



**CANADA DAY FIREWORKS
COW ISLAND, JULY 1, 2006**

**YOUR CONTACT: MIKE FRASER
FIREWORKS@BRLA.ON.CA**

We need your support to continue our unique celebration. Be generous at the collection boxes around the lake, on your Membership Renewal Form, and when you're approached for a donation on the night of the event.



Mike Fraser

If you can help out, particularly need help with clean-up on July 2nd, please contact fireworks@brla.on.ca or leave a message at the BRLA office (613) 272 3629

“SUMMER SOUNDS”

AN ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR COW ISLAND

**SATURDAY JULY 15TH 2006
2:00 PM ON COW ISLAND**
(rain date Sun. July 16th 2:00 P.M.)



Join us for an afternoon of music and fun on Big Rideau Lake. Listen to music, catch up with old friends and make some new ones. We're looking forward to a pleasant social event for BRLA members and friends.

Mark the date on your Summer Calendar. The afternoon, including refreshments, is only \$25.00 per couple or \$15.00 per individual. Proceeds will be earmarked for Cow Island improvements.

Reserve your tickets now, by sending a cheque to BRLA (PO Box 93, Portland, ON K0G 1V0). Early response helps the Committee plan. Buy tickets now for your guests, and invite them later. Tickets will also be available at the BRLA Annual General Meeting, July 8, 2006, in Portland.

**WE'RE MAKING SUMMER SOUNDS A RIDEAU TRADITION.
SEE YOU ON JULY 15TH!**

Transportation from Portland to Cow Island will be available if needed.

DRIFTWORDS – SPRING 2006

GOVERNMENT AND MARINE AFFAIRS

YOUR CONTACT: HENRY COPESTAKE
GOVTAFFAIRS@BRLA.ON.CA

MASON PROPERTY UPDATE

The ‘Mason Property’ on Hwy 15 near Portland (and on the waterfront in Portland Bay) was once again given temporary zoning by Rideau Lakes Township. BRLA supported extending the temporary zoning for another three years, to ensure that all conditions of the exceptions allowing the operation of a marina for rental houseboats are honoured. Further information is available from Sheldon Laidman, Manager Development Services, Township of Rideau Lakes (613) 928 2251.

WATERWAYS CAMPGROUND EXPANSION PROPOSAL

Early in November, BRLA learned that the Waterways Campground located on Big Rideau Lake was seeking permission to expand an existing non-conforming use from 150 sites to 376 sites. A Public Hearing was called for November 15 at the Portland Community Hall. BRLA and RLEF were represented.

At its meeting on November 12, the BRLA Board voted to oppose the proposed expansion, which could increase by 1000 or more the number of summer residents of the lake, on the grounds of the likely environmental impact of additional automobile and boat traffic, the septic and water use impact of such an increase, and the absence of impact studies of the proposed zoning variance.

On arriving at the hearing, BRLA representatives learned that the recommendation of the town planner was to defer the decision on both the application to expand the existing non-conforming use from 150 sites to 376 sites and to add a 45' x 120' boat storage building pending the submission of:

1. A Lake Impact Study to be completed by a qualified individual.
2. A Boat Assessment Study
3. Confirmation from the Ministry of Transportation that they have no concerns regarding the impact of the development on Highway 15, and
4. Approval from the Ministry of Environment regarding the septic and water systems

As of the end of May 2006, no further action had yet been taken by the Waterways Campgrounds. The BRLA will continue to monitor the situation and welcomes input from its members.



ON THE WATER

Shoal Markers

BRLA's shoal markers are once again making Big Rideau Lake a safer place. These markers identify underwater hazards. If you see more than one marker together, go around, not between! They mark the extent of the shoal.

BRLA has initiated a new five year strategy for ongoing buoy renewal and maintenance. We rely on notifications from boaters like you to alert us to needed repairs or maintenance. If you see a problem please let us know by emailing brla@brla.on.ca, or leaving a message at 272 3629.

