

Lower Beverley Lake Association

Founded in 1932

2022 LOON CALL

LBLA, PO Box 92, Delta Ontario K0E 1G0

Letter from the President

Greetings to all from the great white North - Maitland. It has been a long and frustrating time with COVID but things are slowly improving. Hopefully all our LBL community is ok and we all can be welcomed back to our beautiful Lake.

Event planning and get togethers will all be under the constrict of COVID rules but can be done successfully, as last summer's great "Bach on the Beverly" proved. Thank you again for all involved.

Looking forward to being back at the cottage.

- Joe Kelly (jd_kelly_9@sympatico.ca)

Volunteers needed

Like any organization we need help in the form of volunteers.

- A big thank you to Dana Mellon for volunteering to be our new **shoal marker coordinator!**
- We still are looking for someone to step into the **Vice-President** position.

If you'd like to volunteer and need more information, please speak to any board member. LBLA works best with new ideas and new people flowing through!

New Water Testing Equipment Purchased

In 2020, new water testing equipment was purchased by LBLA. Unfortunately, the border closure prevented the equipment from getting to the lake as Dave Champagne didn't get across. The equipment allows us to follow the dissolved oxygen stats in the lake. Oxygen is important to the lake as fish cannot survive without it. Go to the LBLA website to read Dave's article about water testing.



Upcoming Events

As members are aware, most of our events did not happen in 2021 due to the pandemic and our AGM was on Zoom in September. All of the 2022 LBLA events are hopeful right now. Events will be held or cancelled based on the Provincial and area health department regulations at the time of the event. PLEASE check our website www.lbla.net before an event to be sure that it is happening as scheduled.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday July 13, 6:30 pm

Delta Town Hall

Refreshments served at 6:30 pm; the meeting starts at 7pm. Our speaker will be announced in the spring.

Join us for what is always an informative event and make sure to invite your friends and neighbours!

Youth/Family/Everyone Event

Saturday July 23, 10-11 am

Matt Ellerbeck will return with a presentation about a topic t.b.a.. This year's event is sure to be entertaining and educational. All ages are welcome. Location: Bradford Pavilion, Delta Township Park.

BLAM 1 and 2!! Beverley Lake Anglers Meetings

**Wed., June 15 (Bradford Pavilion, Delta Township Park) and
Wed., July 27, at 922 Kendrick Lane** (off of Short Point Road).

Both meetings at 7:00 p.m. Tom Heinze, LBLA Past-President, will host 2 meetings of area anglers. The first meeting to talk over catches, water conditions and levels, aquatic weed growth, and any other information which can help us to prepare a lake profile. It will also help us to keep an eye on aids to navigation, wildlife on and in the water, and provide general fellowship with other anglers on both of the Beverley Lakes.

Questions? Email Tom - tomoboe@comcast.net

Bach on the Beverley

Saturday August 27, 3:00 pm, St. Paul's Community Center, Delta.

Come celebrate the music of one of the great musicians of all time in a very informal setting with a "closeness" between the audience and the performers. Listeners are encouraged to ask questions and get "tips for listening" to the pieces which are brilliant in their simplicity!

The performers include cellist Gayle Klaber (Cleveland, Ohio), violist Harold Levin (Fairfax, Virginia), and oboist Thomas Heinze (Scranton, Pennsylvania), as well as local summer resident Frank Ellis, on keyboard.

The program is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected, proceeds will be given to the music program at Rideau District High School. So . . . if you like music, and would enjoy a program of true professional performers in a relaxed and informal setting, with interactions between the audience and the players, this is a concert you won't want to miss!

At last year's concert at Kendricks Park, we received and donated about \$830 to the Rideau District High School music department. A huge thank you to all who were able to donate!!

Bursary awarded

LBLA is now donating an annual Bursary to a student graduating from the Rideau District High School who is majoring in environmental studies of some kind. The first bursary was given to a student in the class of 2021, Brady Scott. Brady, who has been an enthusiastic volunteer, and is enrolled at Carleton University in the Environmental Studies program.

Lake clean-up

Thursday August 4, 10 am

Meet at Delta Township Park boat ramp for instructions. Return at noon for pizza lunch (provided.) (Raindate Aug. 5)

Annual picnic

Saturday August 6, 3 pm

Kendrick's Park. Join us for good food and games! Bring a dish to share.

Bach on the Beverley

Saturday August 27, 3:00 pm

St. Paul's Community Center, Delta

See description on this page.

