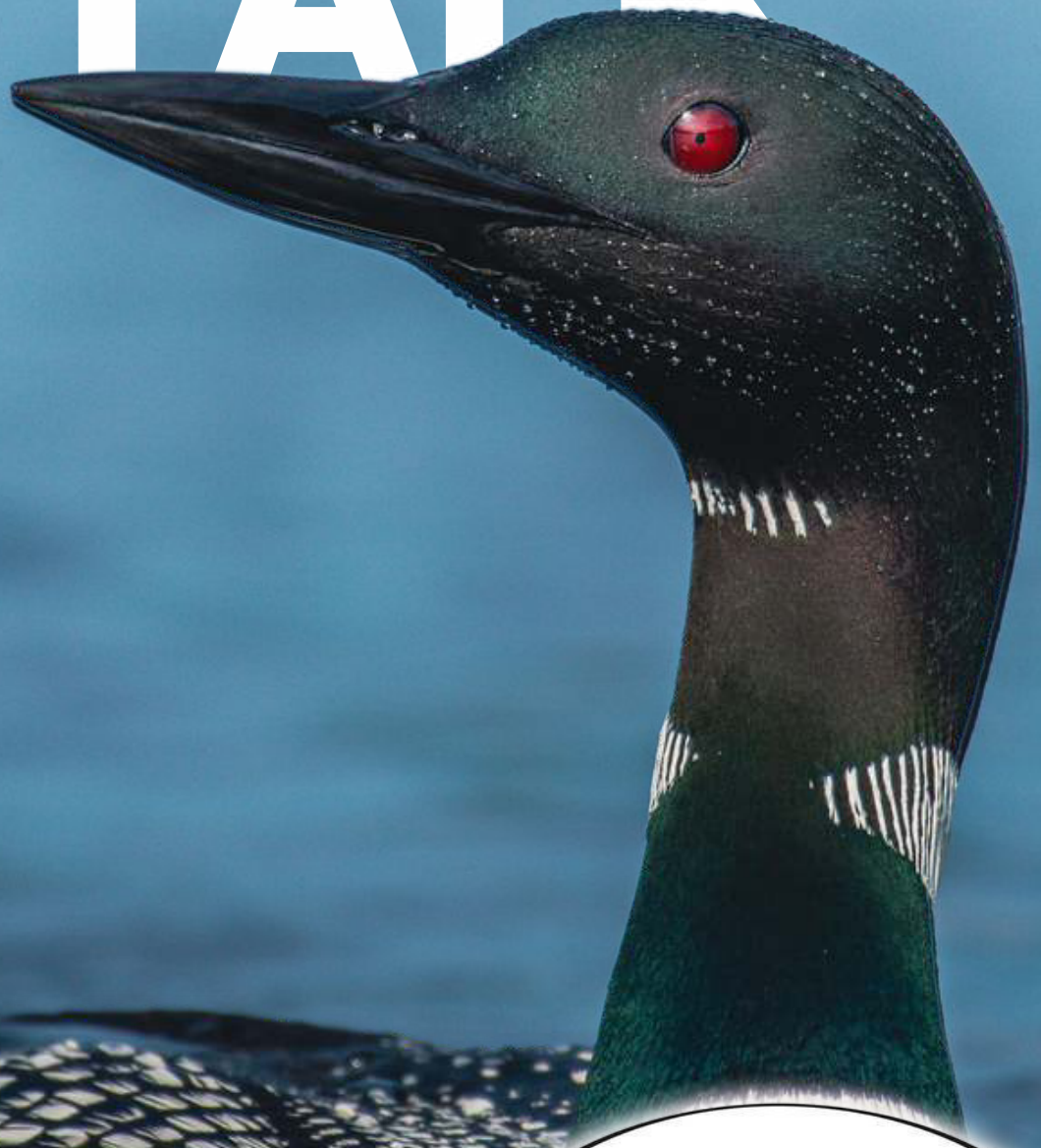


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RIVER TALK



RIVER SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



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President's Message

Peter Fitton

June has arrived bringing us Summer Solstice: The first day of Summer and the longest day of the year with the most daylight hours to enjoy the river!

