



DRIFTWORDS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE EXECUTIVE

President: president@brla.on.ca
Doug Arrand *email:*
Vice President: vicepresident@brla.on.ca
Volunteer Needed!
Treasurer: treasurer@brla.on.ca
Ed Brigden
Secretary: secretary@brla.on.ca
Mike Healey

DIRECTORS

Communications: Jennifer Trant
DriftWords: driftwords@brla.on.ca
Membership: membership@brla.on.ca
Web site: webmaster@brla.on.ca
Environment: environment@brla.on.ca
Patricia Chamberlain
Government & Marine Affairs
govtAffairs@brla.on.ca
Henry Copestake
Recreation: recreation@brla.on.ca
Doug Arrand (acting)
Cow Island: cowisland@brla.on.ca
Doug Arrand
Representing Adam Lake
adamlake@brla.on.ca
Mike Healey

AT LARGE brla@brla.on.ca

Doug Good
Peter Merkley

PROGRAMS

Fireworks: fireworks@brla.on.ca
Mike Fraser
Regatta: regatta@brla.on.ca
Evans and Dunlop Families

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 93, Portland, ON K0G 1V0
Phone: (613) 272 3629
Email: brla@brla.on.ca
Web: <http://www.brla.on.ca>

Office: Rideau Realty Building
Highway 15, Portland, Ontario



FROM THE BOARD ROOM: DOUG ARRAND, BRLA PRESIDENT

The BRLA continues to forge ahead in rebuilding its traditional programs and efforts to represent the memberships interests in all issues connected to the health and beauty of our beautiful Big Rideau Lake. This past year the directors and volunteers have made steady progress in creating and offering an exciting mix of recreational, youth and social opportunities for our lake residents and members. These include the annual **Canada Day Fireworks**, a well supervised day camp for our children and grandchildren to meet and play together, an exciting sailing school for our children and youth, swimming lessons provided by a qualified swim instructor and a fantastic regatta engaging both children adults and families and finally a social event for adults on a beautiful July Saturday afternoon on our very own, the magnificent Cow Island. All were well attended.

However our efforts did not stop there. Improvements and a spruce up of the cottage and built structures on Cow Island were also completed as you will read in the Cow Island Report in this newsletter. New picnic tables and new docks and were purchased to improve both access to and picnic facilities to the island and it is hoped that all members will make a visit to really appreciate what has been done. After all, it belongs to every member family to enjoy and to share with their guests.



photo: Gord Harrington

You will read in this edition of the government issues we are monitoring such as the property tax issue, a development on Noble's Bay, The Waterways Campground expansion issue and a recent decision of the Rideau Lakes Township to establish a septic tank re-inspection program for 2007. These are but a few of the issues your Board is watching. Our Environment Committee has been very active working with MNR on the lake trout stocking
cont. p. 2

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>From the Board Room</i>	1	<i>Government and Marine Affairs</i> . . .	6
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	2	<i>Recreation Report</i>	7
<i>Environmental Committee Report</i>	3	<i>Save the Date</i>	8
<i>RLEF Appeal</i>	3	<i>News from the Lake</i>	8
<i>100 Years on the Rideau</i>	5	<i>Cow Island Report</i>	9
		<i>BRLA's Corporate Sponsors</i>	10

DRIFTWORDS – FALL / WINTER 2006

FROM THE BOARD ROOM:

Doug Arrand, BRLA President president@brla.on.ca
(continued from page 1)

issue as well as contributing to the RVCA led Watershed study. Members of the environment committee have attended a number of meetings throughout the past year in the region on environmental topics of interest to our members.

Your Board has been exploring various methods of increasing membership and getting the Association's message out, no easy task in light of the privacy of information legislation. We have been working closely with our own [Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation](#) to finance worthy environmental causes in our lake's watershed region.

Our Government and Marine Affairs Committee has been reviewing the condition of our [hazard buoys](#) which are showing their age, and establishing a realistic replacement schedule over the next several years. Henry Copestake has been researching the laws governing excessively noisy boat engine exhausts issue and will have a report on it in this edition. Trying to monitor three township councils; Rideau Lakes, Tay Valley and Drummond and N. Elmsley that front on the Big Rideau is very challenging let alone keeping up to date with the changing regulations of Parks Canada and the Rideau Canal and their affects on our waterfront property owners.

