



DriftWords

Serving the Rideau Since circa 1911, Poonamalie to Narrows Lock

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BITS FROM BETH

Welcome to Driftwords *Spring is in the air* edition. Well winter has come and gone. Sap is running through the maple trees and the snow is melting. The time to think about summer at the cottage - is upon us. We have included a couple of different items in this issue that we hope you will enjoy.

Now relax and enjoy the latest issue of Driftwords.
Beth Evans

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Volunteers Needed

- Lake Dinner Dance
- Regatta
brla@brla.on.ca
- www.brla.on.ca



Spring is just around the corner and I know that you are all thinking about opening your cottages or launching your boats. This winter seems to have gone on forever, if you are a skier or winter outdoors enthusiast, it was a great one.

The Big Rideau Lake Association board has been busy during the winter planning events and organizing summer programs for you and your families. Please have a look at the website calendar to see what is going on and when. This year we are bringing back the Lake Dinner Dance for all to enjoy. Stay tuned for the dates and a new secret location.

If you are planning to put your youngsters in the sailing program, be advised that it is filling up fast.

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Join Us

Board positions available!
President, Vice President,
Communications/Website, and Lead
for the Regatta.

It can't be done without you!

The Cow Island Camp will be on again this year, with a new Camp Counsellor.

We all have received our notices of renewal for membership to the BRLA, please fill out the form and return it as soon as possible, or use the websites PayPal registration. Remember all our activities are reliant on the membership dues and donations. Canada Day Fireworks, Summer Camp, the Family Regatta and all the other activities are only available if we receive your dues. It would be a different lake if the 106 Shoal Buoys were not out on the lake to protect you and your boats. They are paid for by your dues and the generous donation from the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RELF).

This year there will be many changes to the board due to the time on the board constraints in our By Laws.

We will be looking for a new President, Director of Communications, Director of Marine Safety to name but a few. Please consider putting your name into the pot and become a board member.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my six years with the Board and thank all the board and committee members, past and present, for their help, input and major efforts in making the Big Rideau Lake Association a success.

Have a safe remaining winter and spring. See you all on the lake.

Daniel (Toby) Spry
President
BRLA

BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION MARINE SAFETY

Top 10 Boating Safety Tips

1. Wear A properly Fitted Lifejacket or PFD - There are several different styles of PFS's and Life Jackets [Learn more about personal flotation devices](#)
2. Don't Drink And Boat – Alcohol and boating don't mix! We want to remind you to "Leave the beer on the pier, and the water on the water."
3. Have a Co-Captain - Make sure there is someone else on board who is familiar with the boat and has their [Pleasure Craft Operator Card](#), commonly known as a boating license or boat card, who can safely operate the boat if needed.
4. Check [The Weather Network Marine Forecast](#) – Understanding weather and water conditions is important to safe boating. Know what is in the forecast so you're not stuck in poor boating conditions.
5. Check Your Required Safety Equipment - Make sure you have the required boating safety equipment for



- your boat, that it is in good working order, and that your flashlight has working batteries!
6. Fill Out A Trip Plan – Let a responsible person know where you will be boating, when you are expecting to arrive home, and who else is on board.
 7. Complete A Pre-Departure Checklist – Complete Pre-Departure Checklist you can ensure that you're well prepared for your boating trip.
 8. Know Your Waterway – Safe boating is more than just knowing how to safely operate your boat and having your required safety equipment - you need to understand local hazards. Refer to marine charts for the waterways where you'll be operating, locate local hazards and preferred navigation channels.
 9. Have all boat licensing and Operator cards on board.
 10. [Get your Pleasure Craft Operator Card](#), commonly known as a boating license, from a Transport Canada accredited provider.

Did you know: that there is an un-posted speed limit of 10km/h (6 mph) within 30 meters (100 feet) from shore?