Start the month by observing World Environment Day on June 5 to help raise awareness across the globe. The theme for 2023 is solutions to plastic pollution. Other year themes have focused on wildlife conservation, climate change, and our vital connection to nature as examples. Click [here](#) for more information and further links.

Grace Mychajlyszyn, TIA's Environmental Program Co-ordinator, became onboard with TIA the start of May and is now well into planning and researching on means to grow TIA program initiatives. Watch for her involvement with promoting our social media and mission statement. Grace can be reached at TIAsummerstudent@gmail.com if you would like to connect with her – send her your ideas and encouragement!

Water Level concerns have again surfaced for the 2023 spring season. Our Water Levels Committee team of Ken White (Chair), Vince Barton and Ross Stewart provide analytical and interpretative information to help us understand these fluctuations and management controls. Ross Stewart has been appointed as the representative of TIA to the Phase 2 Public Advisory Group (PAG) under the Great Lakes Adaptive Management (GLAM) Committee reporting to the IJC. More information on IJC monitoring, modeling, and assessment to follow in future issues.

Celebrate Father's Day on the 3rd Sunday of June. It is the perfect time to kick-off the summer season with a father-focused barbecue, exploring the river together, or other outdoor activity. Something to think about ... "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years" – Mark Twain.

SAVE THE DATE! TIA Director Alec Turner, AGM Chair is busy with planning details for the Saturday, July 22, 2023 Annual General Meeting and breakfast on the waterfront at the Gananoque Playhouse Theatre. More details in this issue.

If not already done, please renew your 2023 tax deductible membership. For Lifetime members from many years ago, please consider a tax-deductible donation. TIA needs your membership funding support!

Read on for more River Talk!



From the Editor

Allison Burchell-Robinson

A 24-hour watch was established along with Sammy's partner who continued to hover nearby. Parents were expected to take the lonely wee hours. Unfortunately, Sammy didn't survive. He was too weak from his long ordeal before his rescue. He was buried with solemn honors on top of the island and only then did his mate fly away.

That little boy was my son and his two best friends, his "sisters" lived in the adjacent cottage. Sammy's demise was their first pet loss and his belongings, the nest and the fishing line, became the cornerstone of the museum they established. That nest and many of the artifacts in that museum have long disappeared, giving way to nature and the elements. One item, however, has not. The fishing line remains intact, strong and resilient.

And therein lies the problem. 600 years is the expected lifeline of this type of fishing line. That is a lot of fatally injured seagulls and broken hearted little boys and girls. You can see all the damage caused by these lines when you go to the TIA website and check out 'What We Do'. While there you'll also see what you can do to prevent this havoc. Simply collect your used fishing line and deposit in a Fishing Line Recycling Station, FLRS, another contribution from the Thousand Islands Association. Sammy would thank them!

Many years ago Sammy was discovered by a little boy and his two best friends. Sammy was in very bad shape with not much time left. He couldn't eat, swim or fly. You see Sammy was a seagull who had become tangled in discarded monofilament fishing line to the point that he was so completely incapacitated that the friend's dad could pick him up and put him in his boat.

They brought Sammy back to the island and the learning process began. A park ranger was consulted as to best care while in confinement. Teams were established to procure edible food, insects and worms, while another was charged with making the nest. The little boy happily cut up his grandfather's vicuna bathrobe as it was so soft and the nights so cold. Most of the fishing line was cut away while dodging Sammy's beak.

In Case You Were Wondering...

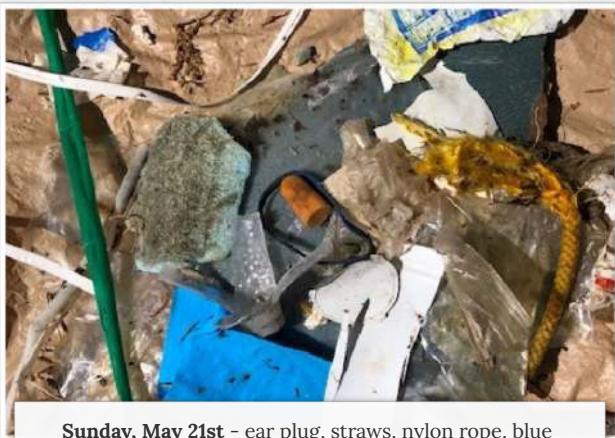
Yes, you can make a difference!

