

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.



From the Editor

Every summer, if you look closely, there is a new sighting or two that captures your attention. Large or small, it's another building block that forms our thoughts and memories of life on the River.

This year one of my highlights has been an hour intently watching a family of merganser ducks. Mamma merganser on high alert while her young practiced their fishing skills. What struck me was the way the young bounced around the water, almost like otters. They dove down with a flip and then popped up as if they were bouyant objects being held underwater and then let go. I was entertained by how they scurried after one another every time one successfully caught a fish. Perhaps hoping for an opportunity to make a steal.

Whatever your moment is this summer, I hope you pause and place it firmly in your memory banks for later. You might need the imagery in January!



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.







President's Message Peter Fitton

TIA's 2025 AGM was held on Saturday, July 19 at Gananoque's waterfront Playhouse Theatre. Traditional island music was played as over 200 attendees enjoyed a full hot breakfast and were reconnected with their river friends.

Display tables were setup and staffed by TIA Environmental Committee, Parks Canada, 4EVER – TIWLT, and new this year "Let's Get The Lead Out FishLeadFree.ca" who explained the danger to our precious Loons caused by the toxicity of lead fishing tackle. Also new this year, two representatives of the local detachment of the RCMP's Border Integrity Unit attended and mingled to answer questions about border issues and show community support.

Welcoming words were received from local dignitaries MP Michael Barrett, TLTI Mayor Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Town of Gananoque Mayor John Beddows, and City of Brockville Councillor Katherine Hobbs. TIA appreciates the strong municipal support and gave recognition to TLTI for a \$10,000 grant and to the Town of Gananoque for a \$4,013 grant in support of TIA's ongoing worn-out rock markers replacement program in their respective greater waterfront areas.



The Township of Leeds 1000 Islands Fires Services were present with their new Fire Rescue Boat – Marine 3, and following the meeting demonstrated the use of one of their new high pressure fire pumps donated by TIA. These pumps are permanent additions to their fire-fighting gear and will also be used for fire pump clinics by the Township Fire Prevention Team. It is important to note that TIA formed a working committee to revisit the TIA fire pumps program from 20 years ago, to investigate what inventory remains workable at locations in the islands, and to determine portable pump models suitable for islanders to consider for purchase. Read more in this issue in the article by Jim Côté updating the program and providing the dates and locations for the fire pump clinics.

Our AGM feature speaker was Aden Wiltsie, Parks Canada Acting Southern Sector Manager of the Rideau Canal. Mr. Wiltsie gave an impressive audio-video presentation about "Navigating the Historic Rideau Canal & Upper SLR Waterways". Click here to see the Rideau Canal Map and links, and click here for Parks Canada website to learn more about this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

If you have not already done so, please renew your 2025 taxdeductible TIA membership. Your continued support makes everything we do possible.

Wishing everyone another memorable summer on the river!





Fire Pump Demonstrations Scheduled for August

By: Jim Côté, Chair, River Safety

Demonstrations are now scheduled for the locations and dates listed below, beginning at 9:00 AM and running until 12:00 at the latest. Note that these demonstrations are open to all, but those on islands nearby each location will find them more convenient to attend.

Sat. Aug. 2 at 397 Downie Island

Fri. Aug. 8 at Ivy lea Government Dock, 117 Ivy Lea Rd, (come by boat or car)

Sat. Aug. 16 at 1 Juniper Island

Fri. Aug. 22 & Sat. Aug. 30 at Ivy lea Govt. Dock, 117 Ivy Lea Road (come by boat or car)

If you have any questions, send them to fireprevention@townshipleeds.on.ca or markerwatchers@gmail.com





Photo of the new Fire Services boat at TIA's recent AGM. On board are the two high-pressure portable pumps that TIA recently donated to Leeds 1000 Islands Fire Services. Also pictured are Fire Services' rescue and safety gear, and educational material.

TIA Supporter Wavve Boating Wins Boating Industry 2025 Top Product Award

Wavve Boatings
Dynamic Depths feature
makes fluctuating water
levels easy to navigate





High Tide

Low Tide

Wavve Boating is a mobile app that helps make navigation easier for recreational boaters, and its roots are right here in the Thousand Islands. Founder Adam Allore grew up spending summers on the St. Lawrence River, an experience that inspired him to build a better way to navigate shallow and changing waters.

