

J U L Y 2 0 2 2

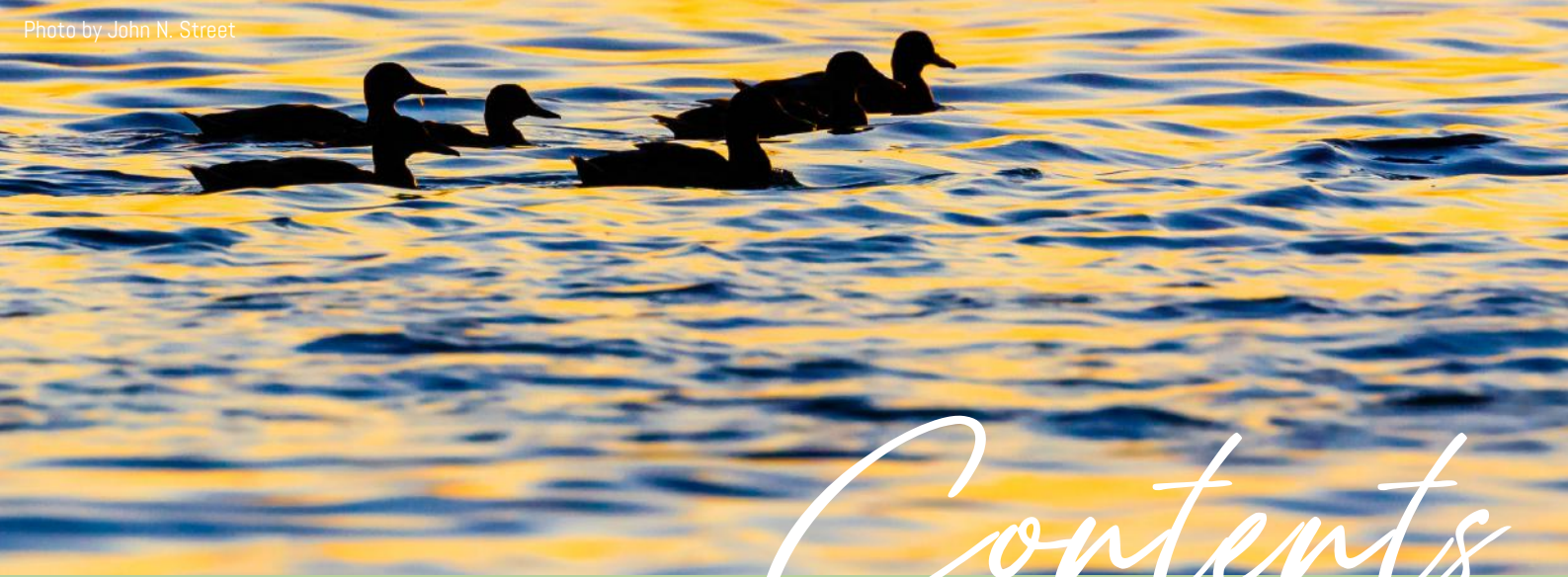
RIVER TALK

RIVER SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT





Contents

03

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

09

**THE DANGERS OF
SUNSCREEN IN THE
RIVER**

04

FROM THE EDITOR

10

**IN CASE YOU WERE
WONDERING..**

05

**ENVIRONMENTAL
UPDATE - THE SEABIN**

11

**A GATEWAY TO
GANANOQUE'S PAST**

06

**TIA ANNUAL
BREAKFAST AND
MEETING**

12

**SPOTLIGHT:
ALEXANDRIA BAY**

08

**WATER LEVELS
UPDATE**

13

**SURGE OF DEAD
MUSKIES FOUND ON
ST. LAWRENCE RIVER,
ANGLERS URGED TO
REPORT**



President's Message

A photograph of Peter Fitton, the President, standing on a boat. He is wearing a blue and white jacket and a tan cap. The background shows water and a boat railing.

Peter Fitton

Welcome July, a month dedicated to freedom, independence, and celebrations of country and culture! July 1 is Canada Day (Fête du Canada), a Canadian holiday to celebrate the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867. July 4 is Independence Day, an American holiday to celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. On both occasions do not forget to raise your national flag – it is the emblem of our identity as a sovereign nation.

