



BIG RIDEAU LAKE ASSOCIATION (BRLA)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: MINUTES

JULY 5, 2008

PORTLAND TOWN HALL, PORTLAND, ONTARIO

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Officers: President: Doug Arrand; Treasurer: Ed Brigden; Secretary: Melanie Sterling

Board Members: Toby Spry (Marine Safety); Pat Chamberlain (Environment); Jennifer Trant (Communications); Heather Heins (Membership Secretary); Doug Good (Director at Large)

Board Regrets: Peter Merkley, Mike Healey

General Members: Approximately thirty BRLA Members attended

1. Call to Order

Doug Arrand called the meeting to order at 10:15 am

2. Welcome & Introduction of Guests and Board Members

Doug Arrand introduced Ron Holdman, Mayor of the Township of Rideau Lakes and Hillary Knapp from the Parks Canada- Rideau Canal Office.

3. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the Canadian cultural pioneer; Hamilton Southam.

4. Minutes of AGM Held July 7, 2007

Doug Arrand called for corrections, clarifications, errors and omissions to the minutes of the Meeting held July 7, 2007. They're being none, Dave Borden moved to approve the minutes, seconded by David Bearman. Approved by all.

5. President's Report – Doug Arrand

A. Mission Statement

In 2006, BRLA passed a mission statement. The BRLA is dedicated to building a strong community in a safe and healthy environment in and around the Big Rideau Lake. The four main objectives of the BRLA are Government, Marine Safety, Recreation and Environment.

B. Highlights of the year

- Shoreline Preservation work. Thanks to Dan O'Grady
- Planting along the shoreline of Cow Island (due to erosion)
- One week Enviro Camp (for children 6-10yrs.) Half of the cost underwritten by the RLEF- Cancelled this year due to insufficient numbers.

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- Gov't Action- worked closely with Rob Dunfield and Anders Carson on items such as the Town Dock, Willis Wharf and the Septic Tank Re-Inspection program. The BRLA wrote letters to the Township concerning the Nobles Bay Development, North Elmsley clear cutting property and Bill Hazeldean represented the BRLA at a meeting on Wake & Wash
- Toby Spry evaluated the condition and safety of 103 buoys to Rideau Ferry
- Recreation program had another successful sailing camp – thanks to Warren and Anya Hamblen and Jennifer Trant; Lindsay Cameron ran day camp on Cow island last summer for as many as 15 children in one day. A ride mower was donated to BRLA by Ed Brigden for use at Cow island.
- Volunteer Appreciation Day- thanks to Jennifer Trant and David Bearman for hosting the gathering at Grindstone Island
- Fundraising- Thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Amy for donating a Robert Bateman print and for Chris Nelson from the Carousel store in Portland for framing it.
- Many other volunteers to thank:
 - Peter and Joyce Cowan for “ summer sounds” fundraiser
 - Evans family for the annual regatta organization
 - Members for donating time and money
 - Board for their service throughout the year

6. Recognition Presentation

Lens Cove-

Lens Cove celebrated their 50th year on the lake. They have been a loyal corporate sponsor; they have donated a free water taxi service to Cow Island, stored fireworks when they arrive early and supplied the BRLA with equipment and boats. A certificate of appreciation was presented and Joan Horsfall accepted the certificate.

Douglas MacGillvary-

Douglas MacGillvary served as a member of the board and as membership secretary. He has helped develop the membership database and donated time and energy to rebuilding hazard buoys. A certificate of appreciation was presented.

Richard Bradley-

Mr. Bradley sent his regrets. Richard Bradley has donated his time and experience in adding and removing hazard buoys from Rocky Narrows to Murphy's point.

Lamonte Brown-

Mr. Brown sent his regrets. Lamonte maintains and repairs buoys from Rocky Narrows to Narrows Lock and has recently built and installed a new outhouse for Cow Island.

Taggart Construction-

Tarrgart Construction sent their regrets. The BRLA wishes to recognize that they supplied materials for the hazard buoys.

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7. Treasurer's Report – Ed Brigden

Financial statements were circulated and summarized.

A. Auditor's Report for year ended December 31, 2007

Ed Brigden wished to thank the auditors Wilkinson & Company for their hard work this past year. Ed 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 Gussy Turner to adopt the Audited Financial statements. Approved by all.

B. Motion to appoint Wilkinson & Company as auditors for current year ending December 31, 2007

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

8. Membership Report –Heather Heins

Heather Heins reported on Membership in the BRLA. Membership numbers are increasing for 2008 and the BRLA has approx. 460 members to date. Heather reported that a change has been made to offer several corporate tiers and a goal is to increase the awareness to the boating and camping community.

9. Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) Report – David Bearman

A. General

The Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation supports environmental work on and around the Big Rideau and Upper Rideau Lakes. David Bearman, President discussed some ongoing projects including the funding of water testing and graphing and publishing reports on water clarity, ecoli and phosphates from 1980 to the present. David discussed the development of new programs such as the children's EnviroCamp. The RLEF continues to focus on the restoration of cow island by planting vegetation along the shoreline in the spring and fall. The RLEF board will be adopting changes to some of the existing bylaws.

B. RLEF Treasurer's Report – George Lamont

George Lamont Treasurer sent his regrets. Financial statements from 2007 are available.