Dave McWilliam & Alec Turner

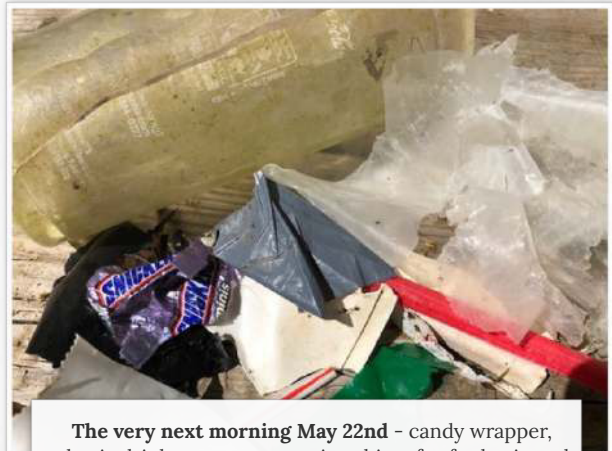
... and it doesn't take that much time to make a difference. We live along the north-eastern shore of the Bateau Channel and last summer I started to collect the plastics and garbage I picked up along our shoreline versus disposing of it immediately. I was amazed at both the quantity and the variety of objects.

Ideally preventing plastics from entering the environment and the river is preferable, however we can still help by taking a little bit of time to look down and pick up what has entered our ecosystem. Not only are you cleaning up your shoreline, you are cleaning up the river too, thereby making it safer for wildlife who may ingest items or become entangled.

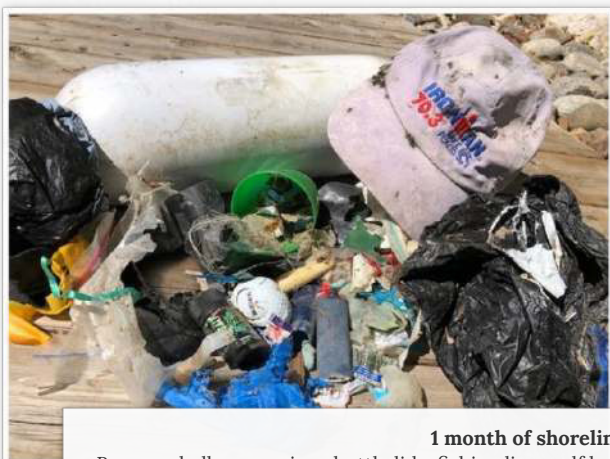
So next time you're walking along your shoreline, or any shoreline for that matter, take a few minutes to look down and pick up what doesn't belong. It will make the river a cleaner and safer place for all to enjoy and you will feel good too.



Sunday, May 21st - ear plug, straws, nylon rope, blue styrofoam, small white styrofoam bits of various plastic, large piece of roofing shingle wrapping paper (the beige background), shotgun well wad, foil seal from an oil bottle



The very next morning May 22nd - candy wrapper, plastic drink cup, straws, various bits of soft plastic and 2 pieces of hard plastic. All in all enough to fill the large plastic drinking cup (top left in photo).



1 month of shoreline clean up in 2022 - Bumper, ball cap, various bottle lids, fishing line, golf ball casing, vaping bottle, straws, blue and white styrofoam, cigarette lighter, used shot gun shell, plastic shotgun shell wad and various types of plastic, both hard and soft.



Getting Into the Green Scene:

Discover the Green Delights of a Clover Lawn!

Grace Mychajlyszyn

If you're looking to transform your lawn into an eco-friendly oasis, consider the enchanting beauty and environmental benefits of a clover lawn. Compared to the traditional grass lawns we're accustomed to, a clover lawn brings a host of advantages that not only make your yard stand out but also contribute to a greener world.

One of the greatest perks of a clover lawn lies in its ability to enrich the soil naturally. Clover, being a legume plant, works hand in hand with special bacteria to capture nitrogen from the air and deliver it straight to the soil. This natural process eliminates the need for harmful chemical fertilizers, ensuring that your yard remains a safe and chemical-free haven for your family and the surrounding ecosystem.

