



BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: MINUTES

JULY 8, 2006

PORTLAND TOWN HALL, PORTLAND, ONTARIO

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: President: Position Vacant; Vice President: Doug Arrand; Past President: Bob Evans; Treasurer, Ed Brigden; Secretary: Position Vacant

Board Members: Pat Chamberlain (Environment), Henry Copestake (Government Affairs), Doug Good (at large)

Regrets: Jennifer Trant (Communications) – represented by David Bearman

Members: Approximately Fifty-Five BRLA Members.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Doug Arrand called the meeting to order at 10:05 am

2. MINUTE OF SILENCE

Doug Arrand asked the assembled group to rise and observe a minute of silence in memory of those who were no longer with us on the lake. Special mention to Rob Mcmanus.

3. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Arrand introduced Dave Ballinger from the Rideau Canal Authority, David Bull (the Executive Director of the Thousand Islands Area Residents Association) representing WRAFT –Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation, and Fire Chief Jay Debernardi from the Township of Rideau Lakes Fire & Rescue.

4. MINUTES OF AGM HELD JULY 9, 2005

Doug Arrand called for corrections, clarifications, errors and omissions to the minutes of the Meeting held July 9, 2005. They're being none, Mike Houghton moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Peter Cowan. Approved by all.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - DOUG ARRAND (ACTING)

A. Motion to update the BRLA Mission Statement

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Four years ago it was decided to re-introduce social programs into our mission. The board had to review the mission statement to include this. The BRLA Board adopted the following Mission Statement in September 2005:

The Big Rideau Lake Association is dedicated to building a strong community in a safe and healthy environment on and around Big Rideau Lake.

Objectives:

- Preserve the natural environment of the lake for future generations to enjoy
- Promote the safety of the lake as a recreational environment through programs such as the placing of shoal markers
- Ensure appropriate use and development of the lake by monitoring legislative and regulatory activity, and private development, and advocating the interests of our members
- Foster a sense of community in members of all ages through recreation and social programs

Moved by Doug Arrand seconded by Alex Macklin that the BRLA adopt the Mission Statement put forward by the Board. All approved.

Highlights of the year:

- The sale of Dry Dock (the building on Colbourne St.)
- Moved ahead on the recreation program, swimming, day camp, sailing
- Represented the Association regarding potential rezoning and expansion of Waterways Campground in Hudson Bay
- Working more closely to RLEF
- Cow Island – invited Eco Scapes to do a shoreline preservation assessment

6. TREASURER'S REPORT - ED BRIGDEN

A. Auditor's Report for year ended December 31, 2005

Ed Brigden offered a detailed review of the financial position of the BRLA, based on the auditor's report from Wilkinson & Company, circulated at the meeting.

Moved by Ed Brigden, seconded by Jack Evans to adopt the Audited Financial statements. Approved by all.

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B. Motion to appoint Wilkinson & Company as auditors for current year ending December 31, 2006

Moved by Doug Arrand, seconded by Ross Walker to appoint Wilkinson & Company as auditors for the year ending December 31, 2006. Approved by all.

7. MEMBERSHIP REPORT - DAVID BEARMAN ON BEHALF JENNIFER TRANT

David Bearman reported on Membership in the BRLA. Last year 274 paid up at this time and as of today the number is 271. At the end of last year we had 365 members. All members were encouraged to talk to their friends and neighbours about the benefits of being a BRLA member.

A survey result showed that about 1/3 were interested in the environment, 68 people – programs for kids and teens, 73 people – social activities for adults, 81 people – general recreational, 126 people for the fireworks and 40 people were interested in government and marine activities.

Members were asked to provide email address to receive DriftWords. Electronic Distribution significantly cuts down on the costs in time and dollars to distribute the newsletter.

Contributions to DriftWords are welcome – please send them to driftwords@brla.on.ca

8. RIDEAU LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION (RLEF) REPORT

A. President's comments – Jaffray Wilkins

The Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation supports environmental work on and around the Big Rideau and Upper Rideau Lakes. Jaffray thanked everyone who contributed to the donation drive. It was very successful. He said they're conscious of the need to have a close relationship with BRLA. It's clear that there is a greater need as reflected in the case of the Waterways Campground. There is also a concern that the RLEF participation is not as high as BRLA membership. One thing lacking in the donation drive was getting photographs from events going on around the lake. They are looking for an official photographer to photograph the activities on the two lakes.

Cow Island septic issues. RLEF awaits the BRLA report on what has to be done and at what cost, but is supportive of this initiative

Expansion of the Waterways Campground in Hudson Bay. Worked hard with the planner and the township when the expansion was being considered. At the moment everything is on hold.

