



DriftWords

Serving the Rideau Since circa 1911, Poonamalie to Narrows Lock

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BITS FROM BETH

Welcome to Driftwords **Summer 2013** edition. We hope the summer is going well for all you Lake fans out there. The BRLA has been very busy so far this summer with kick-off to summer Fireworks off Cow Island. We have had our AGM and the wonderful Summer Sounds. Welcome to our new President, Doug Good. Glad to have you leading the Board. Now relax and enjoy the latest issue of Driftwords. Beth Evans, Recreation and Editor of Driftwords



This will be my last President's Pen. After two years as President and six as a board member it is time to step aside and let new blood take over the reins.

The years I have spent on the board have been very enjoyable both from a sense of satisfaction in the accomplishments the board has achieved and the incredibly dedicated board and committee members. Added to those people I must thank ALL the volunteers who have helped put on the camps, fireworks, regattas etc.

The BRLA has had its ups and downs in terms of funding and membership. I once again encourage members to solicit their friends and neighbours to join and support the goals and activities of the BRLA.

I am keeping this President's Pen short so that the incoming President can expound upon his goals and wishes for the Association.

I wish you all the best and again extend my thanks to you for your participation and support.

Fair Winds,
Daniel (TOBY) Spry
President

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A Message from the incoming President

Congratulations: in this edition of "DRIFTWORDS" you are getting a going and coming message from the President. Both messages stress the same importance on Membership and the importance of Volunteers to your organization.

First a great big thank you to Toby Spry and Melanie Sterling, they have both done a super job in making the Big Rideau Lake Association (BRLA) work and survive. Another lady who worked very hard, and deserves a big thank you, from your association is, Barbara Keays. Barb was the treasurer and account collector, she did a wonderful job on increasing the number of Corporate members by going out and pounding on doors. We also welcome two new board members: Brian Hawkins, who has taken on the role of treasurer, and Lyse Prendergast, who has taken on communications and web controller.

Your board has a challenge in the coming year, and that challenge can be summed up in a word "MEMBERSHIP". At the Annual General Meeting it was pointed out that our annual revenues are barely sufficient to cover the costs of the shoal markers, and someone wondered:

what would happen if we didn't put the shoal markers in? Yes there are funds in savings in the bank, but your annual revenues need to cover your annual expenses. It should be pointed out that the BRLA pays about one third of the cost of the shoal markers with the other two thirds coming from Rideau Lakes Environmental Fund (RLEF). Support for both organizations is critical. For tax purposes you cannot write off the cost of your membership in BRLA, but if you make a donation to the RLEF you will receive a receipt to deduct your contribution from your income tax. For your information, the BRLA board has made a decision to change the membership form and delete the line for donations for the "environment". We ask that any donations for the "environment" be made out to the RLEF; the taxman won't let a third party pass funding along.

The Fireworks were great and Mike Fraser and his crew did an excellent job, but it pointed out two issues: the first has to do with "MEMBERSHIP" and the second with volunteer help. I am use to old school math, and maybe its new school math, but it seems strange that we had about six hundred (600) boats watching the fireworks, and we are working hard to get three hundred (300) members signed up??

The BRLA is made up of volunteers, whether it is those who volunteer to be on the Board or those who come out to help. Without those VOLUNTEERS your organization would not exist. For the fireworks we had a great set up crew, some of them may have been conscripted, but for clean up on Monday there were very few. A special thanks to the two great ladies, who have loved our lake for many many years, and helped with the cleanup. Many hands make light work and if you can volunteer some time it would be beneficial to all.

I took the opportunity to go to another lake association's annual meeting the other day; I came away learning two things. The President of that association had gone to the effort of putting up signs on the road to remind the members of the annual general meeting. When she asked the question: how many were reminded of the meeting thanks to the signs, the majority put up their hands. When she asked how many were reminded through "Facebook" only two put up their hands. Given the demographics of our membership, are we really into the computer generation? One of the items I would like to know is how the members feel about receiving "Driftwords" electronically versus in hard copy. Do you pass it along? Do you print or forward a copy to



other members of the family (we know many of our memberships are “family cottages”)? Do you write down/make note of date of events and meetings? Yes, economically electronic copy is the lowest cost, but if people don’t get to see and read a copy then our communication is lost. We would like to hear your opinion.

The second item I learned at that meeting was the concept of “Road Champions”. My initial reaction was most cottage roads with a number of cottages have “road associations”, but no this was a different concept. The “Road Champion” acts as an ambassador for the cottage association. They greeted new people to the road and even have a goody bag to offer them. They advised the association of changes in ownership of a cottage, including new addresses. It seems to me that road champions could give a face to your association and help to overcome one of our largest problems, developing a current contact list, which would be a great benefit to both the BRLA and RLEF. This is a concept I would like to pursue with the board We will need many volunteers from around the lake. Would you be prepared to be a “Road Champion”?

