

RIVER TALK 2022

APRIL



RIVER SAFETY
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**WE MARK
ROCKS
AND SAVE
PROPS!**

LEARN MORE



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Photo by John N. Street

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Photo by John N. Street

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Fitton



April is a transition month from the harsh cold winter to another spring season with new life on the river – it puts a spirit of youth in everything.

Is the start of April a youthful joke? April Fools' Day has been celebrated for centuries by different cultures, though its exact origins remain a mystery. By custom, jokes and tricks can be played up until noon on 1 April. After midday it's considered bad luck to play a trick. Anyone who forgets this and tries a joke in the afternoon becomes an 'April Fool' themselves!

What is not a joke is government and public health guidelines of unmasking as we emerge from the current threats of COVID-19 and its variants. Please proceed with care to protect our community.

Easter is late this year because it depends on the first full moon after the March vernal equinox which is April 16. This timing should allow more of us to be on the river to enjoy easter with friends and family. Please take photos on how you celebrate and share them with our **TIA Communications Team**.

World Earth Day is on April 22 and the theme this year is INVEST IN OUR PLANET. This date is a reminder there is still time to solve the climate crisis, time to choose both a prosperous and sustainable future, and time to restore nature and build a healthy planet for our children and their children – together, by everyone, everyday! Things to do are many and include swapping out your household products for recycled, plant a tree, wildflowers and native plants, conserve energy and water, think about your diet (take a 3-minute foodprint quiz), and promote the day. <https://www.almanac.com/content/earth-day-date-activities-history>

On the TIA waterfront, I am pleased to introduce our 2022 Summer Co-Op Student Jana Moore, 3rd year student enrolled at Queen's University studying Environmental Toxicology. Her good work starts in May – welcome Jana!

God willing, our AGM will be held at the Playhouse on July 23rd - mark your calendars for this long overdue public gathering and fellowship event.

Time to get organized for spring opening and don't forget your **tax deductible 2022 Membership** to support our mission pillars of River Safety, Environmental Awareness, Community Support, and our essential shoal marking program – thank you!





FROM THE EDITOR

ALLISON BURCHELL-ROBINSON

Photo by John N. Street

The ice breaker came through followed not long after by the first freighter. The horses have coats of mud, a robin is on the lawn and the geese are overhead-all sure signs that spring is here. Well almost here as there are still some snow flurries in the upcoming forecast. The time to put away boots, hats, scarves and gloves is coming. It's time to trade the shovel for the gardening tools. It's time to stop making soup and start thinking salads. It's time to get ready for change.

Soon the marinas will be open with boats in their yards and docks will be free of the ice. Lawn mowers will be featured in stores, the car washes will reopen and lawn furniture will be uncovered. Leaves on the trees will peep through and the daffodils will suddenly appear. It's a magical time of the year with rebirth and regrowth the theme. The color green is so appropriate for this time of year. It's vibrant and striking and it has so many hues. And nowhere are these hues better found than in the Thousand Islands region we cherish and love.

In this issue of River Talk, you can find the most recent news about the border, learn about the native weasels populating the area, check on the water levels and learn more about The Great Lakes Foundation. Catch the article on the programs planned for the summer by the Environmental Awareness committee, including three River Clean Up Days. Make sure to participate in one of those days as it's a real, although unfortunate, eye opener.

Thank you all of you who have already renewed your membership for the year. Our March Membership Drive is continuing into April. There are three levels of membership, details of which can be found on our website: thousandislandsassociation.com under "Join Us". If you are new to our membership, a huge welcome! You too can go to our website to learn more about TIA and who we are and what we do.

Once again [Stuart Arnett](#) is donating one of his outstanding prints to be raffled off to members at the AGM. More details about this print will soon be on the website. You can always communicate with TIA via email at thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com.



The Least Weasel



The 1000 Islands is home to 3 species of weasel, the Long-Tailed Weasel, the Short-Tailed Weasel and the Least Weasel. If you live along a shoreline or an inland lake, you have caught a quick glimpse of a skinny little low-to-the ground brown animal darting amongst the rocks. Now the problem is knowing what it was that you saw, perhaps a mink or perhaps a weasel but the question is which one. Well hopefully this River Talk will help answer that question.

Long-tailed weasels are largest (total length 30-35 cm / 12 - 14 in.), Short-tailed weasels or ermine as they are called sometimes are medium sized (total length males 22.5-34 cm / 9 - 13 in., females 19-29 cm / 7.5 - 11.5 in.), while Least weasels are smallest (total length less than 25 cm / 9.8 in.) in males and less than 22.5 cm / 9 in. in females.

