



# BBLA Newsletter

FALL / WINTER 2015 / 2016

## Chairman's Letter

**See you at the AGM tentatively scheduled for Sunday July 17, 2016 at 10 am at Sowerby Hall!**

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It is my pleasure to introduce the Fall 2015 version of the Big Basswood Lake Association newsletter. It has been a very busy and productive summer for the lake association.

Our membership numbers have increased this year to 87. This is an increase over last year's membership but is still short of the membership goal that we believe is reasonable on a lake of our size. Please continue to talk about the association to your lake neighbours and encourage them to become members if they are not already.

Our annual general meeting was held in July again this year. The meeting was very well attended and featured a full agenda. In addition to updates from all of the board committees, we had two

main speakers. Lauren Tonelli from the Sault Ste Marie Invasive Species Center spoke to us about the danger of aquatic invasive species in Basswood and the surrounding environments and how to prevent their spread. A link to her presentation can be found on our web site – I encourage you to have a look at it if you weren't able to attend the meeting. In addition, Wayne Berthelot of the Blind River OPP gave us a very informative talk and addressed on the new ATV rules and boating rules and regulations.

We also had representatives from Algoma Public Health distribute water sampling kits and explain how to use them. We encourage all members to use these kits to test and monitor

their drinking water. More kits can be obtained at any time from Algoma Public Health.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the unveiling of our first photo contest winner. Congratulations to Colton Smithers on your beautiful winning photograph. We ended up with 84 entrants in the photo contest and got a lot of positive feedback. In answer to a lot of your questions – yes, we do plan on running another contest in the near future and we also plan to publish a calendar with some of this year entries. Please read the article in this newsletter for more information.

(cont'd pg. 2)

## Update on Membership

As the cottage season is ending, I want to thank all residents who have paid their BBLA dues. We have the highest membership in our brief history. As of today, we have 87 dues paying members. Our goal is to get 100 members for the 2015 calendar year. If you have not paid dues, please remember that you could save 10%

on your cottage insurance through our FOCA membership. This savings should be far greater than the cost of our dues.

Thank you.

Michael Hunting, Membership Chairman



Find Us on Facebook!

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



## Chairman's Letter (cont'd)

(cont'd from pg. 1)

We have published the date for next year's AGM as July 17, 2016 – this being the regular third Sunday in July time slot. However, there has been some discussion about changing the meeting to August to accommodate those who only visit the lake in August. We have pushed out a quick email survey to get your feedback on this.

I know that there has been a lot of concern this summer over the low lake levels. A lot of property owners experienced issues with getting their boat in and out of the dock in late summer – I was one of them. We asked the Blind River MNR to comment on the cause of the low water levels and what was being done with the Harris Creek dam to proactively manager water levels moving forward. See their response inside the newsletter.

We continue to participate actively in the Federation of Ontario Cottages (FOCA) – I attended a seminar in Toronto on November 7th and

the association is currently planning to attend their AGM this spring. As I mentioned at our annual meeting, we are all automatically members of FOCA as part of our membership in the Big Basswood Lake Association. Please take advantage of the valuable information on their website at [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca) and consider attending the annual general meeting on March 4th, 2016 – please let me know if you plan to attend so we can be sure to see you there. And don't forget that you are eligible for an insurance discount and other benefits as members of FOCA.

Please enjoy the contents of this newsletter. As always, feel free to contact any of the members of the board listed the back page if you have questions.

Have a great winter – look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Larry Allcorn,  
BBLA President



Photo by:  
Andrew Vanderploeg

BBLA  
NEWSLETTER

## Zoning By Law Changes

The lake association membership should be aware that the Municipality of Huron Shores is going through a comprehensive zoning by law process. The net result of this process is that a new by law will be enacted which will cover all applications to the municipality for building permits etc. This process is meant to cover all bylaw changes that were covered by the new official plan in 2008.

A public meeting was held at Sowerby Hall on October 7th, 2015 and the next public consultation is scheduled as Open House at Sowerby Hall on Wednesday, Feb 3rd from 7 to 9 PM and a public meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd from 7PM to adjournment.

The property owners of Basswood Lake are encouraged to check out the new draft by law on the Municipality web site at:

<http://huronshores.ca/government/services/planning-department-2/>.

