



DRIFTWORDS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)
SERVING THE RIDEAU SINCE 1911 • POONAMALIE TO NARROWS LOCK
– SPRING 2008 –

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE EXECUTIVE

President: president@brla.on.ca
Doug Arrand
Treasurer: treasurer@brla.on.ca
Ed Brigden
Secretary: secretary@brla.on.ca
Melanie Sterling

DIRECTORS

Communications: Jennifer Trant
DriftWords: driftwords@brla.on.ca
Web site: webmaster@brla.on.ca
Environment: environment@brla.on.ca
Patricia Chamberlain
Membership: membership@brla.on.ca
Heather Heins
Government & Marine Affairs
GovtAffairs@brla.on.ca
Mike Healey
Recreation: recreation@brla.on.ca
Doug Arrand (acting)
Cow Island: cowisland@brla.on.ca
Doug Arrand
Marine Safety: lakesafety@brla.on.ca
Toby Spry
Representing Adam Lake
adamlake@brla.on.ca
Volunteer Needed

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

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
PRESIDENT@BRLA.ON.CA**

I trust everyone survived the winter and is looking forward to a great season on the lake. The BRLA Board has been busy on a number of fronts.

Your Board has made submissions to three municipalities that front on the Big Rideau addressing serious concerns about three shoreline developments on our lake and in support of members who brought these issues to our attention. We have also written letters to the Rideau Lakes Township Council. One letter expressed our concern over the condition of the Willis public dock and the deteriorating condition of the public dock in Portland. A letter was also sent in support of extending the septic system re-inspection program introduced by the Township in 2007. We made some suggestions for some improvement in the program and to ask the municipality to make a boat available to the program to permit the inspectors to visit water access only properties where their owners have requested an inspection of their systems.



As winter arrived earlier than usual on the lake last year, we were unable to carry out the shoreline preservation project on Cow Island. We hope to carry out the work this fall. A new outhouse was ordered from Lamont Brown to be built during the winter to replace the existing one which is beyond repair. It will be installed in the next week or two.

With a new outhouse, several new picnic tables and a modern dock on Cow, we hope that more of the membership will visit the island to see what a jewel it is. Where else could one share in the ownership of a beautiful island such as Cow is for the mere price of a 60 dollar family membership?

cont. p. 2

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>From the Board Room</i>	1	<i>WRAFT Update</i>	8
<i>Befriend the Snapping Turtle</i>	3	<i>Day Camp + Sailing Lessons</i>	9
<i>Environment Committee</i>	4	<i>Fireworks</i>	10
<i>Environment Camp</i>	5	<i>Water, Water</i>	11
<i>RLEF Update</i>	6	<i>AGM Notice</i>	11
<i>Summer Sounds</i>	6	<i>BRLA's Corporate Sponsors</i>	12
<i>Help Protect Nesting Loons</i>	7		

FROM THE BOARD ROOM (CONT.) DOUG ARRAND, BRLA PRESIDENT PRESIDENT@BRLA.ON.CA

To help fund these improvements on Cow Island and to provide an opportunity for our members to meet and socialize we are hosting the annual Summer Sounds event on July 19. This year our entertainment is provided by Cliff Edwards and some of the members of his former group, The BELLS. Many of you will remember the Bells who had a number of hit records in the 60's and 70's and performed on the Johnny Carson show. They are great entertainers and lots of fun. Please plan to attend and bring your neighbours for a great afternoon. You will be contributing to more improvements on Cow.

On the recreation front, we are offering a sold out sailing camp for kids. We are introducing an Enviro camp for the week commencing July 14. It has been developed by a qualified teacher and employee of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and she will be leading a team of instructors from the RVCA. We are delighted to partner with RVCA on this pilot program. Kids from 6 to 12 are invited to register and to have fun and to learn about our wonderful lake environment. As usual we will offer our day camp as usual five mornings a week from the beginning of July until the end of August. Lindsay Cameron our beloved camp supervisor will be back this year with new programs and lots of fun activities for the kids. BRLA wishes to thank Len's Cove Marina for providing free taxi service to the camps throughout the coming summer.

Mike Fraser and his team of volunteers are preparing another fantastic fireworks display to be held on Saturday June 28 with the rain day being Sunday, June 29. We are holding on this date to allow the maximum number of folks to join us. As July 1 falls on a Tuesday, we realize it is impossible for many to attend a fireworks display on that day and still get to work the following day especially as they have to work on the day before July 1. Please put a special mark on your calendar to attend on the 28th. We hope to see hundreds of boats at the island on the evening of the 28th.

