



BBLA Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2016/2017

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100 MEMBERS!

Yes, after more than 15 years the BBLA now has 100 paid members. That is a 16% increase from the highest prior level. Thank you for your support, and a special thanks to current and former board members for their recruiting efforts!

As good as 100 members feels, it is still not enough. We have 225 houses on the lake and given all of the benefits of membership, we should have 100% participation.

Please talk to your friends and neighbors on the lake and tell them about the benefits of membership:

Feature	Benefit
Member of FOCA	Save 10-15% on home insurance
Free Septic Tabs	Keep our lake clean
Water quality testing	safeguard your water
Annual meeting	Educational speakers
Bi annual newsletters	Stay informed
Classified advertising	Free to all members

We are still accepting dues for 2016 or pay early for 2017. Send your checks for *only* \$25, made payable to BBLA, to Ron Trivers, 113A Cressey Lane, Thessalon, On., P0R 1L0. You can also use our website, www.bigbasswood.ca, and access PayPal.

Mike Hunting, Membership Chairman

Chairman's Letter

It has been another great summer on Big Basswood Lake. Hot and dry conditions for the summer of 2016 contributed to many wonderful days on the lake for our members and their friends.

As you will have seen from the first article in this fall's newsletter, the lake association has hit 100 members for the first time in its history! Thanks to the tireless efforts of Mike Hunting as the membership chairman and the other members of the association board of directors, we have been able to steadily increase the number of property owners that we represent. As Mike notes in his article, although we are all proud of this milestone, our intent is keep working hard to increase this number even further. We believe that the association plays an important role in keeping our lake healthy and beautiful and there is no reason why we shouldn't continue to grow the percentage of property owners that we represent.

This summer, for the first time, we experimented in dividing our annual general meeting into two separate events. The more formal

meeting was held as usual on the third Sunday of July – July 24th this year. At this meeting, we dealt with the business of the association including reports from all of the committees and had an interesting presentation from Gil Reeves – mayor of Huron Shores. A second, more social meeting was held on August 13th. The "Sweet Sowerby Social" included a pot luck dessert buffet and a very interesting talk from Dr. Paul Hazlett, a resident of Basswood and a scientist on the Turkey Lakes research project. His presentation was very thought provoking and generated much interesting discussion. Feedback to the two meeting format was very, very positive and the board has decided to proceed with the same format for next year's meetings. The annual general meeting will be held on July 23rd and the social meeting will be held on a weeknight in mid August – speaker and date TBD.

The lake association has continued to give top priority to the issue of Big Basswood water quality. We noted at the start of

the annual general meeting how our continued monitoring of water clarity through monthly Secchi disk testing indicates that we continue to enjoy some of the clearest water of any inland lake in Ontario (source – Federation of Ontario Cottage association lake partner data base). We have also renewed our efforts this year to monitor phosphorous levels in our lake and to educate our membership in how to reduce the chances of an introduction of invasive aquatic species into the lake. I think we all know what a special privilege we have in owning property on the pristine waters of Big Basswood Lake and how important it is for us to be good stewards of this precious resource. The board is committed to continue to do all that we can to support your efforts at preserving our beautiful lake. Please see the article in this newsletter with details on water quality readings this summer.

continued page 3 ...

Photo Calendars/Photo Contest

S-U-C-C-E-S-S

That is how we spell
SUCCESS !!!!

Photo Contest / 2017 Calendar

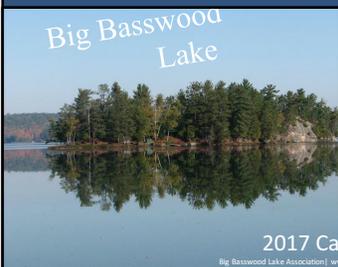
The sales of the Big Basswood Lake Calendar for 2017 are complete. Thank you to all those who submitted their photographs to the Big Basswood Lake website your enthusiasm and skill were evident in the production of the final calendar and a visual treat for all of us who checked the site regularly for new submissions. There were one

hundred calendars sold at cost to our many members around the lake. We were so impressed with your overall participation in this event that we have decided to run a similar event in 2017 to capture The Seasons of Big Basswood Lake.

The contest will run from June of 2017 until June of 2018 to allow all the Seasons of Big Basswood Lake to be photographed. The contest is open to all members of Big Basswood Lake Association and their families. We will be keeping all contestants pictures

on our website to allow everyone the opportunity to see the competition in an open format. Board members and professional photographers will not be allowed to compete for prizes but are welcome to share their photos. This contest is being sponsored by the Lake Association and the rules and prizes will be described more fully in future newsletters and on our website.

Please have a look at the article on page 3 of this newsletter for some helpful tips on taking photographs.



What Makes a Good Photograph?

I am frequently asked “How do I take a good picture?” There isn't one definitive answer. You could have the best equipment, but you don't have a good eye for composition, everything you shoot is out of focus, or flat looking.

There are many different factors that go into creating a good image. Understanding how your camera works is a great help, as is having an idea of what makes for good composition, but there are a few other things which you can't necessarily learn from youtube videos or from buying the most expensive equipment.