Boating Issues

BRLA is asked every year to address other boating issues such as boat noise, and boats operating close to shore. Regarding noise, vessels must have a “means that will contribute to the reduction of the motor’s noise level”. Unfortunately, regulations do not put any criteria on the effectiveness of this means. BRLA are encouraging the Federal Government to stiffen these requirements and make enforcement clearer. In the meantime, if you see (hear) a vessel that you feel does not comply with the regulations, record the vessel’s name, registration number, colour, and description, and advise Constable Scott McNames of the OPP Marine Unit by phone (613) 267 2626 or email Scott.McNames@jus.gov.on.ca. He will investigate, though he reminds us that “a lot of the vessels on the Rideau system are just passing through and therefore may not be around by the time I get out”.

The law on operating close to shore is much clearer. In Ontario and on Big Rideau Lake, speed is limited to 10km/hr within 30 meters of shore except for vessels engaged in water-

skiing or other tow sports, where the vessel follows a trajectory perpendicular to the shore.

Finally, the alcohol overindulgence and boating may be a much more serious offence in 2006. A private members bill is currently before the legislature to impose the same penalties on boat drivers as car drivers. Across Canada, 40% of all power-boating fatality victims had blood alcohol levels above the legal driving limit. Contact your MPP to register your support for this legislative change.

PROPERTY TAX AND WRAFT

We are sure that virtually all of the property owners on Big Rideau have had an enormous shock this winter when they received their “Market Value” tax assessments from MPAC. Many of us have seen assessment increases in the 80 to 100% range. BRLA has been challenging this ever-increasing tax burden on behalf of our members through a province wide group called WRAFT Waterfront Residents After Fair Taxation” (<http://www.wraft.com>). It seems that these efforts are beginning to pay off with major political pressure (and a private members bill) now coming forward to cap assessments increases at 5% unless a property changes hands.

To bring this into a local context, the Tay Valley Township have advertised their 2006 tax increase *averaged* 4.9%, or \$21.50 / \$100,000 of assessment. However, if your assessment went up by 90%, and the average assessment increase is only 8%, your share of that tax increase could be well over \$100.00 per \$100,000 of assessment.

WRAFT is part of a growing constituency within Ontario that finds the current assessment process seriously flawed. The recent Ontario Ombudsmen’s report echoes this concern. But property tax is only one of the many issues that we must monitor on a lake bounded by three separate municipalities. For BRLA to follow these issues meaningfully we must rely on members to help us keep informed and up to date.

If these issues are of interest and you would like to help out, you are welcome to join our BRLA Government Affairs Committee. We are looking for broader representation to cover all townships, the county, the province, as well as related agencies such as the Rideau Canal Commission. Please contact GovtAffairs@brla.on.ca and volunteer!

NOTICE

BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 8, 2006, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

PORTLAND TOWN HALL

AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Welcome & Introduction Of Guests
3. Minutes of AGM Held July 9, 2005
4. President’s Report – Doug Arrand (acting)
 - A. Motion to update the BRLA Mission Statement
5. Treasurer’s Report – Ed Brigden
 - A. Auditor’s Report for year ended December 31, 2005
 - B. Motion to appoint Wilkinson & Company as auditors for year ending December 31, 2006
6. Membership Report
7. Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) Report
 - A. President’s comments – Jaffray Wilkins
 - B. Treasurer’s Report – George Lamont
8. Committee Reports
 - A. Communications: Website & DriftWords
 - B. Environment
 - C. Government Affairs & Marine Safety
 - D. Recreation/Cow Island
9. Elections
 - A. President for 2006/07
 - B. Directors for 2005/07
10. Presentations from Guests
 - A. Rideau Canal Authority: Canal Management Plan – Dave Ballinger
 - B. WRAFT – Bob Topp [invited]
11. Raffle Draw
12. Adjournment – BBQ lunch to follow



RECREATION REPORT
YOUR CONTACT: DOUG ARRAND
RECREATION@BRLA.ON.CA

We will be sponsoring our annual **Day Camp on Cow Island** again. We have hired our Day Camp staff and had our first meeting on June 10 to get acquainted and commence planning for the camp. Sam Foster will be returning to the camp as senior member of the staff and we are really excited about our new staff member Lindsay Cameron. Lindsay and her family live in Horseshoe Bay. Lindsay comes to us with numerous qualifications that will permit us to offer a full range of swimming lessons to augment our Day camp program. Lindsay's qualifications include National Life Guarding Certificate, First Aid and CPR Certificate, Leaders Swimming Course, Instructors Swimming Course in addition to a number of other skills courses and certificates. Sam and Lindsay are looking forward to opening up the camp and being prepared for a full and active summer of both day camp and swim lessons. Other staff will be announced at a later date. **Camp Registration Forms** are on the Recreation Page of the website to download and mail in, and we will be receiving applications at our new office on **Saturday June 24 from 10 am until 2 pm.**

