



BBLA Newsletter

FALL / WINTER 2014 / 2015

**See you at the
AGM on
Sunday July 19,
2015 at 10 am
at Sowerby
Hall!**

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Chairman's Letter

I am very pleased to introduce the Fall/2014 version of the Big Basswood Lake Association newsletter as the newly elected chairman of the association. I am taking over the position from Mike Hunting who served two terms as the chairman from 2010 to 2014. I certainly feel like I have some very big shoes to fill and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike for his service over the last 4 years. While he was chairman, the lake association has been rejuvenated with our membership growing back to and beyond the levels that it saw in prior years. In the time that Mike has been in charge, the lake association has broadened the number of issues that it is dealing with and instituted some new initiatives due to his work. Thanks again Mike for your efforts on behalf of

the property owners on Big Basswood Lake.

I am also pleased to let you know that virtually the entire board of directors was re-elected for another term. All of the board members have worked hard over the last couple of years and remain committed to the work of the association and, therefore, wanted to continue on as board members. We all look forward to working on behalf of the membership for the next 2 years.

As I write this from Basswood during the week after Canadian thanksgiving, we have just endured almost a solid week of rainfall. The lake is as high as I have ever seen it and all of the surrounding waterways are just as high or higher. However, the fall colours are beautiful as ever

on the lake with the leaves reaching peak fall colours this week about a week ago. For some wonderful pictures of the lake in all of its seasons, be sure to check out the website and the Facebook page where we are getting many beautiful images entered into the photo contest. Also, please see Marilyn Kellum's update on the photo contest in the newsletter.

Mike Hunting has provided a report on membership. Our numbers have grown again this year and we are still working to get new members. If you have a friend or neighbour that is not yet a member, please remind them that they can visit the website to sign up online. (cont'd pg. 2)

Update on Membership

Did you know that 75 members of the Basswood Lake Association saved up to \$C600 on their cottage insurance? All you have to do is *invest* \$25 in a BBLA membership and save a lot more. If you are a member, please contact you neighbors and make sure they are enjoying the same savings.

In addition you can receive a BBLA bumper sticker to show your pride for the cleanest clearest lake in Ontario.

Why would you not join? We save you money and add to your BBL pride.



Find Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/bigbasswood

Chairman's Letter (cont'd)

(cont'd from pg. 1)

Also remember that we have now established an associate membership. If you know of anybody that has a vested interest in the lake but does not own property they can now join the association as an associate member.

There are also updates on a number of other issues including property tax and water quality initiatives.

If there are other issues that you would like to see us addressing, please be in touch with me or

any of the other board members to let us know – our emails and phone numbers are included at the end of the newsletter. We are always happy to go to work on new initiatives on behalf of the members of the association.

Looking forward to seeing you on and around Basswood in 2015 – have a good winter season.

Larry Allcorn,
BBLA President



Photo by:
Andrew Vanderploeg

BBLA
NEWSLETTER

NATURE IS ART

Wildlife & Habitat Photo Contest

More pictures to take with the change of seasons...

been changed to **June 1st, 2015 by 4 PM!!!!**

The winner will be announced at the BBLA Annual General Meeting in July 2015.



Photo by:
Denise
Santana

Don't put those cameras away yet!! Each season brings its own unique beauty and BBLA would like to share it with all of you. There are numerous great shots that have already been submitted on the Facebook page. Keep them coming!!

Please check out the web-site <http://www.bigbasswood.ca/photo-contest.php> as the rules have been updated. Please note that the deadline for entries has



Photo by: Woody Kellum

Parc Update

For the past year, the lake association, in consultation with Lincoln North, has been studying the MPAC assessments on Big Basswood Lake to determine if there was any basis for a collective appeal of assessments on behalf of all property owners. As reported in the spring newsletter and at the annual general meeting, when we compared the sales price of the last 16 property sales on the lake with their corresponding assessments, we found that, on average, the assessment accurately reflected the sales price. As a result the recommendation of the board to the membership was that there was no basis for a group appeal. If individual property owners decided that they still wished to pursue an appeal of their particular assessment, Lincoln North offered at the meeting to consult with the property owners on the process.

The association followed up with a "town hall" meeting which was held on August 4th. The intent of this

meeting was to provide a forum for individual property owners to discuss the assessment process with Lincoln and get advice on how they might proceed.

Unfortunately, turn out for this



Photo by: Marty Verdecchia

town hall was very low and there was only very limited interest in pursuing any appeals.

The board will continue to monitor sale prices on the lake and report at next year's AGM. At that meeting, we will assess if there is any interest in further formal activity on property assessments.

"When we compared the sales price of the last 16 property sales on the lake with their corresponding assessments, we found that, on average, the assessment accurately reflected the sales price."

