



BBLA Newsletter

SPRING / SUMMER 2016

Chairman's Letter

Welcome back to Big Basswood Lake for the summer of 2016.

The Big Basswood Lake Association has been rejuvenated in the last few years with our membership continuing to grow through the tireless work of our board of directors. We continue to work hard to make sure that all property owners on our lake are aware of the association. The introduction of an associate membership allows us to involve people who may not have properties on the lake but who have direct interest in the health and beauty of our lake. Our goal is to continue to grow our numbers this year and to make sure that we are representing a majority

of property owners on the lake. The more members that we have, the stronger our voice will be with the various organizations that can affect the well-being of Basswood Lake.

During the winter and spring months, the board has continued to be active on behalf of the membership. We attended a fall seminar and the spring general meeting for the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations in Toronto and participated in meetings held by the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition.

We also attended 2 seminars over the winter on the health of lakes in our region. The first was a seminar put on by the

Clear Lake stewardship association in Espanola which brought some noted professors in for the day to take about control and eradication of invasive species in Northern Ontario lakes. The second was sponsored by the MNR in Blind River to educate on factors affecting water levels in our region and initiatives to manage the water levels. Please see the articles in this newsletter on both of these initiatives.

(Cont'd page 2)



Update on Membership

Membership for BBLA, in 2015, was a record 82 members. Thank you for your support but it is still not what it should be. We should be well over 100 members. The higher the membership, the more leverage we have in dealing with government agencies., Remember when the water level was so low last year? It was your association that encouraged the MNR to keep levels higher.

As I stated last year, we are very fortunate to not have major problems. The majority of lakes in our area either have Eurasian Milfoil, Blue Green Algae, or some other invasive species. Thank you if you have paid dues. Please ask your friends and neighbor to join. Anyone can be a member. You do not have to live on the lake. If you have not paid, please reconsider. We are here

to work for you and help you solve any lake related problems.

Consider the following ,

FEATURE
Member of FOCA

Water Testing
Annual Meeting
Bi-annual newsletters
Website Ads

BENEFIT
**Save up to 15%
on homeowners' insurance**
Your family's health
Informative speakers
Stay up to date
Free to members

Please send your dues made payable to BBLA, to Ron Trivers, 113 Cressey Rd., Thessalon, On., P0R 1L0. If you prefer, we will accept dues payment at our AGM, on July 24th, 10:00 A.M., at Sowerby Hall.

See you at the AGM on Sunday July 24 2016 at 10 am at Sowerby Hall!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chairman's Letter	1
Update on Membership	1
AGM	2
Clear Lake Seminar	3
Did You Know?	4
FOCA Annual Meeting	5
MNR Water Levels Seminar	6
Photo Contest Calendar	7



Photo by:
Andrew VanderPloeg

BBLA
NEWSLETTER

Photo by:
Denise Santana

Chairman's Letter (Cont'd)

We know that the low water levels experienced during the late summer on Basswood Lake were of major concern to property owners. We continue to work with the MNR to understand the conditions that precipitated these low levels and how the MNR will be managing water levels in the future.

Our annual general meeting will be held on July 24th. We are planning a full agenda of reports on all of these programs. We did do a "straw" poll at the end of last year on whether we should hold the meeting in July or August. The results were equally divided between the two months, so as an experiment this year, we are going to hold

two separate meetings this year. We will have a formal business meeting on July 24th which will include updates on all of the activities that the BBLA currently has underway and also an update from the Huron Shores council. We plan to keep this meeting to a maximum of one and a half hours to get you all back onto the lake on a Sunday morning. This will be followed up with a more social meeting on the evening of August 24th in which we will feature a speaker who should be of interest to all lake residents. Please see the article in this newsletter for more information.

At the July 24th meeting, we will also be revealing a new Basswood Lake 2017 calendar that is

being produced from the submissions to our photo contest last year. The judges and the board were thrilled at the level of competition and the professional quality of all of the photos submitted for last year's contest and expect to run another contest in 2017.

As always, 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 at the meetings on July 24th and August 24th and on the lake in 2016 – have a good summer.