All weasels are brown in colour in the summer months and turn white in the winter. Both the Long-tailed and Short-tailed retain their black tipped tail all year whereas the smaller Least weasel turns completely white.

Now the hard part - distinguishing between a Mink and a Weasel. Only the Long-Tailed weasel would be close enough in size to a Mink. They have the same slender bodies, their noses are a little more pointed than a weasel and minks have partially webbed feet. Minks can weigh up to 3 pounds and reach a length of 45 cm or 18 inches.

Whichever weasel family member you see, rest assured that they are great little hunters and are helping to keep our rodent, amphibian and even our invasive species of crayfish in check.



1. Long Tailed Weasel- Summer

2. Long Tailed Weasel- Winter

3. Short Tailed Weasel- Summer

Photos supplied by Stuart Arnett

Environmental Update

Janet Smith-Staples

Spring has arrived and the seaway is officially open. The ice flows are shrinking, the bays are clearing out and the familiar symphony of honking sounds fills the quiet skies as the Geese make their way back to the river. River communities are also coming to life, eagerly discussing launch dates and cottage openings. The River is waking up from winter's slumber.

Photo by Janet Smith-Staples



The Thousand Islands Association however, knows no slumber and we've been planning events, plotting maps, and discussing a summer where we hope to gather in person! We have also hired our new summer intern and TIA is thrilled to be working with Jana Moore, a 3rd year Queen's student studying environmental toxicology. Jana will be off and running with us in May.

We were hoping to have a turtle nest protector building workshop in March lead by Parks Canada, however covid managed to push that off for a few more weeks. Member-at-Large, Dave McWilliam and our environmental committee are working to fabricate a limited number of turtle nest protectors. With some guidance from Parks Canada's Mathieu LeCompte, we plan on getting them out to members who may have access to turtle nesting areas. Keep your eyes peeled to our social media platforms for more information in the coming weeks.

It's right about now that time really seems to pick up speed and before you know it, we will be gathering in early June for our first Trash Free River Clean-up day of the season. Along with all that is refreshing about springtime, it also highlights the amount of trash out there – along the sides of the roads, & along the river's edge. While Winter has a way of hiding it, Springtime gives us that stark reminder.

Our Fishing Line Recycling Stations are out in the world, with more coming this summer. Added to the mix will be a map showing their location on our website shortly. I just gathered up another spool of fishing line while walking my dog along the shore early today ... if you find any gather it up and drop it into one of our stations.

A big thank you goes out to our environmental committee and Members-at-Large Dave McWilliam, Megan Coleman, & Stuart Arnett for their hard work and dedication to this River and it's community. We couldn't do it without you!



Did you know that TIA will issue you a tax receipt for any donation over \$10? We also issue both Canadian and US Tax receipts. Learn More by [CLICKING HERE](#)

WATER LEVEL UPDATE



Photo by John N. Street



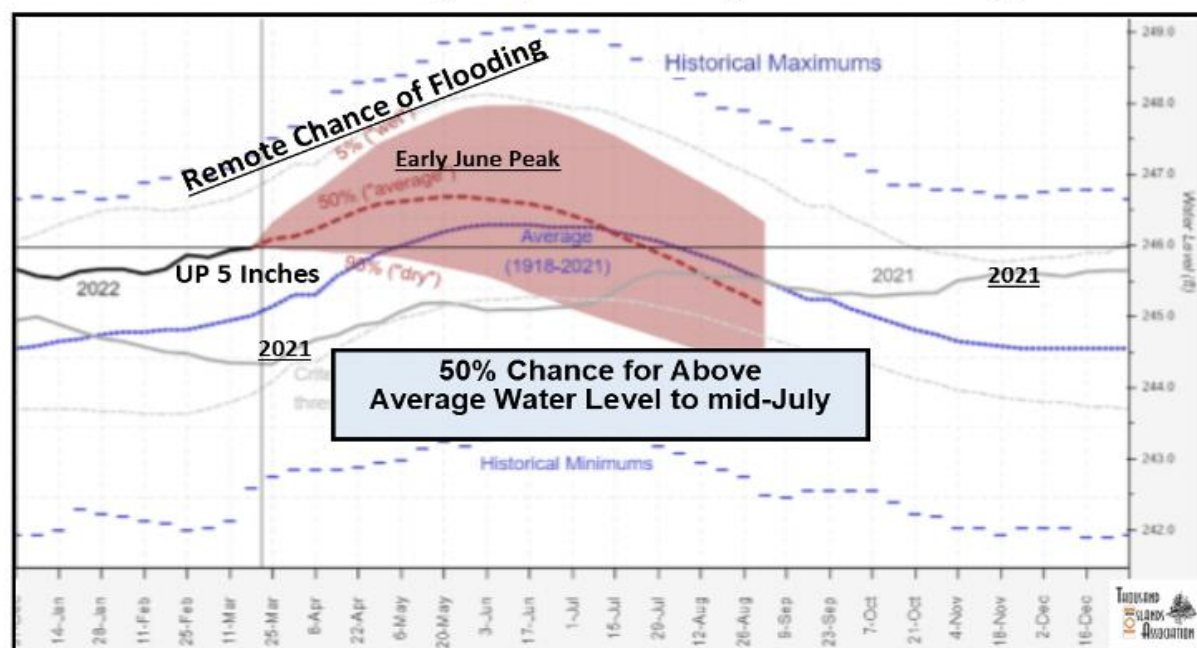
Water Levels Focus: KISS – Keeping It Simply Spring

