

Kelly Lush

From: Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations <communications@foca.on.ca>
Sent: July 31, 2025 3:51 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Lake Stewards Magazine release | FOCA Fall Seminar registration open | Last call for Stewardship BINGO

NOTE: It's a long email! Your device may truncate the message.
If it doesn't end "**Inform. Protect. Unite**" click below to read all the news:
[click here to view as a webpage instead](#)

FOCA e-news: July 2025



Our vision is to sustain and enhance the cottage experience for generations.

At First Light: Top Cottage Country News

Ontario Lake Stewards Magazine

The annual **FOCA Magazine - Ontario Lake Stewards** - has arrived! A print copy of the 2025 magazine is on its way by mail to our titled member association representatives.

[Read...](#)

Everyone is welcomed to read and share the digital version - **click 'read' to download a copy** (PDF, 5 MB). This year's edition includes articles about youth engagement, cottage succession, insurance in a changing climate, salt pollution, biodiversity, source water protection, invasive species prevention and management, and more! Please share with fellow members and cottage country neighbours. Enjoy your mid-summer reading.



Here's a URL to share: <https://foca.on.ca/publications>

FOCA Fall Seminar – Register Now!

Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 9am to noon by Zoom webinar - Join us on the **National Day of Climate Action** for our 2025 FOCA Fall Seminar: **Passing the Torch: Generational Action for Climate**. With the theme of 'generations', each member registrant will receive one free webinar link for a **guest under age 30**. Come and be inspired for the good of our environment! Click for 'more' and **to register** now.

More...

Passing the Torch: Generational Action for Climate

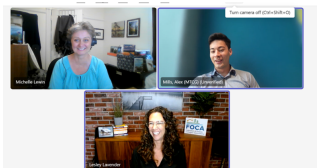
FOCA Fall Seminar for Associations

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025 • 9am–noon by Zoom webinar

On the National Climate Day of Action, join FOCA to get inspired about intergenerational engagement for the good of the environment.

\$53 members/\$83 non-members
Members get one free webinar link for an attendee under age 30!

FOCA: Impact, Thought Leadership & Advocacy



Engaging with Government Partners

In recent weeks, FOCA has had important conversations with **elected officials and key Ministry partners** to enrich lines of communication supporting our ongoing work,

More...



representing the interests of our members and advancing priority issues affecting waterfront communities across Ontario. Click to learn 'more' about FOCA's **provincial priorities**. (At top - meeting with Ministry staff; at bottom - meeting with Green Party leader Mike Schreiner.)

Opposition to Bill 5

Bill 5: First Nations & Municipal Responses

Further to our report in last month's edition that the Province had passed controversial **Bill 5**, in mid-July **nine Ontario First Nations** launched a constitutional challenge to the provincial Bill and its federal counterpart, Bill C-5.

Regarding municipal response to Bill 5, **Guelph Council** was among the first to pass resolutions condemning the Bill's 'special economic zones', reduced environmental protections, and potential to override municipal planning authority. Click for 'more' including a copy of the Guelph resolution. FOCA recommends you **bring this to the attention of your own municipality and encourage them to do likewise**.

[More...](#)



Yes, I'll support FOCA!

Please help FOCA deliver on our mission: to sustain and enhance the cottage experience for generations. We ask you to make a one-time or recurring **donation** to FOCA today.

[Donate...](#)

image: Deborah Martin-Downs



Salt Responsibly - last call for letters

A reminder that FOCA's partners at the **Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition** have a letter-writing campaign that wraps up on **August 10, 2025**. Toronto just joined more than a dozen municipalities in passing a municipal resolution to encourage the Province to act on oversalting! Learn 'more' and get links to the campaign from FOCA's Salt Impacts webpage.

[More...](#)

Floating Accommodations



More...

After our update in last month's Elert, FOCA's partners at **Transport Canada** (TC) reached out to us with a request to circulate TC's current **call for public comments** on floating accommodations (see below). Click 'more' for background on FOCA's webpage.

"Transport Canada has also requested comments on restricting anchoring for these types of structures. We are asking the following questions in order to develop appropriate measures to restrict long term anchoring:

- 1. What types of vessels should be subject to anchoring restrictions?*
 - All vessels – commercial and recreational?*
 - Only pleasure craft?*
 - Only floating accommodations?*
- 2. What factors should be considered when determining long-term anchoring limits? seasons, locations, the environment, etc.*
- 3. What time limits are reasonable for long-term anchoring? Should the time limit be left to each local authority to decide?"*

Submit comments to TC by email: MSSRegulations-ReglementsSSM@tc.gc.ca

Our Cottage Champion Sponsor: Cade's Corner

COTTAGE VEHICLES



Cottage Recreational Vehicles

Life in cottage country is all about freedom, fun, and enjoying the great outdoors. For many families, that can include the use of ATVs, snowmobiles, and watercraft to enjoy Ontario's natural beauty.

But whether on the land or on the water, these vehicles carry risks, and insurance coverage is an essential part of their management. Click to learn 'more' in our tips sheet.

More...

CadeAssocia

An update from our partners in risk management - administrators of the **FOCA Association Insurance Program** and **CottageFirst** group insurance for cottagers

FOCA: Offering Highly Relevant Programs & Services

FOCA's Lake Partner Program



Returned samples are rolling in to the lab from **Lake Partner Program** volunteers across the Province - thank you, volunteers! Sampling continues through October for lakes that are off the Canadian Shield (on-shield lakes sample once in May). **Find out if your lake is being sampled**, and learn 'more' about the program!