REMEMBER to watch the website for event updates as determined by COVID protocols.

Websites -

Go to lbla.net for lots of good waterfront property info and LBL specific info. Water testing was not conducted in 2020. Data from past years is on the website.

Also on the website is the LBLA membership form. Pay online via PayPal or print the form and mail it with payment. **Your membership makes a difference!**

Corporate sponsorships forms also are on the website.

Delta Waterfront Project news

The docks are in at the Delta Waterfront Park, including a canoe/kayak launch (see photo below)! Details about the project can be found at <https://bit.ly/3oWCz14>. Go to Delta's website (<https://www.deltaontario.com>) for lots of local links.



Water Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Be safe on the water! In case of emergency call 911. If you wish to report suspicious activity or unsafe practices use the OPP reporting hotline: **1-888-310-1122** or [make an on-line report](#).

The [Canadian Safe Boating Council](#) and [smarboater.ca](#) are great websites with lots of resources for all kinds of boaters.

Island Septic Pump-outs 2022

John Robson, on Marble Island, is arranging with Greg Fleming of Island Marine Construction to get his septic system pumped out next spring. IMC is in the process of acquiring a boat the right size for lakes like ours, small enough to launch but big enough to do the job in one trip, and John is going to keep in touch and coordinate with them. If anyone wants to try to arrange a shared day of sludge pumping, for administrative convenience and to divide up IMC's travel/launch costs, please contact John at jr@johnrobson.ca or 613-255-5491.

Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered!

Board of Directors:

President – Joe Kelly
Vice-President – **vacant**
Treasurer – Judith Sammon
Secretary – Leslie Climie
Past-President – Tom Heinze
Director(s) at Large
- Dave Duggins
- Lynne Jeffries
- Pat Greenhorn
Water – Dave Johnson
Water – Dave Champagne

Events/Activities:

Annual Picnic
- Dave & Marsha Johnson
Annual Meeting – LBLA Board
Lake clean-up – Sandy Ellis
Website & Facebook
- Lynne Jeffries
Newsletter
- Anne Van Der Karr

Shoal Markers: Steve Brouse, Al & Errett Brown, Sheehan Carter, Lynne & Brian Jeffries, Terry Kean, Joe Kelly. Thank you to Tom Heinze & Dave Duggins for filling in when the Jeffries' could not get to the lake until late 2021!

Ice out contest

Guess when the ice will melt on our lake! Look for the contest on our LBLA Facebook page & choose a date between March 20 & April 18 when you think ice out will occur in 2022. The closest person to guess the date wins a prize!

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE www.lbla.net OR EMAIL lynne.jeffries@comcast.net TO FIND OUT HOW.

Water Quality Monitoring

As part of lake stewardship activities, volunteers with your lake association have been involved for several years in monitoring water quality. This has included phosphorus sampling with the help of the Ontario Lake Partners program, which provides laboratory assistance. We also monitor the dissolved oxygen in the water. Phosphorus is an important nutrient that plays a role in algae and other plant growth, while dissolved oxygen is an important element to a vigorous fishery.

For at least ten years, we have taken samples in the deepest parts of the lake and measured the oxygen levels, which tend to decrease - especially in deep waters - as the summer progresses. This has been done with fairly simple equipment ("field kits"). For two or three years more recently, we borrowed equipment from the CRCA (Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority) which can measure water temperature and dissolved oxygen from the water surface to the lake bottom in intervals (for instance, every meter). This profile from top to bottom is valuable additional information for monitoring how the dissolved oxygen varies, not just seasonally, but also with depth.

Just before the pandemic hit, your lake association purchased its own equipment for such detailed monitoring. Unfortunately, covid travel restrictions have delayed implementing these plans, but we hope this coming year will see progress.

Past results have indicated that late in the season, the oxygen levels in the deeper parts of the lake are inadequate for some fish species. This condition is often related to an overabundance of algae and other vegetation. This condition, in turn, is often related to nutrient levels entering the lake waters – especially phosphorus, as well as nitrogen.

We have been monitoring phosphorus levels for several years. Phosphorus is considered a major contributor to lake water nutrient levels (along with nitrogen), and often implicated in algae blooms and other objectionable conditions. Scientists broadly refer to lakes in three categories of nutrient load, (basically, from very low to too much) with Lower Beverley in the middle. Data that are available through 2020 indicate some gradual improvement (lowering) over time, but not enough to eliminate all undesirable occurrences of blooms, or to bring deep water oxygen levels up to suitable levels for some fish species. At least a portion of nutrient load is generally thought to come from human activity, such as fertilizer applications, faulty septic disposal, and improper shoreline maintenance.

