



DriftWords

Serving the Rideau Since circa 1915, Poonamalie to Narrows

Executive

President, Doug Good

Vice President, Vacant

Secretary, Mary Sue Evans

Treasurer, Brian Hawkins

Directors

Communications, Lyse Prendergast

Environment, Vacant

Government Affairs, Doug Kirkland

Membership, John Callan

Marine Safety & Past President, Toby Spry

Representing Adam Lake, Hugh Burrows

Recreation, Beth Evans

Youth Group, Bill Belanger

Program Coordinators

Driftwords, Beth Evans

Web Site, Lyse Prendergast

Cow Island, Doug Arrand

Regatta, Dunlop Family

Sailing, Jennifer Kelly

RLEF, Michael Peterson

Fireworks, Mike Fraser



A Chill is in the air.

Not only have most of the summer residents left, but they took the water with them, well at least that's the way it would seem if you look at the level of the lake. We have gone from complaints about high water levels all season to - what happened? Oh well another year at the lake.

The BRLA Board of Directors has worked very hard to develop and deliver programs for you, however its been frustrating in some aspects, membership is down, in spite of a major mail out program to those around the lake. Also as we all realize returns on investments and the general economy is very low/slow so that the donations to Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) were off and so was their return on their investments. As a consequence, in April BRLA was advised by the RLEF, that they would have to suspend their financial assistance to the "Shoal Marker" program. The end result is that the Treasurer is anticipating about a \$10,000.00 loss for the year.

Your Board is taking action to increase membership and seeking financial assistance in non-traditional areas. On the approach to increase membership, the Board has come out with three very dramatic posters "Now you see it/ Now you don't", showing what could happen without shoal markers, fireworks and the work the association does on environmental protection. Your Board has also approached the council of the three municipalities adjoining the lake to seek financial support for the shoal marker program (as new councils are being formed and budget deliberations won't take place until later this winter the outcome from this requests is not yet known).

The Westport sewage treatment problems, which unfolded on the Upper Rideau Lake, had an impact on the BRLA Board as we raised our concerns over the possible cause of the problem and lent our support to the Upper Rideau Lakes Association, because we don't see it just as an Upper Rideau problem, but a situation that impacted the Rideau system and our lake. As president of the BRLA I attended meetings, with the MPP and written letters to the



BITS FROM BETH

Welcome to Driftwords **Fall/Winter 2014** edition. So the clocks have been set back an hour and winter is upon us. The weather is cooling down and most of us have closed up our cottages for another season. We have had a great fall and now look forward to snow, skiing and Christmas. Oh and a trip down south too.

This coming summer marks the BRLA's 100th Anniversary. We should plan something - shouldn't we. Please provide us with your ideas and if you can help out, we need to set up a committee.

I hope you enjoy the latest edition of Driftwords - please submit your ideas for the spring edition.

driftwords@bigrideaulakeassociation.com

In this issue:

President's Pen.....	pg 1
Dock Bubbler	pg 3
Fall Low Water	pg 4
Local Council Results	pg 5
BRLA 100th Anniversary	pg 5
Letter to the EMC editor	pg 6
BRLA Board of Directors	pg 7
Treasurers Report	pg 8
BRLA Board Takes Action	pg 9
Champions Needed	pg 9
Bobbi Buoy - con't	pg 10
Marine Safety	pg 10
Membership Form	pg 11
Membership Corner	pg 12
Family Regatta	pg 12
What do you not see	pg 13
Around the lake	pg 14



Con't on page 2

Con't from page 1

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Ontario encouraging action to ensure there is no further effluent dumping into the Rideau system. In the recent Municipal election there has been a change in the mayor and council in Westport, and we as an association continue to offer our support in finding a way to resolve their sewage treatment dilemma.

A second impact that followed from the situation on the Upper Rideau is the need for a better faster way of contacting residents around the lake in non-traditional emergency situations. I won't elaborate on that here, but refer you to the article on the need for "Road Champions".

