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RIVER TALK

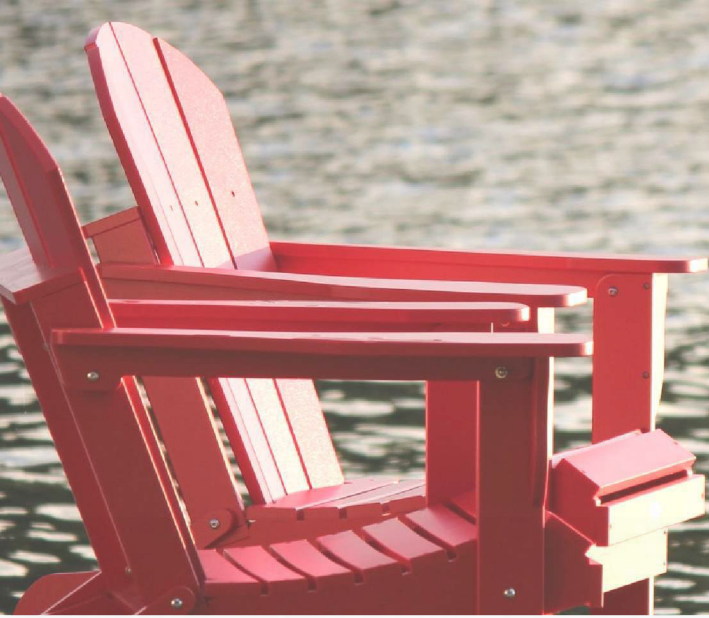


RIVER SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT





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President's Message

Peter Fitton

July is finally here and a time to celebrate history and freedom. It is also the start of the Dog Days of Summer – [Click here to read more about them!](#)

On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act created Canada, formally joining several colonies into a single, unified, Dominion of Canada to become self-governing within the British Empire. On July 4, 1776, the US Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence, America's revolutionary Charter of Freedom, and the document upon which the nation's founding principles were established.

Today Canada and the US are friendly neighbours who share the longest undefended border in the world with close ties among families and friends, especially on the river. Be patriotic and raise your flags to celebrate living in the western free world! Traditions to celebrate include fireworks, parades, concerts across our nations and casual gatherings of family and friends and BBQs - try these savoury Grilling Recipes.

On the river, TIA rock markers are in place guiding you to stay clear of dangerous shoals. At a cost of \$435 each, TIA is investing in the replacement of markers worn out from the forces of nature. With an inventory of about 200 markers this requires significant fund raising and your continuous membership support – if not already done, please join or renew today!

Our mission to promote environmental awareness is in full gear with our summer intern Grace Mychajlyszyn - examples include Trash Free River Clean up, more Fishing Line Recycling Stations being installed, more Turtle Nest Protectors built and distributed, and our Seabin is back at the Gan Marina collecting water pollution for analysis. Read more in this issue.

Be reminded TIA's 2023 AGM is on July 22nd at the waterfront Gananoque Playhouse Theatre. Sign up here for Breakfast – Registration & Social opens at 8:00 am, Hot Breakfast starts at 8:30 am followed by the AGM and Guest Speaker at 10:00 am sharp. Don't miss this fellowship event. Read more in this issue.

TIA Membership will receive in advance an email for AGM Online Voting on Motions for approving 2022 AGM Minutes and Financial Statements, our Professional Accountants for 2023 fiscal year, and Election of Directors for the 2023/2024 term. Please ensure you participate so we can satisfy our Quorum required in our By-Laws.

Kick back, celebrate with family and friends, and enjoy prime time on the river!



Allison Burchell-Robinson

They are doing it in the lakes. They are doing it in the rivers, the tributaries, the oceans, the seas, the canals, the streams, the ponds, the brooks and the creeks. They are doing it everywhere! What are they doing? They are cleaning the world's waterways large and small. Trash free and clean are today's buzzwords when talking about the waters that consume more than 71 % of the earth's surface.

