



BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 10, 2004

PORTLAND TOWN HALL, PORTLAND, ONTARIO

IN ATTENDANCE:

Officers:

President: Bob Evans; Vice President: Noelle Caloren; Treasurer: Henry Copestake
Secretary: Molly Ellard;

Directors:

Doug Arrand - Recreation; Patricia Chamberlain – Environment; Doug MacGillivray –
Membership; Graham Mowat – DryDock; Jim Sneyd – Regatta; Jennifer Trant – Web
site; Nancy Watters – DriftWords

Regrets:

Mike Fraser – Fireworks; Doug Good – Shoal Markers; Peter Lieshman – Recreation;
John Peart – Government Affairs

BRLA Members: There were over fifty-five members in attendance.

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was Chaired by Doug Arrand. He welcomed the assembled group to the 36th
Annual Meeting of the Big Rideau Lake Association. The BRLA has operated under the
same constitution since 1968, though it has been active since 1911.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was introduced by Doug Arrand, with reference to the 1968 Constitution
that dictates its form.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Secretary Molly Ellard introduced the minutes, included in the materials circulated at the
meeting.

Moved by Molly Ellard, seconded by David Bearman that the minutes be approved as
circulated. Following a call for errors and omissions the motion was carried unanimously.

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4. PRESIDENTS REPORT - BOB EVANS

As is the custom of the BRLA, Evans requested a moment of silence in remembrance of those who were no longer with us.

Bob Evans introduced the Guests who had joined the meeting:

- Ontario Provincial Police officers, Constable Dennis Roberts and Constable Chuck Kerr
- Rideau Lakes Township Councilor, Betty James.

Evans offered the thanks of the BRLA to the Volunteer Firefighters for their support at the annual Cow Island Canada Day Fireworks., and to Mike Fraser for coordination.

The President also recognised the volunteer efforts of all BRLA Directors. In particular, he drew attention to the service offered by those leaving the Board, and thanked John Peart, Molly Ellard, Graham Mowat, Noelle Calloren, Doug McGillivary, Jim Sneyd, Mike Fraser and Nancy Watters for their many (combined) years of service. He also noted that the 2005 Board is a smaller one, with more operations moved to the BRLA's various committees.

He encouraged all present to become involved and to be ambassadors for the BRLA and encourage new members to join us.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT - HENRY COPESTAKE

The Treasurer's report was introduced with a reminder that with the creation of an independent Centre for Sustainable Watersheds (CSW) as the hub for what had been BRLA's grant-funded environmental programs, BRLA was making a transition to a smaller organization with its traditional, membership focus.

Membership Dues make up ~ 50% of the BRLA budget. Large donations from our foundation, the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) support our environmental work. A large number of individual donations support Fireworks, covering its cost.

Budget challenges include the costs of maintaining DryDock, and insurance; together these are over 25% of budget.

The Treasurer introduced the Audited Statements from the fiscal year ending in 2003 (largely the same as the draft circulated at the 2003 AGM) and for 2004. The 2004 statements show an operating surplus of \$3,400, in revenue of ~\$48,000 but a deficit overall. This is accounted for in a \$9,400 charge reflecting a change of asset structure

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called for by the auditors. In addition, there were \$5,700 in charges related to CSW and a variance in inventory.

It was moved by the Treasurer and seconded by Jennifer Trant, that the Financial Statements for the BRLA's Fiscal Years ending in 2003 and 2004 be accepted as circulated. Carried.

It was moved by the Treasurer and seconded by Bruce Walker, that the organization change its fiscal year end to December 31 to facilitate bookkeeping, enable the preparation of an audited financial statement for the July Annual General Meeting and more accurately reflect the annual membership cycle. In discussion of the motion it was noted that there may timing implications for the Annual General Meeting in relation to the fiscal year end. Implications for the RLEF year-end were also queried. The Board noted these concerns, and agreed to address them in operations.

The motion was carried.

Ross Walker moved to appoint Wilkinson & Company as the BRLA's auditors for the 2005 Fiscal Year. Seconded by Pat Chamberlain. Carried.

6. MEMBERSHIP REPORT -DOUG MACGILLIVRAY

Members were directed to the written report circulated to those in attendance.

As of December 31, 2003, there were 353 BRLA members. 2004 Membership Renewals were mailed to 553 households (all current and past members). Of these 307 renewals had been received as of July 6, 2004.

Costs to service Membership Renewals were \$678.31 (68% of a \$1000 budget). This equals \$2.21 per member.

In discussion of the report, it was asked how many properties there were on Big Rideau Lake. Richard Bradley (Past President) noted that there were about 2100 properties in three different municipalities. New privacy laws make it more difficult to obtain a list of lakeshore residents.

All members were encouraged to actively encourage their neighbours to join the BRLA.

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7. RIDEAU LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION - JAFFRAY WILKINS

RLEF has been in operation for 15 years. It was established to raise funds for environmental projects on Big and Upper Rideau Lakes. The Board meets regularly. New members include three members of the BRLA Board (Henry Copestake, Doug Arrand and Pat Chamberlain) in an effort to improve communication between the two Boards.

Officers are President: Jaffray Wilkins; Secretary: Tom Houston, Treasurer: Ross Walker. Board members: David Burns, David Donaldson, Alex Maklin.

The RLEF is holding ~\$40,000 in reserve against future environmental needs. The size of the reserve is to be discussed by the RLEF Board.

RLEF donations in 2003 were \$10,700 (compared to (\$17,000 in 2002). This reduction can be attributed to staff changes, and an exceptionally large donation received in 2002.

