

Big Basswood Lake Association 2015 AGM

July 19,2015 Sowerby Hall

Board members present: Larry Allcorn, Lolly Hunting, Mike Hunting, Maeve Coccimiglio, Andrew MacKay, Jack Hodgson, Ron Trivers, Dave Currie, Marilyn Kerllum
Guests: Paula Gray and Sarah McGuinness, Lauren Tonelli, Victoria Thomas, Wayne Berthelot, Norah Harrison, Joyce Ratz

Larry Allcorn welcomed the membership and called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. He reviewed FOCA's Lake Partner program and pointed out that Big Basswood Lake was the clearest lake on record with a Secchi disk reading of 11.3 meters. The average clarity for Ontario lakes is 4.1 meters. The next highest is 8.9 meters. He reread the BBLA Mission Statement to emphasize

Minutes from the 2014 AGM were distributed and summarized by Secretary Marilyn Kellum. It was moved by Phyllis Coosaia and seconded by Margie Conley to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

Treasurer Ron Trivers summarized the Treasurer's report as of March 31, 2015. Larry reviewed the costs of FOCA which were \$362.25 for 2014-2015 fiscal year. The report will be posted on the web-page. Jim Thompson moved to accept the report, seconded by Ken Jones. The motion was carried.

Andrew MacKay reviewed the features of www.bigbasswood.ca including links to the newsletter, the Wildlife and Habitat Inventory and the Classified section. BBLA also has a Facebook page with 280 members.

Last year BBLA formed a committee (PARC) to review tax assessments and property values for lake residents. Dave Currie chaired this effort and it was found that the property values were consistent with real estate values. BBLA held a town hall meeting last summer and lake residents were encouraged to register their individual concerns with MPAC. The issue of mill rates was brought up. Larry has been unable to document a municipality that has a seasonal rate. The question was asked from the floor what percentage of Huron Shores tax revenue comes from Big Basswood Lake. Larry deferred this question to New Business. Lincoln North was recognized by the association for his contributions to the PARC. He was awarded the first BBLA Honorary Membership. Larry will present him with the certificate.

Maeve Coccimiglio introduced the first guests, Paula Gray and Sarah McKinness, students from Algoma Public Health. They brought water sample kits to distribute to test drinking water for potability. They reviewed the proper technique for sampling the water. The samples are tested for coliform bacteria and e. coli. Samples can be dropped off at Algoma Public Health Blind River or at the Sault. If the sample is overgrown or if e.coli are present, the sampler will be notified via phone. There were many questions. Paula and Sarah offered to talk to people after the meeting. BBLA is also making the septic tabs available again as well.

Larry reviewed information received at the FOCA AGM he attended on March 7, 2015. FOCA has 500 member organizations and 10,000 individual members.. He reviewed member benefits

including discounts for insurance and an installation discount from Superior Propane. Members were urged to check out www.foca.on.ca for more information.

Victoria Thomas presented information on CAFC Watershed Unification Project. Larry attended the community outreach meeting. CAFC plans to offer the community educational materials including workshops. The organization hopes to provide resources with on-the-ground issues and also serve as area consultants.

Brief committee reports were given as follows:

Lolly reviewed the community calendar and directed us to the web-site for 2 new history interviews with Dick and Jane Brown and Bob Town.

Mike reported 77 members last year, including the new associate member category. Forty eight people paid dues today. He stressed the importance of contacting neighbors to encourage membership.

Marilyn again highlighted the Wildlife and Habitat Inventory on the BBLA web page. It is an under utilized resource.

Speaker presentations were as follows:

Lauren Tonelli from the Invasive Species Centre

Wayne Berthelot from the Blind River OPP

Both presentations were very informative, answered numerous questions and presented the membership with excellent resources.

A slide presentation of the 84 photos that were entrants to the Nature is Art: Wildlife and Habitat Photo Contest was shown. Norah Harrison and Maeve presented the background information for the contest. Norah Harrison, Joyce Ratz and Shannon Vine were recognized and thanked for being the judges. The winners were as follows: 1st Place Spider Web by Colton Smithers; 2nd Place Mallard Ducks by Andrew VanderPloeg; 3rd Place Toad by Shannon Loutit. Colton was presented with the Award and a framed poster of his photo. The Honorable Mention photos were also on display. Dave and Sheila Currie were thanked for their help and contributions. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Marilyn Kellum

Secretary