So for an organization that has been around 97 or 98 years we still have some challenges. However, the board has made the decision that we will celebrate the 100th anniversary in 2015. Yes some of our signs say since 1911, however we couldn’t document that date and the only firm date we have is from a cup won at a regatta in 1915 in Portland. Serving and protecting, and always caring, for our lake for that many years deserves to be recognized and celebrated. Your input on how we can recognize and celebrate 100 years of service to the lake, and thanks to those thousands of individuals who have contributed time and effort to make our lake the greatest in the world would be much appreciated.

Remember the BRLA is your lake association; you have an ownership in its success and survival. Your input is essential if we are to continue the legacy.

Doug Good
President

BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION MARINE SAFETY

As summer kicks off we find ourselves spending more and more time on the Big Rideau Lake! We should make sure we have the right safety equipment on board. Safety equipment varies with the size of the boat. The first step in making sure you are prepared is to check the expiry date on all your equipment. Make sure you have a current fire extinguisher, current flares, and your life jackets do not have tears or missing parts. Read the instructions on your equipment and make sure you know how use it properly and it can be located

easily on your boat. Your flashlight must have working batteries at all times! Keep extras on board or check regularly to make sure they are working.

The following is list of required equipment to ensure you have a safe summer boating!



Minimum requirements for boats less than 20 ft. include:

- life jacket for each person. The life jacket must be Canadian Coast Guard approved
- heaving line at least 15 meters long
- paddle or an anchor with a line
- flashlight with working batteries
- re-boarding device (ie; ladder)
- hand bailer or manual bailer
- noise making device (whistle or fog horn)
- working navigation lights on front and back of your boat
- if you don't have a flashlight you need 3 flares type A, B or C
- fire extinguisher

Additional requirements for boats 20-30ft:

- life buoy
- 6 flares AND a working flashlight
- additional fire extinguisher for the cabin

Additional requirements for 30-40ft:

anchor with 100ft of line

12 flares

compass

two larger fire extinguishers (Cabin and deck)

Make sure you have the minimum requirements in your boat!

For more information check out [Transport Canada!](http://TransportCanada.ca)

NOTICE TO BOATERS

Parks Canada has removed private mooring bouys from the south side of Col By island and replaced them with 12 pay as you use Parks Canada Moorings. All mooring buoys have been removed from Tar Island.

Boaters are reminded that they must show their anchor light from sundown to sunrise.



COW ISLAND UPDATE

As the spring approaches and our minds turn to the lake I would like to give a brief report on Cow Island, BRLA's jewel in the lake.

A brief report on the shoreline protection initiatives that were undertaken a few years ago to address concerns about shoreline erosion is in order. The shrubs and trees planted along the shoreline recommended by consultants contracted by the BRLA are growing and coming along nicely. These same consultants recommended more aggressive action be taken to address the

most serious erosion issues affecting sections of the shoreline but that has not been carried out after a decision was reached by the Board of the day to not invest further monies in the project.

Last year the hinge connectors on the main dock were replaced by heavy duty ones due to the constant wear caused by wave movement. More cleats were added to make



tying boats easier and more effective.

With respect to the cottage, some work was carried out of a maintenance nature but the exterior painting of the building did not get done. Some interior work such as installing locks on the battery room of our solar power system was not addressed although planned for.

A few mature trees on the island were lost due to storm winds. A few years ago all the trees were assessed as to their health by an arborist and a tree trimmer was contracted to trim deadwood from the trees in an attempt to bring many of them that were highly stressed back to good health. While the project improved the health of many of the trees it was determined that it would only be a matter of time before a storm might take some of those in the worst condition and so we were not surprised although disappointed when we lost some beautiful mature trees.

In addition the island suffered a fire that threatened the forested part of the island when a camper fire believed to have been extinguished caused a fire in a nearby grove of trees. The resulting fire could have possibly taken the whole forest down had it not been for quick action on the part of folks who were

present on the island and for the Portland Volunteer Fire Dept. The incident reinforced the reason why the island has a regulation prohibiting open campfires on the island except for one safely located fire pit in a clearing well away from trees at the opposite end of the island.

Last fall volunteers towed the docks to their winter harbour and we thank Doug Good for his generosity in providing this safe harbour location to BRLA. When the smaller floating dock was assessed once it was towed in it was determined the flotation billets were deteriorated to the extent they need to be replaced. The dock was taken out of the water and the billets have been replaced.