Some of this data are available on the Lake Partners website.

This monitoring helps to characterize water quality, or lake "health," and relates to many of the recreational uses lakefront owners and others typically enjoy including fishing and swimming

On a related subject, studies are available indicating a relationship between good lake water quality and nearby property values. Better water quality, including improvements in quality, have been found to correspond to higher property values. This could be another incentive for property owners to all do their part in enhancing the quality of our lake environment.



Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

FOCA is the province-wide umbrella group for Ontario waterfront property owners, representing 50,000 member families in more than 520 lake and road associations.

Our united voice carries weight on issues that matter!

FOCA's work includes:



Effective Government Relations



Bridging Gaps in Rural Communities

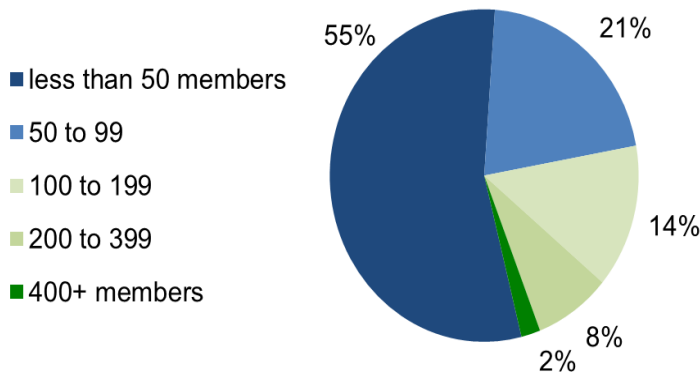


Supporting Volunteer Lake Associations



Advancing Science into Action!

How large or small are FOCA's ~500 member Associations?



source: 2018 FOCA member statistics

What are your lake association peers saying about FOCA?

"What would I do without FOCA for advice? Thanks for sharing others' winning ideas."

~Jayne C., Head Lake N. Shore Cottagers' Association

"Insurance discounts, programs, resources; for just \$4.00 per person, we get real value from FOCA."

~Daryle M., Otter Lake Ratepayers Association

"It's where our Association goes first, to find answers." ~Marlin H., Baptiste Lake Association

FOCA has resources on "hot topics" for Associations, including these, and much more...

Search by keyword at:

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

short-term rentals



boating issues and safety



finding & keeping volunteers



waterfront "etiquette"



Login & offers are subject to change, but are current at June 2021

Members: **Login online** at <https://foca.on.ca/benefits/> to see all current offer ACCESS CODES

Key Services provided for your ASSOCIATION:

- tips for [starting and building a successful lake or road Association](#)
- [FOCA Insurance program](#) with **Cade Associates Insurance Brokers** provides a member discount on liability coverage for Association activities, Directors & Officers, etc. *This now includes access to a Legal Helpline!*
- information on rural property issues ([septics](#), [taxation](#), [land use planning](#), [mining](#), [energy and utilities](#), ...)
- follow all FOCA's advocacy files and policy updates [here](#). Stay in-the-know with monthly [Elerts](#) (e-news). Use FOCA [fact sheets and videos](#) in your own association publications & posts!
- FOCA's step-by-step [Lake Planning Handbook](#) for community groups
- [Association Webpage Offer](#): FOCA can create a free basic web presence for your Association
- FOCA Association member rate on teleconferencing: [Genesis Integration](#) is only 2.5¢ /minute per participant
- [credit card payment processing service](#) - offer your members a digital fee renewal option, on FOCA's website
- "[Who Does What](#)" - tools & tips for working with the levels of government
- environmental programs: [Lake Partner Program](#) water quality data; prevent the spread of [invasive species](#)

Benefits & Offers available to all your Member families:

- give them the FOCA web [Username +Pswd](#) to access any Members-only resources on the FOCA website:
Username = **focamember**
Password = **Foc@M3mb3\$2014**
- receive free [Elert](#) (e-news) updates
- **attend FOCA events & webinars at reduced member rates**
- learn how to start your family's [cottage succession plan](#)
- **more special offers from FOCA's corporate partners:** Use the **codes** or identify yourself as a member of FOCA when you order:
 - > exclusive access to [CottageFirst](#), the first cottage group insurance program
 - > [Cottage Life Magazine](#) only \$24.95 annual rate: www.cottagelife.com/foca
 - > [Separett Waterless Toilets](#) offers a 5% discount from Canadian ECO Products (code=**FOCA2020**)
 - > [Action First Aid](#): ask for the special FOCA price on defibrillators (AEDs)
 - > [Canadian Canoe Museum](#) 30% off any Membership (code=**FOCAsaves2021**)
 - > [National Observer](#) 50% off monthly on annual subscriptions (code=**COTTAGES**)

Boat Wake:

You Asked

FOCA has had a number of questions from members recently about boat wakes, so we went to Sgt. Dave Moffatt, the Marine Coordinator of the Ontario Provincial Police, for answers.

The Question

Is there anything in the law that regulates boat wake? (i.e., what do I do about an unsafe or damaging boat wake issue?)

Sgt. Moffatt's Answer

The Canada Shipping Act 2001 is a federal act that regulates vessel operations on the water. That being said, it is about the operation of the vessel, and not about the wake it leaves behind. There is no offence for producing a large wake; however, vessel operators should be aware that they are civilly responsible for any damages that wake can cause.

If you witness a vessel that you believe is unsafe or needs some OPP attention, then call 911 if it's an emergency or 1-888-310-1122 if it's a non-emergency. To assist in the investigation, it is always helpful if there is an accurate description of vessel and operator – make a few notes of what you remember at the time so you don't forget important information when speaking to the officer. Video evidence is always helpful as well.



Be #WakeAware

In July 2021 FOCA, in collaboration with the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) and Safe Quiet Lakes (SQL) launched a #WakeAware campaign website and short video about the impacts of boat wake, and what each of us should do to be aware of wake and to limit its effects.

This important 1-minute video message encourages responsible and considerate use of our waterways, for the safety of all waterfront users, and to preserve our fragile shorelines. Learn more, and please share the news widely!

Access the video and related resources, here:

<https://www.bewakeaware.com/>.

Boater Safety Regulations

In late 2020, FOCA had commented to Transport Canada (TC, the regulatory body who has their rules enforced in Ontario by OPP Marine unit) on proposed changes that would no longer recognize the *Rental Boat Safety Checklist* (RBSC) as a form of proof of operator competency. FOCA and others submitted that a simple checklist did not suffice to ensure a renter was adequately prepared to safely operate a rental boat, and that the *Pleasure Craft Operators Card* (PCOC) should be the minimum standard.

Recognizing the ongoing concern about rental boat safety and renter competency, TC consultations were held via *Let's Talk Transportation*, between November 12, 2020 and January 15, 2021. As a result of comments received, TC determined they will NOT be rescinding the RBSC. However, a revised proposal is that anyone renting a PWC (personal watercraft) under the age of 25 must have a PCOC and cannot simply use the RBSC, but if supervised by someone 25 or older they can use the RBSC. There is currently no word of further details, or when these amendments would be officially posted. Stay tuned to FOCA's webpage for updates: <https://foca.on.ca/safe-boating/>.

Individual complaints or concerns about safety should continue to be directed to your local OPP detachment. Search: <https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=119>

Night Lights

Outdoor Lighting is Changing Rural Areas

by Dr. Robert Dick

The attractions of cottage country include green and blue vistas during the day, and the soundscapes and starry skies of late evening. But the latter attraction is quickly changing, and the culprit is a “green” lighting technology. I refer to the proliferation of white-light LED fixtures. They are marketed as low energy and cheap; however, these attributes promote outdoor lighting where previously there was none. LED fixtures consume so little energy compared to the older incandescent lights that many cottagers leave them on all night and even when their cottage is vacant.

What was once a dark countryside has now become illuminated as an extension of urban lighting patterns shifts across the landscape. For example, compare these two satellite images of light proliferation in Lanark County, Eastern Ontario over a few short years. The dark areas are being overtaken by roadway and residential lighting. Something modest becomes a blight when multiplied by thousands of residences.

It is ironic that a product developed to save energy and preserve the environment is having the opposite effect: LEDs are causing a 2.2% per year increase in outdoor lighting! Within your lifetime, the sky will be twice as bright, and we will be using twice the energy for lighting.

Why does this matter? How can something as simple as a door light affect the night?