10. Committee Reports

A. Communications

Jennifer Trant explained the two methods that the BRLA communicates with its members. The first is by the BRLA website which lists current information and bulletins and the second is through the Driftwords Newsletter which is published 3 times a year (

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spring, summer and fall). Contributions to DriftWords are welcome – please send them to driftwords@brla.on.ca

Jennifer polled the room and suggested an email distribution list as another way to cut down the costs in time and dollars to distribute the newsletter. The majority of the members in the room agreed. BRLA is promoting itself again with 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.

Pat reported that a significant concern on the lake continues to be the algae that exists throughout the lake. A representative from the Ontario Lakes Partner Program was contacted by the BRLA and the algae that is reported was explained to be a natural product in the lake. To eliminate algae growth we have to reduce the phosphates by keeping the shoreline as natural as possible, planting vegetation and cutting down on phosphate emission. BRLA supported water testing 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.

Roy Sampson and Pat Chamberlain updated a fishing brochure for the Big Rideau and a special thanks to Jennifer Trant for helping with the formatting.

Pat reported on the project to restore Cow Island and referred to the survey displaying the areas that require the most immediate attention.

Questions from the floor were raised concerning algae and high lake levels. Pat Chamberlain responded that the algae is not the dangerous ‘blue-green’ sort and that the BRLA will continue to educate members on the use of phosphate free products. Lake levels have been unusually high this year due to over 22 days of rain this spring.

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

C. Marine Safety

Toby reported that he has surveyed all 104 shoal markers. Toby explained that the Big Rideau is the only lake on the Rideau system with registered markers on boating charts. It is very important that they are not moved in relation to the Canada Shipping Act. Toby encouraged people to call if a buoy is displaced or in need of repair.

Toby is undertaking a program to replace shoal markers that are in bad condition and to rebuild any that are in need of repair. Toby is currently seeking quotes on individual parts.

In regards to marine safety, Toby is reaching out to members for volunteers. Some projects this year will include making a request to change a buoy off the side of cow island and the development of the Watch your Wake program.

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.

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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

Summer Sounds

BRLA will be hosting a fundraising afternoon for Cow Island on Saturday July 19th with musical group the "Bells". 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.

Day Camp

Lindsay Cameron is the head counselor on Cow Island. She is a certified lifeguard. This is Lindsay's third year with BRLA. Along with her assistant counselor Nikki Stoudt, Lindsay will be running camp until August 21st.

Regatta

The regatta will once again be held on Cow Island on Saturday August 4th. 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. A special thanks to the Evans family for organizing this event.

Fireworks

Mike Fraser was thanked for all his efforts with the fireworks over the past twenty five years. This is a significant investment of time, and takes a full day of set-up on Saturday and clean up on Sunday. The fireworks display was moved to July 5th due to rain so hopefully everyone can turn out tonight.

11. Elections

Doug Arrand, presented the slate of candidates for the BRLA Board. The BRLA looks for balanced representation from the North Shore, Rideau Ferry, local community, islanders and mainlanders. Doug reviewed the terms for the board. 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 2008/09

Doug Arrand agreed to stand one more year for President of the BRLA.

B. Directors for 2008/09

The following members have agreed to continue to serve on the Board for 2008/2009: Doug Arrand, Ed Brigden, Jennifer Trant, Peter Merkle, Melanie Sterling, Toby Spry, Doug Good and Heather Heins.

The following have agreed to let their name stand: Barbara Keays, Carol Harris and Peter Copestake. Doug Arrand made an appeal for a Director of Gov't Action.

Moved by Diane Hambleton and seconded by Blair Armstrong that the Board be elected as proposed. Motion carried by all.

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12. Presentations from Guests

A. Portland Historic Society

Tom Sled was introduced and gave the members a quick overview of the Portland Historic Society. Their main function is to get together to support the Big Rideau Lake, its culture and the history of the area. Tom gave an example of Portland's rich heritage; Charles Kingmill (the 1st Admiral of the Canadian Navy) who is buried in Portland. They would like to record historic knowledge and artifacts. The long term goal is to build a museum in Portland.

B. Parks Canada- Rideau Canal Office

Hillary Knapp reviewed safety of the environment and the Rideau Canal System. The Watch your Wake program stemmed from an idea to reach out to users of the canal. Is there a problem? Where are the problems if so? A mailer went out to shoreline residences and to anyone who bought lock passes. Hillary reported that a large number of responses were received regarding damage to shoreline as a result of wake/wash. A meeting was held in the spring with OPP, local marina officials, wakeboarding/waterskiing groups to look at the pros/cons. This was a way to gather information and assess what can be done. Mr. Hazeldean represented the BRLA board at this meeting. Hillary asked members to send comments/feedback to their email address rideau.comments@pc.gc.ca. There will be a third meeting held to determine the next course of action. Some other ideas that stemmed from the discussion were:

- Erosion-linked to high water levels
- Tendency to hug channel markers- requires better education, keep a distance from the shore
- Proper wake signs required on the lake “ no wake zones”
- Change the signage from KM's to RPM's/Knots
- More patrolling/enforcement

13.ADJOURNMENT

Doug Arrand adjourned the meeting at 11:57 am.

As per the BRLA Constitution, the Board set a meeting date for July 19th 1pm at Cow Island.