

Some of the enhanced features you will find on this renewed site include:

- Brand new and revised content and important links
- A brand new FOCA online store with secure credit card (Visa, Mastercard and American Express) capability - now you can [JOIN FOCA ONLINE!](#)
- More [Links](#) to FOCA members, supporters, and corporate sponsors
- NEW [regional pages](#) featuring member information, local news and important NEW links to municipal, regional and provincial politicians, policy makers and staff
- An option to [resize \(enlarge\)](#) the font size on screen (top right of the page)



[Join FOCA today!](#)

**Gold Sponsor**

**Silver Sponsors**

**FOCA Eler - May 2010**

FOCA will be involved in a number of events in cottage country this summer - check your regional page on our [website](#) regularly to find out what is happening near your cottage!

Remember that FOCA members can benefit from a discounted rate when ordering 10+ copies of the *Take the Plunge Stewardship Guide*. For details and to place an order, please contact us at 705-749-3622 or [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca).

Attention Webmasters: Click [here](#) to add a FOCA link to your cottage or road association website. Likewise, be sure to let us know if you would like your website to be a link on our Regions/Members pages.

**BOATsmart! Canada Promotes Safe Boating**  
 Get your Operators Card

All operators of powered boats are now required to have an Operators Card regardless of age, engine horsepower and size of boat. FOCA encourages all boaters to be part of a safe boating experience. You can take your BOATsmart! Exam online, with Canada's most recognized course provider. BOATsmart! Canada offers everything you need to get certified, from study material to temporary cards that are issued immediately. Visit [www.BoatSmartExam.com](http://www.BoatSmartExam.com) today and avoid expensive fines this summer. Remember, FOCA members save \$10 when taking the exam online (code: FOCA219).

**Boating Safely in Cold Water**  
 Even in summer, cold water immersion is still a hazard

Many people don't realize that even though the warm weather is here, the dangers of cold water immersion continue all year round. Many of the lakes in Ontario are considered cold for safety purposes even in spring and summer. The best way to be safe when boating in cold water is to be informed and prepared... [\[Read more\]](#)

**Corporate Sponsors**

**View Our Sponsors**

**Join FOCA Today!**  
 and enjoy the many membership benefits.  
[Read More!](#)

**Receive FOCA Eler**  
 Your email:

Put a FOCA link on your site!

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



# FOCA Publications



## Take the Plunge

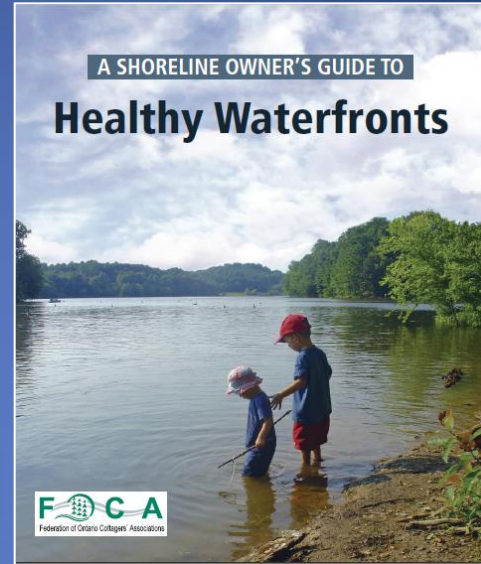
A Guide to Stewardship of Ontario's Waters



## Lake Planning Handbook for Community Groups



## A SHORELINE OWNER'S GUIDE TO Healthy Waterfronts





FRESHWATER  
FUTURE

Helping people protect the Great Lakes

THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION  
TRILLIUM  
DE L'ONTARIO



... a program of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
linking landowners, land interest groups and agencies to  
encourage responsible land care on private land.