Discussion focused around questions of membership and levels of contribution. It was noted that the Upper Rideau Lake Association (URLA) has also seen a reduction in membership (perhaps because there is no pressing issue on the lake right now. BRLA members in attendance did not see any need to reduce the RLEF reserve, noting that one incident could rapidly deplete the reserve.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS - DOUG ARRAND

The Chair noted that written reports had been circulated by the BRLA's working committees, and called for reports from the Committee Chairs.

A. Environment - Patricia Chamberlain

Chamberlain thanked all those who responded to the Environmental Committee's Survey, noting that it helps set priorities and directions.

Program highlights include Living By Water (a personalised, free site visit), a Wildflower Workshop (next Saturday).

Invasive Species Alert: the Spiny Water Flea is the latest foreign species to be noted. A representative of the Rideau Valley Conservation Association (RVCA) at the last Environmental Committee meeting noted that testing is being done in the area

Rideau Lake Plan: The RVCA is coordinating a plan for the watershed area, including Big Rideau Lake. See their web site for more details.

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The Centre for Sustainable Watersheds will be holding an open house July 22, 2004, from 1-4 pm

B. Recreation and Cow Island – Doug Arrand

Highlights from the written report include the annual Fireworks Display, the children's and Youth Programs and the annual regatta. Jessica Long is the lead counselor this year. D'Arcy McCarney is working on Cow Island, assisted by a number of Counselors in Training.

Regatta – Jim Sneyd invited everyone to attend the annual BRLA Regatta on July 31st. Events will be featured for all ages from 4yrs up.

Questions from the floor were raised about parental involvement on Cow Island and the presence of lifeguards. It was noted that the BRLA takes safety seriously, and that staff have necessary qualifications. Our insurance premiums are the minimum available, and are not increased by Recreation activities.

C. DryDock – Bob Evans

The President noted that much of the Board's attention this year has been focused on DryDock (30 Colborne Street). With the departure of CSW (who had agreed to rent space) we are over-accommodated. The property has been empty for several months, and BRLA does not have the funds to staff it full-time as an information center. Volunteers are keeping it open weekends through this summer.

Board questions whether the property can be used wisely by the BRLA. Questions from the floor included: What programs require the use of a Portland property? Could we piggy-back with another local agency or organization? What are the real costs of DryDock: mortgage, hydro, taxes, insurance, septic, maintenance? Is the store feasible given that CSW is also operating one (in 2004 the store had revenues of \$706 and expenses of \$324). Would it be short-sighted to divest of the property if we might need it in the future? Should BRLA have an alternative 'public face' before it moves?

The assembled group agreed that the Board should develop a statement of scope and a process for the review of DryDock, that also provided for Member input. It was noted that RLEF and BLRA hold the property jointly, and that any decision would need to be taken in concert by both organizations. The original contributors who supported the acquisition of the property should also be considered.

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D. Government Affairs – John Peart

Members were referred to the written report.

E. Communications

DriftWords – Nancy Watters

Fall and Spring issues of the BRLA Newsletter were distributed, featuring news of the BRLA's activities, and feature stories from the working Committees. Additional support for DriftWords has been provided by our Corporate Sponsors.

Website – <http://www.brla.on.ca> - Jennifer Trant

The BRLA Web site has been revised and updated to include new content and photographs. Members will find current news, calendars, and background documents there.

Email Addresses: Contacting the BRLA has been simplified through the creation of functionally-named e-mail addresses: president@brla.on.ca, vicepresident@brla.on.ca, treasurer@brla.on.ca, secretary@brla.on.ca, driftwords@brla.on.ca, environment@brla.ca - These addresses will remain constant, no matter who holds the position. Consult the Web site for the full list.

9. WATER SAFETY BRIEFING- CONSTABLE DENNIS ROBERTS

The OPP water patrol on Big Rideau Lake is part of the Leeds County Unit, based in Gananoque. They perform regular patrols, night and day in rotation. There are 4 full time officers and 2 students., with a large area to cover, including the St. Lawrence River from Kingston to Cardinal, and 1/3 of the Rideau Canal system (from Big Rideau Lake through Seeley's bay and all lakes inland.

Noisy boats are a major issue for most area residents. Constable Roberts reviewed the legislation, noting that there was little that the OPP could do as the regulations were not very specific regarding decibel levels.

The only speed limit in place is a 10KM / HR limit within 30 meters of shore (with an exemption if you are going straight out from shore and towing a water skier). There is no upper speed limit outside posted zones, or the shore limit.

There are no regulations about wake in the law, though in civil law the driver of the boat would be liable for damages.

Skidoo patrols are made in the winter.

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Fishing out of season is a Ministry of Natural Resources responsibility, and the local conservation representative should be contacted.

10. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

It was moved by Ed Brigden and Seconded by Bob Petrie that the Directors of the BRLA be elected as nominated.

Sarah Rosolen was nominated from the floor.

Jack Evans moved to close the nominations, seconded by Bruce Walker. Carried.

Candidates as new members of the Board were asked to introduce themselves and they did, highlighting their areas of interest in the area.

11. FURTHER BUSINESS

Norman Tape rose to thank the Board for their stewardship of the organization, on behalf of the BRLA membership.

Doug Arrand and Bob Evans encouraged all in attendance to volunteer time to help with an area of BRLA's activities, or to serve on one of the working committees. Committee Chairs are available after the close of the meeting.

Bob Evans raffled off lots of goodies.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Doug Arrand adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00, to a BBQ.