When boating in the provinces of Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba Saskatchewan and the inland waters of British Columbia and Nova Scotia, please observe the speed limit. This limit applies on all waters within these provinces except where other limits are posted. These provisions do not apply in rivers less than 100 meters (300 feet) in width, canals and buoyed channels nor in the case of waterskiing, where the tow boat launches and drops off skiers by heading directly away from or into the shore.



COW ISLAND UPDATE

As the spring approaches and our minds turn to the lake I would like to give a brief report on Cow Island, BRLA's jewel in the lake.

A brief report on the shoreline protection initiatives that were undertaken a few years ago to address concerns about shoreline erosion is in order. The shrubs and trees planted along the shoreline recommended by consultants contracted by the BRLA are growing and coming along nicely. These same consultants recommended more aggressive action be taken to address the most serious erosion issues affecting sections of the shoreline but that has not been carried out after a decision was reached by the Board of the day to not invest further monies in the project.

Last year the hinge connectors on the main dock were replaced by heavy duty ones due to the constant wear caused by wave movement. More cleats were added to make tying boats easier and more effective.

With respect to the cottage, some work was carried out of a maintenance nature but the exterior painting of the building did not get done. Some interior work such as installing locks on the battery room of our solar power system was not addressed although planned for.

A few mature trees on the island were lost due to storm winds. A few years ago all the trees were assessed as to their health by an arborist and a tree trimmer was contracted to trim deadwood from the trees in an attempt to bring many of them that were highly stressed back to good health. While the project improved the health of many of the trees it was determined that it would only be a matter of time before a storm might take some of those in the worst condition and so we were not surprised although disappointed when we lost some beautiful mature trees.

In addition the island suffered a fire that threatened the forested part of the island when a camper fire believed to have been extinguished caused a fire in a nearby grove of trees. The resulting fire could have possibly taken the whole forest down had it not been for quick action on the part of folks who were present on the island and for the Portland Volunteer Fire Dept. The incident reinforced the reason why the island has a regulation prohibiting open campfires on the island except for one safely located fire pit in a clearing well away from trees at the opposite end of the island.

Last fall volunteers towed the docks to their winter harbour and we thank Doug Good for his generosity in providing this safe harbour location to BRLA. When the smaller floating dock was assessed once it was towed in it was determined the flotation billets

were deteriorated to the extent they need to be replaced. The dock was taken out of the water and the billets will be replaced this spring before re-launching.

Your Cow Island Committee hopes to accomplish the following in 2013. We hope to complete the exterior painting of the cottage including the trim work on the fascia and soffits etc. The outhouse, to use the vernacular is in need of a paint job as well particularly to the interior to keep it clean. To do this we will need some volunteers with paint brushes, rollers, rags etc., and a stretch of

good sunny weather so at this time it is hard to schedule a date as to when this will be done. Stay tuned as we will be calling for assistance from the members. The spring work weekend will go ahead I am certain and we hope to cut the grass, clean up any windfall branches, sweep out the winter dust from the cottage and toilet as we prepare for another great season.

Once again the Cow Island Committee seeks interested volunteers who would enjoy joining in with us to maintain the most beautiful island in the Big Rideau. The rewards include

spending time out on the island, meeting some great people and having some fun with a great group of members who provide and support the various summer programs on the island.

See you on the Lake!

Doug Arrand
Cow Island Chairperson



BIG RIDEAU LAKE YOUTH PROGRAM

Initial Meeting

When - Sunday May 19, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

Where - Hannah Park Gazebo

Age Group - 13 to 18 years

In the case of inclement weather (hard to imagine) an alternative site will be posted on the gazebo.

Parents and youth (teen-aged children) are invited to join the coordinator, Bill Belanger, for a brief outline of the parameters of the program for the summer.

The intent of the Youth Program is to facilitate the efforts of BRLA youth in planning and conducting activities that will increase their enjoyment during their summer vacation.



BIG RIDEAU LAKE MEMORIES

The Pines by Jack Evans

Our first contact with the Big Rideau was in 1915 when my father and two friends bought an old motorboat called the "Mike". As I was told it was an old square stern boat with a high windshield in front, powered by a single cylinder inboard motor.

