



DriftWords

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Recreation, Kati Mackie
Cow Island, Rod Howes
Regatta, Dunlop Family
Sailing, Jennifer Kelly
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President's Report

I hope all our members had an enjoyable and productive time at the lake this past season. Our cottages and homes are hopefully winterized and we are now planning winter activities.

This past summer season was very busy and I think very productive for the BRLA. I thank all the Board members for their efforts on your behalf.

The Treasurer's Report provides more detail about our financial accomplishments but I can simply say that we stopped the bleeding, have replaced a good portion of the losses incurred in the past few years and have maintained a strong membership base.

Please let me highlight several important developments made in non-committee areas over the past 12 months:

Website

In mid-March, we relaunched our website on a new platform and improved the linkages between it and our social media accounts; Facebook and Twitter.

Lyse Prendergast and Caitlin Orbanek spent countless hours bringing this to life and deserve all our thanks. Please visit the site, www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com!

AGM

This year, the AGM was moved to August in the hope of attracting more attendees, by avoiding a long weekend when so many members are busy hosting family and friends. While we did not see an increase in attendees, we had virtually the same number as last year, we did see a slightly different mix of members in attendance. For 2017, the Board has moved the AGM date back into July but not on the long weekend - it will be held on July 15th, 2017. We hope to make several changes in format to engage more members.

Cow Island

Short Term (Next Year):

Rod Howes, our newly elected VP, has set up a committee to oversee the physical rehabilitation of the island to make it more accessible, comfortable and safer in 2017. That same group is

Lake Safety Report

The boating season on the Big Rideau has come to an end. The locks are closed, the Shoal Markers are hauled and the water level is wwwwaaayyy down. Let's hope for lots of precipitation this winter.

Our contractor (Steve Magee) will be assembling replacement buoys over the winter ensure that we have enough buoys to maintain and/or replace damaged or worn out ones. We are also looking to place some more buoys in areas that have been identified by cottagers and boaters.

Over the winter it is a good time for all Boaters to check that their safety equipment is in good working order. Check your life jackets are not deteriorating, your horns and flashlights are working etc.,

Next year could be a very busy season. It is anticipated that there will be many visiting boaters to the Rideau Canal System due to the 150th Canada Anniversary. Please be patient at the Public Docks and Col. By Moorings as we feel that there will be many boats visiting the lake.

To all have a safe and happy holiday season and we'll see you in the Spring.

Toby Spry, Lake Safety



working to coordinate activities on the island for the 2017 summer season to draw more attention to the island. In both matters, great progress has already been made.

Intermediate Term (2 – 4 Years)

A review is under way to bring to next year's AGM, several proposals for the next few years regarding the investment in and programmes for the island.

Long Term (5 + Years)

As Bill Belanger's article in this issue points out, the lake is undergoing a huge change in its demographics, how its resources are being used and how they will be used in the future. We continue to anticipate the impact of change in our role as an Association and ask again (plead might be a better word!) for your observations of these changes and your personal expectations as a member of the BRLA.

Any or all feedback will be greatly appreciated, simply email your comments to me at president@bigrideaulakeassociation.com.

On behalf of the Board of the BRLA, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and a wonderful 2017.

Brian Hawkins
President

Insights into our Lake's Future

The Big Rideau Lake has changed not only in water conditions but more dramatically in social dynamics. The Big Rideau Lake Association is trying to understand how social dynamics have changed so that we can serve our Lake community better.

From my personal perspective, as a child I spent many summers on the Rideau with my brother and sister but most importantly my mother [no electricity, no telephone, and no car since Dad had to go home during the week to work]. But that's not all that has changed.

In informal surveys I have discovered that families with young children can be so busy attending sports team activities in the city that it is difficult to get away for any length of time to the cottage. One father who has owned the family cottage for years indicated that they had spent only one night in the cottage during the entire summer season.

To further understand these changes, in September, Doug Kirkland and I attended an interesting workshop held by the Lake Links, through Watersheds Canada. The conference was

Every Little Bit Counts

At the AGM in August, Jasper and Claire Bullock donated their birthday Toonies jar to the BRLA.

