



## AGM PRESENTATION

WELCOME!

## BOARD REPORT

The purpose of this presentation is:

- To provide an overview of the work, priorities and direction taken by your Board over the past year as an introduction to the Committee Reports and...
- To provide background for a Q&A session that will follow the Committee Reports

## BOARD REPORT

- The Board process has generally been to monitor and react on behalf of the membership as issues arose
- In recent years the BRLA Board revitalized a Government Relations Committee and an Environment Committee to:
  - **expand its' knowledge and understanding of Big Rideau Lake environmental trends**
  - **track the directions of government(s) on issues of importance to Big Rideau Lake residents**

## BOARD INITIATIVE

- In the early fall, the Board under took a formal planning exercise to identify its Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities
- This exercise and discussions led to a consensus on a number of opportunities and priorities for the ensuing year/s

## PRIORITIES

- Strengthen Board governance with a strategic planning process, policy framework, annual work plans, updated organization chart and clear role and responsibility statements for all Board positions
- Introduce a Co-Chair BRLA Leadership structure
- Recruit additional Corporate sponsors

## PRIORITIES

- Form stronger relationships and a coordinated front through liaison with other Associations and working groups
- Put local government on notice as to Lake Property Owner issues and encourage tax payers to vote electronically in the upcoming election
- Lobby the Township of Rideau Lakes to improve the amount of Portland public dock space and to stop renting out public dock space for private use

## PRIORITIES

- Leverage the success of BRLA's Recreational and Social events on Cow Island
- Develop Driftwords II in a new streamlined format to better inform property owners on lake issues
- Increase membership in the Narrows to Rideau Ferry zone
- Explore new ways to promote water safety
- Engage the Next Generation in BRLA affairs

## PRIORITIES

- Communicate the upcoming findings of Dr Cooke's study on bass fishery health and the social impact of fishing tournaments on lake residents
- Reach out to the broader community of Big Rideau Lake (not just BRLA members) to better communicate what the Association does for all lake property owners
- Establish working relations with potential funding and partnering sources. (e.g. Parks Canada, RCVA, Green Infrastructure Fund)

## PRIORITIES

- Continue working with the OPP to control the excessive noise from boaters running illegally without mufflers
- Participate with recognized water quality testing programs to support the investigation of issues such as increased algae blooms
- Commence the development of a comprehensive Lake Plan that is consistent with the best practices used by other lake associations to complete their Lake plans

## PRIORITIES

All this in addition to the on-going Shoal Marker, Fire Works, Social and Recreation Programs, Environment Committee, Government Relations Committee and Communications, activity that you will hear about shortly

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Clearly we have an ambitious agenda:

- In the coming months, Committee activities and the actions required to address the identified priorities and others that may arise will require assistance from volunteers
- Given the increased clarity of the roles and responsibilities, along with estimates of time commitment, we expect to draw more members into more active participation in the Association

## **STRENGTHENING BRLA'S BOARD**

The Board is proposing a strengthening of BRLA's governance structure to pursue the identified issues and priorities on behalf of members.

## STRENGTHENING BRLA'S BOARD

### Why Make Changes ?

#### WHY CHANGE ?

- Lake demographics have changed
- Breadth and depth of BRLA activities have increased significantly resulting in heavier workload for members of the Board
- A resurgence in the popularity of Social and Recreational programs

## WHY CHANGE ?

- Growing complexity of the government regulatory environment along with increasing Environmental issues requires more strategic approaches
- Recruitment of Board members is becoming more difficult because of lack of clarity around position roles and responsibilities

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO BRLA GOVERNANCE MODEL

- Development of a Board policy framework that will help ensure consistency in management of the organization from one Board to another
- Development of clear roles and responsibilities for Directors
- Strengthen the organization structure to spread workload over a “deeper” organization that emphasizes the management roles of Directors



## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO BRLA GOVERNANCE MODEL**

- Empowerment of Directors to create committees and work teams staffed with volunteers
- Creation of a Nominating Committee to recruit a slate of Board candidates to ensure planned succession of Board members
- Creation of a “Next Generation” representative to ensure the BRLA understands how to engage those who will inherit the Lake Association

## **NEW OR RE-DEFINED ROLES**

- Vice President
- Nominating Committee
- Director of Operations and Lake Safety
- Next Gen Rep
- Defined roles and responsibilities for all Directors
- Documented protocols for Committees and Committee Chairs
- Fund Raising Role



## LAKE PLAN INITIATIVE

### WHY HAVE A LAKE PLAN?

## LAKE PLAN INITIATIVE

### *The times they are a changing.....*

- There is a need for greater awareness on all fronts including environment, demographics, development regulations and initiatives of regulatory authorities (*Total Situation Awareness*)
- The values and concerns of the Big Rideau Lake community need to be identified and documented – This requires an integrated long term plan for protecting Big Rideau Lake
- Involves wide ranging input from lake residents, commercial interests and regulatory bodies
- It has been shown that the Lake Plan process strengthens relationships with government and regulatory agencies
- Lake Plans become the reference for Townships in how they relate to the lake property owner community

## LAKE PLAN INITIATIVE

- Residents need to become more aware of what they need to do in terms of land and water use practices to protect property values
- Baby boomers are increasing the demand for waterfront residences - This has resulted in pressure in some jurisdictions to change the limits on development regulations....Muskoka experience
- Changes in land use are impacting the broader watershed
- All indications are that water quality is of increasing concern