For centuries and more, our waterways and oceans were considered one large dump without a thought as to where the garbage and waste would go or how it would end. If the waters turned brackish, emanated a harsh smell, marine life died and the water hardly suitable for drinking no one seemed to notice or care.

But in the 1960's people began to notice and they did care and activism to clean up the local waters began to take hold. Those who lived near rivers and ponds that were inhospitable in

every way stood up to say they wanted clean, livable and drinkable water.

Who is doing this massive cleanup? There are large and small organizations, government agencies, municipalities, townships, environmentalists, church groups, schools and universities, communities and there is YOU.

Most of us in the Thousand Islands Region of the St. Lawrence River consider the River clean and safe to swim in. Many drink the water. We certainly don't equate it with the mighty Hudson River which while staging a mind boggling comeback still has a long road before it.

Two years ago, at the urging of Save the River Executive Director John Peach, TIA mounted its first Trash Free River Clean Up Day. It was a staggering success and a staggering wake up call. In just two hours a group of thirty or so pulled from the river two and a half truck loads of trash and plastic including a bicycle, lawn chairs and a computer. If a group that size can pull that amount of garbage, imagine the impact a larger or more groups can and will accomplish.

Be part of one of those groups. Join TIA on Saturday, August 19th for another Trash Free Clean Up Day . Watch our social media posts for more information. Bring your family and your friends. We supply everything you need and will feed you picnic style at the end.

In Case You Were Wondering...

...and what about prop wash?

Dave McWilliam & Alec Turner

When you open the throttle in shallow water the underwater wash from the propeller jet stirs up silt and mud thus clouding the water. When the sediments settle again, they can smother aquatic plants and degrade habitat. Disturbance and muddying of the water also spook feeding fish. The jet formation created by prop slip is greatest during acceleration. The only way to reduce the effects of prop wash is to open the throttle very slowly until the boat is in deep water.

Check your wash – in simple terms, if it's white it's right – if it's brown slow down and adjust your trim, because a muddy tint means you're disturbing the bottom sediments. Those very sediments will inevitably come back as a curse when your boat's impeller becomes abraded and clogged leading to the engine overheating, stalling, and leaving your stranded.

If you are a fisherman, there are sort of two schools of thought on propwash. The conventional is that with small baitfish pointing your boat into the current and maintaining a steady low speed is best not to disturb the waters. With bigger fish, such as muskie, trolling in the prop wash may prove successful. It would seem counter intuitive to think that the agitation of the water and noise from the prop would help fishing, however, there are ample stories about prop wash making fishing better...so much for the quiet solitude idea and fishing!

Just a word on using prop wash as a dredging method...Don't! Dredging does occur in the St. Lawrence River to maintain the commercial shipping channels; however, it is **strictly** regulated. All dredged material must be removed from the water and disposed of properly on dry land not just left to muddy the water. Yes, we all know of the narrow little channels that occur and are especially valued in low water times. But those channels, produced by earlier boating traffic that caused the sediments to be blown into the various currents, are very artificial as they return to their shallow nature upon the end of boating season.

Getting Into the Green Scene



The environmental pillar of the Thousand Islands Association (TIA) is making significant strides in preserving the natural beauty of our beloved region from river cleanups to the installation of innovative technologies.

On June 10th TIA hosted our first Trash Free River Cleanup event (TFRC) of the summer. With an impressive turnout of over 20 energetic volunteers, we worked to comb through various locations including some 'catch all' bays along the St Lawrence. We collected a staggering amount of trash that filled over 14 XL trash bags. We found 7 rubber tires, a large oil barrel, dock ladder, large plastic garbage bin, propane tank, heaps of fishing line, and countless small pieces of polystyrene and cigarette butts. TIA is proud to be working with Save The River on these clean-up events to help keep our River "swimmable, fishable, and drinkable now and for generations to come"!