Regarding water quality I spent two days, Oct. 22 & 23rd with two pleasant ladies from Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) doing water quality testing at 5 locations on the lake. Generally the oxygen portion of the testing and

secchi disk readings were good in the area south and west of Rideau Ferry, acceptable in the area between Rideau Ferry and Poonamalie. I have extended an invitation to the RVCA representatives to give a report on the lake testing at next years Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Speaking of next year and the AGM, its time to start thinking about succession of Board members and your President in particular, as he is coming to the end of a two year term. Your Board is made up of a number of very dedicated individuals with a love for our lake. It's a working board, and often when you look over the shoulder, with the idea of a committee, behind you, you are it. You're the front and rear line all in the same person. We need more of our members to step up and be prepared to take a more active role, like Heather McAdam, and Caitlin Orbanek, and one of the past board of directors Mary Anne Calzonetti – thank you ladies your offer to help it is much appreciated and you will be put to work. Although I am stressing the need to find

new Board members, I also want to say THANK YOU to all the volunteers that made "THINGS" happen – such as Cow Island maintenance, sailing program, summer camp and summer sounds – the board couldn't deliver these programs without your help.

On a personal note I would like to thank all those on the south shore Ward One of Rideau Lakes Township who figured I didn't have enough to do and have voted me in as their councillor, it certainly will be something new and different for myself and I trust beneficial for the residence of Rideau Lakes Township.

May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah, the best in the New Year, and plan on coming to the lake January 24th for Skate the Lake 2015.

Doug Good
President



JOHN CALLAN, I.L.B.
Sales Representative
Proud to be a part of the Big Rideau Lake community for over 50 years.
Direct: 613.791.8397
www.johncallan.ca
john@johncallan.ca
GOLD MEDAL BANKER **RHODES 70**
100 Angley Avenue, Ottawa, ON K2P 1R6
Office: 613.236.9551

JOHN H. KENNEDY LTD.
Ontario and Canada Land Surveyors
John H. Kennedy
O.L.S., C.L.S.

KEMPVILLE 136 Prescott St. P.O. Box 1340 K0G 1J0 Ph: 613-258-1717 Fax: 613-258-4475 Email: john@kennedysurveyors.ca	PORTLAND Consultation Office 295 Sheldon Road K0G 1V0 Ph: 613-272-3603 800-355-9892 Email: john@kennedysurveyors.ca
--	--

HARTIN'S
Brent Hartin
Anthony Hartin
Licensed Mechanics
Tel: (613) 359-1144
3122 Hwy 15
Elgin, ON
K0G 1E0
Wheel Alignment & Auto Repair
Repairs to all makes and models

RAYMOND MARINE SERVICES INC.
Portland, Ontario 613-272-0412



DOCK BUBBLERS

THIS IS A SPECIAL SAFETY MESSAGE FOR ALL COTTAGE OWNERS AND LAKE USERS

Dock bubblers are a successful way to keep ice away from docks to prevent ice damage to dock structures over winter when water/ice levels fluctuate. Use of bubblers is rapidly increasing especially in larger lakes such as the Big Rideau. Some bubblers are of high capacity, left on for long hours, and create open waters as far as 500 feet away from the dock. This is unnecessary and is a dangerous situation. Far too often there are no danger signs posted and no warning lights to announce the open water hazard.

As property owners now is the time to set some voluntary and responsible standards to prevent unnecessary deaths, injuries or property damages on our waterways. At

present there are no regulations or by-laws to regulate bubbler use.

Here are some SAFETY TIPS which may help to offset the dangers and liabilities ahead if we do nothing thereby saving lives, injury and property damage.

- What bubbler capacity should be sufficient to protect winter dock damage?
 - ▶ A bubbler with capacity to maintain open water of 20 feet maximum should be sufficient. That way open water is not likely to become attractive to snowmobile hot-doggers who like to play on open waters. Open water beyond 20 feet

gives rise to potential dangers for snowmobilers, lake walkers, lake skiers and snowshoers.

- Should there be bubbler warning signs and why?
 - ▶ Absolutely, YES. “**DANGER OPEN WATER**” signs should be posted and clearly display the open water danger. They should be large enough and clearly posted at a safe distance away.