## LAKE PLAN INITIATIVE

- To achieve improvement - measurable objectives need to be set
- There will be a number of volunteers required for various aspects of the development of the Lake Plan
- The Lake Plan will focus the attentions of all stakeholders and raise the profile of BRLA
- Many Lake Associations have preceded us in the development of a Lake Plan and have reaped the benefits

## LAKE PLAN - WHAT'S INVOLVED

Participation by all those who need to own the plan:

- Residents
- Townships
- RVCA
- Parks Canada
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and & Forestry

## LAKE PLAN - WHAT'S INVOLVED

- Development of a Project Plan (Two + Years)
- Application for Funding Grants
- Creation of a Steering Committee
- Completion of a State of the Lake Assessment.
- Extensive consultation with Stakeholders
- Surveys
- Data Crunching
- Development of Recommendations

## LAKE PLAN - CURRENT STATUS

- Project Plan Developed
- Water Quality Study Underway (a key part of the State of the Lake Assessment)
- Early Consultations Started
- Funding Sources Identified

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

## COMMUNICATIONS

Website - [www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com](http://www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com)

- Re-Design Over Winter / Spring To:
  - Update Look and Design
  - Add History Section
  - Improve Ease of Making Donations
    - add donation link to home page
    - donation options listed separately
- Members' Section

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Membership Emails
  - Email Lists
  - Second Email Address
- Social Media
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Instagram

## COW ISLAND

- Island rejuvenation has been begun to take hold
- Landscaping improvements, new picnic tables and island cleanup
- Additional safety equipment including new safer fire extinguishing pump
- Clubhouse cleanup additions including coded door locks, tables and chairs
- Old garbage removed off island, docks and boardwalks repaired
- New signage and contact method established for island usage

Thank You!

## ENVIRONMENT

- Bass Study Update
  - Summer Data Collection
  - Social Impact Interviews
  - Final Report in Fall
  - Dr. Cooke Here for Q&A
  - Research into Canal Impact on Marine Life



about Testkits the app contact



# EXPLORE WATER WITH US!

Imagine a world where researchers and active citizens work together to share information on when water is healthy and when it needs help. We want everyone to have the tools they need to protect waterways!

Water Rangers website allows anyone to discover existing data, report issues like algae blooms and record observations of their lakes, streams and rivers. It also gives tools (like our new testkits and challenges!) to groups so they can mobilize volunteers to make an impact on their watersheds.

EXPLORE OUR MAP



## ENVIRONMENT

- Water Rangers Launched!
  - Recognized Internationally
  - + 20 Lakes in Program in Ontario
  - 3 BRLA Teams for Big Rideau
  - Next Gen Engaged
  - Aligned with RCVA Testing ( > Frequency)
  - Aligned with Dr. Jesse Vermeere



## ENVIRONMENT

- Cormorants
  - More Accurate Count Process
  - Current - 137 / Nest Count 16
  - Overall Count Slightly Higher
  - Nest Count down from 22



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Municipal Government Impact on Your Property
- Waterfront Property is ~ 70% of TRL Tax Revenue
- Disproportionate Return
- Waterfront Voting Representation is Very Low
- Upcoming Bulletin on Voting Systems
- Candidate Questionnaire Coming in September
- Protect Your Investment

## LAKE SAFETY

- Shoal Markers Deployed Prior to May 24 – Contracted to Steve Magee
- Some Replacements Required
- 110 Markers / 2 Additional for Coutts Bay
- Thanks to All who Flagged Damaged or Missing Markers
- Safe Boating!~

## MEMBERSHIP

- Steadily Increasing Membership (2011-2017)
- Increased Boater Memberships (Three Marinas)
- Private Road Membership Initiative
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Great Overall Potential
- Thank You!

## SOCIAL AND RECREATION




BRLA kicks off the summer of 2018 on the lake!  
Canada Day Fireworks Show over Cow Island  
Sunday July 1st  
@ Dusk

Summer Sounds on Cow Island  
Saturday July 7th  
2-4 pm



# SOCIAL AND RECREATION



## Social & Recreation

### Summer Update 2018

[www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com](http://www.bigrideaulakeassociation.com)

#### Day Camp

Final 4 weeks

July 9th - July 13th  
*Fishing Derby*

July 16th - July 20th  
*Olympic Games*

July 23rd - July 27th  
*Nature*

July 30th - Aug 3rd  
*The Amazing Race*

9:00am - 12:00pm  
*drop-in or register online*

#### Sailing Camp

Ontario's BOOM Mobile Sailing School

Aug 13th - Aug 17th

Ages 8-14 Only 2 spots left!

#### August Harvest Dinner Pot-luck

for BRLA Members & Guests

Saturday, August 18

5:00pm - 8:00pm

hosted on Cow Island

You are invited to bring your favourite cottage dish - an appetizer, main dish, side dish OR salad, dessert. BYOB with a nominal charge to cover other expenses. RSVP & register online to help with menu and other planning.

#### FAMILY FUN DAY

for BRLA Members & Guests


Sunday, August 5

10:30am - 1:00pm - includes lunch

hosted on Cow Island

- games on land and water
- all ages from tots to grandparents
- awards for all and the grand trophy to the family with the most points overall
- free event but donations appreciated
- bring a canoe, if available
- RSVP to help us with planning

[recreation@bigrideaulakeassociation.com](mailto:recreation@bigrideaulakeassociation.com)



## Q & A SESSION

