



Spring/Summer 2012

Newsletter

Chairman's Letter

Dear Big Basswood Lake Residents,

The winter has come and gone, or was it ever here? Ice was late to form. It left early. It was never solid enough for any winter activity. Is it man made global warming or unusual solar activity? I will not enter that political arena, nor is it the purpose of BBLA to do so. BBLA is here to represent you, the residents of the cleanest lake in Ontario. We can be an intermediary between you and Government agencies, such as Huron Shores, Algoma Health, and the MNR. We are here to protect the health of our lake!

Speaking of Algoma Health, I spoke to Chris Spooner, regional director in Blind River and he stated that very few septic inspections on Big Basswood were completed 2 years ago. Due to staffing limitations, our inspections were not completed. He suggested I call Huron Shores to

speaking with Deborah Tonelli. She told me nothing is planned at this time. If you, our members, are aware of a septic problem anywhere on the lake, call Algoma Public Health, 705-356-2551, register your complaint, and they will respond. It is possible that Tulloch Engineering may be doing inspections in the future. They will be doing a "test" inspection of Clear Lake, and, if that goes well, they may inspect us in a year or two. Your Board will keep you posted on this issue.

If you have not seen it, look at the lake capacity study for Big Basswood and Bright Lakes:

<http://huronshores.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Lake-Capacity-Study-5-Oct-2011-presentation.pdf>. Basswood takes almost 25 years to replenish its entire water supply. Amazing!

I want to remind all members and non-members that if you pay dues to BBLA, you become a member of

FOCA. When you are a member of FOCA, you can save up to 10% on your cottage insurance. Your savings should exceed the cost of our dues (still only \$25). It is a no brainer to join! Dues should be made payable to Big Basswood Lake Assoc. and sent to Jane Mason, 211 Coles Bay Rd,

Thessalon, On. P0R 1L0. *Note that this is a new address, as all RR#'s have been eliminated.*

Sincerely,

Michael Hunting, Chairman BBLA
(705-842-1833,
mlhuntingsr@gmail.com)

Coming Events

June 26th- Check the latest report on the health of Canada's bird population at this website: <http://www.stateofcanadasbirds.org/> available June 26th

July 6th- 7PM Green Expo- Local Meal- Johnson Twp Community Center- Desbarats- Tickets are \$25 and will support Central Algoma Fresh Water Coalition <http://www.centralalgomafreshwatercoalition.ca/events.php>

July 22nd- 10 AM- **Annual General Meeting of BBLA**- Sowerby Hall- Jim Johnston, President of Friends of Algoma East, will provide an interesting presentation on wildlife. We will also hold our biannual election of board members. Bryan McDougal, Bob Kellum, and Lolly Hunting are on the nominating committee for our new board. If you are interested in being a board member, please contact Bryan at 705-941-1029. Please attend our meeting and show support for our lake.

July 26th Lake Links- A Water Quality Workshop sponsored by CAFWC- Sowerby Hall- 2PM to 8PM

July 28th- 5 PM- Bag piping Concert- Hunting's dock- Southwest shore of Big Basswood Lake- Listen from your boat to the sounds of the Paris Port Dover Piping Band, one of the world's best Piping Bands. Contributions for the band will be taken.

News from the WILDLIFE & HABITAT INVENTORY

'Tis the season.....

Last fall the Wildlife & Habitat Inventory went live at <http://www.bigbasswood.ca/forum.php> with an on-line forum. So far, just a few of you have signed on. It is a chance for the Big Basswood Lake community to share observations, pictures, ask questions and keep each of us informed about what is happening on and around the lake. Get on-line and sign on now--- *'tis the season* (we all live for). If you are off the grid at the lake, take notes or keep a journal, get on the forum when you get home or get it to me in person, via mail or phone. ***

Observations from the fall and winter from the Forum:

- Last summer, on the north shore, there was a mama bear with 3 cubs spotted in two different locations.
- Throughout the summer there were many eagle and hawk sightings, including bald eagles & juveniles on the north shore, over Red Rock Lake and even at the dump!
- Pileated woodpeckers.
- A pair of wild turkeys on the south west side of the lake.
- The eastern basin of the lake was NOT frozen on 2-9-12! According to Ice Watchers, the lake froze on 2-10-12 and reopened on 3-18 or 19. This was the shortest winter people can remember.

I encourage everyone to join in with their observations, comments, and pictures.

SIGN ON!!!!

***Marilyn Kellum! !

11007 Mull Rd.!!

Tipton, MI 49287

734-428-8725 (H), 734-717-1290 (Cell-will check messages at Basswood)

mkellum@umich.edu

Or find me at the Canadian Club on north shore!!

Eat Local, Buy Fresh (Courtesy of Board Member Marilyn Kellum)

Summertime is lake time! It is also time for fresh local food, in abundance. There are several farmer's markets available in the Big Basswood Lake area this summer.

See the list below:

1) *Iron Bridge Farmer's Market*

Saturdays- July through September 9AM-2PM. Located at the Iron Bridge Museum, corner of Hwy 17 and James Street.

2) *Sowerby Farmers Market*

Saturdays- July through September 9AM-2PM. Hwy 17 to Basswood Lake Rd at Cordukes 12 sided Round Barn

3) *Blind River Farmers Market*

Saturdays- 9AM-2PM Located at the Pavilion next to Timber Village Museum on Hwy 17, east of Blind River

4) *Johnson Township (Desbarats) Farmers Market*

Fridays- 3PM_6PM & Saturdays 9AM-1PM-July and August

Saturdays- 10AM-1PM September 10th through October 8th. Located at Johnson Township Community Center, 1 Cameron Avenue

Sowerby Round Barn

- The Sowerby Round barn and Sowerby Hall are available for rent. If you need to cook you can rent the hall for \$100 or \$175 rents both the hall and the barn. Contact David Ratz at 705-842-6135 or ratzdi@gmail.com.
- Grand opening for the Round Barn including ribbon cutting ceremony Aug 11, 7pm – 9am-2pm farmer's market and bbq. To buy a table for the farmers market contact Will Samis 705-843-5567
- Friday Aug 10 - auction