But that's not all! Clover lawns are superheroes when it comes to soil health. With their robust root systems, they anchor the soil, protecting it from erosion caused by wind and rain. So, even in the face of those fierce storms, you can rest assured that your yard's topsoil won't wash away, polluting our precious waterways.

When it comes to water conservation, clover lawns truly shine. These hardy plants have a knack for surviving droughts with grace. Thanks to their deep-reaching roots, they can tap into moisture sources hidden deep within the soil, meaning less watering for you and a significant reduction in water usage. And with water becoming an increasingly precious resource, choosing a clover lawn is a small but mighty step towards a sustainable future.

Let's not forget about our buzzing buddies—the pollinators! Clover lawns are a vibrant haven for bees, butterflies, and other delightful pollinators. Bursting with nectar-rich flowers, these lawns create a haven where our winged friends can thrive, ensuring the continued pollination of our local plant species and supporting the delicate balance of our ecosystems.

As for post-winter upkeep, clover lawns are relatively low-maintenance. They are resilient and require minimal watering and mowing, making them an eco-friendly and practical choice for homeowners seeking a sustainable and beautiful lawn throughout the year.

Next time your yard appears lackluster, think about adding some clover for a low-maintenance, drought-tolerant infusion of green.

Wildlife Corridor:

Slimy Slippery Salamanders

Stuart Arnett



Who would have known that, according to the Canadian Herpetological Society, we are home to a total of twenty-three salamanders, three newts and one mudpuppy.

Salamanders are unique little amphibians that live part of their lives in water and part on land. While in the larvae stage under water most salamanders have exterior gills similar to fish and absorb oxygen that is dissolved in the water. After metamorphosis, the transformation to adult, some will develop lungs while others will not. The lungless salamanders breathe through their skin and thin membranes in their mouths and throat.

The Tiger and Spotted Salamanders develop lungs, but do not breathe in the same way as humans. Salamanders do not have ribs or a diaphragm and use a process called gular pumping to move air in and out of their lungs. The Eastern Red-backed Salamander and Dusky Salamanders breathe entirely through their skin.

Another big difference between salamanders is where they lay their eggs. Some lay on land in moist damp and rotten vegetation and some lay in the water, very similar to frogs.

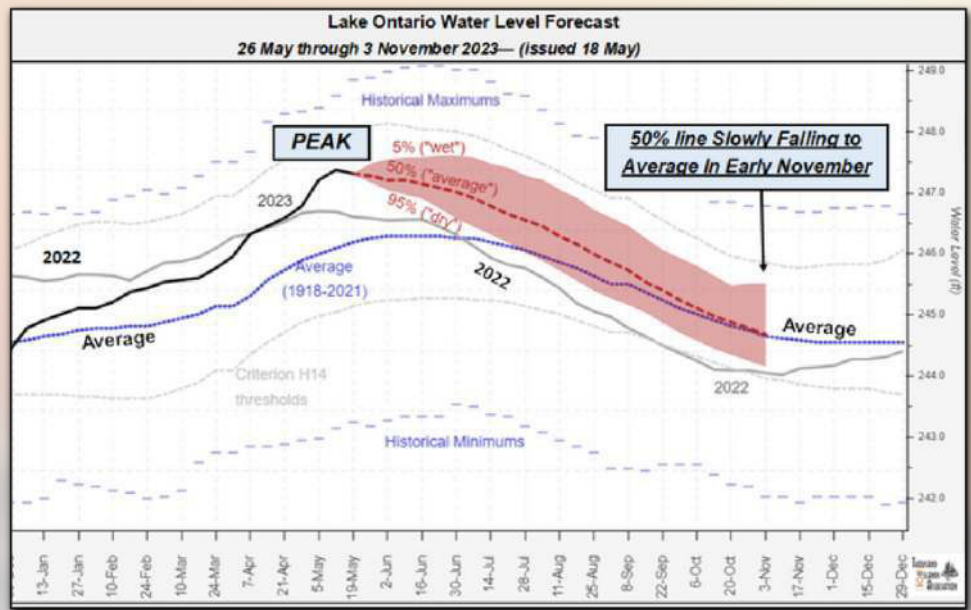
All salamanders are slimy and need to maintain this gooey membrane to survive. It is very important that you do NOT pick up salamanders with your bare hands as this will remove the membrane allowing them to absorb unwanted oils and nutrients from us.