Mark Your Calendars

2016 Annual General Meeting

July 24th, 2016

Sowerby Hall

10 AM—11:30 AM

- Reports by Committees
- Huron Shores Mayor Gil Reeves

Special Speaker

August 24th, 2016

Sowerby Hall

Find Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/bigbasswood

Clear Lake Seminar

Lakes Under Attack



On Saturday, June 11th, 2016, Mike Hunting and Larry Allcorn attended an all day seminar- “Lakes Under Attack” in Espanola on behalf of the board of the Big Basswood Lake Association.

This seminar was sponsored by the Clear Lake Lake Stewardship Association. Clear Lake is a lake adjacent to Espanola that has many of the characteristics of Big Basswood Lake – spring fed, limited water supplies feeding into the lake and a single creek draining the lake. They have been diligent in measuring their water quality for years but, in spite of these efforts, suffered a blue green algae bloom last year. In addition, they have suffered from an infestation of aquatic plant species – specifically Millfoil. As a result, they sponsored this all day seminar on the prevention and reduction of invasive species infiltration.

The seminar was attended by some 20 lake associations, most of whom were located either in the Greater Sudbury watershed or on Manitou-

lin Island. Of the 20 lake associations in attendance, we were the only lake that has been fortunate enough to avoid these issues to date. Therefore, our point of view is much more focused on prevention than eradication.

The expert speakers that presented during the day were:

Dr. Andre Ferron – Professor College Boreal – on introduction of Millfoil weavels

Dr. Eric Sager – Professor Trent University – on invasive aquatic species

Dr. Charles Ramcharan – Professor Laurentian University – on blue-green algae

This was followed by a “brain storming” session in which each of the lake associations were asked to share their experiences. Mike and Larry spoke about our experience with handing out of septic tabs and water sampling kits at our annual general meeting. This information was very well received as none of the other associations had adopted

this practice – but many thought that they would. We also talked about our participation in the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition – Greater Sudbury does not have a central organization that can represent the lakes with a single voice to government.

All attendees expressed interest in holding another seminar next spring to get an update and further information on these important topics.

Mike and Larry left the meeting with a fresh appreciation for how fortunate that we are at Big Basswood to have a pristine lake and how important it is to redouble our efforts to keep it that way.

The Lake Partner Program/Measures of Quality

Since 1996 the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change working in partnership with FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations) have been monitoring the water quality in Ontario's inland lakes.

The goal of the Lake Partner Program is to better understand and protect the quality of Ontario's inland lakes by involving citizens in a volunteer-based water quality monitoring program.

Volunteers from BBLA have been participating in the Lake Partner Program since 1999. Our lake water is monitored for clarity with as many as 6 readings per year. Changes in water clarity can reflect an impact from shoreline development, climate change or other stressors. Total phosphorus and calcium are measured in the spring. These measurements can detect changes in nutrient status. Increased phosphorus levels can lead to algal blooms, decreased oxygen levels and decreased water clarity.

Big Basswood Lake, as we know, is the clearest inland lake according to Lake Partner Program data. Secchi depth readings have been consistently 10+ meters. Total phosphorus readings have been consistently low at 2.1 to 2.6 ug/l making it an oligotrophic lake. Most of Ontario's lakes (62%) are on the Canadian Shield and fall in to this category.

It is good to know what we've got—one of the most pristine lakes in Ontario. The BBLA's mission is to..... **“preserve and protect the natural beauty of Big Basswood Lake”**. Thank you to the volunteers who have been monitoring the lake's health over the last 17 years. Let us all work to keep the lake clean and clear!



Did You Know?

This is a brief new section to tell you about some changes in the area. Did you know.....

