

Big Basswood Lake Association AGM-July 24, 2011
Sowerby Hall

Board Members Present: Jon Cavanagh, Peter Van Hoof, Kaisiy Shaw, Mike Hunting, Lolly Hunting, Andrew McKay, Marilyn Kellum, Len Iverson, Jane Mason

Guests: Gil Reeves, Mayor of Huron Shores
Dan Fisher from the Canadian Border Service Agency

Chairman Mike Hunting called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. He then asked for a moment of silence and prayer for Jody Fullerton, one of the initial founders of the lake association, and his family.

Mike announced that board members Joanne Falk, Maria Kasch and Jane Mason have resigned from the Board of Directors. Specifically, the position of treasurer has been vacated. He requested that anyone interested in serving on the board, especially as treasurer, contact him. The board can appoint members to complete vacant board positions until the next general election. He also introduced our two speakers Mayor Gil Reeves and Ken Fisher.

Mike introduced each of the Board Members and their responsibilities. Each reported on their activities and are as follows:

Peter Van Hoof-Reminded the members to be cognizant of boating rules and reviewed required equipment. He reported that the game warden has been out on the lake and writing tickets.

Jon Cavanagh-Participates in FOCA's LakePartner program sampling water clarity and phosphorus levels regularly. He noted that these levels have remained stable over the years and that the secchi disk reading of 11 meters makes Big Basswood one of the clearest lakes in Ontario.

Kaisiy Shaw-Past chair and would reassume those duties if necessary.

Andrew McKay-Taking over the Big Basswood web-site. He hopes to be able to provide more information to the membership.

Marilyn Kellum-Lake stewardship. She is developing a Wildlife and Habitat Survey for lake residents to monitor, learn and share information about plants and animals we all see each year. Samples of tools were introduced and she plans to meet with Andrew to discuss creating a community forum on the web-site. More information to follow.

Lolly Hunting-Lake history. She has planned a history tour for this afternoon and asked about interest in a boat lake tour. She also distributed an updated Vendor's List.

Len Iverson-Roads. He has been in discussions with Jim Thompson regarding the inclusion of the Road's Committee with the lake association.

Mike Hunting-Chairman. He has contacted almost every lake resident via telephone this past year to ask what their concerns are. Preserving water quality remains the chief concern.

Mike then introduced the first speaker, Gil Reeves, Mayor of Huron Shores. Mayor Reeves explained Ontario's process of property assessments. All assessments are current value assessments and are done by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) province-wide. Criteria used to assess value include access, shoreline, services, topography, secondary structures, etc. The educational tax rate is set by the Ontario government. Each municipality then sets their own tax or mill rate based on these figures and the projected annual expenses. Mayor Reeves answered a wide range of questions from the membership including availability of services for lake residents, property value increases and possible options to set different mill rates reflecting various level of services.

The second speaker was Dan Fisher from the Canadian Border Service Agency. He fielded questions from the membership regarding what items can come into and go out of Canada such as goods, taxes, firearms, etc. For further information check [Canada Border Services Agency \(CBSA\)](#) on the web.

Mike thanked both of the speakers for making themselves available to the association.

Under Old Business, the 2010 AGM Minutes are available on the web-site. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed from 4/1/10 through 3/31/11. The balance is \$3700. There were 66 dues paying members. Mike encouraged all in attendance to talk to their lake neighbors and encourage them to join the lake association.

Ann Dutlinger was introduced. She is creating picture postcards from around the lake and is interested in recording the history of Big Basswood Lake. Concerns about boats motoring too close to shore and the introduction of invasive species into the lake from public boat ramps were raised. The importance of public education was stressed.

We were all invited to tour Corduke's Round Barn after the meeting. The barn renovated and relocated in Sowerby. This was done through volunteer efforts and donations (which are still being accepted).

The meeting was adjourned and the members left to the sounds of the Paris-Port Dover Bag Pipe Band.

Marilyn Kellum

