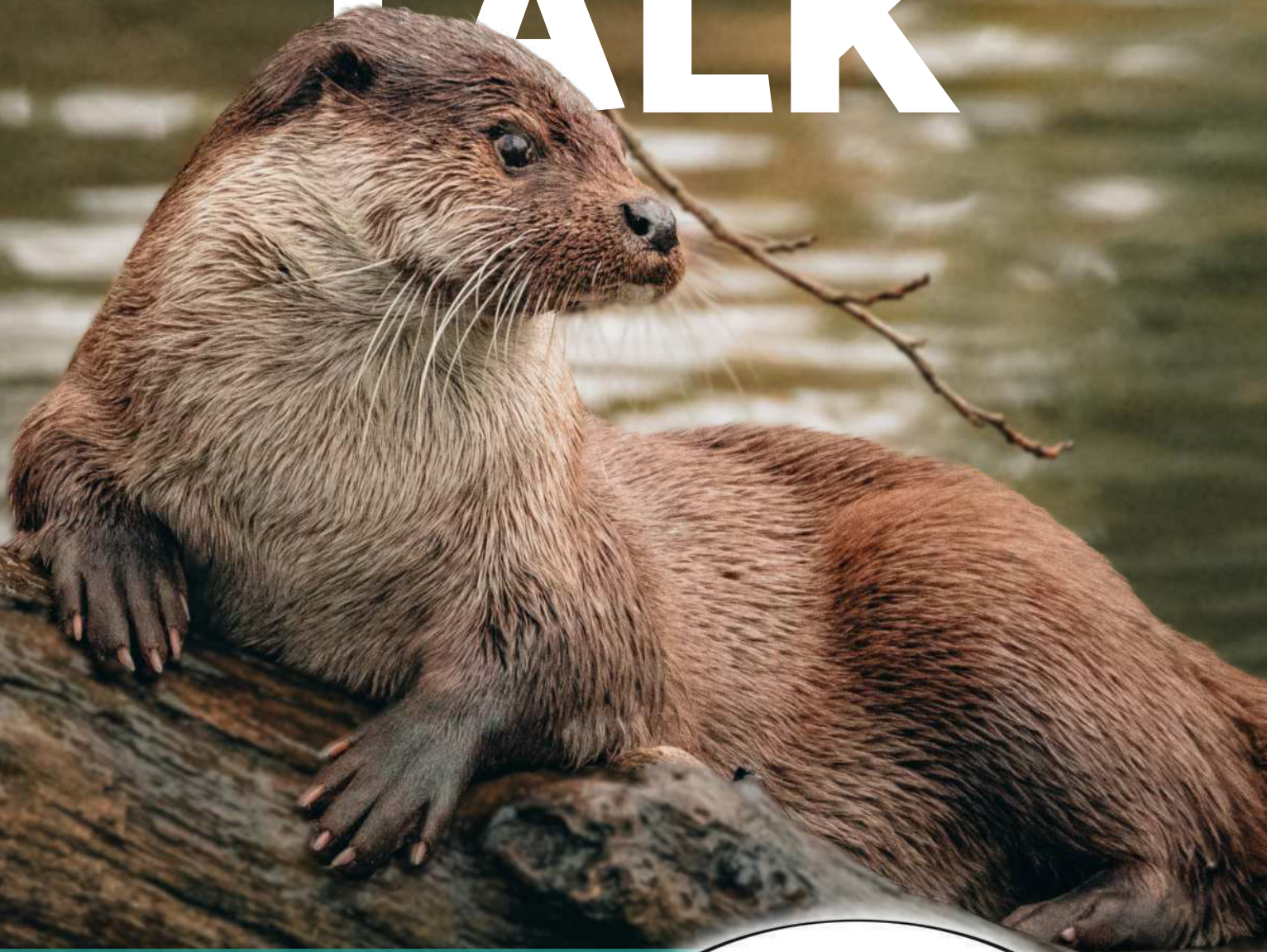


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RIVER TALK



RIVER SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



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PHOTO: JOHN STREET



Peter Fitton

President's Message



Welcome July and to continuing long hours of daylight and summer temperatures on the river!

