



100th Anniversary

Driftwords

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waiting for summer

BITS FROM BETH

Welcome to Driftwords **Spring 2015** edition. This summer marks the BRLA's 100th Anniversary. We have some special plans, so read on and mark your calendars. I would love to hear from you, with your ideas for driftwords driftwords@bigrideaulakeassociation.com



Are you excited yet? I am, spring is in the air and we're going to have a great year. We've got a birthday party to go to. The Big Rideau Lake Association is going to celebrate its 100th Anniversary of serving and protecting Big Rideau Lake. Some of the Board likely wonder why I have been thinking and planning this event with so much excitement.

Well I have had six years to think and plan. I originally suggested a celebration back in 2009, when I noted on some of the Association sign boards "since 1911". That bubble got broken when Jayne Moore who had authored "Rideau Passages" the history of the first 50 years of the Association stated that she could only trace the BRLA's history back to 1922. Then about two years ago when Diane Hamilton walked into a historical display at Hanna Park with a trophy from the 1915, Big Rideau Lakes Aquatic and Protective Association, your Association knew it as a firm date. The date actually may have been earlier as there was a reference according to Ed Bebee, author of a number of books dealing with fishing and fish tales along the Rideau, mentioning that one of the editions of the 1914 Ottawa Citizen had reported the "Associations" involvement with stocking salmon fry in Big Rideau Lake.

Just think, 1914 or 1915 doesn't matter, you are in the middle of the Great War, the railway has just come into Portland, you still have steamer service from Smiths Falls, and you have a group of individuals who have the foresight to form an organization to serve and protect the lake, yet at the same time to organize and promote some fun on/in the lake.

Fast forwarding some years to the 1930s, you have the great depression or at the end of the decade you have the rumblings of the Second World War, and again the Association at that time had the foresight to institute a "shoal marker buoy" program, which for decades has been the envy of many other lake associations. It sure beats plastic jugs.

I am certain some of you reading this message will remember the old house/cottage on Cow Island, and the movie nights that took place there. The old building was more or less condemned because of bats in the attic as I understand it. That subsequently led to the construction of the existing building. However, in getting from A to B a very significant item occurred and that was the incorporation of your Association in 1968. Without being incorporated the BRLA could not own property and assets, therefore to construct the new (existing) facility on Cow Island it made sense to incorporate.

The 1980's were a challenge to your Association when 75 Three Buoy houseboats were dropped into the lake to operate out of the Muskrat Hole on the north shore. Lake residents had concerns about pollution, noise, and safety issues. I have to say in retrospect, many of the concerns, though well founded, never came about as all of the boats were never on the lake at the same time: basically because houseboat rentals never seemed to take off as much as Three Buoys had hoped/anticipated.

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Con't from page 1

The early 90's were another challenge with water quality becoming a major issue. Pollution on the Upper Rideau, wow doesn't that sound familiar, being the main issue. The problems encountered there resulted in the Rideau Lakes Capacity study, which in turn resulted in guidelines being determined for development on lakes and set backs from the lakes. You may be interested to know that fast forwarding to today, a report entitled "Assessment of Municipal Site Evaluation Guidelines for Waterfront Development in Eastern Ontario's Lake Country" (Hutchinson Environmental Sciences, 2014) was recently released confirming the findings of that original study. The Rideau Valley, Mississippi Valley and Cataraqui Conservation Authorities are proposing the updated guidelines be adopted.

The 90's and the concern about the environment also brought about the formation of the 'Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation', a non profit charitable foundation. When they receive your donation they can issue you a tax receipt. The Foundation can support environmental projects but can not be a proponent of the project under the Canadian

Income Tax Act. Your Association has therefore re-established the Environmental Committee to review/monitor and advise on issues that affect the environmental condition of our lake.

The love for Big Rideau Lake motivated our forefathers to form an organization to the Protect and Serve "Our Lake", I trust that we have carried that stewardship responsibility forward throughout our term, and we now we look for those to pick up the torch as we enter the second century.

As you read though this edition of "Driftwords" you will note that not is all smooth sailing and there are new challenges. Your Association needs your help, with your membership and your neighbours on both sides, as well as anyone else you know on the Lake. Without those memberships and extra donations the shoal marker program and other BRLA activities are under major financial pressure. So please renew your membership.