A good image has the ability to evoke some sort of emotion, whether that be happiness, curiosity, anger, sadness or amazement. If you can do this you will start creating images that pique people's interest. The image may be technically poor, but if it starts to stir some sort of emotion it will be memorable and, therefore, a success.

It sounds cliched, but if you care about what you are shooting this

will come through in the images. When I was younger I would photograph everything in sight...close-ups, reflections, trees, door handles, trash. This wasn't a wasted exercise as I learnt the functions of my camera. Now, though, I am constantly looking for inspiration. Once you feel inspired you'll start to care more about your images.

Seek out interesting subject matter. Even if the technical aspects such as focus and composition are not well executed there can still be plenty of reasons to find the subject appealing. Look for interesting lighting, a sharp focal point and think about your composition. Collectively these are generally the key factors to a good photo. However, an uninteresting subject matter that is technically good will always be an uninteresting image to me. What is interesting is subjective, but if your subject matter is unique or appealing to a number of people you are on your way to success.

Like any other creative task you

need to practice! I can't emphasize this enough. In the past couple of months I've started to learn the piano. I don't mind admitting I'm bad...really bad! But I can see small improvements every time I practice. Photography is no different. It's no good taking your camera out once a year. If you want to improve you've got to learn from your mistakes and learn how your camera works.

Finally, seek out other photographers that inspire you and don't be afraid to copy them!

Over time you will develop your own style. Enjoy this learning process and go out and explore with your camera.

Feel free to follow me on [instagram.com/jackhoylephoto](https://www.instagram.com/jackhoylephoto) or on [facebook.com/jackhoylephotography](https://www.facebook.com/jackhoylephotography)

www.jackhoylephotography.com
www.jackhweddings.com

Chairman's Letter (cont'd)

Although the conditions were, for the most part, dry throughout the summer, water levels on the lake stayed relatively high throughout the year. This was because the dam closed at Harris Creek for most of the summer. We continue to lobby with the MNR on communication of the strategy for determining water levels on an ongoing basis.

The board continues to participate actively in the activities of FOCA – with plans to attend both their fall seminar and their spring annual meeting. We encourage all

members of the association to continue to take advantage of the resources that are provided on their website www.foca.ca. Please see the article later in the newsletter on the advantages of membership in FOCA.

Following on from our successful 2015 photo contest, we had a calendar made up with the top 12 pictures from the photo contest.

We were very pleased with how popular these calendars were with our members – with a need to go back for a reprint when the first printing sold out. Thanks to

Maeve Coccimiglio for getting this organized. And we are pleased to announce that we will be running a brand new photo contest in 2017 – please see the article later in this newsletter announcing the new contest.

We hope that you have an enjoyable winter and we look forward to seeing you again on the lake in the spring time.

Larry Allcorn

Water Test Results

Our water clarity continues to be of primary interest to all of the property owners on Big Basswood Lake. Secchi disk readings are taken regularly over the course of the summer season with the results being recorded and submitted to the FOCA Lake Partner program.

"Secchi depth" is the depth as which the disk disappears from sight. Therefore the higher the number, the clearer the water. Over the course of this summer, the following was observed:

Date	Reading
05-21	10.5 (spring pollen)
07-29	11.2
08-09	13.9
09-23	12.2
09-23 (evening)	13.0
10-25	12.5

The average of 12.2 still makes Big Basswood the clearest lake that is being tracked in the Lake Partner database. To see a database of all recorded Secchi disk results in Ontario, please see the FOCA Lake Partner website at:

www.foca.on.ca

Thanks to Bob Kellum and Jon Cavanaugh for recording of these results for the last few years.

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LAKE PARTNER SECCHI DATA

Note: pencil works best on this waterproof paper

BASSWOOD LAKE
Mid Lake, deep spot

STN 246 Lake Max Depth (m) ^{73m} ~~79m~~
Site ID 1 Site Depth (m) 73m

Watch the Secchi disk in the water. Is the colour:
Green or Yellow? OR Brown or Orange?

Date (dd-mmm)	Time (24 hr)	Secchi Depth (m)	Secchi Disk Touches Bottom? (✓)	Comments
21-05	10:45	10.5	NO	First time reading/8m
29-07	10:30	11.2	NO	Sunny light wind
07-08	10:50	13.9	NO	" " "
23-09	11:00	12.2	NO	windy, wavy
23-09	4:00	13.0	NO	partly sunny calm, ripples
25-10	10:30	12.5	NO	sunny, light chop

Keep this sheet to record Secchi depths from May through October. Please mail this sheet to Dorset in November using the provided postage paid envelope.
Email: lakepartner@ontario.ca

2017 MEETING CALENDAR

Monday evening, June 26th Board Meeting

Sunday morning, July 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TBA August, a social &/or informative gathering - stay tuned

Monday evening, September 18th Board Meeting

Be sure and mark your calendars now!!

Canadian Lakes Loon Survey



A gathering of some 30 to 40 loons was spotted by several lake watchers as a glorious September drew to a close. Getting ready for migration, one would suppose.

