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BBLA Newsletter

Fall 2024/Winter 2025

Chairman's Letter

I always become a little wistful at the end of another summer season on Big Basswood Lake, as the days shorten and the sun dips deeper into the southwest lakeshore at sunset. But crisp fall mornings, changes to our area's abundant fall foliage, and the emergence of autumn wildlife activity always make me smile.

I want to extend a special thanks to all members who participated in Big Basswood Lake Association's July 26, 2024, Annual General Meeting and summer BBQ social. It was a pleasure to reconnect with our members and hear your feedback regarding priorities for the coming year. I also want to recognize BBLA board member Cynthia Wood for her tireless BBQ coordination efforts, as well as Melwel Lodge for their gracious hospitality in hosting our meeting again this summer.

Again this year, we were fortunate enough to partner with the Sowerby Hall and Heritage Society and the North Shore Sentinel to sponsor two Heritage Evenings at the 12 Sided Barn. The first of these in July was the sequel to last year's "Goose and Gander" musical event which featured entertainment from local musicians as well as a second visit from our friends in Michigan. Special thanks to Marilyn Kellum for organizing this event. The second event in August was a very interesting historical presentation on White Pine Logging on the North Shore by Art Groot. Please see the article in this newsletter about these important community events.

Finally, I would like to formally welcome our newest volunteer board members Christina Coutu, John Glaser, and Felix Rogers, each of whom has already provided valuable input during our September 30, 2024 board meeting. Welcome aboard!

This year's Fall/Winter BBLA Newsletter covers a number of important issues affecting the lake community. Headlines include updates and details regarding the proposed re-zoning of the Melwel Lodge property, which were discussed at a special pubic meeting on October 9, 2024, and subsequently approved by the Huron Shores municipal council. The newsletter also covers our ongoing municipal affairs engagement, an update from our newly formed BBLA membership sub-committee, and details regarding several new lake stewardship initiatives.

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Chairman's Letter (cont'd)

While our membership numbers have rebounded, we have yet to fully reach our pre-COVID pandemic totals. Our efforts to tackle issues that threaten the quality of life on our lake are more effective when backed by robust membership numbers.

Your annual membership in the Big Basswood Lake Association also provides several tangible benefits:

- Annual events focused on lake stewardship, area history, ongoing education.
- Automatic membership in FOCA (The Federation of Ontario Cottages Association) and access to the many informative publications they provide concerning issues faced by cottagers.
- Savings on Cottage Insurance through FOCA Membership

The annual membership fee remains \$25 per year. Non-voting Associate memberships are also available to local businesses and friends and family who visit the lake frequently.

Payment Options

- Use PAYPAL
- E-TRANSFER from a Canadian Bank account to our treasurer Cynthia Wood cince48@gmail.com
- . SEND A CHEQUE to:

Big Basswood Lake Association, P.O. Box 337, Thessalon, ON P0R 1L0

Matt Aho

Northeastern Power Line

Of interest to Big Basswood Lake property owners might be the proposed construction in 2027 of a new power line from a transformer station on Hwy 129, North of Basswood Lake to a transformer station North of Sudbury

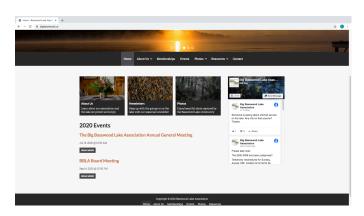


Please follow this link for more information on time lines including public consultations next summer:

Hydro One Northeast Power Line Information

Technology

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The BBLA board continues to work significant overhauls of the bigbasswood.ca website, membership management systems, and our social media platforms. Whereas our past efforts have included basic website improvements, such as a new and improved news and alerts section on the home page, updated photographs, and online versions of select BBLA newsletter articles, the BBLA board continues to recognize the need for more substantial changes.

As discussed during our Annual General Meeting in July, over the past several months, we have explored ways to overhaul the website so that becoming a member and paying or renewing membership dues is faster and easier-and can all be handled online. We are also working to integrate our web presence with our membership database and email platform, so that our communications are more seamless, and up-to-date.