Dynamic Depths, released in 2024, is a first-of-its-kind feature that shows real-time water level updates right on your Wavve map. Instead of relying on static charts or tide tables, boaters can now see live and forecasted depths up to three days ahead. Whether dealing with tides in coastal areas or seasonal drops on the St.Lawrence River, this makes trip planning safer and simpler.

The feature was developed after Wavve's team spoke with captains in Florida who emphasized how confusing tide tables could be for new boaters. In response, Wavve designed an intuitive, colour-coded system that's already seeing over 1,500 uses per day.

We're thrilled to see Wavve Boating, born from experience on our own river, earning recognition for innovation that helps boaters everywhere. See Boating Industry's feature here, or learn more about Wavve at wavveboating.com.

Perseid Meteor Shower Peak Veiwing - Aug 12

By: Stephanie Scott

There are handful of experiences that make the summer complete and star gazing is on the list. If you are lucky to be on the river, or somewhere else with a dark sky, check out the annual Perseid meteor shower between Aug. 11-13th after midnight until dawn.

While the presence of a waining moon will leave the sky brighter this year affecting visibility, it is expected that at it's peak, with a clear sky, there might be between 10-20 meteors visible per hour.

Get the Best Sighting Possible

- 1. Check the Weather Network app for cloud cover on Aug 11th, 12th and 13th. While the best sighting is targeted for the 12th, cloud cover might make visibility better the night before or after.
- 2. Remove the moon from your view. If you can, place a structure between yourself and the moon; if not, simply have your back to the moon. Your eyes will adjust to the low light conditions and give you a better chance to see smaller meteors.
- 3. Download an app like Night Sky or Star Chart to enhance your educational and viewing experience.

What are Meteor Showers?

Meteor showers occur when the earth passes through the dust and debris of the tail off a comet. This causes thousands of small bits from the comet to burn up as they enter the Earth's atmosphere.

Since Earth follows the same orbit every year, we encounter these debris trails at the same points in our orbit, resulting in the annual meteor showers.

Where can you find the Perseids?

The meteors appear to radiate from the Perseus constellation but radiate a great distance.





Want to learn even more? Check out this video clip.

BONUS VIEWING THIS YEAR

The two brightest planets in our system, Jupiter & Venus, are getting closer together. They can be seen in the eastern sky before dawn with the closest distance between the two appearing in the morning of August 12th, 2025.



CPR & AED Training Recap

By: Peter Fitton

As part of our commitment to River Safety & Community Support, TIA held another CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Certification Training course on July 10th at the 1000 Islands History Museum.

The combined CPR & AED training session was conducted by Action First Aid instructor Tom MacKay with a "hands on" application. The session also included First Aid for choking, opioid overdose, and stroke.

If a person has stopped breathing, or if their heart has stopped beating, it is imperative to perform CPR as soon as possible. Stats indicate that bystander CPR results in less than 10% survival rates but when combined with AED survival rates can increase to 40% or greater.

Participants completing the Action First Aid four-hour combined CPR & AED training received a Certificate of Completion – Valid for 1 Year. A show of hands at the AGM revealed our membership would like to see TIA continue making annual CPR & AED Certification training available.





73-80% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home. Fast action with CPR and an AED can significantly increase survival rates. Investing in an AED could be a lifesaver.

Renew Your TIA Membership Today

Welcome to another year and new beginning on the river! Founded in 1934, and now 90 years and 5 generations later, our roots are deep in traditions and memories with friends and family in our world-renowned beautiful Thousand Islands of the upper St. Lawrence River.

Today we share the responsibility of its stewardship as we deliver on our Missions of River Safety, Environmental Awareness, and Community Support. Your renewed membership ensures the safety and support of residents and boaters alike.

- Purchase & maintenance of 200+ shoal markers
- Support of emergency response equipment & services
- Environmental awareness programs

- News and information on the river & its community
- Fellowship opportunities
- Information on water levels & a unified voice for local regulatory agencies and proposed legislation

RENEW NOW

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TIA is an international registered not-for-profit organization, which issues tax receipts for all Canadian and American memberships and donations.