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada



ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE



2010 International Year of Biodiversity



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada





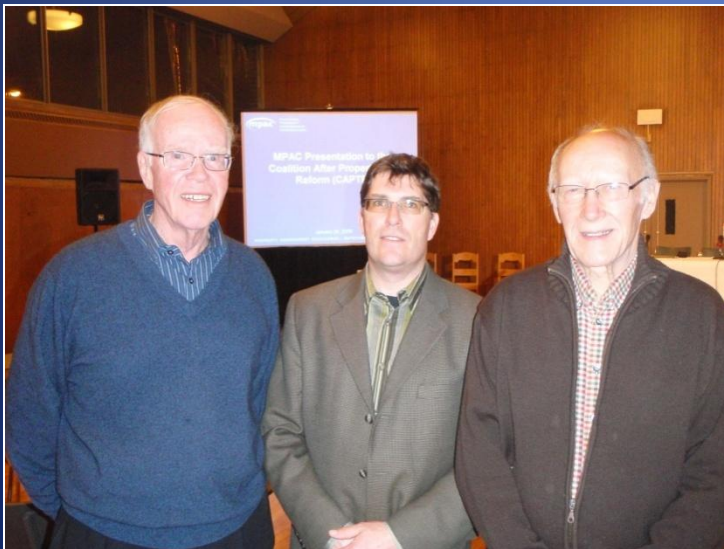
# Property Taxation

wraft

waterfront ratepayers after fair taxation

CAPT R

Coalition after property tax reform



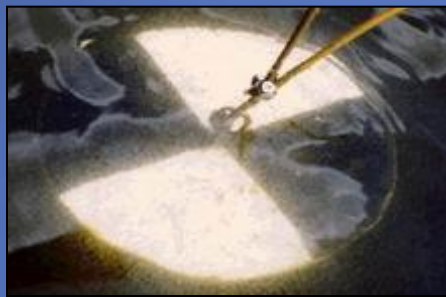


# FOCA Programs





# Lake Partner Program





# Docktalk Program



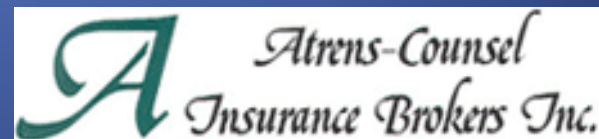
# Risk Management



FOCA has proudly developed the current liability insurance program for our members which has now been emulated by many other community groups

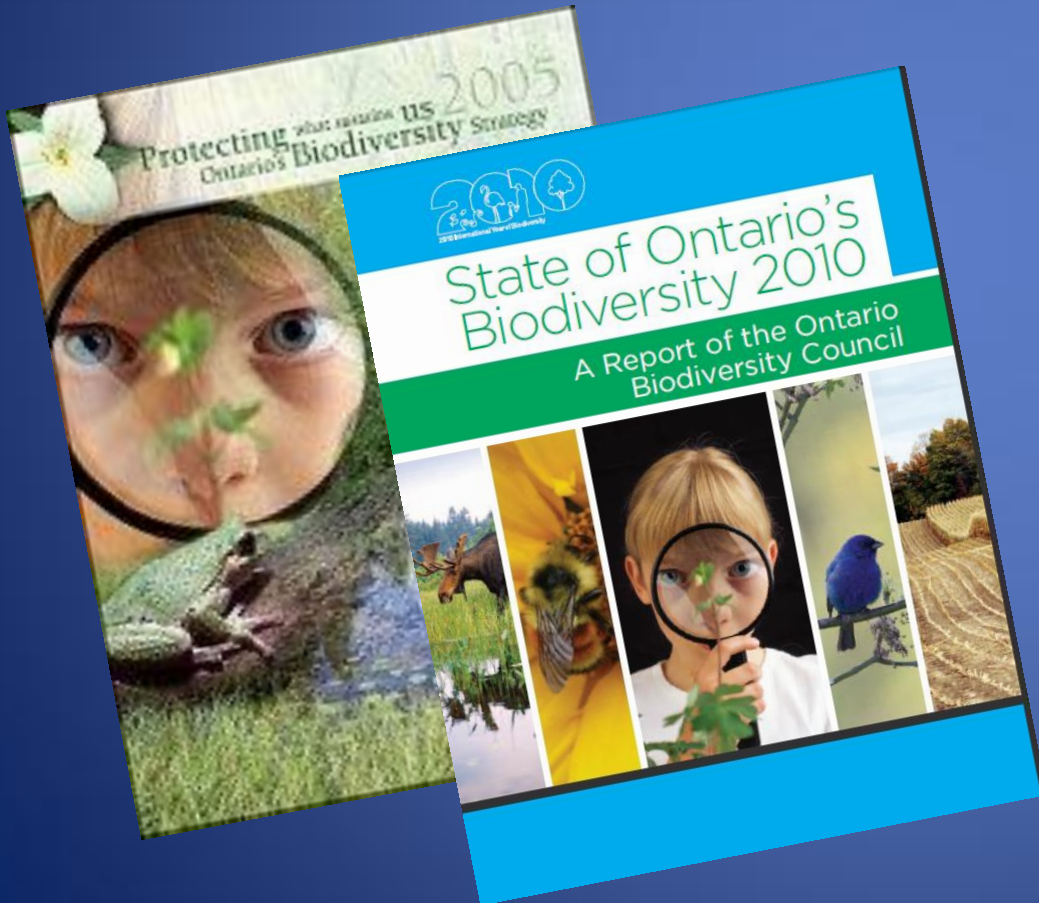
Over 400 associations enjoy the peace of mind provided by the Aviva / Atrens Counsel coverage