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The board doesn't meet, as frequently as there are many of the same members from BRLA. The next meeting, in the summer of 2006, will be to approve the financial statement from 2005.

B. RLEF Treasurer's Report – George Lamont

Donations are down from last year: A little over \$7,600.00 was received in 2005 down from over \$9600.00 in 2004. It was mentioned however, that last year there was a large donation from a single member. Financial statements from 2005 are not finalized as of yet.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Environment

Pat Chamberlain presented the report of the Environment Committee. They have produced two brochures, one on Loons and one on Fishing. These have been distributed to all members and are available at the meeting. There is a need to come up with a long-term plan for Big Rideau Lake.

Ministry of Natural Resources is hoding a meeting about Fish Stocking next Saturday July 15th from 9:00am – 1:00pm in Portland. Pat will be putting up a display concerning stocking .

There will be a Waste Water Workshop in Perth on August 12th from 9:00am – 1:00pm

Representatives from all the lakes within the Rideau Lakes area met to discuss watershed studies. This was a very informative session.

Question from the floor mentioned that on the north shore there was a growth covering over the rocks, which had zebra mussels on it.

Members with concerns about the environment, or an interest in participating in BRLA's environmental activities, should contact environment@brla.on.ca

B. Government Affairs & Marine Safety

Government Affairs.

Henry Copestake reported that BRLA is affected by decisions of three Townships (Rideau Lakes, Tay and Drummond/North Elmsley). We try to monitor issues – particularly related to zoning and development - and react in a manner that reflects BRLA Members' interests and desires.

Local counselor Betty James was in attendance and she has been very active. Ongoing Mason issues have now been revolved into a continuing process. Jaffray Wilkins

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mentioned Waterways Campground, Hudson Bay in the report of the RLEF. Our understanding is that the developer will not proceed at the moment.

Fire Chief Jay Debernardi was thanked for their help in our Cow Island Fireworks, put on by volunteer Mike Fraser and his team. The fire chief also would like people to be aware that smoke detectors are now required in cottages.

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The North Shore Township Developers have applied for changes in zoning that will change the use of the waterfront in Nobles Bay. BRLA generally does not endorse this. For example, we opposed rezoning in Horseshoe Bay, in support of an initiative led by local residents; however in this case township was not responsive.

It was mentioned that curbside pick up in Portland for garbage (dockside for islanders) will start up in October.

Boats, Noise and Speed.

At last years AGM boat noise was raised and we have been in touch with Transport Canada. They are regulators but not enforcers. All boats have to be equipped with a sound-reducing device but the problem is enforcing it. We will continue to press the OPP to enforce this on our lake

Shoal Markers.

Over the last number of years we have had a team of volunteers installing the shoal markers above Rocky Narrows and we appreciate the help. The others are installed by Lamont Brown and his crew. There is a five-year plan to overhaul all the markers. Members are encouraged to volunteer to help out.

Members are requested to keep an eye on the shoal markers in their area, and let BRLA know if there is a problem. Contact us at safety@brla.on.ca.

C. Recreation/Cow Island

Summer Day Camp

Lindsay Cameron was introduced as the head counselor on Cow Island. She is a certified lifeguard. This is Lindsay's first year with BRLA. Along with her two assistant counselors, Sam Foster and Nikki Stoudt, Lindsay will be running camp and helping out with other BRLA activities. They have already assisted with the setting up of fireworks.

There are a number of activities this year on the Cow Island. If you can help out, please contact recreation@brla.on.ca

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- **Day Camp** for kids from ages 4 – 12 three days a week (Tues, Thurs and Sat) for 3 hours a day. The children do sports, games, crafts and swimming. The goal is to improve the kid's ability to be leaders and to be creative.
- **Swimming lessons** will be starting soon. They will be held either on Monday's and Wednesdays in the morning or Tuesday's and Thursday's in the afternoon.
- **Teen Programs.** Looking for teens from ages 13 – 18 for teen dances and BBQs. Volunteers are also needed to help out with the teen dances.
- **Sailing Lessons** will take place from August 8th – 12th and will be taught by professionals
- We would like to encourage all young people to come out and visit Cow Island. Possibly to help paint the cottage yellow.

Regatta

The regatta will once again be held on Cow Island on Saturday August 5th. Registration is at 10:00 am and the races begin at 11:00 am. A BBQ lunch will be provided. We encourage every one of all ages to come out and participate.

