



Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

FOCA - Elert

February 2011

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Reminder:

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, March 5th, 2011

Remember to pre-register for [FOCA's AGM](#). The date is fast approaching! With the provincial election looming, we will be discussing issues that matter to waterfront property owners, and enabling you to make a difference.

Join us in Toronto on **March 5th** for all the updates. Preview the [Agenda](#), or link to the secure online [FOCA Store](#) to complete your registration.

If you can't attend in person, please [contact us](#) about accessing the meeting electronically, **by webinar**.

Either way, we need you to attend, to bring important messages back to your lake.





START YOUR ENGINES

We'll have you dreaming of summer in no time!

FOCA is pleased to announce a new membership benefit:

3 free issues of **Boats & Places** magazine for every FOCA individual member and association representative. Plus, you'll receive "Boater News" by email.

Look for your first issue by mail in early April. You're under no obligation to subscribe, but if you do, your FOCA membership earns you a substantial discount.

Not yet a FOCA member?

[Get on board](#) today to take advantage of this offer.

MUNICIPAL BUDGETS - Your \$\$ at work

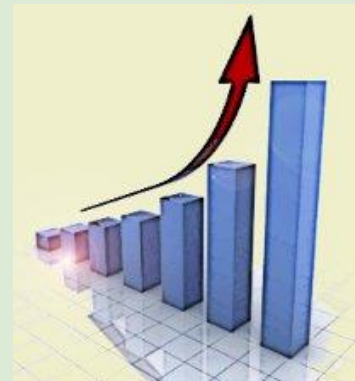
Municipal governments across Ontario are currently formulating annual budgets. Local spending decisions being made NOW will affect your property tax bill.

Every property owner and resident should be paying attention.

Interim municipal tax bills are already being mailed in some areas; 2011 budget impacts will be felt on final tax bills, to be sent after the budgets and tax rates are set by your municipality.

For information on getting involved in your local budget-setting process, visit the [TAXATION PAGES](#) of FOCA's website.

Note: the deadline to **challenge your assessed property value** this year is March 31, 2011. The process is the same as it was in 2010, so [visit our website](#) for details.



Ontario RULES OUT Offshore Wind Projects

The McGuinty Government has announced it is **not proceeding** with proposed offshore wind projects while further scientific research is conducted.

Still, Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan includes 10,700 MW of renewable energy (wind, solar and biomass) by 2018. [read more...](#)



FOCA has Got your Members Covered

If your association doesn't have liability insurance, we know the company to call: [Atrens-Counsel Insurance](#).

Hundreds of associations already trust Atrens Counsel for superior group protection for their volunteers and directors.

Now, we are proud to introduce a new program with Atrens-Counsel that insures FOCA member **cottages and boats** at a discount, too.

Join us at the AGM on March 5th to hear about the new program, or visit the [Insurance pages](#) of the FOCA website. Get a quote and see what you could be saving.

* Read the April 2011 edition of [Cottage Life Magazine](#) for an article that gives more perspective on cottage insurance. **Remember:** FOCA members get a discount on Cottage Life subscriptions!



WATER LEVEL Highs and Lows

Dropping water levels have implications for every waterfront property owner.

Read the latest about [water levels in Lakes Huron and Michigan](#), including comments from **Geoff Coulson** who will also speak at FOCA's AGM on March 5th about the extremes of weather in Ontario.



FOCA Road Survey Results

The road survey resulted in a wealth of information from over 170 respondents. Look what we learned:

- * roads with less than 30 properties are paying an average of \$400-500 per kilometre per season for snow removal
- * 1/3 of associations who responded have either threatened, or have actually ended up in, Small Claims Court trying to get payment on annual road dues or related costs!
- * 30% have not yet sorted out their road liability insurance needs

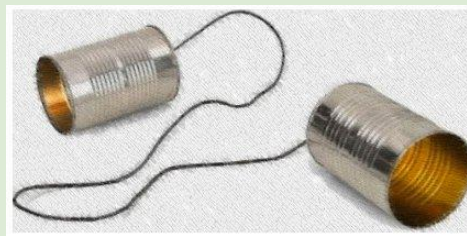
Get the [results of the Road Survey](#) on the FOCA website.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

If you haven't already participated in our [Communications Survey](#), please take a moment to share your thoughts.

Do you read our printed Newsletters? Do you "Facebook"? We'd like to know more about the resources you find most useful, to reach our goal of improved communication with our members.

Please hurry: the survey closes Thursday, March 4th, and results will be reported in an upcoming Elert.



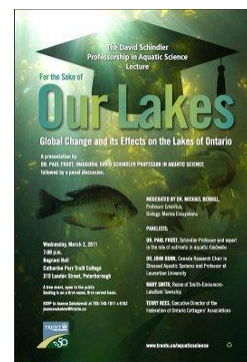
WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE...

All indications point to a wet Spring already, with a flood of water-themed events on tap:

* [Canada Water Week](#) will be celebrated March 14-22, 2011. The theme for this inaugural year is "Healthy Rivers, Living Lakes." The excitement culminates with **World Water Day** on March 22nd.

* Terry Rees is on the panel at **Trent University's** David Schindler Lecture following the talk by Dr. Paul Frost, "[For the Sake of Our Lakes](#)," on March 2nd, 7:00pm (Catharine Parr Traill College, Peterborough).

* the Royal Ontario Museum opens [Water: The Exhibition](#) on March 5th. Celebrate the power, wonder, and scarcity of this vital resource, and answer the call to become a steward of our blue planet.



* get up to speed on the recent **Trent-Severn Waterway Leaders' round-table session** that gathered 140 delegates on the subject, including FOCA.

* find out about the CD Howe Institute study, "*Protecting Groundwater: The Invisible and Vital Resource*," in a recent [Water Canada](#) article.

* FOCA was involved in a roundtable held February 25 by the regional watershed research consortium formed by the [District Municipality of Muskoka](#), in partnership with the [Dorset Environmental Science Centre](#). This 3-year collaborative and scientific approach aims to solve the Muskoka Watershed's critical lake-management issues, and leave a legacy of knowledge and cooperation that will benefit watershed management for decades. Funding through the [Canadian Water Network](#) (CWN) for the consortium's proposed work will be determined by mid-year 2011.



REMEMBER:

Share this email with everyone in your association membership!

Send the message onward with a click: 

Not yet a FOCA member? JOIN US TODAY.

Support our work to protect Ontario's waterfront.

**click to
join
FOCA**

Your lake. Your lifestyle. Your legacy.

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

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