The central challenge to a fuller website overhaul relates to limitations involving the software system we currently use to manage website content and make edits. To address this challenge, the BBLA board, with consent from our members at the AGM, has begun exploring alternative website management systems that offer updated layouts and tools. We look forward to providing additional updates as we work to upgrade and overhaul our online presence.

Matt Aho

2024 Annual General Meeting



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After the overwhelming positive feedback from those attending the 2023 BBLA Annual General Meeting, the Board elected to repeat this new format for the 2024 AGM holding a barbecue after the meeting for those attending. The AGM was once again held at Melwel Lodge. We convened the meeting at 4:00 pm on Friday, July 26. Many interesting and informative topics were covered resulting with excellent discussions and feedback from the membership. We were pleased to have Mayor Matt Seabrook and councilor Peter Falk in attendance.

We adjourned at 6:00pm and were treated to an excellent Barbecue dinner catered again by Monique Brock, including burgers from Penokean Hills and delicious Butter Tarts from the Queen's Tarts in Sault Ste. Marie.

Our attendance was down this year compared to 2023. This was probably due to a combination of factors. There was a delay in securing an appropriate date for the meeting and this resulted in late notice going out to the membership. And of course we were also competing with the opening ceremonies of the Summer Olympic Games! Despite the lower numbers, enthusiasm was high and we hope to maintain this format for next year and will secure a date and publish it well in advance.





Membership

BBLA Fall 2024/ Winter 2025 Newsletter Page 5 As we turn the page on the summer of 2024 and head home, we encourage everyone to become an active member of the Big Basswood Lake Association. The BBLA works diligently to preserve and protect Big Basswood Lake and its watershed, so that generations of families can continue to enjoy this very special and unique summer experience year after year.

While our membership numbers have rebounded since the pandemic we still have a long way to go to achieve the full participation of the Basswood lake property owners. In 2023, 85 families joined the BBLA, while we have only 75 paid memberships for 2024. There is a lot of room to grow to reach the pre-pandemic numbers of 115 memberships, a level which still represents only 50% participation of the lake population. At the fall board meeting, board members agreed to strike a subcommittee to address this issue. Going forward we hope to develop strategies to attract new members and adapt our technology to make it easier for new members to sign up.

So why is membership in your lake association important? The association aims to care for our lake and to address important issues that affect our lake residents. Our efforts in addressing these issues are more effective when backed by robust membership numbers.

Your annual membership in the Big Basswood Lake Association also provides several tangible benefits:

- > Annual events focused on Lake Stewardship, area History, ongoing education.
- > Automatic membership in FOCA (The Federation of Ontario Cottages Association) which provides access to the many informative publications concerning issues faced by cottagers.
- > Participation at the Annual General Meeting which offers the opportunity for you to provide your input on the issues that affect property owners and the preservation of the Basswood Lake environment
- > Savings on Cottage Insurance through FOCA Membership

We appreciate your continued support of the BBLA. Along with becoming a member, we also welcome your active participation and input. If you would like to join the the board in their endeavors to protect our lake, please reach out to us. If you have a new neighbor or a neighbor that is not yet a member, let them know about the benefits of joining the BBLA, and invite them to meetings and activities supported by the association

The annual membership fee remains at \$25 per year. Non-voting Associate

Cynthia Woods/George Craigie

Melwel Lodge Severance

BBLA Fall 2024/ Winter 2025 Newsletter Many of our members will have heard by now that the owners of Melwel Lodge have submitted an "Application for Consent" to sever the existing property into 8 individual lots with the intent of selling each of the lots individually. The 8 lots correspond to the locations of the existing 8 cabins on the property. As part of the application, they have requested some minor changes in the setbacks and a rezoning of the properties from "Recreational Commercial" to "Waterfront Recreational and Waterfront Residential". Also included is an application to provide drainage easement together with an easement to establish long-term access over the existing private drive. A map of the proposed severance is included with this article.