As we are about to start our second century, there are two groups whom I feel need special mention:

The first are those, who over the decades, have given of their time and effort to form the EXECUTIVE of the various incarnations of Big Rideau Lake Association. They have given of their time and talents to ensure that the BRLA not only continued, but was a leader for cottage associations throughout the Province. To all the past and current executive - THANK YOU.

The second group is you the MEMBERS, by maintaining your membership you have shown your love for the lake and the preservation of its beauty and mesmerizing attraction. There are families that are on their third generation of being members of this association, because the lake is like a member of the family. To all current and past members - Thank You, you have helped preserve our lake and to ensure its environmental quality for the future.

The Calendar says Spring is in the air, but today I still saw a vehicle driving on the lake, maybe we'll get summer, by July?

Doug

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PORTLAND DOCKS

Among the Big Rideau Lake cottagers there are a number who are concerned about the docking space in Portland, and I am asking for your input and suggestions. I appreciate their concerns and frustration because apparently the need to address the docking in Portland has been on the table for a number of years with “nothing happening”.

This year there was a figure of \$50,000 in the “if money was available” column of the Township proposed budget, which with trying to keep tax increase after the hit from the OPP costing model and current Township debt load wasn't likely. However, given the background of how the \$50K was derived, I couldn't support moving the monies into this years expenditures. The \$50K was developed by using the bids received for two docks at Newboro and putting this figure in the budget as being appropriate for Portland. Having been around Portland and the docks and seeing the effect of the north winds for more then a couple of decades,

any docks for Portland have to be specifically planned, designed and built for Portland.

The condition of the existing dock was examined last year and its my understanding the findings of the condition was that it was generally fairly sound. So I believe any discussion about additional dockage in Portland is based on extension to the current existing dock. Many lake users have said what a great job one of our neighbouring municipalities have done in installing new dockage, we can only work to ensure that we do as well.

When we talk about planning we need to try and determine the amount of additional capacity, the potential use (more transient cruisers, day trippers, loading/unloading by cottagers etc.), the best layout, and the impacts on adjoining residences and businesses. Designed for protection of vessels, safety of the dock users and contribute to the desire to wanting to visit/

stay in Portland. As I stated earlier any dock built for Portland has to be able to stand up to strong north winds, that doesn't just mean the visible part, but the anchoring system to hold the dock(s) in place. An overriding factor that cannot be forgotten is the economics of investing tax payer dollars into expansion of this facility and the “dollar return” versus “service factor”.

To move the issue forward from the “nothing happening” to at least commencing the “planning stage”, I would like to hear your thoughts and ideas of what, why, and how the docks in Portland should be extended. I invite you to contact me at doug.good.rideaulakes@gmail.com.

Wearing my other hat as:

Doug Good

Councillor, Township of Rideau Lakes

Summer 2015	
What's going on?	When?
107 BRLA shoal marker buoys installed for the season	By May Long Weekend
Canada Day Fireworks	June 27, - Dusk
Kids Day Camp	June 29 - July 31 Monday - Friday 9-noon
Annual General Meeting Portland Community Hall	July 4
Sailing Camp	July 6-10 - Week 1 July 13-17 - Week 2
Summer Sounds	July 11 - book your tickets \$25 per couple, \$15 per person
100th Anniversary Celebrations	August 8

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SAFETY TIPS

No matter how much experience you have, it's always a good idea for everyone to review boating safety rules before departures. Read below to familiarize yourself with these 10 basic boating safety tips:

Be Weather-wise

Always check local weather conditions before departure- TV and radio forecasts can be a good source of information. If you notice darkening clouds, volatile and rough changing winds, or sudden drops in temperature, play it safe by getting off the water.

Follow a Pre-Departure Checklist

Proper boating safety means being prepared for any possibility on the water. From compliance with fire safety regulations to tips for fuelling up, following a pre-departure checklist is the best way to make sure no boating safety rules or precautions have been forgotten.

Get your Pleasure Craft Operator Card

Your Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) is a bit like a driver's licence and once you have your PCOC it's yours for life. The PCOC is mandatory for anyone operating a pleasure craft with any type of motor, and the operator should be sure to have their original PCOC card "on board". There are a lot of options for your get your PCOC card and you can find a list by visiting the following link: [BOATING COURSES - SAFETY EDUCATION, OPERATION INSTRUCTION & MORE](#) and to get to a current list of Transport Canada approved course providers. You can take the test from any of these approved companies and once you pass, they will provide you with your PCOC.

