



BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)

LIVING LIGHTLY ON THE LAKE

A PLAN FOR COW ISLAND, BIG RIDEAU LAKE

Our Goal: To establish Cow Island as a model environmentally managed property.

YEAR 1

Define plan and program. Complete Remedial Action.

A. INVENTORY CURRENT CONDITION

Conduct a baseline survey of Cow Island.

- Inventory the buildings, the land use, the ecological diversity, water quality, etc.

B. DEVELOP PLAN

Develop a plan that addresses use of the island as a recreational facility for members and day-campers. Include plans for:

- Septic systems – renovate current septic tanks/ beds
- Electric power – introduce solar collectors on roofs and battery storage
- Docks and swim areas – floating docks, hopefully without arsenic pressure treated wood.
- Waterfront flora – protect to 75' in
- Native species protection – removal of invasive species
- Siting of any additional recreational facilities – picnic tables, playing fields, etc – review overall recreational development
- Waste management facilities and services – incinerator for burnables; compost for biodegradables, recyclable bottle/ tin containers and collection plan
- Fire plan – retrieve pumps, make operable, do drills etc.

C. DEFINE PROGRAM

Frame a set of on-going programs to be conducted at Cow Island that promote environmentally sound use and communicate environmental principles

- Children's programs on environment, sailing, wildlife
- Waterfront planning and maintenance training for adults
- Survey of fish and waterfowl populations
- Participate in national clean-ups

D. BEGIN UPGRADES

Implement those parts of the plan critical to operations

- o Commence septic upgrades
- o First stage of solar power
- o Docking
- o Implement waste management and fire plan

E. COMMUNICATIONS

- o Document how a commitment to transforming an island into an environmentally managed property could transform it.

SUBSEQUENT YEARS

Implement Plan and Run Full Programs

A. COMPLETE IMPROVEMENTS

Implement plan

- o Complete Electric power
- o Docks and swim areas
- o Waterfront flora and Native species protection
- o Recreational Facilities

B. RUN ENVIRONMENTAL SHOWCASE PROGRAMS

Integrate programs that supporting the environmental showcase into children’s and adult programming offered by the BRLA.

- o Environment days at Day Camp
- o Training afternoons for Adults

C. COMMUNICATIONS

Publicize, document progress, and raise funds for additional work.

- o Quality signage on the island
- o Articles in DriftWords and local (national?) press
- o Capital Campaign to establish Reserve Fund

FUNDING FRAMEWORK

BRLA proposes to use funds from the sale of the 30 Colborne Street property to support the development and delivery of environmental programs on Cow Island.