July is our history month and to many the official kickoff to summer. July 1st is Canada Day to celebrate the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867 followed by July 4th Independence Day to celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Be patriotic and fly your flag!

July is known as the Full Buck or Thunder Moon month. It is also an important month in Moon history - [Click here](#) to hear from the editor of the Old Farmer's Almanac.

TIA is recognizing it's 90th year anniversary and wants the River Community to join in the celebration. In 1934 the egg was hatched and through the years TIA has evolved and delivers on a mission of River Safety, Environmental Awareness, and Community Support.

Our celebratory theme has a focus on historical & memorable events. It started with a total eclipse of the sun and will continue with our July 20th AGM organized by Chair Alec Turner, followed by our August 3rd Dock, Deck and Den Tour organized by Island Patriot Dan McWilliam. Read more in this issue.

The July 20th AGM pregame starts with the hot breakfast. Please note You Must Sign up & Pay for Breakfast in Advance - [Click here](#)!

This applies to all membership levels of TIA including Past Lifetime Members. Registration opens at 8:00am, Breakfast starts at 8:30am, and the AGM inside the Gananoque Playhouse Theatre starts at 10:00 am. Guest Speaker Scott MacCrimmon, President Hucks Marine & Resort, will give an address on "The Evolution of Boating ... Past, Present & Future".

To optimize our time together at the in-person AGM, note all members will be receiving by email on July 3 an Online Voters Kit requesting every member to vote on our annual business motions. All members are requested to participate and note the response deadline of July 17, 2024.

We encourage you and your family and friends to attend the Breakfast and AGM to show support, and to enjoy river fellowship. If you have not renewed your 2024 membership, please do so now and receive a tax receipt.

I hope to see you all in a festive mood at the AGM!



From the Editor

Allison Burchell-Robinson

Another summer has arrived and the River is already humming with activity. Work barges, police and Coast Guard boats and Stanleys are still the most visible presence but the coming week celebrating Canada Day and the 4th of July will bring on the influx. Soon kayakers, canoeists, paddle boards, fishing and leisure boats will take dominance until the season comes to an end. Remember river safety and practice safe boating as you celebrate and enjoy life in and on the River.

Every year there are more and more activities to enjoy. There are boat tours, big and small, of the Thousand Islands, wineries and wine tastings, historical exhibits, art galleries, museums covering myriad interests, golf courses both regular and mini, boat races, fishing tournaments, nature centers, trails to be walked and explored, restaurants featuring a variety of foods, concerts, antique shows, haunted walks, army forts and the list goes on and then some.