Listed below are all of Canada's salamanders. More information can be found at: www.canadianherpetology.ca and www.ontarionature.org.

Spotted Salamander	Jefferson Salamander
Northwestern Salamander	Northern Dusky Salamander
Northern Two-lined Salamander	Small-mouthed Salamander
Blue-spotted Salamander	Wandering Salamander
Eastern Long-toed Salamander	Coastal Giant Salamander
Northern Long-toed Salamander	Oregon Salamander
Western Long-toed Salamander	Four-toed Salamander
Eastern Red-backed Salamander	Coeur d'Arlene Salamander
Western Red-backed Salamander	Ambystoma Unisexual Salamander
Eastern Tiger Salamander	Rough-skinned Newt
Gray Tiger Salamander	Red-spotted Newt
Blotched Tiger Salamander	Central Newt
Northern Spring Salamander	Mudpuppy
Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander	

Water Level Updates:

Have Already Peaked – Remaining Above Average Until November



Lake Ontario Water Level Forecast

Edits by TIA

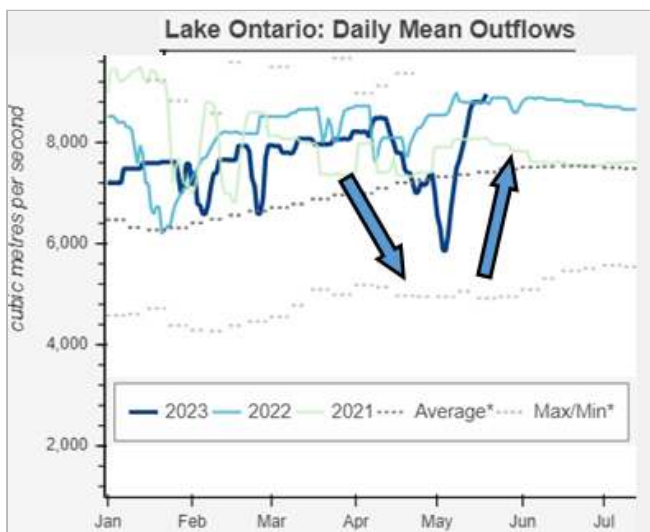
Vince Barton, Ken White, Ross Stewart

Why did Lake Ontario rise so rapidly?

This year's early peak came from:

- An early, fast melt driven flow surge of the Ottawa River
- The Board's reaction to it, based on the tiers of the F-Limit
- An intense rain event creating a 2nd Ottawa River flow surge 20% higher than the first peak!

This graphic shows a decrease in outflow for the first Ottawa Peak, an increase, the impact of the intense rain and a further outflow decrease. The slow increase (not faster than the J-Limit navigation safe flow rates), has us back on track. Whew!



SUMMARY – NO Risk of Flooding. 2023 will be an Above Average Levels Year!

- The peak was 247.41' and we're already lower - helped by a very extended stretch of dry, dry weather (after a very wet end of April/beginning of May)
- Lake Ontario Basin - 0.00 precipitation for 11 straight days from 5/8 to 5/18.
- F-Limit did its job this year... saved Montreal area from severe flooding by the extremely high Ottawa freshet at little to no cost to other stakeholders.

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



Spotlight

Allison Burchell-Robinson

The Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque is forty-one years old. The building, originally the site of a canoe club, is now the Springer Theatre, a 350 seat Equity house hosting dramas, musicals and revues. The 120 seat Firehall made its debut in 2004. The Playhouse has more than 2000 subscribers and the number increases every year. This year the season runs from June 2 through November 19th. Patrons can attend by car or by boat, a singular attraction that not many theatres enjoy. A big attraction at the Playhouse is the pre-show Podcasts about the show, acting, directing, design and life behind the scenes. The Playhouse also offers two-week summer camps for children, grades 3-6, plus a March break camp. This year's production of "Sound of Music" will feature local children in the cast.