We have been working on recovering the Association's three fire pumps with hoses which were purchased

some years ago for a fire protection plan. We have recovered two pumps and related equipment and are hopeful of recovering the third one. The Board will then decide how to best use these pumps on the lake. We are exploring the best way to engage the support of our business partners to carry out the work of the Association. We are exploring how we might engage the many wonderful boaters on our lake who benefit from both the high quality of the lake water, its beauty and the BRLA hazard buoys for their own safety.

The above list is by no means complete but is intended to show how your membership dues and donations are being used to protect the environment, enhance safety, foster fellowship and recreation and monitor and respond to government policies that may have a deleterious effect on our members enjoyment of their property and this magnificent lake to which we are so attached. The BRLA has been providing leadership on these issues [since 1911 and we will reach our Centenary in 2011](#). We need to start planning a great celebration.

Doug Arrand, BRLA President
president@brla.on.ca



The Portland Regatta, as shown on an historic postcard.

FROM THE BOOKS OF THE TREASURER ED BRIGDEN, TREASURER@BRLA.ON.CA

Approval has been received that BRLA year commences January 1st and ends on January 31st.

For the year 2006 The Board approved a balanced budget of \$38,100.00. During the year several issues affect the operating budget, including the exceptional loss of our docks at Cow Island.

Based on projections to December 31, 2006 it is estimated that our revenues will decrease by \$3,200.00 from 2005. It is of concern that

\$2,000.00 of this relates directly to a decrease in active members and related membership fees. A further \$700.00 decrease relates to miscellaneous membership donations. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do. And ask your neighbours if they have renewed theirs!

A request was made to the federal Government for a grant for the 2006 fireworks, however this was declined.

On the expenditure side there has been several increases Taxes for Cow Island, timing of insurance payments to coincide with the new fiscal year. However there has also been savings in other areas due to efficiencies such as communications, Government Affairs and office accommodations and supplies. Funds from reserves in the amount of \$8,535.24 will be utilized to pay for the Cow Island Docks.

Ed Brigden, Treasurer.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT PAT CHAMBERLAIN ENVIRONMENT@BRLA.ON.CA

Thanksgiving Weekend, cottage closing, boats on dry land, “so long” to summer friends. It must be the Fall! But before we turn our thoughts to fall and winter activities let me remind you that the Environmental Committee will be active in the coming months, and we would appreciate your inquiries, **suggestions and comments** about our programs and any issues that you would like see addressed. Our priorities result from your responses to our last survey and concerns you share with us about your “lake neighbourhood”. Contact Pat Chamberlain at environment@brla.on.ca. Gussy Turner, and Bill Haseldine have joined Roy Sampson and myself on the committee and we would be pleased to welcome others who are interested in environmental issues.

LOONS AND HUMMINGBIRDS

These birds don't have much in common but I have some news about each of them. I want to remind you to send your Loon Reports to the **Canadian Lakes Loon Survey** and the BRLA will, in turn, receive a copy of all reports from the Big and Lower Rideau Lakes.

I recently learned of the **Ontario Hummingbird Project** that I am sure will interest some of you. Their website is: www.ontariohummingbirds.ca. As well as information about the program there are some interesting hummingbird facts, photos and range maps. Perhaps you will consider helping with this Ruby-throated Hummingbird study next summer.



RIDEAU LAKES WATERSHED PLAN

Work on this plan was suspended during the summer as it was difficult for the participants to schedule a time agreeable to all. The study will continue this fall and I hope to have a final report for you next spring.

COW ISLAND - SHORELINE RESTORATION

In August members of the BRLA Board, the Environmental Committee and the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation visited Cow Island with representatives from EcoScapes and Parks Canada for the purpose of examining the shoreline and discussing a **Shoreline Restoration Plan**. A plan has been developed by EcoScapes and a work permit application submitted to Parks Canada. When this is approved we will obtain estimates from at least two contractors and hope to repair one (possibly two) areas with riprap this fall.