Use Common Sense

One of the most important parts of boating safety is to know the rules and to use your common sense. This means operating at a safe speed at all times, especially in crowded areas. Be alert at all times, and steer clear of large vessels and watercraft that can be restricted in their ability to stop or turn. Also be respectful of buoys and other navigational aids, all of which have been placed there for one reason only- to ensure your own boating safety.

Designate an Assistant Skipper

Make sure more than only one person on board is familiar with all aspects of your boat's handling, operations, and other boating safety tips. If the primary navigator is injured or incapacitated in any way, it's important to make sure someone else can follow the proper boating safety rules to get everyone else back to shore. Remember that anyone operating the boat must have their PCOC.

Develop a Float Plan

Whether you choose to inform a family member or staff at your local marina, always be sure to let someone else know your float plan. This should include where you're going and how long you're going to be gone.

A float plan can include the following information: name, address, and phone number of trip leader; name and phone number of all passengers; boat type and registration information; trip itinerary; and types of communication and signal equipment onboard.

Make Proper Use of Lifejackets

Did you know that the majority of drowning victims resulting from boating accidents were found not to be wearing a lifejacket (also called a personal flotation device or PFD)? Make sure that your family and friends aren't part of this statistic by assigning and fitting each member of your onboard team with a lifejacket-prior to departure.

Don't Mix Alcohol and Boating

Practise boating safety at all times by saving the alcohol for on land. The probability of being involved in a boating accident doubles when alcohol is involved, and studies have also shown that external effects such as sun and wind exacerbate the affect of alcohol.

Just like driving under the influence, boating under the influence of alcohol is an offense under the Criminal Code of Canada. If you are planning to consume alcohol on your boat, then in most provinces you must be anchored and have permanent sleeping, kitchen and toilet facilities on board. Check with the appropriate provincial authorities (OPP for Ontario) for carriage restrictions.

Learn to Swim

If you're going to be in and around the water, proper boating safety means knowing how to swim. Local organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross and others offer training for all ages and abilities - check to see what classes are offered in your area.

Take a Boating Course

Beginning boaters and experienced experts alike need be familiar with boating safety rules of operation. In addition to the mandatory PCOC for any boat operator, you should also consider additional courses so that you can boat with confidence. It's always important to be educated, aware and prepared for every circumstance that might arise.

Toby Spry

Marine Safety



BRLA'S 100th ANNIVERSARY



You are all invited to be a part of the BRLA's 100th birthday celebration. A subcommittee of the Board of Directors is working on ideas to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Association. Currently we are concentrating on two (2) dates. July 4th, the date for the Annual General Meeting, and August 8th a date which came out of discussion with others for the proposed event.

Some of the events currently being considered for August 8th, and subject to change, are:

- Antique and Classic Boat Show, featuring Dowsett Boats that were build in Portland, but all wooden and classic boats are welcome.
- Antique and Classic Cars, one person is planning to bring his 1915 Ford.
- Antique and Classic Motoreycles
- Antique Tractors
- Dragon Boat Races
- Historical Walking Tour
- Display by Portland Historical Society: the Historical Society has been offered the opportunity to display the tools used by Dowsett boat works, plus they are working to assemble other materials.
- Sailboat Regatta

Your invitation is in two parts:

- a. If you have a wooden boat please consider being part of the antique boat show, and this is open to all makes and models of boat, as we wish to show the rich history and role these craft have played on our lake. Also if you have memorabilia or history of the Big Rideau Lake predecessor associations, photos etc. please let us know as we work to assemble history of the association, the village, and Dowsett Boat Works. We would like to know if your cottage has been around for the century that the association(s) has been in existence.
- b. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan on attending as we celebrate 100 years of an association that has worked to serve and protect our great lake.