- 1) Carolyn Beach Inn and Restaurant has new owners, Neville and Isha Ira-Gould. Open 7 days a week. They are licensed and will have daily specials.
- 2) Doc's Café and Restaurant, on Brownlee Lake, is open by reservation only. They will accept groups of 8 to 25 people. Call 705-842-2118.
- 3) Sunset Beach Family restaurant now has Wendy Petaglia (former chef/owner of The Peppermill) as a chef. Specials this summer will be July 23...Prime Rib, August 20...smoked BBQ ribs, and September 17th...Chinese night.
- 4) Pier 17, in Blind River, will have Prime Rib dinner every Saturday night. Reservations recommended. 30 minutes from Sowerby Hall. 705-356-1717
- 5) Sinton Tavern has a fish fry every Friday night from 5-7 and a Sunday Brunch from 11-2. Children welcome.
- 6) Amish veggies and more, every Wednesday from noon to 4PM, on Genelle St. behind Value Mart
- 7) Sowerby Round Barn has a farmer's market every Saturday from 9-2, featuring very fresh Amish vegetables and Amish wares. Other vendors will feature their specialties.
- 8) The National Amateur Retriever Championships are an honor to have in this area and are fascinating to watch. Do not wear white clothing because the dogs are trained to watch the commands given by people dressed in white. Each day offers different challenges at different locations. Call The Red Top Inn for locations.
- 9) Any dues paying member of BBLA can advertise for free on our website www.bigbasswood.ca

FOCA Annual Meeting



Maeve Coccimiglio, vice chairman of the Big Basswood Lake Association, attended the FOCA annual meeting on behalf of the lake association. The meeting was held in Toronto on Saturday, March 5th, 2016.

FOCA – the Federation of Ontario Cottage is made up of 510 member associations – with very high retention rate of associations from year to year. Many of these member associations were represented at this year’s meeting. As reported in previous years, as a member of the Big Basswood Lake Association, you are automatically a member of FOCA. By being a part of the FOCA organization, the BBLA gains an important source of information on cottage related issues and a political partner in getting grants and disseminating information from the ministries and other various programs of interest.

The agenda for this year’s meeting included updates and reports from the following executives of FOCA:

- Ken Grant - President of FOCA
- Terry Rees - Executive Director
- Michelle Lewin - Communications Officer
- Tracy Logan and Deanna Panitz - Office Administrators
- Christie Davies - Data Management

In addition, the following speakers were featured:

- Dave Meslin - Keynote Speaker “100 ways to get the Massess Off their Asses”
- Bob Maynard – Broker for FOCA Insurance Program
- Carla Rose Mclean - VP MPAC “Market Trends and Sales Assessment”

Awards were given to the following lake associations:

- Linda Corkum - Director for Big Gull Lake East End
- Lake Wannapitae - Boat Safety for shoale identification

- Chandos Lake - Alliance Map, Newsletter, customized property assessment, ,Cleanup crews
- Tall Pines - Transcanada Trails, township relationship
- Muskoka Lakes - non confrontation education, reducing speed limits in areas
- Jack Lake Association - excellent news magazine Smoke Signals

For more information on the meeting and any of the presentations, please speak to Maeve directly or visit the FOCA web site at:

www.foca.ca

The website is an excellent source of information on many topics that are important to cottage property owners.

All of the members of our lake association are welcome to attend the 2017 FOCA annual meeting as associate members of FOCA. The location is expected to be Toronto again and we will publish the date in the fall newsletter. If you plan to attend, please let us know as someone from the board will once again be representing our membership at the meeting.

On Saturday July 23, 2016, join us for a fun family event that promotes living

The Kensington Conservancy, Clean North, Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition, The Johnson Farmers' Market, Thinking Rock Community Arts, and the St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan are proud hosts of the 1st Annual Sustain Algoma Expo



Formerly the Green Expo, the Sustain Algoma Expo will continue to promote exciting environmental projects, products and services in the Algoma District. Since 2009, the Green Expo has attracted over 6,000 people as the first Green/Environmental Expo in the Algoma Region. Last year, the organizing committee decided a new direction was needed for the annual event that wasn't strictly focused on the environment. That is how the **Sustain Algoma Expo** was born.

The Expo will be fun for the whole family!

MNR Water Levels Seminar

On March 29th, 2016, the Ministry of Natural Resources sponsored a seminar on water levels in the Algoma region at Sowerby Hall. This meeting was chaired by Peggy Wilson Partnership Specialist and presenting were Ray Lipinski and a dam specialist from the MNR.

Attending on behalf of the Big Basswood Lake Association were Maeve Coccimiglio, Andrew McKay, Dave Currie and Larry Allcorn. Many of the lakes in the Algoma watershed were represented at the meeting.

We were given an introduction to the types of dams in the region which included terms like weir, decks, spillways, step logs, toe, freeboard, crest and boons. All dams are controlled by water pressure weight and the amount of silt and debris that pass through rivers and streams. In addition stoplogs (wenches), gate valves, hydraulic gates, weirs emergency spillways and turbine intakes/penstocks can be applied to give control.