On the Environmental front, new angler's brochures have been developed by the Environment Committee and will be distributed in the near future. The Committee is preparing to do a planting on the shoreline of Cow Island as a demonstration of what is the best method of shoreline preservation that our members can use on their own water front. The committee

represented the Association at a recent Wake and Wash meeting sponsored by the Rideau Canal to address the problem of excessive wake and damaging prop wash to shorelines. Annual water testing will be carried out.

With respect to BRLA's Environmental programs, I want to thank all those who contributed to the Rideau Lake Environmental Foundation. The Foundation provides the financing for BRLA's environmental and marine safety activities. We could not carry out our programs without your financial donations to the RLEF.

The Marine Safety Committee has been busy throughout the off season. It has received a generous donation from the Taggart family of plastic pipe required to build new safety buoys that those of us who travel on the lake depend on so much. Toby Spry and Richard Bradley will carry out a program to replace the current buoys, many of which are 15 years or older and in need of replacement. This will take place over the next several years. The buoys must be constructed and identified according to rigid design standards legislated by government. Again, if anyone is interested in assisting us in this activity, please contact Toby through the web site.

BRLA's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for July 5 at 10 am. Please plan to attend and to bring your ideas and suggestions for your Association. Remember we are always looking for new volunteers and supporters. If you are interested in becoming involved in any of the activities of the BRLA check out our web site to learn more about the Association and then contact us through the web.

As you can see, a great deal of work has been carried on in the off season on behalf of your Association and I want to thank my fellow directors for their leadership and dedication to our Association. We are so fortunate to be on the most beautiful lake in the province and to have so many dedicated people who work for its preservation.



BEFRIEND THE SNAPPING TURTLE!

FRIENDS OF FRONTENAC PARK NEWSLETTER DORA HUNTER

Consider the plight of the snapping turtle, which when found in its usual water home is a shy, retiring reptile, happy to pursue its roll as garbage collector of the ponds. Unlike that of its cousin the Painted turtle, the Snapper's plastron, the lower half of its shell, covers only a small portion of its underbelly.



When threatened, the Painted turtle instinctively withdraws its head, legs and tail into its little fortress. The Snapping turtle, having no such recourse, relies on its remarkable striking speed, agility, long neck and strong beak to give a good accounting of itself in any confrontation. When the confrontation is one between turtle and automobile the efficacy of the Snapper's offensive defence becomes questionable. Threatened by an oncoming car, the Painted turtle hunkers down and, if not blown over or struck by a tire, lives to complete its perilous crossing. However, even if the driver takes care to straddle the Snapper, it instinctively strikes out at the automobile undercarriage. I have removed many Snappers whose only apparent damage is a broken jaw, an injury that dooms this magnificent reptile to a slow death by starvation.

My usual practice, if safe to do so, is to stop at the side of the road and, with a flat bladed shovel, assist or remove any species of turtle to the side of the road to which it was headed. Because Snappers are so feisty and, if time permits, will get themselves across a road, I frequently wait them out. Some rescuers have found that having the Snapper grip a sturdy stick and then dragging it to the side is effective. Because it can result in a spinal chord injury, it is best to avoid lifting the Snapping turtle by its tail. At the very least, if at all possible, drive around a Snapper, thus avoiding a confrontation. Collisions with vehicles are taking a terrible toll on all reptilian species. Let us use what we know of their natural history to make life-saving decisions on their behalf.

A CHANGE IN FISHING REGULATIONS

Big Rideau Lake, in the new revised fishing regulations for 2008, is now situated in the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Zone 18. The lake trout open season is from the fourth Saturday in May to September 8th and the bass open season is from the 4th Saturday in June to November 30th. Residents should refer to the new guide for possession and other restrictions on the Big Rideau Lake.

The BRLA is producing a new angler's brochure this year to reflect these changes and also to promote conservation. Look for it at the lock stations, boat launches, bait shops, etc. They will also be available at the Annual General Meeting.

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



COW ISLAND SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT

There is no arguing with Mother Nature when, late in the season at low water, ice starts to form and the contractor has to haul out his boats! That happened at Cow Island last year and rip rap work that must be done at low water was delayed until the fall of 2008.

