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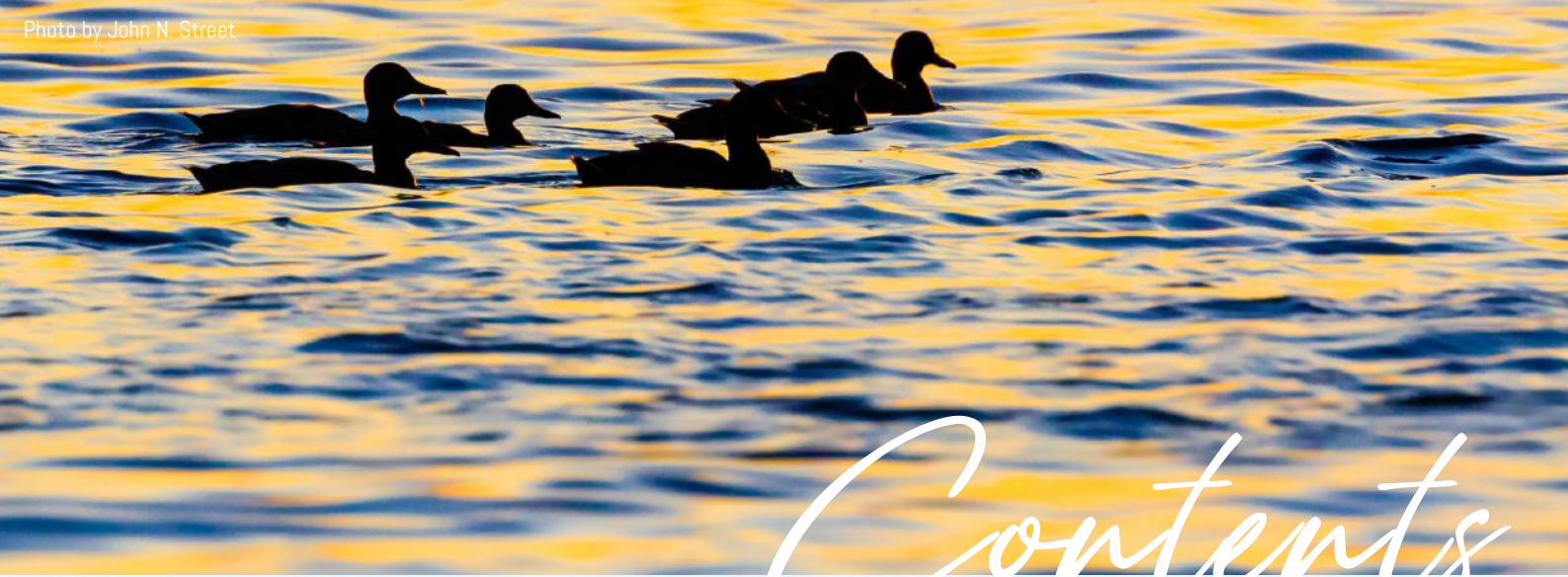
RIVER TALK

RIVER SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT





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President's Message

Peter Fitton

The countdown is on – June 21 is summer solstice and marks the official beginning of summer as we enjoy the longest daylight and shortest night of the year on the river.

TIA environment programs are off to a big start. Under the leadership of Environmental Committee Co-Chairs Stuart Arnett, TIA Member-at-Large and Director Janet Smith-Staples, TIA has connected with the Council of the Great Lakes for funding support to purchase a Seabin Trash Container to be located at the Town of Gananoque Municipal Marina and managed jointly by TIA and Marina Staff. Watch for TIA social media announcements on this and other environmental program initiatives such as Trash Free River Clean-up dates, Turtle Nest Protectors, and our growing Fishing Line Recycling Stations.



Another big announcement is TIA's Shore Breakfast and 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. To manage attendance and catering, please note this year you are invited to order [breakfast tickets on the TIA website](#). Read more in this issue about the two-part 2022 AGM details.

All the TIA rock markers are out and in place on the river – this is TIA's flagship program for the safety of the river community. The replacement cost of rock markers and anchors exceeds \$350 each and TIA places about 200 of them from the tip of Howe Island to Brockville. Finding the anchor chain each spring can be difficult. We are asking our membership to bring to the AGM old or spare fenders (12 to 16" long is ideal) that we can use to connect to these chains as locators during fall marker removal. Each fender donated qualifies as a ticket for several prizes to be handed out.

If you have not yet renewed your [2022 membership](#), please do so today – you will receive a tax receipt. Without your financial support, TIA's essential shoal marking service and other programs cannot exist.

