Fall 2026/Winter 2027

Chairman's Letter

As autumn gives way to winter, Big Basswood Lake takes on a different character. The activity of summer settles, the shoreline grows quieter, and many seasonal residents return home. Yet the work of the Big Basswood Lake Association continues throughout the year.

It is an honour to begin serving as Chairman of the Association. I am grateful for the confidence placed in me, and I approach the role with respect for the history of the BBLA, the work of previous Boards, and the many members and volunteers who have contributed their time and expertise over the years.

A change in leadership should not mean a change in the Association's fundamental purpose. Your Board remains committed to protecting the quality and natural beauty of Big Basswood Lake and its watershed, representing the shared interests of members, and helping maintain the qualities that make this lake community so special.

I would like to thank Matt Aho our outgoing Chairman for his leadership and service to the Association. I also want to recognize the continuing and incoming members of the Board. The knowledge, experience, and commitment of these volunteers provide important continuity as we move forward. Our work is a collective effort, and I look forward to working with the entire Board and with our members.

Listening to Our Members

One of the Board's most important responsibilities is to understand the priorities of the membership. Earlier this year, members completed the 2026 Member Survey and provided thoughtful comments about the lake, the Association, and the issues that matter most to them.

The results confirmed that members care deeply about Big Basswood Lake's natural beauty, peaceful character, water quality, and family-oriented recreational opportunities. Water quality emerged as the highest-ranked issue, accompanied by strong interest in shoreline and habitat protection, responsible development, invasive species prevention, lake safety, and respectful lake use.

The survey also showed growing concern about municipal spending, property taxation, road maintenance, and the need for effective representation of lake and rural communities. Members indicated that they value the Association's role as a collective and constructive voice on these matters.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a fuller summary of the survey findings. The Board will use these results to help guide its priorities, initiatives, and communications. We will not be able to pursue every suggestion at once, but we are committed to considering the feedback carefully, identifying practical areas for action, and keeping members informed about our progress

In This Newsletter …

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Municipal Engagement

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the 2026 Huron Shores municipal election will have concluded.

During the election period, the BBLA partnered with the Iron Bridge Agricultural Society to hold an All Candidates Session. Drawing on the Member Survey, the Board developed questions addressing municipal spending and taxation, water quality, infrastructure, economic development, and fair representation for lake and rural communities.

This initiative was intended to help members and other residents better understand the candidates' views and participate in the democratic process. With the election complete, the Board looks forward to establishing a constructive working relationship with the newly elected Council. Our approach will continue to be informed, respectful, and focused on issues that affect the lake, its watershed, and our members.

Building on This Year's Work

The past year included continued work on water-quality monitoring, environmental stewardship, municipal planning matters, membership systems, and communication with members. The Board also supported community activities that brought people together and strengthened connections around the lake.

Another memorable event this summer was the return of the Goose and Gander concert to the 12-Sided Barn in Sowerby. Once again, the concert provided an opportunity for neighbours and friends to come together and enjoy an evening of live music in one of the area's most distinctive community venues. We are especially grateful to Marilyn Kellum, whose dedication and organizational efforts helped make the evening such a success.

These efforts depend on volunteers from our community. Whether collecting water samples, observing loons, supporting environmental initiatives, organizing events, contributing photographs or historical information, serving on committees, or helping with Association administration, volunteers make the BBLA's work possible.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed during the past year. I also encourage members who have an interest or skill they would like to share to contact a member of the Board. Participation does not always require a large commitment. Even occasional assistance can make a meaningful difference.

Looking Ahead

Looking forward, continuity will be important. The Board will continue the work already underway while reviewing our activities in light of the Member Survey. Our focus will remain on protecting the lake and watershed, strengthening communication, representing members on municipal matters, encouraging responsible lake use, and sustaining a strong and engaged lake community.