Shoreline planting, however, is being organized for this spring and we hope you will visit the island to see what a difference a few shrubs and trees can make in helping to naturalize and protect the shoreline. A display in the Activity Centre will help those interested in doing some shoreline restoration on their own properties to learn about some different solutions that help protect against erosion and runoff.

Water quality is greatly affected by human activity, but I am pleased to report that the message is getting out there and more shorelines are being left in their natural state.

Plan to visit the island! See what we are doing! Ask questions! Think natural shoreline!

CORMORANTS

I want to thank those of you who responded to my request to report cormorant sightings last fall. It was helpful to learn that their presence was not widespread, and it would seem that they were probably migrating and “fishing” as they went.



*Cormorants on the Shoals off Cow Island.
Photo: J. Trant*

The problem is that the cormorant guano kills all the vegetation it touches and, eventually, the trees where they are nesting. If you ever do see cormorants nesting in this area contact the Ministry of Natural Resources. Property owners may destroy nests to prevent nesting and there are other legal measures to deal with this problem.

ALGAE

Spirogyra is the scientific name for the green algae that bloomed so profusely last year in Big Rideau Lake. The amount that grew is a bit puzzling since water testing showed a relatively good, low nutrient level in the lake which taken alone would not have that affect. It is thought that the particular way temperature, rainfall, wind and ice-out came together last year may have caused that algae growth pattern. We can only wait to see what happens in 2008.

This year will bring new challenges for us to tackle. I do believe, however, that many shoreline property owners are coming to realize how important it is to accept responsibility for their stretch of waterfront and are preserving the rocks and vegetation that occur naturally along the shoreline. If you have a lawn, leave at least a 10 ft. unmowed area to reduce run off problems. Algae thrives on phosphorous so let's double check the products we are using and make sure that they are environmentally safe.

BRLA PENNANTS ARE HERE!

Show your support for the BRLA by flying a pennant from your boat, car, dock, or ... Wherever! To get yours, send a stamped self-addressed envelope and \$10.00 to:

BRLA Pennants
PO Box 93
Portland, Ontario
K0G 1V0





BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION

in partnership with

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

presents









ENVIROCAMP

July 14-18, 2008

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Cow Island, Big Rideau Lake

-  Camp is run in a unique setting on Big Rideau Lake, BRLA's Cow Island, near Portland, Ontario
-  Free water taxi service available between Portland and Cow Island
-  Program features hands-on activities related to learning about the natural environment, and a variety of fun and games designed to promote awareness of the lake environment
-  Camp programming – for ages 6-12 – is developed and delivered by a certified Teacher / Outdoor Educator
-  Swimming under supervision of a certified Lifeguard
-  Registration is \$175.00

to obtain registration forms, or for more information contact

Rebecca Whitman

Foley Mountain Conservation Area Supervisor

at 613-273-3255 or rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca

or see the BRLA's web site

<http://www.brla.on.ca>

RIDEAU LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION (RLEF)

UPDATE: DAVID BEARMAN, PRESIDENT

The RLEF was established to raise funds to support environmental activities of the Big and Upper Rideau Lake Associations and other organizations in the watershed. This year over 100 people donated to its fund raising drive.

Your generosity enabled the RLEF to make grants for water testing on the lake, placement of hazard buoys, development of an enviro-camp program to be offered this summer on Cow Island, and phase one of the Big Rideau Lake Association plan for making Cow Island a model for environmental management of lakeshore property - which includes planting and shoring up eroded areas of shoreline.

Grants were also made to provide Canadian Wildlife Foundation brochures and posters to attendees at the BRLA and URLA Annual General Meetings on July 5, to print and distribute brochures on new fishing regulations, and to place good boating practices informational signage at boat launches around the lake.

The RLEF Board is always seeking new ideas from residents and groups concerned about the preservation of the lake environment. To contact us, please e-mail to rlef@brla.on.ca or contact David Bearman, Chair, at 613-272-5163.

Your donations to the RLEF are tax deductible. They can be made on-line through the BRLA website at <http://brla.on.ca/rlef/> where your donation is handled by Canada Helps. Or you may send a cheque to RLEF, P.O. Box 93, Portland ON K0G 1V0.

Please give generously on-line at <http://www.brla.on.ca/rlef/>

"SUMMER SOUNDS"

AN ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR COW ISLAND

SATURDAY JULY 19TH 2008

2:00 PM ON COW ISLAND

(rain date Sun. July 20th 2:00 P.M.)