TIA Water Levels Committee (3/22/22)

The IJC & ILOSLR Board have adopted a new policy to make water levels PERFECT at your dock in 2022! (**April Fools!**) From the latest forecast chart, we foresee (at 50% chance):

- No flooding, water levels remain above average until at least mid-July
- 2022 is a mirror image of 2021 – water levels higher in the spring & lower in the fall
- The Seaway Opening is Tuesday, March 22nd. Spring is right on schedule!
- Channels are open, while bays, docks, & shoreline are still frozen – perch are biting!

Lake Ontario Water Level Forecast
25 March through 2 September 2022 — (issued on 17 February)



<https://ijc.org/en/loslr/watershed/forecasts> Edits by TIA

- **Ottawa River freshet** main flows have increased, due to snowmelt/recent rainfall
- Ottawa River flows are currently above average, and signs point to an early freshet
- This, along with the moderate snowpack, are good indicators for a moderate freshet affecting Montreal and downriver
- A moderate and early freshet means less chance for Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River outflows to be reduced later in spring, meaning less chance for flooding in our Lake/River Basin
- The **GLAM Committee** (Great Lakes Adaptive Management) completed Phase 1 of the expedited review of Plan 14
- Videos explain this work and a copy of the report are available [here](#) – public comments can be submitted until April 18th, 2022
- The GLAM is working with the PAG (Public Advisory Group) to hold small informational sessions with key stakeholders in different stakeholder locations
- For our Thousand Islands region, TIA will be represented by Board member Vince Barton in the GLAM/PAG meeting

See our Full Article for further discussion of these important topics! Click [HERE](#)



TIA Salutes Local Businesses in the River Community

With the winter now behind us, our thoughts return to boating on the river and the increase in traffic of local and seasonal residents bringing business to our local communities. It is the time of year TIA mobilizes to placing nearly 200 white and orange shoal markers between the tip of Howe Island and Brockville for the safety of recreational boating. This has become an essential service provided by TIA, a not-for-profit organization, committed to its mission of *River Safety, Environmental Awareness, Community Support*.

It is also the time of year we reach out to local business for support as we rely heavily on business sponsorship funding to help TIA with its mandates.

Becoming a sponsor will put your business in contact with our membership that is represented by a river community of more than four generations of growing families who own and rent real estate, who are boaters based out of marinas, and who are visitors to the river that need a variety of local business products and services.

Becoming a sponsor will also associate your business as a supporter of environmental awareness and green living. The benefits of Admiral vs Captain level sponsorships are outlined in the our [2022 Business Sponsorship Packages flyer](#).

We invite you to become a business sponsor by one of 3 options shown in the flyer. The TIA website www.thousandislandsassociation.com/sponsor/ Business Sponsorship page provides a fillable form for credit card payment. If you prefer to be invoiced, send us an email at thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com.

Thank you for your valued consideration and giving us the opportunity to promote your business.

TIA 2022 Business Sponsorship Committee

Chris Edwards
Dave Redmond
Alec Turner
Peter Fitton



FRIENDS OF TIA GREAT LAKES FOUNDATION

Eric Sunstrum



The Great Lakes Foundation is the charitable arm of the Great Lakes Cruising Club (GLCC), a non-profit organization of about 2,500 Canadian and American sail and power boaters who cruise throughout the Great Lakes and their connecting waterways. The Great Lakes Foundation was formed to preserve the richness of wilderness cruising areas of the Great Lakes and foster the art and science of cruising. All members of the GLCC are automatically members of the Great Lakes Foundation and participate in its affairs.

Since 1993, the Foundation has awarded more than \$296,000 USD in grants to organizations that meet the Foundation's Grant Policy. For the second year in a row, the Foundation was pleased to support the TIA Shoal Marker Program.