Our second annual **Summer Sounds Social** is scheduled for **July 15** (rain date July 16). This is a wonderful opportunity to visit "your island in the sun" and to visit this magnificent property of which every BRLA member can claim some ownership. Music, refreshments and socializing with your fellow members and neighbours on the lake is the added bonus. The proceeds from this event go to upgrading Cow Island as we continue to rehabilitate it.

Our **Regatta** is scheduled for **Saturday August 5** (rain date August 6). See the website for details (and great pictures of last year's diaper race!)

VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT MANY OF THESE GREAT RECREATION PROGRAMS. Even if you are at the cottage for but a few weeks and can offer just a few hours of time to any of our programs we would be grateful. Pick your program whether it is the Regatta or the Day Camp, or just helping out around Cow Island, contact us through the BRLA website. We will get back to you immediately.

SUMMER SAILING AT COW ISLAND

This summer BRLA is once again holding a **Sailing School** from **August 8 to 11** at Cow Island. The Ontario Sailing Association (OSA) will put on the program, providing 7 boats and Canadian Yachting Association (CYA) certified instructors. Open to children age 7 to 15 our young sailors will have the opportunity to qualify for the four levels of the CYA whitesail credentials, so we are able to serve complete beginners and well as sailors with some experience.

We are quite excited that this year the school is operating under the OSA summer camp program. This will provide the school with a wider selection of boat types, and will give participants exposure to a broader sailing experience. While the OSA is providing two certified instructors, it is always useful to have volunteers on hand to help organize the students and man the rescue boats. Parents and other members are encouraged to join in and help out, even if it is only for a portion of the course period

Given that there are a limited number of spaces, participants will be admitted on a first-come first-served basis. While open to both members and non-members or BRLA the fee has been discounted for members and their families. The application form is available on the Recreation page of the BRLA website. Any questions on the program can be directed to Henry Copestake at govtaffairs@BRLA.on.ca.

Of course the sailing school will not be the only sailing event on Big Rideau this summer. For many years some of the more enthusiastic sailors on the Lake have met at Cow Island on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to race. Short triangular courses are set according to the wind of the day, and we often get between 8 and 16 boats out for an afternoon competition and enormous fun. These are usually very informal events, organized by the hard core enthusiast from Jerry, Cordwood, MacDonald, Turnip, Trout, and Big Islands. However, everyone is welcome, and it's a great excuse to go sailing just for fun. Come on out and challenge the Islanders.

SAVE THE DATE!

**BRLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY JULY 9, 2006,
10:00AM-12:00PM**

with BBQ Lunch to Follow
Portland Community Hall
Contact: BRLA@brla.on.ca



**COW ISLAND DAY CAMP
JULY AND AUGUST 2005
TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS
9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Contact: Recreation@brla.on.ca
Register June 24, 10:00 am-2:00 pm at
BRLA Offices or mail in the form on the BRLA website

**SUMMER SOUNDS
A FUND-RAISER FOR COW ISLAND
SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2005 AT 2:00 PM**
Tickets from the BRLA at \$25 per couple, \$15 single



**BRLA'S ANNUAL REGATTA
SATURDAY JULY 31TH, 2006**
Contact regatta@brla.on.ca
See the schedule on the website

**SAILING SCHOOL, OSA BOOM PROGRAM
TUESDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 8-11, 2006**

Contact: Recreation@brla.on.ca
Register June 24, 10:00 am-2:00 pm at
BRLA Offices or mail in the form
on the BRLA website

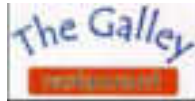


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Dan & Peggy Seward

At the end of Briton Bay

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seward@rideau.net

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