



DriftWords

Serving the Rideau Since circa 1911, Poonamalie to Narrows Lock

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BITS FROM BETH



Welcome to Driftwords **Fall 2013** edition. A slow start to the summer, but it sure lasted long - even Thanksgiving weekend was beautiful and warm. The BRLA had lots of things for members to get involved in this past summer and we believe everyone had a great summer. From the Fireworks, the Lake Dinner Dance, Summer Sounds, Day Camp, Sailing Camp, and the volunteer appreciation event. We are now busy planning for next summer and hope to introduce new events. Now sit back and enjoy your Driftwords.



Today is November 1st and it's the first day that partially feels like fall, it's not cold, but the winds are blowing and the white caps are rolling. A sea of white is appearing as more and more boats are put away for the winter. If you have not enjoyed the lake this fall you have missed out as the weather has been marvelous. That is why I tell the Editor of "Driftwords" that I have been procrastinating in writing this message.

There are three issues I want to address in this message; communications, membership and monies.

I have a large concern about the Association's communication with its members. A lot of effort goes into putting together "Driftwords" for you, our members. It is then sent out electronically, but how many of you actually read it? Perhaps you print it for other members of the family to read. Driftwords isn't just meant for the person

at the computer, it is meant for the whole family and in many cases the whole cottage. As I listen and ask other organizations I get the distinct feeling they feel they are losing touch with their members and are going back to printed material and snail mail.

In this issue:

Bits From Beth	pg 1
President's Pen.....	pg 1
Skate the Lake	pg 3
Marine Safety	pg 4
Membership Update	pg 4
Lake Dinner Dance	pg 5
Rideau Recipe	pg 5
Youth Program	pg 6
Big Rideau Lake Memories Part III	pg 8
Winter Calendar	pg 9
Regatta	pg 10
Cow Island Update	pg 11
Bobbi Buoy - The adventure continues	pg 12
Summer Sounds	pg 13
Images of Summer 2013	pg 14

We need your input as to how you want to receive communications from your association. BRLA has been around for 98 years and is here to serve and protect the lake by representing and presenting the views of those on and around the lake. We can't do that if we aren't in communication with you. Yes computers, tablets, ipads and iphones are quick and inexpensive, but if you don't read the whole message they are useless. Please provide us with your feedback. Specifically as to how you would like to receive your communication from your association. Emails, facebook, twitter, newsletter via Canada Post? Send your comments to brla@brla.on.ca.

The RLEF has worked very hard to produce a new mailing list by cottage access road. This is great because one of the programs we hope to implement over the winter is a "Road Champion" program, which I spoke about in my initial message. (In case you didn't receive that message: the program is intended to identify an individual on each road to be an ambassador on behalf of the BRLA and the local road association in identifying who has left the road and who has moved onto a property as well as individual changes. In a number of incidences we have continued to mail material to the parents when other members of the family have taken over the cottage. In many respects a form of "Welcome Wagon"). The strength and existence of the Association is based on its membership, and without members, we can't run and fund the main programs of the association: the shoal markers and communicating activities involving the environment and ecology of our lake. It is hard to believe that we have 600 boats for the fireworks and have to work very hard to get 300 members. As your association we get contacted by other organizations and groups seeking our (your) input: organizations such as Parks Canada, Rideau Valley Conservation, Federation of Ontario Cottagers (FOCA), the local municipalities and study groups such as "Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy Steering Committee, Lake Links, and Rideau Heritage Waterways Initiative. You want representation at the table when people start proposing new taxes and charges. If you and your neighbours at the cottage/lake home/cabin or whatever you have at the lake are members then we can communicate to you what is happening and how it may affect you. Take the opportunity to have proactive representation.

As members you may want to talk to your neighbours about joining as you pay for one of your associations most important programs: "THE SHOAL BUOYS. We had one suggestion that we use camouflage paint and give out special glasses for boat operators so only they could see the buoys, don't worry we didn't find the paint or the glasses. To pay for that program we need memberships and donations to the Rideau Lakes Environmental Fund (RLEF).

Okay so lets talk monies, your association receives some of its operating funds from your membership and some from the (RLEF), both sources are very important to the survival of your association. RLEF is a registered body with Revenue Canada who can give tax receipts for donations; BRLA cannot give tax receipts for your membership. This past summer the BRLA board suggests that rather than have members donate to the Board's environmental committee, donations for environmental activity should be made out to RLEF. (Under Income Tax regulations a third party cannot forward the funds and then give a tax receipt, the donation has to be made directly the receiving party.)