TIA will celebrate on Saturday, July 23rd by hosting the return of the hot breakfast and in-person Annual General Meeting at the waterfront Playhouse Theatre in Gananoque. Please note You Must Sign up & Pay for Breakfast in Advance – this applies to all membership levels of TIA: Single, Couple, Family & Lifetime. Registration opens at 8:00am, Breakfast

starts at 8:30am, and the AGM starts at 10:00 am. Guest Speakers include: Calder Schweitzer, Exec Director, TIWLT addressing “Land, Learning, Life & Legacies”; Laura Eggleston, Asst Director, STR addressing “Polystyrene Pollution”; and our summer student Jana Moore addressing “Turtles to Seabins”.

To optimize our time together at the live AGM, please note all members will be receiving by email on July 5 an Online Voters Kit requesting every member to review and vote on our annual business motions approving: the Minutes of TIA 2021 Meeting; the financial statements for fiscal year ending December 31, 2021; the approval of Professional Accountants for fiscal year ending Dec 31, 2022; and the proposed slate of Directors and officers for the year July 23, 2022 to July 22, 2023.

Your volunteer Board works diligently for the membership in delivering programs that support our collective mission: River Safety, Environmental Awareness, Community Support. 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 2022 membership, please do so now and receive a tax receipt. Help us remain sustainable and fulfill our mission.

I hope to see you all at the AGM!

Photo by John N. Street

Allison Burchell-Robinson

From the Editor

I recently read a book. Elizabeth Letts's "The Ride of Her Life", the true story of a woman, her horse and their last-chance journey across America. In 1954, sixty three year old Maine farmer, Annie Wilkins, decided she wanted to see California. She had no money, no family, had just lost her farm and was given two years to live. So she bought a horse and she, her dog, Depeche Toi, and Tarzan, a non descript gelding started south in November. In March of 1956, Annie, her dog and her two horses (she acquired a second along the way to help with the traveling load) arrived in San Francisco. She had traveled over 5000 miles. Annie had no maps and very little money but she did have an innate sense of the kindness and welcome she would encounter along the way.

It is difficult to even contemplate making that same trip today. Imagine walking over a high suspension icy snow covered bridge riding a horse and leading another as cars and trucks whizzed by, sometimes honking as means of saying hello (not always welcomed by the horses).

Yet, that same spirit and determination is what led those first cottagers to decide that living on an island, approachable only by boat, was how they wanted to spend their summers. They didn't have a map of how to get there (TIA's shoal markers was a distant vision). They didn't have pre fabricated houses and boathouses or docks. Whatever they did, they did by hand. Lumber, tools, equipment and supplies all arrived by boat. Sometimes there were workmen to be hired while some owners relied on themselves and family members. The days were long but the summer was short. Water had to be pumped or carried then heated. Ice was packed in straw and stored in icehouses. Laundry was an all day affair. Shopping was carefully scheduled and planned. One didn't zip over to town for a loaf of bread. Friends relied on friends, everyone was welcome and a sense of togetherness and kindness reigned.

Generations after generations have been brought up in, on and around the St. Lawrence River and that same sense of togetherness, welcome and kindness remains.

By the way, Annie died in 1980, 26 years after being given two years to live.

Environmental Update – The Seabin



Janet Smith-Staples

~ And, we must have started something because no sooner had an article come out in the Gananoque Reporter about our Seabin initiative did we get an email from the City of Kingston asking for details on how they could obtain their own. Voila, Kingston Marinas have now installed the Seabin to record the plastic that comes out of Lake Ontario.

Curious yet? The Seabin is a floating garbage bin that collects debris and waste by pumping water into the device. It has the capability to also intercept micro and macro plastics, and microfibers, as small as 2mm (which is key in recording how much plastic REALLY is in our waterways.) With the new addition of oil pad technology, the Seabin also can skim surface oil and pollutants too.