Building on this momentum, the next TFRC is scheduled for August 19th and will focus on particular park islands & a few catch all bays on the River. Keep an eye on our social media for sign-up opportunities!

Our Fishing Line Recycling Station program (FLRS) continues to grow with more units placed at key locations including 4 in Kingston and two in Gananoque. [MAP \(click\)](#). Discarded fishing line in the environment is deadly to fish and wildlife so please collect it on your walks and drop in one of our stations. This year we are proud to provide a traveling FLRS unit for Kingston's Avid Anglers for use during their fishing Tournaments.

TIA has distributed several turtle nest protectors to homeowners and business owners to ensure the safety of turtle nests on their property, allowing these vulnerable creatures to thrive in their natural habitats.

The Seabin was placed back in the water May 29th at the Gananoque Municipal Marina. This innovative device has proven to be successful in collecting debris and in contributing to the scientific research conducted by Great Lakes Plastic Cleanup (GLPC). Designed to catch the smallest of plastics, common items found in the Seabin were foam, small film, hard fragments, large film, small 'other' materials, and cigarette butts. These findings underscore the importance of tackling plastic pollution and serve as a foundation for developing effective strategies to create a cleaner waterway throughout the St. Lawrence River.

Wildlife Corridor:

The history of Salmon in the Gananoque River

Stuart Arnett



You may have heard rumours over the last few years or even been lucky enough to witness the return of salmon species or salmonid migrating up the Gananoque River. This migration shows the ability of a species to rebound and its persistence to survive if environmental conditions are favourable.

Historically the Gananoque River was a much different river than it is today. I discovered, from information gathered from Ken W. Watson's book *The Rideau Route*, that before the Rideau Canal System was constructed the waters south of the current Upper Rideau Lake south to the current location of Jones Falls actually flowed east down Whitefish River (present day known as Morton Creek) into Lower Beverly and subsequently into the Gananoque River system.

This historic nature of the Gananoque River may have naturally led to a more suitable environment for Salmonid as one thing for sure was the stocking of Chinook Salmon. It is said that in 1915 millions were stocked in every tributary from the Gananoque River west to the Credit River.

In 1939 the Gananoque hydro dam was built which immediately put a stop to any migration of salmon species up the Gananoque River.

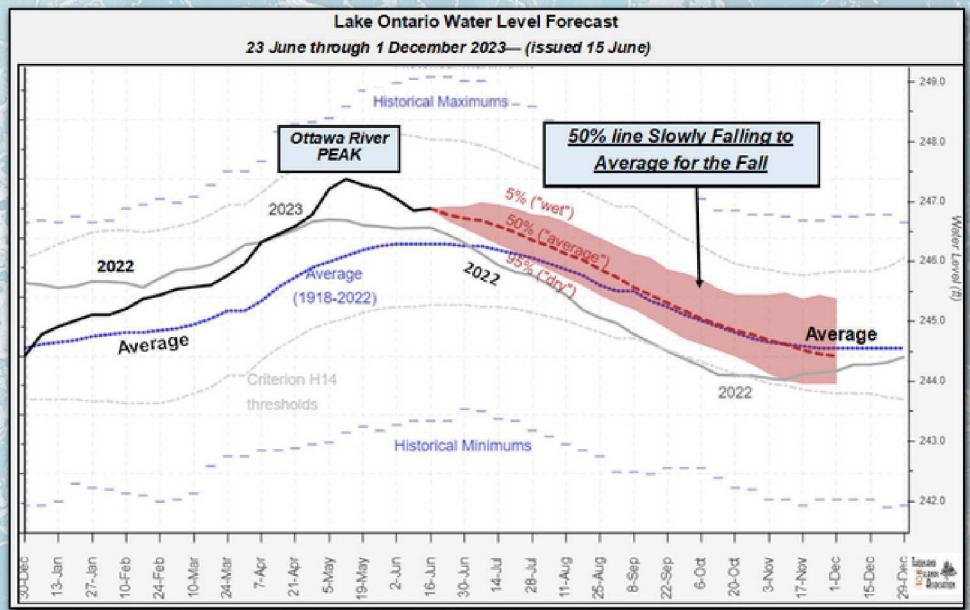
Then from 2008 to 2012 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry stocked the rivers of Eastern Ontario with Chinook Salmon and Rainbow Trout. The MNRF now focuses their efforts on fisheries closer to the GTA.