[More...](#)



Boaters: Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

As you travel between lakes and rivers this summer, remember to **Clean, Drain, and Dry** your boat and gear. These vital steps help prevent the spread of invasive species like **Water Soldier**, an aggressive aquatic plant that's already been found in several Ontario locations including the Trent-Severn Waterway, the Black River near Sutton, the Bay of Quinte, Red Horse Lake north of Gananoque, and Cook's Bay in Lake Simcoe.

It's not just good practice—it's the law. Ontario regulations now require boaters to clean and drain watercraft before moving to a new waterbody:

- **Clean** any plants, animals or algae from your watercraft, trailer and equipment
- **Drain** by removing drain plugs (for example transom, bilge, motor, live-well and ballast) to allow all water to drain from the watercraft.

Cleaning tip: wash with pressurized and/or hot water. Allow watercraft and gear to completely dry between trips. For more details, visit: [Invasive species action plans | ontario.ca](#)



To learn more about **Water Soldier** and other invaders, and how you can help protect Ontario's lakes and rivers, read **FOCA's Guide to Underwater Plants**. Download a free copy from our webpage: <https://foca.on.ca/aquatic-plants/>

(source of the image at the side; photo credit: Kaleigh Mooney)

Let's all do our part to keep our waterways healthy for generations to come!

Source Water Protection

Phase 2 of FOCA's **Source Water Protection community planning project** is underway this summer, helping community associations to develop and deliver volunteer-led planning for local vulnerable areas and potential risks.



Above: FOCA spoke about the project earlier this month to property owners at Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes.

Our three participating member associations are applying the Province's *Best Practices for Source Water Protection*, to lead conversations about local strategies for protecting drinking water sources. Our pilot groups are engaging local experts, reviewing available data and identifying additional needs, and circulating a community survey to assess awareness and source water needs.

These steps will help inform the development of meaningful, community-specific source water protection plans. Learn 'more' about the importance of source water protection, and what you can do on your own property.

More...

Invasive Carps Response Plan



What happens if an invasive carp is found in Canadian waters? A Response Plan is implemented by **Fisheries & Oceans Canada**, which may include assistance from the Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources** and other partners. Click to learn 'more' about the process.

More...

Next, find out how YOU can be our eyes on the water around the Great Lakes - visit foca.on.ca/carps/.

If you think you've seen or caught an invasive carp, call the **Invading Species Hotline** (1-800-563-7711) so DFO can respond!

(image: Asian Carp Canada)

Invasive Phragmites: A Growing Threat to Boaters

Invasive phragmites are rapidly taking over Ontario shorelines, forming dense, towering walls of reeds that block boat access, clog launch sites, and alter water depth. These fast-spreading plants threaten recreational boating

More...



by making water routes and waterfronts difficult—or impossible—to navigate. Boaters can help stop the spread by following **Clean, Drain, Dry** practices and removing plant material from boats and gear. Click for 'more' about the impacts of phragmites and how you can take action.

Access all your FOCA Member Benefits, including:

Get on Canada's largest and most reliable 5G+ network.

Preferred pricing for FOCA members.
Get a 5G+ mobile plan
from

\$55 /mo.

With Auto-Pay and when paired with home service.
\$80 Setup Service Fee may apply.

 **ROGERS** Authorized Dealer



Canadian Canoe Museum



Plan a visit to the **Canadian Canoe Museum** in Peterborough this summer, and experience the canoe as it's meant to be - on the water. Take your trip to the next level by paddling in a **voyageur canoe** (pictured), renting a canoe or kayak, or bring your own to enjoy on Little Lake after exploring the Exhibition Hall. Click 'more' to reach the museum's visitor webpage.

[More...](#)

Did you know **FOCA members get a 25% discount off annual membership** at the Canadian Canoe Museum? Plus, that membership gets you **further discounts** on workshops and purchases in the museum shop! Login on the **FOCA Benefits webpage** for the discount code, or contact the office for assistance.

Passing the Torch: Cottage Succession Corner

Upcoming Webinar



Wednesday, **September 10, 2025** (7:00pm-8:30pm, Zoom): Join FOCA and estate lawyer Peter Lillico for **TRUST THE COTTAGE**, an in-depth look at a combination of trust techniques that can help avoid payment of probate tax, protect against claims by children's creditors and divorcing in-laws, and defer capital gains tax by "generation skipping" ownership. Click 'more' to register (free for members!).

[More...](#)

Expert Resource: Cross-Border Cottage Succession Tax Planning



FOCA is excited to offer a special new on-demand **1.5 hour video recording** about **cottage succession tax planning** with expert advice for both **American and Canadian** owners of Ontario cottage properties. Click 'more' for details, the member discount code for \$75 off the regular price, and the order link.

[More...](#)

Ask the Expert: Passing the Torch

Each month, estate lawyer **Peter Lillico** answers a **FOCA member question** about cottage succession planning. This month's question comes from Cliff S. Click 'more' to reach our webpage, where members can login to read Peter's response to this, and earlier questions.



"I am wondering what makes up the value of the ACB (Adjusted Cost Base), which is used to determine the capital gain of an asset like a family cottage."

[More...](#)

Have your own question for Peter?
Email it to: programs@foca.on.ca

Thank you, Campfire Contributor Sponsors!



sponsors support our work - please support them

FOCA: Delivering a Meaningful Member Experience

Welcome, Ella!



As our interim Membership Coordinator, Portia Buchanan, prepares to return to school for graduate studies this fall, FOCA is very pleased to welcome **Ella Fischer-Slack** who has joined our team as FOCA's **MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**. Learn 'more' about Ella and all the FOCA team - staff and Board of Directors!

More...

Play Stewardship BINGO with FOCA!



