



# Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

FOCA - Elert

May 2011

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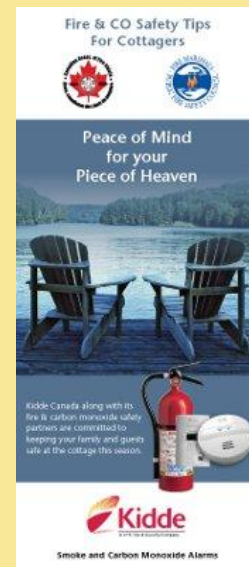
## Let the Summer Cottage Season Begin!

Just in time for the Victoria Day long weekend, FOCA is proud to announce the launch of "[Peace of Mind for your Piece of Heaven](#)," the **2011 Cottage Outreach program for Fire and CO safety.**

Carbon monoxide is the "silent killer." Get vital tips to protect your family at your cottage, camp or rural property.

**\*\* FOCA Associations:** [sign up today](#) to confirm your commitment to spread the word, and **receive rebates for all your members** on fire & CO safety equipment. [Get enrolment details here...](#)

FOCA is joined in this campaign by the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Kidde Canada smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and 15 cottage country fire departments.



## FOCA likes Facebook

FOCA has joined the conversation on Facebook. You don't have to be a Facebook subscriber to visit FOCA's new page; just [click the image at the right.](#)

"Like" us on Facebook in order to receive regular updates on important issues and news items affecting waterfront property owners. Spread the word!

Got a hot tip on a "hot topic"? Add your comments or questions to one of our [Facebook discussion groups](#) on subjects including bear sightings, road management issues...



## Hot Topics for Waterfront Property Owners

There is strength in numbers, particularly in this election year.\*

Get informed on the issues affecting waterfront property owners by visiting the new "[Hot Topics](#)" section of the FOCA website: energy issues, septics, property taxation, mining & development... and more.

[Raise your political voice!](#)

\* *The Ontario Provincial Election is scheduled for October 6, 2011.*



Carp! Image: Ted Lawrence, GLFC

## UpNorth TV Network

FOCA has partnered with Redstone Media Group to launch a digital media network called **upNorth TV** to deliver cottage country messages where they matter.



Click to preview upNorth TV

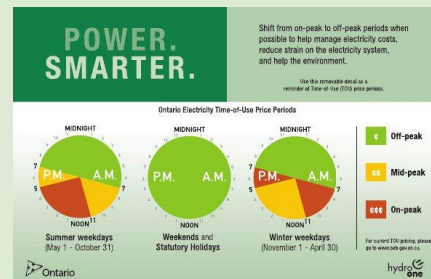
**How can you get involved?** Submit your images of cottage country for use on the network! [Click for details...](#)

Are you a business owner? [Talk to FOCA](#) about how to get upNorth TV screens installed in your location and get your message heard on the network.

## Hydro Update: Smart Meters

[See this update](#) from Hydro One about the roll-out of **Smart Meters** and Time-of-Use pricing across Ontario cottage country.

Read more and add your comments on the FOCA Facebook [ENERGY Discussion Board](#).



## Cottage Checklist

Bring the boat key, and the box with the dry goods. But as you open up the cottage, also take a few minutes to review these items and actions:

[ ] check the traffic before you go; FOCA has links to some live **traffic cameras** on our website. [Click here for the page...](#)

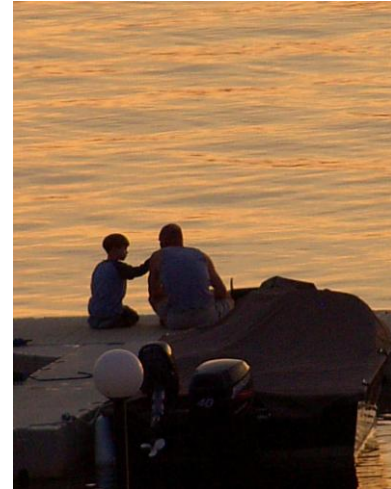
[ ] **don't move firewood** from home to the cottage or vice versa! Find out more about the dangers of spreading invasive species [here...](#)

[ ] **check your PFDs** - at the start of each season, put on your life jacket, enter the water to chest depth and raise your legs. If it doesn't fit snugly or rides up, readjust or choose a new size; if ripped or worn, get a new one. Get more info at [SmartBoater.ca...](#)

[ ] on the grand scale: keep an eye on the **Fire Hazard map** for your area. FOCA has the link [here...](#)

[ ] outside the cottage: do your part to protect your home from fire, inside and out. Be careful with **fireworks and campfires**, particularly as we celebrate the long weekend. Get [FireSmart](#) tips and video about property maintenance.

[ ] inside the cottage: replace the batteries on all smoke detectors and make this the year you finally **install a CO detector** at the cottage! FOCA members can [access rebates...](#)



## The Bears are Back

Yes, the bears are out of hibernation, low on calories and searching for food. Because there are no berries yet, your garbage looks like a good option to a hungry black bear.

FOCA and our partners at the Ministry of Natural Resources remind you to be **Bear Wise** by remembering to take down bird feeders, put garbage in bear-proof containers and clean BBQs after use. [Get additional tips here...](#)



Have you had a **bear encounter** at your rural property? Share your experience with us, [by email](#) or on FOCA's Facebook [Bear Discussion Board](#).

# FOCA Spring 2011 Lake Stewards Newsletter

It's here! FOCA's Newsletter has been mailed to all association executive and individual members. This issue is crammed with articles about **septics, gardening, cottage safety** and more.

Want to get in the know and start receiving the FOCA Newsletter by mail? [Join FOCA today!](#)

**Note: FOCA encourages everyone to become part of their local lake, road or rural association.** If you're part of a FOCA association, but not on the executive, you can still choose to take out an Individual FOCA membership for only \$37.50 to get the printed copy of the Newsletter three times a year, plus **all these benefits (click here)**. Your support makes FOCA programs possible.

Did you know? Associations are welcome to reproduce FOCA materials in their publications. Please credit the source, and contact the office if you have any questions.



## In Other News...

Here are more links & events worth checking out this month:

~ "**Ready, Set, Inflate**" - join the world-record-attempt event this Saturday, May 21st as the kick-off to North American [Safe Boating Awareness Week](#) (May 21-27, 2011). They want your pictures of your pfd test!

~ 2nd annual [Canadian Water Summit](#), Toronto (June 14, 2011)

~ Help cancer recovery by sharing your cottage when it's not in use, through **Cottage Dreams**. Start talking now about forming a team for their [summer fundraiser!](#)

~ We are happy to share news about your events. Send us regular updates by [email](#).



~ Did you know? **Local news and municipal contact information** are available 24-7 on your [Regions page](#) of the FOCA website.

## 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.**  
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