



# BBLA Newsletter

SPRING / SUMMER 2013

**See you at the  
AGM on  
Sunday July 28  
at 10 am at  
Sowerby Hall!**

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## Chairman's Letter

Wow! What a winter. Lots of snow. People were ice fishing on opening day, which is the last Saturday in April. Now we are dealing with record high water levels. The levels were so high that the Bolton River was flowing backwards from the Mississauga River back into Bright Lake.

Summer is almost here and most of you will be returning to your cottages to enjoy life on one of North America's cleanest and clearest lakes.

Did you know that there are approximately 225 cottages on our lake? We would like all residents to be members of the lake association. We are here to protect and preserve the features that make our lake special. Please consider joining. All you have to do is go to our website ([www.bigbasswood.ca](http://www.bigbasswood.ca)) and click

on the link at the bottom of the "Welcome" page. It is so simple, and your \$25 dues could save you \$100 or much more, on your cottage insurance. As I have



**The beautiful clear water of Basswood Lake**

said before, "it is a no-brainer"! Regarding our website, Andrew MacKay has devoted much time and effort to both our website and our Facebook page. The website has links to the Federa-

tion of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) and Central Algoma Fresh Water Coalition (CAFC) newsletters as well as past newsletters from the Big Basswood Lake Association (BBLA). In addition there is a history section, a wildlife sighting section, and lots of pictures from our members. Be sure to visit both sites often, as content is updated frequently.

Speaking of wildlife, in the past few days I have seen two Northern river otters swimming in the lake, and a snowshoe rabbit, eating dandelions in my back yard. I am growing to like that rabbit! Let us know what wildlife you have seen around the lake and post your sightings on our website (with pictures, if possible). (cont'd pg. 2)

## Lake Links Workshop

The Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition sponsored the "Lake Links Workshop" on Monday, October 22nd, 2012 in Richards Landing. The workshop was attended by Big Basswood Lake Association Board member Larry Allcorn in our ongoing efforts to obtain as much information as

we can about the current state of the Great Lakes, both from the perspectives of water quality and water levels. Decisions being made about the Great Lakes Basin are important to residents of Big Basswood Lake as we are an important and integral part of the Great Lakes Watershed.

Four topics were on the evenings agenda. These included:

### **Update on the St Marys River Remedial Action Plan**

Dr. Paula Antunes, professor at Algoma University, provided an update on the current status of the remedial action (cont'd pg. 3)

## Chairman's Letter (cont'd)



Harris Creek

(cont'd from pg. 1) Last summer, several of your board members met with representatives of Bright Lake and the combined association for Birch, Little Basswood, and Brownlee Lakes. We are fortunate not to have the algae/phosphorus problems that exist elsewhere. Through cooperation and communication, we hope to prevent any unnatural "invasions" to our lake.

I hope to see you at our AGM on Sunday July

28th. Once again, it will be held at Sowerby Hall beginning at 10 AM. We will have another exciting guest speaker to enhance your knowledge of our lake and our surroundings.

Sincerely, Michael L. Hunting, Chairman BBLA

## Local Events and Farmers Markets

**Iron Bridge Music Fest-** Saturday June 22nd @ Iron Bridge Arena

**ATV Run- Saturday June 29th-** Start @ Thessalon Community Center in Little Rapids- 128 KM- call Kathy (705-251-6788) or Boe (877-442-2511)

**Iron Bridge Quilt Show-** July 6-7 @Iron Bridge Arena, 10AM to 4PM

**Paris Port Dover Bagpiping Concert-** Saturday, August 17th, 5PM @ Hunting's dock on Southwest shore of Big Basswood

**Sowerby Farmers Market-** Saturdays 9AM to 2PM @ Round Barn

**Iron Bridge Farmers Market-** Beginning Saturday June 22 9AM to 2PM @ Iron Bridge Museum, corner of Hwy 17 and James Street. Continues through September

**Blind River Farmers Market-** Saturdays 9AM to 2PM @ the Pavilion next to Timer Village Museum, on Hwy 17, east of Blind River

**Johnson Township (Desbarats) Farmers Market-** Fridays 3-6PM and Saturdays 9AM to 1PM, during July and August. Also Saturdays 10AM to 1PM from September 10th to October 8th

**The Green Expo: Natural Adventures** Saturday, July 27th 9AM-3PM in Desbarats Includes a Local Pancake Breakfast 9-11:30 AM Also, the Debarats Farmer's Market will be going on.

The Basswood Lake Association publishes a Vendors List which contains much more information about goods and services offered in our area, including local cottage opening services, home builders and much more. It is free and updated yearly, to members of the association, and will be distributed at the AGM.

BBLA  
NEWSLETTER

Bill Phillips  
Camp -  
1950's



# Lake Links Workshop

(cont'd from pg 1) plan which is undertaking the ongoing cleanup of the sediments of the St Mary's river in the area of Sault Ste Marie.

## Mining Along Superior and North Shore

A presentation by Klaas Oswald about current and former mining activities clustered along the shores of Superior, Michigan and the North Shore of Lake Huron.