I am hoping that we can mail future editions of "Driftwoods" to all our existing members and those non-members who are on the new RLEF list. We will be including a membership renewal form and enclosing the new pamphlet that the RLEF has produced.

As your mind now goes to the holiday season, I would ask that you think of the cottage and make a gift for the whole family of a membership in your association and a tax deductible donation to the RLEF. They are gifts that will keep on giving throughout the year and future years. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or the appropriate title to your celebration of this upcoming season. I look forward to seeing everyone come on out to Skate the Lake, if not have a great safe and healthy winter.



2014 SKATE THE LAKE

If you are at, or need an excuse to go to the cottage in late January, plan on attending the 10th annual Skate the Lake held in Portland January 24 to 26, 2014. This year Skate the Lake (STL) is hosting the North American Speed Skating Marathon over three days. The majority of the races and related activities being held on Saturday January 25th.

There are children's races and relay races on Saturday afternoon, with the competition races on Saturday (25 km) and Sunday (50 km).

STL is planning related activities such as the chance to throw some curling rocks, trying for the tethered REMAX hot air balloon (this activity is really subject to the weather and wind conditions so no promises), the famous "SNERT" Dutch soup, and the spectacular fireworks display put on by Mike Fraser and his crew (if you have seen the Cow Island display then come on out and see the colour off the snow).

New items being planned for this year are beaver tails and hot apple cider, a supper and a dance.

So come on down to the cottage for the weekend and come out for some skating, the oval will be available for skating when races are not being held. For further information and continuous updates go to www.skatethelakeportland.com



MARINE SAFETY

The 2013 Boating season was relatively safe for those using the Lake. The water levels were high for the better part of the season and while this is good for boaters, it did cause some concern from low lying cottagers. During the last little while the water level has fallen very quickly.

Lamont Brown, who for 37 years looked after our 105 Buoys, has retired this spring. In his place we have Steve Magee. Steve is now taking care of the buoys and removed them from the Lake once the locks closed on October 13, 2013. He will deploy them prior to the opening of the locks, approximately the May 24, 2014 weekend.

Boaters and cottages may have noticed that OPP were seen more frequently on the Lake this year. This is due to part of the Marine Division being moved to the Smiths Falls detachment. Hopefully

we will see them around even more next season. Boaters and cottagers are reminded to have all the required safety items and their PCO Card with them when out on the water.

Have a safe and enjoyable winter, remind your friends to join the BRLA and we will see you all on the water in 2014.

Daniel (Toby) Spry

Director of Marine Safety - BRLA



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We finished another wonderful summer at the lake with all sorts of activities, summer sounds, sailing, fireworks, shoal markers in place, all thanks to the board members and volunteers making everything fun and special. We are still getting memberships coming in for 2013 and with 2014 quickly approaching, if you missed 2013 why not combine the two years. I would like to thank all the members who renew every year and also the new members. We appreciate your support and help. Every year we increase our membership and with the help of all of you, we will reach our goal of at least 400 members soon. I have been on the board only a few years and have met so many dedicated and hard working board members, they are truly a wonderful team to be part of.

On that note, we are always looking for additional help, new ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact anyone of us with your input.

Happy winter everyone !

Dianna



LAKE DINNER DANCE

This year we decided to mix it up and hold the third annual "Lake Dinner Dance" at the Shipwreck in Rideau Ferry on August 10, 2013. We were successful in attracting members from all parts of the lake and the event's 80 tickets sold out. The day's weather was ominous but as 5:30 rolled around, the sun came out, the wind died down and the temperature was just right for cocktails on the patio, many members arriving by boat. Dallas Kennedy, the restaurant owner was looking forward to hosting us and she went out of her way to prepare excellent food - and lots of it! There was a buzz as old and new members met and enjoyed the fabulous meal and the congeniality from our shared interest in the lake. I was pleased to sponsor a local band, Easy Rider, for the dancing which followed and am happy to report that there were many positive comments about the dinner and the exclusivity of the venue both inside and out, for

our guests. Many thanks to all who helped organize and sell tickets.

Should we hold our fourth annual again at the Shipwreck next summer? Your BLRA board would love to have your comments about a repeat performance next year.

John Callan



Rideau Candied Walnuts

INGREDIENTS

1 pound walnut halves
1 cup white sugar
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 pound walnut halves
1 cup white sugar
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract



INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Spread nuts in a single layer over a baking sheet. Roast for approximately 8 to 10 minutes, or until the nuts start to turn brown and the smell of roasting nuts fills the kitchen.