BRLA Anniversary Sub-Committee

10 EASY STEPS TO TURN YOUR COTTAGE INTO A CHILDREN'S CAMP!

So, you're thinking....hmm....there's no point in sending my child to camp when we have a cottage with all the amenities! At Camp Otterdale, we believe that camp life compliments cottage life. But, if you want to emulate a full on Camp experience, here are a few tips to consider:

1. Hire and train qualified Youth Leaders to teach swimming, canoeing, sailing, kayaking, tripping, archery, climbing, fencing, campfire making, and all sorts of activities, safely and with enthusiasm!
2. Design and develop outdoor evening programs that children from age 7-16 will love. Capture the Flag, Stones, Float the Camp, Casino Night, Baseball, Dances, Skit Nights, Open Mike, Mario Party, Counsellor Hunt, Sardines, Camp Float ...just to name a few to get you started
3. Learn at least 100 camp songs AND the accompanying hand gestures.
4. Buy a large bell to rally the camp, morning, noon and evening!
5. Do you know what a Wannagin is? You better find out! You're going to need a few for overnight campouts.
6. Prepare to spend 1-3 nights out with a group of 8 kids....from helping them roll their sleeping bags to

packing the ingredients for meals. Don't forget the matches!

7. Prepare the menu and meals for 120 campers and 60 hungry staff. Take note! They will be hungrier than you think after a full day of physical activity and fresh air!
8. Unplug. Let the imagination, creativity and inner quiet commence....
9. Organize all the final days sports challenges.....sailing regatta, canoe race, distance swim, triathlon, ping pong tourney.
10. Be spontaneous and go with the flow!

As much as Cottage life promotes memorable family time, Camp promotes memorable friendship time. To be around other kids, while being challenged by new activities, while learning more about how we fit into the nature around us, while growing and stretching beyond comfort zones, Camp Otterdale invites your children to become independent creative thinkers with new personal skills that will last a lifetime.

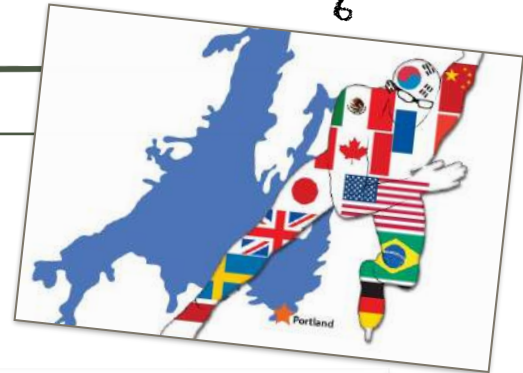
So instead of trying to replicate a camp at your cottage, we at Camp Otterdale invite you to consider sending your child to us for a couple of weeks this summer! We promise it will be an experience and investment for a lifetime!

SKATE THE LAKE #11. A COMPLETE SUCCESS!

It was a beautiful day on January 24, 2015. Matthew and I drove up to Portland to see what was going on. We picked up a friend along the way - big beautiful Bear. Blue was happy to have the company. We saw lots of activity on the water front. There was food, a hockey rink, curling, and a great big fire to get warmed up. The oval looked beautiful and we were lucky to see Marco Smits cross the finish line. We had a great afternoon out on Big Rideau.

If you are interested in the outcome, visit the following website: [Skate The Lake 2015](http://SkateTheLake2015)

*Beth & Matthew Evans
(Blue & Bear)*



Here is a shot taken at Skate the lake. They cut out a block of ice that looked odd and a 2 to 3 lb pike was partially frozen into it. It had been injured along one side

BRLA ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In December 2014 the BRLA Board of Directors invited Buzz Boles to join the association and to take care of the environmental portfolio. After some discussion it was decided to reconvene an environmental issues subcommittee. A small group met in early March 2015 to focus on and tackle some pressing environmental issues and to chart a path forward. Buzz Boles was named Chair of the EISC by the Board of Directors and President of the BRLA, Peter Hannah and Roy Sampson, all of Portland, as subcommittee members.

A number of environmental issues were identified at the inaugural meeting. It was decided to tackle three issues for starters and have caretakers on behalf of the committee. Files on each issue were identified. Peter Hannah will take care of Big Rideau Lake's water quality file, Roy Sampson will cover off bass fishing derbies and related environmental

impacts to Big Rideau Lake, and Buzz Boles will cover off looking at the increasing impacts of cormorants on Big Rideau Lake.

The EISC is hoping to expand its membership. If you have an interest in participating in the committee and are a BRLA member, please contact the chairperson at buzzzzz@live.ca for further information.