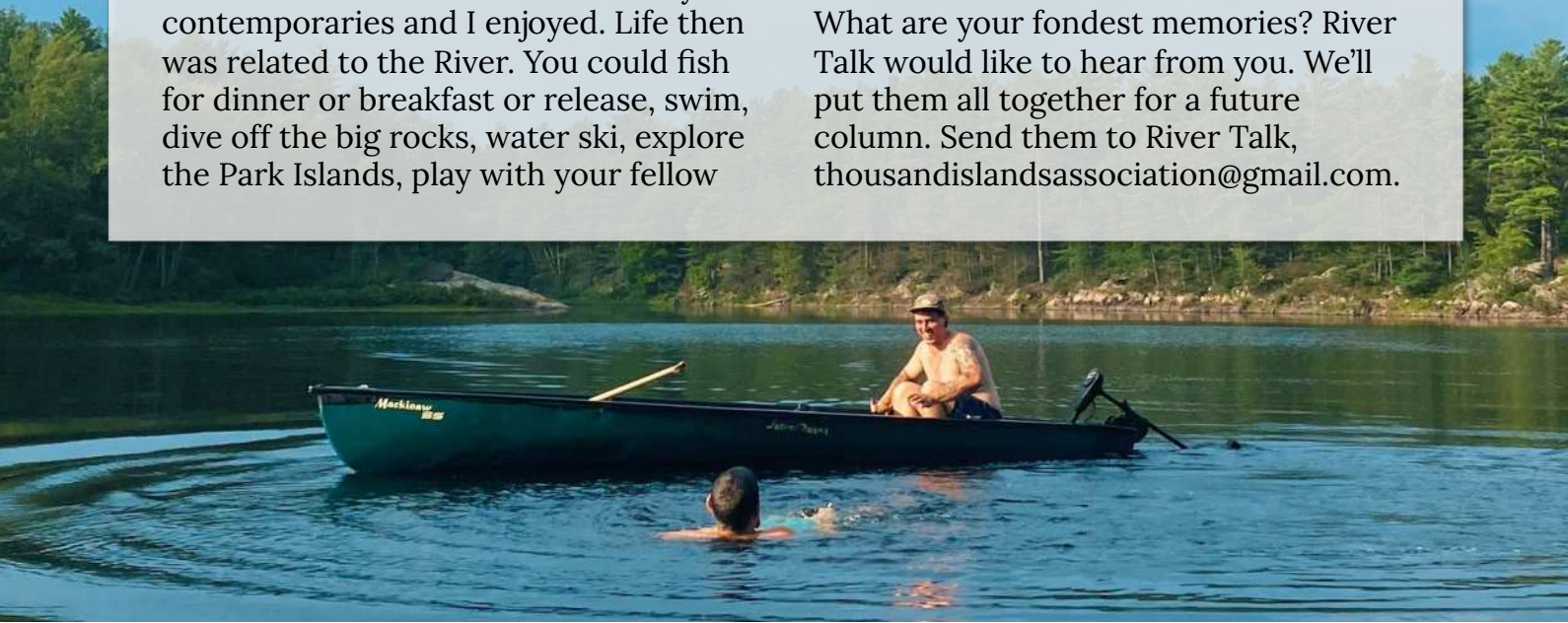
Far different from the childhood my contemporaries and I enjoyed. Life then was related to the River. You could fish for dinner or breakfast or release, swim, dive off the big rocks, water ski, explore the Park Islands, play with your fellow

River Rats of which there were always plenty, fight with your brothers, sisters or cousins, race in sailboats or power boats and always, always explore the St. Lawrence River and the thousand, make that eighteen hundred plus, islands. Life was exciting, full and never boring. It was and is an enchanted way to spend a summer..

And that is the lure of this region that brings generation after generation back every year to enjoy and relax in the life it affords. How many times have you attended a party or an event and appreciated seeing a family there in generations, your children or grandchildren playing with those of your friends?

Modern life on an island is far different than even fifty years ago. There are bathrooms, telephones, electricity, televisions, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, power tools...all the conveniences one could ask for or need. But, jumping off the front rock still trumps all.

What are your fondest memories? River Talk would like to hear from you. We'll put them all together for a future column. Send them to River Talk, thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com.





Getting Into the Green Scene

Jennifer Caddick

As many River folks are aware, the US Customs and Border Protection is examining sites for a proposed new 48,000-square foot, industrial scale facility on the US side of the Thousand Islands. Currently, CBP has two sites under consideration: Blind Bay in the Town of Orleans and the Dockside Cottages property in Clayton. Neither property is acceptable to the community, yet CBP has refused to include alternative locations in their siting process.

CBP has scheduled two public open house events for June 25 & 26 from 4-7pm at the Cerow Recreation Park Arena in Clayton. This is a critical opportunity for community members to speak out and tell CBP to “site it right.”

The two sites currently under consideration are completely inappropriate for CBP’s new facility. The Blind Bay property has extensive wetland and wildlife habitats, and is owned by the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) and protected in perpetuity with a conservation easement. TIA is a member of the Save Blind Bay Coalition, coordinated by TILT and Save The River. The Dockside Cottages property is in a highly residential area and CBP’s buildings would be within a stones throw of cottages.

