



**BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: MINUTES  
JULY 7, 2007  
PORTLAND TOWN HALL, PORTLAND, ONTARIO  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

**Board Officers:** President: Doug Arrand; Treasurer, Ed Brigden;

**Board Members:** Pat Chamberlain (Environment); Jennifer Trant (Communications); Doug Good

**Board Regrets:** Secretary: Mike Healey; Peter Merkley

**General Members:** Approximately fifty BRLA Members attended.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Doug Arrand called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

## **2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Doug Arrand introduced Dave Ballinger from the Rideau Canal Authority, Anders Carson a Councilor from Rideau Lakes Township, Lynne Preston from the Rideau Valley Conservation authority, and Peter Hannah from the Rideau Land Trust. Mr. Carson, who had another obligation, reported on recent township actions effecting lake residents – introducing regular garbage pickup and expanded recycling, plans for public wharf repairs and the availability of private road grants.

## **3. MINUTES OF AGM HELD JULY 8, 2006**

Doug Arrand called for corrections, clarifications, errors and omissions to the minutes of the Meeting held July 8, 2006. They're being none, Peter Cowan moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Doug Good. Approved by all.

## **4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - DOUG ARRAND**

### **A. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

In 2011, BRLA will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. An appeal was made to give the Association copies of any interesting heritage items that members possess for a potential future display.

### **B. Highlights of the year**

- Expanded corporate membership program. Thanks to sponsors.

## **BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JULY 7, 2007**

- Lake property owners survey undertaken by RLEF
- Resolution of the Waterways Campground zoning issues. On hold
- Environment committee plans for Cow Island model environmental site; new docks and picnic tables. Thanks to Don Harris for volunteer work on the building
- Hazard Buoys put out as usual this year
- BRLA Fire Pumps being collected from those who kept them and donated to FAN
- Recreation program had another successful fireworks display – thanks to Mike Fraser and his volunteers; Lindsay Cameron ran day camp on Cow Island last summer for as many as 32 children one day!
- Communications Committee maintained website and published DriftWords – thanks to Jennifer Trant
- Many other volunteers to thank:
  - Peter and Joyce Cowan for “sounds” fundraiser
  - Evans family for the annual regatta organization
  - Board for their service throughout the year

## **5. TREASURER’S REPORT - ED BRIGDEN**

Financial statements were circulated and summarized.

### **A. Auditor’s Report for year ended December 31, 2006**

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 David Bearman to adopt the Audited Financial statements. Approved by all.

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

Moved by Ed Brigden, seconded by Doug Arrand to appoint Wilkinson & Company as auditors for the year ending December 31, 2007. Approved by all.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES REPORT - JENNIFER TRANT**

Jennifer Trant reported on Membership in the BRLA. Membership numbers are stable. All members were encouraged to talk to their friends and neighbours about the benefits of being a BRLA member. There is much room for expanding membership – Jennifer reported that one canvass of the docks at Len’s Cove on an afternoon recently brought in 6 new members and raised awareness of what we do for among boaters. Volunteers are needed to do more of this kind of thing.

**BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JULY 7, 2007**

**7. RIDEAU LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION (RLEF)  
REPORT - TOM HOUSTON**

**A. General**

The Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation supports environmental work on and around the Big Rideau and Upper Rideau Lakes. Both the BRLA and URLA received funds from the Foundation in the past year for a variety of new and on-going projects. Tom thanked everyone who contributed to the donation drive. Tom also thanked the RLEF Board and conveyed President Jaffrey Wilkins' regrets for not being able to attend the BRLA AGM.

**B. RLEF Treasurer's Report – George Lamont**

The number of donors and amount donated are both down from last year, perhaps from the change in fiscal year. Financial statements from 2006 are available.

**C. New initiative with real estate agents**

David Bearman reported that RLEF has entered into agreements with Charity Link Realty and with Rideau Realty to benefit from the sale and purchase of properties on the lakes and anywhere else in Canada. The agencies donate 25% of their fee in the name of the seller or purchaser to RLEF and the seller or purchaser benefits from a tax receipt. To learn more about the program and take part, please contact David Bearman.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Communications**

Jennifer Trant asked members 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](mailto:driftwords@brla.on.ca) . The next copy deadline is after the Regatta on the August long weekend.

Jennifer reported that BRLA had advertised in the Rideau Valley Visitors Guide published by the Westport Review Mirror and the Rideau Lakes Township summer program guide. New brochures have been printed – use them in recruiting your neighbors! New annual decals are available for members – you should have received yours when you signed up for the AGM.

BRLA is promoting itself with new pennants for your boats – please display one on every vessel and help support us with the \$10 donation requested.

**B. Environment**

Pat Chamberlain presented the report of the Environment Committee.

## **BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JULY 7, 2007**

BRLA supported water testing was again conducted by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Water clarity and phosphate readings were again in the acceptable range in most locations. The algae we are seeing is not the dangerous sort and will disappear soon.