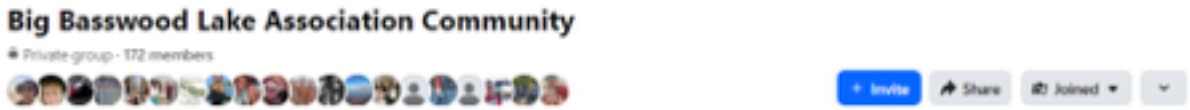
The Board is here to serve the membership, but the Association is strongest when members participate. Please continue to share your questions, concerns, and ideas with us. I also encourage you to invite neighbours and family who are not yet members to consider joining the BBLA. A broad and active membership strengthens our collective voice and provides the volunteer and financial support required to carry out the Association's work.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support. Wherever the winter months may find you, I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable season. I look forward to working with you and to seeing many of you back at Big Basswood Lake in the year ahead.

Submitted by George Craigie

BBLA Launches Private Facebook Group





The Big Basswood Lake Association created a Facebook Page in March of 2012 and it has been very popular, with a current following of 839 users. In conjunction with our Big Basswood Lake Association website, these platforms have served as the online face of our Lake Association.

The FB Page has published AGM, concert and other event announcements, posted photos, communicated ice in and out dates, shared valuable lake stewardship information and reports, water quality findings, septic system resources, historic stories of relevance, a photo / calendar contest and much more.

This summer we decided to expand our social media presence with a private BBLA Facebook Group and we are happy to announce that 172 members have joined. Are you curious about the difference between a **FB Page** and a private **FB Group?**

The primary purpose of a **FB Page** is public relations, official announcements and community outreach. Anyone on the internet can view the posts and although followers can comment, only the admins can post directly.

In comparison, a private **FB Group's** purpose is to encourage discussion, community building and neighbour to neighbour help. Privacy is higher, as members must be approved and content is hidden from the public. Any group member can post content, and we have been delighted to see this taking place, in the few months that the BBLA FB Group has been running

Submitted by Jim Falconer

2026 AGM



This year's AGM was held at the 12 sided barn in Sowerby on Friday, August 7th, 2026. This was a reschedule date from the original planned announced date of Friday, July 17th. You will probably recall the province was under a smoke advisory in the middle part of July and the recommendation was that no outdoor group gatherings be held. The BBLA board decided to be cautious and delay the meeting until the situation improved.

The meeting was well attended this year, up significantly from the previous year.

Our chairman, Matt Aho, led us thru a long list of interesting and informative topics. We also appreciated a presentation from Corrine Wilkerson of the Central Algoma Land Trust who explained the renaming of their organization (from Kensington Conservancy) and how our two organizations could work together.

The meeting was followed by a social hour with beer, wine and appetizers supplied by the BBLA Board. This opportunity to get to know our fellow members seemed to be enjoyed by all and will, most probably, be repeated next year.

SAVE THE DATE

2027 BBLA Annual General Meeting
Friday, July 23, 2027
12 Sided Barn
Sowerby ON

The Goose and the Gander IV

Another successful benefit concert was held this summer at the 12-Sided Barn in Sowerby on July 22nd. Sponsored by the Sowerby Hall and Heritage Committee and the Big Basswood Lake Association this popular annual concert raised $4,412 to benefit the North Shore Health Network. A special thanks to Dave Hamelin who matched the audience contribution!!

And….the Goose and the Gander are already thinking about next summer!! They enjoy presenting this concert as much as the community enjoys hearing it.

Submitted by Marilyn Kellum





Loons On Big Basswood

There has been a change with the Big Basswood Lake pair of loons that for several years nested on the Little Island. Two summers ago high water resulted in the loons relocating their nest on higher ground next to their original nest. The result was two chicks hatched late that summer and made it to the fall. This summer, however, they did not return to their traditional nesting spot at all.



Loons are still a presence on Basswood —we hear them and see them (and love them). Loons are known to be monogamous, return to the same lake and nesting spot every year. Nesting spots are close to the water in a quiet, hidden spot such as a sheltered bay or lee of an island. They return mid-June through mid-July. The pair will build the nest together and it looks like a clump of dead grass. Egg incubation is 27-28 days, hatching in late June or early to mid July. Hatchlings can be seen riding on their parents back.

If you have seen a nest, pair of loons or hatchlings please let Gwyneth Wilcox know what you've seen and when you saw it.

puddoxx@gmail.com

https://www.birdscanada.org/programs/canadian-lakes-loon-survey

submitted by Marilyn Kellum

Huron Shores 2026 Municipal Election/ All Candidates Meeting

The **Big Basswood Lake Association (BBLA)** believes that informed voters help build a stronger municipality. As part of our commitment to representing the interests of our members and the broader community, the BBLA Board partnered with the **Iron Bridge Agricultural Society** to host an **All Candidates Session** for the **Huron Shores Municipal Election on October 26, 2026**.