Download your **BINGO** card from FOCA's Instagram Story or Linktree, or click 'more' to be taken to a PDF version posted on the FOCA Welcome webpage. Each square is a small action you can take to protect, enjoy, and sustain cottage country.

More...

Follow FOCA on Instagram: [@ontariocottagers](https://www.instagram.com/ontariocottagers) for weekly BINGO updates and featured actions, and post & tag us on your photo or video actions (or direct message us and we'll share for you).

Play continues until August 15th. **What you get for playing:** bragging rights, a possible feature on our social channels, and the title Cottage Country Steward of the Summer. Let's BIN-GO!

Sharing Member Successes: Roads



FOCA members in **Fletcher Bay** on Kawagama Lake sent FOCA a copy of their newsletter, noting:
"Thank you, FOCA, for all your help in the past year answering questions and providing valuable services to our membership. It is much appreciated!"

[More...](#)

FOCA has received the association's permission to share an excerpted copy of their newsletter as a great example of the work our member groups do with private roads, and how important regular communication is to volunteer groups. FOCA Members can click 'more' above, and **login on our Road Issues webpage** to read about the group's efforts over the past year to:

- achieve ONCA compliance
- pursue consistent road dues payment without exceptions
- complete required bridge inspection.

In the association's words, *"This year's focus will be decidedly more fun! This includes additional road grading and aggregate, improvement projects, bridge repairs, signage, ditching, and drainage upgrades."* We love that they call this ongoing effort the fun stuff! Keep up the good work, and thank you for sharing with FOCA and your fellow members, as always.

Member Benefits & Web Login



Every "Friend of FOCA" and member of our Member Associations can create a **unique login** to access **members-only materials** on the FOCA website, including publications and the access codes for offers! Click 'more' to visit FOCA's member benefits webpage.

[More...](#)

Your association renewal contact has a link (unique to your association) for you to use to set up your own Username and Password as a Sub-Account. Please ask your contact to **reach out to FOCA** if they need assistance locating the association's link.

Thank you, Shoreline Supporter Sponsors!

ONTARIOPOWER
GENERATION

TRAVELERS



sponsors support our work - please support them

FOCA on the Road



Event Recap: **Grace Lake**

In early July, FOCA spoke about member benefits and ways to maximize FOCA membership value at our member association's AGM in Haliburton. **Grace Lake Property Owners Association** is one of our member groups that has taken advantage of the **FOCA offer to host a member webpage** for digital exposure - click 'more' to visit their page - a sub-page of our site.

[More...](#)

Event Recap: **Otter Lake Event**



In later July, FOCA was pleased to participate in a partners event hosted by one of our member groups in Rideau Lakes, the **Otter Lake Landowners Association**. We provided information about aquatic plant identification, invasive species prevention with clean, drain, dry techniques, and helped members create their unique User logins for online benefits. **Don't have your login yet?** Click to email us - remember to tell us your association name!

[Email FOCA](#)

Event Recap: **Picard Lake AGM**

In mid July, FOCA participated in the AGM of our member group, the **Picard Lake Cottagers' Association**, in Trent Lakes. We had a glorious outdoor meeting and narrowly missed the torrential rains that lakes south of us experienced that afternoon! FOCA spoke about emergency preparedness, algae, land use planning, and invasive species prevention and management as part of FOCA's ongoing work with the **Green Shovels Collaborative**. For these and other **hot topics**, click 'more' to search FOCA's Issues webpage.

[More...](#)




FOCA
Federation of Ontario
Cottagers' Associations

*Maximizing
Membership Value
Benefits, Impact &
Our Strategic Vision*

About FOCA: a recording to share at your next event

[Email...](#)

Even if we can't attend your local event in person, you can bring a **recorded message from FOCA** to your membership, explaining their member benefits and FOCA's work on behalf of waterfront Ontario. Click 'Email' to send a request to the FOCA office for a copy of the digital recording, and the **current member benefits sheet**.

Partner Updates, Events & Regional Notices

Big Backyard BioBlitz
July 28–August 4

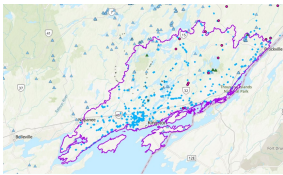


Partner Event: **Backyard Bioblitz**

FOCA's colleagues at the **Nature Conservancy of Canada** are in the midst of their Big Backyard BioBlitz and you can participate through August 4, 2025. Click 'more' for details and to sign up, and then document audio or video of animals and plants you encounter in the coming days. Happy hunting!

[More...](#)

Cataraqui Region Volunteers Needed for Phrag Spotting



Attention FOCA members on the 169 lakes in the **Cataraqui Region (CR)**: The CR Phragmites Working Group needs your help to boat along shorelines and log observations of invasive Phragmites. Learn 'more' and find out how to sign up as a local spotter.

[More...](#)

Toxic Chemicals in Drinking Water



As reported in the past month by the **CBC**, **PFAS** flowing into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway are showing up in drinking water. Click to read 'more' in the Latest News section of FOCA's Pollution webpage.

[More...](#)



IJC - Microplastics

The **International Joint Commission (IJC)** has released a new Report from their **Great Lakes Science Advisory Board** (source of the image at the side) that recommends a basin-wide effort to monitor microplastic pollution. Learn 'more' on our plastics webpage.

[More...](#)

Climate Resilient Home Tips



FOCA's partners at the **Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation** have posted a set of helpful **tip sheets** for homeowners about flood, fire, extreme heat, and steps each of us can take to mitigate the impacts. Click 'more' to visit the Intact website and download copies of the tip sheets.

