

# **Big Basswood Lake Association AGM**

**July 21, 2019 Sowerby Hall**

Board members present: Larry Allcorn, Dixie Olmstead, Marilyn Kellum, Maeve Coc-cimiglio, Nancy Bakemeier, Phil Conley, Cynthia Wood, Joanne Falk

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:11 and welcomed all to the AGM. He intro-duced guests to the meeting including the Mayor of Huron Shores, Georges Bilodeau and Sara Leach, also from Huron Shores. Peggy Wilson from the MNRF was present with Preston Lennox, the guest speaker. BBLA board members were also introduced.

The meeting began with a tribute to Mike Hunting, past president of the association, from Joanne Falk. It was announced that an annual stewardship award was being de-veloped to acknowledge contributions to the lake community.

The 2018 AGM minutes were reviewed by the Secretary. Joan Maguire moved and Linda Zahurek seconded to approve the minutes as submitted.

The Treasurer reviewed Annual Financial Statement, dated April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. The Opening Balance was \$7,071.00. Credits were \$4,506.33, debits were \$3,879.86 leaving the Closing Balance of \$7,697.50. Bob Kellum moved to accept the report as presented with a second from Sheila Currie. The motion passed.

Joanne is refining membership procedures including up-dating the data base and the registration process. BBLA continues to be present at the Farmer's Market which has been effective in recruiting members. All are encouraged to recruit their neighbors to become involved. Also, Associate Memberships are available.

The Lake Partner Program results from 2018 were presented by Marilyn. Water clarity, on average, was 10.7 meters. Total phosphorus was 1.6 in both the East and West Basins. Calcium was 2.7. There also is an Ice Tracking Program and Marilyn asked for a volunteer for that.

This is the third year of BBLA's participation in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. The lake is divided into 5 areas and the data is submitted at the end of the year. Dixie has been coordinating this initiative.

Nancy has been continuing to collect stories and photos about the history of the lake and its community. She noted that the 12-Sided Barn, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary, has a new exhibit of farm tools. The Sweet Sowerby Social, co-sponsored with the Sowerby Hall Heritage Committee, is scheduled for August 21st at the barn. The presentation will be about marine transportation on Lake Huron.

The BBLA web-site, which has been an effective tool for communicating to our membership, will be redesigned and updated by the spring of 2020. John Kasch was thanked for his years of overseeing the web-site.

BBLA members are also members of the Federation of Ontario Cottage Association (FOCA). Larry reviewed the benefits of FOCA membership. A question was raised about the CADE insurance program which Larry will pursue.

The Boundary Land Claim is in the early stage of negotiations. Larry has been periodically in contact with Mark Richard for updates and questions. Nothing is happening currently. He noted that in Sault Today it was recently reported that the Garden River negotiations, started in 2003, reached an agreement. Again it was stressed that private lands and access will not be affected.

The next photo contest was announced. The theme is people of Basswood and cottage life. Photos must be submitted digitally, starting today through 6/01/2020. The display format for the pictures will be determined.

Last summer the MNRF had an informational meeting about the Dam Operating Plan for the Harris Creek Dam. Water level goals are dependent on time. Lake trout spawn in the fall need stable water levels. The walleye spawn in Bright Lake is late spring/early summer and cottagers on both lakes have water lines and lakeshore structures to consider. A crack has been reported in the wing wall and an engineer is due to inspect it and recommend repair. Water has been released to allow for this. A new dam is in the plan. Peggy Wilson will keep BBLA informed as plans progress.

BBLA was awarded an Ontario Trillium Grant to fund septic inspections on lake front properties. The program is funded for \$60,000 and is being implemented by Huron Shores and Tulloch Engineering. There are 260 properties on the lake. As of today, 52 inspections have been completed and 33 are scheduled. Sara Leach, from Huron Shores was available to schedule appointments at the meeting.

The lake was sampled last summer for the Broadscale Monitoring Program which raised some questions and concerns. The report was released this spring. Preston Lennox, Fisheries Population Specialist with the Northeast Biodiversity and Monitoring Unit, Science and Research Branch of the MNRF, presented an explanation of the scope of the study and the results for Big Basswood Lake. The presentation was thorough and informative.

The Irish Blessing was read by Maeve in memory of Michael O'Brien to close the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Marilyn Kellum  
Secretary