They raised \$22. When they invited their friends to bring Toonies to each of their August birthday parties.

The birthday child got to keep one toonie for a personal shopping trip and to select a good cause to which to donate the other toonie. Between them - they donated 11 Toonies.

Jasper, Claire and their younger sister Heidi hail from Comox BC but enjoy 2 weeks every summer enjoying cottage life on Big Rideau Lake. They hear and see the loons around our island throughout the day and evening and also enjoyed mounting a new crisp BRLA flag on our tin boat this summer. We have a number of BRLA mugs at the cottage - so perhaps the loon in our logo along with the real loons provide inspiration to young and old alike!

Nancy Watters

Gerry Island



Winter 2016/17

attended by representatives from most cottage associations in Eastern Ontario. We share much in common, however, the Big Rideau Lake Association has the highest expenses largely due to the shoal markers, and the lowest percentage of membership.

We wish to share some insights from that experience with our members of the Big Rideau Lake Association. This meeting proved to be a pleasant social experience as well as informative. The main facilitator initiated the meeting by asking, "What are the advantages of being at the cottage?" Those who know me would not be surprised that I raised my hand and said, "Natural exercise". The facilitator responded, "I have never heard that one before what do you mean?" I explained, "Everything you do at the cottage requires more walking, more bending, and more energy. For example, we have an old log cabin with the outhouse 65 feet away. At my age that's good for a 130 foot walk several times a day. Sometimes I run the first half of the distance."

Often, I hear stories of the social activities on the lake in the past; several regattas each summer, community dinners as well as outstanding activities on Cow Island. All of these have declined or no longer exist. This is understandable when you consider the changing social dynamics of the lake. It is our current challenges to determine how we can facilitate our lake community in appropriate social activities?

We gained some insight into changes in social structure such as an aging population [no surprise to anyone] and the different values of lake residents with emphasis being placed on the values and attitudes of the millennium group. Considerable time was spent exploring the fact that many young people do not want to assume responsibility for the family lake property as well as the potential disruption to the family unity when the property is sold.

The value of lakefront property is rising. I understand that they're not making any new waterfront property and that is why the prices keep going up. I like to quip that the one person who didn't believe that was Colonel By since he created a great deal of additional waterfront property. However, the price of waterfront property is increasing more rapidly than the price of other properties in general in the province of Ontario. This is very encouraging to the cottage owners except when it comes to paying the taxes on the increased assessments. When you couple this with the fact that cottages are not being used to the same extent in the same way as in the past, is the expense justified? This is not an easy issue particularly for families where the cottage has been in the family for considerable time, perhaps multiple generations. As result of the evolving economy and increased taxes, we were told that many cottage owners are

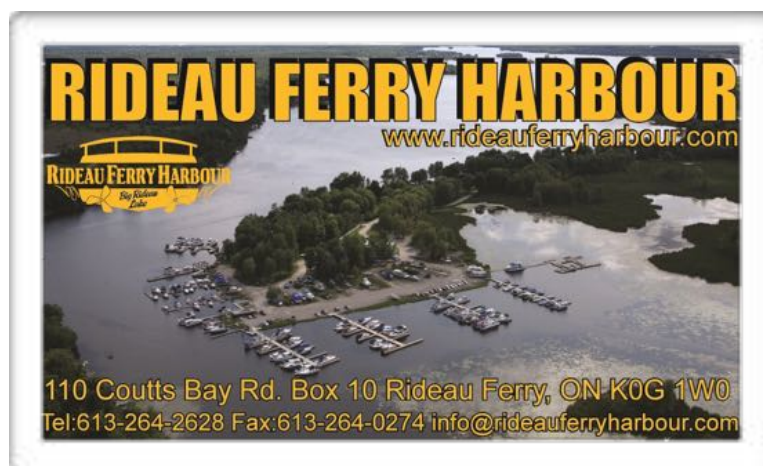
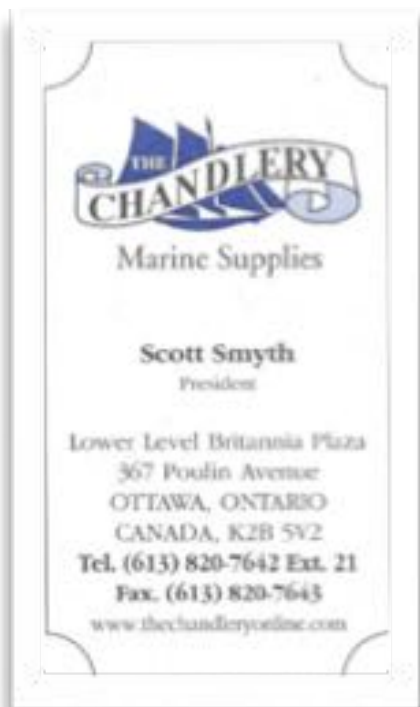
renting out their facilities for part of the summer if not the whole summer. Some owners have taken advantage of the new regulations for a secondary suites associated with their main cottage. These are additions to existing buildings but have separate accommodation including kitchen, bathroom and sleeping which could be rented out independently