[More...](#)

Partner Resource: Invasives ID Tips



For our members in the **Ottawa Valley** and the **northeastern boundary of Ontario and Quebec**, consult a new set of invasive species tips and quizzes from colleagues at **Ottawa Riverkeeper** to help you identify local invaders. Learn about Eurasian Milfoil, Spiny Waterflea, Water Chestnut, and others. Click 'more' to access a link to the resources from the 'Latest News' section of FOCA's Invasive Species webpage.

[More...](#)

Partner Event: Hold the Date



For our members in eastern Ontario, partners have announced this year's **Lake Links** in-person event will take place on Saturday, **October 19, 2025** in Elgin. This year's theme is: "*Me, My Lake, My Watershed: Living lakeside, thinking watershed wide.*" Save the date and watch for updates in a future FOCA e-newsletter.

[More...](#)

Thank you, Paddle Patron Sponsors!

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Twilight Reflections (a final thought)



Happy Long Weekend!

The FOCA office will be closed on Monday, August 4th for the **long weekend**.

On behalf of the FOCA Board of Directors and Staff, **we wish each of you and your families the very best**, and hope you get to spend it with friends, food, and fun.

Inform. Protect. Unite.

Connect with our channels:



Did someone forward this message to you? Join over 21,500 fellow subscribers:
[Click here to get FOCA e-news](#) delivered to your inbox each month.

FOCA believes everyone who loves waterfront Ontario has a right to stay up-to-date on the issues that matter. Those who have an existing relationship with FOCA may receive email from us, based on express or implied consent under Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation. We value your privacy and do not share your contact information with third parties. You can unsubscribe at any time, using the link below.

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations | #201-159 King St. | Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8 CA

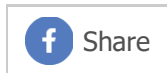
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For email & social marketing for f...

Kelly Lush

From: Community Living Kincardine & District <aswan@clkd.ca>
Sent: August 7, 2025 10:01 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: CLKD's August 2025 newsletter is here!



August 2025 Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



An inclusive caring community.

**Guardians of the Shoreline: Callum's Week
with the CCYC**



Callum is seen in the photo collage above with fellow volunteers with the Coastal Conservation Youth Corps.

This summer, Callum joined a team of passionate young volunteers with the *Coastal Conservation Youth Corps (CCYC)* — and spent an unforgettable week helping protect Kincardine’s stunning Lake Huron shoreline.

From day one, Callum rolled up his sleeves and got to work. Alongside other youth, he tackled real-world environmental challenges that most people only read about. Together, they planted trees to protect the dunes, cleaned up beaches and trails, investigated microplastic pollution, and tested water quality — even traveling to Cape Croker to collect and analyze samples.

With the mentorship of conservation experts, Callum gained over 30 volunteer hours, learned the science behind coastal protection, and discovered how even small actions can have a big impact.

His favorite (and most eye-opening) task? Hunting for nurdles — tiny microplastics that are invisible to most but harmful to aquatic life.

"Now that I know what nurdles look like, I see them everywhere," said Callum. "Which... isn't a good thing."

About CCYC

The *Coastal Conservation Youth Corps*, led by the Lake Huron Coastal Centre, gives youth the chance to explore environmental careers while making a lasting impact on their local ecosystems. Learn more at www.lakehuron.ca/ccyc.

Exploring, Learning and Growing Together



Pictured above is a photo collage of our Youth Connections Program lead, Becca, along with our co-op student, Ella, and members of this summer's youth connection program, participating in activities such as cards, pizza making, nature walks, and crafts.

Summer has been packed with sunshine, smiles, and so many meaningful moments with our Youth Connections program.

We've been soaking up every bit of the summer by getting outside—whether it's walking the trails at Geddes Park, cooling off at the splash pad, or painting rocks by the beach. Nature's been our playground, and every adventure has brought new opportunities to connect—with each other, our community, and the world around us.

But it hasn't just been about fun in the sun—we've been building important life skills, too. Through volunteering, games, fitness challenges, and community outings, we've been learning how to manage money, work as a team, and build stronger social connections. From lending a hand at **Allies for Alley Catz** to planning with budgets and finding creative ways to stay active, we've kept the learning hands-on and full of laughter.

We also explored new experiences—like discovering Kincardine's history at local museums, solving geocache clues, and even harvesting lavender at the Botanical Food Gardens. Every new step brought confidence, curiosity, and connection.

It's been a summer of trying new things, growing together, and making memories that last.

Rooted in Joy: Rick's Garden Grows More Than Just Vegetables



Pictured above is a photo collage of Rick and his garden.

For Rick, summer isn't complete without the simple pleasure of digging in the dirt and watching something beautiful—and edible—take root.

A lifelong lover of plants and growing things, Rick looks forward to garden season all year long. From choosing his plants to planning where they'll go, every step brings him joy. But when asked about it, Rick puts it simply, **"I love my garden. It makes me happy."**

And it shows. This year, like every year, Rick's garden is thriving—and the best part is sharing it. With the help of his roommates, Rick tends to his plants with care and excitement, especially

when it comes time to harvest. "I love to pick rhubarb and make muffins and crisp," he says. "I can't wait for tomatoes. I love tomatoes."

Rick's garden is more than just soil and seeds—it's a place of joy, pride, connection, and community. It nourishes the body and the spirit, one homegrown tomato at a time.

Helping Kids, Spreading Joy: A Day of Giving Back



Pictured above is a photo collage of Marianne, Samm, Jeffrey, Cassandra, Beth, Catherine and Allan, volunteering at Tim Hortons' Camp Day.

Every year, **Tim Hortons Camp Day** brings people together to help send kids to camp. We were thrilled to volunteer at it again this year.