A total of six shoreline areas have been identified for major repair. Other areas will, in time, be planted with native plant material and “no mow” zones will be created. It is the rooting systems of trees, shrubs and native grasses and plants that help prevent the damaging run-off.

RIDEAU LAKES

ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION (RLEF)

2006 FUNDRAISING DRIVE

The Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation is a registered charity that supports the work of the BRLA. We receive donations (for which the donor receives a tax receipt), and use them to support its environmental and lake safety programs. Over the past several years, your support for RLEF – in gifts typically ranging from \$50 to \$500 – has provided the BRLA with about \$8,000 per year to fund its programs on the lake. Last year, when the BRLA and RLEF sold their jointly-owned building on Colborne St., additional funds became available for future BRLA activity. Based on that, and hopes for your future generosity, the BRLA Board began to plan on how to transform Cow Island into an environmental showcase and educational center. Work is under way to restore areas that have been eroding, repair the septic system, install solar panels to provide electric power, and develop summer camp programs for kids and adults focused on the environmental issues of “living lightly on the lake”. Your new, continued and increased support for RLEF will help fund these exciting, but expensive, new initiatives.

RLEF will be soliciting funds by mail in time for your gifts to be registered in 2006, or for you to choose to give in 2007. Please give generously, either by returning your form, or donating on-line at <http://www.brla.on.ca/rlef/>

cont. p. 3

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Pat Chamberlain, environment@brla.on.ca (cont. from p. 3)

EcoScapes report is on the BRLA web site. Check it out and if you have suggestions or comments, please be in touch.

FISHING INFORMATION

Fishing regulations for bass and trout will be changing next year and the Environmental Committee will be issuing new brochures. We also plan to develop new signs that will be placed at the boat launches and any comments or suggestions about these projects would be welcomed. Please contact us at environment@brla.on.ca.

WATER TESTING

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority conducted water testing on Big Rideau Lake this year. We have not yet received their report. Watch for it in a future DriftWords.

BRLA'S RECREATION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

Doug Arrand
recreation@brla.on.ca

We are seeking other members who would like to contribute to recreation programs and to join other fellow members who enjoy working together to provide some wonderful opportunities for our children and grandchildren to thoroughly enjoy our magnificent lake. Please contact recreation@brla.on.ca if you can help out.

BUYING OR SELLING PROPERTY ON THE RIDEAU? ANYWHERE IN CANADA?

If so, you can receive a tax credit and RLEF can receive a donation from you, at no extra cost to you. RLEF has just joined an innovative program in which real estate agents designate a 25% "referral fee" from their commission to a charity of your choice. By contacting RLEF prior to starting your search for a new property or selecting an agent to sell your real estate holdings, you can be referred to three agents in your area who are participating in the program. You would then choose one of them based on your usual criteria, and when the transaction takes place, you would pay the usual commission. However, the agents will remit 25% of their share of the commission to RLEF and you receive the tax credit from us.

For example, on the sale of a property valued at \$200,000 with a 6% commission fee, the selling agent would receive \$6,500. Of that, \$1,200 (\$1,500 - \$300 administrative fee) would be donated in your name to RLEF, giving you a significant tax credit and RLEF significant new funds to help preserve the environment of our lakes.

For more information, contact David Bearman, RLEF fund drive chair at rlef@brla.on.ca or see <http://www.charitylinkrealty.ca>

100 YEARS SUMMERING ON THE RIDEAU THE WHITE/FOSTER FAMILY CELEBRATES

On Saturday July 15, 2006, the White-Foster family hosted a 100-year anniversary gathering at the cottage built in 1906 by Dr. C.W. (Wilson) and Mrs. Ida McBride. Three generations of descendants attended the celebration, including seven of the McBride's eight surviving grandchildren, all of whom spent at least portions of many summers at the island. They joined in toasting Grampa McBride's foresight in establishing a place that has offered five generations a place to learn to swim and fish, to share meals with family and friends, to play, to climb trees, catch frogs, celebrate birthdays and engagements, build and share memories.