Join us for an afternoon of music and fun on Big Rideau Lake. Enjoy entertainment courtesy of Cliff Edwards and some of the members of his former group, The BELLS. Catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Summer Sounds is a pleasant social event for BRLA members and friends.

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).

Tickets will also be available at the BRLA Annual General Meeting, July 5, 2008, in Portland.

HELP PROTECT NESTING LOONS

You can help protect and monitor these birds and their chicks

One of the most beloved symbols of Canada's wilderness – the loon – has returned to Canadian lakes for another nesting season. Lakeside residents and visitors are encouraged to play their part in helping to monitor and protect breeding loons and their offspring.

With more than 80% of the world's Common Loon population breeding in our country, Canadians have a critical role to play in conserving this species. As more people move into the remote habitats on which loons depend, they need to be aware of human impacts, and enjoy lakeside activities in a responsible manner. This is especially true in high-use areas of Ontario where loon productivity is below average.

Since 1981, hundreds of volunteers have participated in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, a Bird Studies Canada (BSC) program aimed at monitoring the breeding success of loons on lakes across Canada. Its goals are to help conserve loons, to use loons as an indicator of the health of freshwater lakes, and to address conservation issues on local, provincial, and national levels.

In 2003, BSC published the trends from the first 20 years of data collected on Common Loon breeding success. This report showed that overall, loons were stable and breeding well throughout Canada. However, in some regions of Ontario, loons had less success, showing low to medium reproduction. In these areas it became apparent that closer scrutiny of loon breeding success was needed, as well as additional conservation and educational measures. To help achieve these goals, BSC provides today's participants with easy-to-use data reporting forms, online data entry options, educational pamphlets and reports, loon nesting platform instructions, and educational and loon awareness signs.

Loons nest between May and July, and build their nests very close to the water's edge. Threats such as contaminants, water level fluctuations, and nest disturbances are the result of increasing human activity on lakes supporting loons, and can affect loon survival. By practicing loon conservation activities, lake users also help ensure that other wildlife and waterbirds are protected on Ontario lakes.

All people can help by following these tips while at their favourite lake:

1. Watch for loon pairs, nests, and chicks along shorelines.
2. Avoid loon nests and adults when possible. Disturbance can interfere with nesting and cause distractions that make eggs and chicks more vulnerable to predators.
3. When boating, steer clear of shoreline areas that show evidence of loon activity. Watercraft can flood nests and disturb loons, sometimes permanently separating parents from chicks.
4. If you must approach the shore or shallow areas, slow down and limit your wake.
5. Keep pets leashed.
6. Take trash and food with you when you leave.
7. Participate in monitoring programs such as the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey.



Now, five years after the Loon Survey's twenty-year report, how are loons in these same regions faring? Are they still stable? Is their reproductive success increasing or decreasing? To answer these questions, we are beginning to prepare for our next report on the Common Loon in Canada, and plan to analyse a minimum of 25 years of data. To successfully compare today with yesterday, participants are needed on previously surveyed lakes.

Presently there are several hundred inactive sites where past surveys have been conducted. To help ensure an accurate comparison of today's loons with yesterday's, participants are needed at as many of these lakes as possible. Are you available to survey this year or during the next few years? To learn more or get involved, contact Bird Studies Canada at aqsurvey@birdscanada.org or 1-888-448-2473 ext. 212, or visit us on the web. The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey is a self-supporting program, so participants are required to purchase a Bird Studies Canada membership. Their membership fees cover the costs associated with materials, data processing and management, and program administration.

Bird Studies Canada administers national, regional, and international research and monitoring programs that advance the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of wild birds and their habitats. BSC is Canada's national body for bird conservation, and is a non-governmental charitable organization.

For further information contact:

Kathy Jones
Aquatic Surveys Volunteer and Data Coordinator
Bird Studies Canada
519-586-3531 ext. 212; aqsurvey@birdscanada.org

REPORT TO WRAFT MEMBERSHIP APRIL 2008

BOB TOPP
[HTTP://WWW.WRAFT.ON.CA](http://www.wraft.on.ca)

We last reported to you in January of this year. Since then it has become increasingly clear, from a meeting with an advisor to the Finance Minister and from recent comments in the House, that the Government has no intention of introducing further reforms to the property tax system. They are sticking with the four year assessment and phase-in program introduced in the 2007 Liberal budget. The 2008 Liberal budget confirmed the plan announced prior to last fall's election to provide an annual grant of up to \$500 to low income seniors. The Budget also stated that legislation would be introduced to implement the Ombudsman's recommendation to place the onus on MPAC to prove accuracy of assessments if appealed. Secondly the appeal and request for reconsideration system will be streamlined.