That history now brings us to the present day where we are observing Chinooks and Rainbows swimming up the Gan River underneath the King Street Bridge. These Chinook and Rainbow are considered to be related to the Pacific Salmon. These salmonids typically spawn between August and October depending upon several factors including water temperature and levels. The spring runs that we saw earlier this year are considered false spawning runs. Small runs that have been seen, according to the lead planning biologist at the MNRF, in the Trent and Napanee Rivers as well as our own Gananoque River are considered "strays" and will likely fluctuate year to year since as they are not supported by stocking.

If we continue to keep our rivers and streams clean and healthy, we will hopefully continue to witness one of the most fascinating fish spawning migrations in Eastern Ontario.

Water Level Updates:

Have Already Peaked – Remaining Above Average Until November



Lake Ontario Water Level Forecast

Edits by TIA

Vince Barton, Ken White, Ross Stewart

Water levels are looking pretty good this year! Barring a massive drought, we will not see low levels as we saw at the end of last summer & fall.

Levels at this time of year for 2023 are higher than they were last year, but outflows are lower. This is to our benefit...Why?

It's the "52-week lookback" from Plan 2014. "This indicator is a component of the regulation plan that takes into account the previous 52 weeks of precipitation in its formula to determine outflows...to ensure that past conditions are weighed (as well as looking at present conditions)" Last year this "feature" drove levels too low!

Fact: The recent 52 weeks were drier than the 52 weeks leading up to this time in 2022. The end result? Levels will drop more slowly this year than last year, all else being equal. This "feature" is a target for improvement in the Plan 2014 GLAM review.

The "blip" up in levels on June 12th/13th of 3 cm was caused primarily by 2.97 cm of rain received by the Lake Ontario Basin on June 12th. How much water is 2.97 cm across the entire Lake Ontario basin? That's the equivalent of 760,617 Olympic size swimming pools (2 meters deep). It's equal to the total amount of water that will flow through the Moses Saunders power dam over 2.57 days (at the current outflow rate of 8,580 m³/s). That's a lotta watt!

Were YOU impacted by high or low water levels? The International Joint Committee (IJC) is now seeking public input on how water levels impact you! Have your say, TIA!
2022 water levels survey: 2022 Water Level Impacts Questionnaire Survey
2023 water level survey: 2023 Water Level Impacts Questionnaire Survey

[Click HERE for the latest FULL Article News Updates!](#)



Spotlight: Chef Catherine Schmuck

Allison Burchell-Robinson

In days of yore, young men and boys looking for adventure ran away to sea. Fast forward to the 20th century where some things change while others do not. Allow me to introduce Catherine Schmuck, a young girl, newly graduated, looking for adventure and a good wage. Did I mention that Catherine loves to cook? For 13 years following graduation Catherine served as a chef aboard the Canadian freighters traveling through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Then in 1994, Catherine opened her own restaurant where she cooked for 24 years.

As retirement gift to herself, Catherine returned to the freighter world. She is currently serving on the Oakglen currently in Lake Superior where they will take on a load of iron ore before heading back to Quebec. When the ship's chef returns from vacation, she will move on to the Spruceglen. Her cabin size ranges from small as in minute to spacious with a desk and a sectional.

Catherine's day begins at 6:00 am in the galley and ends at 7:30 with a little break after lunch. She cooks for 21 people, with no help, offering two to three choices for each meal.