A public meeting was held on Wednesday, Oct 9th at which the Municipality's planner Peter Tonazzo presented a report on the application recommending acceptance. At that meeting, Mr. Tonazzo, along with the current owners, Frank and Christian Provenzano, made a presentation on the reasons for the request, outlined the planned severance, and responded to questions by many members of the public that attended in person and virtually.

At the subsequent regular council meeting, council voted unanimously to approve the severance, subject to conditions.

Several key concerns were addressed at the meeting

Site development – property owners on Basswood Lake were concerned that approving this severance would result in unchecked development at the site. The existing owners explained that, in fact, this rezoning constituted a "down zoning". As noted, the lodge site is currently zoned "Recreational Commercial" which offers significant flexibility for development, and the potential to create a multi-unit resort or similar destination-oriented development, akin to the style and amenities seen in popular resort areas. By rezoning as "Waterfront Residential", the new owners will be restricted to a single detached or recreational dwelling. Any development of a new seasonal or full-time residence that expands beyond the existing cabin footprint must be separately approved by council.

Precedents – much concern was expressed by lake residents that this would establish a precedent on Big Basswood wherein any large property owner could apply for creation of multiple lot subdivision, thereby increasing lake density. Mr Tonazzo addressed this citing the existing Official Plan which states that "up to two consents for residential uses may be granted for a lot as of the approval date of this Plan (excluding the retained lot). Special consideration may be made to a limited number of existing lots in the municipality which is occupied by more than one dwelling unit where such dwellings existed as of May 25, 1985.

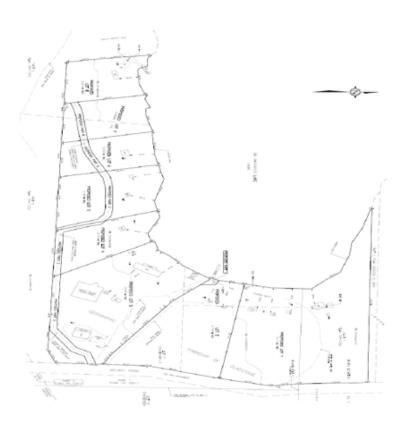
Melwel Lodge Severance (cont'd)

BBLA Fall 2024/ Winter 2025 Newsletter Lake quality – concerns were expressed about increased septic loading on Big Basswood. Council placed conditions on the application for consent that will require the owners to obtain appropriate Ministry of Environment, Conversation and Parks and/or Algoma Public Health approvals as it relates to the decommissioning of existing septic systems, where required, as well as any necessary pre-development approvals for new septic systems.

Road easement – as part of the development plan, a series of easements will be granted to provide long-term, registered and surveyed access to Proposed Parts 2-7 on the site plan. A new private road is to be built at the rear of the property. Although an existing road exists, the new routing will be further back from the lake.

The lake association will continue to monitor the situation as it unfolds. We are told by the owners that the development plans will not be executed for 2 years and that Melwel will be open for business as usual in 2025.

If you have further questions, please contact Matt Aho (imomateo@yahoo.com) at or reference the Huron Shores website (huronshores.ca)



Water Rangers

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This season Big Basswood Lake participated in the Water Rangers Program. Lake volunteers commit to sampling the lake water monthly through the spring and summer months. Testing is for chlorine, pH, alkalinity, water clarity and water temperature.

Big Basswood Lake is part of The Kensington Conservancy: St. Joseph Channel Water Quality Monitoring Group.

So far there are two sample locations on the lake. Check out these two sites for the results:

Water Rangers 1

Water Rangers 2

And for more information about the Water Ranger Program and sampling sites see:

Water Rangers 3

Marilyn Kellum/Bobby Swain

History Corner

Thanks to Bobby Swain and Laura Foley for continuing to publish very interesting history stories on the Basswood Outfitters website. Please take time to follow the link below to read their latest story ,,,

Part 2 - Travel to Big Basswood Lake from a Bygone EralBasswood
Outfitters

Heritage Evenings

BBLA Fall 2024/ Winter 2025 Newsletter Again this summer, the Big Basswood Lake Association was fortunate to be able to partner with the Sowerby Hall and Heritage Society and the North Shore Sentinel to sponsor two Heritage Evenings at the 12 sided barn.