The Foundation's Board of Directors felt strongly that TIA's ambitious goal to replace all 300 recreational navigation buoys over a 5-year time frame throughout the Thousand Islands was a worthy project and deserving of a second grant. These markers not only help keep local boaters, both Canadian & American out of harm's way, but also help protect the fragile eco-system of the Thousand Islands territorial waters. The December 2021 amount approved was \$10,600 USD, bringing the Foundation's total contribution to the TIA to \$19,400 USD over the last two years.

The GLCC was founded in 1934 as a virtual club with no conventional yacht club facilities. Club members collect, document and share cruising information through our authoritative Harbour Reports, the single best source of information to enhance cruising the Great Lakes. We have compiled over 1,000 reports on anchorages and ports. These reports, which are available to members, are unique among cruising guides. They provide accurate and up to date piloting and anchoring information for busy harbours and remote anchorages alike. We also participate in informal and organized events like our annual Rendezvous and other Rallies and gatherings around the Great Lakes.

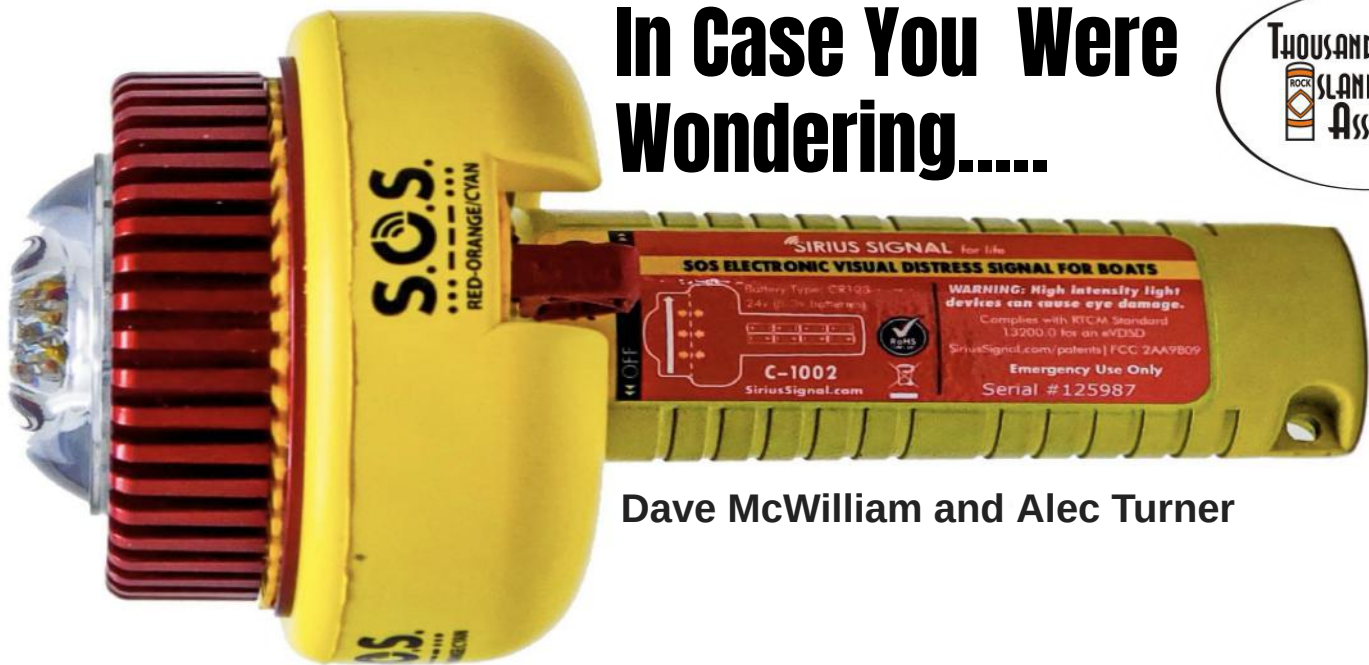
The GLCC also operates the Great Lakes Cruising Club School offering webinars in the off-season covering cruising destination information, weather, navigation and technical subjects. These popular webinars are open to all but are discounted for GLCC members.

For more information on the Great Lakes Foundation and The Great Lakes Cruising Club be sure to visit our website at <https://www.glcclub.com/>

Eric Sunstrum
Rear Commodore GLCC Region 35
Lake Ontario and Connecting Waterways
ericsunstrum@gmail.com



In Case You Were Wondering.....