Buzz Boles
Environment

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A quick and easy way to renew your BRLA membership is through our website. Currently, you can pay by PayPal or by cheque when renewing online.

1. Click on "Login" in the upper right corner of the Home page, or go to the Current Members page.
2. After logging in, you will see several options under "Administration" on the left side of the page. To renew your membership, choose "Membership Information".
3. This screen shows the status of your membership, and includes options for a variety of donations to the BRLA. If you have not yet renewed for this year, your membership will show as "Valid until 2015".
4. If it is time for you to renew, choose payment method and click "Renew".
5. If paying by PayPal, you will be transferred to the PayPal site to make your payment. You can complete this transaction or continue shopping – which in this case means making one or more donations to BRLA activities and programs back on the "Membership Information" page. Once you finalize your payments, you will be notified that your transaction was successful, and your membership status will be updated to "Valid until 2016".
6. If paying by cheque, you will be notified that your membership has been successfully renewed immediately after you press "Renew", and your status will be updated to "Valid until 2016". Please mail your cheque, including any donations you would like to make to BRLA programs, to our mailing address; we must receive payment within 30 days for your renewal to be confirmed.

What if I don't know my Login Information

If you have forgotten or misplaced your login information, click "Login" on the top right corner of the Home page or go to the Current Members page. Click "Forgot Password" on the left side of the page and follow the steps. You will be asked for the email address associated with your account, and a temporary password will then be emailed to you. Once you have logged in, please change the temporary password to one of your own choosing, under "Settings" on the left side of the page.

What if I don't want to pay by PayPal or cheque?

If you would like to pay by Visa, we suggest you print out a copy of the membership form, complete it with your Visa information and return it. There is a membership form included in this issue of Driftwords and is also posted on website in several places, including the Current Members page. If you would like to make other arrangements for payment (such as Interac e-transfer), contact Treasurer Brian Hawkins at treasurer@bigrideaulakeassociation.com.

What if I have trouble with the online payment system?

Contact Lyse Prendergast at communications@bigrideaulakeassociation.com if you have any questions or difficulties doing your renewal through the website.

Lyse Prendergast

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BRLA TREASURER'S REPORT

2014

2014 was a very trying year for our association as we ended with a revenue shortfall of roughly \$8,000, slightly less than the mid-season forecast at last summer's AGM.

Thankfully, we continue to have a strong Balance Sheet with the resources required to weather the current revenue shortfall.

The auditors currently are reviewing our books as they prepare our 2014 financial statements and tax returns.

These will be completed in time to file our tax return before June 30th and to present the final 2014 statements to your approval at our AGM in July.

2015

We begin the current season with cautious optimism, as we have worked hard to reduce expenses and increase revenues.

The biggest questions remain on the revenue side as we wait for:

- Membership renewals and new members joining the BRLA
- Member donations over and above the annual \$60 fee.
- Heritage Canada's response to our funding application to support our Canada Day Fireworks programme.

Your membership committee has reached out by email, regular mail and telephone to all members since 2013 requesting their generous participation this year in our Association. Our 2015 budget calls for a 17% increase in revenue and a 3% decrease in expenses, from reduced spending on the website, fireworks, membership brochures and advertising. If attained, this will deliver a \$1,500 excess of revenue over expenses.

The final results are now dependant on all of us working together to grow our membership and donation bases.

Thank you for your continued support.

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Fireworks
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 Now you see them.... Now you don't!
 On the Canada Day weekend, we produce a half hour fireworks spectacle.
 Without your financial support, it may not be there next year.
 Go to www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com to find out how you can help.

RIDEAU RECIPES - AMAZING WHITE CHICKEN CHILI

Our family begins a count down to cottage opening on January 1st each year. We estimate ice out to be April 16 (just cuz we picked it) and count from there. This year, as of March 2nd, there are 47 more days until we open the cottage. Which means my mind begins to wander to what we will need to pack for that trip. And that, invariably, begins with food.

Some of our favourite cottage memories seem to involve food and friends and family. Brunches, cocktails and snacks, theme dinners, great grilling, potlucks – all part of our cottage experiences. I try to always have something on hand that can stretch further than planned or get whipped up in a jiffy for unexpected guests. Grocery stores aren't that close by, and after a 4 hour drive up from Rochester, NY, the last thing I want to do is go back to town for a grocery run. Our cottage is boat access only, so it's no quick trip to get groceries. Planning meals has become a skill that I practice all cottage season long.