The first of these was held on July 17th and featured performances by John McClenaghan, Mark Tarantini from Algoma/Blind River. Also featured for the second half of the show were The Goose and the Gander and Creole Du Nord who travelled all the way to Sowerby from Michigan. The Goose and the Gander featured music by Canadian performers with a Northern Michigan flare and Creole Du Nord featured very interesting Cajun music – something not often associated with Michigan. Our thanks to Marilyn Kellum for her tireless efforts to organize these musicians visit to Algoma for the second year in a row.

This was followed by a presentation on August 21st by Art Groot on "The Lake Huron North Shore: Ontario's Last Great White Pine Lumbering Area". He is a retired research scientist from Sault Ste Marie who specializes in researching the history of white pine logging on the North Shore. His tremendously interesting presentation was enjoyed by all that evening.

Special thanks to Will Samis and Dave Ratz of the Sowerby Heritage Society for organizing these evenings. Both events filled the barn and all funds collected were donated 100% to local charities.

BBLA believes that these events are very important and enjoyable for lake residents and the Huron Shores community and we plan to continue to participate in 2025.

Larry Allcorn



MNRF/Water Levels

BBLA Fall 2024/ Winter 2025 Newsletter Page 10 As reported in the spring newsletter, the BBLA hosted a public meeting with the MNRF in September/2023, regarding water levels on Big Basswood Lake. A number of individuals had expressed ongoing concerns with fluctuating water levels, particularly in late summer and early fall. This was followed by two meetings between the MNRF and Huron Shores environmental services committee in the fall of 2023 and the early winter of 2024.



Key takeaways from these meeting was the need for ongoing communication with the MNRF throughout the summer months as water levels change. We agreed that this communication would happen through both the municipal office for issues that might affect municipal infrastructure and also through a few observers that are situated close to Harris Creek and the dam.

As noted earlier, control of lake levels in an inexact science. As if to prove this, we had a very unusual spring freshet. With almost no snow melt, Basswood Lake water level was lower than normal in the spring. However, heavy rain in late spring forced the water levels up higher than usual levels in early summer. This was followed by an extremely dry summer that caused the lake to fall to very low water levels by late summer.

As we committed to do, we monitored the dam setting and were in touch with the MNRF during the summer with observations. As a result, the dam was shut tight by mid-July and the dry summer unfolded and all lowering of the water levels was caused directly by natural evaporation.

We continue to dialogue with the MNRF and will continue to monitor as the fall and winter unfolds. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions, we encourage you to communicate them to Larry Allcorn (lallcorn@bell.net) who will follow them up with Huron Shores and the MNRF.

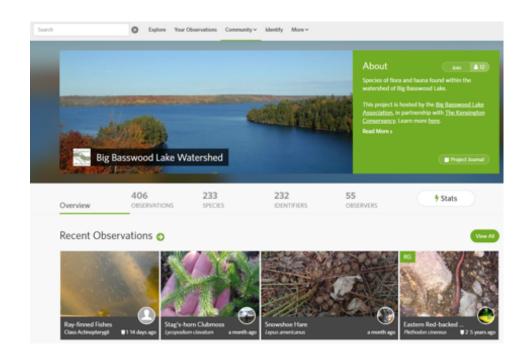
iNaturalist

CHECK IT OUT!!

https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/big- basswood-lakewatershed

Check out the Big Basswood Lake Watershed Project on iNaturalist. The iNaturalist platform allow users to post observations, submit photos of flora and fauna for identification, communicate with others with questions and observations and, as you can see on the opening page, provides an overview and data on what has been noted in the area

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The home page has a lot of information—photos and stats. This page provides you with an overview of what has been seen, where it was spotted, photographed and recorded in the Big Basswood Lake Project.