The McBrides raised their four daughters – Elsie, Lillian, Mabel and Marjorie – in Smiths Falls, where Dr. McBride practiced dentistry. They began visiting Big Rideau Lake before they bought any land here,



Seven of the eight surviving McBride grandchildren (2006). Second from right is Elsie Foster; far right is Doug White.

as Smiths Falls friends (especially the McCordicks) owned nearby cottage properties. They bought Island 64, off McDonald Island, from a Portland resident named Lyons. The island has been known to the family as Little Potato or Cedar Island.

When it was built, due to a misunderstanding, no foundation was laid beneath the one-room structure with its wraparound open verandah (the family would sleep in tents). The builder offered to compensate Dr. McBride by adding an upstairs bedroom. That upstairs bedroom has powerful associations for the eldest three cousins at the reunion - Carolyn Lun-



Photo of the new (1906) McBride cottage. Note the sleeping tent at the right of the cottage, and the decoration over the door, which looks like a swastika, but which is a Hindu sign for peace and welcome. It was removed after the Nazis adopted their version as a symbol.

dell (Elsie's eldest child), Elizabeth Loucks (Lillian's only child) and Charles Conn (Mabel's eldest son). All three vividly recall trying to sleep in the steamy bedroom while their parents and grandparents chatted on the verandah below. The same two three-quarter beds still occupy that room.

The informal island motto arises from words spoken by Ida McBride's brother, Dave, a farmer, when he helped his brother-in-law with a cottage job: "Hell, Wilson, we ain't buildin' a piano". These words are still chanted during cottage projects.

In 1953, their youngest daughter Marjorie and her husband, Dr. E.P. (Perry) White, bought the cottage. Dr. White's first improvement (of many) was enclosing the part of the verandah used as a dining room, claiming he was fed up freezing through meals. Later came running water, electricity, and telephone. Perry and Marjorie White were steadfast supporters of the BRLA.

Like their mother, Douglas White and Ellie Foster have summered on the Rideau all their lives, as have their children, Christopher and Elizabeth White and Skyla and Samuel Foster. Both Christopher White and Samuel Foster have worked as counsellor for the Cow Island children's program-in 2006 Samuel completed his third year as a counsellor, his first as head counsellor.

GOVERNMENT AND MARINE AFFAIRS

Henry Copestake
GovtAffairs@brla.on.ca

BRLA's Board has been very **active monitoring government action and regulations** that may have an impact on our members.

BRLA's membership in WRAFT, (Waterfront Ratepayers Association for Fair Taxation) unites us with other Associations like ours to pressure the provincial government to amend or modify the current market value approach to determining assessment rates. A representative of WRAFT spoke at our annual general meeting, and noted the efforts and progress in moving the government to review this issue – one that has a disastrous impact on all landowners in Ontario, especially on waterfront and recreational property owners. We are monitoring this issue closely.

In an attempt to improve communications with the local municipal governments, a meeting was arranged with Rideau Lakes Township Mayor Ron Holman, and Councillor Betty James of this past summer. Topics discussed included taxes, roads, grants to private road owners in the township, garbage collection for those who have water access property only, wetland designations and even the future possibility of renting dock space on a seasonal basis and appropriate access to public docks in Portland and other communities in the township were discussed. Mayor Holman informed us that the municipality was in the process of establishing **grants to private road owners**, noting that an equal number of miles of private roads exist as public roads in Rideau Lakes and the council felt that some assistance was warranted to maintain the private roads. He also informed us that the Township had gone to tender to provide **garbage and recycling trucks to be stationed at a number of public docks** each Sunday during the summer season to accommodate the water access only landowners in the township needs for garbage service. He committed to review our concerns about access for water access only landowners to gain adequate access to the public docks for the landowners to take delivery of large items such as furniture, lumber and appliances without having to unload them on the street well away from the docks. Following the Municipal election this fall, we will build relationships with newly elected members of the Township councils.