On their vacation they decided to do a round trip from Ottawa to Kingston and then to Montreal via the St. Lawrence River and then up the Ottawa River to Ottawa. My father would have been 29 years old at that time.

They enjoyed the trip so much that they decided to do it again the following summer. Dad enjoyed the Big Rideau so he decided to look for some property for a cottage far away from the Ottawa crowds where nobody would find him.

My mother's parents had a cottage at Crystal Bay on Lac Deschênes just outside Ottawa. Being so close to town all their relatives and friends would show up on weekends and granny was expected to feed the multitudes. Dad wanted to be far enough away so he could avoid these crowds.

He contacted the local farmer, Sam Willis, who owned most of the property along the shore (Briton-Houghton Bay Road). Dad wanted property that was high and dry, so he picked the land where The Pines now stands. He paid Sam \$125 for the property.

He did not build on it for a few years and I am told he built in 1918. The cottage as it now stands plus an outhouse and an icehouse on the hill by the road, such as it was in those days, just a wagon trail for the farmer to bring his cattle to graze. There was a cottage next door owned by the Thurston family who owned Producers Dairy in Ottawa. Dad had the same carpenter build our cottage from the same plans (if there were any plans).

He started a guest book in 1919 and my mother's name (Mary Guillet) was the first name in the book along with my uncle Ivor Reece (married to dad's sister Olive).

To be continued in Summer 2013 Driftwords.



Cousin Don Evans, sister Shirley & Jack Evans, circa 1930 The Pines

(If you have something you would like to share with our readers, please feel free to send to us)

SKATE THE LAKE (STL)

A Doggone Good Time

Story: Ruff

Hi! This is your roving reporter, Ruff, recounting for you my experiences and impressions of Skate the Lake 9 (STL9). I've always been a bit of a 'news hound' and my friend, the photographer, asked me to relate what I saw.

Right off the bat it was a gorgeous day. There had been a feeling of excitement all over Portland for some time. The human 'pups' who had been skating on the oval to practice for the race said that there was always something going on there. As well, the ice was in great shape and everyone was hoping for a great day. When I was let out in the morning there was a beautiful sunrise. There were some other skaters staying at my house who had brought 'Bowser' and I couldn't wait to have her go to the day's events; I'd certainly been talking non-stop about it with her since she arrived.

The humans got our leashes and I knew we were on our way. The human pups were still sleeping because their race wasn't until the afternoon. So it was just us and the humans off for the opening ceremonies.

There was one human there, dressed differently from everyone else. He had a voice like a St. Bernard and he rang a bell to get attention. I thought to myself it would be more clever to carry a dog whistle instead, woulda been much lighter and more effective.



Apparently he was the Town Crier. Anyway STL9 was officially under way.

There was a smell in the air that I have to tell you about. It's a special smell that I associate with STL because I never smell it anywhere else, and you don't have to be a tracking dog to notice it either. Bowser and I kept hoping that someone would just drop one of those little white bowls so we could get an actual taste of snert. It never happened.

There was much blue at STL9. The STL boutique was in a blue-topped shelter. They were busy all day. There were things there that I'd never seen before. I couldn't help noticing that there was nothing there for the clothes-conscious canine ... The biggest blue shelter was the RBC Hockey Shootout and were they busy! I wish I could work a hockey stick! There was also something that was supposed to be an animal, but it walked on 2 legs. It wore a blue sweater and had big hair. I think the humans called it a mas'cat' or something like that. Many people wanted

to have their picture taken with it.

Both Bowser and I loved to watch the skaters, especially the ones in the funny suits where nothing flapped. They go so fast and move so gracefully. They reminded us of greyhounds. It was a good thing we were on our leashes. It would have been fun to chase them.



There was also a very funny race called the relay race. Apparently it was won by Cat-in-the-Hat. They were funny, but we couldn't help wondering why dogs were under-represented ... We (Bowser and I) were talking about how great it would be if there were skates for dogs. Would we every 'clean up'!