It is easy to sign up. Just got to inaturalist.org and sign up. After you sign up you can click on Community then choose Projects from the drop down menu and join the Big Basswood Lake Watershed Project.

Then explore and add some photos. See what other people have observed. You can compare notes with other users.

Marilyn Kellum

Big Basswood Loon Survey

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Hearing loons make their mysterious calls is an important part of being at camp in the summer. They are part of the lake experience. I think we all take note of their presence.

For several summers people around
Basswood have been observing loon activity
and sending their loon information to the
Canadian Lakes Loon Survey of Birds
Canada. The main focus of the survey is
nesting pairs and the survival of any chicks

hatched by a nesting pair of loons.

There are three critical periods that need to be reported on based on the observations of a dedicated group of volunteers around the lake:

- 1. nesting early June to mid July,
- 2.hatching -early to late July,
- 3. chick survival -mid to late August.

The number of nesting pairs and single adults is recorded as well as the number of chicks hatched and the number of large young (at least 6 weeks old) that have survived to the end of the season.

In early May a group of ten loons was observed in the northwest part of the lake. Loons were heard in the southeast and the north near the big island. Only one nesting pair was observed this summer near Phillips Bay. Two babies hatched and so far have survived their journey into adolescence. A group of 12 to 15 adults were seen in the bay near Oak Ridge Trail in mid-September.

We are always looking for help observing the loons in our lake. Please feel free to contact Gwyneth Wilcox at puddoxx@gmail.com with any loon sightings or questions. Looking forward to their return.

Municipal Affairs

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As the Municipality of Huron Shores celebrates its 25th anniversary, the chamber room is buzzing with excitement and talks about the future growth of this vibrant community. The already eclectic community magic is about to become even more phenomenal, and it is thanks to all of those working behind the scenes, implementing projects from the idea phase into completion. For example, with the support of a dedicated council and staff, and the numerous volunteers, the community is envisioning a master recreation plan. The Summer and early Fall months were spent gathering feedback from community members and working with specialized economic development consultants. Plans continue to evolve with hopes of the recreation plan implementation beginning in the near future.

The recreation master plan is one of the many projects currently being executed by the municipality. Discussions occur regularly with various community stakeholders to identify areas of need. This past year, meetings with The North Channel Poverty Network identified that transportation was a major barrier, particularly with medical transportation. There continues to be solution-focused planning sessions on this matter. This year also saw successful community events such as community days and the ATV run.

There are two BBLA board members who currently hold positions on Huron Shores council committees. Larry Allcorn serves as a committee member to the Environmental Services Committee (ESC), and Christina Coutu for the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC). The BBLA will continue to collaborate with the Municipality of Huron Shores and all those community members as an important stakeholder in the municipality.

Christina Coutu

Lake Partners Report Summary

Editors Note: The Ontario Lake Partners Program has published a report on the Lake partner data that we have been submitting to them. A full copy of the report will be made available on our website (link to report not yet available at time of publication). Following is a summary of that report prepared by Bobby Swain

BBLA Fall 2024/ Winter 2025 Newsletter Page 14 Volunteers from Big Basswood Lake have been collecting and submitting water samples for Ontario's **Lake Partner Program** for over 20 years The Lake Partner Program. The sampling methodology and protocols are actually quite rigorous and when completed, the water samples are shipped to the Program office in padded test tubes and capped containers on a priority basis to ensure the freshness of the samples Lake Partner Program: Sampling Instructions I ontario.ca

Lake Partner Program: Sampling Instructions

Water sampling instructions for Lake Partner Program volunteers. www.ontario.ca

The one item that has been a rub for some of the lake representatives over the years, has been that the data has only been compiled into a large chronological year by year database and has not been analyzed to provide an overview of the trends of the various testing results. The LPP representatives have responded to the feedback from Big Basswood and other lake associations and this year they have provided a full analysis of the results from the last ten years.