As the membership of BRLA covers three municipalities, a situation that many other Associations do not face, it is important to have volunteers in each



municipality who are willing to act as our eyes and ears in their township. **We need liaisons in Tay Valley and Drummond North Elmsley. If you can help out, please contact govAffairs@brla.on.ca**

Of note in Tay Valley is the housing development of nine units on Nobles Bay. We have been contacted by representatives of the developers and are watching the application process closely.

Also of interest is the plan in Rideau Lakes Township to establish a **pilot re-inspection of septic systems**. Sand Lake Property Owners Association has been lobbying the township for sometime and recently the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has weighed in to pressure all local municipalities to establish similar inspection programs. Watch the BRLA web site for further details as they become available.

We remind everyone that the BRLA must also work with Parks Canada's authority over our lake as well as the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. We have excellent relations with both but we still must monitor their work and ever changing regulations if we are to advocate or keep our members informed in an up to date manner on all government actions that might impact on members and their property rights. **We strongly appeal to any member who shares our concerns to volunteer a little of their time so we can be better informed by working together.**

It is imperative for all members to be kept abreast of developments that could have a deleterious affect on our lake environment, on the use of our own property and its development, on new regulations and controls on waterfront development. We are calling on the support of every member. If you see something of concern, you can telephone us at 613-272 3629, and leave a message and someone will get back to you. Or email the Board at govAffairs@brla.on.ca. We'll follow-up and get back to you.



UNFORGETTABLE BIG RIDEAU LAKE ADVENTURE

Lindsay Cameron
BRLA Senior Counsellor, Cow
Island, Lifeguard, Swim Instructor,

At the end of every summer, we pull our well-used boats out of the water and hang up our life jackets. We remember the boat rides, campfires, friends and fun that each summer has given those of us lucky enough to live on the Big Rideau. We feel sadness but at the same time experience an eager, anticipation for next summer, full of hope for the new surprises it will bring. And so we wait, holding on to the great memories, and looking forward until we can make more next year.

My family has resided permanently on the Big Rideau since 2000. I attend St. John Catholic High School in Perth, Ontario. Early in 2006, I sent in my application as a lifeguard to various summer camps in the surrounding area. It wasn't until April that many replies came back asking for interviews. After attending all of them and receiving many job offers, I had to make a choice. It was a difficult decision but after many days of thought I decided to accept a position as freshman camp counsellor, lifeguard and swim instructor at Big Rideau Lake Association's annual Day Camp Program held on Cow Island.

What an adventure it was! My first visit to Cow Island was very mem-

My name is Lindsay Cameron. I am 16 years old and attending St. John Catholic High School in Perth, ON. I am a dedicated student that placed 3rd in the overall academic standing. I am a qualified national lifeguard and swim instructor under the Red Cross certifications. I have been working with kids my entire life, whether coaching Timbits soccer or planning co-operative activities. I am involved in many different organizations, sports and communities in our region.

orable. It was in early May and I found myself walking through grass up to my waist in the rain, on an island that appeared to have no docks and wondered what I had gotten myself into. But, as they say 'you can never judge a book by its cover'. But of course I did having never been aware of the history of the BRLA and its Cow Island. I can now say that my summer at Cow Island was my best summer yet. I am left with countless memories that will last a lifetime.

Cow Island is an extraordinary island that remains hidden to most cottagers. The day camp program for which I was hired as a camp counsellor was a joy! Getting up three mornings per week to be with a wonderful bunch of lake kids ranging from 4 to 13 years was a great adventure. These kids were filled with excitement and energy. There were new Picassos created in craft time, future David Beckhams during the sports program and mini politicians who were quite the negotiators. To sit with the kids around the campfire, swim and life guard them at the waterfront, teach them crafts or play sports with them was exhausting but exhilarating. It was also great fun to meet many of the parents and to involve them in the day's program. For me, my first BRLA Day Camp remains a very memorable time, which has left me in awe.

The other two days of the week I worked on the maintenance of the camp and property. I painted buildings, anchored docks, cut lawns, raked and swept out the

cottage where we did our crafts. I was impressed by the parent volunteers who gave their time to improve the property and facilities for the kids. I saw significant improvements throughout the summer. The main cottage had new underpinnings installed and a new basketball hoop was erected for the kids. The Beach volleyball court was rehabilitated.