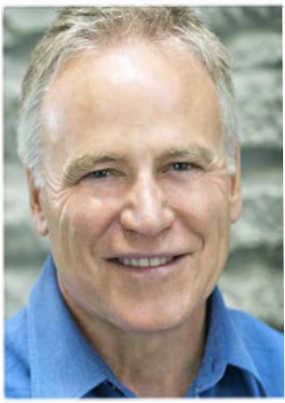
The trend is for road committees to play a more important role than lake associations. The reason is obvious, to get to and from the cottage they need a road of decent quality. A lake association seems to hold a lower priority. In our situation the multiple shoals tend to pose a greater threat of accidents and damage than any of the roads. As I have stated on the sign on my boat, "Your boat loves our shoal markers."

So a major question is what does the Big Rideau Lake Association do to come to grips with these changes and to facilitate the needs and interests of the current lake community?

First off, we need to increase the membership and get more people involved in supporting and operating the efforts of the Big Rideau Lake Association. We need the help of all our members. Please speak to your neighbours, friends and associates. Talk it up at the next meeting of your road committee. One step in increasing membership and enhancing the sense of community on the lakes is to welcome new owners to the lake. This is largely a responsibility of the current membership if we are to encourage better social dynamics and membership in the Big Rideau Lakes Association. Several of the associations present stated that they invite realtors to board meetings and ask them to link regularly to their website. The intent here was to establish an early relationship with the new cottage owners. Such an effort works both ways in that the property will appear more attractive to prospective owners while at the same time introducing new owners the Big Rideau Lakes Association.

There was considerable talk about the importance of our websites in maintaining communication with association members. The representative from Black Lake suggested that Facebook has served their needs much better since it appeals to the younger generations. When I view our current website I believe that there is little that can be done to improve our website. Lyse Prendergast has done a marvellous job as a volunteer to improve this avenue of communication. Perhaps a second step would be Facebook? (After writing this I discovered that we are on Facebook. I am obviously not a millennial!)





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There was considerable emphasis on making communications simple, relevant and focused as well as repeating the message. I apologize that this report is not a good example of that principle but I have made such an effort in the concluding statement.

As a final note, I learned about the STP principal. When it comes to volunteering these letters stand for “Same Ten People”. To make an association truly effective we require the involvement of more people certainly not to the extent of the STP group, but in support of particular efforts that are underway. Our vice president, Rod Howes, seems to have a head start on this. He has established an informal group to do the maintenance work on Cow Island, a few hours once a year would be a wonderful help. Thanks for your help team!

In 10 14 words or less: Interact with others on the lake, participate more, talk about the association, recruit members.

Bill Belanger

Proud member of the Big Rideau Lake Association

Treasurers Report

We began the 2016 season with optimism, as we targeted increased revenues and reduced expenses.

