



DriftWords

The Newsletter of the Big Rideau Lake Association (BRLA)
Serving the Rideau Since 1911 Poonamalie to Narrows Lock
Spring 2011

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driftwords@brla.on.ca
Sue Van Slooten
Web Site: webmaster@brla.on.ca
Melanie Sterling
Fireworks: Mike Fraser
Government Liaison:
govtffairs@brla.on.ca
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Petrie
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Cow Island Chairperson:
recreation@brla.on.ca
Doug Arrand
Recreation:
bethevans@sympatico.ca Beth
Evans

ADDRESS

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

From the Editor - Sue Van Slooten

Spring has finally discovered southern Ontario! It's about 19 C out with gentle breezes blowing and sunny skies. Enough of this rain stuff. A lot of docks and boats are already in, the shoreline sprouting more and more strange appendages everyday. Boating season has arrived! I know around here there has been a mad frenzy of activity to get the various watercraft ready for their true callings.

It's also the season for a whole raft of activities, camps, events, and just plain fun on the lake with the BRLA. Inside, you will find a roster of our planned events, but a serious note is in order from your editor. All this just doesn't magically happen, but takes a lot of planning and hard work. It also requires funds. The BRLA funds these events, like the fireworks for example, through our membership fees. Many also don't realize that these same fees construct and maintain the white shoal markers you see out on the lake. If you have a friend,

neighbor, or relative you think would enjoy what we have to offer, have them sign up. We appreciate the support.

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Photo Courtesy of Bob Van Slooten



President's Pen - Peter Copestake

The ice went out fairly quickly last Monday (April 11th), pushed clear by strong north west winds. By the time I got to Briton Bay to pick up the boat the following Wednesday, Danny Seward already had her in the water and ready to go... a quick spin out to the island to check the cottage (there was still ice in our little bay) and a few fun loops past the cottages of friends and relatives and it was official that another season on the lake had started. It's great to be back on the lake!

At the BRLA we're looking forward to an extra special summer in this, purportedly our 100th year as an association. We've got lots of fun activities and events planned to celebrate the centennial anniversary which are enumerated in this issue of Driftwords and on our web-site.

On the fiscal front I am very proud to report that the BRLA was able to report positive financial results in our latest audited financials. Not only did we materially reduce our expenses but we also increased our revenues and were able to make capital improvements in the quality and value of our principal assets, namely, Cow Island. These results are a testament to the dedication and hard work of the member volunteers and your BRLA Board of Directors who have contributed much to make our Lake a cleaner, safer and more socially attractive place.

This year we intend to continue to build on these successes with even more improvements at our Cow Island clubhouse. The organization will also continue to welcome more members and volunteers to join the BRLA and lead or participate in events and activities. As they say, many hands make light work and volunteering for a BRLA Board or committee position is a great way to give back to your Lake. Regardless of whether you are able or unable to volunteer, you can still help the BRLA by getting at least 5 neighbours or friends or boaters to join the Association. Get them to do it on-line. It's so easy, great value and

Photo Courtesy of Toby Spry

it can be your personal BRLA Centennial challenge. Membership dues remain our largest source of revenue and each dollar raised goes straight back to our safety, environmental or social initiatives that preserve and protect the beauty and quality of our individual and collective Big Rideau Lake experiences. Whether for navigation buoys or water testing or fireworks or camps or social activities or capital improvements at our Cow Island facility or for any of the myriad

of other BRLA activities, member dues and donations are essential to sustaining all of these.

For my part I am particularly looking forward to our 100th Birthday Bash Dinner-Dance at the Portland community



Center on July 23rd. It was tons of fun last year. To avoid disappointment and any chance of missing the event, be sure to order your tickets early. I am also looking forward to the planned weekend sailing races to be regularly held at Cow Island. Check the club house notice board or web site to confirm start-times and dates for races. Everyone of every skill level is welcome. In fact we will have something for everyone; all our traditional events and even Thursday night sunset socials at Cow Island. You can also support the BRLA by buying and wearing BRLA Swag. We have T-shirts caps, golf shirts mugs, burgees and even dressy oxford cloth "Club" shirts. These can all be ordered online through our web-site.