Stay safe with ongoing COVID-19 health protocols, and see you on the river!

Photo by John N. Street



Allison Burchell-Robinson

This year's first River Clean Up Day is June 11. Check out our website, thousandislandsassociation.com and Janet Smith-Staple's page on the ongoing environmental programs for more details. You can also find out more about our second summer intern, Jana Moore. If you've been enjoying the recent social media posts then give Jana a shout out. She is also working on River Talk.

The town spotlighted in this issue is Lansdowne, Ontario, a rural picturesque village surrounded by farmlands within the Frontenac Arch Biosphere. It is the site for the historic Lansdowne Fair which has been in operation since 1864. The real live AGM is back on Saturday, July 23rd at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque. Tickets for the breakfast, which starts at 8:30am, can be ordered on our website, thousandislandsassociation.com. Alec Turner, Chair of the AGM, is lining up speakers, entertainment and ironing out all details.

Like so many, I can't wait to get back to the island. Last year, while lovely to be back, seemed so short with barely enough time to get reacquainted before it was time to close up and say goodbye. My to do list appears to get longer every day. It's a happy list!

June is here bringing blue skies, pleasant weather and lots of flowers. Landscapes, windows, yards and houses are alive with a kaleidoscope of colors. June also brings those pesky insects but let's not dwell on those.

Everyone's nightmare came to realization this May when a hundred year old cottage on Murray Isle on the US side erupted in flames. Thanks to the combined efforts of the many fire stations, neighbors and friends who responded, the fire was contained to the one cottage. Read all about it in Board member Vince Barton's article. Vince's family cottage was right next door!

Now that the "season" is here, many of us are returning to our summer retreat for the first time. While the border crossings have been relatively smooth, there have been a few hiccups. Janet Smith-Staples offers navigation tips on how to ensure an easy and painless crossing. While the temptation may be there, feeding the wildlife really is not a good idea for the animals and humans alike. Our wildlife expert, Stuart Arnett explains why.

Fire Next Door – 200 Miles Away

Vince Barton



Photo by Phil Murdock

I had just returned home from the dog park when my wife got a phone call – the beautiful green cottage next to ours on Murray Isle was on fire. “On fire” quickly turned into “engulfed in flames.”

As the fire raged just 70 feet away from our nearly 150-year old cottage, we were 200 miles away. Powerless to do anything from so far away, the fear and anxiety were nearly overwhelming.

We heard about the phenomenal and heroic efforts of so many members of the community – from the several fire boats/departments that arrived from both sides of the border, fellow Murray Islanders as well as islanders from all around, even folks from miles away on mainland that dropped everything to help. Fire boats pumping water from their cannons, private pumps added to the spray, bucket brigades, raking away flammable debris, putting out ground fires, ferrying firefighters from mainland,

patrolling for new threats – the list goes on and on. We are so, so thankful to everyone for their efforts that miraculously limited the impact of such a horrible fire and saved our cottage along with so many others.

For some further reading about this fire, I highly recommend Glenn Sandiford’s article titled “500 Seconds” in the May issue of Thousand Islands Life Magazine.

To honor the incredible efforts of so many, there are lessons we can all learn to be better prepared if (or really, when) fire comes again. There are plenty of websites out there chock full of information on fire prevention, and I recommend readers to check them out. As you read, consider the unique situation of an island and what can be done to go above and beyond the standard recommendations.

Here are several tips I've heard and seen that I'll be putting into practice:

- Donate to your local fire department – and maybe even those nearby
- Fire extinguishers – have enough, make sure they're not expired, know where they are, and know how to use them
- Ensure 360° coverage with garden hose around your entire cottage – add lengths of hose and/or additional spigots
- Have a good nozzle on your hose to focus the spray
- Have a couple metal rakes to quickly move flammable material away (plastic melts)
- Have several good size buckets readily available (with handles strong enough to handle multiple gallons of water)
- If you have a water pump – make sure it's in good working condition regularly and has all the right fittings/connections (if there are multiple pumps around, compatibility of hoses/fittings is helpful, too). Ensure those capable know how to use it
- Make one of the top priority jobs in the spring (if it can't be done in the fall) getting all the combustible leaves away from your structures
- Donate to your local fire department (yes, this is listed twice!)



With a fire, time is of the essence. Be prepared and be ready to act – it just might save someone's cottage.

Crossing the Border Doesn't Have to be Hard

Janet Smith-Staples



Crossing the Border by Boat or Car? Not as complicated as it seems... but there are a few things to note.