The purpose of a dam is to control water levels, to reduce flooding risks and to limit impact to life, property and infrastructure. Dams are governed by : Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act/Environment and Assessment Act/Fisheries Act/Conservation Authority Act/Navigation and Protection Act/Beds of Navigational Waters Act/Endangered Species Act.

We were educated on the ministries process of developing Management Plans for Dams. There is special training required for dam operators for whom there are a number of liabilities if problems arise. The operational plan includes that a zone of operation must be established for the dam which includes conditions of operation when water levels are low, as well as an effectiveness monitoring plan of compliance and the amendment provisions to be made.

- Maximum water Level
- Minimum water Level
- Operating Range
- Target Water Levels Preferred

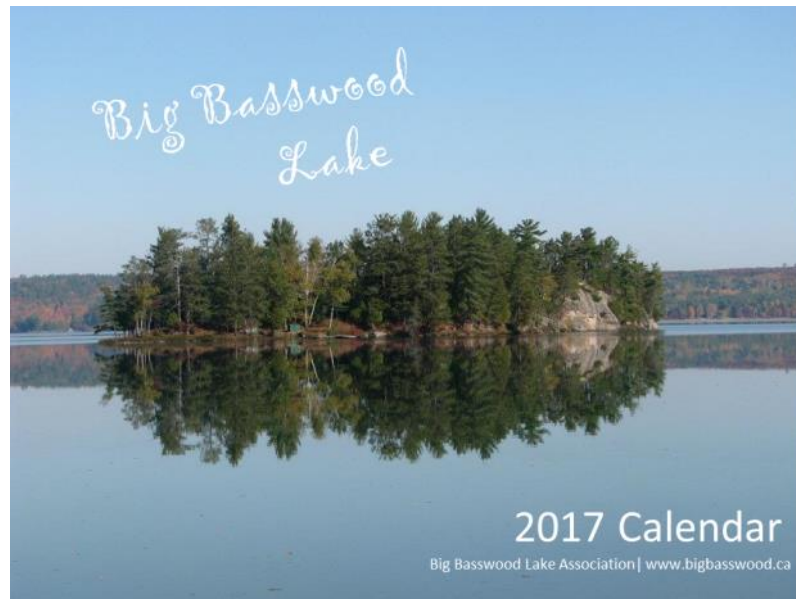
A graphical representation table with all these geometric levels given above sea level would be listed in the plan. Key considerations must be listed to give maximum benefits to sustain ecosystems ability with adequate flows at key times of the year. The maintenance of structures and equipment with safe reliable equipment must also be included in the management plan.

The BBLA has been informally monitoring the water levels at the Harris Creek dam over the past few years. Measurements of the water level “below the wing wall” are being taken by various members of the community. We will be creating a committee to more formally measure these levels on a periodic basis and to supply input the MNR as they develop plans for our lake.



Announcing NATURE IS ART Photo Calendar

Last Year's Photo Contest proved so popular that we have selected 12 of your favorite pictures and turned it into a 2017 photo calendar



Copies of this calendar will be on sale at this year's AGM for **\$10 per copy**. If you wish to order a copy and cannot attend the AGM, please email lallcorn@bell.net and we will arrange to mail a copy to you.

The original printing will be limited so we apologize in advance if we run out of copies at the AGM. We will be taking orders and payment at the meeting and will get a copy to you as soon as we can.



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,

mlhuntingsr@gmail.com

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



2016 Calendar of Events

Sowerby Farmers Market- Every Saturday from June until mid-October-9AM-2PM

1940's Museum Exhibit- Iron Bridge Historical Museum- daily from July 15-Aug 15

Fish Fry- Sinton Tavern, every Friday night from 5-7 PM

July 1- Canada Day celebrations, including fireworks on St. Joseph's Island at Jocelyn Park

July 2- Big Basswood Lake Fireworks-offshore @ Big Basswood Camp-

July 9th- Thessalon Fishing Derby along the river

July 10-16- National Amateur Retriever Championship-various locations in Huron Shores-check for locations at Red Top Motor Inn (705-843-2100)-If