Finally if you have to get in touch with the office or just need to get on-line while at the Lake, remember that Cow Island now has wireless internet available as a special member perk. Access instructions and passwords are available through our member's only web pages.

The whole board is very excited about our new season and improved facilities. Have a safe and fun summer. If you see my catamaran "Grog," come on over and say hello. See everyone out on the Lake.

Save the Date!

2011 BRLA Events Calendar:

- Canada Day Fireworks Display-Cow Island- Friday July 1st @ dusk- Rain Date: Saturday July 2nd.
- BRLA Annual General Meeting- Saturday July 2nd, 2011, 10 AM Portland Community Hall.
- BRLA Summer Day Camp Recreational Program- July 2011- Monday to Friday 9 am- 12 pm-visit website for program details. Daily activities with supervision and lifeguarding.
- BRLA Social Nights- Thursday nights in July @ 7PM on Cow Island.
- 2nd Annual Lake Dinner & Dance- Saturday July 23rd, 2011. Portland Community Hall- Tickets available for \$50/person call 613-272-3629 or see website.
- *Lecture on the History of the Rideau System- August 2011- Date TBA.
- Summer Sounds- Saturday July 9th – Cow Island- (Live Music) Tickets are: 1 for \$15 or 2 for \$25, call 613-272-3629 or see website.
- Sailing School- Boom Sailing Camp- Dates TBA- See website for registration details.
- Sailing Races- Cow Island (Every 2nd Sunday in July & August) @ 11AM.
- Annual Family Aquatic Regatta- July 30th Cow Island- swimming and canoe races, BBQ.
- Shoreline Planting Seminar Hosted by the RLEF- Saturday, August 27th, Narrows Locks- see website for time.
- Volunteer Appreciation- Saturday, August 20th, Cow Island- see website for time.

Marine Safety Report - Toby Spry

The Pleasure Craft Operators Card requirements have changes:

Transport Canada (TC) is making several changes to how boaters will obtain a PCOC (Pleasure Craft Operator Card) in the future:

1. New syllabus – Transport Canada has introduced a new, expanded course syllabus.
2. New on-paper tests – Transport Canada is introducing new on-paper boater tests. The new tests will be created by Transport Canada. Under the old boater testing system, accredited course providers (ACPs) were responsible for creating their own on-paper boater tests according to a government-approved standard. This will come to an end permanently on April 14, 2011. As of April 15, 2011, all current on-paper tests will be invalid and will be replaced by new on-paper tests created by Transport Canada.

The new on-paper tests will be 50 questions in length. The pass mark will be 75% (38 out of 50).

For those who have not acquired their Card, it is now more difficult and will take longer.

Remember - WE ALL HAD OVER 10 YEARS TO GET THIS CARD

Note from Michael A. Touw:
Here is the latest on Willis Wharf and Portland Harbour:

"Willis Wharf was removed in the fall of 2010 and is being replaced this spring by a floating dock.

There are no major plans for the Portland Harbour. We are planning to have an engineering study commissioned in regards to its condition and recommended repairs."

Michael A. Touw
 Manager of Public Works
 The Township of Rideau Lakes

A Message from our
 Membership Officer, Dianna
 Petrie:

"Members we need your help!
 BRLA cannot survive without the support of everyone on the lake. Please join us in our DRIVE TO SURVIVE!! Talk to your neighbours, boating friends, camping friends. All of us enjoy the fireworks, safety through the shoal markers and water testing, the great events at Cow Island. Get in touch with us at our website www.brla.on.ca or by e-mail at brla@brla.on.ca, call us at 613-272-3629. We would love to hear from you! We NEED your support and your help. Thank you in advance."