Dave McWilliam and Alec Turner

Transport Canada Approves Electronic Visual Distress Signal Devices

In case you were wondering about an eVDSD (electronic Visual Distress Signal Devices), the USCG approved them for night-time use starting back in 2019. As of November 9, 2021, pleasure craft operators in Canada now have the option to carry an eVDSD instead of pyrotechnic flares, provided that at least 1 smoke signal is also carried. This new policy applies for any pleasure craft no matter their size. Commercial vessels must still carry the required flares as per their size and usage. Given the dependence of an eVDSD on batteries, you may wish to continue maintaining some flares on-board.

When buying distress flares, pyrotechnic or smoke, look for a USCG / Transport Canada approval stamp or label. Devices must be labelled with the statement, "Complies with RTCM Standard 13200.0 for an eVDSD". If a device doesn't include this statement, it can't be used as an alternative to pyrotechnic distress signals. Remember that flares are only approved for use for 4 years (48 months) from the date of manufacture, which is stamped on every flare. You may want to ask your retailer about how to safely dispose of your outdated flares.

Remember: Type D - Smoke Signals (Buoyant or Hand-Held) create a dense orange smoke for only three to four minutes (buoyant) / 50 seconds (hand-held) and are used only in daylight for true emergencies. It's important to position the device so your smoke signal is downwind...Always follow the manufacturer's directions carefully.

Source:

Transport Canada Policy (TC): <https://tinyurl.com/Transport-Canada-eVDSD-Policy>

Safe Boating Guide (TC): <https://tinyurl.com/Safe-Boating-Guide>

United States Coast Guard (USCG): <https://tinyurl.com/US-Coast-Guard-eVDSD-Policy> (see Policy Letter 03-18 Adoption of RTCM Standard 13200.0 for Electronic Visual Distress Signal Devices (eVDSDs))

CROSS BORDER UPDATE

Orm Murphy



There has been a slow evolution of the easing of restrictions on border crossing which has reflected the regression of COVID.

As of April 1st, a fully vaccinated U.S. resident will be able to enter Canada, but ArriveCAN will be required. Proof of vaccination (two shots) may be requested at the border, but this information is contained in the ArriveCAN application. No PCR or antigen test is required.

A fully vaccinated Canadian resident may cross into the USA, without any need for test certificates.

Crossing by boat has changed since COVID. An American resident or Canadian resident coming into Canada must have completed an ArriveCAN application and will be required to give the ArriveCAN receipt number, as well as answering the standard questions. When checking in with Canadian Border Services, travellers must be fully vaccinated (two shots).

If crossing by boat from Canada to the United States, boaters will follow the pre-COVID procedure, but proof of double vaccination may be required.



Did you know that TIA will issue you a tax receipt for any donation over \$10? We also issue both Canadian and US Tax receipts. Learn More by [CLICKING HERE](#)



Show **TIA** you **LOVE** our **ROCK** markers by becoming a **TIA** member today. Your membership helps fund our shoal marking program

Heart photo courtesy of TIA Member and Friend, John N. Street

When you become a TIA member this spring you enter the chance to win a beautiful print generously donated by
Stuart Arnett - Wildlife Conservation Artist

The finished print will feature 8 local sunfish on a nautical chart of the Thousand Islands

CLICK HERE TO JOIN TODAY





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INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



To learn more about any sponsor click on their logo



TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors



To learn more about any sponsor click on their logo

Captain Level \$150

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- ❖ A social media mention on **TIA** Social Media
- ❖ Your hyperlinked business logo on the **TIA** sponsorship webpage

Admiral Level \$500

- ❖ A One-Year Business membership to **TIA**
- ❖ 1 or more social media mentions on **TIA** Social Media
- ❖ Acknowledgement during **TIA**'s Annual General Meeting
- ❖ Your hyperlinked business logo on the **TIA** sponsorship webpage
- ❖ Your hyperlinked business logo in our scrolling banner at the top of all **TIA** webpages
- ❖ Hyperlinked logo in all **TIA** River Talk publications (Our digital newsletter published 8 times per year)
- ❖ Invitation to submit an article about you, your business or your passion for the 1000 Islands for inclusion in a **TIA** River Talk Edition

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TIA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Sponsorship and Membership help support our Flagship program- the placement of nearly 200 Shoal Markers each summer in Canadian waters



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www.thousandislandsassociation.com/membership

Photo by John N. Street

Thousand Islands Association (TIA)

Due to seasonality, varying water levels, vandalism and equipment failure, the Thousand Islands Association (TIA) disclaims any liability for the absence of any of its shoal markers from time to time.

The Thousand Islands Association (TIA) is a not for profit organization that is proactive in addressing safety on the river, promoting environmental preservation and supporting the interests of the Community for the benefit of the 1000 Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

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TIA's Three Pillars

River Safety

Environmental Awareness

Community Support