USA into Canada

1) The ArriveCan App must be filled out whether you are crossing by boat, land, or air. It is available for free on from the App Store on your phone. You will be asked to create an account using email and password. Save this info because you will use the same account one each time your cross the border into Canada. IF you are filling out online via Computer <https://arrivecan.cbsa-asfc.cloud-nuage.canada.ca/en/welcome>

2) The App was co-created by the CBSA (Canada Border Services Agency) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and has gone through many iterations and updates – so be sure you have the most updated version.

3) You will need to have a Passport or Nexus as well as proof of vaccination

ArriveCan can be filled out minutes before you cross but not longer than 3 days before departure into Canada. Exact timing on crossing is only approximate.

4) Under 'Reason for Travel' section use what best suits your situation. If you are going for the day to shop or visit a restaurant, simply click on "Other"

5) Crossing by boat - if you wish to click on "See list of marine ports of entry" choose either Nexus/Marine Port of Entry OR Telephone reporting site to see the correct list of acceptable ports of entry. Note: smaller sites that were closed during Covid have been updated as of May 20th and most have re-opened. Please note (for now) if you cross by boat you will have to tie up at Port of Entry (calling 30 minutes before hand is no longer accepted regardless off Nexus status) Once everything has been answered & filled in select SUBMIT. You will receive an alphanumeric code and a QR code which is also sent to your email.

If your plans change and you no longer wish to cross you simply log back in & cancel your trip. If you get it wrong or want to add a passenger cancel the trip and start again OR have the added person fill in their own ArriveCan account.

Canada into USA

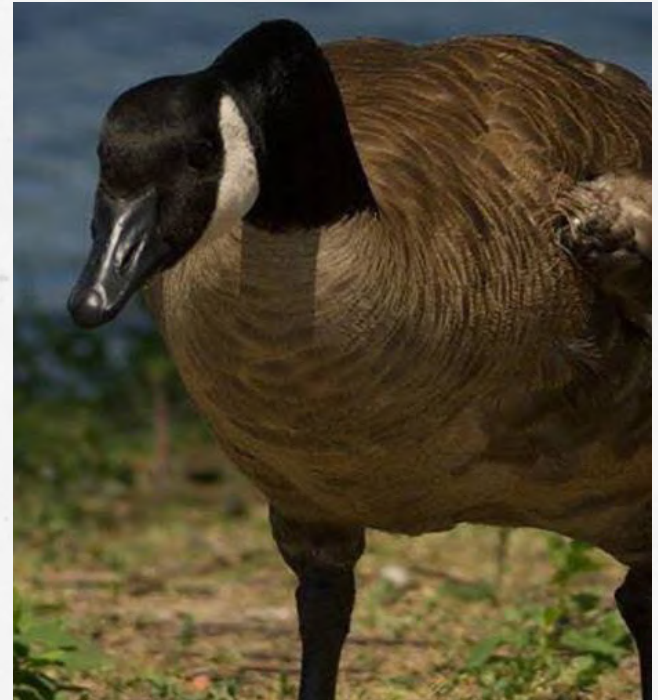
Wish to enter the United States by BOAT? Download the ROAM app and fill it in accordingly. There are no longer video phones in Clayton or Alex Bay, if a Customs Agent wishes to speak with you – they will FaceTime you. This too is an easy process and should be filled out prior to crossing and landing in the United States.

The title may seem harsh but it's the truth. While there are many reasons to avoid feeding wildlife the bottom line is that it will eventually kill it.

Fed Wildlife is Dead Wildlife

Stuart Arnett

For example, anyone thinking they'd like to feed the cute little family of foxes spotted behind your house or cottage, think again. Firstly, it's illegal in Ontario to feed wildlife but that's just one reason and if you think you are above the law - here are a few more reasons why you should **NEVER** feed the wildlife...



1. Feeding wildlife can increase the risk of health issues, spread parasites, and increase disease transfer between animals and birds.

2. Most wildlife birth rates are food source dependent so if food becomes readily available then changes in populations arise. This can have devastating effects on the population dynamics and a reduction in biodiversity.

3. Feeding wildlife can increase the number of small predators like raccoons (due to number 2 above) which can ultimately decrease the other populations and biodiversity.

4. It increases the chance of road strikes and motor vehicle accidents, resulting in property damage, injury or even death.

5. Feeding wildlife desensitizes them to humans, which in turn causes a whole range of issues. Unwanted predators on your property can attack your domestic pets, become aggressive towards you and your neighbours as well as destruction of household property.