Septic re-inspection program launched by Township is voluntary but members are encouraged to take part. There will be 25 sites selected on the lake. Details were given of a public information session to be held in July.

Cow Island permits applied for from the Rideau Canal Authority. Nature Clean, a Toronto company, gave us samples of environmental products to distribute. Members helped themselves.

Question from the floor concerned algae concerns. Lynn Preston of RVCA responded that experts from the Ministry of Environment and Museum of Nature have studied the algae and agree it is not the dangerous 'blue-green' sort.

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

#### **C. Government Affairs & Marine Safety**

There was no report, but a discussion of government issues raised a range of concerns.

Questions were raised about North Shore/Tay township development and campgrounds expansions. It appears to members that sub-development activity is taking place.

Members asked about what municipal expenditures were going to the lake residents.

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](mailto:safety@brla.on.ca).

#### **D. Recreation/Cow Island**

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

##### **Summer Sounds**

BRLA will be hosting a fundraising afternoon for Cow Island on Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

##### **Day Camp**

Lindsay Cameron was introduced as the head counselor on Cow Island. She is a certified lifeguard. This is Lindsay's second year with BRLA. Along with her assistant counselor

## **BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JULY 7, 2007**

Nikki Stoudt, Lindsay will be running camp and helping out with other BRLA activities. They have already assisted with the setting up of fireworks.

- Day Camp for kids from ages 4 – 12 five days a week (Mon-Fri) 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 in the afternoon.
- Family day – in August. Kids are planning a parents camp.
- Len's Cove and Bayview Marina's are again providing free taxi service to and from camp for those attending from town. Our thanks to them for this donation.

#### **Sailing**

Sailing Lessons will take place the first week of August and again will be taught by professionals from the Ontario Sailing Association's "Boom" program.

#### **Regatta**

The regatta will once again be held on Cow Island on Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.

#### **E. 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.

## **9. 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 2006/07**

Doug Arrand agreed to stand for President of the BRLA.

#### **B. Directors for 2006/07**

The following members have agreed to continue to serve on the Board for 2007/2008: Doug Arrand, Pat Chamberlain, Jennifer Trant, Peter Merkley, Mike Healey, Doug Good and Ed Brigden.

The following have agreed to let their name stand: Melanie Sterling, Toby Spry, Heather Heins and Yolande Drumm.

Moved by David Bearman and seconded by Henry Copestake that the Board be elected as proposed.

**BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JULY 7, 2007**

**10. PRESENTATIONS FROM GUESTS**

**A. Septic Re-inspection Program**

Jamie Saunders reported on the septic re-inspection program. Tay Valley has had a similar program since 2002 with more than 700 properties inspected. A letter goes out requesting re-inspection. The re-inspection identifies problems – it does not require functioning systems to be brought up to the present code. 5% find failure – sewage leaks. 40% find some need for repairs – baffles in tanks or trees in tiles and suggest a tune-up. As we know, septic systems have a great impact on water quality of the lakes and also on property values. The Rideau Lakes program is presently voluntary and a pilot. It may someday be mandatory. The septic data is confidential between the inspectors office, the township and the property owner. In Rideau Township the building inspector will issue orders to comply.

Saunders answered a number of commonly asked questions:

- What should home owners do? Pump out every 3-5 years and be aware of the condition of the tank, but septic operators are not inspectors.
- What should they look for? Smell, soft ground near bed, water near bed, striping on lawn over the bed, sewage backup, dead grass
- What is the lifespan of a septic system? Typically 25-30 years in constant use; seasonal use is different
- Should anything be added to the tank? There are no regulatory bodies certifying the effectiveness or use of septic 'starters', 'feeders', or 'cleaners'. Nothing should be necessary if the system is healthy. Seasonal systems won't be as effective, especially early in the season. Cleaners used regularly will disrupt soil around the pipes.

**B. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority**

Lynne Preston reported on the RVCA Lake Management Plans. The Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan will be the 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 plans they are undertaking. A map of the watershed shows what drains into the lake. The exercise will provide information needed for fisheries, water quality, environmental planning, and government zoning. The goals are to create a 'ribbon of life' on all shores, establish septic re-inspection programs, determine healthy water levels, create a fishery management plan, and improve stewardship. The RVCA relies of collaboration and community involvement. It has no enforcement authority (that rests with the township).

In discussion the problem of campgrounds and farms as major contributors to run-off was raised. BRLA is on record as seeking mandatory re-inspection for commercial properties.

A clear marine policy was recommended – based on environmentally sound principles. BRLA is attempting to reach the transitory boater population with signage. The question of whether boat washing stations should be set up was raised, but no agency seemed in a position to do this. Grey water dumping from boats was raised. Transport Canada is the regulatory authority and Parks is the enforcer, but Parks, apparently, aren't enforcing the regulations. It was agreed that BRLA would advise them of the concern.

**BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JULY 7, 2007**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Doug Arrand adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm.

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