This meeting was quite well attended and and was subsequently posted to Youtube. Hopefully you received the notifications about the meeting and saw the link to the recorded version - either on the Facebook page or on the communication that was sent around a few days later

The board spent a considerable amount of time crafting a few questions for the candidates, based mostly on the feedback that we received in our **2026 BBLA Membership Survey** (see separate article in this newsletter regarding the survey). In the end, we submitted 6 questions for the candidates to address.

Hopefully, each of you had the chance to exercise your democratic right to vote in the election.

By the time that this newsletter went to press, the results of the election were not yet known. However, the BBLA has a good relationship with most of the candidates so we look forward to working closely with the new mayor and council.

One unanticipated issue did come up during the run up to the election. Several of the candidates took advantage of our new Facebook Basswood Community Page (also see a separate article on that page in this newsletter) to post campaign materials. In some cases, multiple messages were posted. The board had not expected this use of the page and didn't see it as fair or appropriate. We were concerned that our membership would be inundated with political collateral when that is not the intended use.

We put together the following interim set of rules and emailed it to the mayoral/ward 1 and ward 2 candidates

Municipal Election Posting Policy
As our municipal election approaches on October 26, we want to ensure our members can learn about local candidates while keeping our group focused on lake association community news.

- ***One Post Per Candidate:*** *Each official candidate is permitted to create **one** primary post introducing themselves and their platform.*
- ***Use the Comments:*** *This single post will serve as that candidate's campaign thread. All subsequent updates, campaign event shares, Q&As, and platform discussions must take place within the comments of that specific thread. Duplicate posts will be removed.*
- ***Keep it Civil:*** *Normal group rules regarding civility and respect remain in full force. Please keep all political discussions factual and polite. Uncivil comments or personal attacks will be deleted immediately*

Submitted by BBLA Board of Directors

2026 Member Survey Results: What We Heard

At our Annual General Meeting in August, the Board committed to sharing the results of the 2026 Member Survey. Thank you to the 37 members who took the time to participate and provide thoughtful feedback. Your input helps guide the Big Basswood Lake Association's priorities and ensures that our efforts reflect the interests and concerns of the lake community.

A Community That Cares About the Lake

One of the strongest messages from the survey is that members care deeply about protecting the unique character of Big Basswood Lake. Responses came from both full-time and seasonal residents, including property owners from Ontario and several U.S. states, reflecting the broad and diverse community connected to our lake. Many respondents have owned property on the lake for decades, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to preserving what makes Big Basswood special.

What Members Value Most

When asked what they value most about Big Basswood Lake, members consistently highlighted:

- The lake's natural beauty and peaceful setting
- Swimming and enjoying the water
- Relaxation and spending time with family and friends
- Canoeing, kayaking, and other non-motorized recreation
- Quiet boating and cruising the shoreline

Overall, members identified the lake's appeal as being rooted in its natural environment, tranquility, and family-oriented recreational opportunities.

Protecting Water Quality Remains the Top Priority

By a significant margin, water quality emerged as the issue of greatest importance to respondents. Members expressed strong support for maintaining the lake's environmental health for future generations and identified concerns such as septic systems, invasive species, aquatic habitat protection, and long-term stewardship of the watershed.

Closely related to water quality was strong support for protecting natural shorelines and riparian areas. Members emphasized the importance of responsible waterfront development and preserving the environmental features that contribute to the health and beauty of the lake.

2026 Member Survey Results: What We Heard (cont'd)

Growing Interest in Municipal Issues

A notable survey finding was the level of concern regarding municipal issues, particularly property taxation. Many respondents expressed concern about rising property taxes and municipal spending, and several indicated they would like the Association to continue serving as a collective voice for lake property owners on these matters.

Members also raised concerns about road maintenance and the cancellation of the Municipal Road Grant Program. For some, advocacy on road-related issues remains an important part of the Association's role.