6. Malnutrition in wildlife is caused by human food - a prime example of this is called "Angel Wing." It's commonly seen in geese and other waterfowl. Bread & popcorn are typical items fed to geese, and are high in carbohydrates, protein and sugars.

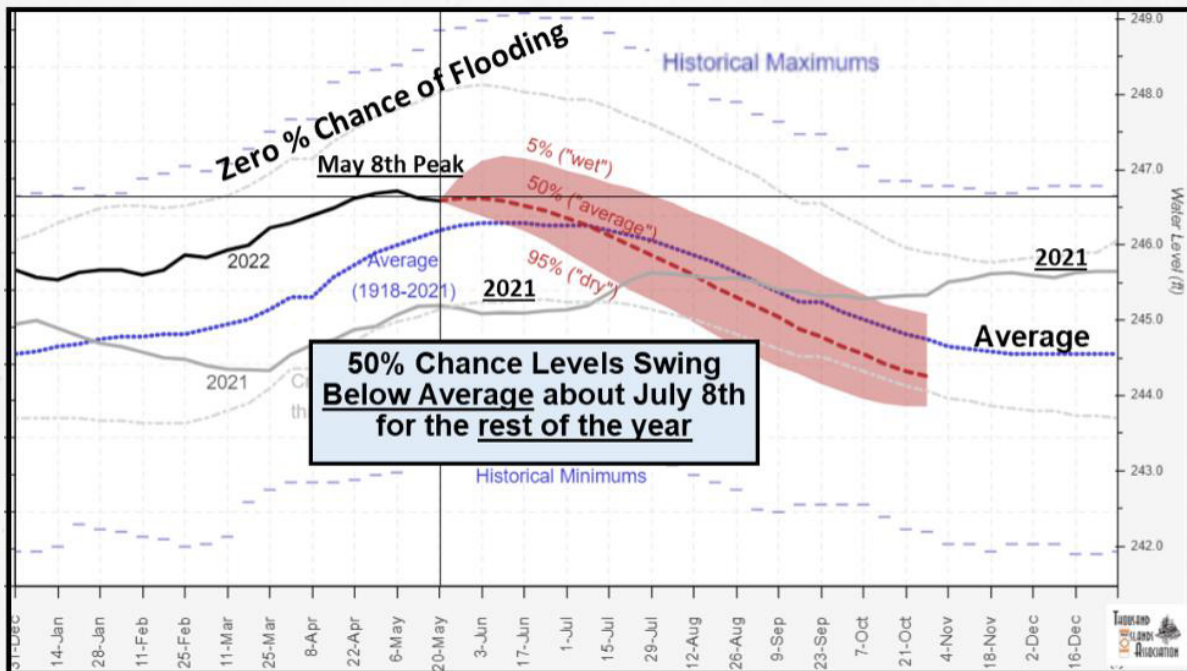
This diet causes elevated levels of sugar and protein and decreases the level of manganese and Vitamins D & E. This imbalance causes the feathers of young birds to grow too fast. The weight of these xfast-growing feathers cannot be supported by their young wrist bones, thus making them twist outward. As the bones grow and solidify, the wings' twisted position becomes permanent and condemn the bird to a flightless existence, ultimately causing the bird's demise.

Any one of the above-mentioned reasons are more than enough to refrain from feeding the wildlife. Spread the word and help educate those around you who believe they have the right to feed wildlife. Simply put, they don't.

Water Levels – Currently a non-Issue – Lucky Us For the Moment!

TIA Water Levels Committee (5/22/22)

Lake Ontario Water Level Forecast
27 May through 28 October 2022— (issued 19 May)



Ken White

<https://ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/forecasts> Edits by TIA

Current Levels

- Lake Ontario may have hit an early level peak on May 6 th of 246.72 feet
- River levels (now 246 feet) continue about 3 feet above the 243 foot chart datum
- Lake and River levels are currently about 6 inches above historical average.
- Did you know that the Lake Ontario chart datum is 243.3 feet above sea level, and about 3.6” higher than the 243 foot chart datum for Alexandria Bay?