First, outdoor lighting fundamentally changes the aesthetics of the night. The night sky is featureless “black” when we are next to bright lights. It reduces the visibility for both people and animals.

Many animals don’t want outdoor lighting. It makes foraging animals vulnerable to predators. Although moonlight illuminates the countryside for about a week each month, the rest of the time there are long periods of darkness when the animals can gather food in relative safety, and star gazers and late-night walkers can enjoy the night darkness, free from glare.

The proliferation of light is caused by outdoor lights on buildings, along laneways and shoreline lighting. Whether used for landscaping or waterfront “enhancement”, outdoor lighting changes the night environment and disrupts the ecology of wildlife. It also undermines the enjoyment for those who may prefer the natural night they can’t get in the city.

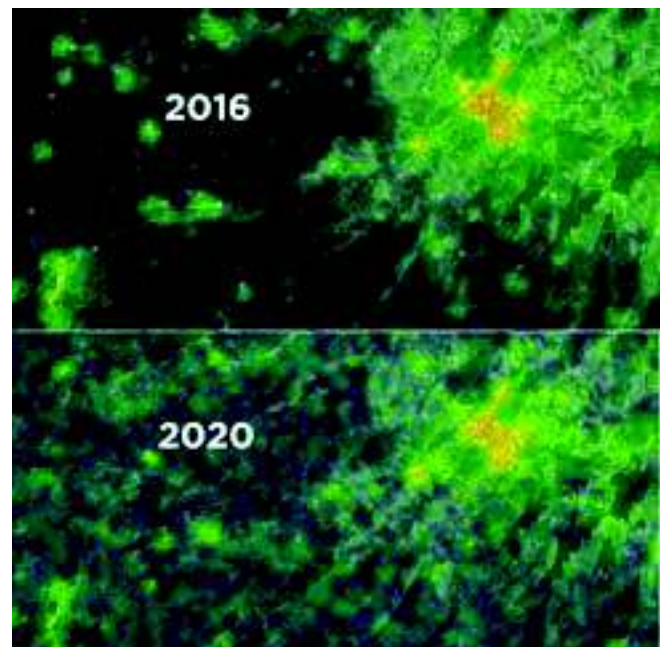
Practical Solutions

1. Changing White to Amber:

White is the most impactful colour of nighttime lighting. The glare from white light appears about 5 times brighter than amber light for the same wattage of lamp. Since bugs are not attracted as much by amber light, you will also reduce the pesky bugs on your property. Simply swapping out the white lamp for an amber bug light will reduce the impact of the glare.

For LEDs, white light is the combination of blue plus amber. So, you can add a filter to block the blue light components. Inexpensive amber film can be used to line the inside of light fixtures such as coach lights. At the relatively low light levels after dark, our eyes perceive this colour as candlelight.

You can buy a very inexpensive sheet of filter material by Roscolux (Deep Straw #15) online for less than \$10. Line the inside of the light fixture window or diffuser with one or two layers to achieve amber light.



Lanark County satellite images from
www.LightPollutionMap.info



2. Shielding Exterior Building Lights

An unshielded door light can be seen for miles, yet only a fraction of the emitted light will illuminate your entrance or steps. The problem is solved by purchasing downward facing fixtures, or creating a simple DIY reflective shield. If you use the pattern found at <http://csbg.ca/BLOG.HTM#22>, this project is suitable for your kids or grandkids. Important notes:

- Use this only for florescent or LED light bulbs (not incandescent or other bulbs that get hot when lit).
- If the bulb uses more than 60W, the material used should be metal, not cardboard.

3. Modifying a Coach Light

Coach lights are designed to look good in the daytime, but at night they produce a lot of glare and light trespass. Depending on the specific design, these can be modified to produce very little glare and to more uniformly light the area, which increases the visibility over the area.

As an example: visit <https://foca.on.ca/light-pollution/> to see images of a typical fixture that has the lamp in the lower half, and the light shines out through glass in the upper and lower sections. We modified it by using a screw-in plug receptacle from a local hardware store that raised the lamp into the upper section. We then cut reflective material to block the upper windows. More light is now reflected through the lower windows and onto the ground. The owner can use lower wattage lamps. During the day, the fixture did not look like it was modified but at night this modest shielding cut glare and light trespass, while increasing visibility around the entrance.