To date, the Seabin project has installed 860 Seabins and captured 2,983,708 kg, with each

catch bag having the capacity to hold up to 20kgs at a time. TIA is extremely excited to be a part

of such an incredible project. We want to thank everyone involved who helped make this

possible. To learn more about the Seabin, visit the [Great Lakes Plastic Clean Up website](#)

Last summer we learned about the Seabin through an article on Huck's Marina written by now board member Annabel Cowan in River Talk. It seemed like an exciting initiative and well worth further investigation. So, like any good idea we added it to our list of potential projects. This summer we checked it off that list, and made it a reality.

Through the support of Pollution Probe and the Council of the Great Lakes Region, TIA approached the Town of Gananoque in hopes of finding a home for the Seabin. Before long the town council accepted our proposal and Member-at Large Stuart Arnett spearheaded the project. A true partnership with the staff at the Municipal Marina (who are responsible to empty the bin & record the contents each day) the Seabin V5 project is up and running! Once a month our TIA intern Jana Moore along with volunteers will perform a 'deep dive' where we sift through the contents of 5 days' worth of contents finding and recording the smallest of pollutants and plastic particles.

Less Than a Month to Go !!!

Sign Up now for TIA's Annual Breakfast & Meeting

Saturday July 23rd @ the 1000 Islands Playhouse

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

TIA's Hot Breakfast and in-person AGM is back after a two-year hiatus. On Saturday July 23 we will be gathering along the banks of the St. Lawrence River at the 1000 Islands Playhouse for TIA's Social Event of the year – and yes, Tim Hallman is back with live music.

Registration Opens: 8:00

Breakfast Starts: 8:30

Please note this year pre-payment for breakfast is required
Adults \$12.99 – Children (under 10) \$8.49 (HST Included)

AGM Starts: 10:00

Guest Speakers: Calder Schweitzer, Exec Director, TIWLT

Laura Eggleston, Asst Director, Save The River
"Polystyrene Pollution"

Jana Moore, TIA Environmental Program Co-Ordinator
"Turtles to Seabins"

Your volunteer Board works diligently for the membership in delivering programs that support our collective mission: River Safety, Environmental Awareness, Community Support, and we encourage you and your family and friends to attend, to show support, and to enjoy river fellowship.

If you have not renewed your **2022 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.

Peter Fitton, President

Alec Turner

Alec Turner, Director, AGM Chair

Click here to order your Hot Breakfasts Now!!

**Thousand Islands Association Hot Breakfast & Social
followed by TIA's Annual Meeting
Saturday July 23rd @ 8:30am at the 1000 Islands Playhouse
Save the Date & Sign up Now !!**



**This Year Pre-Payment for the Breakfast is Required
Adults \$12.99 - Children (under 10) \$8.49 (HST Included)**

The Breakfast & Social

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

**After a 2 year Hiatus the
TIA Hot Breakfast & AGM
are back live 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**