I'm trying to remember to tell you about everything, so, I have to tell you about curling. Bowser, who had never seen it before, was very curious about it. There were human pups there all day long pushing those rocks! I think dogs could do that ...

A huge balloon arrived in the afternoon. It had a dog basket underneath it and it took people only up in the air. No dogs got to go up, I think.

The kids 5K race and the Special Olympic skaters finished off the skating part of the day. But was STL done? No Way! Bowser and I went to hear Ryan Malcolm sing. Bow, Wow, that was romantic!

Did I tell you about the bonfire on the ice? Yes, a fire on the ice! There were bales of hay around it and humans would go there and get warmed up. Then off they'd go again. There was a setter there all day. He had a ball and he would get human pups

to throw it and he would catch or chase it. All day long! What a lucky dog.

The day finished with a spectacular fireworks show.

And next year, because of the North American Championship, there's going to be 2 days of STL.

And Bowser is coming again ...

LINKS: <http://skatethelakeportland.com>
<http://shutterfly.com/pro/trunspfoto/stl2013> for a slideshow



Spring/Summer Calendar

- Big Rideau Lake Youth Program - Sunday May 19, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. Hannah Park Gazebo Portland.
- Canada Day Fireworks - Saturday June 29, 2013 at Dusk. Cow Island
- BRLA Annual General Meeting - Saturday July 6, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Portland Town Hall
- Sailing school - week 1, week of July 8th, and week 2 week of July 15, 2013
- Day Camp - starting first week of July, Please register to ensure we can run the camp this summer.
- Summer Sounds - Saturday July 6, 2013 - If you have never come, please do. It is a great afternoon.
- Regatta - Saturday August 3, 2013 at 10:30 - Cow Island
- Poker Run - Saturday August 3, 2013 at 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Lake Dinner Dance - Saturday August 10, 2013 - Location to follow
- Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) Annual General Meeting - Saturday August 24, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. - Portland Community Hall
- Shoreline Planting Seminar - September 2013 Hannah Park Portland

THE ADVENTURES OF BOBBI BUOY

My name is Bobbi and boy oh buoy do I have an adventure to tell you...

Winter was very long and boring. I spent the whole time laying on my side in Mr. Brown's shed. Spring has finally arrived and I am being prepared for my summer responsibilities. Mr. Brown has been making sure that all of us buoys are ready for another summer on Big Rideau Lake. If needed, we get fresh paint and new chain.

I am a Big Rideau Lake Association shoal marker.

The boaters on the Lake count on us to prevent them from hitting a shoal and damaging their engines or even their boats.

I am part of a team of four shoal markers located right between Jerry Island and Cow Island.



We were first assigned this shoal when the Association was called Big Rideau Lakes Protective and Aquatic Association back in the 1940s. I am a proud buoy and love spending my summers close

to Cow Island where I can protect the boaters on the lake and watch the kids at BRLA day camp as well as the young sailors each summer at the sailing camp.

Life was good on Big Rideau, it was smooth sailing... until one calm, sunny day a few years ago, when it all changed.

I felt a bang .. ouch - what was that? ... when I was able to look around I saw the back of a wakeboarder - she didn't even know that she had hit me. Too bad for me because my chain came loose and I flopped to one side. I began to drift away from my shoal. My home and my fellow buoys were looking smaller and smaller. Tears filled my eyes, would I ever see my beloved shoal again?

It was getting dark and I couldn't see anything! All of a sudden...

To be continued...



Created by R. A. Evans
Illustrated by Angela Edelman

SPRING RECIPE

Smoked Salmon Flatbread

Swapping bagels with flatbread lightens this classic brunch option that looks spectacular with little effort.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 rectangular flatbreads (each 11 x 9 inches / 28 x 22 cm)
- 1/2-cup (125 mL) guacamole
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) Philadelphia Herb and Garlic cream cheese
- 10 oz (300 g) smoked salmon, thinly sliced
- 10 thin slices red onions
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) capers
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chopped fresh dill
- 2 to 3 lemon wedges

INSTRUCTIONS

- Heat flatbreads directly on centre rack of 400F/200C oven until bottoms are crisp and golden, 5 to 7 minutes. Let cool slightly on plate, about 2 minutes.
- Mix together guacamole and cream cheese. Spread over flatbreads; top with salmon. Top with onion and capers; sprinkle with dill.
- Slice bread into wedges. Squeeze lemon over top before serving.