She does have the evenings off when and in her midday break, she loves to walk on deck. When in sight of land or in the locks, she will frequently wave and sometimes chat with passers-by but often in the Great Lakes, no land is in sight.

Her grocery budget of \$10,000.00 is often strained as food prices increase. To compensate, Catherine makes almost everything by hand including her bread and cinnamon rolls whose fame has spread to every ship. She primarily follows her own recipes improvising here and there. She will turn to the internet for research and often watches the Food Network. During this current voyage, there are some Filipinos in the crew and Catherine cooked her version of Chicken Adobo just for them. The verdict was favorable.

Her cookbook From Ship to Shore Chef has sold over 5,000 copies and when not on-board Catherine and her sister Lorraine can be found at book signings along the shores. She and her sister were recently in Clayton for a book signing.

It's not a world for everyone. You are alone most of the time but it is Catherine's world, one she relishes and cherishes.

Noteworthy

Legacy Gifting

W. Ormond Murphy



Members of TIA are all spiritually attached to The River. This relationship transcends generations and makes all of us trustees of this magnificent natural wonder.

At TIA our core value is to preserve this noble heritage and facilitate its safe use now and in the future. One way in which we can carry on this legacy is to provide a specific bequest in one's will to assist TIA with its operations or for a specific project.

Some of you will remember the Heagie family who summered on Huckleberry Island. Marjorie left a sizable bequest to TIA which has provided the security our organization needed during the financially challenging times of the pandemic.

Would you please consider leaving a financial bequest to TIA in your will? This bequest will allow your estate to receive an income tax charitable donation and you will receive the satisfaction of helping TIA to preserve the future of our great River.

Hucks Marina

Angela Sawyer

*Sales Administration & Marketing,
Hucks Marina*

For almost a century and a half, Hucks Marine & Resort has welcomed friends and family from around the world to play in the beautiful 1000 Islands. Located on the same 11-acre site purchased in 1889 on the banks of the St. Lawrence River in the lovely village of Rockport, Ontario, Hucks has grown to be a first-class destination delivering experiences Beyond Boating.

Hucks offers new, used and brokerage boat sales, full marine service, comprehensive on-site inventory of parts and boating accessories, 200 -slip boating community and indoor, heated, year-round storage at our sister company, ParkStor, located just 1 km east of the marina. The Resort in our name alludes to our future condominium development.

Our professional Crew represent and service the finest brands including Boston Whaler, Tiara Yachts, Rossiter, Regal, Stanley, and Manitou Pontoon Boats. Eight factory-certified service technicians are available year-round for your boat servicing needs. With a qualified Boat Detailing Team and a licensed Transportation Team, we're

able to keep your boat looking its best and help you safely get your boat where it needs to go.

The marina provides 200 slips in the heart of the 1000 Islands and easy access to the St. Lawrence River for boats up to 60'. As our dockage customer, we'll handle everything from hauling to winterizing and storing your boat/PCS for the winter and relaunch it in the Spring. The Johnston Building includes a state-of-the-art fitness facility, sauna, steam room, laundry facility and private deluxe boaters' heads exclusively to dockage customers and their guests by key fob access. Other benefits of joining our boating community include priority access to onsite factory-certified technicians, free WiFi service and pumpouts, shore power and fresh water, parking, swimming pool, BBQs and gazebos. Our onsite fuel docks offer ethanol free high grade gas and high-volume diesel pumps.

In the waterfront Gerald H. Huck Building, you'll find unique apparel and accessories for your boating lifestyle in Centre Stage, a new retail store. Cassie's, our new Cafe, offers lunch, coffee, gelato from May - September, and is accessible by boat, car or bike to enjoy on the waterfront or takeout.

Scott & the Crew invite you to stop by and see all they have to offer at Hucks or visit them online at hucks.ca.