Prize Draws

**Membership Renewal
1st Prize "Sunfish" - Print by
Wildlife Conservation Artist
Stuart Arnett**



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

50/50 Draw

The AGM

Opening Remarks 10:00am

**Annual Meeting
and Guest Speakers**

**Calder Schweitzer
Executive Director,
Thousand Islands Watershed
Land Trust (TIWLT)**

**Lauren Eggleston
Asst. Director, Save the River
"Polystyrene Pollution"**

**Jana Moore
TIA Summer Intern's
Environmental Update
"Turtles to Seabins"**

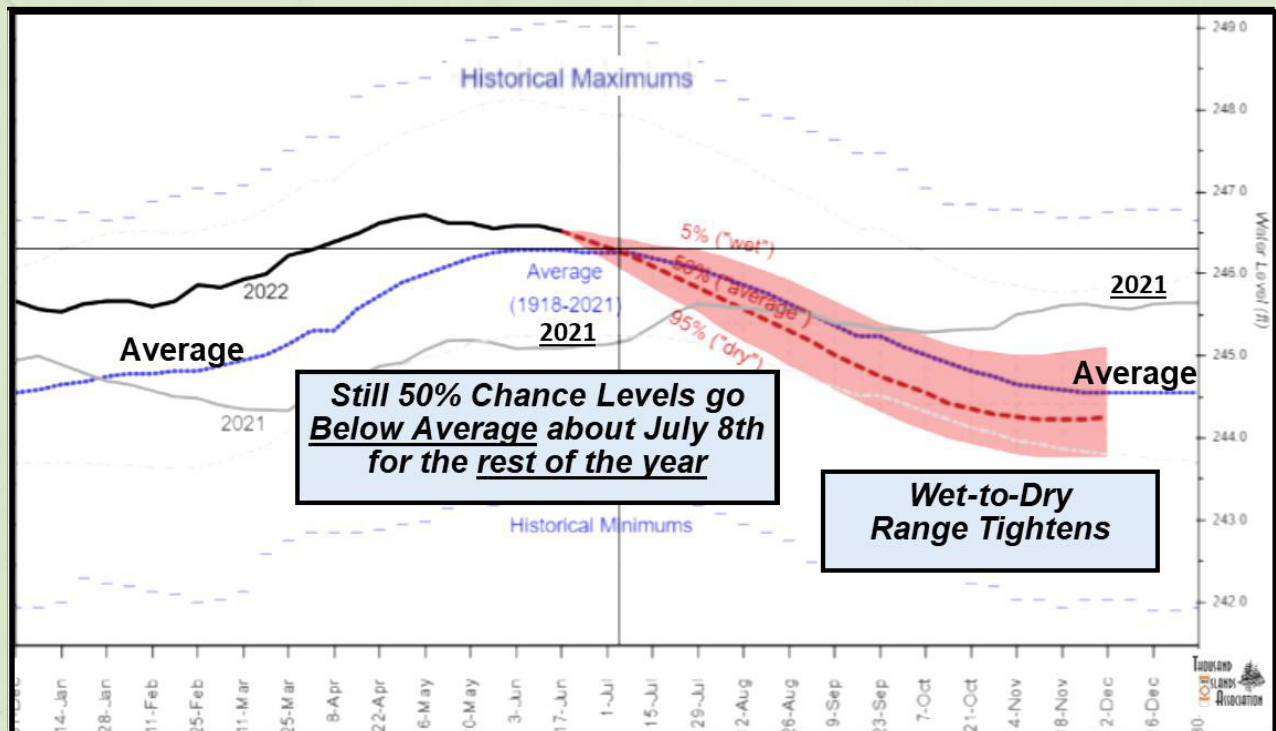
**Click Here to Sign up Now
& Order your Hot Breakfasts !!**

Water Levels are Slowly beginning to Drop as Summer 2022 Begins

Lake Ontario Water Level Forecast

TIA Water Levels Committee (6/25/22)

24 June through 9 December 2022— (issued 19 May)



Ken White

<https://ijc.org/en/losrb/watershed/forecasts>

Edits by TIA

Current Levels

- Lake Ontario did hit its peak early on May 6th at 246.72 feet, and was down only 2.5" on June 17th to 246.52 feet. Now it's at 246.39 ft, the pace has picked up.
- River levels (now at 245.70 feet) finally fell below the line resistant at 3 feet line above chart datum (243 feet), and are not likely to return, even if precipitation does.
- Lake & River levels are now about 2+ inches above **Long Term Average (LTA)**, down from 6 inches above LTA a month ago, the beginning of June.

• Mid to Late Summer – What water levels keep your boat afloat?

- Enjoy lovely water for the summer, while levels slowly head down. There remains a 50% chance in early July of dipping below the LTA for the rest of the year
- Fellow Water Levels guy and TIA member-at-large **Ross Stewart** commented that **"this is not really a big deal."** A 4" drop of the 50% forecast line at the end of the boating season around the first week of September "won't seem low to most".

- Note: graph above shows only a 1 foot early September wet-to-dry range!
- Plan 2014 is not 'tuned' to preserve our current levels (yet) as you and I might be **tempted** to do if we had our hand on "the level knob". In the alternative, Ross suggested that the 'old' Plan (1958D) was perhaps "over-tuned" toward the goal of 'minimal' rather than 'natural' (aka 'pre-project') variation.
- There will be lots for us to learn about the overarching goals of water levels control from the current GLAM Part 2 Review. What level & range stability do you desire? Board member **Vince Barton** will keep TIA informed on GLAM review sentiments.