On July 16, **Cassandra, Marianne, Samm, Beth, Jeffrey, Catherine and Allan** spent the day volunteering at the downtown Tim Hortons location, taking on different roles and bringing

big energy and smiles to every shift. From running games to decorating cookies, they made the day brighter for everyone who walked through the doors.

For **Marianne**, the best part was connecting with people. **"I like saying hi to everyone that comes in,"** she shared. **"I liked being in charge of the sucker game—I was happy to win a pool floatie when I played the game!"**

Samm also loved being where the action was. **"The cookie decorating station and the sucker game were my favourite! Everyone said hi to me when they came in. I was excited to see if anyone won a prize."**

Allan reflected on the bigger picture of the day. **"It's fun to help out with Camp Day. Everyone seemed happy. It's a good cause—for kids to be able to go to camp."**

And for **Cass**, Camp Day is something she looks forward to every year. **"I was happy to help out,"** she said. **"It's always fun to be part of it."**

Together, they weren't just lending a hand—they were helping create a sense of community, and making a real difference with every smile, game, and cookie.

Cheering on Success: Susan Achieves a 2025 Goal with Enthusiasm



Pictured above is a photo collage of Susan cheering on triathlon participants and posing for pictures with fellow volunteers.

On July 20th, Susan reached an exciting milestone toward her 2025 goals by volunteering at the **Lakeshore Womens Triathlon** in Port Elgin.

Stationed at the finish line, Susan’s role was to hand out medals to participants—and she did so with boundless enthusiasm and joy. Her cheers and applause created an atmosphere of celebration that lifted everyone’s spirits.

It was clear that this energetic environment perfectly matched Susan’s vibrant personality. A true people person, she thrives in social settings, loves clapping, and turns every moment into a celebration. Her contagious positivity made her an unforgettable part of the event.

From start to finish, Susan never tired, staying on her feet and giving her all until the very end. This experience not only marked a personal achievement but also showcased her natural gifts shining bright in the community.



On Friday July 18, 2025 Community Living Kincardine & District hosted its' 17th Annual CLKD Charity Golf Classic, presented by 2mPower, and has once again, exceeded expectations.

It was a great day full of sunshine, laughs, prizes, food and fundraising. With 116 golfers and over **\$21,000 raised**, we are incredibly thankful for our community sponsors, golfers, Title Sponsor, 2mPower and Change Maker Sponsor NPX for their unwavering support and generosity.

As our largest fundraising event, Community Living Kincardine and District relies on funds generated here to help satisfy our most immediate needs. Over the last 17 years, this event has helped develop greater independence for the people we support through social and life skill building, job readiness, employment, and so much more. This year, funds raised through the golf tournament will be used to enhance our programs and services for all people supported, those with developmental disabilities, and all people 55+.

"The success of the CLKD Charity Golf Classic is a true reflection of the generosity and spirit of our community. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, golfers, and volunteers for helping us raise vital funds that support people with developmental disabilities and adults 55+ in our community. Thank you for being part of this meaningful day." - Andy Swan, Executive Director, Community Living Kincardine & District

Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for golf tournament pictures!

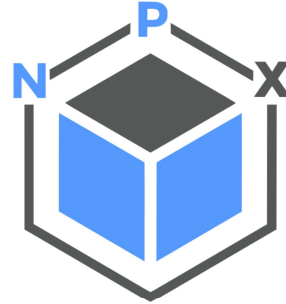


CLKD CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

PRESENTED BY: **2^mPower**

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

2^mPower



Upcoming Events & Activities



Baby & Me VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Contact April by email: anuman@clkd.ca



Volunteer with Baby & Me

Volunteers are needed for our Baby and Me groups!

- ✓ Thursday's from 10-11am
- ✓ Kincardine
- ✓ Beginning in September

Contact April for details at anuman@clkd.ca

Please visit our [website](#) and/or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to stay up-to-date Baby & Me programming!

To learn more about CLKD's services and events, visit our website!



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If this email has been forwarded to you, please consider subscribing to the Community Living Kincardine and District monthly e-newsletter by [signing up here](#).

Our mailing address is:

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Kelly Lush

From: Regional Tourism Organization 7 <info@rto7.ca>
Sent: August 7, 2025 9:45 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: August Updates for BruceGreySimcoe Tourism Stakeholders

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August 7, 2025

Welcome to the August Edition of the RTO7 Industry Newsletter!

In This Newsletter:

- What's Going On...at RTO7
 - Promotions on BruceGreySimcoe.com
 - Meet a T3 Coach: Wayne Greer
- Funding & Business Support
 - Retail Modernization Project Grant (RMPG)
 - Rural Ontario Development Program
 - The Business Ice Storm Assistance (BISA) Program
 - BeSmart – Smart Moves with Milena

-
- Featured Webinars, Workshops & Events
 - In Case You Missed It
 - Agritourism Ontario – Farm Visitor Survey
 - Energy Transition Initiative available for Bruce County Businesses
 - News From Around the Region
 - TIAO Achieves Gold Certification Status
 - Arts Across Ontario: A new way to measure culture sector impact
 - Topsy Picks
 - In Every Newsletter
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What's Going On...at RTO7

Boost Visibility for your Fall Packages and Promotions

The BruceGreySimcoe Fall Campaign will be launching in September! As a result, we'll be driving significant consumer traffic to the [Promotions Page](#) on BruceGreySimcoe.com. This page accounts for 44% of all website visits and visitors spend 29% more time browsing promotions than any other area of the site. Operators featuring their packages, special offers, or value-added promotions benefit from more clicks and increased visibility.

Don't miss this opportunity to leverage our advertising efforts:

- Update or create your free listing now via the [Operator Login](#).
- Once approved, upload your packages, offers, and promotions for maximum exposure.