I am pleased to report that, subject to our Auditor’s review, we will deliver financial results that justify that optimism.

- Gross revenue increased 2.3% from last year as a result primarily of the membership fee increase and the return of the Heritage Canada fireworks grant. That increase looks modest because we also cancelled the second week of sailing camp and had a serious decline in Day camp attendance, which in both cases reduced revenue, which was more than offset by bigger operating cost reductions.

- Our membership base remained virtually unchanged with 303 paid members compared to 309 last year
- Operating costs were reduced 20%, primarily by the above noted cancellation of the second week of Sailing Camp and reduced staffing costs for day camp.
- I expect to end the year with an excess of revenue over expenses over \$6,000.



All known bills for the year have been paid and we do not see any additional major expenses coming in.

Thank you for your continued support over my term as Treasurer

Brian Hawkins,
Treasurer



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Rideau Recipes

Where has the time gone? The cottage season passes far too quickly. I hope you had much relaxation and fun with family and friends. We enjoyed many days on the dock, on the deck, on the porch, on the lawn, on the boat...you get the picture. Now that the cottage is closed, it is time to plan for hibernation in another one of our fantastically cold and snowy winters. Hope you can stay warm and savour some comfort food. Such as...

Tarragon Veal Fricasse

1 ½ lbs stewing veal
flour, seasoned with salt and pepper
4 tbsp butter
1 large onion, chopped
1 ½ cups chicken stock
1 tbsp. chopped fresh tarragon or 1 tsp dried
½ cup sour cream
½ cup whipping cream
1 tbsp. lemon juice
Parsley to garnish

Remove any fat and gristle from veal and cut into bite-size pieces. Roll in seasoned flour. Heat butter in heavy saucepan, toss veal until pale gold, not browned. Add onion, broth and tarragon; bring to a boil. Lower heat; cover, simmer 40 min or until veal is tender. Stir in sour cream, cream and lemon juice; bring to a simmer. Taste for seasoning and sprinkle generously with chopped parsley to serve. Serves 4.

Note: for thicker sauce, stir in a paste of 1 tbsp cornstarch mixed with water after adding cream. Serves amazing over rice, with some green beans on the side. Also good on buttered noodles, with some roasted carrots.

Kathryn Orbanek.

Redwing Lodge



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Life Under the Surface - How the Lake Works

The Big Rideau Lake Association is a volunteer association supporting lake stewardship on behalf of its members through committee programmes including monitoring and advocating on issues affecting lake water quality. This encompasses a wide scope of interest that can be daunting. Key to any monitoring or advocacy is having a good understanding of how lakes 'work' and how human actions affect their water quality. The following is an overview of how lakes work based on scientific studies that inform a broader understanding of how Big Rideau Lake works.

Virtually all biological systems on our planet are driven primarily by solar energy. Big Rideau Lake and surrounding lakes are no different. Sunlight penetrates the water and provides the basic energy to enable chlorophyll based life forms such as phytoplankton [algae] and macrophytes [other larger water plants] to exist at the bottom of a food chain. Other nutrients aiding in plant growth [i.e. fertilizers] are provided in the form of phosphorus, nitrogen and nitrate washed into the lake by streams running through the surrounding lands and from ground water seepages. These nutrients are naturally occurring in soils and from eroded rock, and additionally in recent centuries, from agricultural fertilizers and septic waters from farm animals and human wastes. Too much nutrient running into a lake can readily cause phytoplankton to 'bloom' and to consume huge amounts of oxygen and nutrients and then in short order die. These blooms and death drastically and negatively affect the quality of water. As part of the natural cycle lake nutrients and oxygen are stirred about, primarily in spring and fall, throughout a lake in a mechanism commonly known as 'turnover' which is primarily driven by water temperature changes and wind/wave action.

