



Fall/Winter 2011

Newsletter

Chairman's Letter

Dear Residents of Big Basswood Lake,

We had a packed house at Sowerby Hall for the 2011 AGM. Hope you were there and I had a chance to speak with you. Our guest speakers, Gil Reaves and Dan Fisher gave us interesting perspectives into both Property Taxation and Customs Regulations. Minutes of the meeting are posted on our website "bigbasswood.ca".

Have you visited our website recently? We have a new feature that will be lots of fun. It is called *wildlife and habitat inventory*. You can post your comments and pictures of any living species that you may see in the Big Basswood Lake area. We have heard that new animals are returning to our area, including Cougars and Wolverines. If you are lucky enough to capture a picture, please post this to the website. Are you a fisherman? What did you catch this summer? Post your pictures or comments on the website. Many thanks to Marilyn Kellum and Andrew MacKay for their efforts to create this medium. Call me

(705-842-1833/513-683-2238) or Andrew MacKay (705-842-6263) if you have other ideas for the website.

Another interesting addition to the website is an interview with Margaret Swain. She has been on Basswood since 1923 and provides an interesting perspective on our lake's history. This is posted in the "History" section of the website. Lolly Hunting conducted the interview and would like other suggestions for historical perspectives on our lake.

Once again, I will attempt to call all residents of the lake during the winter months. Our board represents you and we want to know your issues or concerns. Last year over 90% of those contacted listed maintaining water quality as their number one priority. During the past year our membership increased approximately 60%, but it still represents less than half of the lake's residents. We need a majority to belong to better express your views to Huron Shores, Algoma Health, the MNR, and other agencies that monitor our lake. We also want to continually update our records. Our newsletter will only be sent via e-

mail, so if you have a neighbor or relative without e-mail, please share our communications.

Next year's AGM will be Sunday, July 22nd, at Sowerby Hall. Please plan on attending and voting for your officers/board members.

Municipality of Huron Shores

For updates on what's happening in your municipality go to the Huron Shores web site (<http://huronshores.ca/>). You can sign up for updates to be delivered straight to your email or by RSS.

The Big Basswood Wildlife and Habitat Inventory

"Seeing what's there"

We all notice many special things on and around Big Basswood Lake. For years we have looked for bears, noticed the birds, checked out when the Lady's Slippers were blooming and kept track of the fish. We share our stories and observations with our friends and family. I would like to see the lake community share these observation and stories. By doing this, we all can learn more about the lake and its diverse natural habitat.

The Big Basswood Lake Association (BBLA) has put into place the Big Basswood Wildlife and Habitat Inventory. It is designed to be an on-line community forum. Go to www.bigbasswood.ca and click on the link to the inventory. Register and participate!! See what's there, share your observations with the

I look forward to talking to you this winter.

Sincerely, Michael Hunting, Chairman
Big Basswood Lake Association

community, ask questions, provide answers and let everyone see your pictures.

Things we have observed this year include: eagles, a bear with three cubs, not so many loons, a snapping turtle and deer in the summer (unusual for us at Basswood, a daily occurrence at home in Michigan).

There are tools and resources available (see below). Forestland even has a nature journal available. A notebook and a pencil would work too! Feel free to contact me with any ideas or questions either via the Forum, at mkellum@umich.edu or call at 734-428-8725. YOU are a resource. I want to hear from you.

We are fortunate to be a part of Big Basswood Lake, a pristine lake with an abundance of habitat and wildlife surrounding it. By observing, recording, learning and "seeing what's there" we also will be able to

better understand what we need to
do to continue to preserve this

beautiful spot.

Resources:

“Wildlife and Habitat Inventory”

[http://www.bigbasswood.ca/pdf/Big Basswood Wildlife Nature Survey.pdf](http://www.bigbasswood.ca/pdf/Big_Basswood_Wildlife_Nature_Survey.pdf)

“Ontario Nature Guide”, Krista Kagume, Lone Pine Publishing, 2008

<http://www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/>

<http://www.northernontarioflora.ca/>

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/> re: species at risk

Also, there’s an App for this--

iNaturalist

Project Noah

Acknowledgements:

Lindsey Palumbo, Outreach Coordinator, Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition
Kensington Conservancy

I was talking to my neighbor
He said, “When I get to heaven, if it’s not like this
I’ll just hop a cloud and I’m coming right back down here
Back to this heavenly bliss”
(“*This Place*” by Joni Mitchell)

Lake Capacity Study for Bright and Basswood Lakes

A recent study found that Big Basswood Lake could support a substantial increase in population without affecting water quality. The full report can be viewed here:

[http://www.bigbasswood.ca/pdf/Bright and Basswood Capacity Report 29 June 2011.pdf](http://www.bigbasswood.ca/pdf/Bright_and_Basswood_Capacity_Report_29_June_2011.pdf)

Feedback

We are always interested in hearing from you. If you have suggestions on information you’d like to receive, speakers who might be of interest at our AGM, photos for our website, or history you’d like to share with others, please let me know at mlhuntingsr@gmail.com.