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RIVER TALK



RIVER SAFETY

**ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Contents

03 PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

04 FROM THE
EDITOR

05 GETTING INTO
THE GREEN SCENE

06 WILDLIFE
CORRIDOR

07 WATER LEVEL
UPDATES

08 NOTEWORTHY

09 SPOTLIGHT

10 COMMUNITY
BULLETIN
BOARD

12 A WORD FROM
OUR SPONSOR

13 THE NEXT
CHAPTER

14 THEN & NOW





Peter Fitton

President's Message



1934 news alert ... Gananoque Mayor George R. Webb initiates the formation of a protective association consisting of township officials in policing the islands during winter.

It was five years into the Great Depression and five years before WWII. Franklin D Roosevelt was the US President, and Richard B. Bennett was the Canadian Prime Minister. The Thousand Islands Bridge connecting two great nations would open in four years, and construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway would start twenty years later. It was a time when Jazz Musician Duke Ellington's "Cocktails for Two" topped the charts, Shirley Temple made her first movie, and the first Flash Gordon comic strip was published.

It was also the time for our association to emerge. The idea became public, and the Gananoque Reporter featured a story with the headline "Summer Visitors Organize". The group, named The Summer Resident's Association of the Township and Lansdowne, agreed that the shoals were a hazard on the SLR and a "menace to navigation". The first efforts marked dangerous shoals with planks of wood, often painted bright orange. However, they were easily waterlogged and eventually replaced by tin and plastic.

90 years later TIA continues as an international Not for Profit organization with a Mission statement "River Safety, Environmental Awareness, and Community Support". TIA provides Transport Canada and US Coast Guard compliant hazard buoys over a stretch of 50 miles of the SLR, it supports emergency response organizations, it engages with environmental focus groups, and it connects the river community with messaging on social media platforms.

SAVE THE DATE! TIA Director Alec Turner, AGM Chair is busy planning details for the Saturday, July 20, 2024 Annual General Meeting and breakfast on the waterfront at the Gananoque Playhouse Theatre. Be sure to join us for a 90th year celebration! More details in this issue and on our website.

In early July, all members will be receiving by email an invitation to vote on TIA business matter Motions via Google Forms addressing previous AGM Minutes, Financial Statements, Professional Accountants, and the 2024/25 Board proposed slate of Officers and Directors.

If not already done, please be reminded to renew your 2024 TIA tax deductible memberships, or join as new members, online by clicking here.

Read on for more River Talk!

From the Editor

Allison Burchell-Robinson

On Saturday, May 18, three people were killed and at least five others injured in a tragic boating accident on Bob's Lake, located about 70 kilometers north of Kingston, Ont. Five survivors, ranging from 21 to 55 were transported to a Kingston hospital. Two women in their twenties and a man, 23, perished in the accident.

The accident occurred just after 9:30 p.m. between an open bow fishing boat and a speedboat. When asked if alcohol played a role in the crash, an OPP spokesperson said police are looking into whether alcohol and speed were factors. No other details about the crash have been released and no charges have been laid at this time.

The owner of the speedboat posted last weekend "it's time to put the f...ing hammer down when out for the first rip of the season." More terrifying than that statement would be if it were you posting that message. But it will never happen to me.

Boating has changed over the years and not just on the St. Lawrence as evidenced above. Today, there are more boats on rivers, lakes and oceans and the boats are bigger and faster. Often new boaters start with a 30 foot plus cruiser with power

far exceeding those of yesteryear. Unfortunately, not all owners know and understand navigation rules and regulations. But, nothing is going to happen to them.

Regrettably today we have to worry about our safety as well as the others out on the water. Driving too close, cutting off a right-of-way, chatting on the cell phone, and obliviousness to other boats are factors that cause anxiety - even alarm - with a real danger when a boat is moving at an incredible speed. No worries, it can't happen to me.

We who spend our summers on the St. Lawrence River have a responsibility to know and respect our boating rights and those of others. Kayakers, canoeists, sailboats, paddle boards, jet skies and power boats all must adhere that personal safety should be a first concern. Still, nothing is going to happen to me.

But it can happen to you and to me. And the heartbreaking accident on Bob's Lake is a stark reminder that it does happen every year.