“Protecting our volunteers” remains a priority commitment of our organization



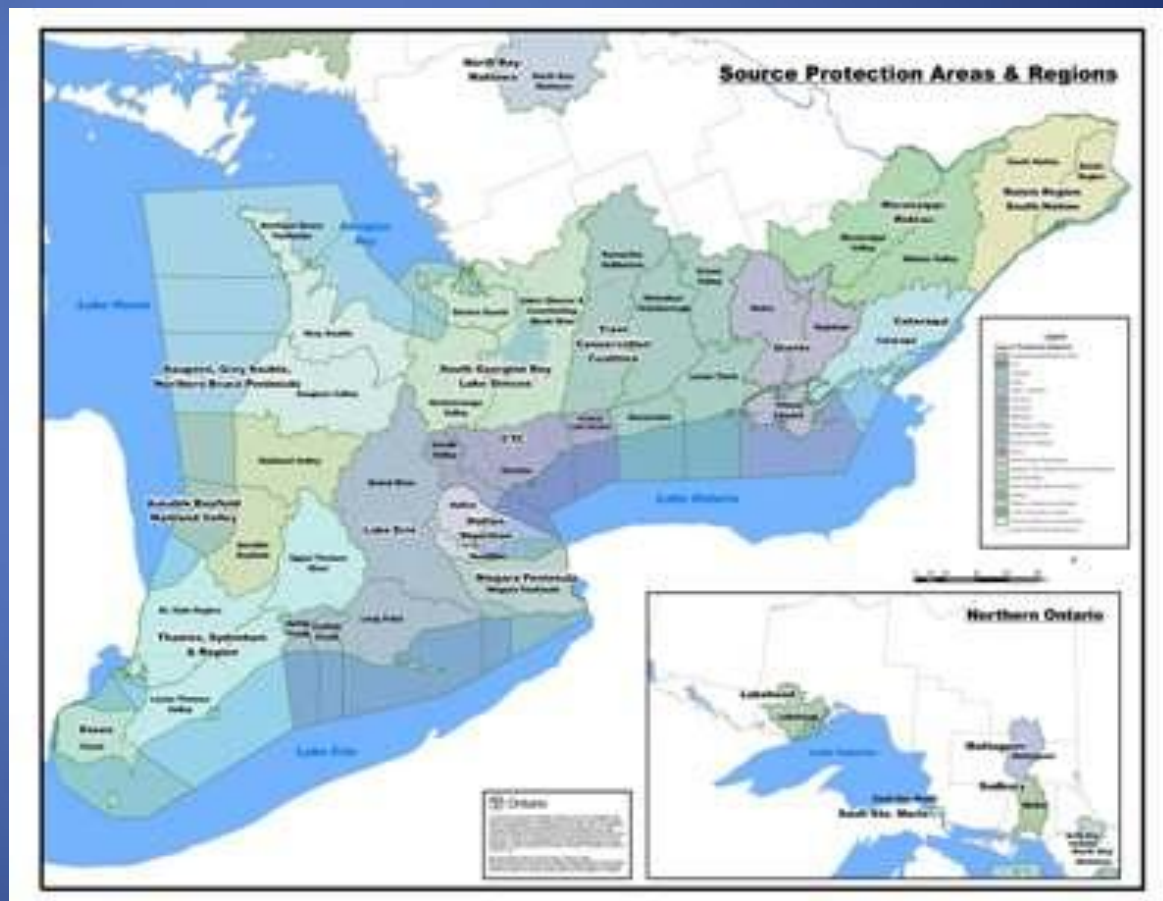


# 2010 International Year of Biodiversity



# Protecting Drinking Water at the Source

Representing the interests of non-farm rural residents within Source Protection Areas, and seeking options for those outside the designated areas





# Other FOCA Activities



- Ministers Mining Act Advisory Committee
- Ontario Energy Board consumer representatives
- Partner in clean boating and boating safety with Ontario Marine Operators Association, BOATSmart! Canada
- Members of the Water Guardians Network
- Contributors to Lake Simcoe Protection Act
- Members of the Great Lakes issues Annex Advisory Panel
- Members of two MNR Fisheries Councils
- Members of the MNR S. Region Advisory committee
- Ongoing meetings with public health, regulators, industry re: septic reinspection, land use planning, other

# Other FOCA Activities



- FOCA Spring Seminar and AGM- March
- FOCA Fall Seminar- November
- Spring Cottage Life Show, Toronto, March
- Fall Cottage Life Show, Toronto, November
- The Cottage Show, Ottawa, April
- In-Water Boat Show, Gravenhurst, July
- Sponsors , Freshwater Summit 2010, Bracebridge, June
- Steering committee and event organizers for the Lakeland Alliance/Lakeland Conference, September
- Co-sponsors of the Lake Links, Perth, October
- Sponsors of the Cottage Succession workshops in Kawarthas/Haliburton (Summer 2010)





*Looking forward  
to the future.....*