How you can help

Light pollution can be easily reduced with some simple solutions:

1. Shield your light fixtures so light shines where you need it, not over your neighbour's property. Everyone will see better without the glare.
2. Use amber "bug lights" – not white light. Amber will reduce the impact of glare and will also attract fewer mosquitoes.
3. Use lower wattage lamps. To judge how much light you need, go for a walk at night and approach your lights after becoming dark-adapted. This will be what the animals see. If your lights are bright, dim them down or use a lower wattage bulb.
4. Turn off your outdoor lights when you don't want to have visitors, when you go to bed, and certainly when you are away. We've been told to use light to make our homes safer, but without an active security system, outdoor lighting won't protect your property, it just puts it on display for thieves and vandals.

To read up on more lighting tricks, the colour of light and illumination levels, visit my blog: www.csbg.ca/truths-myths.htm

About the author: Robert Dick is a principal in the Canadian light company CSbG EcoLights. He wrote the original chapter on light pollution in FOCA's 2009 publication, "Take the Plunge."

One Municipal Example

Worried about the impacts of light pollution in your area?

You might bring this example to the attention of your municipality: the Township of Muskoka Lakes has had a dark sky lighting bylaw in place since 2014, intended to "*ensure responsible lighting, light pollution mitigation and conservation of the dark sky environment.*"

As of January 1, 2024, residents will be responsible for ensuring their property is dark-sky compliant, including the provision that all outdoor lighting—even on docks and boathouses—be "properly shielded with full cut-off fixtures" that only shine below the horizontal line of the shield, not outward or upwards.

Seasonal Electricity Pricing

Waterfront property owners represent a large group of electricity customers, served in Ontario predominantly by Hydro One. For more than twenty years, on behalf of our members in various rate classes, FOCA has participated as intervenors at Ontario Energy Board (OEB) electricity rate hearings.

Over the past half-decade, FOCA has repeatedly warned members and the broader rural community that the OEB's 2015 decision to eliminate the Seasonal Rate Class of Hydro One customers would have a drastic impact on tens of thousands of households. FOCA could not support any decision that would see negative bill impacts to 78,000 families being moved from Seasonal to the R2 (low density) class and facing increases of over \$50 per month on their electricity bills.

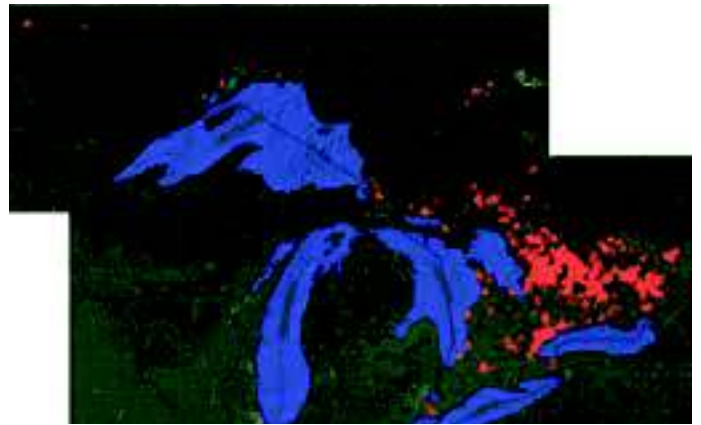
In September 2019, the OEB asked Hydro One to submit a Motion of Change outlining an alternate to the elimination of the Seasonal Class. Hydro One proposed that the existing and ongoing phase-in of fixed delivery costs for low density customers already deals with the “*paying what it costs to serve you*” concerns of the OEB. FOCA submitted an Interrogatory Motion supporting this approach. However, in September 2020 the OEB ordered that the 2015 Decision would stand, meaning the Seasonal Class will go.

In February 2021 all affected Hydro One customers were officially notified and told what their bill impacts would be, and public concern flamed to life. FOCA launched the *Fair Electricity Campaign* to harness this ‘energy’, directing everyone to email and/or call their Ontario MPPs, explaining how the doubling of electricity rates would affect their families and – by extension – the province’s rural communities.

Nearly 2,000 emails and calls were made to MPPs throughout 2021!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Fair Electricity Campaign. We know that the OEB commented on the volume of correspondence received, yet they still stated, “[the] fact that there are impacts associated with the elimination of the seasonal class does not render the decision to eliminate the class incorrect.”

Hydro One has proposed a phase-in period for customers expected to experience a total bill impact of greater than 10% as a result of migrating to another rate class.



Thank you to the 2,000 of you who participated in the Fair Electricity Campaign in 2021!