The results of the analysis are presented in graphs and bar charts to indicate the trends of testing results and how Big Basswood Lake compares to the other 500+ lakes in the sampling program in Ontario.

The overview from the information in the report is that Big Basswood Lake is at or near the top in positive results for all of the sampling protocols.

Despite this overview there are a few areas of concern when observing the trend graphs - identified in the Analysis below.

Total Phosphorus:

(Increases in phosphorus may stimulate algal growth, resulting in decreased water clarity, reduced deep-water oxygen concentrations that can affect fish health, and, in extreme cases, cause algal blooms that may produce toxins, affect the aesthetics of the lake, and/or cause taste and odour problems in the water.)

Analysis - Total Phosphorous readings on the bar graph in the report indicate that BBL has the lowest phosphorus reading of any of the sampled lakes in Ontario (note the vertical dotted line indicating BBL's results). The area of concern is that the results for the last four years have been above the trend line indicating that there appears to be an increasing level in the lake basins.

The statistical increase is below the threshold of "trend indication", however it is an indicator that future problems may occur if lake properties are not diligent about maintaining naturally vegetated water fronts and efficiently operating septic systems. All property owners should review their septic systems and if you are not aware of how your system is operating you should contact Algoma Public Health for assistance (please call the Environmental Health team at 705-759-5286).

Lake Partners Report Summary

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Calcium:

(Calcium, the "backbone of life," is an essential nutrient for all living organisms. Calcium levels are declining in Canadian Shield lakes, which can lead to stress on aquatic ecosystems, especially when combined with warmer temperatures that are predicted with climate change.)

Analysis - Calcium levels in Big Basswood Lake are very near the lowest of the sampled lakes for calcium concentration. This may be due to the large volume of spring fed water maintaining the lake levels.

Considering that calcium is necessary to maintain many aquatic species, the declining graph line is an area of concern as given the current trend indicated in the graph, at some point in the not too distant future, the calcium concentration will drop below 1.5 mg/litre which will not support aquatic life. Since natural forest run-off is critical to maintaining calcium levels it is important for the Municipality and land owners to carefully regulate the clearing of trees and plant life in the Big Basswood Lake Watershed.

Chloride:

(Freshwater lakes and rivers naturally contain low concentrations of dissolved salts including chloride (Cl). Cl is an essential element in freshwater lake ecosystems, but elevated concentrations are toxic to aquatic organisms. In North America, sodium chloride (NaCl) or magnesium chloride (MgCl) are salts often used to manage roads in the winter months. These molecules are highly soluble and mobile, meaning that they can easily enter lake watersheds and subsequently, lakes.)

Analysis - Big Basswood Lake is very near to the lowest Chloride concentration in all of the sampled lakes at 1.6 mg/litre. This is a positive result considering that the mean of all lakes is 7.6 mg/l.

The important consideration again is that the trending graph is going in the wrong direction with an increase in Chloride levels indicated over the past decade. It is important again to ensure that buffers are maintained along the shoreline to filter any run-off where road salts are used for winter maintenance. The main areas of susceptibility are along Highway 129 in the Phillips Creek area and a short stretch of Highway 17 across from Myers Road.

Lake Partners Report Summary

Water Clarity:

(continued)

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(Light penetration into the lake can be controlled by dissolved organic carbon (DOC), biological turbidity (e.g. algae) and non-biological turbidity, which can influence the colour of the lake. Water clarity readings with a Secchi disk are valuable for tracking change in lake transparency that may not be observed by monitoring TP concentrations alone. For example invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels) can alter water transparency, as can the presence of wetlands in a watershed.)

Analysis:

As many BBLA members are aware, Big Basswood Lake has consistently ranked as the Ontario lake with the highest clarity readings observed using the Secchi Disk. This standing has continued throughout the 25 years during which test results have been recorded. Big Basswood Lake has Secchi readings in the range of 12 metres compared to the average of all tested lakes at 3.9 metres (only a very small percentage of lakes have a reading over 6 metres).