If there are any concerns noted, the process for appeal is noted on the website. Please let us know if there are any major concerns noted.



Photo by: Andrew Hendershot

# Your 2016 Summer Calendar

## We Want To Hear From You!!

Your BBLA board is planning the 2016 calendar. Traditionally we have always held the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the third Sunday in July. The AGM is an opportunity to meet folks that share the Big Basswood Lake experience and learn what is happening around the lake and community. We also provide an outside speaker on interesting topics. At this summer's AGM we had two speakers— Lauren Tonelli, from the Invasive Species Centre, and Wayne Berthelot from the Blind River OPP. Both speakers were informative and provided those present with excellent resources. In setting the 2016 calendar the question was raised about the AGM meeting date— should we keep it on the same day each summer or should we alternate an August date with the July date?? **We want to hear from you!!**

The following questionnaire was circulated:

*Big Basswood Lake Association Members:*

*The board of directors has been reviewing our activities for 2015 and starting to plan for 2016. There was some discussion at the fall board meeting as to changing the date of the Annual General Meeting in 2016 from the traditional July date to an August Sunday to accommodate those who spend more time at the lake in August. Therefore, we would like to take a poll on how many members would prefer an August meeting. Would you please*

*take a few minutes to indicate your preference and reply to this message:*

*\_\_\_ Leave meeting scheduled as is – third Sunday of July*

*\_\_\_ Change meeting to a Sunday in August*

*\_\_\_ No preference – either July or August is fine with me*

*Please supply your feedback by November 30th, 2015. We will announce the date for the 2016 meeting based on the majority preference.*

Please review this questionnaire and get back to us with your meeting date preferences by the end of month. We would like to see as many of you as possible at the 2016 AGM.

The tentative calendar for 2016 is as follows:

6-20-16 Monday, 7 PM Board Meeting

7-17-16 Sunday, 10 AM AGM\*\*

9-12-16 Monday, 7 PM Board Meeting

\*\*Please note that the AGM date is tentative, pending the outcome of the survey\*\*