Plant life, particularly phytoplankton when alive, are the basic food base which, through a chain of life upwards to higher and more complex life forms, culminates in the apex predator species we are most familiar with such as larger fish species and a wide variety of animals and birds. Since the 1980's scientists have put a lot of effort into gaining a better understanding of the workings of lakes, particularly the food chains and webs of life [interconnectivity of species] as this is key to protecting water quality and various species, including humans. In the last 20 years knowledge of natural isotopes [radioactive particles] has also enabled scientists to track food as it passes up through food chains and throughout the web of life and to tell a fuller story of life under the surface of the water. Also the invention of miniature tracking tags has enabled scientists to track fish and birds - while alive - to gain more knowledge of their patterns of life.

The types of phytoplankton plant life is highly varied and is preyed upon by a wide variety of zooplankton [micro animals] naturally occurring in the lake. Their role in the natural system is to keep phytoplankton from reaching population levels where they can be destructive to the quality of lake water and other life therein. When phytoplankton numbers get ahead of the zooplankton this helps create situations where we have algal blooms [including from blue-green algae which cause us so much added concern]. Algal blooms, by consuming the available oxygen in water, can cause fish kills such as were so prevalent in Lakes Ontario and Erie some years ago. Zooplankton, in turn, are eaten by small fish and

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aquatic insects. The small fish and insects are in turn eaten by larger fish, and some birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. And thusly, starting with the solar energy and nutrients in phytoplankton [algae], the apex predators are sustained in their life cycles and as a presence on the lake. On Big Rideau Lake these include great blue herons, ospreys, eagles, loons, cormorants, mergansers, minks, otters, kingfishers, seagulls, various species of snakes and turtles, and seasonally a wide variety of other waterfowl.

From sun to algae to apex predators, there is created a web of life, which in a natural condition maintains a high quality of water in a lake. If some stage or aspect of a food chain or the web of life is negatively impacted by some situation then it usually impacts on the life cycles and survival of some of the species normally present. The natural lake system has some built in flexibility through numbers and diversity of species present which to some degree can absorb or cushion some negative impacts. Too much nutrient running into a lake or a breakdown in diversity of species present [biodiversity] and natural systems may flex to a point - then break - from dealing with too many negative impacts. Beyond that point water quality begins to degrade and other life forms, including humans, are negatively impacted. This has happened elsewhere in larger lakes such as Lakes Ontario and Erie and other smaller water bodies. Over the past several decades we are also seeing the addition of invasive plant and animal life to lakes and rivers which brings some added level of impact and concern.



Studies of Big Rideau Lake in the 1990's have specifically identified the need to protect the presence of apex predators in order to protect lake water quality. The Township development bylaws for lake edge properties are based on these studies so as to help protect the water quality and other attributes of the lake. In 2015 these studies were reviewed for accuracy and suitability and confirmed by the Township authorities and consultant scientists as being appropriate as a basis to work from.

Multiyear studies by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority reported on in 2014 show Big Rideau Lake as having a 'fair' [65-79/100] rating, Lower Rideau Lake having a 'very poor' [0-44/100] rating and Upper Rideau Lake having a 'poor' [45-64/100] rating based on a national standard scale. The natural mechanisms outlined above plus well vegetated shorelines work to maintain a higher water quality and to reduce nutrification of the lake. Human activities tend to introduce added nutrients into the lake which reduce water quality and, along with higher temperatures can, and do, create noxious situations such as algal blooms, which are becoming all too familiar to lake users.

On behalf of the membership, the BRLA Board of Directors and its Environment Committee monitor activities and developments impacting the lake and initiate action where they feel necessary, to help maintain the best possible level of water quality based on national standards.

Buzz Boles,

Chair,
BRLA Environment Committee



Tips to Improve Security of Your Lake Property

When you are away from your lake property:

- avoid leaving valuable sporting equipment outside in plain sight; always lock your cottage or residence door when you leave your lake property
- do not leave small boats, canoes or personal watercraft near the shore. Instead, bring them higher up on the property and beyond the line-of-sight of passing boats or snowmobiles. Remember that lake properties are vulnerable to access from both the land and water/ice.

