



BBLA Newsletter

SUMMER 2015

See you at the AGM on Sunday July 19, 2015 at 10 am at Sowerby Hall!

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Chairman's Letter

I am very pleased to welcome everyone back to Big Basswood Lake for the summer of 2015.

As we mentioned last fall, the Big Basswood Lake Association has been rejuvenated in the last few years with our membership growing back to and beyond the levels that it saw in prior years. The goal of our board, under the leadership of membership chairman Mike Hunting, 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.

During the winter and spring months, the board has continued to be active on behalf of the membership. We attended the spring general meeting for the

Federation on Ontario Cottage Associations in Toronto, participated in fall and spring meetings held by the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition, worked further on the Property Assessment review initiative and continued to talk with property owners, the MNR and the Bright Lake cottagers association on issues surrounding water levels and quality. Please see the articles in the newsletter on all of these initiatives.

Our annual meeting will be held on the third Sunday of July as usual – which falls on July 19th. We are planning a full agenda of reports on these programs along with guest speakers that will update us on the battle against invasive species in Algoma inland lakes and a second speaker from

the OPP that will give us a quick update on the new ATV rules in effect as of July 1st as well as field any ATV or Marine related questions that you may have.

At that meeting, we will also be revealing the winner of our photo contest. The judges and the board were thrilled at the level of competition and the professional quality of all of the submissions. We'll show you a sampling at the AGM – please see a further update in this newsletter..

(cont'd pg. 2)

Update on Membership

Last year we had 77 dues paying members. That is the highest total in many years. Thank you for your support. It is still not what it should be. At last count we had 225 homes on Big Basswood. We should be at least 50% membership or higher.

I think it is easy to be apathetic when we have no problems. But

think about the cost, only \$25. That's equal to 5 lattes from Tim Horton's or Starbucks. For \$25 you get our newsletters which keep you informed of happenings in the area. We provide informative and entertaining speakers at the AGM.

(cont'd pg. 3)



Find Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/bigbasswood

Chairman's Letter (cont'd)

(cont'd from pg. 1)

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 seeing you at the AGM and on in 2015 – have a good summer.

Larry Allcorn, BBLA President



A Big Reveal At Big Basswood Lake

The Big Basswood Lake Association will be hosting its Annual General Meeting at Sowerby Hall on Sunday June 19th 2015. In addition to two exceptional speakers, Laura Tonelli from the Invasive Species Centre in Sault St. Marie, and a local OPP officer who will address new ATV and UTV rules, a winner of the wildlife and habitat photo contest will be revealed.

Many residents and associate members have been submitting pictures to the www.bigbasswoodlakeassociation.ca website in an effort to win the prize for the best photograph of habitat or wildlife which awards a prize of \$325.00 dollars towards a print or original painting at Watercolours by Sheila from her Studio on Coles Bay Road.

Judges were chosen as objective people with art backgrounds not directly on the lake.

Nora Ann Harrison, Joyce Ratz and Shannon Vine were the three ladies chosen to judge the 84 pictures submitted to the web page. All pictures will be included in a slide show presented at the meeting along with pictures that received honorary mention as well as the two runners up with the winner receiving the special prize at the end of the meeting. Judges comments will be available to read with four honorary mentions

from each judge.

All Big Basswood Lake residents and their families are encouraged to attend the meeting. We are also inviting anyone who wishes to join Freshwater Ontario Coalition Association to receive reduced insurance costs to join our lake association as an associate member. Remember to be part of the solution not part of the problem !



Parc Update

In 2014, the lake association, in consultation with Lincoln North, studied the MPAC assessments on Big Basswood Lake to determine if there was any basis for a collective appeal of assessments on behalf of all property owners. As reported in the spring 2014 newsletter and at the 2014 annual general meeting, when we compared the sales price of the last 16 property sales on the lake with their corresponding assessments, we found that, on average, the assessment accurately reflected the sales price. As a result the recommendation of the board to the membership was that there was no basis for a group appeal. If individual property owners decided that they still wished to pursue an appeal of their particular assessment, Lincoln North offered at the meeting to consult with the property owners on the process.

The association followed up with a "town hall" meeting which was held on August 4th 2014. The intent of this meeting was to provide a fo-

rum for individual property owners to discuss the assessment process with Lincoln and get advice on how they might proceed.

Unfortunately, turn out for this town hall was very low and there was only very limited interest in pursuing any appeals. Dave Currie and Larry Allcorn then met further with Lincoln in late fall of last year to determine next steps. Since there are very few ongoing sales on the lake, the next re-assessment review period doesn't start until 2016 and there didn't seem to be strong support for an appeal process, we are putting the PARC committee on hold for the interim. If, in the future, there is renewed interest in pursuing appeals, the committee can be resurrected at that time.

Moose in Town



This moose has been seen around the west end of Thessalon over the last couple of weeks.

Membership Update (cont'd)

We provide an equally informative website, bigbasswood.ca. Did you know the website provides a medium for free advertising for any dues paying member. In short you get more than what you pay for!

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 and please pay your dues:

FEATURE

- Member of FOCA
- Water Testing
- Annual Meeting
- Bi-annual newsletters
- Classified Advertising on website

BENEFIT

- Save up to 15% on homeowners insurance, discounts on Cottage Life magazine, discounts at the Canadian Canoe museum and more. Also, an expanded voice at the political table – please see the following for a list of all benefits <http://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>
- Your family's health
- Informative speakers
- Stay up to date
- Free to members

Sincerely,
Michael Hunting, Membership Chairman

Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association - AGM

The annual general meeting for the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association was held in Toronto on Saturday, March 7th. I represented the members of Big Basswood Lake Association at this meeting. Note that since Big Basswood Lake Association is a member of FOCA, any members of our association are welcome to attend this annual event. Next year's date will be published in the newsletter (if you are attending, please let me know via email at lallcorn@bell.net so I can see you there).

