



BBLA Newsletter

SUMMER 2014

Chairman's Letter

Snow, ice, and more snow. Would it ever end? On opening day, everyone was ice fishing.

In spite of extreme weather, Big Basswood Lake has survived and remains one of the world's clean-

est clearest lakes. This association and its board are responsible for doing everything in their power to preserve that status.

Have you been to our website recently? "bigbasswood.ca" has more pictures, articles, and announcements. We even have a classified advertising section that is free for all dues paying members. Where else can you place an ad for an entire year for only \$25? (cont'd pg. 2)



Big Basswood MPAC Property Assessment Update — Taxation Town Hall Meeting

At the July 2013 Annual General Meeting, we heard a presentation from Lincoln North, a local Thessalon resident whose professional practice was involved with MPAC appeals and assessments. At that time he volunteered to act as an advisor to the Big Basswood Lake Association

on how best to deal with MPAC on property assessment appeals and continues to work with the association as we review the best course of action for reviewing the MPAC assessments on the lake.

As we reported to you in the fall

newsletter, the lake association retained a consultant to get some historical perspective on actual sales on Basswood Lake over the last several years. The consultant has compiled a list of 16 property sales which represent property transactions on our (cont'd pg. 3)

See you at the AGM on Sunday July 20, 2014 at 10 am at Sowerby Hall!

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Find Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/bigbasswood

Chairman's Letter (cont'd)

(cont'd from pg. 1)

Last summer The MNR conducted a fish study on our lake. The results are finished and can be seen below:

held on Sunday July 20th at 10 AM at Sowerby Hall. Everyone who attends and has paid their 2014 dues will receive a BBL sticker to proudly display on your car window or bumper

(sample shown in the membership section). We will also dispense septic dye pills (more details to follow later in this newsletter). We will also have a follow up to last year's discussion on real estate tax assessments, featuring Thessalon's own Lincoln North. A separate Town Hall meeting will be held Thursday August 7th, open to all residents who are concerned about their real estate taxation. Finally, we will have our bi-annual election of Board Members. If you are interested in being on the board, please contact one of our Ad Hoc Committee members (Bryan McDougall 705-941-1029, Pat Mitzi 705-842-6625, or Scott Lawrence 704-842-3644). I look forward to seeing you

Broad-scale Fisheries Monitoring Bulletin

BASSWOOD LAKE - ZONE 10

Basswood Lake Facts

Township(s): Day

Surface Area: 2709 ha

Maximum Depth: 73.2 m

Average Depth: 38.7 m

Water Clarity: 10.0 m

Monitoring Activities

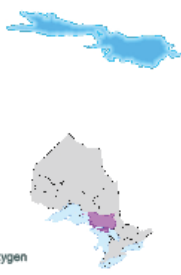
- Fish netting
- Fish contaminants
- Zooplankton
- Water chemistry
- Bathymetry
- Water temperature/dissolved oxygen
- Aquatic invasive species

Netting Summary

Netting period: July 23-30, 2008

Number of net sets: 42

Number of fish species caught: 12



Fish Netting Results

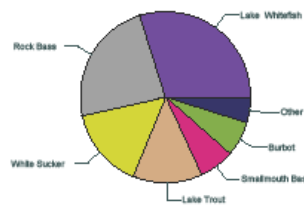
Fish populations were surveyed using large and small mesh nets to provide information on fish species present and their characteristics, such as growth, age and abundance. The catch data below show that 10 species were surveyed in large mesh nets. Additional fish species observed in small mesh nets were Rainbow Smelt and Slimy Sculpin.

Fish species	Total Catch %	Maximum Length cm	Minimum Length cm	Average Length cm
Lake Whitefish	30	58.7	20.9	43.8
Rock Bass	24	22.7	4.3	14.1
White Sucker	15	55.1	22.5	45.0
Lake Trout	13	68.3	34.4	49.6
Smallmouth Bass	7	48.3	14.5	26.7
Burbot	7	72.7	35.3	46.1
Yellow Perch	3	17.8	13.7	15.8
Brown Bullhead	< 1	19.4	16.5	17.9
Lake Chub	< 1	15.9	15.1	15.5
Longnose Sucker	< 1	28.9	28.9	28.9

About the Program

The Broad-scale Monitoring Program provides information for managing our fisheries effectively. This bulletin provides a snapshot of the recent monitoring activities and netting results. Netting is conducted using large and small mesh nets to understand the characteristics of fish communities in a lake. Large mesh nets contribute information about fish species and small mesh nets describe the fish community. To learn more about the sampling program visit [Fish Ontario: Monitoring and State of the Resource Reporting](#).

