



PO Box 93  
Portland, ON  
K0G 1V0  
info@bigrideaulakeassociation.com  
www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com

**Big Rideau Lake Association**  
**Annual General Meeting, June 29, 2019**  
**Portland Community Hall, Portland, Ontario**

**Attendance**

Phil Albert ( Co-chair )  
Robin Copestake ( Membership Director )  
Brian Hawkins ( Treasurer )  
Grant Leslie ( Chair )  
Gayle Mathe ( Secretary )  
Nancy Watters ( Social and Recreation  
Director)

**Regrets**

Doug Kirkland ( Political Relations Director )  
Lyse Prendergast ( Communications Director )

**Guests**

Arie Hooganboom ( Mayor TRL )  
Carolyn Bresee ( Councillor TRL )

**1. Call to Order**

A quorum of members being present, the meeting was called to order at 9:45. There were 43 members and 4 students in attendance.

**2. Welcome / Introduction / Moment of Silence**

**Grant Leslie** welcomed the members, students and our guests, Arie Hooganboom and Carolyn Bresee of TRL Council.

The members observed a moment of silence for friends and family members no longer with us.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM**

On a **MOTION** by Michael Peterson and **SECONDED** by Diane Hambleton and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the BRLA approve the draft minutes of the 2018 AGM as presented.

#### 4. Opening Remarks Grant Leslie

Grant spoke about

- By-Law changes including a greater geographical area
- the BRLA wants to hear and understand the concerns of the broader community, members of BRLA as well as non-members

Environmental concerns

- the BRLA is pushing for more mandatory septic inspections in TRL.
- the BRLA has encouraged capping of the waste disposal sit in Portland
- the BRLA would like to have the government pass laws making it possible for private enterprise to operate septic pumping on islands in Big Rideau Lake
- we have added nitrate testing to our monthly Water Ranger testing
- keeping informed on invasive species such as the round gobi

Other areas of concern

- noise, particularly coming from motor boats running off-muffler and tournament boats all operating at once very early in the mornings
- light pollution
- pet control

FOCA

- the BRLA has joined the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association which is a great resource for anyone living on the lake as well as a strong partner voice in government

Lake Plan

- somewhat held up by the fact that names and addresses of all lake residents must be hand copied. Also, work load of directors is very large at present

Recognition

The BRLA Board of Directors recognizes with gratitude the work of Buzz Boles in his role as Environment Director, Brian Hawkins as Treasurer and Lyse Prendergast in her role as Communications Director as these Directors' terms come to completion.

Also, the Board recognizes and thanks Peter Hannah for his representation to TRL Council regarding planning issues

## 5. By-Law Changes

- thanks and recognition to Doug Kirkland, Brian Hawkins, and Nancy Watters for their work on updating the BRLA by-laws. Thanks to Tom Houston for his legal advice on the by-law amendments
- the amendments extend the geographical area from Big Rideau Narrows Lock to Poonamalie Locks and readdress membership definitions

On a **MOTION** by Jennifer Trant and **SECONDED** by Tom Houston and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the word “end” be deleted from **EXHIBIT I**, ii Section 10 (j) Instead of “ The fiscal year end of the corporation shall be the twelve month period ending the 31st day of December in each calendar year, or such other date as may from time to time be approved by the Board.”, the sentence should be written, “ The fiscal year of the corporation shall be the twelve month period ending the 31st day of December in each calendar year, or such date as may from time to time be approved by the board.”

On a **MOTION** by Nancy Watters and **SECONDED** by Tom Houston and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the members of the BRLA accept the by-law changes as presented in **EXHIBIT I** and **EXHIBIT II**, with the deletion of the word “end” as per the previous motion.

## 6. Treasure’s Report Brian Hawkins

Brian presented his report which included the audit by Wilkinson & Company LLP- Chartered Professional Accountants. This report is required annually and is done at the cost of \$2,500.00.

Our net assets as of Dec 31, 2018 are \$74,832. This is less than year end 2017 due in part to having entered certain obsolete and/or depreciated items in the negative column.

Our revenue to date is 30% ahead of last year, to date, membership is up and we have had a donation from the Township of Rideau Lakes and a generous anonymous donation. Our expenses are comparable to last years. Bookkeeper wages are a new expense until we can find a Treasurer to sit on the Board.

On a **MOTION** by Brian Hawkins and **SECONDED** by David Bearman and unanimously carried, be it resolved that the members of the BRLA approve the financial statements for the year ended Dec 31, 2018 as prepared by Wilkinson and Company, LLP- Professional Chartered Accountants and presented to this meeting.