Responsible Development Matters

Survey participants generally supported development that respects the environmental character of the lake while contributing positively to the local community. Responses indicated support for thoughtful, environmentally responsible growth rather than unrestricted development.

Lake Etiquette, Rentals and Safety

Several respondents identified concerns related to boating conduct, short-term rentals, day-use visitors, and the need for greater awareness of lake etiquette. Comments frequently focused on education and communication rather than restrictions, with suggestions that information about safe and respectful lake use could benefit all lake users

Members also expressed broad support for the concept of a Big Basswood Lake Safety Program, while encouraging additional communication about its objectives and educational components.

Strengthening Communication and Community

Many respondents shared positive comments about the work of Board members and volunteers, and several expressed interest in learning more about what the Association does throughout the year. Members also suggested opportunities for additional educational initiatives, environmental stewardship programs, social activities, and community-building events.

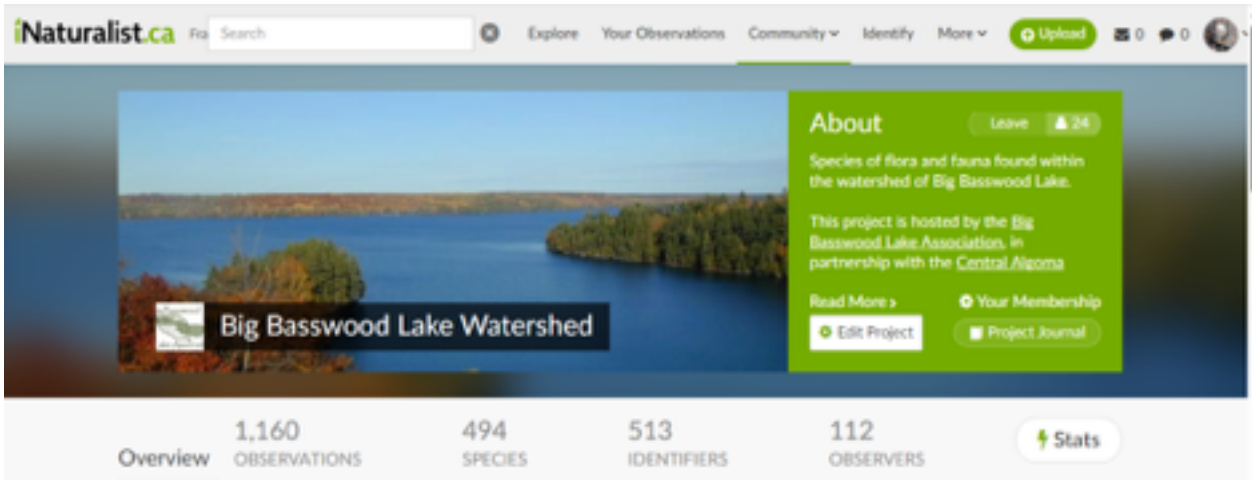
Thank You

The Board appreciates the time, ideas, and constructive feedback provided through this survey. The results confirm a shared commitment to protecting water quality, preserving the natural environment, supporting responsible stewardship, and maintaining the qualities that make Big Basswood Lake such
a special place.

Submitted by George Craigie

iNaturalist

Big Basswood Lake Watershed Project



In 2011, Marilyn Kellum and Andrew MacKay added a new feature to the Bigbasswood.ca website called the “Wildlife and Habitat Inventory”. It allowed users to post pictures and comments within a community forum, to share observations of the flora and fauna of our area with family and friends. It was a great idea and welcomed by many.



That same year, a platform called iNaturalist was made available as a mobile app and greatly streamlined the process of taking pictures of wildlife, uploading them to the platform, and cross matching the observations to its database of photos, taken by those using the app.

2021 saw BBLA adopt the usage of iNaturalist, and we partnered with Carter Dorscht of the Central Algoma Land Trust to explore options best suited to our community. An iNaturalist “Project” named the “Big Basswood Lake Watershed” was created with their assistance.

iNaturalist has been in use within the confines of our watershed by a wide variety of persons, including lake residents, visitors, and even students from the Sault College School of Natural Environment, for the past 5 years.

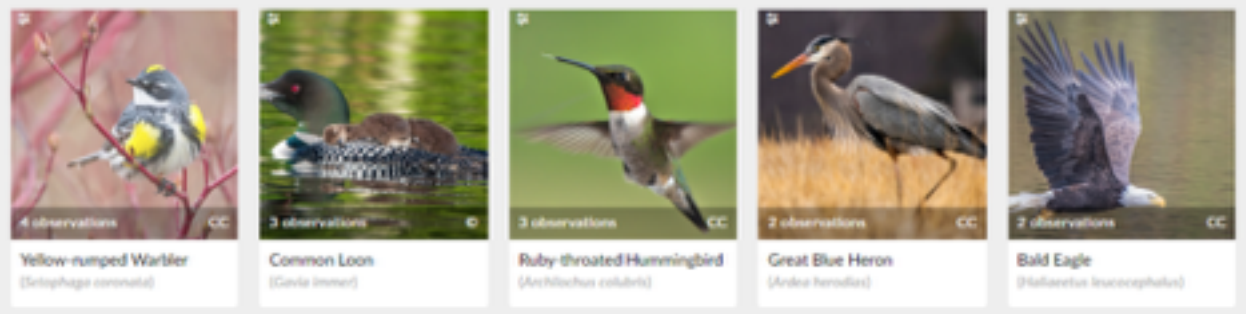
iNaturalist

Big Basswood Lake Watershed Project

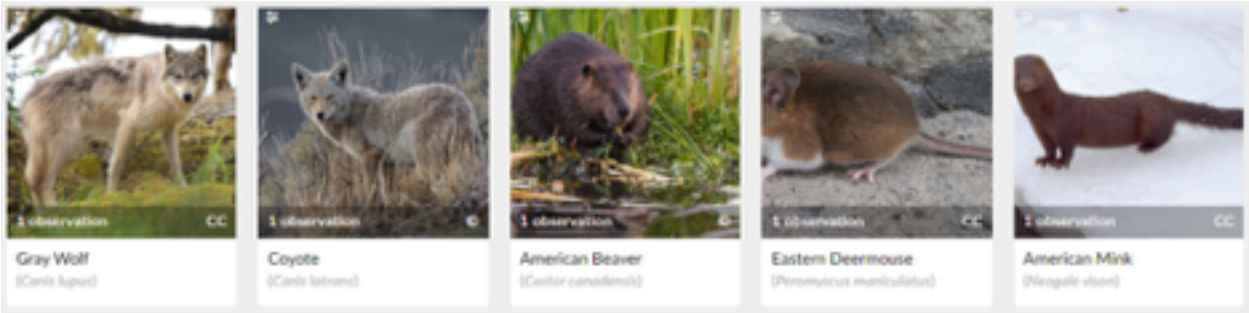
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Here is a summary of the findings identified within our watershed over the past year. The links below will direct you to the specific content within the iNaturalist BBL Watershed Project

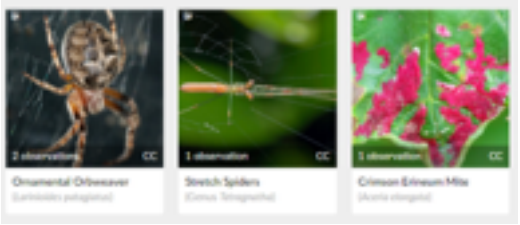
23 different species of birds identified



5 species of mammals were observed, or evidence of their presence identified



3 species of arachnids



24 MILES, A PLASTIC KAYAK & A WHOLE LOT OF STUBBORN

The Big Basswood Lake Association created a private Facebook Group this summer, and we would like to highlight a wonderful story contributed by Lori Chiasson-Davey on September 10 th , 2026. Read the post, below. Additional photos taken by Lori and the comments applauding her accomplishment are available on the Facebook Group at https://www.facebook.com/groups/892633037189461/posts/958427630610001. Congratulations Lori, on your 9 Hour and 22 Minute Circumnavigation of Big Basswood Lake!

I hope you find this interesting of my journey on Monday kayaking the shoreline of Big Basswood Lake, if not keep on scrolling, I'm not a writer... A little read (ok, a long read)
as you sit by the lake. The day I decided paddling around Big Basswood Lake was a good
idea… and then had to prove it.