The Dangers of Sunscreen in the River

Photo by John N Street

Jana Moore



Sunscreen, although imperative for skin protection from the sun, has been known to be detrimental to sea life. For a few years now, it has been known that the chemicals within sunscreen result in coral bleaching and degradation in saltwater oceans, however, only a limited amount of research has been conducted on the effects of sunscreen and its UV-filters (oxybenzone, avobenzone, octocrylene) on freshwater ecosystems.

Have you ever jumped in the water after applying sunscreen and noticed a thin film on the surface of the water in your surrounding area? As the swimming season progresses, fishers and loggers have noticed an ever-growing layer of sunscreen that attaches itself to the top layer of the river. This film of sunscreen prevents insects from laying their eggs which can be initially viewed as insignificant, however can result in a snowball effect on the entire food chain and ecosystem. Here in the thousand islands, we are lucky enough to experience the beauty and diverse wildlife that comes along our location.

Unfortunately, within freshwater and marine systems, one of the leading sources of UV-filtered contamination comes from sunscreen leeching off of the skin.

A recent study conducted by the University of Alberta was conducted to see the effects of environmentally realistic concentrations of the UV-filters on the freshwater invertebrate, *Daphnia magna*, a common water flea. Within this study, when the water fleas were exposed to these UV-filter concentrations for 48 hours, their sense of direction to navigate through their environments was lost. Over a 14 day period, the exposure would be lethal for the invertebrate. From an ecosystem perspective, this is extremely detrimental, as *Daphnia magna* play an imperative role in the freshwater food chain, and the loss of a daphnia population on the St. Lawrence River could result in the local ecosystems collapsing.

The effects of sunscreen on the environment, especially in freshwater remains a grey area. Therefore it is important to find balance between protecting our skin, as well as the environment. In order to keep our river swimmable, fishable and drinkable now and for generations to come, consider using sun protective products that do not contain oxybenzone, avobenzone, and octocrylene to limit the river ecosystems exposure to these products, and even sun protective clothing.

Kim, S., & Choi, K. (2014). Occurrences, toxicities, and ecological risks of benzophenone-3, a common component of organic sunscreen products: a mini-review. *Environment international*, 70, 143-157.

Levine, A. (2020). Sunscreen use and awareness of chemical toxicity among beach goers in Hawaii prior to a ban on the sale of sunscreens containing ingredients found to be toxic to coral reef ecosystems. *Marine Policy*, 117, 103875.

Swann, A. (2021, August 13). What We Know About Lake Safe Sunscreen. *Nature Conservancy of Canada*. <https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/blog/lake-safe-sunscreen.html>

University of Alberta. (2020, September 2). Common sunscreen ingredients prove dangerous for freshwater ecosystems. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved May 22, 2022 from www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/09/20090209112.htm

In Case You Were Wondering.....

By Dave McWilliam & Alec Turner



What happens when the Rock Markers Come Out of the Water at the end of the Season ?

The removal of Rock Markers at the end of the season is a tough job. The water is cold, the weather doesn't always cooperate and the bottom portion of the markers are covered in slime and perhaps some barnacles. It's dirty work.

The chain and block used to hold the markers in place is left behind on most shoals and is attached to a reused plastic bottle or in some cases an old bumper so it can be easily retrieved in the spring.

Plastic jugs don't last long, breakdown leaving micro plastics behind while rubber bumpers are easier to retrieve and last many years before being retired. Hence our call out for old bumpers.



Markers at the end of the Season
Covered in Slime etc...

Calling All Bumpers !



12"—16" Bumpers are best
But all are welcome !

TIA Needs Your Old Unused Bumpers

They don't need to be spotless just hold air !

Bring them to the TIA Breakfast and every bumper you bring will be entered into a prize draw.