Two years ago, local elected officials and community groups came together to find an appropriate location for this facility. They recommended a portion of the former Bonnie Castle Recreation Center property at the intersection of I-81 and Route 12 in Alexandria Bay (right at the entrance to the US span of the Thousand Islands Bridge), which at the time was owned by the Town of Alexandria.

Putting the new CBP facility at the former Bonnie Castle Recreation Center or on an adjacent property in the I-81 cloverleaf area, which is already commercially zoned and developed, has garnered widespread community support. There is adequate space for CBP’s planned facility and would not have detrimental impacts on wildlife ecosystems, tourism, and everyday life for residents in the Thousand Islands Region. CBP currently has water access at the Wellesley Island US Coast Guard Station and Keewaydin State Park.

We urge community members to attend the public meetings and ask CBP why they are not considering any properties in the I-81 cloverleaf.



Wildlife Corridor: The River Otter

The North American River Otter, through the late 1800's and early 1900's has made a comeback via conservative management and reintroduction efforts. The River Otter population has been considered stable since the 1950's. They can be found in every province except Prince Edward Island where they have been extirpated. The River Otter is protected by and insulated by a thick water repellant coat of fur.

From nose to the tip of their tail they can measure up to 1.4 metres and weigh almost 9 kilograms. River Otters breed in late winter or early spring and give birth to between one and six pups who are born blind. The pups will stay inside the den which typically has many tunnel openings, one of which allows the otter to enter and exit. After the first month the pups will start to venture out with their parents.

The River Otter prefers to eat fish but are opportunists when it comes to their diet. They will eat frogs, crayfish, freshwater clams, small turtles amphibians and aquatic insects Otters are members of the mustelid family - weasels, mink, fishers, skunks and wolverines but they definitely have a much more playful attitude and are great to watch frolicking in the water or on land in the snow as they do not hibernate. They are expert swimmers.

River Otters are at the top of their food chain and thus are "sentinel" or "indicator" species and the one constant in the wide variety of habitats that the otter now frequents is the availability of fresh clean water and an abundance of prey. So when you see one of these playful creatures, sit back and enjoy their happiness and be proud of your clean and healthy waterway.

Stuart Arnett

Water Level Updates:

Current Water Loss & Plan 2014 Expedited Review Update

Vince Barton, Ken White, Ross Stewart

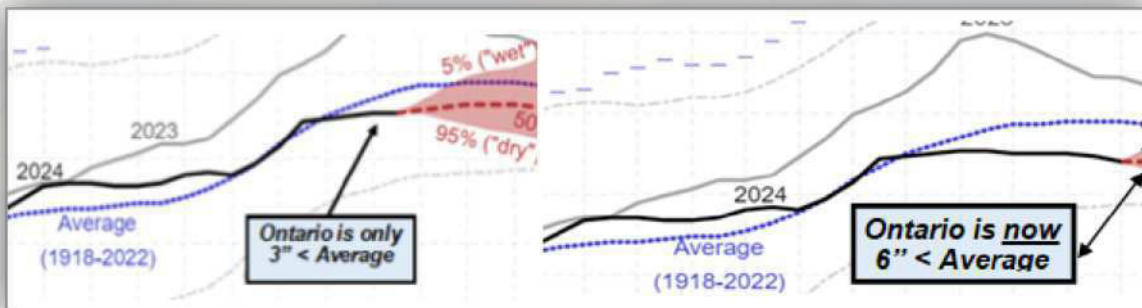
Water Level Flat line?



A month ago the Alex Bay water level was at 2.25 ft. & ended at 2.27 ft. (above chart datum)

Notice to Mariners - If Peter, Paul, and Mary were long-time residents of the 1000 Islands Upper St. Lawrence region, they might be singing "Where has all the water gone, long time passing, where has all the water gone, long time ago...?"

This month we look at Water Levels "from the outside" and get an "update from the inside". Why does it seem (from the outside) that the outflow continues to remove more water than necessary?