Check <http://www.bigbasswood.ca/> for updated information

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!**

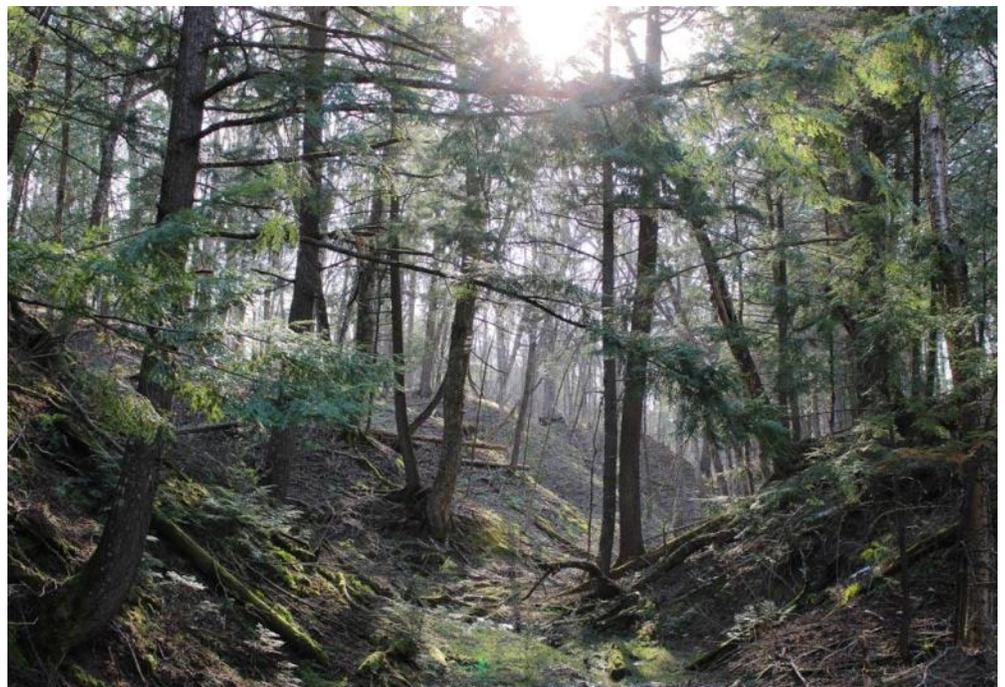


Photo by: Andrew VanderPloeg

# Fluorescent Red Septic Tablets Update

The Big Basswood Lake Association provided all members who signed up at the regular annual meeting with the opportunity to test their septic systems with red dye tablets. These tablets are biodegradable and nontoxic. Thank you to all those who participated in this simple, low cost method to ensure that leakage problems were not occurring on your property thus protecting your septic system and the water quality of our lake. The dye tablets were flushed down the toilet or flushed down a sink with running water and the red dye would appear in soil or septic beds if there is any leakage. This is the second year of this program which leaves cottagers with peace

of mind about their plumbing system while allowing the board, the spring board to educate on safe



Photo by: Lynn Shope

practices, which will safeguard the quality of Big Basswood Lake. Keep up the excellent work members!

*“... to educate on safe practices, which will safeguard the quality of Big Basswood Lake”*

## Check in on the Lake with Facebook

If you're a Facebook user and you haven't yet checked out our page we would encourage you to go to <https://www.facebook.com/bigbasswood/> and like the page.

There you can find posts added on a regular basis

including photos/videos from around the



lake, information about local events, newsletters from FOCA and CAFC and much more. Check it out!

## Lake History

If you haven't heard them yet there are a couple of new interviews on the [Basswood Lake website](#) from this summer. Learn some interesting things about the past at Basswood in the interviews with Bob Town and Dick & Jane Brown.

<http://www.bigbasswood.ca/history.php>

# BBLA's Wildlife & Habitat Photo Contest

This year at the Big Basswood Lake Association's AGM the winners of the BBLA's first photography contest were revealed. Ever since the contest was announced the BBLA's [web-page](#) and [Facebook page](#) have generated a lot of interest. Photos were submitted to both sites and lake residents had ample opportunity to check them out, be inspired and submit their own pics into the contest.

Maeve Coccimiglio and Marilyn Kellum organized the contest. Three judges were selected from the local artistic community. The judges were Nora Ann Harrison, Joyce Ratz and Shannon Vine. Their professionalism and expertise made the process both informative and enjoyable for everyone involved. We thank them for their willingness to share their time and talent. We also thank Dave and Sheila Currie for creating the visual display of the

photographs for those of us gathered at Sowerby Hall that morning. Maeve Coccimiglio revealed the winning photograph, Dew Covered Spider Web, taken by Colton Smithers. Nora Ann Harrison was emotional as she described the qualities present in the winning photograph and marveled at the fact they were captured by such a young photographer. His grandparents, Nancy and Bill Landon from Coles Bay, beamed with pride at his success.

All lake and area residents will be able to enjoy these photos next year. BBLA plans to create a 2017 calendar from these great pictures. It will be available in 2016. Also we plan to reintroduce the Photo Contest next spring, possibly with a new theme. So, shutterbugs stay tuned for more updates in our next newsletter.



DEW COVERED SPIDER WEB by Colton Smithers  
"Ethereal, fragile and intricate engineering."



MALLARD DUCKS by Andrew VanderPloeg  
"Ducks with an attitude."



TOAD by Shannon Loutit  
"Up close and personal"

# Water Levels

The lake association is aware of how concerned the members are with the extremely low water levels experienced on Basswood this summer. We have communicated with Ray Lipinski at the MNR who is the person that controls the dam and determines how much water should be released to Bright Lake on a week to week basis. Copied below is his answer:

As we have discussed previously this area experience a significant drought over the summer and early fall. Even with the substantial amounts of precipitation we have received in September and October area lake levels and stream flow values continue to be below normal. Normally by this time of year lake levels and stream flows are high. Based on long term trends we should still expect area lakes to be recharged before freeze up.

The Ontario government Surface Monitoring Water Monitoring Centre provides good information on precipitation and stream flow patterns within the province. We have flow monitoring stations within adjacent watersheds, so flow data can still be extrapolated reasonably well. As can be seen in the figure below, this area was in a Level 3 drought, which means that less than 40% of the normal amount of precipitation was received. Clearly this is the reason for low water levels we have been experiencing.

We do not meas-

ure flow values from the Basswood Lake Dam. We do record water level and valve positions.