September 7, 2026 Start: 4:47 a.m. Finish: 2:09 p.m.
Total time: 9 hours, 22 minutes (8 hours kayaked, one hour rest stops)
Kayak: Inexpensive red & white Pelican from Canadian Tire
Female, age 48
Wind: Up to 5 km/h
Water: Pretty much like glass

So… I did a thing.
I kayaked the entire shoreline of Big Basswood Lake. And when I say the shoreline, I mean I tried to stay roughly 20 feet from shore for the entire trip, depending on rocks, other kayakers, fishing boats, shallow spots and whatever else the lake decided to throw at me.
My estimated paddling distance was around 25 miles / 40 km, although I know the actual lake perimeter is less than that because my route followed the shoreline closely and all its little twists, turns and contours. And yes… I did it in my inexpensive Pelican kayak. Nothing fancy. No sleek racing kayak. No fancy expedition boat. Just me and my cheap plastic kayak from Canadian Tire… which, by the way, has plenty of "drag." I knew going in that it wasn't going to be the most time-efficient kayak on the planet. But, I also knew I had what I had, and I was going to make it work.

4:47 AM: LET'S DO THIS

I launched from Big Basswood Lake Resort at 4:47am. It was DARK. The stars were absolutely incredible, although apparently my phone camera did not get the memo because I couldn't capture them. I'm guessing I needed to put it in nighttime mode.
My pathway was lit by a DeWalt light on the front of my kayak, which illuminated just enough of the shoreline for me to keep my bearingsI headed left from the resort. I've kayaked this part of the lake numerous times, so I felt comfortable knowing the area and how close I could safely stay to shore. The lake was incredibly dark. And eerily quiet. Every now and then I could hear branches snapping somewhere along the shoreline. I did not stick around to investigate.

Then came what I'm banking on being tiny glowing fish eyes coming toward the side of my kayak before disappearing into the darkness. I'm assuming they were fish. I couldn't make out anything except these little glowing beads in the dark water as my light hit them. Fish eyes. I'm sticking with fish eyes. Because I am absolutely NOT interested in writing the next scary movie where the Basswood Monster pulls me into the lake.The light also created this really strange reflection. The water ripples weren't just visible on the surface, they seemed to reflect into the air around me, almost like I was paddling through a glowing bubble. It was actually pretty incredible.

THEN CAME THE FOG
As I headed toward the next trailer park, I suddenly hit some thick fog. And when I say thick, I mean I couldn't see much of anything. Just white. So, I resorted to listening to the water slapping against the shoreline to judge how close I was. Thankfully, the fog disappeared almost as quickly as it arrived.
And then the sun started to rise. As I approached the next trailer park, the lake began to brighten and I could finally turn off my light. I had to stop and take a picture. The sunrise over Big Basswood Lake was beautiful.

The lake was waking up. The birds started singing. And then a little loon landed nearby. He stayed with me for probably 10–15 minutes, just hanging around and being curious. I've never been that close to a loon. I desperately wanted to take a picture, but I was afraid that reaching for my phone would scare him away. He seemed perfectly comfortable with the sound of my paddle splashing through the water. And sometimes you just have to let a moment be a moment. Not everything needs to be captured on a camera. Some things are better captured in your mind.

THE CROSS
When I reached the "cross," I stopped for a moment. I said a prayer for strength, a huge thank you for the opportunity to do this and for the incredible beauty surrounding me. And maybe an extra prayer for getting me safely through the dark part.
By around 8:30 a.m., I came ashore for my first proper break. I stretched, had some breakfast and applied some muscle rub. And don't judge my breakfast… It was the best slice of carrot cake! Carrots are healthy, right? By this point I'd been paddling for over 3½ hours. I also put some Band-Aids around a couple of fingers that were getting tender. I knew I had a long way to go and figured a little protection now was better than dealing with worse blisters later. I emptied the water that had made its way into my kayak and got ready to head back out. Getting out of the kayak wasn't exactly graceful, but we'll just call that part of the adventure.

THEN JASON SHOWED UP
As I came around behind the big island, I saw Jason (my husband) and our sweet fur baby Kooper coming out to meet me in their fishing boat. And Jason had brought me a warm cheese and bacon sandwich wrapped in foil for lunch. Kooper was VERY excited to see me and immediately wanted to jump into the water to come meet me. Not today, buddy.
I figured Jason would head back in after seeing me, but he stayed. For the rest of the trip. He fished in different spots, trolled along beside me and kept an eye on me. He knew I'd get tired the farther I went and wanted to be there in case I needed help. I teased him about being my "stalker" around the lake, but honestly, it meant a lot. He knew I was going to get tired. He knows my stubbornness. He's been putting up with it for 29 years. And he wanted to see me make it to the finish.

THE NORTH EAST SIDE
Now I was kayaking the northeast side of the lake. I don't normally travel this way unless we're fishing, so it was pretty cool to see it from the kayak and experience the shoreline up close. There was a red chair sitting on a rock surrounded by water at the far end. It looked very inviting. I thought about how nice it would be to sit in that chair for the rest of the day. But I knew I had to keep goingThen an eagle flew out of the trees as I approached. I'm not saying it was a sign… …but I'm absolutely saying it was a sign. It felt like a little reminder: It's not time to give in yet.



By now, my arm muscles were on fire. My wrists hated me. My fingers were cramping and I couldn't stretch them enough. I had slowed my paddle down considerably. Everything felt slow. And increasingly agonizing.

11:00 AM: "WHAT WAS I THINKING?"
When I turned into the bay at Melwel, this was the moment I seriously questioned my sanity. I decided it was time for lunch. I got onto shore, stretched, enjoyed the warmth of the sun, applied more muscle rub and finally ate the sandwich Jason had made me. He also brought me a ginger ale. Honestly, that sandwich tasted like a five-star meal.

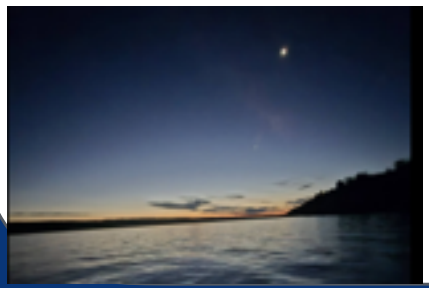
My arms and wrists weren't magically going to get better, so at this point it became a mind game. I had to convince myself to keep going. I told myself: "Roughly three more hours. If everything goes well." I've lived with incredible daily pain from ankylosing spondylitis, so I reminded myself that I have pushed through pain before. This became my thought from then until the finish: Keep going

THE FINAL STRETCH
As noon approached, the sun was beating down and the water was still remarkably calm. Along the way I talked to a few people at cottages and even a couple of kayakers out on the water. And yes… There were moments when I looked at their kayaks and thought: "Yup. THAT is the kind of kayak I should be using." But I had what I had. And I was going to make it work.
Those little conversations with people along the way actually helped more than they probably realized. Sometimes it was just a quick hello or a comment about what I was doing. Maybe they thought I was completely insane. They wouldn't be wrong. But every little interaction left me smiling and gave me another reason to keep going. Because by this point, I knew I couldnt quit.

THE DAM
Then I reached the dam. This felt like the final stretch. At the same time, I was completely exhausted. I was taking more little pauses to stretch while still sitting in the kayak. Nausea was starting to creep in. And I kept checking to see how close Jason and Kooper were in the boat. I was getting there.

ONE LAST LITTLE SIGN
As I approached the final peak before turning back toward Big Basswood Lake Resort, something caught my eye. A red Buddha sitting on a rock. I'd never noticed it before. If I remember correctly, Buddha represents good fortune and spiritual energy. And at that moment? I'll take it. I took a picture so I could remember it, gathered up whatever little bit of energy I had left… …and turned into the bay.

I DID IT.
I honestly felt like I could cry. I DID IT. There had been people who doubted me. There had been moments when I doubted me. There were definitely moments when I questioned why the hell I was doing this. But I did it. And then my little plastic, cheap, draggy Pelican kayak finally pulled up onto the shoreline. Waiting for me was my father-in-law Mel Davey, taking pictures of me and my accomplishment. And that moment meant a lot. Here stood a man who has been a root in my life, but also someone who knows practically every corner of this lake and surrounding area. He's spent over 50 years on this lake. He even caught a 30-pound lake trout on this very lake years ago using steel line. And he was proud of me. That felt pretty damn good. He even joked that he wouldn't challenge me to an arm- wrestling match. I laughed and told him: "Honestly, right now, the way my arms feel you'd probably win."
I pulled my kayak up onto shore. Jason docked the boat. I took a nice hot shower… …and completely crashed for the rest of the afternoon. But I crashed with a huge smile on my face.