**Thousand Islands Association Hot Breakfast & Social followed
by TIA's Annual Meeting & Guest Speaker Tony David
Saturday July 22nd at the 1000 Islands Playhouse
Save the Date & Sign up Now !!**

Pre-Payment for Breakfast is Required: Adults \$14.99 Children (<10) \$8.99

The Breakfast & Social

**Registration Opens: 8:00
Breakfast Starts: 8:30**

**TIA Hot Breakfast & AGM
held at the
1000 Islands Playhouse**

**Join us for TIA's
Social Event of the Year**

**Full Hot Breakfast
accompanied with
Live Music by
Tim Hallman**

The AGM

**Opening Remarks
10:00am**

**Annual Meeting
& Guest Speaker**

Tony David



Tony is the Director of the
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe,
Environment Division and U.S.
Member of the International Lake
Ontario St. Lawrence River Board.

Tony will be discussing data behind
water levels and their regulations.

Prize Draws

**Membership Renewal
1st Prize "Ambush"
A Print by Stuart Arnett
Wildlife Conservation Artist**



**2nd & 3rd Prizes a fun and
Authoritative Book
by Robert Alvo
"Being a Bird in North America"**

50/50 Draw

**Click Here to Sign up Now
& Order your Hot Breakfasts !!**

Less than a Month to Go !!

Check this off your "TIA Summer To Do List" Sign Up now for TIA's Annual Breakfast & Meeting Saturday July 22nd @ the 1000 Islands Playhouse

TIA's Hot Breakfast and AGM is back on Saturday July 22. We will be gathering along the banks Of the St. Lawrence River for TIA's Social Event of the Year. Tim Hallman is back to bring us that River Vibe with some great tunes !!

Registration Opens: 8:00

Guest Speaker: Tony David

Breakfast Starts: 8:30

Tony is the Director of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division and U.S. Member of the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Board. Tony will be discussing data behind water levels and their regulations.

AGM Starts: 10:00

Your volunteer Board works diligently for the membership in delivering programs that support our collective mission:

River Safety, Environmental Awareness, and Community Support.

We encourage you and your family and friends to attend, to show support, and to enjoy river fellowship.

If you have not renewed your [2023 membership, please do so now.](#)

If you are a lifetime member, please consider an equivalent [donation to TIA.](#)

Both membership renewals and donations receive tax receipts.

TIA can only remain sustainable with your continued support.

Help us fulfill our mission.

[You Must Sign up & Pay for Breakfast in Advance!!](#)

[This applies to all membership levels of TIA: Single, Couple, Family & Lifetime](#)

[Coming by Boat? There is 210' of dockage now available at the 1000 Islands Playhouse](#)

Pre-payment for breakfast is required Adults \$14.99 – Children (<10) \$8.99 (HST Included)



Captain Level \$150

- ❖ A One-Year Business membership to TIA
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Social media mention 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 your business for inclusion in TIA River Talk

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Our Mission: River Safety - Environmental Awareness - Community Support

Business Sponsorship support helps TIA to fulfill its mission to the river community and its flagship program of maintaining 200 shoal markers essential to the safety of boating and our local and seasonal residents.

www.thousandislandsassociation.com/sponsor



Thousand Islands Association (TIA)

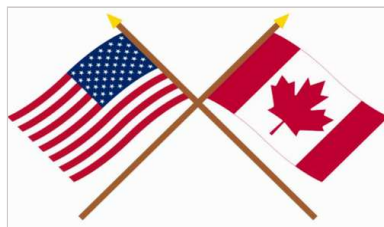
Due to seasonality, varying water levels, vandalism and equipment failure, the Thousand Islands Association (TIA) disclaims any liability for the absence of any of its shoal markers from time to time.

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.

thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com

P.O. Box 616
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United States of America

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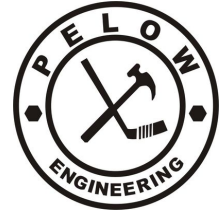
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