The normal summer level for Big Basswood Lake is 0-3" below the wingwall. The levels over the summer and fall slowly dropped to about 10" below the wingwall at this time, which is about 7" below normal. Most other area lakes have similarly low levels, whether or not there is a dam at the outlet.

The normal operating practice for the Big Basswood Lake dam is to adjust flows to keep the level slightly below the overflow level at the wingwall. Flows and levels are checked and/or adjusted at least once per week for most of the year and are checked daily during freshet conditions. Under low flow conditions as we have experienced recently one valve was closed completely and the other only left very slightly open. The dam discharge cannot be completely stopped, in order to provide ecological flows to Harris Creek and

Bright Lake.

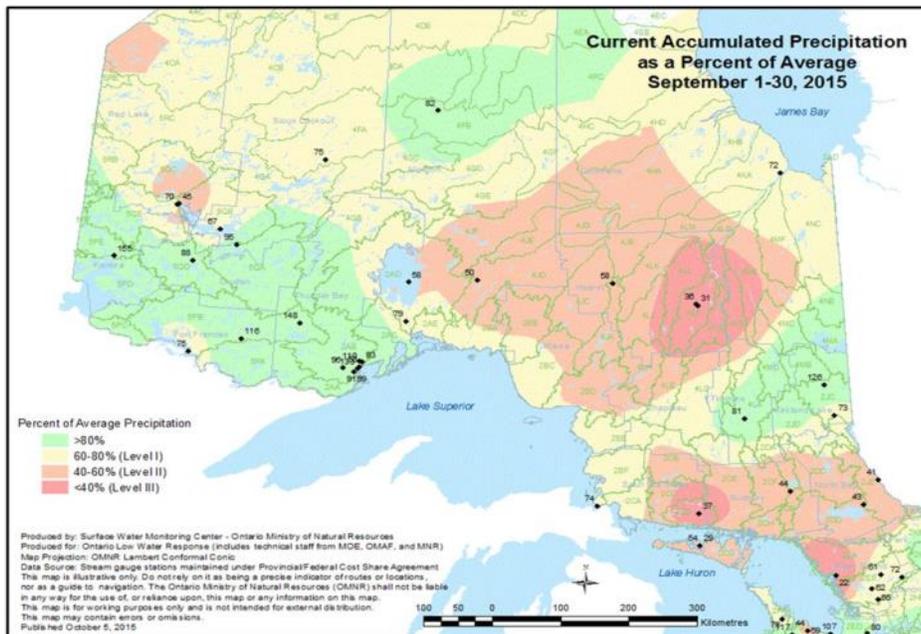
If you have any further questions feel free to give me a call.

*Ray Lipinski*

Integrated Resource Management  
Technical Specialist  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Note from BBLA: - the lake association understands how low the rainfall levels were this summer and how they would have contributed to the much lower water levels than usual. However, we believe that it's important to continue to monitor the lake levels throughout all 4 seasons and to understand how much water is being released through the dam winter and summer. We plan to continue to work closely with MNR to understand the lake level strategy throughout all months of the year. The good news is that we are already seeing water levels rise given the wet fall that we have had.

**"The levels over the summer and fall slowly dropped to about 10" below the wingwall at this time, which is about 7" below normal"**





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

#### **DIRECTORS OF BBLA**

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

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**Maevé Coccimiglio, Vice Chairman**, 705-842-2454,

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**Ron Trivers, Treasurer**, 705-842-2883, [lyndatrivers@gmail.com](mailto:lyndatrivers@gmail.com)

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

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**Michael Hunting, Membership** 705-842-1833, 513-683-2238,

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**Andrew MacKay, Website, Communication, and Technology Officer**,

705-842-6263, [andrew@artisblind.com](mailto:andrew@artisblind.com)

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

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

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**Dave Currie**, 705-842-3599, [watercoloursbysheila@gmail.com](mailto:watercoloursbysheila@gmail.com)

## Vendors List

A list of local vendors providing a large array of services in the area is maintained by BBLA board member Lolly Hunting. If you would like a current copy of the list they are always available at our AGM in the summer or we can email a copy of it to you at any time throughout the year! Talk to Lolly or one of the other board members to get yours.



Photo by: Erin Brennan-Brown