On a **MOTION** by Brian Hawkins and **SECONDED** by Gayle Mathe and unanimously approved, be it resolved that the members of the BRLA appoint Wilkinson & Company LLP- Professional Chartered Accountants as auditors for the association for the 2019 fiscal year.

### **7. Communications** Phil Albert on behalf of Lyse Prendergast

The role of Director of Communications is to keep members informed of BRLA activities. The website is the cornerstone of this.

The Presidents Letter in the Spring was opened by 82 people and received a good response.

Robin Copestake has been posting on social media, new for the Board, and is getting good feedback.

“Driftwords” is a team based electronic newsletter (anyone can contribute). Phil, Grant and Lyse comprise the editorial team.

The communications team would greatly appreciate the help of a volunteer web master.

### **8. Social and Recreational** Nancy Watters

Nancy expressed heartfelt thanks to Lyse Prendergast for her efforts in promoting the social and recreational programs.

The BRLA has 7 programs this summer

- day camp (Claire Snyder is coordinator, 2 camp leaders have their Bronze Medallion)
- Canada Day fireworks, June 29
- Summer Sounds, July 6
- sailing camp August 12-16 (David Bearman and Jenifer Trant have guaranteed sponsorship of 2 community children should there be room in the camp)
- Family Fun day, August 4 (Diane and Bill Hambleton ask for help with the BBQing)
- sail race and BBQ Sat., August 17
- a new Saturday AM day camp will be offered

## **9. Environment** Grant Leslie

Algae is on the increase. The blue/green variety is toxic. Algae sightings can be reported to the ministry of the environment.

The RVCA says that intensive farming practices coupled with stronger fertilizers causes increased levels of lake pollution such as phosphates and sulphates.

The Portland Landfill site has ceased to accept waste as of July 31. It will operate as a transfer station. The Township will do continued testing for leachate and polyfluorocarbons.

## **10. Bass Tournament Update** Alice Abrams Carleton University

- there is less mortality of tournament caught fish than there was previously
- the University will be studying stress levels in fish kept in live wells
- the University will be studying the social and economic impact of tournaments on stakeholders
- the number of tournaments is increasing and there is no limitation or permit required
- NSERC will be investigating fish connectivity and the effect of the canals in the Rideau system
- the radio receivers used in the bass telemetry study will be retrieved and analyzed in November
- external tagging will be done on carp, Northern pike, large mouth bass

## **Government Relations** Grant Leslie on behalf of Doug Kirkland

Peter Hannah has been working with the Township of Rideau Lakes planning people and BRLA to have clear expectations stated by the Township, enforcement and follow up regarding Registry on Title when properties change hands or new construction.

There will be a Township Committee meeting July 12 at the community centre to discuss the Official Plan.

The Rideau Lakes Lake Association, a committee of representatives from the different Rideau Lakes are concerned also with planning and enforcement.

**Lake Safety and Operations** Grant Leslie

10 of the 115 shoal markers are new replacements this year. Work is being done on a chart which will clearly show where the shoal markers are. ( possibly a revenue generator)

There is a new second “L” dock at Cow Island.

Boating safety articles have and will be in “Driftwords”.

We are working with Parks Canada to find ways to reduce speed limits and wake production.

**Membership** Robin Copestake

We have record renewals of membership to date this year as well as an increase in corporate sponsorship.

The use of social media is generating interest in many aspects of the population.

We are encouraging members to give BRLA memberships to family members and others.

**RLEF** Michael Peterson

Parks Canada is now contributing to bass research in Big Rideau.

Tax receipts are available to contributors of the Doug Good Memorial Shoal Marker fund.

RLEF is involved in the Township of Rideau Lakes Official Plan.

MPAC collects property information annually. Lake residents and cottagers are very much underrepresented relative to the tax monies they are assessed and pay.

## Elections

At present there is no Board Chair of

- Treasurer
- Environment
- Communications

On a **MOTION** by Brian Hawkins and **SECONDED** by Michael Peterson, and unanimously carried, be it resolved that Phil Albert, Robin Copestake and Gayle Mathe continue in their roles as directors of the BRLA.

## Questions and Answers

Concern was expressed about short term cottage rentals by commercial interests while recognizing the need for some families the rent in order to maintain the properties.

Jennifer Trant urges those concerned, to get involved with the Official Plan. Write councillors, speak up and go to the planning meetings.

Grant advises members to address comments to Mayor Hooganboom and council.

Carolyn Bresee says "I am listening" Also address concerns by E-mail Mary Ellen Trulove and the editor of the Mirror.

Nancy Watters announced this as her final season with Social and Recreational.

David Bearman expressed concern about the proposed demolition on the circa 1840 Brisee building. He hopes the decision has been arrived at after careful consideration.

On a **MOTION** by Brian Hawkins and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM