



# DriftWords

The Newsletter of the Big Rideau Lake Association (BRLA)  
Serving the Rideau Since 1911 Poonamalie to Narrows Lock  
Fall 2010

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## From the Editor - Sue Van Slooten

Thanksgiving and Halloween are behind us, the boats are stored, and the docks are in. Christmas will be here before we know it. Some say the year's end is a not a boater's time, however, we have a whole new year coming, with tons of activities and events planned for 2011, our 100th anniversary. This will be an exciting time for the BRLA, as we look back over the last 100 years, but also, a time to look forward, as we turn our focus to the next 100 years. One century closes, another begins.

We have our usual assortment of interesting articles, stories, and this time, more photos. A new events calendar for 2011 is also included.

I wish to thank all those who have given me some very kind feedback about the new Driftwords. I welcome all comments, and continuously try to keep on improving.

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2010 Fireworks  
Photo Courtesy of Toby Spry

## President's Pen - Peter Copestake

The summer season seems to fly by faster every year but on reflection, "What a great summer it has been!"

The BRLA has accomplished much and continued to provide many valued benefits to members. Our season started with a well attended and productive work weekend to clean the Clubhouse and install docks at Cow. About 80 members enjoyed a tasty dinner and rollicking dance at the Portland Community Center, an event we want to continue in future years. We had a very successful sailing camp led by Jennifer Trant that was completely sold out. Our summer student staff led our day camp at Cow Island and swimming lessons in Portland throughout July and August. The

staff (Shannon, Sarah and Matthew and their friends who supported and volunteered their time) were great and our thanks go out to them for their service, but attendance by members and the community using this service for their kids was far less than expected so we will be revisiting our commitment to whether or how we provide these services next year. Summer Sounds, annual Regatta, and our volunteer appreciation events were all great successes led by the Cowan's and the Evans' respectively.

On the capital improvement front, we are very pleased with the improvements to Cow Island. First, thanks to financial support from the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation, we were able to acquire and install a solar power system at our Clubhouse on Cow Island as solar/renewable energy demonstration site for our Membership. We now have lights, power outlets, security and webcam services working 24/7, and free wireless internet connectivity for members at Cow Island. Many thanks go to David Bearman who coordinated the wireless and Gordon Southam who directed the solar installation.

In May we had a well attended work weekend that finished the leveling and apron installation around the Clubhouse foundation and prepped the Clubhouse for installation of new windows and siding. This work has been completed by Doug Arrand and Doug Good. I want to send out a special thank you to the gang of kids from Bending Birches Island (from the Southam and Castongay families) who freely volunteered to clean and paint the main rooms inside the Clubhouse in August. We have even more plans for next year

The Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) is a registered charity that our members should support. The RLEF provides continued financial support to the BRLA for environmental projects and navigational safety, including contributing to the maintenance and installation of the BRLA navigation Buoys from Poonamalie to the Narrows lock. If you have the means and inclination to give to a charity as we approach the end of this tax year, I encourage you to make a donation. Donations can be made through our website

or via mailed cheque, and tax receipts will be issued.

On the fiscal front, membership dues remain our main source of funding and our membership levels continue to be softer than expected, and flat year over year, in



Photo Courtesy of Toby Spry

spite of the considerable efforts of your Board to get members to renew and new members to support BRLA. Payment of dues is easier than ever through credit card and Paypal on our website or through traditional mailed in cheques. Each member, current and former, is encouraged to join and to get their friends and neighbours who also enjoy Big Rideau Lake to join and support the BRLA. On the expense management front we have vacated our offices on Hwy 15 and have moved our files and meeting rooms to the Portland Community Center, space kindly offered to us by the Township. This should save us about \$400/month in rent.

As you browse through our ever-improving website, members should also be aware that we have BRLA "Swag" for sale, including caps, golf shirts, teeshirts, Oxford cloth dress shirts and coffee mugs. These are high quality apparel and would make great gifts for Christmas while also supporting the BRLA. For those of you who haven't already put in your orders, we hope to have an order facility up on our web site well before Christmas.

As you put away your docks, pull out the boats and close up the cottage, I would like to wish everyone well until next summer.

## Marine Safety Report - Toby Spry

For those still boating on the lake, the shoal markers are still in, but will be coming out later in October. I would like to thank Lamont Brown for his continued support of and work done on behalf of the BRLA.

