



# DriftWords

Serving the Rideau Since circa 1915, Poonamalie to Narrows Lock

what a fantastic summer!



## BITS FROM



Welcome to Driftwords **Summer 2015** edition. What a wonderful summer this has turned out to be. I hope you have taken some time to relax and enjoy our beautiful corner of the world “Big Rideau Lake”. Once again, summer started off with lights and sounds off Cow Island thanks to Mike Fraser and his hardworking volunteers. We had 5 weeks of summer day camp and 2 weeks of sailing that all the kids enjoyed. Summer sounds was once again a wonderful afternoon with friends on Cow Island on a sunny and breezy afternoon. Enjoy the rest of this wonderful summer and I hope you enjoy the latest edition of Driftwords - please submit your ideas for the winter edition. [driftwords@bigrideaulakeassociation.com](mailto:driftwords@bigrideaulakeassociation.com)



First, I thank all BRLA members on behalf of your Board

for the continued support you give this Association.

Second, I thank you personally for supporting my nomination as President at the July 4, 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

And third, I ask you to recognize and thank Doug Good for the commitment, time and energy he has given the BRLA as President these past two years - we are most grateful for his efforts.

This summer we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Association. That Anniversary will be recognized and celebrated on August 8<sup>th</sup> when we come together as a community in Portland with displays of antique and classic wooden boats, cars, tractors and motorcycles, tours highlighting the historic buildings in the area, breakfast and lunch put on by the local churches, a sailboat regatta and yes, a beer and wine tent to quench your thirst. Please check our website, [www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com](http://www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com), for details, times and locations.

As we start our second century we face challenges and opportunities, both of which I am excited to explore.

- I believe we must identify and embrace the ever-changing composition and expectations of our lake community so as to be more inclusive of everyone using its precious resources.
- We will visit our core values and programmes to make sure we pass on to future generations a vital and sustainable resource.

- We will look at every programme and expenditure we make in the context of “Does it support our mandate and is it sustainable”.
- We need your input and will be asking for your input.
- Please tell us what you think about ideas presented and offer new perspectives for us to consider.

I have great faith in the commitment and expertise of your Board of Directors and look forward to working with them to carry out this review. The list of Board members, along with their positions, is available at <http://www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com/members.cfm>

In the Environment Committee’s Report in this issue, you will find an excellent and concise explanation of legal actions recently undertaken by the BRLA in the matter of a recent Township of Rideau Lakes Committee of Adjustment decision. While the previous Board initiated this action, the current Board endorses this and supports the further actions required to pursue it to its end. Please familiarize yourself with this issue because if left unchallenged, it will set a precedent which could have serious negative implications for the entire BRLA community.

Legal costs in matters involving the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) can be intimidating and we have already taken steps, with the support of the Rideau Lake Environmental Foundation (RLEF), to mitigate them. If you agree with our actions in this matter, we ask for your additional financial support by making a tax deductible donation to the RLEF. If you are not familiar with the process to do this, please contact me for details.

**Executive**  
President and Treasurer, Brian Hawkins  
Vice President, *Vacant*  
Secretary, Mary Sue Evans

**Directors**  
Communications & Website  
Lyse Prendergast  
Environment, Buzz Boles  
Government Affairs, Doug Kirkland  
Membership, John Callan  
Marine Safety, Toby Spry  
Representing Adam Lake, Fred Godard  
Director, Bill Belanger  
Director, Mary Ann Calzonetti  
Past President, Doug Good  
Director, Caitlin Orbanek

**Program Coordinators**  
Driftwords/Recreation,  
Beth Evans  
Cow Island, Doug Arrand  
Regatta, Dunlop Family  
Sailing, Jennifer Kelly  
RLEF, Michael Peterson  
Fireworks, Michael Fraser



Finally, I need your help!

As president, I must relinquish my responsibilities as Treasurer. Please consider taking on that Treasurer’s responsibility yourself or recommend someone you believe would be a good candidate. We need a working familiarity with bookkeeping using QuickBooks accounting software and its associated data base. I will be pleased to talk to you personally about the position – simply contact me by email or phone, as detailed below.

I look forward to the coming year working with all of you.