Other than those actions, we are clearly engaged in a major uphill battle to force the government to consider further changes, such as limiting assessment increases, which could stabilize the property tax system. Recognizing this, in the past few months your executive have put together an action plan for the balance of 2008. The plan was approved at a combined meeting of the WRAFT Board of Directors and CAPTR representatives on April 15. It contains the following steps.

Actions already taken:

- We commissioned a report from Cushman & Wakefield Lepage which compares sales of properties in the last quarter of 2004 with the last quarter of 2007 for the City of Toronto and for Muskoka/Haliburton. The purpose of the report was to estimate impact of the 2008 assessment before notices arrive this fall. It shows that in Toronto, average inner city sales price increases exceeded outer city indicating a further shift of tax to the city core. In Muskoka/Haliburton waterfront increases are much greater than off water meaning an increase again in the share of tax paid by waterfront property owners. The report also compared assessments with sales prices for a number of properties sold near the end of 2007. There is a wide disparity from one property to another between the two numbers, suggesting considerable variance in the accuracy of assessments

and in the impact of the 2008 assessment on individual properties

- We held a news conference on April 15 to unveil the report and to announce the initiation of a petition on the CAPTR and WRAFT websites. Details of the report and petition are on both websites and we encourage all members to go to one of our websites, www.wraft.com and www.captr.org, read the material and sign the petition. Forward this report to your friends and neighbours and ask them to sign the petition. As a control, the petition can only be signed by one person per email address. If you want a person with whom you share an email address to sign up have that person email me with their name and address and we'll add them on the petition.

Actions planned before assessments are issued

- We will continue to liaise with representatives of both opposition parties who are actively pushing for meaningful property tax reform. Both parties were represented at our press conference and challenged the Finance Minister on the issue in the House later the same day.
- We will meet with representatives of Toronto City Council to make them aware of the impact of the upcoming assessment which covers three years of hot and volatile real estate markets in the city.
- We will seek out and publicize instances of hardship created by the present property tax system. Many home and cottage owners have been severely impacted by past assessment increases and will be hit again this fall. We encourage you to report to us your own experience with regard to past assessment and tax increases. With your permission we will use your situation to bring the unfairness of the system to the attention of Queens Park.

Actions planned after assessments are issued

- We will organize visits to Liberal MPPs by their constituents who have been negatively impacted by higher than average assessment increases.
- We will expand and publicize the list of hardship cases arising from the 2008 assessment
- We will present the petitions at Queens Park as evidence of the unfairness of the present property system

WRAFT REPORT (CONT.)

- We will encourage our membership to get vocal. If we hope to get changes made we have to become a lot more activist or the government, which was reelected six months ago with another majority, will continue to think they have fixed the problem.

We've come a long way in the past few years. Both opposition parties are willing to make real changes, the PCs to cap assessment increases and the NDP to freeze assessments until property sale. The Liberals instituted a two year moratorium on assessment and then brought in a four year assessment cycle with phase-in assessment increases over the subsequent four years. There have been meaningful changes to the assessment system, with help from the Ombudsman. We've had quite a bit to do with the improvements that have been implemented. Unfortunately we're not yet in a position where we can say that we have a stable and predictable property tax regime. Our original supporters on waterfront across Ontario and our more recent allies, urban and seniors' groups, are still exposed to the impact of volatile real estate markets and a crude assessment system. With your support the battle continues.



**DAY CAMP ON COW ISLAND
BEGINS JUNE 30, 2008**

Once again, Lindsay Cameron will be running Day Camp on Cow Island, Monday - Friday, in the mornings (9:00 - 12:30). Children ages 4-12 are welcome. Join us for crafts, games swims, sports and theme weeks. Register for Camp by completing the Registration Form available on the BRLA web site at <http://www.brla.on.ca> and bringing it with you to Cow Island.

Once again we are grateful to Len's Cove Marina for providing transportation to and from Cow Island for campers without boats.

SAILING CAMP SOLD OUT!