Getting Into the Green Scene

George Matheson

This story began a year ago, at the end of May 2023, when we spotted a mother turtle on our lawn, getting ready to lay and bury her eggs. Our part of this story ended nearly a year later, in early May 2024, when her hatchlings emerged from the buried “nest”. We found two of them soon after and helped them to the water. In the nest we also found the empty eggshells of four more hatchlings, who likely emerged earlier and instinctively headed towards the river on their own.

The helping hand that made this possible was a Turtle Nest Protector from TIA. The protector is a simple 24”x 24” screened wooden frame with two exit holes for the hatchlings. Installation is easy: place it over the nest and tap the corner spikes into the ground. Once in place, the protector keeps out predators and helps prevent accidental nest damage. Our TIA protector successfully did all of this for close to a year, until the hatchlings finally emerged.

“Our” turtles were Midland Painted Turtles, a familiar species most often seen sunning

on logs. The females typically lay 4 to 13 eggs in late May or June. Hatching can begin as early as late August but others overwinter in the ground, emerging in the late spring or early summer. The hatchlings are tiny – the size of a toonie.

If you spot a female turtle laying her eggs, take some pictures to help find the spot later. If the vegetation inside the protector gets very thick, it will likely become a challenge for the hatchlings. Remove the protector (temporarily!) and trim the vegetation.

The 1000 Islands region is home to at least five native species of turtle: Midland Painted, Snapping, Northern Map, Blanding’s, and Eastern Musk. In Ontario, all but the Midland Painted Turtle are considered species at risk. Nationally, all are considered at risk.

One key barrier to turtle population recovery is the fact that only about 1-2% of turtle eggs will survive, hatch and grow to become reproducing adults. Nest protection is a small but effective tool that can help reduce these losses and support population recovery. And that’s important!



Wildlife Corridor:

Pollen - dreaded but necessary

Stuart Arnett

Well, it's that time of year again when the pollen flows and then our eyes begin to water and our noses begin to run. Pollen - a necessary evil but without it the world would never survive.

Pollen is a fine powder or grain that is produced by the male portion of the plant, flower or tree and makes pollination or the fertilization of the plant possible which, in turn, allows the plant to produce seeds or fruit for the next generation of specie.

Pollen can be transported from plant to plant by the wind, by birds, by insects or by other animals. Without the pollen and the pollinators to transport it, our food chain as we know it would collapse.

A different type of pollen that has a lot of health benefits is bee pollen. Bee pollen contains vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. Studies have linked bee pollen and its compounds to health benefits such as decreased inflammation, improved immunity, alleviation of menopausal symptoms and faster wound healing. It's a combination of plant pollen, nectar, and bee secretions. It contains proteins, amino and nucleic acids, all of which are beneficial to us.

Ironically bee pollen may help you with your allergies to other pollen. Check out the benefits. Find a store or outlet where you can buy local bee pollen and local honey as their consumption may help to reduce your allergy symptoms.

Remember the brighter side of Spring Polen Season and that may help to lessen your complaints of itchy eyes and runny noses.

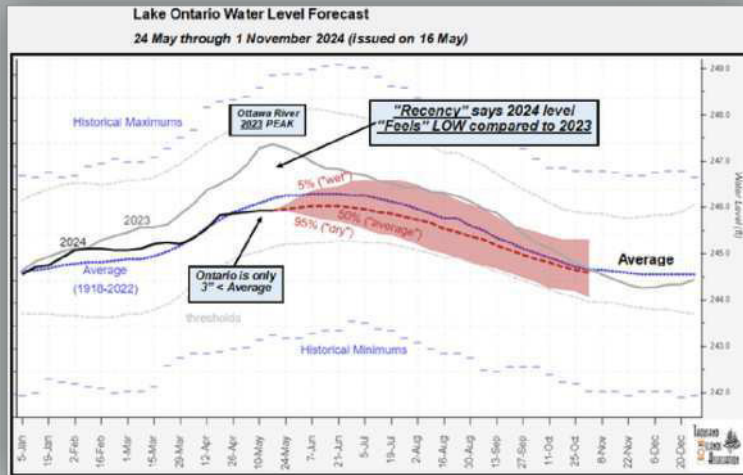


Water Level Updates:

“Recency” Affects our Perception of the Current Water Level

Vince Barton, Ken White, Ross Stewart

- News Alert: Lake Ontario is near average, just 3” below! (This statement is neither very shocking nor really newsworthy.)
- In 2023 water levels were about a foot higher than this year. This year many are climbing up onto docks to exit boats. A visible stain emphasizes just how much dock is above today’s water level
- Did you know that Lake Dwellers get worried when water levels get high, while River Rats see danger and discomfort when levels drop. Location is a factor.
- Lake and River water levels suddenly stopped rising, shortly after our previous article in early May. Yet the high outflow required by Plan 2014 strikes many as part of the problem. Flows from Lake Erie are still above average
- Why? What’s different? “Recency” tends to affect our reactions year to year...



[Click here - it’s interactive!](#) Additions by TIA.

• The most visible difference between 2023 and 2024 is the impact of the Ottawa River spring freshet, which can be seen in the forecast chart above.

• The flow in 2023 was so significant that outflows from the Moses-Saunders dam were reduced by the F-Limit, which held back water that would have made Montreal flooding worse. This year, with no large Quebec snowpack, flooding was minimal and the F-Limit encountered in 2023 did not come into play.

• Location plays a role in the differing effects of water levels. Self-centered fears bring worry and predictable concern. The water drama ends by the beginning of June when either “Wet or Dry” conditions remain the largest surprise players.





Noteworthy

Dan McWilliam

The Dock, Deck & Den Tour is on this season!

The Island Patriots organizing committee is pleased to announce the Dock, Deck, & Den Tour will be back in action for the 2024 river season on Saturday August 3, 2024!

In 2018 the TIA introduced a member driven river fun-raising event called The Dock, Deck & Den Tour. 10 members (now Island Patriots) shared their homes, docks, dens, gardens and decks and most importantly, river stories, with over 100 guests for a super fun one day event.

The DD&D Tour has remained a constant conversation piece among those who joined the inaugural tour in 2018.

From the exit survey of the 2018 DD&D tour, we learned the following:

- 100% of the initial Island Patriots that shared their docks said they would do it again and recommend the opportunity to other members in the future.
- 100% of those who purchased a DD&D pass said they would join in the fun again.

So, do you have what it takes to be an Island Patriot?

- Do you have river stories and don't mind sharing?
- Are you keeping a rich part of river history that deserves to be shared?
- Do you enjoy spending time with old friends and meeting new friends?
- Are you willing to be known as a safe harbor to your river neighbours?

If the answer is yes to any of the selection criteria, we ask you to join the Patriot family. It's simple, fun and a great opportunity to support the fundraising efforts of the TIA.

At this point, we are looking for 10 members willing to share their river experiences, docks, dens and decks with the TIA family. More details will be flowing shortly but, if you already know you are willing to be an Island Patriot, feel free to reach out to Dan McWilliam by email at mail@danmcwilliam.com or the TIA.



Spotlight



Allison Burchell-Robinson

You may not know their names, although there are many who do, but they certainly are familiar faces at the AGM and other events sponsored by the Thousand Islands Association. Pete and Jan Medcalf are the husband and wife team you see with their cameras and other related paraphernalia around their respective necks taking pictures of attendees, invited guests and displays.

Pete and Jan were long time residents of Hill Island before moving to Charleston Lake (for the tranquility) and Rockport. Jan grew up in Lansdowne and Pete and his family spent many years cruising through the St. Lawrence River before buying and building on Hill Island, one of the early pioneers.

Jan left the area for a brief period before returning and working for 27 years as Manager of the Blue Water Currency Exchange, later the Custom House, on Hill Island. Pete worked in the medical scientific photography world retiring from Ottawa Civic Hospital as Director of Bio Medical Communications.

Involvement with TIA is not the only organization to benefit from Pete and Jan's active participation as volunteers. Jan, also known as Janice, works with the local Humane Society. She said "After I brought them five kittens needing homes, I figured I owed them". She's also associated with the equestrian world helping out at horse shows and local barns.

Pete was a long term member of the TIA Board in addition to serving on the Board of the Biological Photographic Association and the Brockville Photo Club. When asked where their interest in photography came from, Jan replied she got tired of sitting around waiting for Pete to finish taking pictures and took up doing so herself. Her pictures were entered in a photo contest and she won. Pete, while in college, took a summer photography course that led to a career change from psychology.