Sincerely  
*Brian Hawkins*  
President/Treasurer, BRLA  
(613) 878-4212  
[president@bigrideaulakeassociation.com](mailto:president@bigrideaulakeassociation.com)



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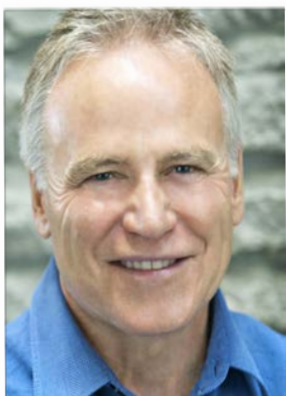
**MEMBERSHIP**

**Good news!**

Our family memberships as of July 23rd are 265 which is the total number of family members we had for 2014. Given that 2015 is our Association’s 100th year anniversary, our goal is 300 family members-we have just 35 to go! Can you please help us reach our goal by asking your neighbours and lake friends to join or renew their membership.

As you know, your Association’s ongoing programmes/ events rely, primarily, on membership revenue. Thank you for your assistance.

*John Callan,*  
Membership Director, BRLA



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## MARINE SAFETY

As of this date we have not removed the lights that some people have put on a few of our Shoal Buoys - as I had stated at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This will be done shortly.

This time of year we have many new boaters and visitors to our lake. Please keep an eye out for anyone in trouble or causing problems in your area. Remember that only an individual can lay a complaint to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), if there is a boater causing damage or acting recklessly on the water.

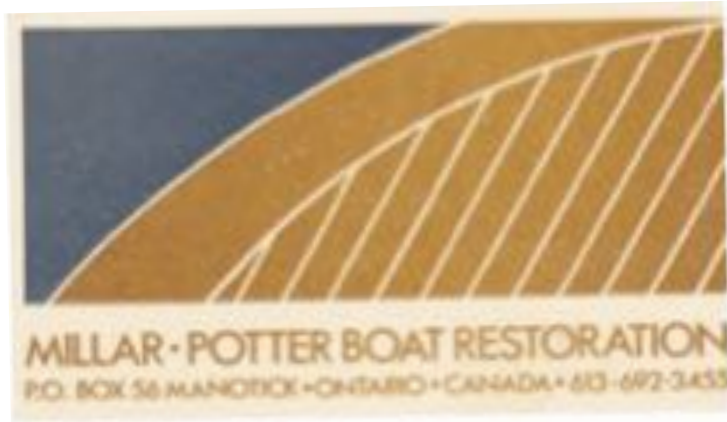
During the 100th Anniversary on August 8<sup>th</sup>, we expect additional boater on the lake, especially the Antique Boaters. Please be courteous on the water. These boats are the love child of the owner and can be very expensive to repair if damaged. Please give special attention to the docks in Portland during the Boat show.

Also on the 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a sailboat regatta on the lake. All are invited, but again power boaters are urged to remember they MUST give way to sail.

We have repaired and replaced a number of buoys since the season started. If you notice any adrift or in need of attention, please do not hesitate in contacting the [BRLA](#) so that we can attend to the problem as soon as possible.

Safe boating to all.

*Toby Spry*  
BRLA  
Maine Safety





**BRLA'S 100th ANNIVERSARY**

**Big Rideau Lake Association  
100th Anniversary**

**AUGUST  
8**

*Our Lake- Our Legacy*



**Celebrate with a full day of activities in Portland!**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

Antique Boat Show - Manotick Antique and Classic Boat Club as well as lake residents bring together a collection of vintage boats and motors, featuring local Dowsett Boatworks

Narrated wagon ride tours of the village

Historical displays by Portland Historical Society

Sailing Regatta - Open to all sailboats, on timed course between Portland and Big Island

Displays of classic cars, motorcycles and tractors

Breakfast served at Community Hall by Emmanuel Anglican Church, from 8 - 10:30 am (\$7 adult, \$5 child)

Lunch served at Community Hall by Portland United Church, from noon - 2 pm (\$10 adult, \$5 child)

Polar Bear BBQ Grill, from noon - 3 pm

Beer and Wine Tent, 11 am - 4 pm

Kids' activities, music and much more!

**For details & updates:**

[www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com](http://www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com)



**Expanded Public Parking and Docking Provided in Portland**

*Many thanks to our supporters:*

*Buzzz's Honey*

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*Emmanuel Anglican Church*

*Magnotta Winery*

*Michael Doxey Pottery*

*Perth Brewing*

*Polar Bear BBQ*

*Portland Historical Society*

*Portland United Church*

*Scott Sign Works*



Parks Canada

Parcs Canada



## SUMMER SOUNDS

July 11th was a beautiful warm breezy day out at Cow Island. The Cowan family arranged another wonderful afternoon raising money for the upkeep of Cow Island. Once again we had lovely music and some yummys for young and old to enjoy. Thank you from the BRLA for your contributions.



