

FOCA Annual General Meeting - March 6/10

Meeting Summary

FOCA hosted the annual general meeting on March 6, 2010 at the York Reception Centre in Toronto. For the first time we were pleased to offer remote associations the opportunity to attend our AGM online. The web-conferencing option is something we hope to offer again at future meetings. The meeting provided an opportunity to learn from the several presentations and an open panel discussion. As requested in the past there was plenty of time for networking between attendees.

The day began with the opening of the business meeting by the FOCA President Karl Fiander. Karl thanked the members for their continued support and interest in FOCA activities and events. He also encouraged the members to assist in getting the FOCA message out to the members of the individual associations.

Terry Rees, FOCA Executive Director, welcomed the attendees and provided an update on FOCA's priorities which include broadening partnerships and providing members with information through the website and Elerts. He introduced and thanked the work of the FOCA board and staff. Terry introduced the new and returning staff, including Lara Griffin, Office Administrator, and Frances Wilbur who has returned as the Communications Manager.

Terry reviewed the work that has taken place over the past year including the printing of The Take the Plunge Guide that has now been distributed to each association and is available for purchase in the FOCA [online store](#).

The FOCA Board Treasurer, Jaqueline Mackie provided the financials report for the previous business year. Cliff Hatch presented the FOCA Board Slate for approval and new and resigning Board members were introduced. Resigning Board Members include Roslyn Moore, Kelly Warner-Kelly, Beth Cragg and Peter Chown. FOCA would like to welcome Anne McCauley of Muskoka Lakes Association and Bill Cheshire from Baptiste Lake Association to the Board of Directors.



Following the FOCA Business Meeting, participants enjoyed several insightful presentations. Tracy Logan, FOCA Programs Coordinator provided a brief overview and update on the FireSmart program and encouraged members to contact her to share their fire safety experiences. Dr. Helena Jaczek, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment spoke about MOE Perspectives on Ontario's Freshwater Legacy. Dr. Brian Ginn, Limnologist with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority gave an overview of current water quality initiatives for Lake Simcoe and Kelly Thompson from Transport Canada provided a review of the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations and the role of the Navigable Waters Protection Branch.

Presentations and other notes can be viewed on the FOCA website by following this [link](#).

This year's AGM panel discussion was focussed on the upcoming municipal election. Anna McCauley, FOCA Board Member and member of the Muskoka Lakes Association and Dave Burton, Warden in Haliburton County presented helpful information and tips on the process of the municipal elections and how cottagers can get involved. Their presentations were followed by a question and answer period.

We also had many of our sponsors in attendance at the AGM with information displays at our sponsors fair. These included: Sun Life Financial- Christopher Mahalic, One Stop Fire Products, Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association, Cottage Camp Cabin and Waterloo Biofilter Systems. Thank you to Yamaha Canada for sponsoring the lunch.

Thank you to all FOCA members for attending the event either in person or on-line. Have a happy and safe summer at the cottage!