**ECOSYSTEMS**

If you were planning a trip to Guelph Lake to go camping for 4 days what would you need to bring? – Remember to consider the living things you may encounter as well.

***Ecosystem*** – all the living organisms and their physical and chemical environment. This includes the living and non-living components.

***Biotic factors*** – All living components of an ecosystem. Living components also include their remains and features such as nests associated with their activities.

***Abiotic factors*** – All non-living components of an ecosystem. Some factors such as the terrain and the weather are non-living factors.

Some things are not easy to classify. A hard coral reef is not easy to classify. They are built by coral animals and are therefore biotic, but over time parts of the reef may break down, forming white coral sand, which is considered abiotic.

Individual organisms from many species share an ecosystem. Together all the individuals of a single species in a particular area make a ***population***. Individuals from all of the populations form the ***community***.

Therefore an ecosystem is…….