I learned about and participated in other numerous activities that BRLA sponsors on the island each year and organized by wonderful volunteers. The fireworks show was an amazing event on Canada Day. The rain held off long enough in the evening to permit the entire lake community to enjoy a great show. As one of the workers, I witnessed first hand how much effort the team of volunteers lead by Mike Fraser puts in to set up the show, execute it and then dismantle all the equipment. I learned how to connect wires from the control panel to the fireworks cannons, and was impressed with all the fire safety precautions taken to prevent a fire in the event something goes wrong during the show. I assisted in cleaning up and storing all the cannons and equipment until next year. The lake community certainly gets its money's worth

I did not know what to expect when I was told that I would be working at the annual BRLA Regatta in early August. I had a blast with kids and families who attended and spent a wonderful day in the water meeting new people

cont. p. 8

NEWS FROM THE LAKE

Roger Maus reports that **Dr. John Maus** bid farewell to his 3 year old great grandson, Joelin Murphy. Joe returned to his home in Yellowknife, NWT after his second stay on the Rideau. He is the **8th generation** of the Keith/Maus clan to summer on Singleton's Bay.



Jennifer Trant (BRLA Board) and David Bearman (RLEF Board) hosted a **Thank You for BRLA Volunteers and RLEF Donors** on Grindstone Island, the afternoon of August 26, 2006. This was the second year these groups had a chance to get together, get to know one another, and share common concerns about the lake that we all share.

SAVE THESE DATES IN 2007

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| June 30 | BRLA Cow Island Canada Day Fireworks |
| July 3 | BRLA Day Camp Starts
(Tuesday / Thursday/ Saturday Mornings) |
| July 7 | BRLA Annual General Meeting |
| July 14 | Summer Sounds
BRLA Cow Island Fundraiser |
| August 4 | BRLA Annual Regatta |
| August 7-
August 10 | Sailing School |
| August 25 | BRLA Volunteer / RLEF Donor
Thank you Party |

Watch the Calendar on the Web site for the dates for Swim Lessons, and for registration forms for all activities.

Lindsay Cameron's Report

cont. from p. 7

and participating in organized activities. There was also Summer Sounds in July that helped to raise money for Cow Island while attendees enjoyed live music and food. I thoroughly enjoyed leading the children who attended in games and fun activities while their parents visited with one another.

My two favourite activities were the swimming lessons and sailing school. The swimming lessons were organized by me under the Red Cross swim program to help increase kid's knowledge and ability in the water. Some memorable points include teaching the students CPR on the docks and teaching them to swim without life jackets. It was so rewarding to see the students' confidence grow as their swimming skills progressed.

The Sailing School was fantastic! The sailing lessons were provided by two qualified teachers from the Ontario Sailing Association out of Hamilton, Ontario. They made sailing an absolute joy for the students who ranged in age from 5 to 14. They engaged the kids with games, songs and independent sailing opportunities that held the students rapt attention and involvement every minute of every day during the one week program.

My 2006 summer memories would not have been possible without the help of my fellow camp staffers, Sam Foster, Nicole Stoudt, Charlie Jurczynsky and the leadership of Doug Arrand, Chairman of the BRLA Recreation Committee. I extend my thanks for an awesome summer to all the parents and BRLA Board of Directors who made my first summer on staff not only successful but so memorable.

I cannot wait to embark on the adventure at Cow Island next summer. Come with me and we'll make it an amazing summer.

2006 COW ISLAND REPORT

Doug Arrand, recreation@brla.on.ca

I am pleased to report that the **Improvement Plan for Cow Island** is being carried out by the Cow Island Committee with the help of some very dedicated members and volunteers and the support of your Board

The season started out on a bit of a sour note however. When we arrived in May to launch the floating docks at the island we were shocked to see that 3 out of 4 sixteen foot long sections of our docks were missing. In addition, the lines that attached the anchors out in the lake to the shore were missing and we unable to locate the anchors nor chains in the deep water. Police were contacted and we put out the word to marinas and contractors who work on the lake to contact us if the docks were sighted on the lake. Unfortunately, we received no news of the missing docks. The Board decided to replace them at their July meeting. We received the new docks in early August and they are terrific.