Let's work together to showcase the best of BruceGreySimcoe!

T3 Accelerator Program

The T3 Accelerator Program, a partnership between [RTO7](#) and [Community Futures South Georgian Bay](#), provides coaching and tailored professional development for independently owned tourism businesses in Bruce, Grey and Simcoe Counties. This program equips businesses with the tools, guidance, and support they need to strengthen their operations and drive long-term, sustainable

SUCCESS.

Meet the Coaches: Wayne Greer



Wayne has 37 years of experience in the Canadian Retail and Foodservice Industries. His experience included building businesses and leading cross functional teams to deliver exceptional results. Over the last 18 years he launched and lead one of the leading national bakery suppliers and served on many advisory boards within the Canadian Foodservice Industry. He now enjoys the Blue Mountains region and volunteers his time with the Georgian Triangle Humane Society and supporting local small tourism businesses within Grey and Simcoe Counties.

Explore the program to see if it's the right fit for your business, meet the coaches, and apply today by visiting the [T3 Accelerator Program website](#).



Meet Wayne Greer - T3 Accelerator Program Coach

Funding & Business Support

Retail Modernization Project Grant (RMPG)

The RMPG is delivered by the Ontario Centre of Innovation on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development Job Creation and Trade. It helps retail businesses with the purchase of effective digital equipment and software to help them transform and grow. Eligible retail businesses can receive up to \$5,000 in support to adopt and implement digital technologies, hardware and software. The funds are available on a first come first served model, while funds last. Learn more at oc-innovation.ca.

Rural Ontario Development Program

The ROD Program provides cost-share funding for projects to help rural communities create strong businesses, boost economic growth, protect jobs and improve infrastructure in small communities.

Eligible organizations include municipalities, not-for-profits, Indigenous communities or organizations, a local services board, and small businesses with 1 to 20 employees.

Learn more about the program by visiting [Ontario.ca](#) and [register to attend](#) a free information webinar on August 20, or September 10, 2025 (times listed on websites linked above).

Applications are open until **September 24, 2025**.

The Business Ice Storm Assistance (BISA) Program

The new BISA Program provides one-time financial support to small businesses, small farms and not-for-profit organizations for eligible costs related to the March 2025 ice storm. The deadline to apply is **October 31st, 2025**.

You may be eligible for support for emergency and clean-up expenses and costs to repair or replace essential business property. Check out the impact area on the [ice storm map](#) and refer to the [program guidelines](#) for a detailed list of eligible and ineligible costs specific to your type of organization.

BeSmart – Smart Moves with Milena

Milena Nikolova is an expert and researcher in behavioral economics in tourism. She has worked on projects covering various aspects of sustainable tourism development, business and market development, policy and planning, learning and education, as well as entrepreneurship and innovation. Learn more about Milena and BeSmart [here](#).

This new and temporary campaign is designed to help tourism businesses solve real challenges with practical, psychology-driven advice. Every tourism business has a challenge, i.e., cut costs without cutting quality, engage your team and suppliers in your sustainability goals, improve guest communication. What if you could get expert, tailored advice on your challenge ... for free?

Here's how it works:



Click here to submit your challenge now (takes 2-3 minutes)



Milena will review and select the most relevant challenges

If select short vi insights &

Submit before August 31st to be considered.

Featured Webinars, Workshops & Events

For a full list of upcoming events and opportunities for learning and development, please visit RTO7.ca/Events.

- **August 11, Ontario Tourism Strategy Launch, 10 am to 12 pm**

If you haven't already, please join us and [register to attend](#) the virtual Ontario Tourism Strategy Launch event. Developed by industry, for the industry and facilitated by TIAO, this new strategy outlines practical actions to diversify markets, drive investment, attract talent, expand infrastructure, strengthen our workforce, and grow Ontario's visitor economy in the years ahead.

- **August 12, Leadership and Thinking in a VUCA World, 9 to 10 am**

This high-impact, free workshop hosted by Route 93 Innovation Hub in Midland will provide actionable strategies for leaders to navigate and excel in a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous) world. [Register to attend](#) in person today! Lunch and networking included.

- **September 17, County of Simcoe WOW Job Fair, 3 to 6 pm**

Join County of Simcoe colleagues for the Regional Job Fair at Southshore Community Centre in Barrie as a part of the Simcoe County Week of Welcome events. If your organization is interested in participating and connecting with a diverse group of candidates, please complete the form to reserve your booth [here](#).

- **August 21, Intro to AI for Tourism Professionals, 3 to 4 pm**

This intro to AI workshop provides a hands-on introduction tailored for tourism professionals

looking to learn Generative AI and leverage AI models to improve workflow efficiency, creativity, and business innovation. RSVP to attend the free webinar [here](#).

- **September 23, SBP MATA Stakeholder Open House, 7 to 9 pm**

Tourism stakeholders in South Bruce Peninsula are invited to the 3rd annual Municipal Accommodation Tax Association (MATA) open house. **Please register in advance** to catch up on regional tourism initiatives, share your insights, and engage with fellow stakeholders who care about the future of the destination. Light refreshments will be served at the free event taking place at Pinewoods Golf Club.

In Case You Missed It

Agritourism Ontario: Farm Visitor Survey

Agritourism Ontario is leading an **Agritourism Economic Growth Study** for Ontario, and we need your support to make it a success. Please help by sharing the **Farm Visitor Survey** with your visitors this season! It's an easy way to help build a stronger picture of agritourism in Ontario and for every completed survey, \$1 will be donated to Feed Ontario.

