



BBLA Newsletter

SPRING 2017

Chairman's Letter

In This Issue:

- . Chairman's Letter
- . Membership Report
- . 2017 Photo Contest
- . Septic Inspection Program
- . Update on Native Land Claim
- . Report on FOCA AGM
- . History - Canadian Camp Club
- . Water Test Results
- . Loon Lakes Survey
- . Did You Know?
- . Schedule of Events



Welcome back to Big Basswood Lake for the summer of 2017.

A cool and wet spring and some late spring storms have certainly contributed to an interesting start to the summer on Basswood. It looks like the weather has now turned and we are on our way to a beautiful summer. The good news is that we won't have to worry about early season lake levels this year.

The June 11th thunderstorm and "wind burst" has unfortunately resulted in some tree and cottage damage around the lake. I'm hoping that our members either avoided damage or are well on their way to recovery.

The board of directors has been busy in the off season on a number of fronts. As I hope you will see from this newsletter, we have been active in a number of areas that we think are important to the stewardship of our beautiful lake and the continued enjoyment of it by all of our members.

Some highlights of our activities include:

1. Marilyn and Bob Kellum attending the FOCA annual meeting in Toronto on behalf of the association this spring
2. Scoping out of a septic inspection program which was previously mandated by our membership.
3. Following up with the provincial and municipal governments on the native land claim that has been filed to understand how it may impact our members.
4. Initiation of a new photo contest and photo calendar which was so well received by our members last year.
5. Initiation of a Loon survey

We continue to give top priority to issue of water quality on our lake. As we talked about at last year's annual meeting, Big Basswood enjoys some of the best water quality in all of Ontario as measured by the FOCA lake partner program and documented on their web site. The Kellums continue to monitor water quality by taking monthly Secchi Disk readings at various points on the lake.

Membership Report

We finally did it. We broke the 100 membership barrier in 2016. We now have 105 paid members. Thank you for your support.

Your support shows that you care for "your" lake. We still have more than 50% who have not joined. They need to show that they care by joining the BBLA family in 2017. You can sign up at the AGM on July 30th. You can also sign up any Saturday mornings at the

Round Barn in Sowerby, which we prefer so there are no delays at the AGM.

Again, please talk to your friends and neighbors and ask them to join or renew their membership. The benefits far outweigh the cost. The cost is still only \$25 and you could save up to 10% on your property insurance

There are 4 ways to pay your dues:

1) see us at the Round Barn on Saturdays;

2) make check payable to BBLA and mail to Ron Trivers, 113 Cressey Rd, Thessalon, On., P0R 1L0;

3) Use PayPal;

4) pay at the AGM on July 30th."

Again, thank you for your support,

Mike Hunting, Membership

Chairman's Letter

(continued from page 1)

In addition, we have re-initiated phosphorous level testing this year. Elevated phosphorous levels are an important pre-indicator to septic problems and potential algae blooms which we have been fortunate to avoid. Also, please see the article in this newsletter reporting on our progress towards initiating a septic inspection program to protect the valuable resource that we have in Big Basswood Lake.

As noted in our schedule of events, the AGM will be held in at the Sowerby Hall at 10 A.M. on Sunday, July 30th. Please note that this is a week later than originally announced as the Hall was booked for a wedding on the weekend of July 23rd. We plan to restrict the AGM meeting topics to the important, formal issues that are

important to discuss with our membership. As with last year, we plan to follow up with an informal, social evening later in August featuring a speaker on an interesting local issue. Stay tuned for an announcement of the speaker and the date.

We announced in last fall's newsletter that our membership exceeded 100 members for the first time in many years. In fact, membership peaked at 105 members by the end of the year thanks to the hard work of Mike Hunting and the other board members. This represented just about half of the property owners on the lake and was an important achievement for us all. However, as Mike notes in this newsletter, we believe that we can do even better this year! The lake association board is

working very hard on your behalf of our property owners. There are a number of important issues on the table including the septic inspection program and the native land claim that require "clout" with the various levels of government. The higher percentage of lake residents that are members of the lake association, the stronger our voice is at the table, Thank you for continued support and please be sure to encourage your lake neighbors to join as well.

Wishing you a great summer on Basswood. Looking forward to meeting you at the AGM or sometime around the lake this summer.

