



# DRIFTWORDS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)  
SERVING THE RIDEAU SINCE 1911 • POONAMALIE TO NARROWS LOCK  
– SUMMER 2006 –

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## FROM THE BOARD ROOM: LIVING LIGHTLY ON THE LAKE OUR PLAN FOR COW ISLAND

Doug Arrand, Acting President

While BRLA programs have been running full steam—as you’ll see from reports throughout DriftWords—the Board has been developing a plan for the long-term management of our most significant asset: Cow Island. Given to the BRLA by a very generous donor many years ago, Cow Island is the focal point for many of BRLA’s recreational and social activities.

Our goal is to make Cow Island a center for BRLA’s environmental programs, as a model environmentally managed property.

This year, we are developing a plan for the use of the island that includes a renovated septic system, solar electric power, new floating docks (already installed to the delight of all), protection of the waterfront, and the maintenance and/introduction of native species.

Future plans include: children’s camp programs that focus on environmental issues, sailing, and wildlife; waterfront planning and maintenance training for adults; and a full species inventory.

Like all BRLA’s programs we are depending on volunteer participation from BRLA members, and your donations to the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) to make this vision a reality.

**BRLA needs your support and involvement! Please contact me at [president@brla.on.ca](mailto:president@brla.on.ca) if you are interested in helping out with any aspect of BRLA’s programs.**



*photo: Gord Harrington*

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## BRLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APPROVES NEW MISSION STATEMENT SATURDAY JULY 9, 2006

Over fifty BRLA Members gathered in Portland for the Annual General Meeting of the Big Rideau Lake Association and approved a new mission statement for the BRLA.

*The Big Rideau Lake Association is dedicated to building a strong community in a safe and healthy environment on and around Big Rideau Lake.*

Objectives:

- Preserve the natural environment of the lake for future generations to enjoy
- Promote the safety of the lake as a recreational environment through programs such as the placing of shoal markers
- Ensure appropriate use and development of the lake by monitoring legislative and regulatory activity, and private development, and advocating the interests of our members
- Foster a sense of community in members of all ages through recreation and social programs

The full draft minutes of the AGM are available on the BRLA Web site at <http://www.brla.on.ca>

### A SHORT NOTE FROM THE BOOKS OF THE TREASURER.

We have received approval from CCRA to change our fiscal year from March 31 to December 31 which will be more representative of our overall operations. For the year ending 2005 I am projecting a surplus of \$5,000, which will have some minor adjustments for inventory and depreciation. All of this information is available in our financial statements presented at our Annual General Meeting in July.

We have located our three fire pumps and will be including these in our assets.

Unfortunately over the fall or winter 3 of our docks disappeared from Cow Island. They are 6' wide by 16' long, with large black plastic foam filled flotation. Please be on the look out for these advise the local OPP and a BRLA Board member if you see them.

As of November 1, 2005 our Office/Store at 30 Colborne has been sold. The net proceeds of \$60,746.34 (after GST, Mortgage payout, and final adjustments) has been invested by BRLA and RLEF jointly in trust. BRLA Board is developing a plan for the use of these funds.

Edward Brigden, BRLA Treasurer  
Email: [treasurer@brla.on.ca](mailto:treasurer@brla.on.ca)

## RIDEAU LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION

The Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) was established as a charitable organization to:

- aid in the protection and maintenance of the waters, shores and environs of the Rideau Lakes,
- encourage the observance of measures designed to prevent forest fires and water pollution
- teach and encourage water safety practices and the observance of provincial and federal laws relating to vessel ownership and operation, and the protection of navigation against off channel hazards and to
- act as may be indicated in protecting the game fish potential of the Lakes

BRLA Members serve on the Board of the Foundation, and guide its work.

Donations to the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation are eligible for a tax receipt. When you are approached during this year's RLEF fund-raising drive, please give generously to support environmental initiatives on the lake.

## CANADA DAY FIREWORKS FROM COW ISLAND

The wind and the weather co-operated and once again Mike Fraser put on a spectacular show for the hundreds of boats assembled off Cow Island in Big Rideau Lake.

Our sincere thanks to Mike and his crew for the hard work they put in setting up for the show – and CLEANING UP AFTER IT.

*If you can help out with Fireworks next year – set-up on the Saturday of the Canada Day long weekend, and clean-up on the Sunday – please get in touch.*

*Email: [fireworks@brla.on.ca](mailto:fireworks@brla.on.ca)*



## DAY CAMP ON COW ISLAND

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings this summer up to 30 kids aged 4 to 12 enjoyed games, crafts, swimming and the fun of making new friends on the lake at the BRLA's Day Camp on Cow Island.

Congratulations to Senior Counsellor Lindsay Cameron and her team for their great work.

Our thanks to Len's Cove and Bayview Marinas for providing transportation when needed. We appreciate your support!

*Email: [recreation@brla.on.ca](mailto:recreation@brla.on.ca)*



## BRLA'S ANNUAL REGATTA

SATURDAY JULY 31ST, 2006

*It was a great day on Cow Island. Young and old – from as far away as Belgium – joined friendly competition in the annual BRLA Regatta. There were lots of different challenges for participants of all ages, and a great BBQ lunch.*

*Kudos to the Evans Family for another smoothly run event, and to the Camp Staff for their assistance.*



*Thanks to the Dunlop Family for their offer to help with the Regatta next year.*

*If you can assist, please contact [regatta@brla.on.ca](mailto:regatta@brla.on.ca)*

*It's a one day event, and a great way to meet your neighbours on the lake.*



*Not everyone wore their swim suit!*

*Photos: J. Trant and B. Evans.*



*Check the BRLA Web site – at <http://www.brla.on.ca/photos/> – for more photos including dramatic images of the Adult Diaper Race!*





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**SUMMER SOUNDS  
A FUND-RAISER FOR COW ISLAND  
SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2005**

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Thanks to Peter and Joyce Cowan for organizing a delightful afternoon on Cow Island. It was another fun day for old and new friends on Big Rideau. All the proceeds generated are earmarked for maintenance and improvements on Cow Island, a unique resource available for the use of all BRLA Members.



*Photos: Peter Cowan*



### CHILDREN EARN WHITE SAIL ONE ON BIG RIDEAU LAKE

Congratulations to eight new sailors, who completed their Ontario Sailing Association White Sail One Certification on Big Rideau Lake. BRLA hosted two instructors from the Ontario Sailing Association's BOOM program, and offered lessons on and around Cow Island.

“Sailing is a great way to get in learn about the lake, and to come to respect it,” said Jennifer Trant, BRLA Board Member. “It’s very environmentally friendly, and helps kids build their confidence and skills,” she continued. “We’re looking forward to running the program again next year.” Save the date: the week after the August Long Weekend.

New Sailors are Laura Barrett, Will Evans, Kayden Gangnier, Andrew Harris, David Harris, Ben Powell, Maddie Sales, and Harriet Sales.



**MORE PHOTOS ON-LINE AT [HTTP://WWW.BRLA.ON.CA/PHOTOS/](http://www.brla.on.ca/photos/)**



*Photos: J. Trant and Carol Harris*



# BRLA CORPORATE MEMBERS SUMMER 2006



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