Your Cow Island Committee hopes to accomplish the following in 2013. We hope to complete the exterior painting of the cottage including the trim work on the fascia and soffits etc. The outhouse, to use the vernacular is in need of a paint job as well particularly to the interior to keep it clean. To do this we will need some volunteers with paint brushes, rollers, rags etc., and a stretch of good sunny weather so at this time it is hard to schedule a date as to when this will

be done. Stay tuned as we will be calling for assistance from the members. The spring work weekend will go ahead I am certain and we hope to cut the grass, clean up any windfall branches, sweep out the winter dust from the cottage and toilet as we prepare for another great season.

Once again the Cow Island Committee seeks interested volunteers who would enjoy joining in with us to maintain the most beautiful island in the Big Rideau. The rewards include spending time out on the island, meeting some great people and having some fun with a great group of members who provide and support the various summer programs on the island.

See you on the Lake!

Doug Arrand
Cow Island Chairperson



BIG RIDEAU LAKE YOUTH PROGRAM

The first attempts to get a BRLA Youth Group has had positive results.

The first meeting on Cow Island was small but enjoyable, particularly for S'mores enthusiasts. Picture taken by Will Evans. Thanks Will for the initiative.

Such a program needs a broad membership for several reasons.

- Many young people are on the lake sporadically over the summer.
- Some activities will appeal to some but not to others.
- The broader the contact process and list the greater the chance that a group will gather with similar interests.

On several occasions I have asked about activities that a group might be interested in doing. The responses are quite varied.

- Beach volleyball seems popular and we are looking into reclaiming the court.
- Card games have been mentioned by several young people.
- The Marshmallow Roast was well received and we will try a repeat.
- Music group was mentioned for people who play instruments.
- We hope to establish Wednesday afternoon as a regular meeting time.
- I remain committed to keeping the options open and encouraging the Youth to take the initiative.

SPREAD THE WORD:

Please mention this initiative to all the young people you meet, in the store, at the marina, on a dock somewhere.

Have them check the website and Facebook page

Contact the facilitator, Bill Belanger at youthgroup@brla.on.ca

Follow the BRLA on [Facebook](#) for updates



BIG RIDEAU LAKE MEMORIES PART II

The Pines by Jack Evans



Image from Canadian Science and Technology Museum

Mother and dad were married in 1920 and their first entry in the book was April 15, 1921. Back in those days roads and automobiles were a far cry from what they are today so trips to the cottage were made by train from Ottawa to Portland. The CN line through Portland was the main line to Toronto. When CN and CP started to run pool trains to Toronto they used the CP line and the CN line was used only for freight trains with a passenger car on the rear to service the local villages along the line.

Arriving in Portland they would be met at the station by Jimmy Seward in his horse and buggy and driven to the dock. There they would be taken by Taxi boat to the cottage. The taxi boat was operated by Bob Garrett.

They would be picked up on Sunday by taxi boat and taken back to Portland in time to catch the train back to Ottawa.

The guest book was also a record of fish caught and it is noted on the weekend of November 5-8, 1920 that dad and gramps Guillet caught 50 fish. Thirty-four whitefish, 1 salmon, 1 bass and 14 pike.

In June of 1923 my uncle and aunt, Mody and Marcella Guillet spend 10 days at the cottage on their honeymoon. Who needed Niagara Falls when you could honeymoon on the Big Rideau.

I was born August 18, 1924, but did not visit the cottage until the following year. By this time we were driving to the cottage but the roads left much to be desired. My father did not drive at the time but always had friends and relatives who would drive. It is noted that in April 1925 they travelled by Ford special and blew out 4 tires on the trip.

The trip consisted of driving to Carleton Place, Perth, Smiths Falls and on to Portland. At that time it was known as highway 15. The road from Carleton Place to Smith Falls did not then exist. I was told that the trip often took 6 hours to complete after changing flats etc. The roads were mostly gravel in those days.

After reaching Lombardy, you had a choice of three so called roads to reach the cottage. The Otter Lake Road, the Little Short Road (now the Briton-Houghton Bay Road) or the Portland Road (since then called by difference names - Burgess Road, Old Kingston Road, or Dump Road as some people now know it).