Stir together sugar, cinnamon, salt, and milk in a medium saucepan. Cook over medium-high heat for 8 minutes, or until the mixture reaches the soft ball stage of 236 degrees F (113 degrees C). Remove from heat, and stir in vanilla immediately. .

Add walnuts to sugar syrup, and stir to coat well. Spoon nuts onto waxed paper, and immediately separate nuts with a fork. Cool, and store in airtight containers.

Great gift idea for Christmas parties.

YOUTH PROGRAM

Do youth still exist on the Big Rideau Lakes?

Yes they are there! There were a few sightings this summer on Cow Island and several more along the shoreline. There was a terrific gathering of youth during the regatta.

There are several factors that limit the sightings.

- Most youth are only on the lake for a few weeks. Some only on weekends.
- Many are busy with family on weekends.
- The street we all live on is very wide and very deep so getting together is not as easy as in the city.
- Communication is a major challenge.

How do we establish a youth group with such sporadic attendance?

How do we stay in touch?

For The summer of 2014 we are planning for regular meetings on Wednesdays, at 2:30.

Depending on interest the programs may include art, games, canoeing, and sailing for example.

We will set up an immediate e-communication so that youth can stay in touch. Once on the list youth will be informed of any opportunities or changes.

The most insightful youth quote of the summer? "I love coming to the cottage but it is so boring!"

Bill Belanger





19 H20



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BIG RIDEAU LAKE MEMORIES PART III

Clarence Chapman who had the cottage next to us, now owned by the Cully family, had made signs that said "Sound Horn - Curve & Hill" and he posted these all along the road out to the highway. Chapman drove a Durant car, very similar to the Graham Page. He had a trailer and carried all their belongings in it. During the war when gas was rationed he burnt coal oil in his car.

Dad never drove until 1928 when he bought a new Chandler sedan. We had an old Dodge previously a 1920 version. I never remember it on the road, when I was a little boy it was always parked in our back yard at home (Glen Avenue in Ottawa). and I used to play in it while it was rusting away.

My Uncle Ivor and Aunt Toots and cousin Audrey would drive up with us. Audrey and I sitting on two kindergarten chairs in the back of the Chandler. Around this time the Reece's bought the cottage next door to us from the Thurston's. They continued to drive with us as Uncle Ivor did not drive. In 1930 he bought a Buick sedan and learned to drive. You could always tell when he was coming as he leaned on the horn most of the way in the back road.

Around this time Chandler went out of business. Dad thought that he may not be able to get parts for our car so he traded it in for a 1929 Studebaker "president 8" a great car. Dad used to let me steer it on the way to the lake. It was the first of 4

Studebakers that we would own.

As long as I can remember we always had a supply boat coming from Smiths Falls every day.



Supply Boat "Victoria" circa 1920's

passengers who would come to Smiths Falls by train and they would be dropped off at their destination along the lake.

In the 1930's he retired the old steam boat and bought a former 1000 Islands tour boat and renamed it Vic II. The front of the boat was set up as a store the remainder was for passengers. The Vic would dock at Ritchie's one day and at our dock the next day. People from the Islands would row over and get their supplies. You could order your meat from Captain Davis and he would deliver it to you the following day.

The boat would dock in Portland and then make stops at the Islands before returning to Smiths Falls. You always knew when the boat was coming as you could hear the siren long before it arrived. I used to stand on the dock and watch for it coming around the point past the north end of Tar Island. When my



uncle Ivor built his boathouse it blocked out the view.

On Thursdays the Vic would run an excursion to Westport and we would take the trip once a year. It would make its last stop in German Bay (now Briton Bay) and then head up to Narrows Lock. As kids we enjoyed riding on the top of the boat and our treats would be handed up to us. My favourite drink was cream soda.

The Vic had some competition. For a few years there was another supply boat the "Valkyrie" a

smaller boat similar to the Vic, which also serviced the cottages.

Sim Scouvil who ran a grocery store in Portland had a boat and his two sons, Limmy and Tom, would deliver groceries to the cottagers. There were other attempts to run supply boats but I do not remember too much about them.

To be continued...

by Jack Evans
The Pines

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



Calendar

November 30, 2013

Santa Claus Parade - Westport

January 24 to 26, 2014

Skate the Lake - Portland

April 19 & 20, 2014

Delta Maple Syrup Festival - Delta



REGATTA 2013

The Regatta this past summer was held over the long weekend in August. The weather was a little chilly, but the participants turned up and the day warmed up. Fun was had by all. Thank you to the Dunlop family for making this day a great success. See you next summer.