Once again, as with other results the overall trend indicates a reduction in lake clarity over time. It is important for the BBL property owners to monitor clarity and prepare to lobby jurisdictional authorities to undertake steps to ensure that Big Basswood Lake does not continue to lose clarity. These may include taking steps to control development through site plan approval, monitor use of boat launches and look to ensure that boats from other lakes do not carry invasive species, mandate septic system inspections and preserve the forested lands contiguous to the Big Basswood Lake watershed.

Conclusions:

The Lake Partner Program analysis of the data gleaned from many years of volunteer water sampling indicates that Big Basswood Lake continues to maintain a high level of water quality when compared to the other 500 lakes monitored in the Service Ontario program.

Despite this high quality of water in both the east and west basins, the trends for all testing parameters are going in the wrong direction. With continued impacts of climate change and development, there will be more stresses on the lake and it will require diligence by all involved to ensure that the next generation of lake users will benefit from the stewardship of the current lake residents.

We encourage all residents to get involved in monitoring all aspects of lake health and doing your part to preserve this wonderful water body.

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Melwel Road Guide Rails Study

Kresin Engineering Corporation was retained by Huron Shores to complete a review of roadside guide rail installation standards applicable to the section of Melwel Road between Melwel Lodge and Clubhouse Road. Specifically, the Municipality required input on the placement of guide rails to maintain adequate road width, as well as to provide proper guide rail performance.

Kresin describes the subject section of Melwel Road as "a gravel surface, low volume local road providing access to predominantly seasonal properties. The horizontal and vertical alignment of the road is characterized with sharp curves and steep hills, while the driving surface appears narrow in certain locations as there are steep embankments and rock cuts on either side. The legal speed limit is currently 80 kilometres per hour".

The report addresses the following issues:

- 1. Road Classification and Design Criteria
- 2. Types of Guide Rail Installation
- 3. Warning Signage

Report recommendations Include

- Consider reducing the posted speed limit on the subject section of Melwel Road. A posted speed of 50km/h will allow narrower travel lanes, tighter curves and steeper slopes.
- Carry out a detailed review of existing conditions. A detailed survey can be used to identify specific deficiencies and hazards; this information can then be used to determine alternatives for corrective measures.
- 3. Where insufficient width is available, consider reducing the speed limit surrounding deficiencies and hazards to 40 km/h or less and posting appropriate warning in accordance with the OTM.
- 4. Where possible, install guide rails in accordance with current OPSDs. Copies of select OPSDs are attached.

A full copy of the report is available to Huron Shores property owners if requested.

Larry Allcorn



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A reminder to all of our members that a membership in the Big Basswood Lake Association includes a membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association.

FOCA is currently some 500+ members strong representing over 50,000 waterfront land owners in the province.

They provide us with a number of valuable services:

- 1. Ongoing participation in their lake partner program. We submit our lake test results for clarity and phosphorous levels to the lake partner data base every year. This data base continues to show Basswood as one of the clearest lakes in Ontario
- FOCA holds a spring and a fall meeting every year, both of which usually feature valuable information. The spring event was held virtually and in person in Toronto on Saturday, March 2cd. All of our members are welcome to attend these interesting meetings as you are all member of FOCA.
- 3. Also, he FOCA web site contains a large amount of valuable information on lake stewardship and the ongoing initiatives that FOCA is working on. Please visit the website at http://www.foca.on.ca/ for more information. We encourage our members to take advantage of this powerful tool as there is a lot of excellent information and reference material to be found there.
- 4. FOCA also organizes Online Seminars for individual lake associations. We took advantage of this service this fall with the successful sponsorship on Cottage Succession Planning – see the separate write up in this newsletter for more information,
- 5. A valuable lobbying resource that can speak effectively on behalf of the 500 member associations.
- FOCA also dffers ongoing discounts on a number of products and services. These are also listed in the website above.

Larry Allcorn and Marilyn Kellum

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