How you can participate:

- Download promotional materials
here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Hu_LEpUTtfHaM5-iZVLFcWc4Xar218cU?usp=sharing
- Put up the small poster near washrooms, checkout counters, or entrances
- Share the survey on social media or in newsletters
- Add the survey link/QR code to e-receipts or booking emails

The survey will remain open until October 31, 2025.

Energy Transition Initiative available for Bruce County Businesses

Bruce County has launched a new initiative to help local businesses lower energy costs and reduce carbon emissions by making the switch to cleaner energy solutions. Through the Energy Transition Initiative, you'll gain access to funding opportunities, expert support, and a network of suppliers and

service providers to help make the switch easier and more affordable. To learn more and contact the Bruce County energy team, visit us at [Energy Transition Initiative | Business To Bruce](#)

The project is funded in part by the Government of Ontario.

News from the Region

TIAO Achieves Gold Certification Status

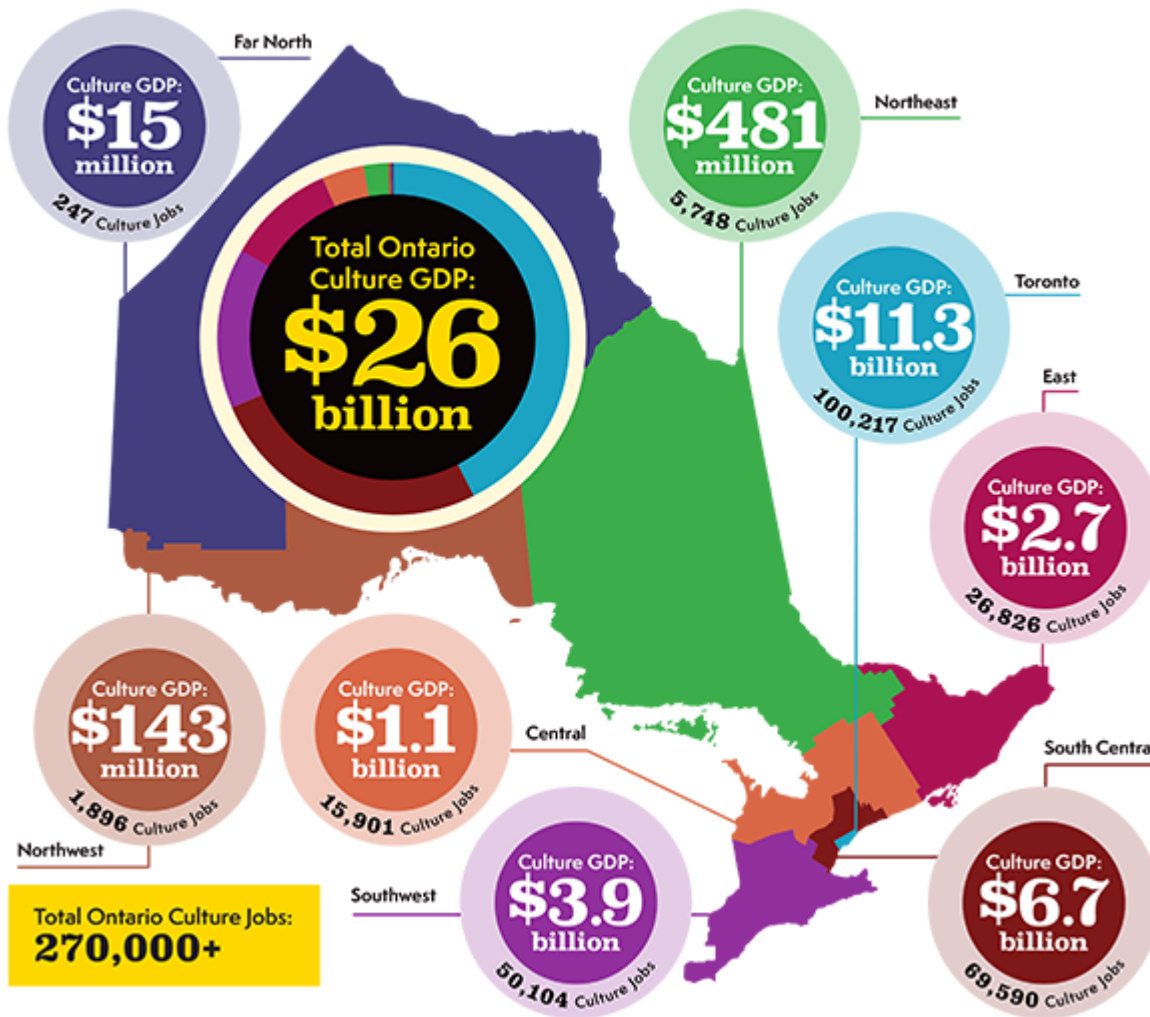
Congratulations to the TIAO team for recently reaching Gold certification status, a prestigious recognition that places them among Canada's leaders in sustainable tourism. Read more about TIAO's journey and achievement on the [GreenStep Blog](#).

Join TIAO and RTO7—take the GreenStep Sustainable Tourism 2030 Pledge today. Find out your next steps at [RTO7.ca](#).

Arts Across Ontario: A new way to measure culture sector impact

The Ontario Arts Council (OAC) has unveiled a new model for measuring culture sector impact – the Regional Economic Model, developed by the research firm Nordicity. Moving forward, data on the economic output of the region's culture sector will be updated on an annual basis.

Our region of Central Ontario includes Bruce, Dufferin, Grey, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Muskoka, Northumberland, Peterborough, Simcoe, and accounts for 15,901 culture jobs and a culture GDP of \$1.1 billion.



Explore the insights in depth and read the full report at arts.on.ca.