When you plan to be away for a long period of time:

- always remove all firearms and alcohol
- take all prized valuables and expensive equipment home with you when you leave for the winter or consider storing them in a protected facility in Perth or Westport
- leave a sign attached to your cottage, residence, bunkie or shed that you have removed all valuables and have taken them home with you
- do not restrict visibility to the insides of your cottage or residence with curtains; better to display that nothing of value is within
- hire someone to do cottage or residence checks in your absence
- form neighbourhood watch groups on your private roads leading to your cottage or residence
- consider using Trail-Cams (video cameras). These can be good deterrent and evidence for conviction. Post signage advising of your surveillance
- seek help from the OPP & Ontario websites for property security and safeguarding your cottage or residence - see links below:

[OPP Safeguard Ontario Property Program](http://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=115&lng=en&entryid=570bf1a58f94ac983906709c) - <http://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=115&lng=en&entryid=570bf1a58f94ac983906709c>

[Ontario Home Security Home Audit Guide](http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/police_serv/HomeSecurityAuditGuide/home_security.html) - http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/police_serv/HomeSecurityAuditGuide/home_security.html



August Antique and Classic Boat Show - Rideau Ferry Bridge

On August 13, 2016, the Manotick Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society held its' annual boat show at the Rideau Ferry Bridge. The day dawned with a threat of continuous rain and as a result a number of boats and boaters who had pre-registered decided not to attend. In fact the rain was only occasional throughout the day and the boaters and spectators who did attend were able to enjoy themselves. A number of people did a lot of work organizing and advertising the show. Many of the

boats that participated were boats that have been seen on the Big Rideau Lake for many years but there were also new and interesting makes and models to admire. One of the oldest boats on the

Rideau is Frowildo – a Dowsett launch from the early 1900's, which lives in a boat house near the Rideau Ferry bridge.

Anyone interested in old boats should consider joining the Antique and Classic Boat Society (ACBS), the Manotick chapter. The joining process is very easy, just visit: www.myacbs.org. By joining ACBS and specifying the Manotick chapter you will receive the international organization's wonderful quarterly magazine called "Rudder", the huge annual directory of members and their boats, and regular emails relating to old boats. By joining the Toronto chapter as an additional option you will receive their very detailed and informative quarterly magazine "Classic Boat". The Manotick chapter itself produces an award winning quarterly newsletter with lots of information and pictures. The current and past issues of the club's "Brass Binnacle" can be found at no cost by accessing the club's website at: www.manotickclassicboatclub.ca.



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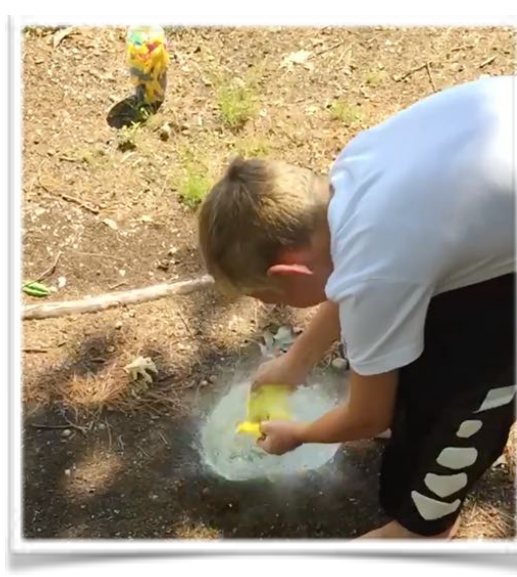
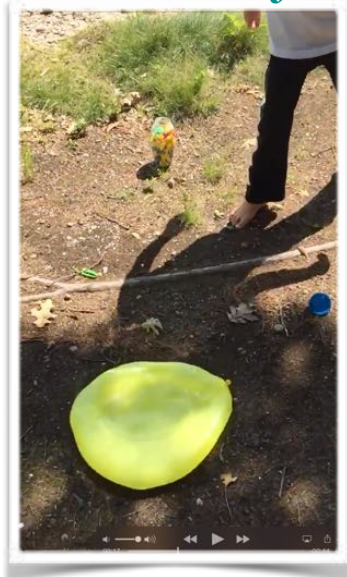


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Cow Island Day Camp - Fun with water balloons!