No matter which road you took in it was always a challenge. The Little Short Road was usually our choice unless it was early spring when it was impassable. A lot of it was corduroy through the low lying areas, logs laid across the road which you drove over if you had the nerve. There was no room to pass another car as most of the road was two ruts with grass growing between. If you met another car, one of you had to back up until some level ground could be found to pull over. From the crossroads or four corners we had no choice, only one trail into the

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

cottage. I remember two old wooden gates that had to be opened on the way in. These gates were to keep the farmers cattle from getting away. As I remember the first gate was at the bottom of Crain's Hill. Where Fred Sneyd parks his car now. The other was at the top of the next hill near the

entrance to Barclays cottage. Remember when the brakes did no hold going down Crain's Hill and we drove right through the gate.

To be continued....

YOUR COTTAGE, YOUR BOAT AND YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS

It is the great Canadian dream to own a summer home by the lake. For those of you who are lucky enough to enjoy this dream, here are a few pieces of insurance advice to help you protect your piece of paradise.

Not all insurance policies are equal. The scope of coverage available to you is dependent upon the occupancy of your property (year round or seasonal use only). The most comprehensive coverage available is an "All Risk" form, which provides coverage for all types of loss except those listed under exclusions. In contrast, a "fire and EC" form restricts coverage to loss caused only by listed perils. Most policies cover damage to the dwelling caused by windstorm as well as damage by fire but may not provide coverage for damage caused by the weight of ice or snow. Some coverage forms do not include vandalism or burglary but may offer it for an additional premium. As water damage is the leading cause of loss for insurers, this is an important coverage for your cottage as well as your principal residence. There are often terms and conditions attached to this coverage e.g. draining the pipes during the heating season or having someone visit the property daily to ensure that heating is maintained, so once again check with your broker to ensure that you have chosen the best coverage to suit your needs.

It is important to review the limits of insurance on your policy as upgrades to your cottage over the years can significantly increase the value. Here are a few things to consider:

- Check if your coverage is replacement cost or depreciated value. If you do not have replacement cost coverage, check if it is available and the cost to upgrade.
- Often the limits on seasonal residences are very low and would not be adequate to rebuild if the cottage was a total loss (assuming replacement cost coverage is in place). Check with your broker as they have a tool that they can use to determine rebuilding cost. A contractor is also a good resource to provide an estimate on the current rebuilding cost per square foot.

Make sure to advise your broker of material changes to the risk. Some examples of material change are:

- Installing a wood-stove
- Building an addition
- Completing a major renovation
- Rental of the property

Always consult your broker regarding any material change to the risk in order to have your policy updated. Failure to do so could result in denial of a claim. With respect to renting of your cottage, some policies do not permit **any** rental to others. Allowing family members to use the cottage rent free is not an issue.

If you also have a boat, jet-ski or any type of watercraft to consider, don't assume that coverage is automatically provided under your

home insurance policy. Most home policies only have minimal coverage for boats and may not have any coverage if the boat is kept permanently at the cottage. Even more important is the liability insurance for the use and operation of watercraft. Again check with your broker to make sure that you have correct coverage and limits for any watercraft you own. Also, ensure that all operators carry a valid operators card and note that watercraft policies do not provide coverage for any rental of the watercraft to others, unless they are insured on a commercial policy and rated for this use.

For additional liability protection, we also recommend that our clients consider an umbrella

liability policy. This product is relatively inexpensive and provides increased liability limits (up to \$5,000,000 additional protection is available through most carriers) as well as enhanced liability coverage, which your broker will be happy to explain fully. This product will bring you the peace of mind that you are protected for the additional exposures that are part of the cottage lifestyle, so that you can enjoy your cottage experience with your friends and family.

Esther Blake, CIP



Late Summer/Fall - 2013 - Calendar of Events

Big Rideau Lake Youth Program - Wednesday afternoons on Cow

Regatta - Saturday August 3, 2013 at 10:30 - Cow Island

Chicken BBQ Portland Community Hall, Live Music, and Admiral Kingsmill Sail Past and Salute - Saturday August 3, BBQ - 4:30 and sail past - 7:00 pm

Lake Dinner Dance - Saturday August 10, 2013 - Shipwreck Rideau Ferry **(SOLD OUT)**

Rideau Ferry [Regatta](#) - August 16 - 18, 2013

Easter Seals Camp Merrywood [fundraiser](#) BBQ & photo contest - August 24, 2013

Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) Annual General Meeting - Saturday August 24, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. - Portland Community Hall

Shoreline Planting Seminar - September (TBD) 2013 Hannah Park Portland



EASTER SEALS CAMP MERRYWOOD FUNDRAISER BBQ - 2013

On Saturday, August 24, 2013, Bayview Yacht Harbour will hold a marina BBQ as part of our "Best Summer Memories" photo challenge and fundraiser. This year marks Bayview Yacht Harbour's 40th Anniversary and to commemorate this special milestone we are asking the local community and our customers to submit some of their best photo memories of life on the water. Proceeds from our photo contest, marina BBQ, silent auction and sales from the Marina calendar that will be produced after the Photo Challenge contest, will help send kids with physical

disabilities in Leeds South Grenville and throughout Ontario, to Easter Seals Camp Merrywood, located near Perth, Ontario on the Big Rideau Lake, just north of our Yacht Harbour location. Last year with the support of the local community, our [Photo Challenge Fundraiser](#) raised \$2275.00, enough to send one child to Camp Merrywood for 10 days! It costs \$2000.00 to send one child to Easter Seals Camp for 10 days.



