

**Big Basswood Lake Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**August 16, 2020**  
**Virtual via Zoom**

Board members present: Larry Allcorn, Leigh Olmstead, Marilyn Kellum, Phil Conley, Cynthia Wood, Joanne Falk  
Absent: Nancy Bakemeier

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the 2020 AGM at 10:05. He hoped everyone was safe and healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic. He also acknowledged the border restrictions that have prevented many of our membership from getting to Big Basswood this summer. Guests for this morning's meeting were introduced and are as followed: Georges Bilodeau, Mayor of Huron Shores , and Jane Thomas and Susan Schaus from the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs for the Province of Ontario (IAO). The current BBLA board was introduced and the agenda was reviewed.

The 2019 AGM minutes were reviewed by the Secretary. The minutes are available at <https://www.bigbasswood.ca> The membership was asked to e-mail the Chair if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes.

The Treasurer submitted Annual Financial Statements for both the BBLA account and the Trillium account. Opening balance for the BBLA account was \$7,383.44. Credits were \$2,899.36, debits were \$2,404.10. The Closing Balance stands at \$7,878.77. The Trillium Account Financial Statement, from 12/4/18 through 8/16/20 was also reviewed. The balance is \$11,166.76. It was noted that Trillium granted BBLA an extension of the availability of these funds because of the pandemic. Both reports will be posted on <https://www.bigbasswood.ca>

Membership Matters was presented by Joanne. She reviewed the BBLA Mission Statement and stressed how important a strong, active lake association membership is to the health of the lake and the community. Last year there were 113 members. She noted that most memberships came from the AGM and encouraged virtual attendees to sign up. Everyone can join at <https://www.bigbasswood.ca/memberships/> Also, the business directory is being rebuilt. Businesses can purchase an Associate Membership to be listed on the web-page that will include a hyperlink to the business.

Marilyn noted that the Lake Partner Program (LPP) was on hold for 2020. She presented the 2019 data for Big Basswood Lake. The Secchi disk average was 11.4 meters. Phosphorous was 3.4 TP1 (ug/L) in the East Basin and 3.6 TP1 (ug/L) in the West Basin. Calcium was 3.0 and 2.9. This year Big Basswood Lake submitted Ice On-Ice Off dates to the LPP. Ice On Date-1/17/20, Ice Off Date-4/22/20. Bobby Swain was thanked for his participation in this lake monitoring program.

The BBLA has participated for 3 summers in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. Leigh has organized a team of loon watchers from different sections of the lake. This year the program has been suspended. Both Leigh and Marilyn encouraged the membership to share things they have observed over time around the lake.

Jane Thomas, PhD, A/Senior Negotiator from the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs, joined the meeting to provide a brief summary and update of the land claim process. The process consists of defining the initial lands/areas of interest, candidate lands and proposed settlement lands. She stressed that private property will not be expropriated and access will be maintained. Areas of interest can require lengthy negotiations. The process narrows the package down and attempts to mitigate the impacts. Larry has checked in at regular intervals. The question was asked if any categories of land, such as Conservation Reserve Areas, are exempt and if lake access was protected. Jane noted that the process is still in the first phase and there is not an official map of the TFN land claim. Larry thanked Jane and Susan for the information and update today and for the responsiveness of the IAO for the past 3 years.

Larry noted that this year BBLA, the Sowerby Heritage Foundation and Sentinel will not be planning any joint events due to the pandemic. The organizations plan to resume these community events in 2021. Last year three were held in August and September and generated \$6,000 in donations for the North Shore Health Network. Nancy is still collecting historical information.

A BBLA membership also includes a FOCA membership. Larry reviewed the benefits of FOCA which include participation in the Lake Partner Program, webinars on subjects of interest, excellent education materials and various discounts. FOCA also holds a Spring and Fall meeting which any member can attend.

Larry and Joanne met and developed criteria for the Mike Hunting award for lake stewardship. This will be discussed at the Board Meeting this fall.

Phil reviewed the new web-page design that was released this spring. It was designed to be user friendly and attractive. Content was reviewed and Andrew VanderPloeg donated his time to redesign the web-page. Spencer Kellum has volunteered to maintain the site for BBLA. Both were thanked for their contributions.

The Septic Inspection Program, funded by Trillium, with BBLA partnering with the Municipality of Huron Shores was implemented in 2019, has been extended through 2020. Results have been summarized in the Big Basswood Lake Septic Inspection Report by Tulloch Engineering and is available at [https://www.bigbasswood.ca/files/basswoodlake/big\\_basswood\\_lake\\_inspection\\_report\\_rev\\_1\\_april\\_2020.pdf](https://www.bigbasswood.ca/files/basswoodlake/big_basswood_lake_inspection_report_rev_1_april_2020.pdf) Fifty six per cent, or 118 properties, were inspected. Larry encouraged everyone to take advantage of the extended opportunity to get this done.

Last summer it was noted that there was a hole in the wing wall of the dam. The MNRF lowered water level on Big Basswood to make the repair. In late summer, 2019,

BBLA and Clear Lake representatives met with the MNRF to learn about the Dam Operating Plan (DOP). This plan specifies criteria for ideal water levels throughout the year. The ideal water level for Big Basswood is the top of the wing wall. There continues to be questions about how this plan has been implemented. Larry plans to meet with the MNRF in the fall to review the DOP. Contact Larry with any questions and concerns.

Mayor Georges Bilodeau presented an overview of the Municipality's Road Donation Program and recent changes that were implemented last winter. The Huron Shores Private Associations committee was formed to address these changes and has met with Council to express their concerns regarding some of the changes. The Mayor stated that the Province is downloading expenses for social services, public health and the OPP to the municipalities. He also reviewed the broadband initiative to improve services for Huron Shores. At this time, Huron Shores has formed a committee to develop a community based system. Mayor Bilodeau took questions from the members. Larry thanked the Mayor for his presentation.

Larry thanked Matthew Aho and Ken Shaw for removing the graffiti discovered in June on the 40s, cliffs on a Basswood Lake Conservation Area. They got the appropriate equipment up the cliff to power wash the area. The MNRF was notified of the incident and reported it to the OPP. Unusual events have been happening around the area, e.g. car vandalism, strangers on private property, in addition to the vandalism on Big Basswood. Larry recommended that everyone be vigilant and report any unusual observations.

Board elections are held every 2 years and 2020 is an election year. BBLA, under the pandemic emergency laws, will postpone the election this year. There are board vacancies, however, and Larry encouraged anyone that has an interest to serve to contact him. The board also plans to discuss changing to staggered board elections at the September board meeting. This would require an amendment to the by-laws.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09.

Marilyn Kellum  
Secretary