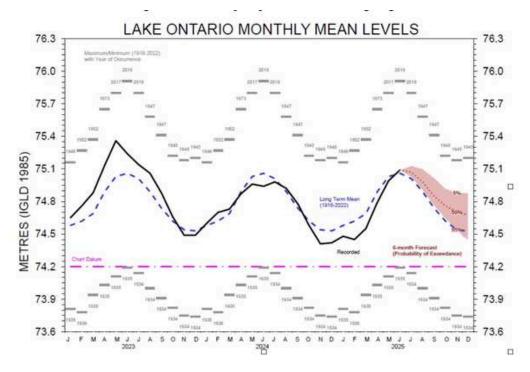
Water Levels Passed Peak are Profoundly NORMAL

By: TIA Water Levels Committee, Barton, Stewart & White

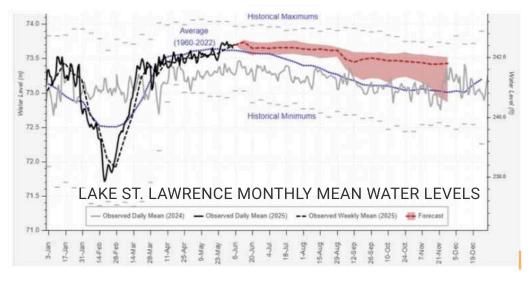
The June Monthly Mean Level of Lake Ontario (LO) was just 3 cm above Long Term Average (LTA) (1918–2022), and notably at the beginning of July 2025 the levels were 13 cm above 2024 levels. During June the level peaked and 1 cm was lost. It is NORMAL to see a July decline of 19 cm (1 foot), and so far, less than 6" has disappeared.

...YET we crossed AVERAGE for this time of year and are forecast to stay there with 95%+ certainty well into 2026. This bodes well for next year. Look at the 6-month forecast below where we'll most likely 'Be In The Pink'.

Bernie Gigas made the following comment early in July when this 6-month forecast graphic was released: "Generally good news now. Hidden is the forecast, which shows a 50% chance of being 6" above LTA [Ave] on Lake Ontario going into winter."



"On Lake St Lawrence, the next forecast shows a 50% chance of being 18" above LTA. Now is a good time to think about the impact of ice at much higher levels than recent years," suggests Bernie! FYI: Lake St.
Lawrence is the downstream body of water that forms the forebay of the Moses-Saunders Hydro Dam, ending in Cornwall.



Typically, dam outflow is decreased for one fall weekend near Thanksgiving to temporarily raise water levels so boat ramps can be used for haul-out. This is less likely to be the case this year!

PLAN 2014 EXPIDITED REVIEW - GLAM, PAG, IJC & ILOSLRB

It seems like Member-At-Large Ross Stewart has been sent off to a foreign war on a generally understood (but details-secret mission) as member of a Public Advisory Group (PAG). He represents broader system interests, including those of TIA!

GLAM stands for Great Lakes Adaptive Management, a process for reviewing the performance of Plan 2014). The GLAM Committee established an Expedited Review of P2014 following the high-water years of 2017 and 2019.

Implemented by the IJC (International Joint Commission), Plan 2014 contains all the "rules of the road" for the Canada-USA joint venture to protect and regulate Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The ILOSLRB (International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board) aka The Board> is the action arm of the IJC, which provides operational oversight, especially related to flows and water levels.

The entities listed above are in the final stages of reviewing the analysis and recommendations of potential changes to P2014. Following their update, a public consultation phase will seek public input before final documents are sent to the US and Canadian governments.

TIA will notify all members regarding further information and updates on this initiative, and we encourage all interested members to participate with feedback during the public consultation phase. More to come.....



Hucks Marine & Resort stands apart from other marinas through its unmatched experience, comprehensive on-site services, and strong cross-border capabilities. As a 4th-generation family-owned business with almost a century and a half of experience in the boating industry at the same location in Rockport, 1000 Islands, Ontario, Hucks offers an unparalleled level of expertise and continuity.

