



DriftWords

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

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From the Editor - Sue Van Slooten

Spring is coming. Right. We are in the dead of winter, and our Editor says spring is coming. Well, it is. The holidays are over, it's a brand new month and a brand new year. This is the time to contemplate a new garden or more likely, if I'm correct, our boating for the coming season, the one "after winter." Cottaging also falls in that category. In our household, almost as soon as the boats are put away for the winter, the plotting and planning begins for the next year: what trips are to be taken, what charts are needed, what repairs or new toys are necessary. In fact, so I've been told, the Age of Sail is coming back, never having truly left. One thing is sure, whether you motor or sail, spring IS coming.

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President's Pen - Peter Copestake

Its a little hard to visualize a bright summer's day on Big Rideau Lake in mid January after a day of skiing. But I'm doing just that because we have started to organize another series of exciting events and activities for the BRLA in 2011. And what a year it should be for us on our 100th anniversary.

Cow Island will again be the venue for many events this summer. The upgrades to our club house and island infra-structure are continuing for many of our planned activities.

Summer Camp will be provided if there is sufficient interest. Jennifer Trant is again organizing sailing camp and by all accounts the places are filling up fast, so be sure to sign up early.

We intend to re-institute weekend sailing races. Its always lots of fun and open to everyone so come out and participate or volunteer for the race committee (no experience necessary) or join us for the socials that usually occur after racing.

This year we're also going to try to host informal Thursday evening socials at Cow Island. These are BYOB and BBQ events that we hope will give members a chance to meet and get to know one another a bit better. Try to come out, bring your neighbours and friends to enjoy our beautiful Cow Island facility.

Day moorings for boating members will again be available at Cow Island. Remember we have a catamaran and an albacore sail boat available at Cow Island for members, but members solely assume all liability for personal injury if they choose to use the island boats or facilities.

To get full details and dates for all our upcoming BRLA events and activities check out our BRLA web site. Order your tickets early for our second annual BRLA dinner dance. It was a fantastic event last year and will again be held at the Portland Community Centre. It is sure to sell out again quickly so buy your tickets now. It's also a great opportunity to get new members involved with the BRLA.

We are again grateful to the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF), a registered charity, for its ongoing support of environmental initiatives and programs on Big Rideau and Upper Rideau Lakes. I encourage you to continue to donate to the RLEF as it does much to support environmental initiatives of the BRLA.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the "Skate the Lake" event organized by Portland Outdoors on the weekend of January 30th. The BRLA will have a booth at the event where we will be selling BRLA memberships and swag. If you aren't planning to attend Skate the Lake and haven't yet joined the BRLA in this its 100th year, sign into our BRLA website and make your membership payment by paypal/ credit card. Be sure to look up the high quality BRLA swag and order it on line.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back on the lake once the ice breaks up. Until then best wishes for a safe and happy winter.



Nancy, Jen, and Suzanne Watters on the Shark, "Felix." Photo courtesy of Conrad Watters.

Thanks!

Are in order to all the members, volunteers, members of the board, and many others who made 2010 another great year!

Save the Date!

2011 BRAL 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.

“The Lake”... Not just for the Summer.

2011 is the 23rd year that I have been coming “Up to the Lake”! In those years I lived in Ottawa, New York City, Palm Beach, London, UK and now Toronto... but home is still The Big Rideau.

During the summer months Friday is the travel day... as my friends head North on the 400 to the Black Fly capital of Ontario, (yes the Muskoka’s), I happily head East on the 401 and then North on Hwy 15 to the best kept secret...Yes the Big Rideau... No black flies... and I can’t remember the last time I was in a traffic jam in Portland!

I start to really relax once I hit Portland, (I’m sure my friends are still sitting in traffic), after a brief stop at the post office and then the local merchants to stock up on some provisions, (you know... milk, eggs etc ☺), it’s back on 15 until the left hand turn onto Briton Houghton Bay Road.

Windows down... sunroof open and AC turned off! I’m officially at the lake! Almost 10Km of winding roads, hills and valleys put you in the mood for relaxation. Once at the end of the road, one final turn takes me to the “Lake House.”

Greeted by friends (four legged and two), I’m ready for a glass of wine and a weekend of all that the Big Rideau Lakes Association has to offer from safe boating to concerts and activities on Cow Island to the grand spectacular of Fire Works on Canada Day!



Photo Courtesy of Duncan Scott

In the last decade, I’ve discovered that it’s not just about summers at the lake, Spring is exciting as the boats are uncovered and returned to their docks and boat houses... and autumn brings on the amazing change of the foliage.

Winter is a close second, although the windows stay up and the heat and heated seats stay on “High”... the thrill once I turn onto the road to the “Lake House” is still there. Trees covered in snow and the lake frozen over provides the perfect backdrop for skating and long walks in the woods.



Photo Courtesy of Duncan Scott

This year will be the first that I am attending "Skate the Lake" in Portland... I'm excited to be volunteering for such a great event.

I don't own property on the Big Rideau... but I've been coming here since 1988, and enjoy all that the Big Rideau Lakes Association offers everyone who uses the lake seasonally or year round. I am a member of the BRLA and I encourage you to have your friends and family who come and enjoy the Big Rideau to become members too. For just \$60.00 a year we can make sure that everyone can enjoy the Big Rideau for years to come.

I look forward to seeing everyone on "The Lake"!

Duncan Scott

Marine Safety Report - Toby Spry Office of Boating Safety Minimum Safety Equipment Required for

the Size and Type of your Pleasure Craft

The Small Vessel Regulations set out the minimum safety equipment required on board a pleasure craft according to its type and length.

To determine the length of your pleasure craft, refer to your manufacturer's product information or measure it yourself – from the forward end of the foremost outside surface of the hull shell to the after end of the aftermost outside surface of the hull shell.