Mid to Late Summer

- Enjoy water levels now, as they are heading down, and have a 50% chance in early July of dipping below long term average for the rest of the year
- Only wetter than normal weather (precipitation) can keep levels near average
- Plan 2014 is not ‘tuned’ to preserve our current levels (yet) as you and I might

Fun for Water Watchers (or anyone)

- Use this simple [interactive Lake Ontario levels graphic](https://ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/forecasts) anytime to “see” levels for the last 3 years, the 100 year average plus Max & Min for any date. Simply hover your cursor over any of the graphs to see the levels and dates displayed
- The ILOSLR Board updates forecasts regularly throughout the month. This forecast graph is also interactive and easy to use. Let your cursor do all the work to see what’s coming anytime. Click this link <https://ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/forecasts>

Leeds and 1000 Islands
Historical Society

The Village of Lansdowne..

has been an important hub in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands since the mid 1800s. In the early 1800's, the village sat at the crossroads of what is now County Road 2 and County Road 3. Today, the main township offices, garages and Fire Station #1 are located in the village.

When the train tracks were laid in 1854, many people decided to move closer to the trains. Some people even moved their existing homes! One of these homes can still be found on Grand Trunk Avenue.

The trains changed the lives of villagers forever! In his diary, William Beattie talks about how much better and easier it was to go to Brockville, transact business and return in the same day!

At one time there were 8 grocery stores, a bakery, 2 butchers, 2 hardware stores, a shoe store, clothing stores, an ice cream shop, 2 barbers, ladies hair salon, Bank of Toronto, Merchants Bank and Bank of Montreal, several churches, a furniture store and undertakers, the fair grounds and for 114 years, The Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company



Bill Boulton and Glenda Olivier

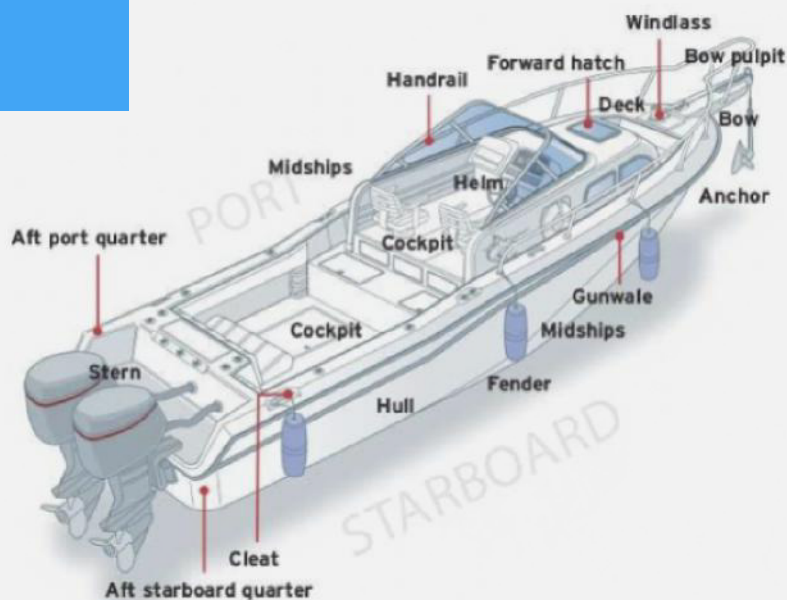
Lansdowne also had its own calcium carbide power plant which provided lighting for the streets and some businesses. In January 1932, it exploded while a dance was being held at the Odd Fellows Hall. Hughie O Malley realizing that the explosion was some distance away stood at the top of the steep stairs to prevent people from rushing and injuring themselves. Just two weeks prior, electric power had arrived in Lansdowne.

There are several beautiful murals and historical plaques throughout the village. The old Lansdowne railway station is depicted on the side of the Lucky Dollar Market. Two historic postcards have been reproduced on the front of the Lansdowne Fresh Mart. There is an historic plaque in front of Thousand Islands Elementary School showing the history of area schools. Two more plaques will be installed this summer: One in front of the Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company depicting its history and one beside the railway tracks giving more details about the history of the railway in this area.

Today, the Village of Lansdowne remains an important hub in the Township with many thriving businesses still operating and new ones opening.

In Case You Were Wondering..

About Boating Terminology



Fender or bumpers? Which is it? Sailors likely use fenders, while power boaters may use bumpers? But then again maybe not! One definition has it that fenders are on the vessel, while bumpers are on the dock.

Whether you're an old salt or a fresh newbie, knowing and understanding the boating world vernacular is both important and reassuring as well as efficient and plain fun.

Certainly, we all have learned or come to understand boating terms from a variety of sources whether that be via our elders, our own experience, or by way of luck through a more academic pursuit.

As a result of COVID, there are apparently a number of people who have just found boating, but also because of COVID there are many who have unfortunately left their boats in storage for the past 2 summers. However, no matter where you fall on the spectrum of boating knowledge and experience, we all can be more informed or at least reminded of things we thought we knew.