## Great Lakes Water Levels and The New Lake Superior Regulation Plan 2012

At this workshop, Don Marle, a member of the International Joint Commission Public Advisory Council, presented on the creation of the new Lake Superior regulation plan and its potential impact on the entire Great Lakes watershed.

Don spoke about factors impacting

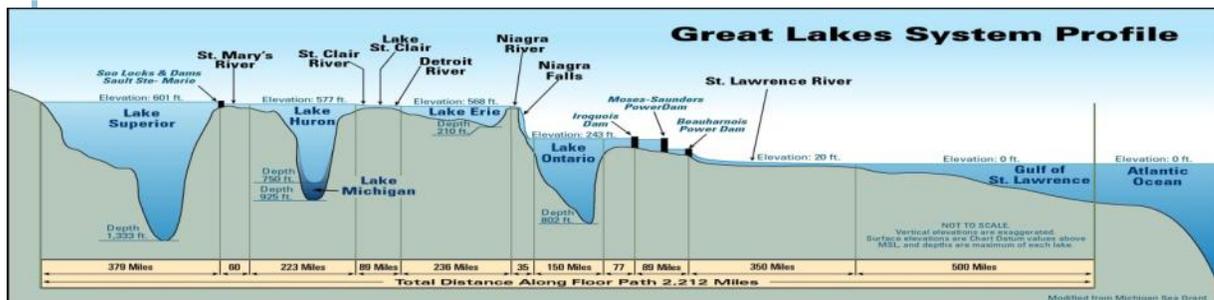
newsletter at: <http://www.centralalgomafreshwatercoalition.ca>

A copy of the report issued by the joint commission can be found at: <http://www.ijc.org/files/publications/IUGLS-IJC-Report-Feb-12-2013-15-April-20132.pdf>

## Summary

The Basswood Lake Association Board continues to consistently

*“Decisions being made about the Great Lakes Basin are important to residents of Big Basswood Lake as we are an important and integral part of the Great Lakes Watershed.”*



## Potential Urban Stream Restorations

Mike Ripley of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority of Sault Michigan spoke about his organization's ongoing efforts to monitor the health of the Urban Waterways that flow into the St Marys River from both the US and Canada.

Net Basin Supply Lake Superior and the profile of how water flows and is controlled throughout the Great Lakes.

He discussed a number of factors that impact the Great Lakes Water Levels. For an excellent description of these factors, please reference the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition November 2012

hear concerns about water quality and water levels. Many of the factors affecting water levels in the Great Lakes will also impact our lake. Therefore, we will endeavour to continue to collect information and knowledge to pass onto our membership and to better position us for ongoing discussions with the MNR on our lake levels.

# Fire Safety

Last year we had a fire on the northwest shore of Big Basswood. The fire occurred near McCallum Rd. Due to the rapid response of a fire bomber, all cottages on McCallum Rd were saved. The following link may help you prevent fires from happening:

[http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/FireSafetyandPublicEducation/PublicFireSafetyInformation/CottageFireSafety/OFM\\_cottage\\_fire\\_safety\\_tips.html](http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/FireSafetyandPublicEducation/PublicFireSafetyInformation/CottageFireSafety/OFM_cottage_fire_safety_tips.html)



**Do your part to help prevent forest fires**

# Our Great Lakes



**Each of us is in a position to positively impact water quality and overall lake health**

species and climate change. A natural shoreline provides a buffer and filters the water going into the lake. Invasive species take over a habitat and can overcome native species and eliminate diverse habitats. Less ice cover in the

winter leads to increased evaporation and warmer water temperatures. Heavy rains can cause more run-off.

Big Basswood Lake residents realize that our Great Lake is exceptional. Maintaining water quality has repeatedly been the highest priority mentioned when the BBLA has surveyed lake residents. Monitoring water clarity and phosphorus, providing information and speakers on various subjects at the AGM, maintaining connections with the Municipality, government and other community organizations are all ways that the BBLA is working towards maintaining water quality.

Each of us is in a position to positively impact water quality and overall lake health. Below is a list of resources that can help us with this mission.

<http://www.bigbasswood.ca>

The BBLA website. Find lake information, meeting notices, historical information, community information, Wildlife and Habitat Inventory.

[www.facebook.com/bigbasswood](http://www.facebook.com/bigbasswood)

Like the Big Basswood Lake Association page on Facebook. Quick reference to local events, information and a chance

to connect with other people on the lake.

<http://www.foca.on.ca>

Federation of Ontario Cottage Association. As a member of BBLA you are a member of FOCA. Great all around resource for information. Water quality, taxes, boating, food & drink :). Everything. Sign up for Elerts.

<http://www.foca.on.ca/environment>

An index of Environment Resources

[http://www.foca.on.ca/xinha/plugins/ExtendedFileManager/demo\\_images/test/Natural\\_Shorelines.pdf](http://www.foca.on.ca/xinha/plugins/ExtendedFileManager/demo_images/test/Natural_Shorelines.pdf)

Summary handout regarding natural shorelines.