Recipe:

16 oz canned white beans
 2 large onions, chopped
 1 stick butter
 ¼ cup flour
 ¾ cup chicken broth
 2 cups ½ & ½
 1 tsp Tabasco
 1.5 tsp chili powder, + extra to season chicken
 1 tsp. ground cumin
 .5 tsp salt
 .5 tsp pepper
 (2) 4oz cans of whole, mild green chilies, drained & chopped
 5 boneless chicken breasts
 extra butter and oil to cook chicken
 1.5 cup grated Monterey Jack cheese
 ½ cup sour cream

Heat large skillet and add some oil & butter. Season chicken breasts with salt and pepper, chili powder. Brown 5 minutes, flip. Cool; shred.

Opening weekend always poses more practical challenges such as hooking up the water and cleaning up messes from wintering critters. The last thing you want to do is spend a lot of time cooking. But when you need to eat, you want it delicious and nourishing to energize you for that next round of opening work!



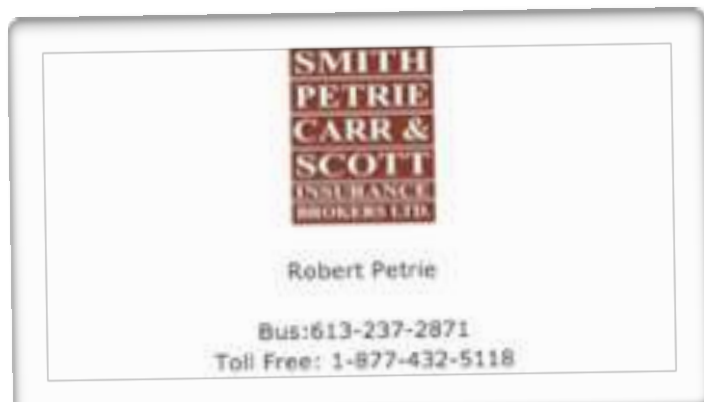
We are going to do a “make ahead” recipe that I’ll make ahead of time and bring up to reheat. The flavours seem to get better the second time around anyway. I’ll probably make a double batch and then be able to freeze leftovers for another meal on another weekend. By itself it’s a complete meal.

Cook onion in same pan, with 2tbsp butter, until softened. In heavy pot, large enough to hold all ingredients, melt remaining 6 TBSP butter & whisk in flour. Cook roux, stirring constantly, about 3 min. Stir in onion and gradually add broth, ½ & ½, whisking the whole time. Bring to boil, then simmer, stirring constantly, about 5 minutes. Stir in Tabasco, chili powder, cumin, salt and pepper. Add beans, chilis, cooked chicken, and cheese. Cook 20 min. Add sour cream.

Serve with toppings: crumbled corn bread, shredded cheese, sour cream, crushed tortilla chips, whatever you like! Good luck on opening weekend!

Kathryn Orbanek

Redwing Lodge, Big Rideau Lake



CORMORANTS...WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR? [A PROS AND CONS RANT]

A month ago someone said this [*above title*] to me in the context of the swelling numbers for the past decade or more of cormorants on Big Rideau Lake. As a resident and keen user of the lake and as a biologist it set me thinking in many directions

Cormorants!!.....they eventually kill all the trees and ground vegetation where they nest and drive away most other birds and small animals. Their excessive guano pollutes [and enriches?] the nearby nearly pristine waters of the lake and they probably eat a lot of fish too! Yep! ...pretty undesirable to many people..... but not all people.

Cormorants have been part of the web of life of NE North America for eons [a web of life that mankind has in so many ways altered and in places unbalanced]. Their graceful low level sorties over the water are a delight to behold for some. And then there are those underwater flying/ swimming dives of up to 20 m. in depth, showing them to be not only masters of the air but also their underwater environs.....a flight design engineer's dream. [I wonder if the Wright brothers watched cormorants skim the waters of the east coast and then took that sight as some added fuel for their keen aviation imaginations? I guess we will never know.]

It seems to me that all types of creatures have a place and use in this world and nature's web of life....including cormorants.