Vince's opinion is that a component of the Plan 2014 outflow algorithm is behind the ongoing drop relative to average this year (see 2 graphs above). Just over 2 months ago, Lake Ontario was at average for mid-April. For the last 9-10 weeks, we've had incoming Net Total Supply (NTS - the total amount of water entering Lake Ontario from Lake Erie + precipitation/runoff - evaporation) very close to average. Last month in River Talk we reported 3" below average. In spite of the initial average level in mid-April and close to average Net Total Supply since - we've now dropped to 6" below average for late June.

Also featured is an "update from the inside", by Ross Stewart on the Expedited Review of Plan 2014, underway by the IJC's GLAM, Great Lakes Adaptive Management Committee. He is a TIA Member-At-Large with the PAG Public Advisory Group team representing the interests of our region. They are on a breakneck schedule and provides an update you can read about on the in-depth article.

The GLAM review focuses primarily on the high-water levels experienced in 2017 and 2019, using new data, modeling techniques, and spatial data to understand the impacts of various scenarios that have occurred in the past and that may occur in the future (including newer climate change models).

Read this 2 part In-Depth Water Levels July Issue. [CLICK HERE](#) for the PDF!

Spotlight



They played together in the warm waters of the St. Lawrence River. They swam, water skied, raced around in a Boston Whaler and indulged in all the childhood events afforded by River life. In the beginning one was from an island and the other from a cruiser. They met in the way in which children often do. They just found each other. They were best friends. And then in the way that life often intervenes, they went in different directions as college, marriage, careers, and children kept them busy and preoccupied.

Today Barbara Butts and Georgina Ratcliffe are best friends again and have been for more than 30 years. They are the welcoming faces you first see at the registration desk of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Thousand Islands Association held every July. In all probability you know them and they know you as they've been signing you in since the shore breakfast was first introduced.

The shore breakfast was the brainstorm of then TIA President Barbara who delights in bringing people together. What better way to start a Saturday morning then with a hot breakfast with old friends while also able to circulate and meet new ones all with a shared camaraderie and love of the River.

If Barbara was president, it wouldn't be long before Georgina was on the Board of TIA specializing in bringing in new members as a gift membership for her clients as part of her real estate practice. She loves the river and loves introducing it and TIA. Both women are fourth generation River Rats and both spend long periods of time on their respective islands with their fifth generation of River Rats often in residence. A love of the River and the life on it is the common theme that binds so many families however far they may have to travel.

As a realtor, Georgina has observed that island ownership is changing. Once the island would be passed on from one generation to the next. Unfortunately, that is no longer always the case as families expand and move to other areas.

But, friendships formed in the Thousand Islands are enduring and forever. Georgina and Barbara, like so many before and after them, are friends everlasting.

Allison Burchell-Robinson



TIA Community Board

River Talk is introducing the Community Bulletin Board to allow organizations, businesses and persons to post notices, events and meetings relevant to the River Community.

REMINDER: TIA's Annual General Meeting
takes place on July 20th!
[Click here for more information.](#)

**TIA's Dock, Deck
and Den tour
takes place
August 3, 2024!**

Thousand Islands Watershed
Land Trust Annual General
Meeting takes place on July
7th.

[Click here for more
information.](#)



Gananoque Garden Tour

Sunday, July 7th @ 12-4pm
10 King Street East, Gananoque
[Click here for tickets & information.](#)

Thousand Islands Fine Art Association 42nd Annual Show and Sale

Saturday, July 20th & Sunday, July 21st @ 10-5pm
Rockport Recreation Hall (115 Escott-Rockport
Road)



Thousand Island History Museum in Gananoque, Ontario is currently showcasing an exhibition entitled, "The Link Trainer". The Link Grainer was built in Gananoque from 1938-1946 to train pilots on how to fly using only their instrumentation panels. [Click here for more information.](#)



Come Celebrate as TIA Turns 90 Years Young !!

