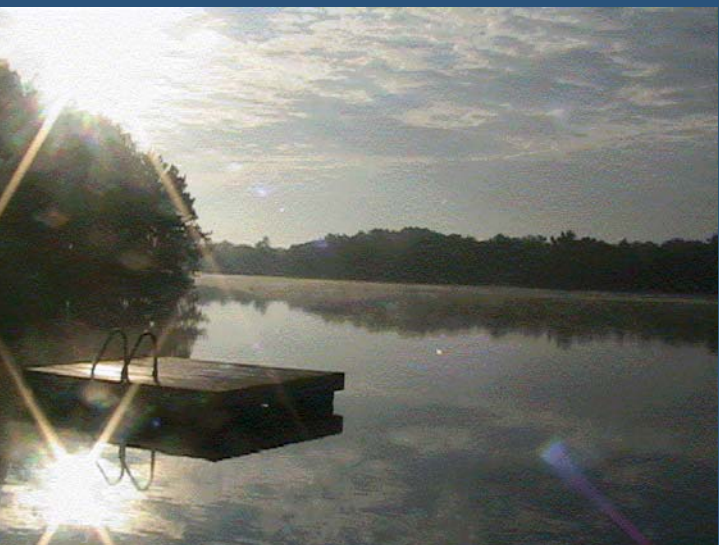




6th Annual Lake Links Workshop

Perth, ON

October 20, 2007





45 years of support and advocacy for Ontario's waterfront communities





An incorporated, volunteer-based organization representing over 500 member associations, and over 51,000 individual property owners

An enabling organization established in 1963, conceived to support the efforts of volunteer water-based groups

Focus on connecting shoreline residents with the resources, the support, and each other, to realize local waterfront interests

FOCA's mission statement

To provide representation, assistance and leadership to and for cottagers' associations on issues affecting their interests, and to encourage good environmental stewardship on the part of every cottager.



In 1963....

- Water Quality
- Property Taxes
- Municipal Elections timing
- Lack of Zoning, Planning and Building By-laws
- Municipal Services to cottagers

FOCA's current interests include:

Environment

Property Taxation

Risk management, and other association-related support

Roads and road access

Emergency services / rural crime / fire safety

Safe boating

Mining, and property rights

FOCA serves our membership:

- 1) by supporting association's interests (through newsletters, seminars, risk management, *Docktalk*, and the FOCA website, foca.on.ca)
- 2) through advocacy, for fair but clear legislation/regulations that uphold the long-term interests of waterfront Ontario





Lake Stewardship Newsletter



Message from Terry Rees, Executive Director, FOCA

We are experiencing renewed attention and urgency in the broader public domain for all things environmental. This heightened awareness and the call to action it supports is an opportunity for everyone that resides in waterfront Ontario to contribute to a more sustainable existence.

Notwithstanding emerging policy related to cleaner air and water in Ontario, there are best practices that we can adopt, right now, that will help support thriving natural environments and healthier communities.

Increased density and intensity of use on the waterfront throughout Lakefront Ontario will aggravate cumulative impacts.

Using the tools available through FOCA's Docktalk program, communities can build on local priorities and interests to motivate action.

By making local connections, sharing information, and helping individual landowners to take action on their property, together we can ensure the future of our waterfronts.

Regards,
Terry

A few words from our co-ordinator

"Canoeing in the wilderness north of Lake Muskoka I caught a glimpse of the essential Canada: open, majestic, wild, challenging and filled with fine people and a commanding life. It was an unequalled introduction to the land of manifold beauties."
James A. Michener

How true! I think the same can be said for so many of our very own places of paradise we share this summer season throughout the Ontario lake lands!

At FOCA, we also take pride in the challenge our membership gives us to constantly stay informed on the environmental programs, information and partnerships that we share and support. In this year's Keeping Your Lake Great, Lake Stewardship Newsletter we have continued to meet that challenge. I am pleased to present a few first time contributors to this year's edition of the newsletter as well as informative initiatives and programs FOCA has partnered

with over the years. I do hope you enjoy their articles as much as we have!

As a note to our members, if you feel the creative urge to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard to share your lakeside joys, cottage humour or environmental-based position piece we would love to hear from you!

Again, this year I would like to send a big thank-you to all our contributors for making this year's Newsletter possible and an especially big thank-you to Terry and Barb for opportunity to co-ordinate the newsletter... again!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!
Pam Griffiths



FOCA members at Docktalk training - May 2007.