[http://www.foca.on.ca/xinha/plugins/ExtendedFileManager/demo\\_images/cottagers%20source%20protection%20fact\\_1.pdf](http://www.foca.on.ca/xinha/plugins/ExtendedFileManager/demo_images/cottagers%20source%20protection%20fact_1.pdf)

Explains Source Water Protection and what cottage owners can do.

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

Good resource for local information regarding planning, development and taxation.

<http://www.greatlakes.org/home>

The Great Lakes Alliance.

*The following article is courtesy of Marilyn Kellum. It is from a January 2013 webinar about our Great Lakes watershed:*

In the fall of 2012 the Great Lakes Water Quality agreement between Canada and the US was updated and amended. In January 2013, the Consulate General of Canada, Alliance for the Great Lakes and the International Joint Commission held a seminar to discuss and prioritize the implementation of the new agreement. Being a part of the Great Lakes watershed and being concerned about water quality, three of the BBLA board members attended this seminar electronically.

The recent water quality agreement emphasizes non-point source pollution which can be an issue for any lake. Septics, chemicals (personal care products, pharmaceuticals & lawn care products) and nutrient laden run-offs from steep roads are the primary culprits creating this type of pollution. It was interesting to note that an active ingredient in antibacterial soap was detected in Lake Superior.

Other areas emphasized were the near shore environment, preserving and/or restoring native species, aquatic invasive



Lake Superior beach

## Fishing

Did you know that Big Basswood is one of only a few lakes in North America where lake trout continue to breed naturally? Again, we are so fortunate. It looks like this has been a good year for fishing. Use

our website to report your fish stories and post pictures (to prove it's not just another fish story). Go to the "[Wildlife and Habitat Inventory](#)" section.

# Invasive Species 101

So what are we talking about here--  
----an invasion?? From where?

**Outer space????**

By whom? **Aliens????!!!!** Will they take over everything?? **OMG!!** What should we do? What do we need to know?

A bit dramatic perhaps, but Invasive Species have become a real threat to natural areas and waterways. These alien/non-native plant and animal species can invade and take over a lake, wetland or wooded area, completely disrupting and changing a diverse habitat. They are tolerant of a wide range conditions, lack natural predators, rapidly reproduce and grow. They **can** take over everything!!

Invasive species **don't** come from outer space. They do belong somewhere, but when they are introduced or transported to a new area, they can thrive and pretty much take over everything. Native species don't stand a chance. Aquatic Invasive Species travel on boats and trailers, fishing equipment, bait, and in bilge water. They also can be inadvertently introduced into waterways from aquariums and landscape ponds.

What we do need to know about is **PREVENTION!!!!!!** Big Basswood

Lake is an exceptional lake. We can keep it that way by making sure that we take the following steps **BEFORE** a boat and recreational gear are used in our lake:

1. The boat and gear are clean of all visible aquatic plants and debris. If present, remove and seal in the garbage.
2. The boat, motor, live well and bilge have been drained. If not, drain into buckets, not into the lake. Empty buckets away from the waterfront.
3. Never release live bait into the water. Empty your bait bucket on land. Clean up your gear, but not at the waterfront.
4. Rinse with hot water or spray with high-pressure water if launching a boat into Big Basswood Lake that has been in another waterway. Draining the boat and letting it sit in the sun for at least 5 days will also eradicate any aquatic hitch-hikers.

These few steps can prevent an invasion into Big Basswood Lake!! That's what we can do.

References:

The Stewardship Network's June 2013 Webcast, June 12, 2013, "Aquatic Invasive Species: What's

Here? What's Coming? What Can We Do?" Click below to register & listen, cost \$10 for unlimited access to this Webinar

[www.stewardshipnetwork.org/aquaticinvasiveswebcast](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/aquaticinvasiveswebcast)

Other resources:

Invasive Species Research Institute, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada

<http://www.isri.ca>

Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program

<http://www.invadingspecies.com>

Clean Boats Clean Waters

<http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/cbcw/>

Check this website out for good illustrations!

<http://www.watershedcouncil.org/learn/aquatic%20invasive%20species/>

**Invasive Species have become a real threat to natural areas and waterways**



**Invasive Species: Sea lamprey**  
Photo: John Lyons/Wisconsin DNR



Your directors are here to serve the members of our association. Below is a list of the current board members, with their contact information:

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## Water Levels

As many of you know our water levels have fluctuated more than normal in the last year or two. Last year, in September, the levels were so low that I could barely get my boat on my ramp. I received several complaints from other residents. Water levels are controlled by two factors; mother nature and the dam going to Harris Creek. The low levels last fall were partially caused by the MNR allowing more water to go down Harris Creek

in order to "flush" Bright Lake. As many of you know Bright Lake has



**Basswood Lake in the spring**

algae blooms. More water in the fall is thought to alleviate this problem. The board is attempting to have an MNR spokesperson address this issue at this year's AGM.

This year we are experiencing very high water levels. Unfortunately, there is not much we can do about this. Only time will fix this problem.