9 HOURS. 22 MINUTES. ONE LAKE.
I set out that morning with a cheap kayak, a DeWalt light, some Band-Aids, muscle rub, a questionable carrot-cake breakfast… …and a whole lot of stubborn. And apparently, that was enough. Big Basswood Lake... you kicked my A$$ a little. But, I paddled all the way around you.
And I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

Water Quality Monitoring

Big Basswood Lake Association continues to take an active role in monitoring the water quality of our pristine lake. We do this by participating in two water quality monitoring programs:

- Lake Partners - in partnership with FOCA
- Water Rangers - in partnership with the Nordik Institute and the Government of Ontario

Lake Partners

The Big Basswood Lake Association has been a long term participant in the Lake Partner Program. This program has accumulated water quality measurements and data since the early 70s when lakes began to change. BBLA volunteers have collected water samples to measure water quality and have taken readings to measure water clarity for over 25 years.

This summer's water sampling testing was carried out by Bob Kellum. The online results won't be available on the website until 2027.

Long term results have continue fairly consistent for Big Basswood Lake. The last secchi disk reading this summer was 12.8 meters on August 11, 2026. This compares with last year's test results which ranged from 10.5 to 11. This reading continues to be near the best of all inland lakes for Ontario.

The Lake Partner Program has engaged many in community science and water quality awareness while providing a long term data base to evaluate changes that might be occurring.

The results can be found at:
https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program/

Water Rangers

Over the last several years, our lake residents have been doing water testing on Basswood Lake and submitting their test results to the Water Rangers program that is being managed by the Government of Ontario.

As outlined in the past few newsletters and at the AGM, the Huron Shores environmental committee was approached two years ago by Dr. Elaine Ho-Tassone of the Nordik Institute at Algoma University to participate in a research project that she was initiating. The scope of her research is to study the ongoing health of multiple inland lakes along the North Shore. Her intent was to use the Water Rangers program as the backbone for data collection for the research project.

Water Quality Monitoring (cont'd)

Since we were already sampling for Water Rangers. we readily agreed to join her program. Last year, sampling was done periodically by 3 of our members:

- Paul and Tania Hazlett
- Christina Coutu
- Peter Falk

In addition, since this was a Huron Shores municipal initiative, testing was done on Bright Lake by:

- Kim Currie
- JC Labbe

Much of the team's focus was on Bright Lake who continues to have frequent and virulent algae blooms but the whole watershed is being considered. In addition to the regular series of water quality tests that are being done for Water Rangers, the team has also been testing for high levels of phosphorous which is known to affect lake health

To aid in the research, Dr Ho-Tessone has engaged two of her colleagues. - Dr Patricia Chow Fraser who is a professor of biology at McMaster University and Carolina Charcznska, a graduate student who is working toward her PhD under Dr Chow Fraser's supervision

During the week of Sept 6th, both of these individuals were onsite in Huron Shores/Sault Ste Marie. That day we took them on a pontoon boat tour of Bright Lake where many comprehensive tests were taken (from the normal test sites and a number of additional sites around the lake). On the same day, Larry Allcorn took them to Peter Falk and Sheila Currie's docks to repeat the same tests for Basswood.

Dr Chow Fraser has already published the initial findings, but the final report is not expected until April, 2027. The initial findings are available on the Huron Shores website

We will update you in the spring newsletter.

Directors of BBLA

George Craigie	Chairman	514-941-3500
Larry Allcorn	Vice Chairman	416-407-2185
John Glaser	Secretary	970-227-1471
Jim Falconer	Treasurer	705-955-0048
Marilyn Kellum	Stewardship	734-717-1290
Christina Coutu		705-254-9799
Matt Aho		917-849-9229
Felix Rogers		248-854-0748
Andrew Marshall		705-942-1130
Erin Prince		705-987-1055

Big Basswood
Lake Association