The problem is that cormorant numbers have grown from an endangered species status of only a few hundred survivors after

widespread organochlorine pesticide poisoning in Ontario and the rest of North America [this also happened to many other raptorial and fish eating birds]. With the abolition of organochlorine pesticides, and the cormorant becoming an officially protected species, they have grown in numbers to many tens of thousands of individuals in dozens of cormorant colonies naturally established over the last 2-3 decades and significantly impacting the waterside environment of different lakes in Ontario

Cormorant populations seem to be expanding quite rapidly because [1] they are protected and [2] mankind has increased the cormorant food supply dramatically by the accidental introduction of foreign immigrant fish species into Great Lakes aquatic systems and this event has hugely increased the abundance of small fish and enabled a large increase in avian predator [cormorant] numbers to the extreme. The introduction of Zebra mussels also exacerbated the situation and given cormorants [and other diving birds] greater visibility and success when hunting fish. Loons have similar habitats and habits and they are also increasing but more slowly. In Big Rideau Lake loons, mergansers and cormorants all rely on small fish for sustenance. Who knows how this inter-species competition for food fish will balance out in the end?

Cormorants!! So what is to be done about them? They foul theirs and our environment when present in excessive numbers and they do eat a lot of small fish [is this good or bad?]. Cormorants are still a protected species because science and the authorities have not sufficiently

caught up to the current situation to provide a balanced and measured reaction. In other places control measures such as oiling eggs in the nest to make them unviable and various harassment activities have reduced local cormorant numbers but generally not their overall widespread numbers. In some places, including in Big Rideau Lake Township, authorities take positions and lobby the provincial government to carry out cormorant population control measures. Also, when the authorities are not looking, some citizens in some places get out their guns and do a little population control their own way.

We have a growing cormorant population and impact issue on Big Rideau Lake.....some view it as a problem, others do not. The clear reality is that their current Big Rideau Lake nesting site activities show a significant negative impact on *their* island environment and, if we do not react appropriately, this growing issue will probably get worse and spread.

So.....a question: Do we as BRLA push for population controls or do we wait for nature to balance itself out or is there some other stance we should adopt?

As Chair of the BRLA Environmental Issues Subcommittee, I look forward to hearing our membership's views. Please email your thoughts or comments to the editor of Driftwords at driftwords@bigrideaulakeassociation.com.

Buzz Boles
Director, Environment



Cormorants 2009

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SHOAL MARKERS

One of the priority concerns of the BRLA since its formation in 1915 and continues to this day is the protection of our marine environment and our safety within the marine environment. One of the first initiatives of the early Association was the marking of the many shoals on Big Rideau Lake, between Narrows Lock and the Rocky Narrows as the Association was defined then. Things have changed in the intervening 100 years. Many more developed properties appeared on the lake shorelines and an unbelievably high number of power boats and other watercraft in contrast to those pioneer members who still moved around on the lake largely by oars, sail and the occasional private powered boat with the canal passenger steamers and freight boats passing through. As much as things change, some parts remain the same such as the need to maintain that early safety concern of marking the shoals with markers. Over the last few years we have moved from the old orange coloured wood markers to the newer, and, mandated by Transport Canada, white markers with Private markings that are now made from plastic pipe and end caps. The current marker locations are registered with Transport Canada and include the markers specific GPS positioning.

The BRLA has come a long and successful way in maintaining that area of protection and safety for our members. We can only imagine, in this age of so many boats operating at all times of the day and night, what would have happened if the markers had not identified the shoals to our members, their children and to other lake users. The program was extended north into the areas between the Narrows and Poonamalie Lock through the 1990's. Here are some numbers to consider:

- 107 shoals markers are currently in place
- 85 in Township of Rideau Lakes (TRL)
- 17 in Township of Tay Valley (TVT)
- 5 in Drummond / North Elmsley Township (D/NE)
- \$6,000.00 average, per annum, the cost of placing, removing and maintaining the markers.



The BRLA has continued to budget annually for the shoal marker programme. Many seasonal residents and boaters from the lake marinas as well as the transient boaters and fishermen do not know that it is our Association who performs this annual safety service, including the placement in the Spring and haul out in the Fall. When asked, most would answer that Parks Canada does the shoal markers.

The costs continue to rise. At the direction of the Directors of the BRLA I wrote to each of the three Big Rideau Lake Townships requesting that each township contribute annually a percentage of the costs. The TRL has made the choice to support other programs. I am still awaiting the outcomes from TVT and D/NE Townships at press time.