- Should there be “SAFETY WARNING LIGHTS”?
 - ▶ Absolutely, YES. A YELLOW FLASHING hazard light should be clearly visible during all dark hours. A yellow light signifies caution, as with lake buoys. A red light can easily be mistaken for a rear snowmobile light and lead a snowmobiler straight into open water especially if weather conditions are inclement.
- Why should tips 1, 2 and 3 above be of concern to cottage owners

- ▶ Because death, injuries and property damage may become your personal liability since your cottage insurance may not cover since the loss occurred on water you don't own and not on your cottage property for which insurance applies. Check with the Insurance Bureau of Canada for clarification. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries may not come to your rescue, nor may your local township or O.P.P. since the loss occurred on water, especially if you did not take the safety precautions mentioned above. These reasons alone should be sufficient to encourage you to take all reasonable safety precautions, and if there is a lawsuit to be able to convince the judge that “I did everything I could to protect people from hazards surrounding my property.”

- What are the inherent costs associated with dock bubblers?
 - ▶ Many bubblers operate 24/7. In many cases the hours of usage far exceed the need to protect the dock resulting in excessive open water distances and excessive and unnecessary energy costs. With Hydro Ones “Time of Use” energy system pricing is a cost saving opportunity for owners. Timers and thermostats are also available to restrict over-usage to essential times of day or night. Bubblers are not usually necessary after March 1st (unless to warm up the water for summer!)



PARKS CANADA - LOW WATER LEVEL

Some of our members had questions as to why the level of the lake became so low this fall. Parks Canada provided us with some answers.

Why has the water seemed extra low on the Big Rideau Lake this year?

Parks Canada staff maintains a constant and vigilant watch over water levels across the entire Rideau Canal.

How and why are decisions about water levels made?

Routine adjustments are made by highly experienced water-management staff who regularly consult historical information, scientific forecasts, water levels and flow rates to determine appropriate changes to dam settings. This addresses the relevant needs of municipal water supplies, flood mitigation, hydro-electric power generation, recreation and fisheries management.

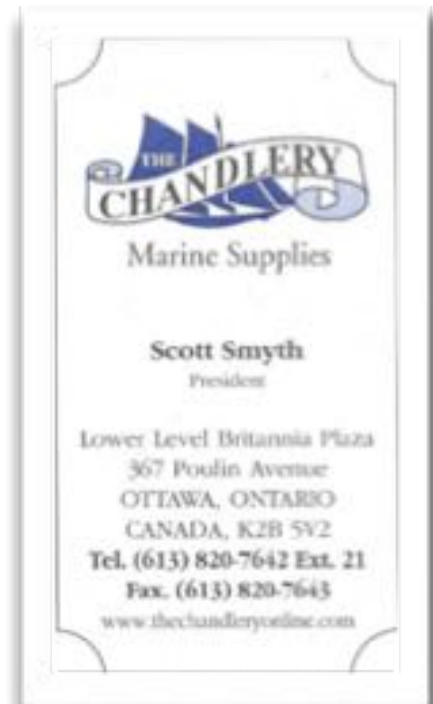
The current water level on Big Rideau Lake is at the optimal elevation and within the normal range for this time of year.

Is the Poonamalie Dam project going to affect water levels on the Big Rideau Lake?

The Poonamalie Dam Rehabilitation Project, scheduled to begin in December 2014, will have no effect on the water levels on Big Rideau Lake. The work on the dam takes place along the de-watered section of the canal, on approach to the upstream side of the lock.

I hope this answers some of your questions. This information was provided by:

*Annie Laurie, Partnering, Engagement and Communications
Ontario Waterways Unit, Parks Canada*





LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

As we've mentioned in several emails this fall, both seasonal and permanent lake property owners have the right to vote in municipal elections. There are a number of reasons why it's important for lake owners to vote but it really boils down to this - waterfront property owners make a substantial contribution to the municipal tax base, usually disproportionately to non-waterfront property and without benefitting from many municipal services. We have a responsibility to protect our financial investment by doing what we can to elect local councils who understand and respect our needs as lake owners and will look out for our interests. BRLA provided what information we could on local candidates, and we hope our members were able to use that to cast their ballots last month.

Several wards within three townships are represented along the shores of Big Rideau

Lake, and below are the unofficial results from the October 27th election for those areas.