Don Harris with the assistance of volunteers installed extra cement pads under the supporting beams of the activity cottage and at the replaced some rotting beam sections. Cottage re-habilitation is expected to take two or more seasons. Next the plan is to raise the building to level the interior floor. After that there will be more work on the 50-60 year old building such as new windows and doors and eventually the siding may have to be redone.

Work on the grounds continued as our camp staff expanded the lawns for their wide games and activities. The beach sand volleyball court was tilled to loosen the sand. A donated basketball backboard and net was erected for use of the day camp children. Dead trees were brought down in the interests of



photo: Gord Harrington

safety. Unfortunately, one large oak tree was brought down by a late July wind storm. It is hung up in surrounding trees and we will have to make arrangements to have professionals remove it this winter.

The BRLA Environment Committee engaged a consulting firm to study Cow Island's shoreline erosion problems this summer. The plan, and the methods employed will demonstrate the correct and accepted preservation methods to be followed by all water front land owners interested in shoreline preservation on Big Rideau Lake. As part of the planning, John Simzer, of the Rideau Canal authority came out to Cow to advise on work permits.

We've also purchased 2 new picnic tables for the island from the

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and will be adding to these in coming years.

The Cow Island Committee was delighted with the increased usage of the island this past season. The Recreation Committee's activities are bringing more folks to the island and we're delighted with the Environment Committee's decision to assist us in preserving the island, while making it a demonstration model of shoreline preservation.

All members and their families are invited to visit Cow and to inspect the property and stay awhile to enjoy its facilities. Every member can use and enjoy Cow Island as part of their annual membership fee. Where on earth can one be an owner of a beautiful island in a magnificent lake for \$60 per year!

COULD YOU HELP WITH A YOUTH PROGRAM?

BRLA would like to offer a youth program in 2007. We need help **identifying youth on the lake** who would enjoy **organizing** and **participating** in a program of activities designed for their age group. Ideas for activities include beach volleyball on the Island, or using its facilities for gatherings to wakeboard, swim, sail or hold campfire barbeques so that youth can meet up with other young people on the lake. We are hoping that some adults might agree to act as advisors to such a group but most of all we would like to hear from some teens who would participate.

Contact recreation@brla.on.ca

BRLA CORPORATE MEMBERS FALL / WINTER 2006

*Support our corporate members, and
tell them you saw their ad in DriftWords!*



www.lenscove.com
PORTLAND
mail@lenscove.com

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




2785 Hwy 15, Portland
www.bayviewyachtharbour.com
613-272-2787



Yolande Drumm
Sales Representative
(t) 613-272-5353 (e) drumm@rideau.net
2766 Hwy15, Portland
www.rideauproperties.com




Rideau Realty Limited
Ken Burns
Box 9, Portland, Ontario
K0G 1V0 CANADA
Tel: 613-272-5000
Fax: 613-272-2546
rideau@rideau.net

www.rideaurealty.ca



Bikes, boats, ATVs,
Sleds Outboards,
Power Products and
RVs


3 km south of
Portland, on Hwy 15
phone: 866 253 6710 email: rob@gopowersports.ca



110 Coutts Bay Rd.
Rideau Ferry, ON

613-264-2628

Briton Bay Marine Service Ltd.



Dan & Peggy Seward
At the end of Briton Bay

613 272 3427
seward@rideau.net



www.Dockmaster.ca
at HOME HARDWARE

Aluminum Dock Kits

Aluminum dock kits, do-it-yourself deck panels,
light weight sectional frames, removable deck panels,
likely the last dock you will ever buy.

For a dealer near you,
see **www.dockmaster.ca** or call 1-866-301-3625.

R.R. HEINS CONSTRUCTION LTD.

15 Water Street
P.O. Box 54
Portland, Ontario
(613) 272 2580

heinspromang@hamptonroads.com