As of late July 2021 the implementation process is still under discussion, with Hydro One expected to respond to the OEB by late September with additional requested information such as the change implementation date, details about how different proposed dates affect rates for each customer class, and how the proposed 10% bill increase cap will be funded during the years it would need to be in effect.

Importantly, the OEB has confirmed that seasonal customers will still NOT be eligible for the Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) or Distribution Rate Protection (DRP) subsidies. The RRRP program “*is designed to provide financial assistance to eligible customers located in rural or remote areas where the costs of providing electricity service to these customers greatly exceeds the costs of providing electricity to customers located elsewhere in the province*” and is part of the Province’s Ontario Energy Board Act, under O.Reg. 442/01.

Thus, it would need to be a decision of the Province to change the wording in the RRRP that currently defines “*residential premises*” as a “*dwelling occupied as a residence continuously for at least eight months of the year*” – effectively excluding most seasonal properties.

With this in mind, FOCA will continue to lobby the Ministry of Energy, and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all rural residents. Otherwise, a seasonal property next to a permanent waterfront property will be paying completely different electricity prices for the same level of service delivery.

FOCA continues to post updates (and background) on this significant file, here: <https://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing/>.

Recap of 20th Annual Lake Links Workshop

We all value our lakes and rivers, but taking steps to protect and enhance freshwater health can be overwhelming. How can we ensure these beautiful areas are protected for future generations of people and wildlife?

Keynote speaker Dr. Nathan Young, Professor of Sociology at the University of Ottawa, provided a practical perspective on what the research is telling us about connecting values and actions for conservation goals.

Janet Brown from the Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association presented a case study on how best to facilitate lake association community engagement. She highlighted how important it is for waterfront residents to share their own stories, such as adventures on the lake, in order to increase the efficacy of a lake association's operations. Connecting members to each other and meeting more frequently through online and in-person events gives individuals more ties to their community and increases their interest in taking local action.

Another case study, this time of Lake Simcoe from Brian Ginn, Limnologist at Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LRSCA) and Certified Lake Manager (NALMS), illustrated how cumulative impacts on and near the shore can impact a lake. With increased intense summer storms, winter rains, and warmer water temperatures, it is easier for invasive species like zebra mussels and quagga mussels to thrive, and for aquatic plants to increase in the area. In particular, plants have increased almost five-fold in a 10- year period (2008 to 2018), with 67% of total plants in the lake being the invasive starry stonewort. What then can individuals do to protect their freshwater health and prevent the spread of invasive species? Ginn outlined some key steps we can all take, including:

- ✓ Properly maintaining your septic system;
- ✓ Gardening with compost or phosphorous-free fertilizer;
- ✓ Creating a plant buffer zone along your shoreline using native plants;
- ✓ Respecting no wake zones;
- ✓ Not dumping your bait and always buying local bait; and
- ✓ "Clean, drain, and dry" your boat when trailering between water bodies.

Holly Evans from Cataraqui Conservation shared ways that people have taken action to protect their lake health. Using the Lake Links Planning Committee's Lake Protection Workbook, waterfront property owners and nature groups are able to assess multiple factors on a shoreline property to see how they may be impacting lake health. The Workbook also provides resources and background information to show you how to improve water quality, create more and better wildlife habitat, reduce erosion and invasive species, and how to spend less time maintaining your property... because natural is beautiful! The Workbook is available for free download: <https://watersheds.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2019/07/LakeProtection-Workbook.pdf>

Sometimes taking action is to undo a past action. When we learn about the impacts of past actions, we can make better future decisions. For example, a retaining wall can be removed and replaced with a vegetated buffer to allow for wildlife to use the land-water interface. Allowing an area of your property to become a "no-mow" zone is another effective way to spend less time manicuring your property while also providing critical habitat for frogs, butterflies, bees, and shorebirds. As the years go on, you will notice your shoreline becoming more and more beautiful; all you have to do is be patient and wait for nature to do its thing. Cumulative benefits can happen on a lake or river thanks to small actions taken by shoreline property owners. Some animals will spend their entire lifetimes on a shoreline property so creating habitat

features for them like a brush pile or replacing a light bulb to prevent confusion during nesting, can make a life changing difference for them.

All of the presentation recordings and resources mentioned during Lake Links 2021 are available for free on the Lake Links webpage: <https://watersheds.ca/lakelinks-2021>. The next Lake Links will take place on Saturday, October 22, 2022.