Township of Rideau Lakes

Mayor	Ronald E. Holman
Councillor (Ward 1: Bastard & South Burgess)	Doug Good Cathy Livingston
Councillor (Ward 2: South Elmsley)	Arie Hoogenboom Jeff Banks
Councillor (Ward 4: North Crosby)	Ron Pollard Bob Lavoie

Tay Valley Township

Reeve (acclaimed)	Keith Kerr
Deputy Reeve	Brian Campbell
Councillor (Burgess Ward)	Judy Farrell Greg Hallam

Drummond North Elmsley

Reeve	Aubrey Churchill
Councillor (North Elmsley Ward)	Ray Scissons George Sachs



IT'S OUR 100th ANNIVERSARY

Your Big Rideau Lake Association, under one name or another, it was once the Big Rideau Lakes Aquatic and Protective Association. In 2015, the BRLA will have been protecting and serving this lake for 100 years. That deserves a celebration and we would like your input. For example, a number of you will recall the "sold out" Dinner/Dance we held in August, 2013 at the Shipwreck restaurant in Rideau Ferry. If you are interested in attending another such dinner/dance this August, please email us to let us know.

What do you suggest the Association do to recognize 100 years of service to the lake? Please send your ideas to President@bigrideaulakeassociation.com or information@bigrideaulakeassociation.com.

In order to do planning for the summer of 2015 it would be nice to receive your input before Christmas.

BRLA Anniversary Committee

Greenshield
PEST CONTROL INC.

**SEASONAL
PEST
CONTROL**

Pests Now Included:
Spiders, Earwigs,
Pavement Ants, Wasps,
Bees, Hornets, Silverfish,
Cockroaches, Centipedes,
Sow Bugs, Pill Bugs,
Millipedes, Centipedes,
Fleas, Carpet Beetles,
Blow Flies, Fruit Flies, and
Stored Product Pests

Call now for your
Seasonal Pest Control
Free Quote.
613-389-3999
TOLL FREE: 1-877-838-7278
www.greenshieldpestcontrol.com
@GreenshieldPest
[facebook.com/GreenshieldPestControl](https://www.facebook.com/GreenshieldPestControl)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - EMC

This "letter to the editor" was printed in the EMC local paper prior to the election.

Who in their right mind would want to move to the Township of Rideau Lakes?

This is question that should be reflected upon regularly by the residents in the Township. It should be the perpetual focus for all those who hold or seek positions of leadership in this community. The Mayor and the Councilors, who we are about to elect, should make this question central to all the decisions they make. I believe we all want to live in and welcome visitors to a joyful community, "an experience to remember".

However, in my life, there have been two types of experiences that are memorable: those that make you smile and leave you with a warm feeling and those that you would rather forget but can't.

Now, to answer the initial question, "Who in their right mind would want to live in the township of Rideau Lakes." My answer, "I DO!" I want to move to the Township of Rideau Lakes for several reasons. I have lived here most summers since I was 5 years old, first at my parents' cottage and for the last 40 plus years at our own cabin. Now that I am retired, I spend more and more time here each year.

Why? Of course I enjoy the beauty of the farmland, forests and lakes but, more importantly, I value the sense of community that I have discovered here. People wave to you as you drive along the road with their hand not like in the city where it is often a finger wave. Locals are friendly, welcoming and supportive. I attend all the social functions I know of and encourage others to join me.

When I want to hire someone to do some work on our property, the hand I shake in a deal is the hand that does the work. Rarely, if ever, does this happen in a city. Neighbours are real neighbours, not merely the people who live next door. In the Township of Rideau Lakes the houses may be further apart but the people are closer together. This is a real community.

I have had some difficulty with a few township officials, however unlike a large city you can actually speak to them face to face and they even know your name rather than your case number.