The Renaissance of Cow Island

Since 1922, when the lake association first formed on Big Rideau Lake and again in 1968 when the lake association became incorporated, history shows us that there has always been a keen interest in the stewardship of the lake.

Cow Island, formerly known as Gallagher Island, itself has a long history and one that has recently been pieced together again with the assistance of Nancy Watters of Gerry Island. (*Thank you Nancy!*)

In early October fifteen lake residents, many whom had previous involvement with the Cow Island recreation, formed a steering committee to discuss the past, present and future of the island. As noted by the group, demographics have changed over the years which has impacted how folks use their cottages and the island.

This meeting was a time to take note of the maintenance required to rejuvenate and prepare the island for next year's programming. While times have changed in 100+ years, there appears to be a group of BRLA members interested in continuing to invest time and energy into the success of Cow Island.

Events the BRLA members currently host on Cow Island:

- Sailing Camps
- Sailing Regatta
- Summer Sounds
- Children's' Day Camp
- Canada Day Fireworks

Innovative ideas to develop:

- Canada 150 – re-create regatta from 1918
- Family Reunion Dinners
- Yoga Classes
- Allow community groups like Scouts Canada access
- Community Garden
- Multi-Generational Events: ie. Bridge club
- Pot Luck Events



Thank you in advance to all the volunteer hours that will be invested in the coming months. We need your assistance. Email me to discuss the activity you and your family would like to help bring to life!

Update

Following the meeting, various maintenance tasks were identified and addressed: tree arborist (*Thank you David Bearman & Jennifer Trent for coordinating*), dock repairs and season removal/

installation (*Thank you Doug Good, Doug Arrand and David Bearman*), clubhouse maintenance including removal of garbage (*Thank you Beth Evans and Team!*), general island maintenance (*Spring Cleanup Team*) and the alternative energy system refurbishment (*Rod Howes and Henry Copestake*).

Ongoing Tasks Over Winter

- Volunteer groups will work on the existing projects and incorporate the new ideas as new volunteers come forward
- Develop a 'check in' process for BRLA members as they use the island
- Historical photographs to be laminated and installed onsite
- Feasibility discussion on island improvement for particular activities (camping, private functions etc)

Accept applications and ideas from folks who are able to develop and manage new programs

Looking forward to hearing from you over the winter!

Rod Howes
Cow Island Steering Committee Chairman
Tel: 613 790 0510
Email: randbhowes_1@sympatico.ca

Cow Island - cleaned up and ready for summer 2017





Family* Membership Registration - \$75

* Family is defined as up to 2 parents and their children under 21 years of age.

Please complete all sections of this registration and pay by:

	Family Membership	\$ 75.00
Additional Donations	Day Camp	\$
	Environment	\$
	Fireworks	\$
	Lake Safety	\$
	Recreation	\$
	Summer Sounds (2/\$25)	\$
	TOTAL	

OPTION 1: Mail

- Cheque | Send this completed form and your cheque made payable to BRLA, to:
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Name on card _____ Signature _____

OPTION 2: Online

- Go to the BRLA website, www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com, click Membership/Join or Renew/Join or Renew and complete the form.

Membership is for a 12 month term starting April 1st each year.

This registration starts April 1, _____
(Insert Year)

- New Membership Renewal
 Boater Cottager Resident

Family Name _____

Parent's First Name(s)
(last name if different from Family Name above)

Children's Names

PRIMARY RESIDENCE

Street # & Name _____

City _____

Province/State _____

Postal Code _____

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e-mail _____

COTTAGE RESIDENCE

Street # & Name _____

City _____

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Cottage Phone _____

Cottage e-mail _____

Tay Valley / Rideau Lakes / Drummond/North Elmsley
Township (circle one)

BOATER — MARINE RESIDENCE

Boat Name _____

Marina _____

Boat Phone _____

Signature _____
Date _____