



FOCA
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
2019 AGM & Spring Seminar



**Association Planning:
Getting it Right**

Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 at the Boulevard Club, Toronto

Event Summary:

We had a full house of 130 people inside—and snow flying outside—as FOCA members met in Toronto at the Boulevard Club for the 2019 FOCA Annual General Meeting & Spring Seminar. The theme of the day was “**Association Planning: Getting it Right.**”



[Click here to download](#)
(PDF, 4 MB)

The day began with **FOCA Updates** from Executive Director Terry Rees who presented about the year in review, FOCA's 20/20 Vision – A Strategic Framework, program updates and priorities for the coming year.

[Download Terry's slide presentation](#) (PDF, 10 MB).

Click the links at the sides, to download the documents:

< 2018 Year in Review including results of our **2018 Member Survey**, and the **20/20 Strategic Vision >**



Preface
The purpose of this document is to provide a clear and concise overview of the 20/20 Vision. It is intended to be a living document that will be updated as we progress through our strategic framework. The vision is to be a leading provider of quality cottaging experiences for our members and the general public. We will achieve this through a focus on member satisfaction, operational excellence, and financial stability. The vision is to be a leading provider of quality cottaging experiences for our members and the general public. We will achieve this through a focus on member satisfaction, operational excellence, and financial stability.



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Retiring Board Treasurer Jeff Clark was thanked by Executive Director Terry Rees, and Board President Marlin

Board President Marlin Horst chaired the **FOCA Annual General Meeting**, welcoming everyone in the room as well as those members who participated by webinar for the vote portion of the day. All motions passed. [Download the AGM slides](#) (PDF, 2 MB). Thank you to the Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association for assisting with loan of the webinar platform!

Board Director Wendy Lyttle presented the **FOCA Achievement Award** to representatives of the White Lake Cottagers Association. [Download the Award presentation slides](#) (PDF, 1 MB).

In the days following our event, Jim and Joan Rose of the **White Lake Cottagers Association** were interviewed by **CBC radio** on the program “In Town and Out,” about receiving the FOCA Achievement Award, and the great work of their association. [Click to stream the audio interview.](#) (CBC Listen 07:39)



Presentation of the FOCA Achievement Award with Terry Rees, Joan Rose and FOCA Board Member Wendy Lyttle.

Event sponsored by:



Partners in Powerful Communities

Refreshments:



Lunch sponsored by:



Thank you to our event sponsor, Hydro One, our refreshment and lunch sponsors, and all our other sponsors and partners who were in attendance.

>more...

FOCA 2019 AGM & Spring Seminar – Event Summary /2

Our guest speaker of the day was Dave Meslin, on the topic of **Connecting with your municipal council – and why.**

The inspiring talk was given without slides. See notes taken by FOCA about Dave's "Top Tips" for successful lobbying about your local issue, and also why he says: "Municipal government is where it's at!" [Download the talk notes.](#) (PDF, 330 KB)



Just before lunch, we issued an "alert" of an Asian carp sighting near Lake Ontario: our event attendees were surprised by 'Captain Carp' a large mascot who made a special appearance to remind members on the Great Lakes to be part of the effort to watch for Asian carp and to prevent their spread. For more about Asian carp, visit: <https://foca.on.ca/asian-carp/>



During the lunch hour, attendees snapped pictures with 'Carpie', collected association Asian carp prevention toolkits, visited the partner information tables, and submitted their Association's 'burning questions' to our Q&A box.



The afternoon session opened with a panel: **Creative Solutions to Boating Issues** with FOCA and guest speakers Sgt. Dave Moffatt, Provincial Marine Coordinator of the **Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)**, and Greg Wilkinson of the organization **Safe Quiet Lakes (SQL)**. This session included FOCA's introduction about the subject of boating, and highlighted 'pinch-points' identified from responses to our 2018 membership survey.

[Download the slides from FOCA, OPP and SQL.](#) (PDF, 2.5 MB)



In the mid-afternoon, attendees selected one of 3 break-out sessions, which were information presentations and question/answer sessions in smaller groups:

Session (A): Estate lawyer Peter Lillico spoke about **Cottage Succession Planning** and ways to keep the cottage in the family for the next generation. He discussed the obstacles that must be overcome to ensure a realistic chance of keeping the cottage in the family, as well as creative solutions for every situation. Peter will be on-the-road with FOCA again this summer for this seminar series, and has also released some of his talks via FOCA, in DVD format.

More details about cottage succession are posted here:

<https://foca.on.ca/cottage-succession/>.



Session (B): Non-profit lawyer Ted Hyland led a session on **Association Organizational Planning**.

Many FOCA member lake Associations are unincorporated, while many others are provincially incorporated, and a few are federally incorporated. Ted produced a summary document that outlines requirements for each of the different categories, by topics such as: key documents to keep on hand, governance structure requirements, meeting requirements, income tax flings, and annual reporting to the Canada Revenue Agency for incorporated non-profits.



[Download the summary notes for Lake Associations](#) (PDF, 380 KB). Contact FOCA for any general follow-up questions, or consider engaging Ted's services directly, for legal enquiries.

Session (C): The third break-out session was **A Deeper Dive into Boating Issues**, with speakers from the earlier Boating Session, plus additional guests and voices on boating issues raised by FOCA members.

[Read summary notes from this open discussion](#).
(PDF, 100KB)



The final session of the day was the '**Burning Questions**' Session, led by Michelle Lewin, FOCA's Communications Coordinator, fielding questions that had been posed by attendees on question cards throughout the day. **Watch upcoming FOCA ElerTs** for more about some of the most popular Q&A topics. [Please confirm your consent to continue receiving the FOCA ElerT!](#)

Remember: you can always search on our website for what FOCA has said about any particular subject. There are also links to print resources, videos, and partner information. **Start your online searches here:**

<https://foca.on.ca/resources/>



and contact the FOCA office if you need assistance: communications@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622.



See you at our next event!