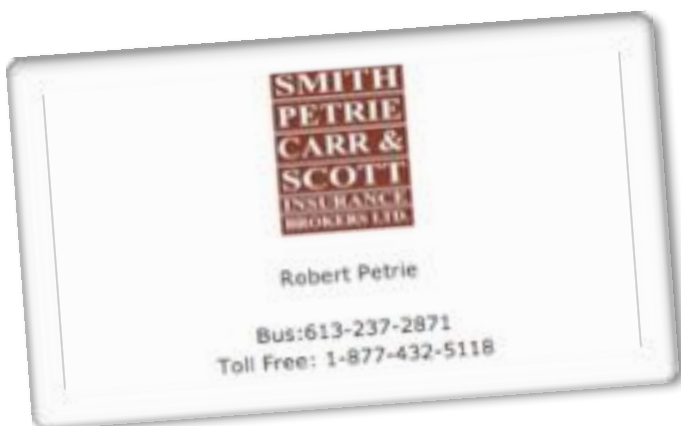
Caution! Over the years I have noticed a tendency to emulate larger communities. The argument seems to be that this is more efficient. If this is true I have seen little evidence unless you consider an increased tax bill as an example of efficiency. The way they do things in a large city is intended to meet the needs of a large population. Modelling the policies and procedures on a city community in which we have little in common is a major fallacy. However, if some folks think that things should be done in the Township of Rideau Lakes the way they are done in a city, I say to them, "I have a lovely house in the city to sell them!"

We select a Council to lead this community in the broadest sense. You do not hire them as judges or jury to rule the township. Yes, regulations are necessary to guide a range of activities in the township; however, these regulations should focus on insuring that the rights of one member of the community do not conflict with the rights of another.

One way to ensure that you are voting for a caring, community leader is to ask yourself, "Who are the leaders of our community?" Which candidates have demonstrated a genuine interest in helping this community evolve in the manner that you would like to see?" Caring community leaders should have demonstrated their commitment to the citizens of the Township of Rideau Lakes by their involvement in community activities and not just at the political level where council members receive financial consideration and power. Candidates will print their platforms that state how they want to lead the township. The best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour. Ask each candidate "What have you done to help enrich our community?" Focus on past deeds more than promises of future actions. Ask yourself, "Does the platform of this candidate reflect what the person has DONE in the past or is it a frosting of wishful thinking?"

Let's make certain that people who enter the Township of Rideau Lakes have an Experience to Remember that makes them smile upon reflection.

W. A. (Bill) Belanger



BRLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Standing: Toby Spry, Hugh Burrows, Doug Kirkland, Mary Sue Evans, Doug Good, Bill Belanger
Sitting: Lyse Prendergast, Beth Evans, John Callan, Brian Hawkins

ecottagefilms.com are happy to announce that your beautiful lake has been filmed and that these films are now available on their website: www.ecottagefilms.com. Please enjoy this 100% free to view vacation shoreline website and let us know what you think. Email.: info@ecottagefilms.com

Wanted

Director of Marine Safety
Director of Environment
Vice President

Day Camp Counsellor (paid position)

Please email info@bigrideaulakeassociation.com and come join our team.



BRLA TREASURER'S REPORT

2014 has been a very challenging year financially for your Association.

Declining membership and donations, Heritage Canada's cancellation of its support of our Canada Day fireworks programme and a major investment in our website's upgrade all point to roughly an \$8,000 operating loss for the year.

But because of previous Boards' conservative management of your donations over the years, our financial position going forward remains strong. We have a solid cash position and our stated equity on the Balance Sheet is in excess of \$65,000.

In addition, we received a significant commitment from the Taggart Parkes Foundation for an annual donation – thanks to

both families for their commitment to our community. In addition, we also received a substantial donation from one of our local marinas to support our Canada Day fireworks programme.

Your Board is focused on reversing this situation in 2015 and is optimistic that with our members continued support, we will be successful.

To that end, we have started budgeting for next year and will, in the process, review all programmes, looking for ways to increase revenue and reduce expenses.

Brian Hawkins
Treasurer



Fireworks

THIS YEAR

NEXT YEAR

Now you see them....

Now you don't!

On the Canada Day weekend, we produce a half hour fireworks spectacle.
Without your financial support, it may not be there next year.

Go to www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com to find out how you can help.

GEMMELL'S
GARDEN CENTRE

(613) 283-6371
11862 Hwy. 15 N.
Smiths Falls, ON
<http://gemmellsgardencentre.com>

Growing with you!