FOCA is a large, well organized association which has been established for over 50 years and represents many of the individual cottage associations in Ontario. There were over 100 attendees at this meeting which represented many of the 500+ member associations. The mandate of the organization is to provide organizational clout and lake stewardship resources in a way that the individual associations could not. The meeting itself is an

excellent opportunity to share ideas and viewpoints amongst the member organizations.

Following were some of the key agenda items for this year:

- Business Meeting – chaired by Terry Rees, full time director of FOCA
- FOCA Achievement Award to Redstone Lake Association for their initiative on lake shore education and stewardship
- Presentation by Wollastan Lake Association on their summer day camp program.
- Presentation by Dave Price – Central Ontario superintendent of forestry management for Hydro One
- Presentation by FOCA staff members on Lake Partner program and Aquatic Species monitoring tool kit.
- Panel on Managing Association Risks – representatives from Case Insurance, OPP and Borden, Gervais law firm.

For more information on the extensive resources available through FOCA, please speak to a board member or visit the web site at www.foca.on.ca

Big Basswood Lake Association plans to continue our membership in FOCA and to be an active participant in their annual meetings.

Larry Allcorn, BBLA President



Up Coming Important Dates:

- Every Saturday Morning: The Farmers Market on Basswood Lake in the Round Barn, Sowerby 9:00 to 2:00
- Sunday Brunch at the Sinton, Thessalon (all summer) All you can eat! \$7.95 11:00-2:00 705 842 2414
- Buffet and Fish Fry at the Sinton, Thessalon (all summer) All you can eat! \$13:00 5:00-7:00 705 842 2414
- July 11 Fish Derby Registration at the Thessalon Municipal Office until July 8th
- July 16 Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition Annual Meeting 7 - 9:30 109 Bruce Station Road, Bruce Station 705 297 2201
- July 19 BIG BASSWOOD LAKE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10:00a.m. Sowerby Hall, Basswood Lake Road 705 842 1833
- July 25 Sustain Algoma Expo (formerly the Green Expo) at the Johnson Community Centre, Desbarats for more info visit <http://sustainalgomaexpo.com>
- July 25 CAFC Pancake Breakfast Johnson Community Centre 9:00-11:00 Adults \$10.00 – Kids \$5:00 705 297 2201
- August 15 The Annual Paris Port Dover Pipers (the best, yet!) Hunting's dock, southwest Part of Basswood Lake 705 842 1833

Science is Us!

Marilyn Kellum & Felix Rogers

Typically, when we think of “science” it brings up images of scientists working in a laboratory conducting experiments, meticulously measuring and recording data. The results of these studies are published in scientific and professional journals and the information is applied in all sorts of ways. The idea that we all can be “scientists” is a novel one, but now, using the internet to communicate and record, everyone can participate in science.

Citizen science is especially well-suited for monitoring water quality. FOCA’s Lake Partner Program is a province-wide, volunteer-based water quality monitoring program in partnership with the MNR since 1993. Volunteers from Big Basswood Lake have been collecting water clarity data since 1999, and total phosphorus from 2002 through 2012 (<http://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-sampling-assistance/>).

The Invasive Species Centre recently began the Invasive Species Centre’s Early Detection and Rapid Response Network, a program that educates and equips residents to be able to identify and report invasive species. Taylor Wright, project co-ordinator has described a citizen scientist as “Any individual with an interest in the environment or science” who will volunteer time and/or expertise to a science-related task. This program will rely heavily on citizen scientists participation (<http://www.saultthisweek.com/2015/06/16/citizen-scientists-footsoldiers-in-invasive-speciesconflict>).

Bird Studies Canada looks to volunteer citizen scientists to track the health of bird populations and habitats. On Big Basswood Lake volunteers could easily take part in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (<http://bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/clls/index.jsp?lang=EN>) or the Great Backyard Bird Count (<http://bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/gbbc/index.jsp?lang=EN>). Let us know if you are interested in participating in either of these programs.

Finally, we think we are all citizen scientists when we are at Basswood. We all have interest in our lake environment. Each year we check on— the loons, the bears, the Lady’s slippers, the fish, owls, the water temperature, frogs, ice melt—whatever it may be. The Wildlife and Habitat Inventory (<http://www.bigbasswood.ca/forum.php>) is one place where these observations can be shared. Most of us observe. Recording and sharing our observations will only increase our knowledge and appreciation of everything Basswood!!





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



Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition – Watershed Unification Project

During the fall of 2014 and the spring of 2015 the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition (CAFC) held a series of meetings to kick off and gather input for a new initiative – the Watershed Unification Project.

The CAFC is an Algoma based organization that is concerned with the health of Central Algoma's Watersheds, extending from Huron Shores on the East, to the eastern border of Sault Saint Marie on the West. In view of its size and pristine water, Big Basswood Lake is an important component of Central Algoma. Big Basswood Lake Association continues to maintain an active membership in the association. The CAFC board is made up of interested area residents and is particularly looking for new directors to guide the unification process.

The goal of the Watershed Unification Project is to bring together local stakeholders in order to obtain support and guidance in carrying out their stewardship initiatives. Representatives from government, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Algoma Health and a number of lake associations joined the public from across the watershed to attend a series of roundtable meetings in November of 2014. The roundtables were facilitated by Freshwater Futures, a binational consulting firm working for the Great Lakes Basin, and generated a strategic plan and sustainable funding model.

For further information on this initiative and a look at the strategic plan that was published in February of 2015, please reference the CAFC website: <http://centralalgomafreshwatercoalition.ca/reports.php>