ADAM LAKE

Who, What, and Where is Adam Lake?

Where? Adam Lake is located on the north shore of Big Rideau Lake between Murphy's Point/ Nobles Bay and Rideau Ferry. Road access to the lake is via seven private roads, all of which run south off of the Elmgrove Road (County Road 21). Water access to and from the Big Rideau is through a rather challenging year round channel (more on the channel follows).

What? Prior to the construction of the Rideau Canal, the basin which forms the lake, held a series of smaller more shallow lakes which were fed by a number of streams. Principally, one from the northern end of the watershed which consisted of Long Lake and a number of feeder streams and wetlands. Adam was connected to the Big Rideau by a small creek (Adam Creek) whose flow varied based on seasonal rain/snow fall amounts.

Generally, it was not navigable. The Adam Lake, which we know today, was created in 1832 when, upon completion of the Rideau Canal's lock and channel system, the Rideau lakes were flooded to become the reservoir needed to ensure a constant and

manageable water supply for the new canal system. The "flooding" added seven to eight feet to the depth of the Rideaus and thus today's Adam Lake was born. Statistically, Adam Lake has a surface area of 180 acres, an average depth of 15 feet and is 66 feet at its deepest point. The main feature, aside from its relative calm and privacy is the navigable channel which provides egress and access into the Big Rideau. This channel is challenging and can be treacherous. It is guarded by a shallow (2-3 feet) rocky shoal on the east side and a sand bar on the west. There is a permanent



southbound under tow, which often conflicts with inbound waves from the big lake on the surface. At low water periods, this channel is only 18" to 24" deep at its deepest. Many a propeller has been lost and larger, deeper and hard to maneuver

vessels (e.g. house boats) are very vulnerable.

Who? Adam Lake has 73 residences, 28 are year round and 45 are seasonal. As with almost all other lakes in the region, development trends toward new permanent homes and the conversion of seasonal cottages to year round residences. The 8.6 kilometres of shoreline are privately owned and there is no public access. So, a tour-de-lac is just that, a tour-de-lac. There is one commercial operation, Green's Cottages provide housekeeping cabins for use during the summer season. The lake consists of a series of narrow channels and sharp corners which lead to the main basin. The result is a close-to-shore, close quarters boating environment which hopefully begets low speed boating and respect for the shoreline and its residents.

A final note! While some (many) "official" maps reference our lake as Adam's Lake – the lake community refers to it always and only as Adam Lake.

Hugh Burrows, Director – BRLA, President of the Adam Lake Property Owners Association

BRLA FINANCIALS - 2012

**Big Rideau Lake Association
Profit & Loss - Actual vs. Budget
January through December 2012**

	Jan - Dec 12	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Donations		
Environmental	1,850.86	1,420.00
Fireworks	4,100.16	3,700.00
Marine & Govt	596.00	900.00
Other donations	789.00	475.00
Recreation	618.00	1,000.00
Total Donations	7,934.02	7.40
Dry Dock		
Sales	302.00	900.00
Total Dry Dock	302.00	90
Government grants		
Fireworks grants	1,800.00	1,800.00
Total Government grants	1,800.00	1,80
Investment		
Interest	400.41	380.00
Total Investment	400.41	38
Membership		
Corporate	4,805.00	4,900.00
Dues	17,330.00	16,000.00
Total Membership	21,935.00	20.90
Revenue		
Day camp	664.00	2,000.00
Dinner/Dance Revenue	0.00	5,200.00
Sailing program	8,800.00	9,800.00
Summer sounds	730.00	900.00
Total Revenue	10,994.00	17.90
RLEF		
Environmental subsidy	5,526.84	4,660.00
Total RLEF	5,526.84	4.66
Total Income	48,694.27	53.01
Gross Profit	48,694.27	53.01
Expenses		
Administration		
Advertising	125.00	900.00
ADM	100.00	80.00
Audit	2,073.55	2,600.00
Bank charges		
Monorix	12.21	
PayPal	9.62	
RBC	6.50	
VISA	99.42	
Bank charges - Other	887.33	900.00
Total Bank charges	1,017.26	900.00
Insurance	2,726.21	6,800.00
Office supplies	200.79	200.00
Postage	83.80	
Telephone	396.85	450.00
Total Administration	6,724.26	10.81
Communications		
Driftwords	771.29	1,200.00
Internet & website	1,219.37	1,300.00
Total Communications	1,990.66	2.50