## BRLA APPEALS TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT DECISION

On May 27, 2015, the Township's Committee of Adjustment approved Application # A-8-2015, allowing three variances on what must be one of the smallest waterfront lots on Big Rideau Lake (.24 acres). Of particular concern was the Committee's conclusion that an 8 metre setback for the proposed new dwelling would be adequate when a 30 metre setback is the minimum normally required by the Township's Official Plan and Zoning By-law. It also reduced the proposed sewage disposal system setback to only 15 metres.

Before the Committee of Adjustment made its decision, it circulated the proposal to the technical agencies for review and comment. The Rideau Waterfront Review Team advised against the reduction and concluded that the soil, slope and vegetation conditions warranted a 40 metre setback! The Committee of Adjustment ignored this recommendation.

Several delegations appeared at the Committee of Adjustment hearings on this matter, including BRLA representatives. Only the applicant spoke in favour.

The Committee voted 4 to 2 to approve the application. Voting in favour were Mayor Ron Holman, Ron Pollard (North Crosby), Arie Hoogenboom (South Elmsley) and Cathy Monck (Newboro). Voting against were Cathy Livingston (Bastard & South Burgess) and Linda Carr (South Crosby).

The recently completed Rideau Lakes Sub-watershed Report 2014 is a "report card" on the current condition of the upper watershed.

These updates are completed every five years. It reveals continuing challenges to the environmental health of these lakes. Big Rideau is better off than Upper Rideau and Lower Rideau but care is needed in the way development and redevelopment is carried out if the lakes are to receive the protection they deserve.

The BRLA Board voted unanimously to appeal the Committee of Adjustment decision to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). It did not make this decision lightly. Nor does the Board plan to make a habit of this. The Board supports good development and redevelopment which minimizes impacts on the lake. But sometimes, a lot is just too small to adequately support residential development. This is one of them.

The local press has reported that Township representatives see nothing wrong with this Committee of Adjustment decision and plan to spend your tax dollars to support it at the OMB. If the decision is allowed to stand, we can probably expect more decisions like it, anywhere in the Township.

A number of concerned lake residents have already expressed their support for the action taken by BRLA and have made cash donations to RLEF to help pay for this appeal. Additional support is welcomed, as soon as possible. Please identify your donation as a contribution to the lake defence fund.

Environment Committee

*Environment Committee*

## BRLA TREASURER'S REPORT

### 2014

We finished the 2014 fiscal year with a disappointing, but not surprising, \$6,739 shortfall, with expenditures exceeding revenue, and a correspondingly weaker balance sheet.

Our 2014 records have been audited, financial statements have been accepted and issued and the 2014 tax return has been filed with and assessed by the CRA.

To see the auditor's full report, please login to the members' page of the BRLA website, [www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com](http://www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com) and follow the links.

### 2015

As stated at the AGM on July 4th, the current year has improved modestly from last year but we do continue to deal with funding, revenue and expense challenges.

The current year to date numbers compared to the same date last year, show an improving Profit & Loss as we have reduced expenses and our membership drive has brought members back in to the Association after several years of absence.

Because we do not have final bills for shoal markers removal after Thanksgiving and the remainder of taxes on Cow Island, it is hard to forecast our expected year end position.

My best estimate is that we're likely to see another shortfall this year, hopefully not in excess of \$4,000.

Again, I must assure everyone that while challenges continue, **your BRLA is not at risk of insolvency or even of failing to meet its immediate obligations.**

The new Board's challenge is to stop the bleeding to re-establish our solid financial heritage.

Finally I do ask for your help in finding a suitable candidate to take over as Treasurer for the balance of the year.

It is important that that transition take place soon so that I can focus on my new responsibilities as President.

If you want to know more about what is involved or want to recommend someone for the position, please contact me directly at [treasurer@bigrideaulakeassociation.com](mailto:treasurer@bigrideaulakeassociation.com)

*Brian Hawkins*

Treasurer

*Julia Scotland* Broker  
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## Wanted

Director of Marine Safety  
 Vice President  
 Treasurer  
 Day Camp Counsellor for summer 2016 (paid position)

Please email [info@bigrideaulakeassociation.com](mailto:info@bigrideaulakeassociation.com) and come join our team.