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FOCA Eiert 1907

Urgent – your participation needed for the protection of our water

To determine the contact for your local committee, you can visit the [Conservation Ontario](#) website; to learn more about the Clean Water Act, visit the [Waterhole](#), or the [Ministry of Environment](#). For some background on FOCA's ongoing work on Source Water Protection, visit the [Environment](#) pages of the FOCA website, under "Source Water Protection".

Book your calendars now for the 2007 FOCA AGM – November 24, 2007, Toronto

Please don't miss your opportunity to participate in our annual gathering – to consider the business of your Federation, and to participate in important dialogue on emergency preparedness at the cottage, fire prevention and cottagers.

FOCA at the Fall Cottage Life Show

Be sure to visit the FOCA booth at the upcoming Cottage Life Show, being held November 2 – 4 in Toronto

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Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

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homepage

Welcome to the NEW Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) website. FOCA is a non-profit, voluntary organization serving as an information centre and providing assistance and leadership to fellow cottagers.



One way we offer assistance is through our website. We rely on your support. Your membership or donation to FOCA will ensure the continued success of this and other FOCA initiatives.

Recent News and Upcoming Events

Join us at the **Cottage Life Show**, October 15 - 17, 2004 - International Centre, Toronto, Ontario, see the [Event Calendar](#) for more information.

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FOCA, and policy

Source Water Protection

Modifications to Current Value Assessment

DFO Risk Management ~ Fish Habitat

National strategy on invasive species

Great Lakes “Annex 2001” revisions

Biodiversity Strategy

Stewardship Network of Ontario

Ontario Waterpower Review

Panel on future of the Trent-Severn Waterway

Mining Act Reforms – MMAAC Chairman



You can stop invading species

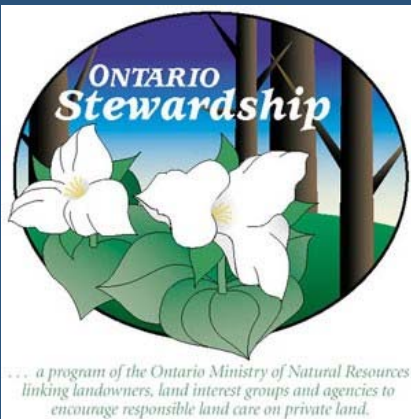
www.invadingspecies.com



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Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada





Docktalk 2007

Lake Links Overview - October 20, 2007



Landowner contact programs to foster long-term resource protection

- Docktalk themes - Natural Shorelines, Septics, Invasive species, Pollution Prevention, Habitat
- ***Associations biting off what you can chew***



Docktalk is about local associations talking to local property owners: sharing current information that benefits landowners and the environment.



Why Docktalk?



A fun and self-directed format for our member associations to use, to share information with lake residents

An opportunity to get a better understanding about resident concerns and interests

A chance to network and share information with local and Provincial lake experts, neighbouring associations, and other partners

Create a community “buzz” around good waterfront stewardship practices

Build on existing association initiatives

Utilize new and engaging education tools

Docktalk Supporters



Program design and delivery:



...through our participating members

Funding courtesy of:

Ontario Trillium Foundation



OMNR (*via the Canada-Ontario Agreement*)



Docktalk Supporters - 2007



Program design and delivery:



*...through our Docktalk “road show”
In collaboration with participating members*

Supported by:

Environment Canada IASPP

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**An Invasive Alien Species Strategy
for Canada**

September 2004



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

- Masters of “best practices” educational materials
- Docktalk posters
- Docktalk manual with program tips and resources
- Forms and background information
- Multimedia educational materials – Resource CD, and Docktalk Video
- Building peer learning network!