Next time you see them, most probably at the AGM celebrating TIA's ninety years, smile, wave and pose. Their pictures and those of other talented photographers lending their talents to TIA help bring the organization to life and contribute to its living history.

It's often heard that volunteering is a relic of the past, no one does that sort of thing anymore. Guess TIA didn't get the word. Volunteers drive TIA. Climb on and be part of the action!

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.



SAVE BLIND BAY UPDATE!

Thanks to Senator Schumer's relentless advocacy, U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) will NOW hold a public, in person, scoping hearing on proposed sites for the new Border Patrol station.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 25th and Wednesday, June 26th, from 4:00pm - 7:00pm, at Cerow Recreation Park Arena, Clayton.

Sunday June 9th -
7am - 2/3pm
Planned Power
Outage by Hydro
One affecting all
Eastern Ontario
Power Customers

There will be a **celebration of life for Graham Armstrong** at the Gananoque Inn on June 22. Before and after his retirement

Graham was a dedicated volunteer serving on the board of Saint Vincent Hospital in Ottawa, the Gananoque Police Services Board, and for almost 40 years a tireless board member of the Thousand Islands Association.

**TIA TRASH FREE RIVER
CLEAN UP DAY**

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

9AM-12PM

**THOUSAND ISLANDS
PARKWAY**

[Click here](#) to sign up today!

THOUSAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED IN 1922



On **Saturday June 22**, The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust will host a half day information workshop with tax and legal experts, and conservation 'how-to' people. Over the past 30 years, TIWLT has developed some powerful tools that can help you both protect our local natural environment and save on capital gains and income taxes. These tools and techniques are anchored in Canadian and US law. Leveraging property, cash, stocks, or bonds to support TIWLT's conservation work with landowners can also generate tax relief for you. This is a free information session hosted by Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust and Charleston Lake Association.



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 !!**

A Word from our Sponsor



A Thousand Islands Innovation Story: Adam Allore & Wavve Boating

Adam grew up along the St. Lawrence River where he was exposed to the water before he could walk. From an early age, thanks to his father, Adam was drawn to working around boats.

In his late teenage years, Adam worked at Gordon Marine to help pay for his engineering degree. It was here that he became familiar with the challenges many boaters faced when trying to safely navigate the treacherous waters of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Adam didn't know it then, but this experience would ultimately change the course of his life and lead to the inspiration for Wavve.

In 2018, while working as a mechanical engineer, Adam became dissatisfied with the navigation solutions available to recreational boaters and figured there had to be an easier way. With this idea in mind, he decided to quit his job and take on this challenge, thus Wavve was born. The initial concept was a mobile app that would customize a nautical map to the draft of the user's vessel, intuitively showing them where they could go in blue, and not, in red. Soon after Wavve was released on the Apple App Store, it started to get marine industry traction. Bombardier Recreational Products, the makers of SeaDoo, took interest in the Wavve Boating app and reached out to facilitate an integration for their future models of the SeaDoo GTX.

Motivated by early interest and success, Adam grew the team, the available features, and the mapped geographies in Wavve. Today, Wavve Boating is available in Canada, the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom. It includes innovative features such as a nautical map connected to over 5k water-level measurement stations providing real-time depth updates. Additionally, over 80,000 points of boating interest have been added to the map by the Wavve Boating community, and the app has recently been recognized as Apple's 'App We Love', and by Boating Industry as one of their Top Products of 2024.

You can find Adam boating around Gananoque this summer in his teal bowrider docked at the GMM. If you want to learn more about Wavve Boating, [click here](#).



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.

Jeff Crouse, TIA President from 1995-1997

One of the first things that comes to mind is a comment made by my successor, Orm Murphy. As is the custom, he recounted the achievements of the previous administration, the most significant achievement of mine was to turn the AGM into a breakfast party. Later, Barb Butts made it a shore breakfast.

David Orr and I worked together for several years on projects: fire pumps, speed zone signs (with the help of Alex McKenzie), and shoal markers. David and I devised a way of pinning the markers to the bottom of the river as opposed to weighing them down with cinder blocks. TIA helped members deal with Zebra Mussels and we picked up trash along the walking trail adjacent to the TI Parkway.