We had fewer comments this season regarding boating safety and the shoal markers. We do however have some problems with the placement of some markers up in the Lower Rideau area. Thanks to Dr. Gordon Young for pointing out the missing and the need for extra markers in the Swan Rock and Rose Island areas. We are building new markers and will have them in for the 2011 season. Members and non-members should realize that the building, registration, placement and ongoing maintenance are costly. The building of an initial deployment cost is in the range of \$120.00 per marker and an annual maintenance cost of approximately \$30.25 per marker. All costs are covered by your BRLA membership fees, member's donations and an ongoing donation from the Rideau Lakes Environment Foundation.

With the season ending and the water getting colder, I urge anyone still using the waterways to practice Safe Boating and wear a Life Jacket or PFD when on the water. I also urge all boat users to avail themselves of the numerous companies and organizations that provide the required course or examination for your Pleasure Craft Operators Card.

Best wishes for the "Frozen Water Season,"

*Toby Spry*

### *Thanks!*

Thanks are in order to the two Dougs (Arrand and Good) for getting the siding and new windows installed. Not to be forgotten are the numerous volunteers who made 2010 a successful year for BRLA -Editor

## Treasurer's Report: Period Ending September, 2010 - Barb Keays [treasurer@brla.on.ca](mailto:treasurer@brla.on.ca)

	<b>Sep 30, 10</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Chequing/Savings</b>	
Cash on hand	9,168.08
Manulife Savings Account	<u>20,000.00</u>
<b>Total Chequing/Savings</b>	29,168.08
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Prepaid expenses	<u>2,992.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>2,992.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	32,160.08
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Furniture & equipment	<u>9,201.01</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>9,201.01</u>
	<b>41,361.09</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
Accrued liabilities	1,600.00
Deposits	<u>360.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,960.00</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,960.00</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,960.00
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	9,201.00
<b>Reserves</b>	
<b>Restricted reserves</b>	
Cow Island reserve	2,500.00
Environmental reserve	2,709.36
Special Projects reserve	<u>14,700.00</u>
<b>Total Restricted reserves</b>	19,909.36
Unrestricted reserve	<u>8,274.76</u>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	28,184.12
Retained Earnings	5,875.47

<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-3,859.50</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>39,401.09</b>
	<b>41,361.09</b>

### In Memoriam - Doreen Ross

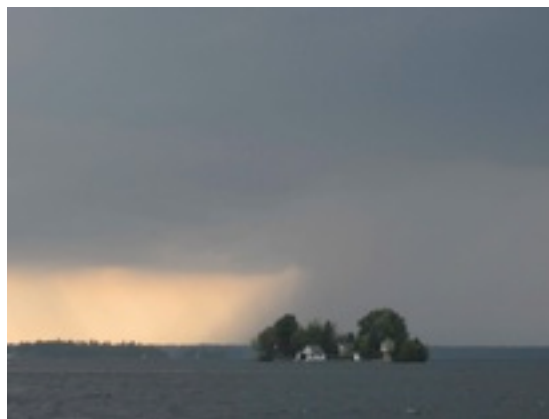
Big Rideau lost a long time cottager with the passing of Doreen Ross earlier this year. She was truly a unique and remarkable individual with a tremendous work ethic and a love of entertaining. Doreen and family cottaged on Trout Island since 1990 and at Little Boy Camp on the North Shore from 1973 until moving to Trout. She was very interested in all aspects of lake life. A past Board member of BRLA and for many years a collector of water samples for the Association. She was often the first islander on the lake in the spring and one of the last to leave in the fall. She was predeceased by her husband Glenn and is survived by her children Andrew, Heather and Graham who have spent most of their lives on the lake in the summers. She will be missed by her many friends and acquaintances around the lake.



Photo Courtesy of the Ross Family

### A Trip of a Wifetme-A (True) Tale from the Rideau by Greig Bannerman

It was one of Anne's 'big' birthdays in the summer and she decided that she wanted to travel to Ottawa on our pontoon boat, as a celebration. The actual date was the 17th



Tower Island during storm.  
Photo Courtesy of Marco Smits

August, a Tuesday. Sunday was a very wet and stormy day; the boat has little protection from the elements, and I started to think that we would not be able to make the trip. But Monday dawned bright and hot and we set off at about 7.30am, after I had festooned the boat with balloons. Anne wanted a low key celebration: the decorated boat ensured that she was wished 'happy birthday' all day. We got down to Poonamalie in plenty of time for the first locking through and our first sandwiches of the day.