Proportion of Fish Caught in Large Mesh Nets



ontario.ca/fishing



Lake Whitefish appear to be the most abundant species in our lake. All fisherman, please consider posting pictures of your catch on our website, <http://www.bigbasswood.ca/bblafm/viewforum.php?f=7&sid=45906598e6bc2b19e84ce74a83c476f4>

Please be sure to attend our AGM. It will be

at the AGM. If you are unable to attend you may pay your dues on the website through PayPal or you can send your dues, payable to BBLA, to Ron Trivers, 113 Cressey Rd, Thessalon, On., P0R 1L0.

Sincerely

Michael Hunting, Chairman

Taxation Town Hall Meeting

(cont'd from pg 1) lake dating back to October 31, 2008. As we reported last fall, when the average sales price for these 16 transactions is compared to the corresponding MPAC property value assessments, there is very little variance overall. Although the difference between the assessed value and the actual sales value vary from property to property, the overall variance between the MPAC assessment and

the sales price is almost zero ie. the assessments are representative of the actual sales price **on average**.

Therefore, after further review with Lincoln North, the association does not believe that there is a basis for residents on Basswood to take action on a collective basis. Instead, we are recommending that individual property owners who believe that their assessment does

not represent their true property value consider an independent appeal to MPAC.

To further consider the approach to the appeals process for individual property owners, we will hold a **Taxation Town Hall on Thursday August 7th at 7 PM at Sowerby Hall**. This meeting will be facilitated by members of the association and Lincoln. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss individual assessments and the considerations/approach for an appeals process. There will be no charge for attendance at this town hall.

Further information on the town hall will be announced at the annual general meeting on Sunday, July 20th, 2014.

**Taxation
Town Hall on
Thursday
August 7th at
7 PM at
Sowerby Hall.**



Septic Pills

The Association will provide Septic Dye Pills for members who wish to be proactive and test that there is no leakage in their septic systems that may lead to problems with their own properties or leakage into the lake that may cause problems for other cottagers. Simply flushing this dye tablet down your toilet will allow you to test your own septic system for problems . You will need to know the size or capacity of your system so we can determine the number of pills required to test yours system. This is a completely voluntary program but

a wise one for all responsible cottagers to undertake from time to time. Supplies are limited so first come first serve basis will be followed at the Annual General Meeting July 20 2014 at Sowerby Hall at 10:00a.m. Thanks to

Board member Maeve Coccimiglio for making this program available.



ANNOUNCING: Nature is Art

Wildlife & Habitat Photo Contest for BBLA Members!!



*Photograph and
Painting courtesy
of Sheila Currie*

The lake association is sponsoring a Wildlife and Habitat Photo Contest this year. Get your cameras out and capture the beautiful and unique things that we see around Big Basswood. We are looking for all sorts of photos of the wildlife and habitat that surround Big basswood Lake. Things that we all see. For ideas, check out the Wildlife and Habitat Inventory page at www.bigbasswood.ca/forum.php

The winner will receive a Sheila Currie original!!! Start taking pictures. The contest will last a full year with the winner being announced at the 2015 AGM.

Details of the contest will be provided at the BBLA Annual Meeting Sunday, July 20th at 10AM. Hope to see you there!!



Update on Membership

As we reported to the Annual General Meeting in July of 2013, the board of directors of the lake association undertook a concerted effort last year to increase our membership numbers. Our numbers had steadily declined from a high of 86 members in 2007 to a low of 35 members in 2012. The association feels that it is very important that we maintain our membership at a high level. Not only does this ensure that we are properly representing the needs of the majority of the property holders on Basswood Lake but it also positions us to apply for federal and provincial government grants, many of which require a minimum membership.

Therefore, in 2013 the board of directors focused on increasing the membership in the association. As a result of this effort, we are pleased to report that the membership of the lake association had increased to 66 members as of the end of 2013.

However, we still believe that this number can be substantially improved from the approximately 25% of property owners that it currently represents. We are again planning to make an effort to contact every property owner individually to make sure that they are aware of the Annual General Meeting on July 20th at 10PM at Sowerby Hall. Also at that time, we will be listening to any concerns that you might have about the stewardship of our lake. Please help us out by ensuring that your friends and neighbours know about and are planning to attend the meeting on the 20th.

Please note that you will be able to pay your annual dues of \$25 at the Annual General Meeting to renew your membership for 2014 or you can avoid the line ups by joining online on our website <http://www.bigbasswood.ca>.