BRLA Positions available now!

Please join our team.

Vice-President

All positions require a BRLA membership.

Send your notice of interest to: brla@brla.on.ca



Many of the BRLA Board of Directors 2012/13

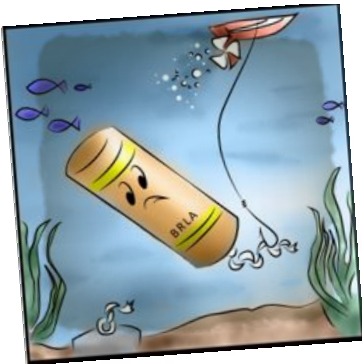
THE ADVENTURES OF BOBBI BUOY

I felt a tug on my chain, I was being dragged underwater! I did not know what this could be and didn't know where I was heading. It was dark and I was very scared.

I was hooked underwater for the whole night. In the morning when the sun rose, I could see what had hooked me. It was a fisherman's hook.

The line was weighted to keep the hook close to the bottom where the Trout are. The fisherman was loading his boat for what looked like a long day out on the Lake. He was packing lots of fishing gear and a big cooler.

The motor started and I was being dragged again. The fisherman did not know that I was there and that his line was still in the water. I could see the dock getting smaller and smaller.



The next thing I see is the Narrows Lock doors closing. I was now inside a Lock! I had heard about

the Locks that were built beginning in 1827 and finished in 1832. Lieutenant-Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers led the building of the Rideau Canal. I knew that the Locks joined lakes and rivers. The Canal was built to protect the St. Lawrence River route that was used to transport goods and people from Montreal to Kingston and from the Great Lakes area. It was an amazing achievement and now boaters can use it for recreation with their families to travel from Kingston to Ottawa and beyond.

I see families now in this Lock. They all look so happy to be on their boats and talking to others and the Lock Master. No one sees me beneath the surface. Someone please, please look down, I am leaving the Big Rideau and my home!

The water his filling up the Lock and the boats are all rising. We are now level with the Upper Rideau Lake. Oh No!



To be continued...

Grilled Pepper Bruschetta

INGREDIENTS

2 orange bell peppers, halved lengthwise
1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
3 tablespoons capers, rinsed and drained
2 tablespoons red-wine vinegar
4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Coarse salt and ground pepper
8 slices crusty bread, toasted
1 ounce Parmesan cheese, shaved

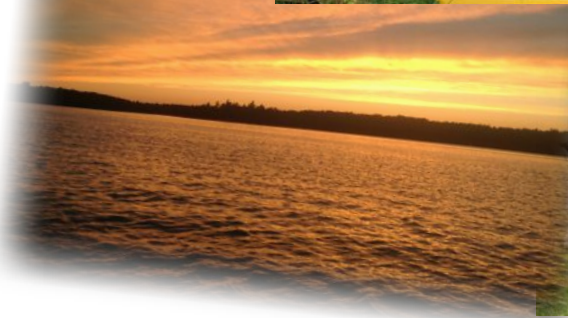
INSTRUCTIONS

Heat grill to medium-high. Place peppers skin side up on grill, cover, and cook until beginning to soften, 5 minutes. Turn peppers over and cook until charred, about 4 minutes. Remove from grill and let cool.


Cut peppers into thin strips. In a medium bowl, combine peppers, tomatoes, capers, vinegar, and oil. Season with salt and pepper. Top bread with pepper mixture and Parmesan.



SUMMER ON BIG RIDEAU LAKE



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Driftwords is published three times a year: spring, mid-summer and fall/winter. If you would like to write for Driftwords, have photographs you'd like to share, have suggestions for articles, or have comments about past issues, please [contact us](#).

Copy Deadlines: Articles/pictures must be sent to Editor 2 weeks prior to April 1st, August 1st, and November 1st, of each year.

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- Whole Page Ad- \$360-incl. 1 publication
- Half Page Ad- \$180-incl. 1 publication
- 1/4 Page Ad- \$90- incl. 1 publications
- Classified Ad- \$20- one publication * 4 line max.

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