And so through the lock, through Smith Falls ( where Anne was born), towards Ottawa. We were very lucky, we hardly had to wait at any of the locks and so we made good time. We had a B&B booked in Kemptville and so that was our objective. Stopped in Merrickville, where there was a wait, and had some fab. home made ice cream from a small store on the main drag. Bought some postcards and explained to the girl, in the store, that we lived in Frant, England, where Col. By lived and is buried. She was very interested as her Dad was from England.

We had deliberated, long and hard, about whether to risk the Kemptville Creek and moor at the public dock, or to leave the boat at Pirate's Cove Marina and take a cab to our B&B. Some guides and locals said that the creek can be too shallow; Wendy in the Tourist Information said she would not risk leaving the boat unsupervised. But coming from a nation of sea farers and adventurers I decided to chance it.

We docked and then had a drink in a 'creek side' bar before walking to the B&B. We were met by the charming Marie Anne who offered us a glass of champagne which we happily accepted. In England you would be lucky to get a glass of water! The accommodation. Wow! Built in the 1850s, all the original features were still there. A huge living room, just for us, and a bedroom with a four poster.

Awoke to another beautiful day and we sent off to explore Kemptville to sharpen our appetites for breakfast. Returned to the B&B at 9am, Anne said that she was popping upstairs, I said 'just come into the living room first.' Surprise, surprise, there were Angus and Amy, our children, sitting at the table. They had flown from England the day before, Alan, Anne's brother had collected them from the airport, provided overnight lodgings and then delivered them! To say that Anne was surprised was an understatement. She even shed a tear or two. Then we had a wonderful breakfast and went down to the boat (still there untouched) and the four of us continued the journey. Again not much boat traffic, all the locks again in our favour. Got told off for speeding at Hog's Back, apparently the lock master times you from the previous lock and then works out your average speed! So it was a chastened crew that arrived at Dow's Lake, where we had decided to moor for the night, more warnings of pillaging and vandalism if we left the boat downtown.

After a late lunch of hot wings, fries, wine and beer we took a cab to the Chateau Laurier where we had secured rough accommodations, for the night. Dinner was to be in their restaurant 'Wilfred's' and another surprise for Anne. There were 11 at the table, the 4 of us, plus 3 brothers and their wives/partners and a niece. Delicious dinner only marred by the failure of the cake, which I had ordered, to materialize. Have complained a couple of times but no result.

The next morning Anne and I arose quite early and had a coffee before taking a cab back to the marina where we gassed up and then completed our journey to the heart of the Nation's Capital. We moored, walked back to the Chateau where we breakfasted with Angus and Amy before setting off on our return journey.

We made really good progress and arrived at Merrickville just as the Lock was about to close for the night. The lock master said we had time to get gas and then lock through which we did. We got rooms at the Baldachin, which were strange in the main building but up a separate staircase, no breakfast included. Out for dinner Angus craved ribs, so we trailed around a bit until we found some.

Then another peaceful night, apart from the line-dancing in the room above, a very entertaining breakfast at a local diner, filled with locals! Back to the boat, for a hot and sunny trip back to our cottage. Arrived back at about 1.30pm., the heavens opened at about 4pm., rain, thunder and lightning. We were so lucky not a drop of rain on our trip, just sun, sun, sun.

As Anne wrote in her journal "what an amazing trip, I loved it all." The End.

From Jane Moore:

**How did your Family Travel to Big Rideau???** Thanks to all who have sent pictures and information for our revisited history of Big Rideau. We are looking right now for early transportation pictures: boats, trains, horses, cars - and stories if you have them (on any topic). Some families even have ice stories! Please email me at [Warwickmoore@aol.com](mailto:Warwickmoore@aol.com) to let me know, or snail mail to Jane Moore, Box 254 Portland ON, K0G 1V0.

**Oldest memories...** Lots of us have early stories about the cottage. What is yours? How many "earliest cottages" on Big Rideau are there? do you have pictures? of could you send a short paragraph?

" Cottage \_\_\_\_\_ was built in \_\_\_\_\_ by Family \_\_\_\_\_. They travelled to the Lake by ....."

Please join the written celebration of Big Rideau Lake by emailing [Warwickmoore@aol.com](mailto:Warwickmoore@aol.com) or snail mailing to Jane Moore, Box 254 Portland ON K0G 1V0

## BRLA Hosts Two Weeks of Sailing on Cow Island.

Once again BRLA sold out the Ontario Sailing Association's BOOM sailing camp on Cow Island in July -- this time for two weeks! Accredited instructors taught White Sail levels I-III to two groups of enthusiastic kids. Each class had 16 kids -- limited for safety reasons -- and some kids took both weeks.