I view the decision of the TRL as an unfortunate but not a surprising outcome. One of the jobs we need to do better is to have a stronger bond with the permanent residents of the Townships and to encourage a better cultural and fiscal relationship with the Townships.

We wish to raise this item at the AGM on July 4th at the Portland Town Hall to obtain the members direction on the course to follow. The aim is to have the Townships recognize a need to support the marine environment in a practical and safety focussed way. Bring your questions and your ideas to the AGM. This is your Association and your viewpoint matters to all.

Respectfully;

Doug Kirkland

Government Relations Portfolio

If you are unable to join us at the AGM on July 4th, please address any comments to Doug Kirkland at: kirstratinc@sympatico.ca or, by writing to him at 1836 Illinois Ave., Ottawa, ON K1H 6W8



Shoal Markers

Now you see them....

Now you don't!

There are 107 private shoal markers on Big & Lower Rideau Lakes.
Without your financial support, they may not be there next year.

Go to www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com to find out how you can help.



Big Rideau Lake Association



Family* Membership Registration - \$60

* Family is defined as up to 2 parents and their children under 21 years of age.

Day Camp	\$
Environment	\$
Fireworks	\$
Lake Safety	\$
Recreation	\$
Summer Sounds (2/\$25)	\$
TOTAL	\$

Please complete all sections of this registration and pay by:

- OPTION 1:** Cheque (payable to BRLA) | Mail this completed Registration and your cheque to: Big Rideau Lake Association, PO Box 93, Portland, ON K0G 1V0
- OPTION 2:** Credit Card (VISA only) | Mail this completed Registration including your VISA details to: Big Rideau Lake Association, PO Box 93, Portland, ON K0G 1V0

_____|_____
 Visa card # | Expiry

_____|_____
 Name on card | Signature

- OPTION 3:** Online | You can pay by PayPal (or mail a cheque later) by going to www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com, click Membership/New Member Registration and complete the form on-line.

Membership is for a 12 month term starting April 1st each year.
 This registration starts April 1, _____
 (Insert Year)
 New Membership Renewal

ALL APPLICANTS

Family Name

Parent's First Name(s)
 (last name if different from Family Name above)

Children's Names

PRIMARY RESIDENCE

Street # _____
 Street Name _____
 City _____
 Province/State _____
 Postal Code _____

 Home Phone _____
 Cell Phone _____
 e-mail _____

COTTAGE RESIDENCE

Street # _____
 Street Name _____
 City _____
 Postal Code _____
 Cottage Phone _____
 Cottage e-mail _____
 Tay Valley / Rideau Lakes / Drummond/North Elmsley
 Township (circle one)

BOATER — MARINE RESIDENCE

Boat Name _____
 Marina _____
 Boat Phone _____

 Signature

 Date

BIG RIDEAU LAKE IN WINTER



Photo by Sean Horsfall



THE LATEST!

Portland-on-the-Rideau and online

A new information source for those around the Rideau is Portland's website, www.portlandontario.com, which will have information on activities, the newly instituted newsletter "Portland On The Rideau", and information from the Portland Historical Society, it will be the link to things Portland.

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Watershed Checkup

The Rideau Lakes is a recreational jewel made up of a network of over 31 lakes and connecting streams covering 455 square kilometres in five municipalities. This fabled subwatershed is an integral part of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site, the Rideau Waterway Canadian Heritage River, the Rideau Canal UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve and Rideau Heritage Route. The population is a mix of seasonal and permanent residents. It is cottage country for thousands of families. Permanent households are living on large rural properties (farms or forested lands), in country estate subdivisions, very small to very large lakeside residential lots, or villages such as Newboro, Portland, Rideau Ferry and Westport. Visit [Rideau Valley Conservation Authority](http://www.rideauvalleyconservationauthority.ca) website for the full report.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority



Your Home Away From Home

John McLaughlin

Owner

110 Coutts Bay Rd., Box 10, Rideau Ferry, Ontario K0G 1W0
Tel: 613 264 2638 Fax: 613 264 0274

Wanted

Director of Marine Safety
Vice President

Day Camp Counsellor (paid position)

Please email info@bigrideaulakeassociation.com and come join our team.

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