Hucks is a true full-service marine facility—providing premium dockage, inside heated (winter) storage at their sister company, ParkStor (80,000 sq. ft. storage facility), on-site service shop with 10 certified boat technicians and full parts counter available year round, licensed boat transportation, and the largest in-stock inventory of the finest boat brands. Their 6,000 sq. ft. indoor showroom and on-water sea trials create a seamless sales experience that goes well beyond the standard.

Hucks also differentiates itself with a strong focus on cross-border service on the St. Lawrence River. They regularly serve both Canadian and American boaters, offering dockside delivery and pick-up, along with support for U.S. service needs. Approximately 30% of their boat sales are to U.S. buyers—highlighting their expertise in international transactions.

From sales to service, every aspect of the Hucks experience is powered by a highly trained, year-round crew focused on delivering exceptional, personalized care. Their commitment to "Beyond Boating" means they don't just sell and service boats—they support a lifestyle on the water.

Visit Hucks to experience how they combine legacy, location, and comprehensive services to deliver a first-class boating experience.

Fireflies

By: Stephanie Scott

While not everyone is a fan of insects, there is one that seems to win the hearts of young and old alike. Most insects get attention by either directly benefiting us (like pollinators) or by having a negative impact (such as disease-carrying ticks); but fireflies are neither. They enrich our lives simply by existing and flashing their ethereal lights on warm summer nights. For this reason, we call these bioluminescent organisms charismatic insects.

DID YOU KNOW...

- 1. Fireflies are technically in the beetle family.
- 2. They are carnivorous and feed on slugs and snails.
- 3. There are 4 life stages of a firefly and they spend 2 years of their lives in larvae form. They typically overwinter in the larval stage and complete their metamorphosis the following year.
- 4. There are 22 species of Fireflies in Ontario.
- 5. They are toxic. The chemical that facilitates the reaction causing a firefly's signature bioluminescence is called luciferin. It not only provides the spark to help fireflies find each other in the dark, but it is also a distasteful chemical defense.
- 6. Not all fireflies light up as adults



Some Canadian Boatbuilders of the Thousand Islands

By: Karen Wand

You can spiral down a rabbit hole when you start talking about the early boatbuilders in the Thousand Islands region. You quickly realise that almost everyone has built a boat, but here are some of the people who earned a living as boatbuilders.

Louis Lachapelle was constructing boats in Kingston and was credited for introducing skiff building to Brockville in 1866, following his move there. Alexander Ramsay was building skiffs and fast open sailing yachts at his boat livery on the Gananoque River in the 1860s. He was in business when the Thousand Islands first gained popularity as a summer resort. The 1888 and 1891 Ontario Gazetteer includes Wm. Edwards of Gananoque, a builder of pleasure, sail and row boats.

By 1867, Nelson Gilbert had begun building canoes and skiffs in Lansdowne, Ontario, the town where he was born and raised. He continued building boats while working as a foreman at the Canada Carriage Company in Gananoque. When the Carriage Company relocated to Brockville, Nelson moved with them, taking his inventory of boats, eventually opening his own business in 1904.

The Andress family were designing and building skiffs in the La Rue Mills area of Mallorytown in the 1880s. George Andress brought the

moulds designed by his brother William Frances to Gananoque when he moved there in the mid-1890s. He taught his son Raymond the skills, thereby continuing the legacy of Andress boatbuilding.

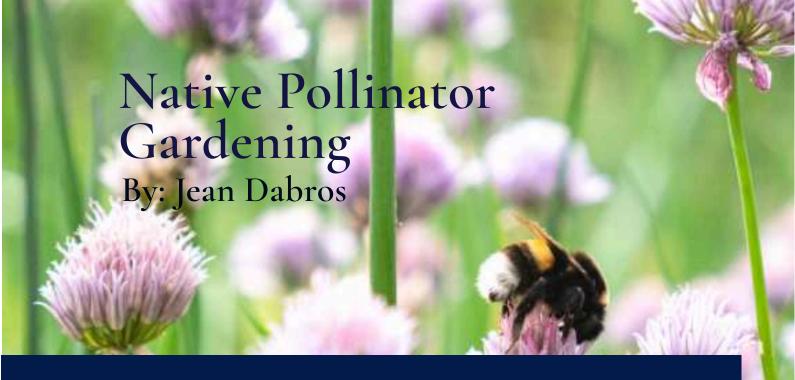
The Sauvé family had moved to Brockville from Quebec, and after apprenticing with a local boatbuilder, began their own business circa 1880. The family dispersed around 1890.