Lens Cove
MARINA LIMITED

www.lenscove.com
PORTLAND
mail@lenscove.com

Marina: 613-272-2581
Restaurant: 613-272-5125

The Galley
restaurant

CHAMPIONS NEEDED

This past summer's toxic blue green algae in the Upper Rideau has stressed the importance of developing the road champion program that your association has been working to get off the ground over the last couple of years,

When the toxic blue green algae was discovered in McNally's Bay on the Upper Rideau, the Leeds Grenville and Lanark (LGL) Health Unit hand delivered notices to those living on McNally's Bay. However, when the call had initially gone out as to the possible presence of blue green algae on the Upper Rideau there was three locations identified. Subsequent testing proved the two other locations were also toxic, but at lower levels for the testing was done later. Although the LGL Health Unit notified those in McNally's Bay, people just around the corner out of the bay didn't receive notification.

Blue Green Algae subsequently was found in Dalhousie and Mississippi Lake, and the LGL Health Unit became more aware of the need to get the message out to the lake residents. The LGL Health Unity have contacted the Lake Networking Association and have asked for emergency contact names, so that your association can be notified and then you as members can be reached.

Traditionally we have thought of "emergency services" as police, fire and ambulance, but the necessity to reach out and notify residence in an area or on a lake has shown the need for an emergency contact ability beyond the "traditional" definition.

The Road Champion Program is a great way to develop an information tree; it used to be called a "call list" so that those who need to know will receive essential information. In order to have that full tree your association needs feet on the ground, in the form of "Road Champions" to get out and explain the



benefits of being a member of the BRLA and how in an emergency, such as occurred with blue /green algae, they can be notified very quickly.

It's a great time to be developing a road program, because we have just gone through a Municipal election and voters lists have been developed in all municipalities impacting on the Big Rideau. In Rideau Lakes Township the voter's list was developed by road, and if a Road Champion can be identified for each road then a list of property owners names and addresses can potentially be developed.

If you are willing to be a "Road Champion" then please contact information@bigrideaulakeassociation.com or president@bigrideaulakeassociation.com and become an important part of that information tree.

BRLA BOARD TAKES ACTION!

This past summer we saw the first incidence in years of toxic blue-green algae in Upper Rideau Lake. In response to BRLA members' increasing concerns about lake water quality, your Board passed a resolution requesting that the 3 Townships touching Big and Upper Rideau Lakes institute bylaw requirements for mandatory septic re-inspections, forcing failing systems to be remediated immediately. Copies of the resolution have been sent to each of the Townships and we will keep you advised of their responses.

Water Quality

Now you see them....

Now you don't!

The BRLA advocates to protect the water quality of your lake.
We need your financial support to do that next year.

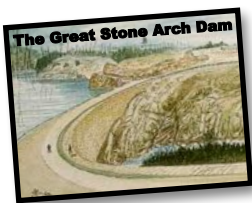
Go to www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com to find out how you can help.

BOBBI BUOY - THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES



Well the summer of 2014 is now over, but what a summer it was. I began this summer on Newboro Lake. I was latched onto the Kawartha Voyageur for several days. We travelled through many locks, including Chaffeys

Lock, Davis Lock and then Sand Lake to Jones Falls. Jones Falls has the "Great Stone Arch Dam" which is really something to see. The dam was built in 1831, that sure was a long time ago. It was the highest dam in North America. It is over 18 metres



high. Workers during construction called it the "Seventh Wonder of the World", and is easily the most spectacular engineering structure on the Rideau

Canal. The dam has often been called the "whispering dam" because its acoustics allow the sound of someone speaking at one end of the face to be heard at the other.

After Jones Falls we travelled through Whitefish Lake, by a little town called Seeleys Bay and Little Cranberry Lake. We then were at Upper Brewers Lock. Once through this lock, some kids were swimming in the Cataraqui River. These kids saw me and were able to un-hook me from the big boat. They were happy to have me and



hooked to a big rock by their family cottage dock.

I spent the rest of the summer

watching the family swimming and having fun with friends. I was protecting them and their boats by marking a shoal right in front of their cottage.

to be continued.....

