



Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

## FOCA 2008 Annual General Meeting – March 7th 2009

## SUMMARY

Once again [FOCA](#) hosted an informative and well attended Annual General Meeting on March 7th at the York Reception Center in Toronto. The AGM agenda reflected comments received from past events and included what our members wanted – more time for networking and for meeting other associations with common interests and issues. Along with more time to network, the line up this year included presenters and experts addressing key areas of interest to FOCA members.

The event began with the official FOCA Annual General Meeting. Karl Fiander, President of the FOCA Board, opened the meeting thanking the members for their continued support, and with an update on FOCA's activities and accomplishments over the previous year. The business section of the meeting included the approval of



the 2007 AGM minutes, and was followed by a financial update, provided by FOCA Treasurer Jacqueline Mackey. The 2007-2008 audited financial statement were presented and accepted. Board member Peter Chown introduced the 2008-2009 FOCA Board . Terry Rees, FOCA Executive Director, also provided members with an update on FOCA's priorities and the work that has taken place in 2008. Also discussed were the exciting new web-based communication tools coming to FOCA in 2009, including our new on-line credit card program. This concluded the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

Samantha Brown, FOCA Lake Planning Coordinator, announced the completion and launch of the Lake Planning Tool. The Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield participated in this launch by recognizing the Lake Planning Pilot Group who played a critical role in creating the Lake Planning Tool. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) plays an important role in cottage country, and is one of the important sources for information, guidance and regulatory context when it comes to planning, to fish, forests, and to lakes in general. FOCA was excited to have Minister Cansfield available to help launch the tool and demonstrate how a partnership with the MNR and community interests can yield such positive results. The tool and supporting information has been made available to all member associations through the FOCA office.



***Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield at the 2009 FOCA AGM***

Anna Desallas, Lake Partner Program Coordinator with the Ministry of Environment (MOE) Dorset Research Center presented New Trends in Lake Health – Where do we fit in?. Anna is currently the acting Lake Partner Program Coordinator. The Lake

Partner program is a multi-year partnership between FOCA and the Ontario MOE - a volunteer based program that provides the tools necessary for hundreds of concerned citizens to monitor lake trophic status.

Terry Rees provided an update on Property Tax. Members were reminded that they need to submit their request for reconsideration by March 31st. This can be done through the [MPAC website](#).

Craig Stewart from the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron presented information regarding the Pleasure Craft Operator Card Training and Exam.

Bob Maynard with Atrens Counsel Insurance Brokers provided some updated information on the 2009 FOCA-Atrens Counsel Insurance . Members are encouraged to contact Bob or the FOCA office for questions regarding the insurance program as well as the FOCA Risk Management materials.

Wendy Cooper from the Georgian Bay Land Trust presented – Land Trust and Cottage Associations – A Natural Partnership. Land Trusts are non-profit, charitable organizations which have as one of their core activities the acquisition of land or interests in land for the purpose of conservation. Wendy explained how important the partnership between Land Trust and Cottage Associations is, both are community-based, grassroots organizations that share a common interest of community health.

We received many positive comments on the AGM and lots of requests for more information on our programs. FOCA's special events such as our Annual General Meeting are an important opportunity to meet with our members, and to share information on programs and important issues that affect our members' interests.



***FOCA 2009 Lake Stewardship Coordinator Lynn Woodcroft at the FOCA AGM***