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FOCA Elert - July 2010

Visit FOCA at the Green Expo on July 23rd & 24th at the Johnson Township Community Centre in Desbarats, Ontario. The theme this year is Global Issues, Local Solutions. Come out and learn about green options for cottagers, hands-on demos, a canning workshop, kids activities, farmer's market, and dinner with live entertainment. Click here to see the [event brochure](#) or contact the [East Algoma Stewardship Council](#) for more details.

Silver Sponsors



Cottage Life



All cottagers are encouraged to attend the FOCA "[Lakes and Forests Stewardship Workshop](#)" in Espanola at the Recreation Complex from 7 - 9pm.

FOCA will be at [The Muskoka In-Water Boat Show](#), July 23rd - 25th at the Muskoka Wharf in Gravenhurst. This event also features the Muskoka Rib Fest, live entertainment and over 100 boat and cottage exhibitors. Free general admission.

Keeping your Cottage in the Family

FOCA is pleased to host a pilot series of Cottage Succession Workshops in the Kawartha and Haliburton regions.

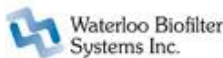
[Click here for more details.](#) To express interest in workshops in other regions, please email programs@foca.on.ca.

Recent events attended by FOCA:

- Source Water Protection, Trent Conservation Coalition
- Looncall Lake Cottagers Association AGM
- Cordova Lake Cottage Association AGM
- Four Mile Lake Association AGM



Bronze Sponsors



Lake planning publication wins award!

FOCA recently learned that French Planning Services Inc. has been awarded the 2010 "Excellence in Planning Award" in the Communications/Public Education category, from the Ontario Professional Planner's Institute for the Lake Planning Handbook for Community Groups.

The Handbook and related materials were produced jointly by FOCA, the Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council, and French Planning Services in 2009. It is a resource that assists shoreline people in the exercise of strategic planning to maintain and enhance the quality of life in their community, and offers a framework for the exchange of ideas, options and examples. This handbook is based on the collective experience and recollections of at least 40 lake associations across Ontario, guided by a dedicated pilot group of volunteers.

Visit the [FOCA Lake Planning pages](#) where you can now download the complete handbook. Stay tuned for further news about this exciting recognition for Randy and his team, and for everyone involved in this collaboration!

Cottage Life Environment Grants

Got a great idea for your cottage environment? You may qualify for a Cottage Life Environment Grant!

The Cottage Life Environment Grant Program (CLEG) helps support cottagers or cottage associations doing good work on their waterfronts. Examples of eligible projects may include funds to an association for implementing a lake plan, or to cottagers interested in naturalizing a shoreline. Applicants can receive up to \$5,000 for eligible projects. Approval amounts will depend on the quantity and quality of applications. The deadline for applications is September 15, 2010.

Click [here](#) to read about last year's Cottage Life Environment Award Recipients. Congratulations to the Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council and to Cyndy and Bryan Broughton of White Lake.

Don't forget about the special [FOCA Cottage Life subscription rate!](#)

Clean Wake: Engine Take-Back Program

Thinking about upgrading to cleaner marine technology? Bring your old outboard motor to a participating marina for recycling - the first 50 participants will receive a \$100 gift certificate to spend at that marina. Click [here](#) for more details.



Featured FOCA Resources



FOCA Docktalk Kit: This kit is a great resource for running a shoreline education program or giving a presentation to the lake association. Includes factsheets, posters, and a multimedia educational CD/DVD with video clips. Order yours today for \$20. Call 705-749-3622 or email info@foca.on.ca

Lyme Disease

Be Tick Smart this Summer

Cottagers should be aware of the risks of tick bites and Lyme disease and take precautions when out in the bush this summer. Click [here](#) for more information, including tick photos and links.

Private Buoys - Now Available

Do you place markers on your lake?

Where there is no prevailing nor regular marking of navigational hazards by Transport Canada or any other responsible agency, a number of FOCA members make an effort to warn boaters by marking hazards (shoals or underwater hazards) with some form of floating or other marker. FOCA worked with marker suppliers to develop a buoy design which would comply with the current standards (to read about this initiative, click [here](#)). On behalf of the membership, FOCA has worked with Go Deep International in New Brunswick to develop a buoy that meets the TC standard, as outlined in "An Owner's Guide to Private Buoys". For links to more info, click [here](#).

To order a private buoy for marking hazards on your lake, contact Tom Snodgrass of Go Deep International:

Toll Free: 877-446-3337
Phone: 506-633-7850 Ext: 204
www.buoysandlights.com

2010 - International Year of Biodiversity

Get your feet wet at a local workshop!

Check out the Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network's (BEAN) community calendar to participate in a great learning experience. Examples of event postings include: butterfly/dragonfly counts, a beaver pond ecology workshop, GPS training, a guided wetlands hike with a wildlife biologist, and many more. Click [here](#) for more details.

Calling all historians!

Record your lake's history in a beautiful coffee-table book

If you have ever considered recording your lake's history, you'll want to check out the award-winning book produced by Six Mile Lake Cottagers Association. Congratulations to Six Mile Lake on winning a 2010 Independent Publisher Book Award in the Canada East Best Regional Non-Fiction category! Click [here](#) to read more about ***Echoes of Six Mile Lake: A Journey Through Time in Muskoka*** and find out how to contact Mary Boddy for helpful advice on producing a book for your cottage association.

Keeping things cool at the cottage

A cool freezer trick

Ever wondered if the power failed while you were in the city? Try this trick to be sure your frozen food has been frozen all week. Remove ice cubes from the tray and transfer to a bowl. Store the bowl of ice cubes in your freezer. If they are still cube-shaped when you get back to the cottage, you will know that your freezer has been running all week.

2010 Municipal Election

Questions for Candidates - Keep your suggestions coming!

Making an informed decision on which candidate to support in the upcoming election is easier when you ask the right questions. Do your municipal candidates know the priority issues for cottagers and waterfront property owners? How will they represent your concerns if elected?

In order to support FOCA members, we will be sharing a list of Key Questions for Municipal Candidates in our August Elert. Please send us your suggestions!

Great Summer Reading: Take the Plunge

FOCA members 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 info@foca.on.ca.

Visit the [FOCA website](#) and be sure to use the search feature to find the information you want faster.

Past editions of FOCA Elerts are available on the FOCA website and can be accessed by clicking [here](#) - feel free to send the link to your members!