Financial Report Ending March 31, 2011 - Barb Keays

Income				
Environments	533.71	1,420.00	(886.29)	37.59%
Fireworks	1,005.00	3,700.00	(2,695.00)	27.16%
Marine & Gov	355.00	900.00	(545.00)	39.44%

Other donatic	180.00	475.00	(295.00)	37.9%
Recreation	290.00	1,000.00	(710.00)	29.0%
	2,363.10	7,490.00	(5,131.20)	31.54%
Sales	0.00	800.00	(800.00)	0.0%
	0.00	800.00	(800.00)	0.0%
Fireworks gra	0.00	1,600.00	(1,600.00)	0.0%
	0.00	1,600.00	(1,600.00)	0.0%
Interest	74.41	100.00	(25.59)	74.41%
	74.41	100.00	(25.59)	74.41%
Corporate	1,305.00	4,500.00	(3,195.00)	29.0%
Dues	5,700.00	14,400.00	(8,700.00)	39.58%
Membership	(60.00)			
	6,945.00	18,900.00	(11,955.00)	36.75%
Day camp	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.0%
Dinner/Dance	350.00	5,200.00	(4,850.00)	6.73%
Sailing progr	4,325.00	8,800.00	(4,475.00)	49.15%
Summer sour	50.00	1,000.00	(950.00)	5.0%
	4,725.00	17,000.00	(12,275.00)	27.79%
Environments	0.00	4,660.00	(4,660.00)	0.0%
	0.00	4,660.00	(4,660.00)	0.0%
Total Income	14,108.00	50,500.00	(36,446.00)	27.91%
Expense				
Advertising	340.00	600.00	(260.00)	56.67%
AGM	0.00	60.00	(60.00)	0.0%
Audit	0.00	1,700.00	(1,700.00)	0.0%
Bank charges	209.54	900.00	(690.46)	23.28%
Insurance	0.00	5,800.00	(5,800.00)	0.0%

Office supplies	644.61	200.00	444.61	322.31
Telephone	<u>180.38</u>	<u>560.00</u>	<u>(379.62)</u>	<u>32.21%</u>
	1,374.40	9,820.00	(8,445.60)	14.0%
Driftwoods	269.41	1,700.00	(1,430.59)	15.85%
Internet & web	<u>14.63</u>	<u>1,300.00</u>	<u>(1,285.37)</u>	<u>1.13%</u>
	284.04	3,000.00	(2,715.96)	9.47%
	0.00	570.00	(570.00)	0.0%
	0.00	5,700.00	(5,700.00)	0.0%
Shoal marker	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>(5,000.00)</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
	0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	0.0%
Brochures	73.50	300.00	(226.50)	24.5%
Renewals	<u>49.44</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>(950.56)</u>	<u>4.94%</u>
	122.94	1,300.00	(1,177.06)	9.46%
Cow Island				
Maintenanc	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.0%
Realty tax	<u>1,382.90</u>	<u>2,900.00</u>	<u>(1,517.10)</u>	<u>47.69%</u>
Total Cow Isla	<u>1,382.90</u>	<u>3,900.00</u>	<u>(2,517.10)</u>	<u>35.46%</u>
	1,382.90	3,900.00	(2,517.10)	35.46%
Day Camp Ex	0.00	4,000.00	(4,000.00)	0.0%
Dinner/Dance	0.00	4,000.00	(4,000.00)	0.0%
Regatta	0.00	450.00	(450.00)	0.0%
Sailing prog	5,150.00	7,640.00	(2,490.00)	67.41%
Summer /S	<u>0.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>(250.00)</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
	5,150.00	16,340.00	(11,190.00)	31.52%
Total Expense	<u>8,314.40</u>	<u>45,600.00</u>	<u>(37,315.60)</u>	<u>18.22%</u>
	5,793.00	4,920.00	868.66	117.64
	5,793.00	4,920.00	868.66	117.64

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We have space available if you wish to purchase 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, or whole page advertisements. We also now offer line ads. Please call Sue Van Slooten at 613-284-1053 for rates.



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