**Thousand Islands Association Hot Breakfast & Social followed
by TIA's Annual Meeting & Guest Speaker Scott MacCrimmon
Saturday July 20th at the 1000 Islands Playhouse**

Pre-Payment for Breakfast is Required: Adults \$15.99 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 am
Followed by Guest Speaker
Scott MacCrimmon
Presenting
The Evolution of Boating...
Past, Present & Future.**



**As President at Hucks
Marine & Resort and
with 40 + years of
experience and a
passion for boating,
Scott is a recognized
leader in the boating
industry**

Door Prizes

**Robert Alvo's Book
"Being a Bird in North America"**

TIA Gear Packages

Local Artist's Prints

Attend the AGM to WIN !!

**Of course there will be Cake
And a 50/50 Draw too !**

**Also attending are...
Parks Canada R.A.R.E, TIWLT,
Pollution Probe, TIA Gear,
TIA's Dock'n Den Tour and
TIA's Programs Display.**

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

The Next Chapter

As we celebrate TIA's 90 years this column will focus on past presidents, their memories and their accomplishments. And, to prove there is life after TIA what our ex-presidents are doing now.

Paul J. Regan Jr., TIA President from 1999-2001

Paul's years as President brought about an expansion of the Shoal Marking Program, a stronger relationship with Save the River and a stronger Board. TIA purchased the defibrillators for island groups as well as fire pumps.

After stepping down as TIA President, Paul remained active with organizations to preserve and promote the history of the 1000 Islands and St Lawrence River. Paul served as the first chair of the Arthur Child Heritage Museum and remained for 15 years. Paul was also an active board member of the Antique Boat Museum (ABM) in Clayton, NY for 15 years.

He and brother-in-law Robert Easton worked for several years to establish the Thousand Islands Boat Museum (TIBM) in Gananoque. Since 2014 over 7 million was raised to enable the Boat Museum to fulfill its mission to develop a cultural center to engage the community and celebrate the heritage of the river.

Paul and his wife Susan live in Gananoque. Paul and his late wife Barbara Easton Regan instilled the love of the river in their children. Paul's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren enjoy the river and time at the family cottage on Bostwick Island.

David Orr, TIA President from 2001-2003

Took over control of ROCK markers and worked with Hubert Huntley and Mark Harrison. Ian Huntley took over and enlarged the placement area.

I directed purchase of shoal markers with a new supplier and arranged to purchase markers for Save the River. Those markers were delivered to a US drop, Chalk's Marina for STR until I could get over to hand deliver them. The remainder were delivered by me to Huntley's Marine storage.

Suzie Smith asked me to take over the Newsletter I changed it to full color and saved TIA money and time by picking up the finished product myself. Filling four pages with interesting, informative, relevant information is not something that can be done on a regular basis without a serious commitment.

I arranged with Kehoe Marine to pour cement anchors for the ROCK markers. All the material for the shoal marking was bought in bulk and stored at Ian Huntley's Boat storage in Ivy Lea at no cost to TIA. I arranged for shackles, bolt cutters and cable to be supplied at no charge from one of our suppliers. The board decided to purchase 50 fire pumps to be given to Islanders at half the price. I sourced the pumps from Harry Shure in Gananoque along with an agreement to service them at a discount. We sold and placed 47 Pumps and all the necessary equipment.

I sourced 9400 feet of 2" fireproof hose from a supplier in Syracuse and picked it up in my full-size truck. Loaded to the roof, no room for a helping hand.

We had a small Assembly Bee in my basement with Bryan Jones and Skip Armstrong. We cut the hose into 100' lengths and fastened the couplers with special pipe clamps on both ends of the hose. Each pump went out with 2 x 100' lengths of hose and into two special TIA labeled Plastic storage boxes one fire nozzle, an empty gallon container for priming the pump and a full tank of gas. The Assembly Bee lasted one afternoon. I finished the job over several days.

After completion of my term I remained on the Board until 2019 for a total of twenty one years.

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.

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