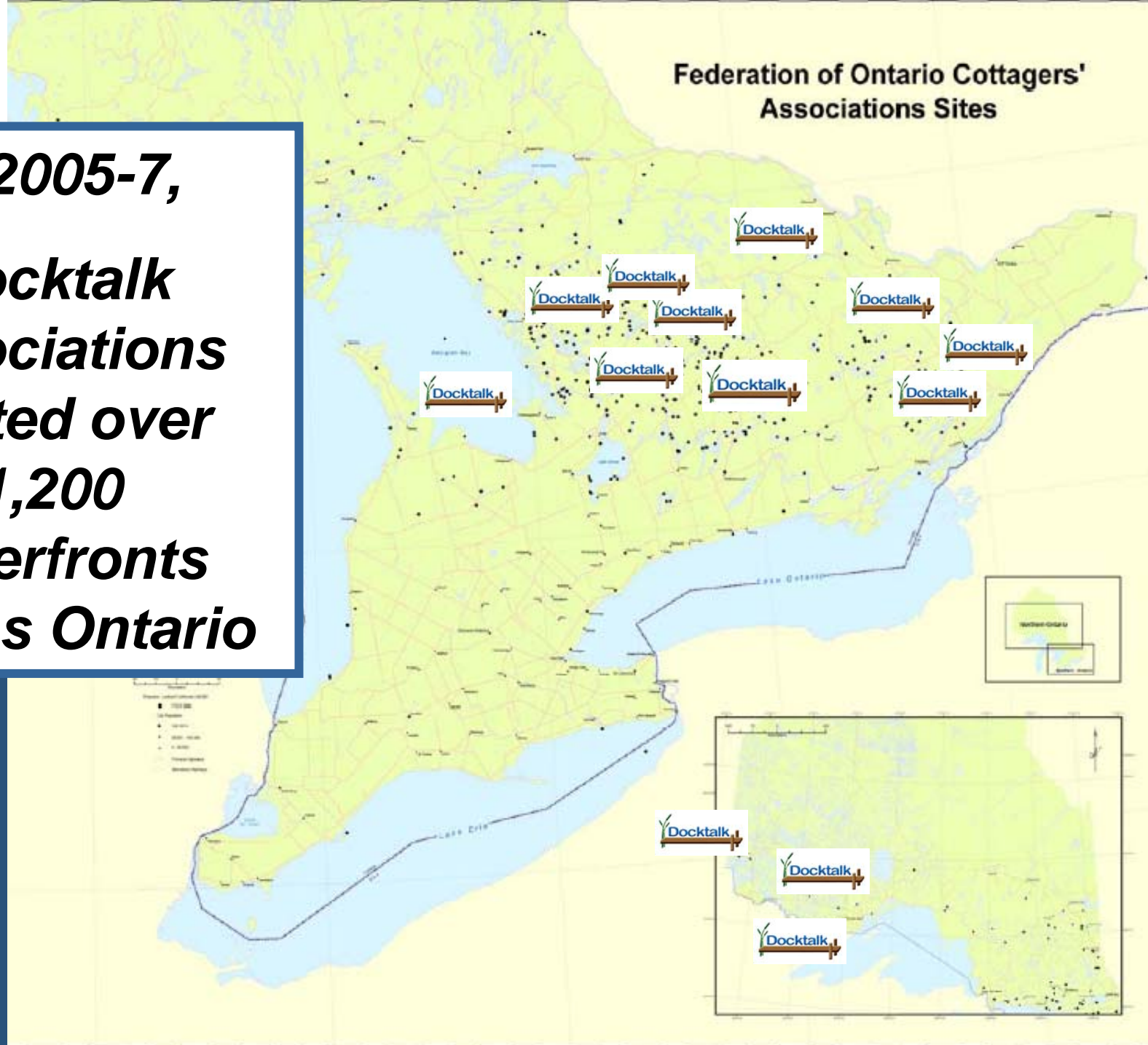
Docktalk program 2007



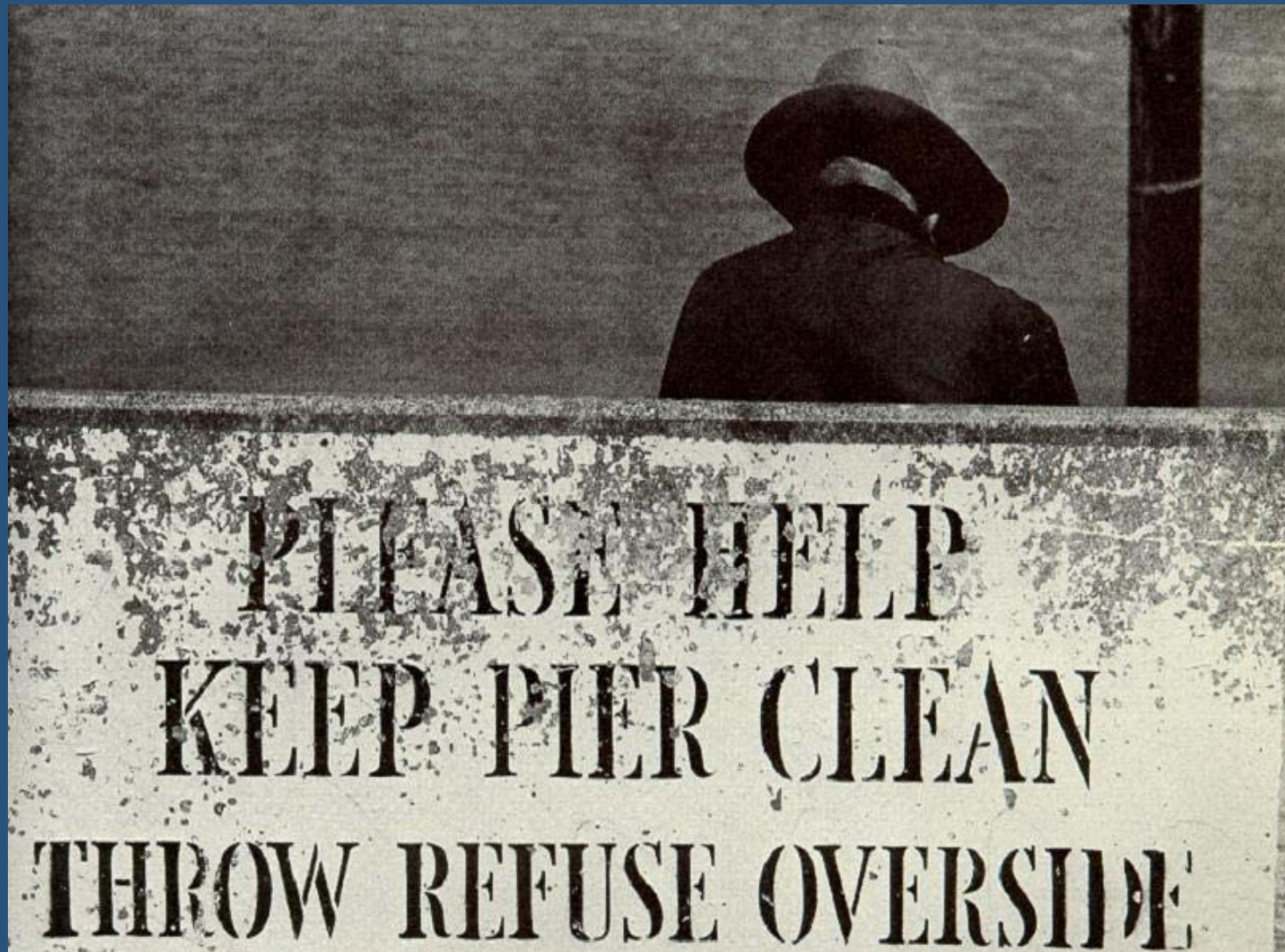
- Regional sessions, to provide localized program support to your network of local associations
- Presentations at association meetings
- Displays at trade shows and special events
- Guided visit program – training for successful outreach in your community

**Federation of Ontario Cottagers'
Associations Sites**

***In 2005-7,
Docktalk
associations
visited over
1,200
waterfronts
across Ontario***



*Docktalk – supporting positive and
new ways of shoreline living*



Docktalk – keeping the focus on what *really* matters



Aquatic plant monitoring

Currently no provincial wide programs – yet one of the most noticeable components of our lake ecosystems

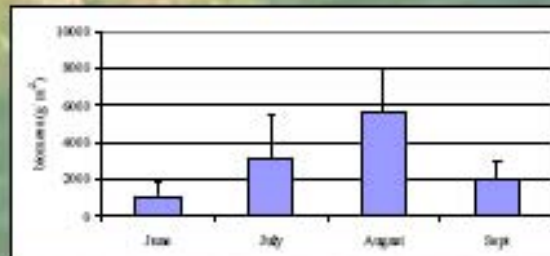
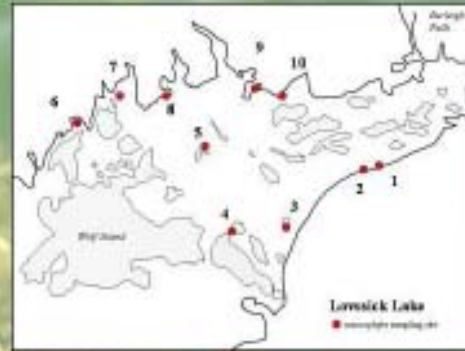
Different interest groups may have conflicting ideas of what plants are desirable in what locations. Swimmers, waterskiers and boaters like NO plants, whereas fisherman may see a modest macrophyte stand as good fish habitat.

Why do we monitor their growth each year?

1. provide helpful information for lake managers that are faced with the difficult job of determining what is classified as “excessive growth” versus that which is considered natural
2. allow for the early detection and identification of new infestations of exotic and invasive plants.
3. Education of shoreline residents of natural trends in abundance of aquatic plants
4. Understand how lakes are responding to climate change

Macrophyte
monitoring in the
Kawarthas
-one example of
where monitoring is
happening

Goal: to see monitoring
in lakes across Ontario



Contact info

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<http://www.trentu.ca/academic/oliver/plants.shtml>



Looking toward the future...