The list of nautical terms is far too long for us to include in River Talk. We suggest you do a Google search, where you will find articles like 10 Basic Boat Terms on one end to Wikipedia's Glossary of Nautical Terms on the other end. The challenge with Wikipedia's list is it's incredibly long (and thorough). Most recently Garmin offered up their list, which led us to look at others such as Legend Boats, Boats.com, and Boaters Exam to name just a few.



Photo by John N. Street

John Street

We invite you to do your own search, and find some rather interesting definitions for some of the more common boating terms to the more obscure such as aweigh, bathymetry and tall wind. The more you know, the better prepared you are to have a great day boating on our great river.

With that in mind, we've assembled a short list of internet sites for you:

[Boater Exam Boating Terminology:](#)

[Boats.com Guide to Boating Terminology:](#)

[Garmin Boating Terms Everyone Should Know:](#)

[Legend Boats Glossary of Recreational Boating Terminology:](#)

[Wikipedia Glossary of Nautical Terms:](#)

Its Turtle Nesting Season: Do You Want to Help?

Did you know there are anywhere from 320 to 350 species of turtles across the globe? Of the lowly twelve turtle species found in Canada, eight freshwater turtle species are considered Species at Risk:

Eastern snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) - **Special Concern**

Eastern musk turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*) - **Special Concern**

Painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) - Eastern are listed as **Special Concern**

Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) - **Endangered**

Spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*) - **Endangered**

Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) - **Threatened**

Northern Map Turtle - **Special Concern**

Wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) - **Threatened**



Dave McWilliam

In an attempt to assist our reptilian friends, the Thousand Island Association has constructed 20 "Turtle Nest Protectors" that we are giving away FREE to TIA members, on a first come, first serve basis. Indeed, you can construct your own, and there is no lack of information available on the internet to assist. The TIA, thought we could add some extra attention to the efforts of a number of environmental groups by constructing our own unique TIA Turtle Incubation Area Protectors....Just email your request to... tiasummerstudent@gmail.com ...and we'll arrange a method of bringing you and your "Protector" together. As an FYI, our Incubation Area Protectors have all the necessary parts and have passed the scrutiny of Parks Canada, and indeed include an information package about turtles from Parks Canada. All you have to do is identify where a turtle has laid its eggs on your property, and then install the Protector...and wait perhaps a few weeks, or sometimes until the next spring to see the wee hatchlings make their way to the river.





Jana Moore

Hello everyone, my name is Jana Moore and I am the Environmental Program Coordinator for the Thousand Islands Association this summer, the second internship that TIA has ever offered! I am currently going into my fourth year at Queen's University studying Environmental Toxicology, a specialization under the school of Environmental Studies. Pursuing this degree has allowed me to combine my interest and passion for the environment with the effects of harmful chemicals on humans and other species within the environment.

While I am not from the Thousand Islands Area, and admittedly only truly saw them a few days before starting my position, I am absolutely blown away by its beauty and how much the River Community cares for one another.

I grew up in London Ontario and am currently living in Kingston while attending school. I absolutely adore living in Kingston, especially because I am only a quick walk away from the water. My interest in the environment took off when I first begged my parents to send me to the overnight camp 'Camp Queen Elizabeth' after watching my older brother take off every summer and return with unforgettable memories. Finally, I was old enough to attend and Beausoleil Island became my summer home, and eventually my place of employment for 10 years. Similarly to many of you in the Thousand Islands, I loved spending my summers in the sunshine by the water so I couldn't be more grateful to the TIA and ECO Canada for allowing me to work to protect the environment, and preserve such a wonderful location.

I couldn't be more excited for this summer, and all of the amazing things we have in store. Can't wait to see you all on the river!

Jana

**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 !!**



Sign up for our Trash Free River Clean Up Day on June 11 from 9am - 12pm

Shoal Safety

TIA thanks the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands for issuing a 2022 Grant of \$8,500.00 in support of the TIA Shoal Marking Program. These funds will assist TIA to purchase 20 replacement Shoal Markers that have deteriorated due to the forces of mother nature, and to manufacture and install 3 Shoal Marker Displays at strategic locations to inform the public of TIA's mission of marking dangerous shoals and how to use and benefit from this essential service for public safety.



Shoal Marker Display at Gananoque Municipal Marina



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

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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

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Clayton, NY 13624
United States of America

TIA's Three Pillars

River Safety

Environmental Awareness

Community Support