Fred Huck moved to Rockport with his wife and family in 1889, opening a blacksmith shop and foundry on the waterfront. He designed skiffs, steam yachts, and a one-cylinder engine, which he named Invictus.

Ed Andress was constructing boats at LaRue Mills as early as 1912, before relocating to Rockport, where he established his own boatbuilding workshop. He utilised the same moulds his father, William F., had designed, the same ones that had been taken to Gananoque by his uncle George.

Charlie Cliffe, a Gananoque boatbuilder, took the lines from a Ray Andress skiff and manufactured his own moulds at his shop in Wilstead, Ontario. Recently, those very moulds have been acquired, where they will be used to reproduce skiffs in the design that William Francis Andress created over 100 years ago.

Image: Ray Andress skiff



When native species thrive in your garden, bees, birds and butterflies can bloom too.

One way that you can help support local wildlife is to grow native plants in your garden. Native plants are defined as plants that have evolved in an area over thousands of years and have extensive interconnections with the other plants, animals, climate and geology of that particular region. Many insects have evolved alongside native plants and have very specific requirements that only a certain plant can provide. Insects are important, not only for the pollination of plants, but also as a food source for many birds and animals. When you choose to grow native plants in your garden you are not only choosing to support biodiversity but you will also end up with beautiful flowers that are adapted to local conditions. Feeling overwhelmed? Start with one!

No soil for gardening on your piece of rock? Many native plants are well suited to being grown in a container and have the added advantage of regrowing the next summer (don't "clean up" your native garden until spring time – the dried seed pods provide food for the birds all through the winter!). Many of the milkweeds love to grow in containers and come in a wide variety of shapes and colours, all suitable for supporting Monarch caterpillars.

There are many wonderful resources you can turn to for help planning your garden to ensure you have the right sun and soil conditions and that can help you choose a variety of plants that will give you colour all season long. Once you have decided on which plants you would like, where do you turn to purchase native plants? Although many local garden centers claim to sell "native" plants beware of the terms "cultivar" and "nativar" as these are often genetically modified variations of the original native plants, selected for colours or sizes not found in nature (and may not support the local species that you are trying to protect).

Where can you source native plants and seeds?

The Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) strongly supports growing native and had "pollinator packs" (four different native plants in a pack that vary by the type of pollinator you are hoping to attract) available for purchase in Home Depot 2024 summer nurseries. The CWF also has a list of Native Plant Nurseries where you can purchase ethically sourced true native plants.

In the TIA region we are lucky to have the Thousand Island Watershed Land Trust (www.tiwlt.ca) that runs an annual plant sale featuring many native shrubs and trees along with native perennials. Get on their mailing list to be informed of the details.

If you would like to start your garden from seeds, the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library will share native seeds in the late fall (for free!) in time for winter sowing and they also have some good tips on their website for how to plan your garden.

The Ferguson Tree Nursery in Kemptville is a not-for-profit corporation that sells native shrubs and trees, including the Pitch Pine, which is found in only a small area east of Kingston in the Thousand Islands.

TIA Supporter, Quinte Canvas Mfg. Inc.



Conceived from the brilliant mind of its founder John, (Dad to Heather and me) dad realized the need for a canvas shop in the Trenton area over 45 years ago. Two generations later, with the help of my sister Heather, the 3 of us carried on the family tradition of the needle and thread for close to 38 years now here in Kingston and surrounding area, specializing in marine canvas and upholstery for power and sail boats.

Your boat... Your little weekend getaway. A prized possession that you've made yours. That thing you keep in the water that you pour money into. She's your baby and she'll aways need TLC \odot ... this is where we come in. Dodgers on sailboats, camper additions on power boats, Biminis and enclosures to add exterior space on hot summer days, and to keep the mosquitoes at bay while you enjoy your morning coffee.