Summer Sounds

BRLA will be hosting a fundraising afternoon for Cow Island on Saturday July 15th. Thanks to Peter and Joyce Cowan for organizing this event. Proceeds will be used for Cow Island improvements. The cost is \$25 per couple or \$15 dollars per person. Tickets are available at the desk.

Fireworks

Mike Fraser was thanked for once again putting on a great Canada Day Fireworks show. This is a significant investment of time, and takes a full day of set-up on Saturday and clean up on Sunday. There was another great turn out and we are thankful the weather held out.

Cow Island Physical Plant

We have been given the approval to fix the septic system and have received quotes.

This past winter 3 of our 4 docks have disappeared. We have gone to the police and the marinas to see if they have seen 16 ft docks floating around the lake. The docks were 10 – 12 years old and ideally we would have liked to use them for another few years before replacing them.

We have received new tools, wheelbarrows and two new picnic tables. BRLA's idea is to make Cow Island and destination for our members for swimming and picnics.

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Leeds – Grenville 2007 The International Plowing Match

Doug Good spoke about 2007 Leeds-Grenville International Plowing Match and Country Festival to be held on September 18th – 22nd,2007. They are expecting around 80,000 people to attend. Accommodations are needed in the area. If anyone is interested please let them know and it will be included in their tour book. If you have recipes that you would like to submit for their cookbook please contact them at info@ipm2007.ca.

10. ELECTIONS

Bob Evans, as Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates for the BRLA Board. The BRLA constitution calls for a Board of between 5 and 9 members. Directors, elected at the annual general meeting, are limited to three successive terms. The only officer elected is the President. The Board itself appoints other officers.

A. President for 2005/06

There is no candidate for President of the BRLA.

B. Directors for 2006/07

Bob Evans said the following members have agreed to continue to serve on the Board for 2006/2007: Doug Arrand, Pat Chamberlain, Jennifer Trant and Henry Copestake.

Doug Good and Ed Brigden have agreed to serve another term.

The following have agreed to let their name stand: Peter Merkley and Mike Healey

Moved by David Bearman and seconded by Jack Evans that the Board be elected as proposed.

11. PRESENTATIONS FROM GUESTS

A. Rideau Canal Authority: Canal Management Plan – Dave Ballinger

The Management Plan for the Rideau Canal was establish to provide the long-term strategic direction. The purpose of a management plan is to ensure the integrity of a national historic site, guide appropriate public use, ensure the application of cultural resource management principles and practices in decision-making and conserve the natural values of the Canal.

The new plan has a focus on key strategies with clearly measurable actions. The revised management plan is intended to be implemented over a period of five years at which time it will be reviewed and if necessary, revised to reflect new conditions.

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The Canal has commented on municipal official plans, official plan amendments, zoning bylaws, minor variances, plans of subdivision and other municipal and private sector planning and development initiatives. This has resulted in municipal planning policies and development, which recognize the need to protect the natural, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the Canal. The revised management plan will contain many of the same policies and makes a commitment to produce a comprehensive guide stating Parks Canada's for shore-land development, marine works, road and utility crossings of the Canal.

Next year will mark the 175th anniversary of the Rideau Canal.

Question from the floor about how neighbours can learn of activity in their area that is regulated by the Rideau Canal Authority. The response cited concerns with privacy. It was noted that Townships have a way to address this question in zoning-related matters.

B. Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT) – David Bull

WRAFT's mission is to achieve equity in waterfront property taxation and build a strong unified voice for reform. They have assembled a team of experienced property tax reform advocates who will recommend specific mitigation strategies to the province. WRAFT monitors studies and reports on property tax issues and distribution methods across North America and Europe. Currently they are the only province wide group that has been active in this area. Although they have not yet been fully successful, cottage owners are a small minority.

The Ontario Minister of Finance recently announced that property tax reassessments by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) would be cancelled for the next two years to allow for the implementation of the Ombudsman's recommendations to Ontario's property assessment system. The Ombudsman's investigation should be broadened to include a review of the whole assessment process, including the role that MPAC plays in the assessment process.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

C. Announcements

The White Family will be celebrating 100 years on Potato Island with a celebration on the 15th July.

Doug Arrand thanked Bob Evans for over 18 years of service with BRLA. Bob will still be involved with the annual regatta and help out with different services.

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D. Volunteers

More volunteers are needed to help with the running of the BLRA, and work on specific projects such as Cow Island (clean-up and grounds maintenance). We are also looking for volunteers to help out in other areas such as Membership Secretary. There are a number of ways to contribute, that don't require the time commitment of serving on the Board.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Doug Arrand adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm.

As per the BRLA Constitution, the Board met after the meeting.