

Basswood Lake



Cottagers' Association

Spring/Summer 2010

Lake News

Message from the Chair

Well, it's time to open the cottage and dust off the water toys, as summer is just around the corner.

With water toys in mind, I would like to remind everyone that the new regulations requiring pleasure craft operator cards have now taken full effect. You must carry your card with you or risk a fine. Patrols have already begun on the lake.

On another note, with the early spring and lack of precipitation the lake is at a lower level than normal for this time of year so please take care when traveling near shallower areas of the lake.

I would like to thank Maria Kasch for completing and filing all the year-end documents with Revenue Canada, in order to bring the Association up to date.

If anyone wishes to join our board of directors, or would like to nominate someone, please let me know and I will bring resolutions to the annual meeting. Please remember that this is your association, so step up and help out.

Thank you to the by-laws committee for their hard work compiling a draft version of the new association by-laws.

These will help guide future board members in the operation of the association. A copy of the proposed by-laws is included with your newsletter, and will be presented for adoption at the annual meeting.

I am in the process of confirming guest speakers for the annual meeting. If you have a topic you think would interest the group or would like to hear discussed, please email me at kp-aero@sympatico.ca and I will try to include your idea.

One item brought to my attention recently is that several thousand dollars of Huron Shores' allocation for Basswood Lake roads was left unapplied for last year. Please ensure that your road committee applies for this funding.

At this time I would like to thank all my fellow board members for their time and effort the past few years. I have enjoyed sitting on the board as chairman, but have decided to step down from this position after the annual meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Kenneth A. (Kasiy) Shaw



Photo courtesy of Marilyn Kellum. Her son, Benson, captured images around the lake to spell Basswood and presented Marilyn with the collection, which is now proudly displayed at the cottage.

What's New

The annual meeting will be held at Sowerby Hall this year. Join us on Sunday, July 25th from 10am to noon. Doors open at 9:30.

Please remember your \$25 cottagers' association membership fee is due. You can pay at the annual meeting, or send your cheque to Jane Mason, Basswood Lake Cottagers' Association, RR#2, Thessalon, ON P0R 1L0

2010 Green Expo

July 23rd and 24th at the Farmers' Market / Community Centre in Desbarats. For more information, visit the Ontario Stewardship website: www.ontariostewardship.org.

North Shore Forest Plans

There is some work scheduled on the north shore of the lake (OA-122). Our section is the North Shore Forest (680), which includes a map, the plan and the Annual Work Schedule 2010-2011. The website is www.ontario.ca/forestplans

For more information, please contact Norm Iles, Management Forester, Northshore Forest Inc. Phone: 705-842-0985
E-mail: norm.iles@domtar.com

Shoreline is Key to a Healthy Waterfront - A Cottager's Viewpoint

For several years now the Basswood Lake Association has focused on water quality throughout the year and at the annual meeting, concentrating on water disposal systems, and in particular septic tanks. This is one important aspect, but the bigger picture includes a look at the shoreline – a source of fascination for biologists, a focal point for vacationers, and a key to property values for homeowners. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has an educational booklet called *The Shoreline Primer*, which develops this idea further. In brief, it focuses on the four aspects of the shore:

Shoreline (cont'd)

- Littoral zone: from water's edge to where sunlight no longer reaches lake bottom
- Shoreline: where land and water meet, the bulwark against erosion
- Riparian zone: the section of land closest to the shore that controls erosion and sifts impurities from surface run-off
- Upland zone: higher, drier ground typically covered with trees whose roots stabilize the slopes

The key to a healthy lake is the shoreline, and one important step is eliminating potential pollutants. Maintaining as much riparian vegetation as possible is also a key aspect of protection against runoff. Replacing shoreline vegetation with weed-treated lawns prematurely ages the lake. High phosphates leaching from septic systems also contribute. When too many nutrients enter the lake, plant and algae grow at rates so fast that the natural systems of the lake cannot adjust. Trout especially will suffer, and other less desirable fish will thrive.

The Shoreline Primer provides helpful ideas for restoring an altered shore, such as reducing the impact of a lawn. Buffering it from the lake by allowing a zone of natural vegetation provides an esthetic benefit and a positive environmental impact. Another suggestion is to switch to a shore-friendly dock. Information on this idea is also posted on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/).

We are all drawn to the natural beauty of Basswood Lake, the crystal clear water, the call of the loons, and the long stretches of undeveloped shoreline. We can all make efforts to minimize the adverse impact where we interrupt the shoreline to build our seasonal or year-round cottage. Preservation is good for the lake, the shoreline, and all of its inhabitants – human, plant and animal.

Felix J. Rogers

Additional information on shoreline management is available on an MSU-sponsored website: www.shoreline.msu.edu.