**Big Rideau Lake Association
Profit & Loss - Actual vs. Budget
January through December 2012**

	Jan - Dec 12	Budget
Corporate office		
Rent	220.00	
Total Corporate office	220.00	
Cost of sales - Drydock	296.06	
Fireworks	7,549.18	8,000.00
Government Affairs		
Shoal markers	4,801.08	5,500.00
Total Government Affairs	4,801.08	5,500.00
Memberships		
Brochures	12.00	300.00
Renewals	1,135.68	1,000.00
Total Memberships	1,147.68	1,300.00
Property		
Cow Island		
Maintenance	904.41	1,000.00
Realty taxes	3,033.67	2,900.00
Cow Island - Other	150.00	
Total Cow Island	4,088.08	3,900.00
Total Property	4,088.08	3,900.00
Recreation		
Day Camp Expenses	1,237.34	4,000.00
Dinner/Dance Expenses	0.00	4,000.00
Enviro camp expenses	0.00	450.00
Regatta	330.08	
Sailing prog	9,496.00	9,328.00
Summer IS	283.72	290.00
Total Recreation	11,367.14	18,028.00
Total Expense	36,156.14	48,036.00
Net Ordinary Income	10,538.13	4,977.00
Net Income	10,538.13	4,977.00

URGENT NEED

BRLA Positions available July 2013

Please join our team.

- President
- Vice-President
- Website/Communications

- Camp Councillor (must have Lifeguard Certificate)
- Volunteers for Camp

All positions require a BRLA membership.

Big Rideau Lake Association
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2012

	Dec 31, 12
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Banks	
Manulife Savings Account	32,400.05
PayPal	212.72
RBC	8,268.62
Total Banks	40,881.39
Total Chequing/Savings	40,881.39
Other Current Assets	
Inventory	822.79
Prepaid Expenses	7,355.71
Total Other Current Assets	8,178.50
Total Current Assets	49,059.89
Fixed Assets	
Furniture & equipment	31,421.06
Total Fixed Assets	31,421.06
TOTAL ASSETS	80,480.95
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Accrued liabilities	2,100.00
Prepaid Revenue	3,960.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	6,060.00
Total Current Liabilities	6,060.00
Total Liabilities	6,060.00
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	9,201.00
Reserves	
Restricted reserves	
Cow Island reserve	2,500.00
Environmental reserve	2,709.36
Special Projects reserve	14,700.00
Total Restricted reserves	19,909.36
Unrestricted reserve	8,274.76
Total Reserves	28,184.12
Retained Earnings	26,497.70
Net Income	10,538.13
Total Equity	74,420.95
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	80,480.95

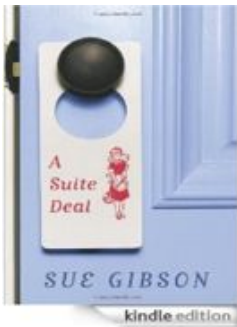
WINTER ON BIG RIDEAU LAKE

Winter on the Lake
Evan Sterling enjoying a beautiful
day March 9, 2013. Sterling cottage
looking out onto Briton Bay



Winter on the Lake
Matthew Evans on the lake at The
Pines - March 2013





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