Larry Allcorn - Chairman

2017 Photo Contest

Sensational Seasons at Big Basswood Lake

Photo Contest #2 begins this July 30th 2017 and extends through to May 31st 2018. The theme this year is "Seasons at Big Basswood." Choose your favourite point, creek, bay or brae to photograph and then post your pictures digitally at contest@bigbasswood.ca. Please refer to the contest rules below. Happy shutter bugging!!!

****Photos will be judged on; value system....light source /shadows, water reflections and textures, focal point and colour.**



Photo Contest Rules:

1. You must be a member or family member of the Big Basswood.(if you are not currently a member you may join on our site above.)
2. Your submission must be completed within the entry dates provided above.
3. All submissions become the property of the Big Basswood association at the completion of the contest.
4. Winners will receive a complimentary membership and a calendar for their efforts.

2016 Water Quality Measurements

Secchi depth reading: 12.2 (the average of six monthly readings)
Total Phosphorus: 2.4 (East basin-May reading)
Calcium: 3.5 (East basin-May reading)

Check out <https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-sampling-assistance/> for all of the data and see how Basswood compares!!

****and a thank you to Bob Kellum for doing the sampling. Fine job!!**

Septic Inspections

Big Basswood Lake enjoys some of the clearest and purest water of any inland lake in Ontario (source - FOCA lake partner website - please see the article on 2016 water quality readings in this newsletter). We believe that it is of paramount importance to protect this valuable resource for our members enjoyment and for the enjoyment of our families for years to come.

Several years ago, the lake association

membership voted unanimously to undertake a septic inspection program on the properties that surround Big Basswood Lake.

During the winter, the board of the lake association has begun to scope out a septic inspection program which we are targeting to begin in the summer of 2018.

We have researched a number of examples of how mandatory inspection programs have been conducted in

other regions and have begun discussions with a local engineering firm that has conducted these programs in the past to understand the approach and the costs. We also sent a letter to Huron Shores council in the fall of 2016 to inform them of our intent to proceed next year.

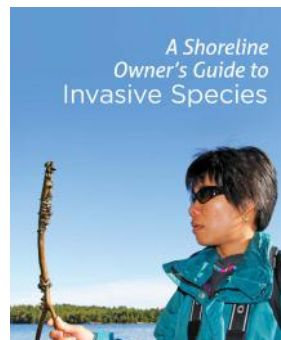
We will be providing a status report on this project and answering questions at this year's AGM.

Invasive Species Guide



*A Shoreline
Owner's Guide to
Invasive Species*

June 2017 – FOCA is pleased to announce the release of our new guide, “A Shoreline Owner’s Guide to Invasive Species.”



(Please visit the FOCA web site to access/print guidebook)

Canadian Lakes Loon Survey



Did you know that roughly 95% of the world's Common Loons (or 250,000 pairs) breed on Canada's Lakes?

This is information provided by Bird Studies Canada, a national not-for-profit organization. Data from their volunteer surveys and research projects help track

changes in bird populations, and inform conservation planning.

Big Basswood Lake Association is starting an initial attempt at a lake survey using the 2017 Canadian Lakes Loon Survey from Bird Studies Canada. This, for us, is a fledgling attempt.

Have you seen or heard loons on Big Basswood this year? Stop by the Association table at the Sowerby Farmers Market and report your sightings.

Submitted by Dixie Olmstead

Native Land Claim

Many rumours have continued to circulate amongst the property owners of Big Basswood Lake on a land claim that has been filed by the Thessalon First Nation that would include Big Basswood Lake within its boundaries.

The board of the lake association is attempting to clarify the nature of the claim and what the next steps in the negotiation might be. To this end, the

board has met with Mayor Gil Reeves of the Municipality of Huron Shores and has reached out to our local MPP, Mike Mantha. In addition, we have made contact with the Ontario government negotiator who has been assigned to the process.

At this time, our understanding is that Thessalon First Nation does not have a chief until elections in the fall of this year.

It is our understanding that the negotiation process is ongoing but that owners of private land will not be affected by the claim.

We will have a written statement with a status from Mr Mantha to be read at the AGM and Gil Reeves has agreed to attend the meeting in person to provide an update and field questions.



This spring BBLA was represented at the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association's (FOCA) AGM in Toronto by Marilyn and Bob Kellum. This meeting included a business meeting, board member elections, informative speakers, educational materials and a chance to network. Sound familiar? BBLA's AGM, coming up Sunday, July 30th, provides these opportunities for our members.