My experience with TIA was wonderful and I miss having an island in Ivy Lea. Lucky me to get a job driving a 65' tour boat on Skaneateles Lake during the summer and traveling in the winter. I plan to re-visit the river this summer on my 34' American Tug – the William B.

Orm Murphy, TIA President from 1997-1999, 2011-2014

I have been asked to recount the highlights of my Presidency from 1997 to 1999, and then from 2011 – 2014.

In January 1998, Eastern Ontario suffered the most extensive ice storm in recorded history. Large parts of the electrical grid were destroyed in Eastern Ontario, including the Thousand Islands.

Large islands like Bostwick, Downie, and Stave suffered major damage to power lines, poles, and cottage services. I knew that our service was a low priority but I began a campaign of speaking to local power officials and eventually worked my way up the chain of command until I found the decision makers.

I obtained a commitment that once the ice was out of the river, that a large unit would be assembled and repair would be undertaken. Crews from across Ontario joined forces and with the aid of a helicopter, new poles were flown to the Islands. By the end of April, power was restored to our island grid.

The Boards with whom I worked were dedicated and industrious. One of the major concerns was the First Responders for medical emergencies and fire. In the past, T.I.A. had been a significant financial supporter for the Gananoque Fire Department. We generously supported the purchase of the fire boat and equipment, and for several years, paid for the lease payments for the outboard motor. But the Islands are not in Gananoque. They are covered by the Township, who had little interest in providing service to the islands.

I asked Paul Reagan to coordinate discussions between the town and the township. Using his superlative skills, Paul eventually succeeded in obtaining a mutual aid agreement which permitted both departments to respond to emergency calls.

Finally, and certainly not insignificantly, the board committed to a portable fire pump program for the islands. Led by Jeff Crouse, Brian Butts, and David Orr, a total of 54 fire pumps were placed at various members' cottages. These pumps have proven their worth at a number of island fires, and will hopefully continue to be a deterrent to the risk of devastating fire.

Orm continues as a board member and continues practicing Law as well.

Then & Now

Pfeiffer Family Goes to the Thousand Islands



Raymond Pfeiffer

It was in the mid-1890s that my grandfather Robert Smith and his two brothers, Frank Eugene and Frederick, of New York City boarded a train on Friday night. They awoke in Clayton next to the dock where a fleet of small boats waited to take their passengers out to the islands on The River.

Within a few years, they had bought a plot of land on Murray Isle but found a better deal on Grenell Island where my cousins live to this day.

My grandmother induced my grandfather to leave Grenell around 1920 and buy a place, which they named Fernfield, on the shore where they summered for the next thirty-five years. In her diary, my grandmother wrote ironically about leaving Grenell for the last time, "Never was I happier to leave that rock-bound island!"

My mother went to work in 1934 for the rising ophthalmologist and surgeon, Dr. Raymond L. Pfeiffer, in Manhattan. She invited him to visit her family at Fernfield, where they took a gasoline-powered mahogany utility boat to go fishing for the next ten summers of their marriage.

Once, while fishing in 1946 between Hickory Island and Grindstone, their old

mahogany runabout would not start. A passing boat towed them to wild Goose Island owned by Cleveland and Polly Dodge, who became lifelong friends. Neighboring Hickory Island had been uninhabited since 1940, and the Dodes persuaded my parents to buy the island estate in 1948.

Our first years on Hickory were aided by Jack Andress of the Andress Boat Livery, Gananoque. A River boy to the core, Jack became the island caretaker for 39 years. He was proud that, during that time, "The doctor and I never had a cross word!" My mother hired girls from Gananoque in the summer to do the wash, hang it to dry, clean the house, and take care of the kids who were 4, 8, 11 and 14 in 1950.

My oldest sister bought The Punts Islands, my brother managed Hickory until his death in 2019. I took possession of Tip Camp on Grindstone Island. I now reside on Punts Island with great joy for a good part of every summer with my close friend and partner, Judith Bedford-Jones of Mudlunta. We regularly visit my nephew, Jeffrey Pfeiffer, who occupies Hickory every year, keeping family memories and traditions alive.



2024 BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

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90 Years Young... and Counting !!



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Admiral Level \$500

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- ❖ Social media mention on **TIA** Social Media
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- ❖ 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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