Typsy Picks

Each month, the RTO7 team will spotlight a recommended course from Typsy, the online training platform that's free for anyone working in tourism across BruceGreySimcoe. This valuable resource offers training for all levels—from business owners and managers to full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees. Stay tuned for our top picks to enhance your skills and grow your expertise!

This month's pick: Effective Communication Essentials

Reviewed by: Bill Sullivan, CEO, RTO7 / BruceGreySimcoe

This course is full of practical solutions and worth bookmarking so you can revisit it as needed. It includes a downloadable six-step approach for bouncing back from miscommunication and reducing conflict. If you've ever felt that a conversation with a colleague, employee, or guest didn't land the way you intended, this course offers insight into why that might happen—often it comes down to mismatched communication methods or using the wrong approach for your goal.

The course emphasizes that effective communication isn't about winning or losing, but about reaching the best possible outcome. It encourages you to ask whether your communication is resolving the needs of the situation. Whether you're speaking, writing, or using body language, the course offers helpful tips to make your communication more effective.



Get Started

To access the course, follow the steps below:

1. If you already have a free Typsy account with us, [log in here](#)
2. If you haven't set up a free Typsy account, register your interest on [RTO7.ca](#) and fill out the [form](#) (at the bottom of the web page).
3. Navigate to "Search" under the "Discover" tab

4. Type in the video name and click on the video in the results

If you need assistance, please reach out to our Learning & Development Coordinator, Fatima, at sfatima@rto7.ca.



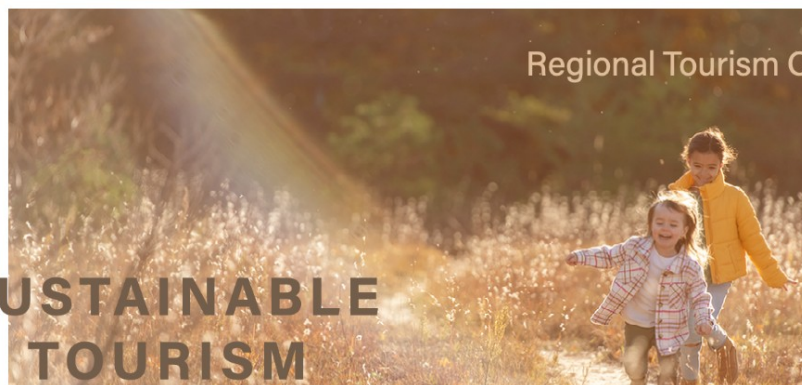
IN EVERY NEWSLETTER:

RTO7 Programs and Resources

Our programs and resources aim to support business growth, foster collaboration, promote sustainability, provide market insights, attract more visitors, and improve tourism experiences in BruceGreySimcoe. Click on the links below for more info:

- **Programs**
 - **Partnership Programs**
 - **Operations Implementation Program**
 - **GoEV Funding Program**
 - **BruceGreySimcoe Free Training**
 - **T3 Accelerator**
 - **Tech Compass**
 - T3 Accelerator Podcast
 - **Tourism Biz Bites from the 7**
- **Resources**
 - **Careers in Tourism**
 - **Resource Guide**

- [RTO7 Connection Blog](#)
- Are You Listed?
 - [FREE Tourism Operator Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com](#)
- Need Help Pushing Out a Promotion?
 - [FREE Promotions Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com](#) (complete and up-to-date operator profile required)
- Add Your Festival or Event!
 - [FREE Festivals and Events Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com](#)



T3 Accelerator Podcast



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Kelly Lush

From: Regional Tourism Organization 7 <info@rto7.ca>
Sent: August 15, 2025 10:14 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Canada's Immigration Survey Requires Your Input!

[View this email in your browser](#)



August 15, 2025

Canada's Immigration Levels Survey

Immigration plays a vital role in sustaining the tourism workforce in our region. Many businesses depend on newcomers to fill essential roles year-round. **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is seeking input** to help shape Canada's next Immigration Levels Plan, to be announced in fall 2025.

This is a valuable opportunity to share your perspective on how immigration policy can support the hospitality and tourism sector. With ongoing discussions about how policy changes could impact workforce sustainability, your input is critical.

The survey may not automatically save your draft responses, so you may wish to prepare your answers in advance. You can review the questions by [downloading the online survey \(PDF, 283 KB\)](#).

By completing the online survey before the **deadline of this Sunday, August 17**, you can help ensure the tourism sector's priorities are represented in the decisions that will shape the future of our workforce.

If you have any questions, you can reach IRCC directly at IRCC.Engagement-Engagement.IRCC@cic.gc.ca.

[Take the online survey now](#)



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Share



Forward



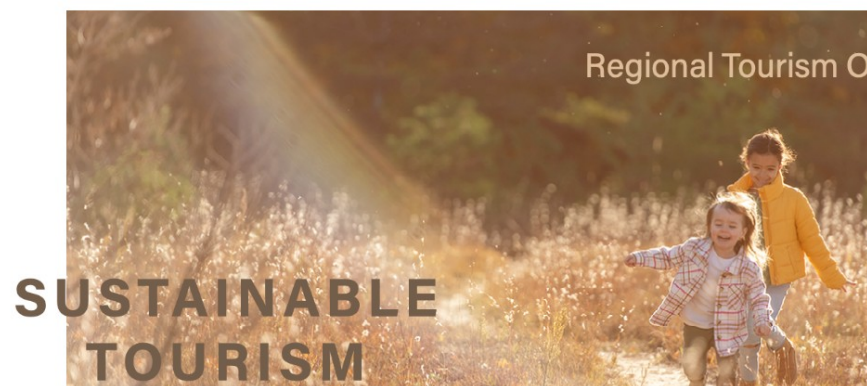
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