Thanks very much to Chris Grant, Toby Spry, and Warren and Anya Hambleton, and all of the other parents for their help moving boats out to Cow Island [the kids sailed them back!], unloading and loading the OSA trailer, and helping out during the lessons, for arrivals, departures and lunch.

Each year the OSA takes reservations in November for the next year's classes. In 2011, I'm still willing to coordinate, liaise with the OSA, and host instructors on Grindstone Island. But I need to know if BRLA is interested in one week or two of Sailing Lessons.

For the past number of years we've successfully sold out a one-week session and have often had a waiting list. This year, we were able to sell out two weeks. But a number of our 'regulars' have reached White Sail III and might not be interested in the course next year.

A show of interest would be very helpful. Please email [sailing@brla.on.ca](mailto:sailing@brla.on.ca) -- by November 1, 2010 -- if you have [grand] kids interested in sailing next summer. The date is important, as it is before the OSA reservation date.

Minimum age is 8 years old [not flexible]. Fees are set on a cost-recovery basis, once we know what our charges from the OSA will be. This year it was \$275 per week. Registrations for sailing lessons are taken in the following priority: returning sailors, then siblings of returning sailor, then general registration). We also have some interest in taking Bronze levels. If anyone knows of a qualified instructor, please get in touch.

Remember to let me know before November 1 -- by email to [sailing@brla.on.ca](mailto:sailing@brla.on.ca) -- if you have [grand]kids who would like to participate in Sailing

Lessons next summer and/or you're willing to help out.

Thanks!

Jennifer Trant  
Grindstone Island



Photo Courtesy of Jordi Ben Hurst, Helm, Magnus Hambleton, Trapeze

## Save the Date!

### 2011 BRAL Events Calendar:

- Canada Day Fireworks Display-Cow Island- Friday July 1<sup>st</sup> @ dusk- Rain Date: Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- BRLA Annual General Meeting- Saturday July 2<sup>rd</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup> – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in July & August) @ 11AM.
- Annual Family Aquatic Regatta- July 30<sup>th</sup> Cow Island- swimming and canoe races, BBQ.
- Shoreline Planting Seminar Hosted by the RLEF- Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, Narrows Locks- see website for time.
- Volunteer Appreciation- Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, Cow Island- see website for time.

## Wake and Wash, Part II - Toby Spry

### Did You Know?

What is immediately on the surface after your boat passes is easy to see, although it's true force and depth may not be easy to judge. There is also danger underneath your boat.

Drawdown caused by all boats, especially in narrow channels, can be more damaging than surface wash. Combined with propeller disturbances, your boat can easily damage the bottom of the river bed, disturbing habitat as well as washing away shoreline without your knowledge. How your boat reacts with the water depends on its hull shape. All hulls, from deep vee planning hulls to displacement hulls can cause damage, depending on speed and other circumstances.

**Myth** - Planning hulls on plane create less wash and less damage.

**Fact** - On the surface, wash may have less height when the boat is on plane but the wave created is longer, faster, deeper and contains more energy. It is potentially more damaging, especially as it enters shallower water and rises above the surface.

**Myth** - Displacement hulls do not create wash that is damaging.

**Fact** - A displacement hull moving at a minimum speed causes less wash and usually of a lower height than that produced by a planing hull. However, a displacement hull may push a wave in front of it which, in narrow, shallow channels, can produce a return flow between the boat and the shore. This flow, combined with propeller-induced flow can scour the bottom and reverberate off the shoreline, causing significant damage.

### What Can I Do?

- Watch your wash. As you travel, watch behind you. If your wash is sending other boats rolling, forcing them sideways or causing occupants to scramble for a handhold or if it is crashing against the shoreline, you are creating too much wash.
- Watch out for and be considerate of small vessels such as canoes and kayaks.
- Slow down well before meeting and overtaking other boats and well before posted speed zones and narrow channels. Leave as much room as possible between you and boats you meet or overtake.
- Give special consideration while passing harvesting machines which manage vegetation growth in the navigation channel, scows maintaining aids to navigation and other vessels working in or along the canal.
- Maintain a proper look-out at all times to avoid emergency manoeuvres.

Remember that your hull shape determines the damage you cause on the surface and below the surface. All hulls can cause damage. It is your responsibility to be aware of your boat's characteristics so we can all enjoy the Rideau.



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*A Bad Day on the Lake is Better Than a Good Day in the Cube - Wisdom from Bob Van Slooten*



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