The first speaker, Bob Lake, provided background information about Ontario's electric power service and billing rates. FOCA representatives Terry Rees and Ian White followed with FOCA's efforts to assure reasonable and fair rates to rural users.

Dr. Stephanie Melles, from Ryerson University, presented "Understanding Inland Lakes- are they stressed out?". Lake stressors include climate change, water levels, acidification, eutrophication, shoreline development, and exploitation. Data being reviewed and monitored include Lake Partner phosphorus levels and hot spots beginning in 2003-2006. Research on lakes worldwide suggests that lake surface water temperature rise outpaces that of atmosphere and ocean.

>[Download the slides of Bob Lake's Electricity Presentation](https://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing-fall-2016-winter-2017/) (PDF, 14 pages)
: <https://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing-fall-2016-winter-2017/>

>[Watch raw video of Ian White's comments](#) (YouTube video; 5 minute

>[Download Dr. Melles slides on Inland Lakes](#) (PDF, 60 pages)

As a BBLA member you are also a FOCA member!! Check out their web page <https://foca.on.ca> for more information.

Finally, check out the links below for the year in review.....
<https://foca.on.ca/2016-year-in-review/>.

And a look towards next year.....

>[Read the remarks from the Executive Director](#) (PDF, 5 pages)

Canadian Camp Club

Over the winter, the lake association was contacted Mr. Dave Davis of Maryland via our Facebook page. Mr. Davis was looking for a "Lake Waquekobing" which was an "easy portage from the Mississagi River". His relatives had been members of the Canadian Camp Club that had been established on the lake in the early 1900s. We have been in touch with him and believe that Big Basswood which has also been known as Lake Wakeobi is, in fact, the same lake and that the Kellums cottage which is on Clubhouse Rd, is on the site of the original club house. We will continue to communicate with Mr. Davis in an attempt to learn more about this interesting chapter in our lake's history.

Below is an article from the NY Times announcing the formation of the Canadian Camp Club in 1905 ...

BBLA

Spring 2017
Newsletter

Page 7

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1905.

CAMP CLUB ORGANIZED.

Well-Known Sportsmen Anxious to Increase Interest in Hunting.

An association to be known as the Canadian Camp Club was organized at a meeting of sportsmen, naturalists, and explorers held last night at the Metropolitan Club, Sixtieth Street and Fifth Avenue. Dr. G. Lenox Curtis was Chairman of the meeting and James A. Cruikshank Secretary. The club is the outcome of a social gathering of men who have camped in Canada, which was held in this city about five years ago, and which developed into a social organization, with nearly 500 members.

The charter of the Canadian Camp Club, it was said, had been approved by the Secretary of the Province of Canada, and the papers of incorporation would be in the hands of the organization within ten days. No money will be spared to make the club a successful one, and everything will be done to increase the interest in hunting.

The club will be in one of the choicest game regions now open to sportsmen. A site has been selected adjacent to the Mississaga River, running generally northeast from Dayton, on Lake Huron, to Lake Winnebago, and thence to Hudson Bay, by way of Ground Hog River. It is the intention to buy choice locations all along this route of nearly 1,000 miles and built on them log camps and cabins.

The club owns several tracts of forest property, and on one of them, near Dayton, on Lake Wahquekobing, the club headquarters will shortly be built. The organization plans to explore and map out much of this wild country and select and purchase desirable sites for outlying camps. Caribou, wood buffalo, moose, and wild fowl are said to be found in great abundance along the Mississaga, as well as brook trout of enormous size, small-mouth black bass of record weight, and many other varieties.

