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**Cottage Life**



## FOCA Elert - May 2010

FOCA will be involved in a number of events in cottage country this summer - check your regional page on our [website](#) regularly to find out what is happening near your cottage!

Remember that FOCA members can 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 705-749-3622 or [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca).

Attention Webmasters: Click [here](#) to add a FOCA link to your cottage or road association website. Likewise, be sure to let us know if you would like your website to be a link on our Regions/Members pages.

## BOATsmart! Canada Promotes Safe Boating

Get your Operators Card

All operators of powered boats are now required to have an Operators Card regardless of age, engine horsepower and size of boat. FOCA encourages all boaters to be part of a safe boating experience. You can take your BOATsmart! Exam online, with Canada's most recognized course provider. BOATsmart! Canada offers everything you need to get certified, from study material to temporary cards that are issued immediately. Visit [www.BoatSmartExam.com](http://www.BoatSmartExam.com) today and avoid expensive fines this summer. Remember, FOCA members save \$10 when taking the exam online (code: FOCA219).

## Boating Safely in Cold Water

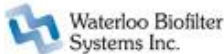
Even in summer, cold water immersion is still a hazard

Many people don't realize that even though the warm weather is here, the dangers of cold water immersion continue all year round. Many of the lakes in Ontario are considered cold for safety purposes even in spring and summer. The best way to be safe when boating in cold water is to be informed and prepared... [\[Read more\]](#)

## FOCA FireSmart Program



## Bronze Sponsors



We want to hear from you!

Have you experienced wildland fires at your cottage or home? Please send your stories to [programs@foca.on.ca](mailto:programs@foca.on.ca). Your experiences could raise awareness and help others to be FireSmart!

Your stories may be used by FOCA or the MNR for educational purposes. All contributors will remain anonymous.

## Cottage Country News

Kawartha Lake Stewards Association

The Kawartha Lake Stewards had a great turnout for their Spring General Meeting on May 8, 2010 in Bobcaygeon. An impressive selection of speakers presented on topics such as: Storm Water Pollution, Eurasian milfoil, and the Phosphorus - Aquatic Plants Connection. The keynote speaker was Ms. Ana M. Morales, who discussed "Algae in the Kawartha Lakes".

The group has recently been awarded a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to undertake a study exploring lake water algae with the objective of publishing a companion to their 2009 Aquatic Plants Guide. The KLSA has structured a two year algae research project culminating with a public education program in the summer of 2012 focused on a Kawartha Lakes Algae Handbook.

## 2010 - International Year of Biodiversity

The United Nations General Assembly chose the year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, to help raise public understanding of our natural systems, to assess what is happening on the landscape, and to chart a new way forward. Click [here](#) to read about FOCA's involvement in the recent release of the State of Ontario's Biodiversity Report 2010.

Find out what is happening in Ontario this week and throughout the year by clicking [here](#). The International Day of Biodiversity is Saturday May 22, 2010!

## 2010 Municipal Election

Ensure your information is accurate!

MPAC has recently mailed out "2010 Municipal Enumeration



## Featured FOCA Resources

### Take the Plunge

A Guide to Stewardship of Ontario's Waters



FOCA  
Friends of Ontario's Waters

**Take the Plunge: A Guide to Stewardship of Ontario's Waters** - Members ordering 10+ copies are eligible for a discounted rate. Call the FOCA office to order (705-749-3622).

Forms" to help correct or complete information for a household. These enumeration forms are very important to help MPAC provide the most correct list of Preliminary Electors that is possible for the municipal election. It is an opportunity for residents to ensure that the information on the preliminary list is accurate.

The municipality will use the preliminary list to mail out the ballots, so the more accurate the list the better. FOCA encourages all eligible voters to review and return the enumeration forms to MPAC by June 1st to ensure they can vote in the October 25 municipal elections.

**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!**