In addition, this year everyone who pays their annual dues will receive a "BBL" sticker:

We also hope to increase membership in 2014 by instituting a change in the bylaws to establish an "Associate Membership". In the past, only owners who owned property within 500' of the lakeshore were allowed to join the lake association. However, we believe that there is a large group of people such as frequent visitors or local merchants who are concerned with the ongoing stewardship of Basswood. Therefore, this category would be established as a non-voting membership to allow them to contribute on an ongoing basis.

Thank you for contributing to the improved membership numbers in the Big Basswood Lake Association in 2013 and we look forward to your continued support in 2014.

Larry Allcorn



Plastics in Our Water

Content for this article is primarily from the webinar: "Plastic Pollution in the Great Lakes"
 Great Lakes Alliance
 4-29-14
 Marilyn Kellum

Plastics We Can See

Adopt-a-Beach volunteers have systematically picked up litter along the Great Lakes beaches for years. Recently, Timothy Hollien, from Loyola University Chicago, has quantified this debris. Most of the trash picked up on the beach (75-95%) came from cigarette or smoking material and plastics related to eating or drinking.

These are plastics!! Sometimes "Microbeads" are on the label!! L'Oreal, Johnson & Johnson, Proctor & Gamble, Unilever, Colgate-Palmolive and the Body Shop have made commitments to phase out these ingredients in their products. New York and Illinois have passed legislation banning microbeads.

Plastics in the Water and on the Shores of Basswood

Fortunately, unlike the ocean, we do not have large pockets of floating plastic debris in our lake. We do, however, have plastic litter in our lake. Those of us that have a down wind beach or shoreline routinely find bits and pieces of plastic, bottles, cigar & cigarette tips, etc. Last year we got our first flip flop! Check out our "collection" at the AGM!!

Plastics We Can't See

What we can't see or pick up on the beach are microplastics or microbeads which are also present in the Great Lakes. These tiny bits of plastics are a component of many personal care products like skin exfoliants and soaps. They wash down the drain and out of most systems untouched. These microbeads, like other plastics, can absorb toxins and can be mistaken for food by fish and wildlife.

Check your personal care products for the ingredient polyethylene or polypropylene.



What can we do?

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

&

DON'T LITTER!



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



DIRECTORS OF BBLA

Michael Hunting, Chairman, 705-842-1833, 513-683-2238,

mlhuntingsr@gmail.com

Maev Coccimiglio, Vice Chairman, 705-842-2454, mmccocimig-

lio@gmail.com

Ron Trivers, Treasurer, 705-842-2883, lyndatrivers@gmail.com

Phyllis Coosaia, 705-842-1472, 760-340-1964, rlc7@msn.com

Marilyn Kellum, Secretary and lake stewardship, 734-717-1290,

mkellum@umich.edu

Larry Allcorn, Membership Chairman, 416-407-2185,

lallcorn@rogers.com

Andrew MacKay, Website, Communication, and Technology Officer,

705-842-6263, andrew@artisblind.com

Lolly Hunting, Historian and Vendors List, 705-842-1833, 513-683-2238,

mlhuntingsr@gmail.com

Jack Hodgson, Co-Historian, 248-588-7409,

johnhodgson000@comcast.net



Calendar of Events

- Iron Bridge Farmers Market-every Saturday 9AM-2PM-Iron Bridge Historical Museum
- Sowerby Farmers Market-every Saturday 9AM-2PM-12 sided barn in Sowerby
Buy Local.....Eat Fresh
- Saturday July 5th-History Tour of BBL-meet by boat at 1PM at Cross Point
- July 5-6- Sheila Currie Watercolors Workshop, , Sowerby Hall (9-4) 705-842-3599
- July 9th-Abshir Miller Concert (7PM) Thessalon Public Library
- Friday July 11th, CAFC AGM, 109 Station Rd, Bruce Mines. Refreshments will be served. (7:30 PM)
- July 13-19, Huron Shores, "A Subtle Beauty", Local Artists, Iron Bridge Historical Museum (9-7)
- July 20th-Big Basswood Lake AGM-Sowerby Hall (10AM)
- July 26th-Paris Port Dover Pipe Band-Hunting's dock (4PM)
- Saturday July 26th, The Green Expo, 9-3 PM Johnson Township Community Center (the Arena), Desbarats (concurrently with the Farmer's Market)
- August 10-16, "Ice Ages", a study of Ice Age features, Iron Bridge Historical Museum (9-7)
- September 20-Sylvan Circle Art Tour-call Sarah Buckley 705-246-2819 for details
- September 27-28-Arts on Trail-Elliot Lake-Maps available at Pierson Center
- October 18-19, Sheila Currie Watercolors Workshop, Sowerby Hall, (9-4)
- \$7.50 all you can eat brunch every Sunday at the Sinton from 11 AM-2 PM
- Half price golf every Monday at Huron Pines