If you can't attend the Breakfast Social contact us at

thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com

to make arrangements for drop off

The Gateway to Gananoque's Past

1000 Islands History Museum

The 1000 Islands History Museum is located on the shore of the St. Lawrence River in Gananoque. The Museum was once the site of the original train station that served as the southern terminus of the Thousand Islands Railway. The original station was built in 1883 and serviced passenger travel as well as waterfront industries, like The Shortall Coal Company. It burned down in 1929 and was replaced by a new station. Passenger travel ran into Gananoque until 1962 and the second station burned down in September 1990. In 1992, the idea for a museum that would demonstrate the importance of the history of the 1000 Islands was brought to fruition with the formation of the Historic 1000 Islands Village Committee. In 1995, the Museum opened in the Arthur J.E. Child Building in the Historic 1000 Islands Village Complex. The Museum, modeled after the style of nineteenth-century Victorian cottages, has displays in the 'permanent' galleries which explore 10 000 years of history in the region, from glaciers to the Gilded Age and beyond.

Seasonal exhibits have ranged from **"Through the Lens: The Photography of Lorne Prosser"** in 2014 to the current exhibit, **"Unmasking Influenza: the 1918 Spanish Flu in Canada"** in 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic created the need for programming outside the museum's walls which resulted in the undertaking of the **Gananoque Heritage Walking Tour App**. Visitors can take a self-guided tour that explores 200 years of the town's built heritage. This bilingual tour includes fifty stops in historic Gananoque, using archival photos to demonstrate the shifting and constant use of built heritage.



Using the same app development software, the Museum hopes to present an educational walking tour for students at the high-school level. For elementary-level students, the Museum also offers several synchronous and asynchronous educational programs in a range of subjects including local animal life and the importance of protecting biodiversity and the First Peoples of the area.

The 1000 Islands History Museum welcomes visitors and residents of Gananoque alike to engage and explore the area's rich history. Despite the challenges presented during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum continues to welcome all to a place where the past meets the present.

SPOTLIGHT: Alexandria Bay

Ashley Carlos

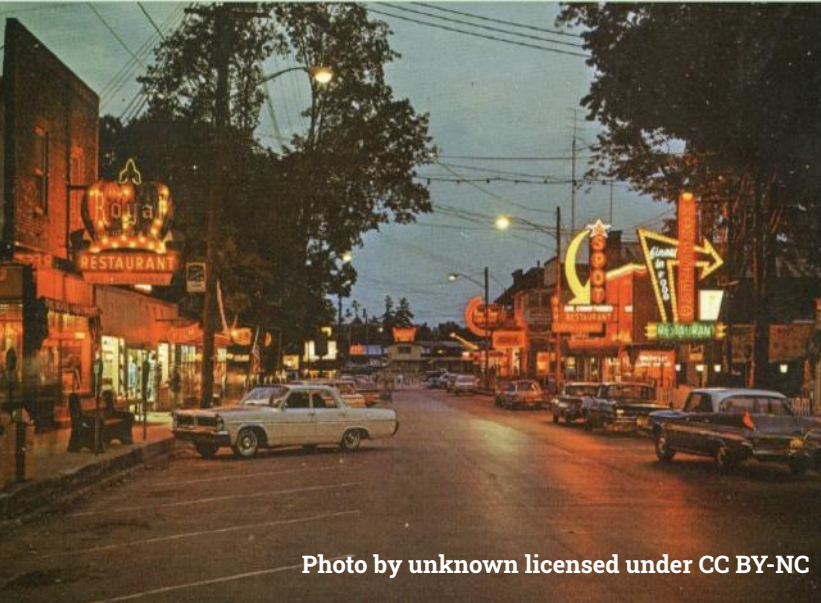


Photo by unknown licensed under CC BY-NC

Alexandria Bay and its surrounding areas have always been a location noted for its beauty, vast resources, and spiritual being. Long before Europeans settled the area, the Iroquois and Algonquin Indians spent their summer months fishing and hunting here. Lore has it that Manitou said to the Indians: “I will give you paradise, if you stop fighting”. According to legend, the Indians did not stop fighting so Manitou put paradise into a bag and threw it into the horizon. The bag broke apart and a thousand pieces fell down into the St. Lawrence River, creating the Thousand Islands.