The theatre has enjoyed support from the town, the council and the local inhabitants as well as the summer residents and visitors from the first days it opened its doors. During the COVID Pandemic, the theatre was able to pay its staff and honor all the artists who had been contractually engaged prior to the cancellation of the season thanks to this its community support.

Most of the plays rehearse locally for 2 two and a half weeks and then play for five weeks. There is a rehearsal hall in the Production Facility which also houses the "shop" and forty + years of costumes and accessories. Imagine the stories that Jayne Christopher, Head of Wardrobe, for thirty years could tell. Occasionally there will be a production that is co-produced and will travel on to other theatres.

An ongoing problem, and it's a big one, is finding housing for the actors and crew in a town already known as a tourist attraction. Not yet a reality, but certainly included in a wish list for the future is the purchase of a dorm-like building. In the future as well are plans for a green space to replace the parking lot adjacent to the waterfront.

Brett Christopher is in his sixth year as Managing Artistic Director assisted by Marta McDonald, Assistant General Manager along with Susie Allen Operating Manager and many others backstage and front of the house.

For more information about the season, tickets, subscriptions and more go to www.1000islandsplayhouse.com



Noteworthy

The Canadian Coast Guard

The many duties and responsibilities of the Coast Guard that keep the St. Lawrence River and you safe and hospitable. Do say thank you when one of their vessels goes by!

- We have an Inshore Rescue Boat station on Hill Island just west of here and, a full coast guard search and rescue station right here in Kingston.
- We have a base in Prescott, with a fantastic team of marine communications and vessel traffic services officers on duty 24/7 365 days a year. They are the eyes and ears of Coast Guard on the water; they broadcast important safety and weather information, and listen for urgent radio calls for help.
- The Prescott base is also home to two Coast Guard icebreakers, CCGS Griffon and CCGS Judy LaMarsh.
- Down the road in Trenton, we have a highly skilled team at the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre. At this centre, staff from the Department of National Defence and Coast Guard organize the critical response to marine incidents.
- We share close ties with the United States Coast Guard and partner agencies - we work together and help each other out. Whether it's search and rescue, environmental response, icebreaking, or aids to navigation- we work as one team to deliver these essential services.
- The Canadian Coast Guard operates a Search and rescue (SAR) station in Kingston, located right in the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour.
- This station is open annually from April-December, with crews ready to respond at a moment's notice to a maritime emergency in the area, including search and rescue, environmental response, and other activities.



What's Happening

Thank you TLTI for Rock Marker Funding

Peter Fitton & Jim Cote

TIA's flagship program is the placement and monitoring of Coast Guard compliant special purpose buoys, numbering approximately 200, to mark hazardous rock shoals in the Canadian waters of the Thousand Islands from east of Howe Island to east of Rockport, Ontario.

The TIA Shoal marking program has become an essential service to the safety and well-being of the river community (property owners, service providers, emergency rescue, and local and visiting boaters) and has become part of the waterway's infrastructure, just like roadway signage on the mainland.

During these times of extreme water level fluctuations and the forces of nature, TIA is challenged with the wear and tear on markers, many of which repeatedly pound on the shoal they are marking because of currents, waves, and wind action.

There is an annual need to replace about 10% of these markers, because the anchoring tackle fails and the marker is lost or the base is damaged, or the marker has reached its life expectancy.

As funding becomes available, TIA is replacing its worn-out rock marker inventory. Over the years The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands (TLTI) has been partnering with TIA through Grant Applications to provide capital asset support. Following on a grant in 2022, TLTI has provided \$6,525 in funding for 2023.

TIA is grateful to TLTI for these significant grants that respond to the safety of the river community and constituents.



Out with the old, and in with the new!



Your Support Matters!

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

This Artistic Cartography piece called "Ambush" has been done on a nautical chart of the 1000 Islands; the area that Stuart grew up in.

It features a huge Muskie rushing out of a weed bank surprising several walleye and perch. The walleye dart in various directions trying to confuse and ultimately escape the largest predator in the Island waters. Muskies have been known to reach a weight of over 60 lbs and almost 5 feet in length.

This piece is done in graphite, Staedtler marker and some acrylic paint. The original measures 28"H X 40"W.

Please click on the art print to go to Stuart's website.

**Here's the latest on
TIA, please share!**





**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 !!**

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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