Our specialty is winter storage covers. We have customized a very durable winter cover, more so for sailboats that has been showing a life span of 12-15 years. These come with an aluminum frame system or are frameless, depending on your needs.

Let's enjoy a safe boating season and keep her between the buoys. And a Huge Thank You to TIA for their efforts in keeping us safe.

Cheers

Dave and the Quinte Canvas team

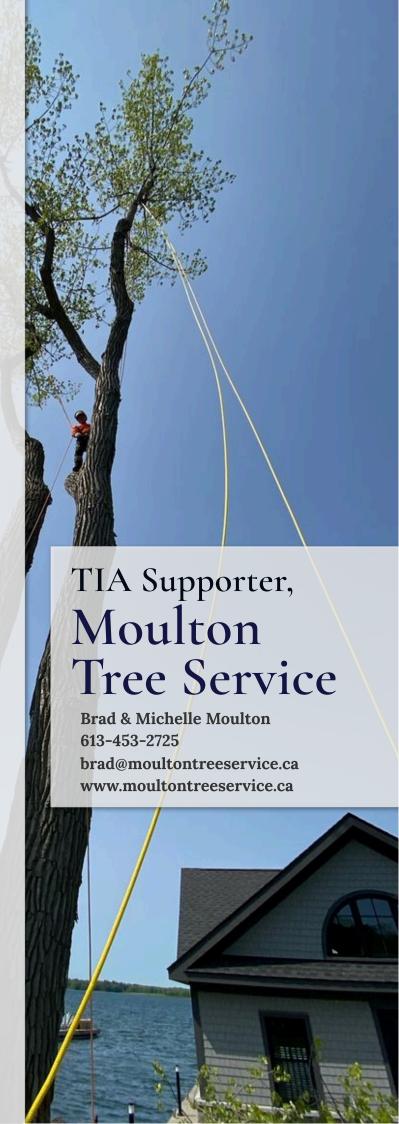
The crew at Moulton Tree Service had a running start to the season, with Mother Nature showing her might with an ice storm in March, followed by strong wind events, just to keep things exciting.

Our team has been busy on the Islands and shores of the St Lawrence, helping first with emergencies, and projects that call for advanced rigging and controlled felling, technical dismantles and careful trimming.

Safety is the heart of our operation, and this starts with excellent communication with you, and putting a plan together that works for all. We ensure that every project is completed with precision, care, and a strong focus on protecting you, your property, and the natural surroundings.

With 30 years of experience, Moulton Tree Service is well known for our expertise in handling complex jobs, where logistics, terrain, and environmental sensitivity demand extra skill and planning. Because we specialize in remote and hard to reach areas, we are knowledgeable about the unique needs of island and waterfront properties. We've added spurless climbing to protect your trees, and roping materials down carefully ensures that there is minimal impact.

Dedicated, skilled, and safety conscious, Moulton Tree Service is the go-to choice for clients looking for responsible and reliable tree care in our beautiful region, and we look forward to connecting with old friends and meeting some new, on our beloved St Lawrence River!



TIA Community Board River Talk is introducing the Community Bulletin Board to allow

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.





Calling All Boaters! We are looking for locally owned and operated businesses to join our 1st Annual Marina Market.

SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH 11AM-3PM ON THE MARINA LAWN

Boaters who have a slip with us are invited to set up a table on the lawn and showcase and sell their product/business items.

We support our boating community, and this will only be open to boaters that have a slip with us, but all are welcome to browse.

If you are interested in setting up a table, please register no later than July 31st by emailing marinarecreation@gananoque.ca or stopping by the marina office

"Vendors must provide their own tables"



Crafts on the River
Gananoque
Saturdays in Aug.
10am-4pm

"Dock Talk" at the Gananoque Marina from June 27 (Dan Baldock and Jim Côté) Invasive species removal (July 18, 2025) from the McLean Trail in Gananoque that included the TIA (Allie Reagan and Jean Dabros)



Thousand Islands Playhouse presents:





Rockport Recreation Hall 115 Escott Rockport Rd., Mallorytown ON



New TIA Volunteer T-shirts designed by Allie Regan & Environmental Committee members.





TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors













































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Parc national des Mille-Îles