During the American Revolution, James LeRay, better known as James Donation LeRay du Chaumont, provided goods and services to the American forces.

After the War of 1812, Colonel Elisha Camp, received ownership of the American Islands. In 1845, he in turn sold the islands to Azariah Walton for the sum of \$3000. The land purchased extended from the northwest part of Wellesley Island and all the islands from Round Island in Clayton to Morristown 35 miles away. Walton joined Andrew Cornwall and together brought Alexandria Bay to a prominent position in the upcoming decades. The first island to be sold was “Manhattan Island” for the sum of \$40.

Shortly after the Civil War, the popularity of the Islands increased with the improved transportation system. Wealthy sportsmen and gentlemen from leading US cities inquired into purchasing islands from private use. The press traveling with General Grant wrote articles in the leading US city papers that sparked an interest that resulted in the explosion of recreation in the Alexandria Bay area.

The 18th Amendment to the Constitution (Prohibition) created a lucrative business in the 1000 Islands area. While little information is available, stories have been handed down over the generations regarding local captains who knew the St. Lawrence River and its many inlets, making the trip between the US and Canadian borders to bring back sacks full of alcohol. If the law got too close, the sacks were easy to throw over the side. Divers today who visit the area, can still find bottles at the bottom of the St. Lawrence River.

Surge of Dead Muskies Found on St. Lawrence River, Anglers Urged to Report

From ABC 50 – CLAYTON, N.Y. (WWTI) –

Muskies are becoming a growing concern in local waterbodies.

According to the Gananoque 1000 Islands Chapter of Muskies Canada, there has been a recent surge of dead Muskellunge fish floating on the St. Lawrence River.

Although the group said that dead fish are often found on local water bodies in the spring months, the recent reportings are a cause for concern.

The group said in a press release “there is a fine line between normal and diseased mortality.”

To document any abnormalities, all anglers are required to report and subsequently recover all dead muskies so an autopsy can be conducted.

This applies to anglers on both the U.S. and Canadian sides of the St. Lawrence River.

If found in the New York waters of the St. Lawrence River, anglers should report dead muskies to the Thousand Islands Biological Station Administrative Office at 315-470-6743.

In Canadian waters, anglers should email the Gananoque 1000 Islands Chapter of Muskies Canada at gan.chapter.mci@gmail.com and provide their name, phone number and the exact location for recovery.



A promotional poster for a bi-national trash river clean up. The background is a scenic view of a river at sunset, with trees on the banks. The text is overlaid on the image. In the top left, there is a logo for the Thousand Islands Association featuring a small island with a lighthouse and the text 'THOUSAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION'. In the top right, there is a logo for 'Save The River' featuring a blue heron and the text 'Save The River', 'Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER'. The main text in the center reads 'bi-national TRASH FREE RIVER CLEAN UP' in large, bold, white letters. To the right of this, the date and time are listed: 'JULY 30 9AM - 12PM'. At the bottom right, there is a blue button with the text 'Sign Up Here'. In the bottom right corner, there is a small text credit: 'Photo by John N Street'.



TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors



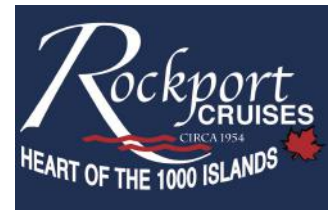
Keyes Insurance Brokers



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

- ❖ A One-Year Business membership to **TIA**
- ❖ 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

3 Easy Ways To Purchase: *Click, Scan Or Email*

Click To Purchase



SCAN ME

Click To Email

Pay Online Via PayPal, Credit Card, Or Send Us An Email Asking For An Invoice To Be Sent

TIA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

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



SCAN ME

Individual **\$50**

Couple **\$75**

Family **\$100**

Scan Our QR Code To Renew Or Purchase Your Tax Deductible Annual Membership or Visit

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.

thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com

P.O. Box 274
Gananoque, ON K7G 2T8
Canada

P.O. Box 616
Clayton, NY 13624
United States of America

TIA's Three Pillars

River Safety

Environmental Awareness

Community Support