Once again, BRLA is offering 5 days of sailing instruction, from June 30- July 4, 2008.



Sailing Camp this year is Sold Out. We have the maximum of 16 participants.

Sailing is offered by certified Ontario Sailing Association instructors, according to OSA curriculum. Participants in the program must be 8 years of age or older, and

comfortable around the water.

**CANADA DAY FIREWORKS
OFF COW ISLAND
JUNE 28, 2008**

Once again we'll be celebrating Canada Day in our own unique way, with Fireworks from Cow Island at dusk on Saturday June 28, 2008.

Rain date, Sunday June 29, 2008.

Please give generously to the BRLA to support Fireworks.



We can't do it without your help!

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE. JUST DON'T DRINK IT!

PAT CHAMBERLAIN
ENVIRONMENT@BRLA.ON.CA

There have been some inquiries about the historic water testing data on Big Rideau Lake asking, in a sense, “How are we doing?” Not too badly, all things considered. The BRLA will be celebrating its 100th Birthday in 2011 and it is safe to say that anyone living or summering here a hundred years ago drank the water, found lots of fish to catch, bathed in the lake, and weren't too concerned about environmental issues. Each of us can write our own list of the changes we are aware have happened since that time. Aside from the vastly increased number of shoreline properties, the shoreline erosion caused by wash from boaters not too concerned about speed and climate events that have affected water quality, each of us could do more to reduce our personal impact on the lake environment.

The annual water testing results have been consistently in the “okay range” except for some problems in the Portland and Rideau Ferry Area where beaches have been closed by the Health Unit when the e-coli count indicated a problem. Runoff from properties that have not maintained a natural shoreline has certainly helped the algae growth.



In attempting to find some historic water testing data I was referred to Bev Clark, Co-ordinator Lake Partner Program. He was very helpful. The gist of the conversation was that the reduction of phosphates in the water some years ago was a huge help in the clean up and that any problems we are encountering in the Big Rideau Lake now are most likely to be the result of the zebra mussel infestation and the warming weather. He pointed out that every 10 years or so something happens that will affect the water quality: acid rain, invasive species (zebra mussels), climate change, global warming, etc. and, he suggested, expect the unexpected. Climate change causes 40% of water quality changes. Human impact takes care of the rest.

He further suggested that shoreline protection is the way to improve the situation and that, coupled with the septic system re-inspection program, is what we are presently working on. I hope that each of us will be alert to how we can improve our personal impact on the water quality of the lake.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

As BRLA begins preparations for our 100th anniversary in 2011, we're gathering digital copies of historic photographs of the lake and its landmarks.

If you have photographs that you would like to share with us please email brla@brla.on.ca





GO AROUND, NOT BETWEEN

BRLA installs and maintains 104 Coast Guard Approved Shoal Markers. These are shown on the charts of the Rideau Canal system, identified as “Private” markers.

The seventy six markers west of Rocky Narrows are maintained by Portland contractor Lamont Brown. Nine volunteers, under the supervision of Past President Richard Bradley, attend to 28 markers east of the Rocky Narrows.

If you see a problem with a Shoal Marker, please let us know by email to lakesafety@brla.on.ca

Let your friends and neighbours know about this valuable service of the BRLA.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you have a bit of free time to help-out over the summer months? Are you interested in improving life on the lake, benefiting the environment, or building community amongst our kids?

If so, the

BRLA NEEDS YOU!

Volunteer to help out a bit. Contact Doug Arrand, BRLA President: president@brla.on.ca

NOTICE BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**JULY 5, 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 2007
4. President’s Report - Doug Arrand
5. Treasurer’s Report - Ed Brigden
 - A. Auditor’s Report for year ended December 31, 2007
 - B. Motion to appoint auditor for year ending December 31, 2008
6. Membership Report
7. Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) Report
 - A. President’s comments
 - B. Treasurer’s Report
8. Committee Reports
 - A. Communications: Website & DriftWords
 - B. Environment
 - C. Government Affairs
 - D. Marine Safety
 - E. Recreation/Cow Island
9. Elections
 - A. President for 2008/09
 - B. Directors for 2008/09
10. Presentations from Guests
11. Adjournment

BRLA CORPORATE SUPPORTERS 2008

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



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 Couatts 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.

General Contractor, Barge Services
15 Water Street | P.O. Box 54
Portland, Ontario
(613) 272 2580

heatherh16@hotmail.com