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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Fighting for Fair Property Taxation

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, (FOCA) and the Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT) recently announced the merger of their efforts to fight for fair property taxation for Ontario's residential property owners.

At FOCA's 47th Annual General Meeting held March 5, 2011 in Toronto, the two organizations formally announced their amalgamation, and their on-going commitment to hold the Province of Ontario accountable for the fair treatment of Ontario's homeowners.

WRAFT's vice-chairman, Alan Morson, spoke to the on-going discrepancies in property assessment recently outlined by Ontario's Auditor General, and described the inflexible approach to the volatility issue in the current system. "While the use of property valuation is a widespread basis for assessing property taxes in North America," said Morson, "unlike other jurisdictions, Ontario refuses to mitigate the drastic financial impacts of real estate fluctuations."

The original legislative plan that would have dealt with the inaccuracy of individual assessments was never implemented, giving rise to WRAFT's suggestions of a 5% annual assessment cap to mitigate the unfairness.

"The underlying problems with heavily burdened municipal tax bills, assessed through current value assessment remain," states FOCA's Executive Director, Terry Rees, "and it is incumbent on all property owners in this Province to voice their concerns to their candidates for Provincial elected office this year."

"Rural, waterfront homeowners are the backbone of many of our municipalities," says Rees, "and this undue financial pressure levied on neighbourhoods across the Province signals an on-going disregard for their plight."

To learn how to challenge your property assessment, or to send a message to your MPP about your property taxation concerns, contact wraft@nexicom.net, and visit www.foca.on.ca.

For more information contact:
Terry Rees, Executive Director
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Inc.
wraft@nexicom.net
705-749-3622

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