According to Bird Studies Canada 95 percent of the world's Common Loons breed in Canada. They also say that loons are widely considered as iconic indicators of the health of aquatic ecosystems due to their need for clean, clear water.

This same organization, Bird

Studies Canada, has, for more than 30 years, conducted an annual survey of Common Loon reproductive success, gathering data from more than 4,500 Canadian lakes, data collected by volunteers, people such as ourselves. (www.birdscanada.org)

With this in mind, the BBLA is considering joining the survey project in 2017. Ideally a coordinated lake wide effort would be best. Are you interested in this endeavor?

But wait! That's not all. The Common Loon is poised to be designated the National Bird of Canada by Royal Canadian Geographical Society and Canadian Geographic. All the more reason for the BBLA to join the 2017 annual Canadian Loon Survey. For more information, please contact Dixie Olmstead at dixie_olmstead@yahoo.com

Hutton scoops up 2016 Nicol-Brown Championship

Congratulations to Basswood resident Andrew Hutton (whose piping we are privileged to enjoy every summer on Mike and Lolly Huntings dock) ...



Scotia, New York – October 8, 2016 – Andrew Hutton's two firsts and a second resulted in a clear overall win of the 2016 Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Championship, judged by Nick Hudson and Willie McCallum. The 34th edition of the event, this year held at First Reformed Church of Scotia, attracted the usual strong field of North American contestants who are on the brink of turning professional. Among other prizes, Hutton receives airfare to compete at the Scottish Pipers Society of London's competitions in November 2017.



Why support FOCA



Who supports FOCA?

FOCA represents 50,000 member families in more than 500 lake and road associations across Ontario. Member support drives this organization!

Our supporters are people like you who:

- ☞ care about clean and safe lakes
- ☞ are concerned about affordability
- ☞ treasure family time in cottage country!

Your lake. Your lifestyle. Your legacy.

What does FOCA do?

FOCA sits at the table where individuals cannot.

For over 50 years, FOCA has been the voice of Ontario's waterways and lake associations. FOCA works with Government and other partners on important policy and best practices, to make our waterfront communities environmentally and financially sustainable.

See more about FOCA's legacy and ongoing programs on the next page.

What do supporters get?

☑ special offers and FOCA discounts on insurance, magazine subscriptions and much more!
See details & access codes, below

☑ cottage country resources on property issues, lake planning practices, environmental hot topics, and much more. Visit: <http://foca.on.ca> and click on "I have a question" to start a search

☑ invitations to FOCA events, webinars & special programs (including the Cottage Succession Series and Member Seminars)

☑ access Members-only online materials on cottage-country road issues, FOCA event slide presentations, a sample "Lake Visitor Information Sheet" about cottage etiquette...and more.

Plus, you will become part of the solution for waterfront Ontario!

Offers for Associations & Individuals: *current @ June 2016; subject to change over time*

Association Liability Insurance—coverage options for lake associations, road groups & land trusts, as well as risk management solutions for Directors and Officers. FOCA Member Associations **get a discount!** Call **416-234-9980** or visit www.cadeinsurance.com/foca

MyLakeTown.com—finally: a website solution created just for lake Associations! Mention FOCA for a **10% discount** off the annual subscription fee, plus **NO website set up fee (min. \$125 value)**. Email: info@mylaketown.com

Audability Communications—special offer (at a new, even lower, rate!!): teleconference for **only 2.5¢ a minute** per participant. You must mention FOCA when you email sales@audability.com or call **1-877-283-2253**. Ask them about webinar solutions, too.

CottageFirst—the first group insurance program dedicated to cottagers! Get great coverage on your cottage, home, car & more. **Exclusive to FOCA member families**, via Cade Associates Insurance Brokers. Get a quote: **1-844-CADE-1ST** or visit www.cottagefirst.com

Cottage Life Magazine—special discount on new subscriptions OR renewals: pay **only \$3/issue** (total=\$24 for 8 issues, includes free digital access). Quote promo code: **FOCA16**, or go online: www.cottagelife.com/foca16

Superior Propane—for cottages, homes, businesses across Ontario. Call **1-866-484-1727** for SMART Tank remote monitoring & mySUPERIOR online portal. Mention FOCA & **ask about a buying group rate** for your lake!

Canadian Canoe Museum—claim a one-time FREE 1-year Individual Membership to the Museum! (**\$30 value**). Quote code: **FOCA12** when you call 1-866-342-2663, or redeem at the door, or by email: info@canoemuseum.ca

info@foca.on.ca • www.foca.on.ca • 705-749-3622

A reminder to check out the history section on our website. There's another interview on the Basswood Lake website from this summer. Learn some interesting things about the past at Basswood in the interview with Don McCallum.

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

DIRECTORS OF BBLA

Larry Allcorn, Chairman, 416-407-2188

lallcorn@bell.net

Maeve Coccimiglio, Vice Chairman, 705-842-2454

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Ron Trivers, Treasurer, 705-842-2883

lyndatrivers@gmail.com

Marilyn Kellum, Secretary and Lake Stewardship, 734-717-1290

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