The officers elected to serve the club

many other varieties.
The officers elected to serve the club for the year are:
President—Dr. Robert T. Morris; First Vice President—Charles Wake; Second Vice President—Dr. G. Lenox Curtis; Secretary—James A. Cruikshank; Treasurer—Girard N. Whitney. The Executive Committee consists of Dr. G. Lenox Curtis, Chairman; L. O. Armstrong, James A. Cruikshank, W. T. McCulloch, Dr. Robert T. Morris, Charles Wake, Girard N. Whitney, and the Hon. Julius H. Seymour. The Board of Directors includes Samuel Walter Taylor, L. O. Armstrong, Montreal; W. D. Baldwin, New York; Daniel C. Beard, New York; F. N. Benham, Bridgeport, Conn.; George M. Bosworth, A. C. Boyce, M. P., Sault Ste. Marie, Canada; Major D. L. Brainard, United States Army; Austin Corbin, New York; Dr. F. A. Cook, New York; James A. Cruikshank, New York; Dr. G. Lenox Curtis, New York; Arthur H. Dakin, Boston; George H. Daniels, New York; J. B. Dobie, Thessalon, Canada; Dr. H. T. Galpin, New York; A. E. Dymont, M. P., Thessalon; Judge John P. Grant, Stamford, N. Y.; James K. Hackett, New York; G. Hamilton Harman, Montreal, Canada; the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Edward M. House, Austin, Texas; Thomas Martindale, Philadelphia; Major Edgar A. Mearns, United States Army; Dr. Robert T. Morris, New York; W. T. McCulloch, New York; I. H. Page, Chicopee Falls, Mass.; Senator Boies Penrose, Philadelphia; Charles M. Pratt, New York; Dr. Nicholas Senn, Chicago, Ill.; Julius H. Seymour, New York; George Shiras, Pittsburg; W. R. Smyth, Rydal Bank, Canada; Ernest Thompson Seton, New York; Dr. Henry Van Dyke, Princeton, N. J.; Charles Wake, New York; ex-Mayor Washburne, Chicago; Henry Wellington Wack, F. R. G. S., London, England; Girard N. Whitney, New York, and H. C. Yeiser, Cincinnati, Ohio.

ty and skillfully to New York.
of complete loss of memory was
after he had reached home.

Did You Know?

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

- 1) The BBLA accepts associate memberships for people who are not on the lake. Through FOCA, you may be able to get up to 10% off your homeowner's insurance.
- 2) Doc's Café and Restaurant, on Brownlee Lake, is again, only open by reservations. They will accept groups of 8 to 25 people. Call 705-842-2118.
- 3) Sunset Beach Family restaurant still has Chef Wendy Lynn. Specials this summer will be July 8th, celebrating Canada's 150th with many provincial specials; August 12th with all u can eat wings; September 23 will be Chinese specialties and originals; and October 26-28 will be Oktoberfest specials.
- 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) KP Restaurant, formerly The Sinton Tavern, features a Friday night buffet from 5-7PM for only \$14.99, and, a Sunday breakfast buffet from 9AM to 1PM for only \$9.99. Call 705-842-3663 for daily specials.
- 6) The Outpost Lodge, on Rt. 129, is open to the public for dinner. Reservations required (705-841-2518). Check their website, "outpostlodge.com" for details.
- 6) The new Fitness Center in Thessalon is open. Memberships are available at the Town Office. You can choose from daily, weekly, 1 month and 6 month memberships.
- 7) Sowerby Round Barn once again, 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) Once again, there will be retriever trials in our area. The Northern Ontario Retriever Association will hold trials in the Iron Bridge area on August 3-4. Call The Red Top Inn for locations.
- 9) Any dues paying member of BBLA can advertise for free on our website www.bigbasswood.ca Enjoy your summer, Mike Hunting

2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IN BBLA AREA

BBLA Farmers' Market every Saturday from 9-2 at both the Round Barn in Sowerby and the Iron Bridge Historical Museum.
Spring 2017 Newsletter

Page 9 Jamming Session at the Thessalon Curling Club every Wednesday at 7:30 PM. Show your skills with an instrument or just sit back and enjoy the music.

Family Fun Time, every Tuesday, from 6:30-8:30PM, at the Iron Bridge Recreation Center. Activities for all ages.

Free exercise class for seniors, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3-4PM at the Iron Bridge United Church. Call Lisa for more information, 705-356-2265.

August 3-7- Thessalon Community Days featuring Baseball, music, games, parades, and fireworks.

August 5-Boat Poker Run-see "pokerrunsamerica.com" or call 800-354-9145, ext. 227.

August 7th-Country Fair and Silent Auction at the Heritage Park and Museum in Little Rapids, from 11AM to 3PM.

August 19th-Bagpiping concert on Hunting's dock at 4PM-SW side of lake

September 2- Iron Bridge Fall Fair-Check "Huronshores.ca" for more details.

September 16th- Sylvan Circle Art Tour from 9-5-See "sylvancircle.ca" for more details.

September 30th-Arts on the Trail in Elliot Lake-many artist display and sell their works throughout the city.

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