CENTRAL ALGOMA REGION: STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETINGS

In early November, a series of public roundtable meetings are planned at central locations in the Algoma area. The Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition (CAFC) has planned these meetings and the meetings will be facilitated by Freshwater Futures <http://freshwaterfuture.org>. CAFC hopes to create a Regional Strategic Stewardship Plan. These community roundtable meetings are a part of this process to create and prioritize objectives, projects and concerns in the area.

BBLA members in the area are encouraged to participate (see

schedule below). Choose a location and a meeting time that works best for you. CAFC is encouraging everyone to attend one or more of the roundtable activities. This is an opportunity to be involved in a comprehensive stewardship initiative. If you attend, please introduce yourself to Bob Kellum, BBLA member and a CAFC board member!!

Western Roundtable

Laird Township Hall
Monday, November 3rd, 7-9 PM
Doors open at 6:30 PM, refreshments provided!!

Central Roundtable

Johnson Township Community Center
Tuesday, November 4th, 11 AM-2 PM
Doors open at 10:30 AM, lunch provided by CAFC (please RSVP)

Eastern Roundtable

Sowerby Hall
Wednesday, November 5th, 7-9 PM
Doors open at 6:30 PM, refreshments provided!!





Your directors are here to serve the members of our association. Below is a list of the current board members, with their contact information:

DIRECTORS OF BBLA

Larry Allcorn, Chairman, 416-407-2185,

lallcorn@rogers.com

Maeve Coccimiglio, Vice Chairman, 705-842-2454,

mmcoccimiglio@gmail.com

Ron Trivers, Treasurer, 705-842-2883, lyndatrivers@gmail.com

Marilyn Kellum, Secretary and lake stewardship, 734-717-1290,

mkellum@umich.edu

Michael Hunting, Membership 705-842-1833, 513-683-2238,

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Andrew MacKay, Website, Communication, and Technology Officer,

705-842-6263, andrew@artisblind.com

Lolly Hunting, Historian and Vendors List, 705-842-1833, 513-683-2238,

mlhuntingsr@gmail.com

Jack Hodgson, Co-Historian, 248-588-7409,

johnhodgson000@comcast.net

Dave Currie, 705-842-3599, watercoloursbysheila@gmail.com



Septic System Dos and Don'ts

***Do** learn the location of your septic tank and drainfield. Keep a sketch of it handy with your maintenance record for service visits.

***Do** have your septic system inspected annually.

***Do** have your septic tank pumped out by a licensed contractor, approximately every three to five years, or as often as is appropriate for your system

***Do** keep your septic tank cover accessible for inspections and pumping. Install risers if necessary.

***Do** call a professional whenever you experience problems with your system, or if there are any signs of system failure.

***Do** keep a detailed record of repairs, pumping, inspections, permits issued, and other maintenance activities.

***Do** conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets.

***Do** divert other sources of

water, like roof drains, house footing drains, and sump pumps,

away from the septic system.

Excessive water keeps the soil in the drainfield from naturally cleansing the wastewater.

***Don't** go down into a septic tank. Toxic gases are produced by the natural treatment processes in septic tanks and can kill in minutes. Extreme care should be taken when inspecting a septic tank, even when just looking in.

***Don't** allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system.

***Don't** plant anything over or near the drainfield except grass. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage the drain lines.

***Don't** dig in your drainfield or build anything over it, and don't cover the drainfield with a hard surface such as concrete or asphalt. The area over the drainfield should have only a grass cover. The grass will not only prevent erosion, but will help remove excess water.

***Don't** make or allow repairs to your septic system without obtaining the required health department permit. Use professional licensed onsite contractors when needed.

***Don't** use septic tank additives. Under normal operating conditions, these products usually do not help and some may even be harmful to your system.

***Don't** use your toilet as a trash can or poison your septic system and the groundwater by pouring harmful chemicals and cleansers down the drain. Harsh chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater.

***Don't** use a garbage disposal without checking with your local regulatory agency to make sure that your septic system can accommodate this additional waste.

***Don't** allow backwash from home water softeners to enter the septic system.

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Water Quality Update

The association continues to monitor water clarity on an ongoing basis ... Secchi disc readings on August 16th were 13.5 meters and September 20th was 11.5 meters. We will continue with regular readings in the spring when the pollen has cleared from the lake.



The Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition is hosting a fundraising dinner

Fred Falls will be catering the event and if you've ever had a meal by Fred, then you know your taste buds are in for a treat!

Date: Saturday November 1st
Time: 5:00pm (sitting #1)
 7:00pm (sitting #2)
Location: Sowerby Hall
 1410 Basswood Lake Rd
Tickets: \$25/each
 Limited tickets available



Tickets are available from: CAFC's Directors, Forestland, CAFC's website or, by calling Victoria at 705-297-2201.

There will also be a water-related documentary playing upstairs at 5:30pm and again at 7:00pm for anyone interested.



Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition

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