Bobbi by Angela Edelman

MARINE SAFETY

The Shoal Markers are out for 2014



The last of the 108 Shoal markers were removed from the Big Rideau Lake on October 27, 2014. We will deploy them again next year prior to the May holiday weekend as long as we have the financial support of the members and non-members living around or boating on the lake.

To place and maintain these buoys each season costs the Big Rideau Lake Association approximately \$6,000.

Without them there would be many more accidents and thousands of dollars damage to your cottage boat or cruiser. Please consider this when you renew or join the Big Rideau Lake Association next season. Without your support these markers may not be seen on the lake in 2015.





Big Rideau Lake Association



Family* Membership Registration- \$60

* 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:

OPTION 1: Cheque (payable to BRLA) | Mail this completed Registration and your cheque to: Big Rideau Lake Association, PO Box 93, Portland, ON K0G 1V0

OPTION 2: Credit Card (VISA only) | Mail this completed Registration including your VISA details to: Big Rideau Lake Association, PO Box 93, Portland, ON K0G 1V0

_____|_____
Visa card # | Expiry

_____|_____
Name on card | Signature

OPTION 3: Online | You can pay by PayPal (or mail a cheque later) by going to www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com, click Membership/New Member Registration and complete the form on-line.

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

This registration starts April 1, _____
(Insert Year)

New Membership Renewal

ALL APPLICANTS

Family Name

Parent's First Name(s)

(last name if different from Family Name above)

Children's Names

PRIMARY RESIDENCE

Street # _____

Street Name _____

City _____

Province/State _____

Postal Code _____

.....

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

e-mail _____

COTTAGE RESIDENCE

Street # _____

Street Name _____

City _____

Postal Code _____

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We had hoped to gain more members in 2014 due to the Board's rather massive mail out membership campaign to over 800 lake residents this past April but we fell short of our target of 290 members for 2014. We currently have an active and committed membership of 266 members and 13 corporate members. Your Board has asked the Membership Committee to achieve the goal of 300 family/boater members and 20 corporate members for 2015. As such, it is not too early for you to kindly renew your membership for 2015. The form is attached for you to do so. For those of you who are not members, we encourage you to join this year by completing the membership form attached. Thank you for your continued support.

John Callan, Membership Chair



Shoal Markers

Now you see them....

Now you don't!

There are 107 private shoal markers on Big & Lower Rideau Lakes.
Without your financial support, they may not be there next year.

Go to www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com to find out how you can help.

FAMILY REGATTA

Yes, the title is correct! Originally, and continually, this very special annual event is a family affair. For many years I thought it was a kids event that included some adult activities. Not so! This year proved that it was, indeed, a family event. For some reasons there were few people than I have experienced over that past. However, thanks to the excellent leadership of the Dunlop family, Jill and Jane in particular, it proved a great success. Yes, there were some great kids events with lots of fun, however the adult activity really took off. I do not recall too many occasions when so many adults had such a good time. Jane and Jill came up with several new events that captured everyone's attention and participation. The final winner proved to be the Watters family, congratulations. What a great fun time for all.

Please put this event on your calendar for next summer. Come ready to participate with your kids.

Bill Belanger



WHAT DO YOU NOT SEE IN THESE PHOTOS?

These photos were taken in August on BRLA's wonderful Cow Island. What you do not see on this beautiful day is people. Our island park setting with its picnic tables, great dock, superb swimming and lovely groomed lawns for children and pets to run is devoid of members taking advantage of the island.

Our members will often take their family and guests out for a boat ride or through the Narrows lock to Westport or to Rideau Ferry. Why not plan a picnic at Cow or take a swim break and show your guests this wonderful asset that you own by virtue of buying a 60 dollar membership in the Association.

Volunteers work hard to maintain the grounds and facilities for our members to access and enjoy whenever they wish.

We hope to see more members visiting Cow next summer and see the island's beauty for yourselves.

In the meantime, have a safe and exciting winter till we meet again at the lake.

Doug Arrand



If you would like to share a special birthday, anniversary, or cottage event in Driftwords, please contact: driftwords@bigrideaulakeassociation.com

AROUND THE LAKE - 2014



(If you have something you would like to share with our readers, please feel free to send it to us)