To find out the minimum safety equipment requirements for your pleasure craft, select the appropriate category:

[Human-powered pleasure craft \(including canoes, kayaks, rowboats and rowing shells\)](#)

[Personal watercraft \(PWC\)](#)

[Paddleboats and watercycles](#)

[Sailboards and kiteboards](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft up to 6 m \(19'8"\)](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft over 6 m and up to 9 m \(19'8"-29'6"\)](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft over 9 m and up to 12 m \(29'6"-39'4"\)](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft over 12 m and up to 24 m \(39'4"-78'9"\)](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft up to 24 m \(78'9"\)](#)

[Requirements for pleasure craft involved in competition](#)

In the case of any discrepancy between the information on this page and the *Small Vessel Regulations*, the [formal regulatory text](#) shall remain the final authority.

BOOM Sailing Camp

BRLA will once again be hosting the OSA BOOM Sailing Camp on Cow Island for two weeks this coming summer. Certified instructors will offer White Sail Levels I-III; we'll be sailing Laser Picos.

Sailing Camp will run for two weeks July 4-8 [5 days] and August 2-5 [4 days, no classes on the holiday Monday]. Students can enroll in either one week or both. We also have an option to offer adult lessons during the evening on either week.

Registration details can be found in the attached form, which will also be available on the BRLA web site. Please pass it on to anyone who might be interested. Children must be 8 years of age to take sailing lessons.

Registrations are taken in the following order: Returning Sailors; Siblings of returning sailors; Open Registration [first come / first served -- I'll post to the BRLA Members list in a week or so]. Please return your completed form as soon as possible to reserve your place.

Bronze Instructor wanted: We have a group of sailors who have completed their White Sail III, and are interested in going further. If you know of someone who could help out with instruction towards Bronze level sailing, please contact sailing@brla.on.ca

We're looking forward to another great summer of sailing -- though it seems so far away right now!

Best wishes -- and Happy New Year,

Jennifer Trant

Piper Cub

And just to prove that not all vessels on the Big Rideau are a boat, below is a photo of a Piper Cub floatplane, courtesy of Conrad Watters.



2011 Skate the Lake

Hello BRLA Members,
Happy New Year!

The Seventh International Big Rideau Lake Speed Skating Marathon also known as "Skate the Lake " is taking place on Saturday January 29th, 2011 on the Big Rideau Lake in Portland.

Some of the Highlights include:

- 5K , 10K, 5 x1K Relay and 25K Marathon Races (Registration required)
- Curling
- Free kids skating area
- Great Food at the canteen - (chili, Snert Dutch pea soup & hot chocolate)
- Fireworks on the ice @ 5PM

Check out the link to the [Portland Outdoors](http://www.portlandoutdoors.com/index.html) website:

<http://www.portlandoutdoors.com/index.html>

**The BRLA will have an information table at the event. There will be renewal forms available to renew memberships for 2011 as

well as sign on as a new member. (Please tell your friends and neighbours.) We will also have BRLA clothing samples available and will be taking orders.**

We hope to see you at this exciting event on the Big Rideau!

All the best,

BRLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Full moon set over Big Rideau Lake on the morning of Jan 10 2009

Photos Courtesy of Marco Smits

New! Classifieds:

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.



Jan. 31, 2009. Three time Olympic short track skating medalist Tania Vincent, Portland Outdoors president Marco Smits and Rick Mercer of the Rick Mercer Report share laughs at the Sixth International Big Rideau Lake Speed Skating Marathon Jan 31 2009

2010 Financial Report - Barb Keays, Treasurer

	Jan - Dec 10
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Donations	
Environmental	1,420.00
Fireworks	3,637.48
Marine & Govt	890.00
Other donations	475.00
Recreation	1,015.00
Total Donations	7,437.48
Dry Dock	
Sales	807.00
Total Dry Dock	807.00
Government grants	
Fireworks grants	1,600.00
Total Government grants	1,600.00
Investment	

	Interest	116.53
	Total Investment	116.53
	Membership	
	Corporate	4,500.00
	Dues	14,339.92
	Total Membership	18,839.92
	Revenue	
	Day camp	928.00
	Dinner/Dance Revenue	5,181.11
	Sailing program	8,800.00
	Summer sounds	975.00
	Swimming	200.00
	Total Revenue	16,084.11
	RLEF	
	Environmental subsidy	4,660.00
	Total RLEF	4,660.00
	Total Income	49,545.04
	Expense	
	Administration	
	Advertising	664.75
	AGM	58.33
	Audit	1,611.75
	Bank charges	838.88
	Insurance	5,484.48
	Office supplies	189.26
	Telephone	1,151.96
	Total Administration	9,999.41
	Communications	
	Driftwords	1,661.39
	Internet & website	1,939.21
	Total Communications	3,600.60
	Corporate office	
	Rent	2,600.50
	Total Corporate office	2,600.50

	Cost of sales - Drydock	570.36
	Fireworks	5,606.77
	Government Affairs	
	Shoal markers	4,992.48
	Total Government Affairs	4,992.48
	Memberships	
	Brochures	29.98
	Total Memberships	29.98
	Property	
	Cow Island	
	Maintenance	0.00
	Realty taxes	2,765.90
	Total Cow Island	2,765.90
	Total Property	2,765.90
	Recreation	
	Day Camp Expenses	3,369.74
	Dinner/Dance Expenses	3,957.35
	Regatta	451.40
	Sailing prog	8,630.00
	Summer /S	245.02
	Total Recreation	16,653.51
	Total Expense	46,819.51
	Net Ordinary Income	2,725.53
	Net Income	2,725.53

BRLA Merchandise for Sale on Website:

Take a look at our website for the latest in BRLA merchandise, or “swag” as Peter likes to call it.



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