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COW ISLAND UPDATE

The season at Cow came to an end on September 19th when Toby Spry, Doug Good, David Veldman and I moved the docks from Cow to their winter haven at the Good's summer home.

We stood the picnic tables up against trees and buildings so the snow would not lay on them and accelerate any rot or deterioration over the winter. We made certain that all equipment was secured in the equipment shed and/or the chalet.

A number of actions that were planned in the way of maintenance did not get done this past summer. We must address them next year. They include painting the exterior of the buildings and carrying out some pruning of trees to keep them healthy. There is one or two trees at the waterfront by the docks where most activities are carried out throughout the summer that may need to cut down as it could be a safety issue.

The Cow Island Committee along with the other BRLA committees is always looking for volunteers to assist us in the Island's maintenance. If interested, please contact me, Doug Arrand through the BRLA email (brrla@brrla.on.ca) and I will get back to you immediately.

I want to thank Peter and Joyce Cowan who once again generously organized the 2013 Summer Sounds Social afternoon in July on the Island. The event has for the past several years been organized by the Cowans to provide an opportunity for our members to meet and greet socially for an afternoon on the Island. Profits from the event are directed at improvements and ongoing maintenance of the property. Over the years they have raised a considerable amount of money and it is much appreciated by the Committee and the BRLA Board.

The Cow Island Committee thanks the Board members for their generous support of the Island with both funds and their willingness to serve on work parties to assist in maintaining this gorgeous jewel of an Island. Through these kinds of efforts, the Island has become quite a lovely park setting with picnic tables, mowed lawns and great facilities at which to hold family picnics and gatherings. We have had families come out with their extended family and pets and hold large family picnics. They have used the docks to swim off or water ski from and/or the lawns to play games or sports. I think that it is the best maintained park on the lake and is open to every member at a most reasonable cost of \$60 per year. Where can one be a part owner as a BRLA MEMBER of one of the most beautiful Islands on the Big Rideau.

Most of us like to take a ride out on the lake from time to time or take guests out for a lake ride. Think how nice it is to drop into the Island and take a break and inspect or show off to your guests this magnificent park that you own through your membership in the BRLA.

Have a safe and healthy winter and we look forward to seeing you on the lake and at the Island in 2014.

Doug Arrand





BOBBI BUOY - THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

We just were lifted 1.5 metres up from Big Rideau Lake to meet Upper Rideau Lake. The big lock doors slowly open with each turn of the crab by the lock master. He motions to the fisherman to move out of the lock. Another tug and I am off again being dragged close to the bottom of the lock. I look up and see that there is a bridge that was opened to allow the larger boats to pass through. Cars are waiting for the bridge to be swung closed.

It is a swing bridge, something I had never seen before.



I am now in the Upper Rideau Lake – this lake is different from the Big Rideau, it has a sandy bottom with old trees lying on it. Oh No! I am hooked on a stump. The boat picks up speed and the line I am hooked on breaks. Yippee! I am free. I float to the surface. Then I realize I may be free from the fisherman's line, but I am still far from home.



The wind starts blowing and I am still drifting farther and farther away from Narrows Lock and my home between Jerry and Cow Island.

Time slips away, daylight turns to dark skies. The weather is changing, I know fall is coming as I can see the leaves on the trees changing.

I begin to drift through a canal. I see a sign that says "Newboro Lock Station ahead. Oh No! When will someone find me and send me back home?"

I hear a motor boat coming around the corner. The boat is going much too fast for this narrow canal. I see them coming so fast towards me. They don't see me and bump me and I am being pushed aside and then the wake hits me and I am washed up on shore.

Days and nights pass and the water level is dropping - I don't see any chance of getting back in.

What is in store for me now?

to be continued.....



SUMMER SOUNDS

Summer Sounds? What is so special?

If you have not attended you don't know what you're missing? Wine and cheese in a relaxing social atmosphere with a background of what I like to term "folk" music.

Cliff Edwards is an accomplished performer. He and his associate have entertained at Summer Sounds over the last several years. Last summer he brought his sister along to add a little variety.

Make it a must next summer, a great way to meet people around the lake.

Thanks to Peter and Joyce Cowan for making this an annual highlight on the Big Rideau.



The real Bobbi Buoy courtesy of Sean Horsfall



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

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
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SUMMER ON BIG RIDEAU LAKE



Big Rideau Lake Swan Family