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## BOBBI BUOY - THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES



After a wonderful summer on the Cataraqui River. The fall came and went. The cottagers closed up their cottages and went away. Once again,

I was left alone and in the cold water. During a storm my chain broke and I was flowing with the river. Before the Rideau Canal Locks closed for the season, I floated through the River Styx and into the Lower Brewers Lock and out the other side. I ended up in Colonel By Lake when it froze. Colonel By Lake, part of the Cataraqui River was formed by the building of the locks and dam at Kingston Mills.

It was a long cold winter and I was happy when spring sprung. The boaters were back travelling through the locks and I travelled along with several boats into the upper lock

at Kingston Mills. Once out of that lock, we were in a turning basin before we enter into another set of three locks. When the final door opened, I was bobbing along the Cataraqui River again. The weather was sunny and warm. I was happy to be free, but was still missing the Big Rideau Lake and Cow Island.

I was floating along the marshlands and notice the big highway 401. It is 6.7 metres high and was built in the late 1950s. It sounds very strange when I was under this big bridge. The next thing I know, I am in an urban area. There are homes with docks along the shore. I am in Kingston. I see Old Fort Henry.

to be continued.....



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## SAILING AND DAY CAMP ON COW ISLAND

This year we once again booked two weeks of sailing camp due to the demand over the last few years. Unfortunately we were unable to fill the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. The kids that attended did well and were lucky with some nice winds. The day camp was very busy all July. Filled most days with kids from all corners of the lake. Some of the highlights were hot dog roast, tight rope walking, s'mores, Papier-mâché and tie dye. Hope to see all these happy campers again next summer.







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## BRLA - DISCOVER WHAT WE ARE AND TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURS

When I joined the Board of the Big Rideau Lake Association 2 years ago, I did not know that this organization provided the shoal markers that are so important to the boaters on this lake. I wonder how many other cottage residents have the same limited perspective on this great community organization.

I bring this to attention because the oldest organization on the Rideau lakes is facing some financial difficulties. Membership has not kept pace with the increase in expenses. Few of the yacht owners are members. The number of boats watching the BRLA Fireworks last year represented about three times the membership. The Fireworks are only supported by federal grants if they occur on Canada Day. Due to the fact that many people tend to be at the lake on weekends much of the season, the Big Rideau Lake Association foots the bill for the total cost. Thankfully a member who is certified to manage such activities volunteers his time.

But how do we reach the members of this widespread community? I like to say the street we all live on is very wide and very wet. The BRLA has an excellent website and publication (Driftwords) but these reach the membership primarily.

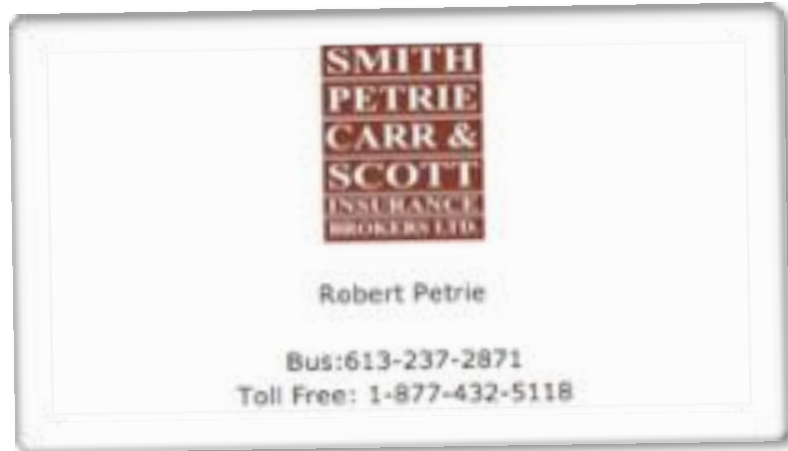
My efforts this year will be to attract those who are not members, make them aware of the services and opportunities that we provide, many of which they take advantage of without helping to cover the cost.

The BRLA focuses considerable attention on water quality and the environment as well as providing social events. The Family Regatta is a fun time with some of the most comical races for kids and adults that I have ever witnessed. It is scheduled for August first.

As the sign says. "Become a member, Pay your \$hare"

Check out our [website](#).

*Bill Belanger*  
Director





**AROUND THE LAKE**

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If you would like to share a special birthday, anniversary, or cottage event in Driftwords, please contact: [driftwords@bigrideaulakeassociation.com](mailto:driftwords@bigrideaulakeassociation.com)