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# RIVER TALK



RIVER SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL  
AWARENESS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT







# Contents

**03** PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE

**04** FROM THE  
EDITOR

**05** WATER LEVEL  
UPDATE

**06** IN CASE YOU  
WERE WONDERING

**07** WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

**08** GETTING INTO  
THE GREEN SCENE

**09** SPOTLIGHT

**10** NOTEWORTHY

**12** WHAT'S  
HAPPENING

**13** IN MEMORY OF

*reminder!*

Try clicking on a page to be taken to a  
corresponding website!



# President's Message

## Peter Fitton

Spring arrived together with daylight savings time, and we are making plans to open cottages and reacquaint with the river.

March 17 was St. Patrick's Day. Whether you have Irish roots or not, I hope everyone enjoyed the occasion to celebrate, raise a toast, and be thankful for the fellowship and times ahead in our river community – "May your home (cottage) always be too small to hold all your friends".



Our world has far too many serious issues confronting us these days so it's important we find some balance and time for humour. April 1 just past gave us this opportunity to share jokes and play tricks to keep the spirit youthful. However, Authorities advise it is not a good day to propose.

Be reminded Earth Day is April 22. This is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations. Help save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Promote the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. [Click here to find ways to honour Earth Day every day.](#)

On the TIA waterfront, we have recruited a 2023 Summer Student to assist the Board with delivering its mission programs under River safety, Environmental Awareness, Community Support. [Read more about our candidate in this issue.](#)

Our River Community property owners need to be alerted to Ontario's new Underused Housing Tax (UHT) Act and the 2023 reporting deadline with penalties for not doing so. [Read more about the UHT legislation in this issue.](#)

**SAVE THE DATE!** - The TIA 2023 AGM will be held on Saturday, July 22 on the waterfront at the Gananoque Playhouse Theatre. We are planning another hot breakfast and our traditional program.

If not already done, please be reminded it is time for everyone to renew their 2023 TIA tax deductible membership online at [www.thousandislandsassociation.com](http://www.thousandislandsassociation.com). Your support is essential to the sustainability of TIA, and we request your support to bring membership levels back to pre-pandemic times.

Get out your spring wardrobe and start your plans for more memorable times on the river!





## **Allison Burchell-Robinson**

Spring brings growth, renewal, anticipation with hope and our annual membership campaign does the same. Anticipation that our current members will renew and new ones will come forward enabling TIA to continue to sustain itself, to support its programs and increase its scope.

It's a challenge and one that grows with every passing year as more and more organizations compete for the same dollar. Some organizations have something concrete to put in your hand, some offer incentives and others offer gifts. What does the Thousand Islands Association have to offer each year, anything new, exciting, different? Nope, TIA continues to offer its three pillars of River Safety, Environmental Awareness and Community Support. But wait, there are changes, improvements and developments.

The Shoal Marker program has expanded with all locations now mapped and shoal markers identified as to locations. The Shoal Marker Watchers have expanded as more and more people come on board to track and spot missing markers. On the Environmental side, the Fishing Lines Recycling Program (FLRS) is growing on both sides of the border with fishing derbies the newest fans. More and more people are realizing the reach of River Talk and social media output is growing. Who was it that first brought the Unusable Housing Act to public attention?

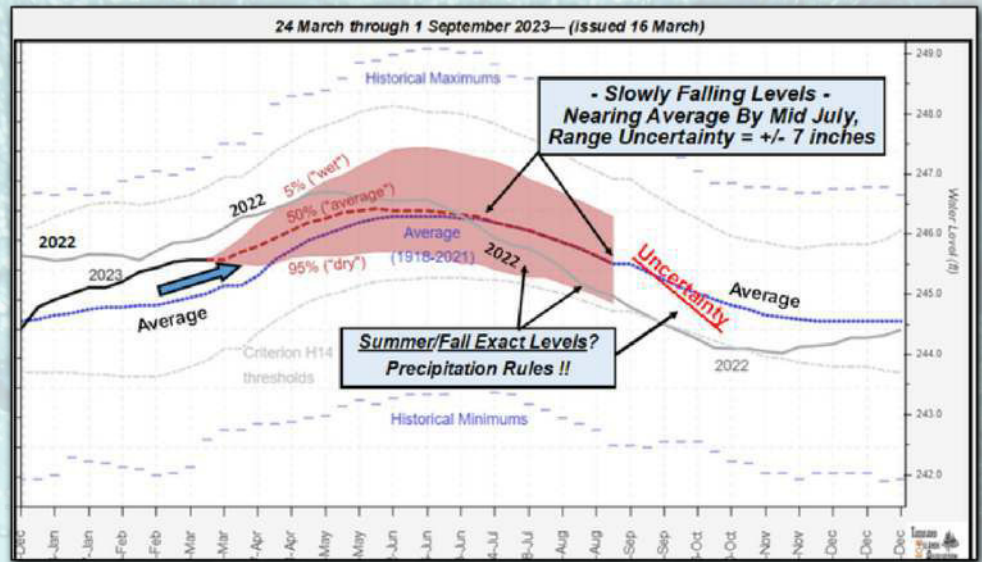
So yes, TIA does and continues to have something for you, something to support, something in which to participate and something to keep you safe. TIA is happy to continue but know that we need you in order to do so.

Please join or renew by going to our website and click Join Now. Oh, and an additional benefit. As a not for profit organization, TIA can issue tax receipts for memberships along with contributions.

In anticipation and with hope that we'll see our new or renewed members on the River soon Happy Spring!

# Water Level Updates:

Going UP  
Slowly &  
Falling to  
Around  
Average Mid-  
Summer



Lake Ontario Water Level Forecast

Edits by TIA

Vince Barton, Ken White, Ross Stewart



## SUMMARY – We're now Watching Spring Melt. Will this be an Average Year?

- This 'mild' winter has produced minimal ice cover. Extreme wind, snow, water level seiche & ice events are history. The River is 2.0 ft above datum.
- Water levels are now almost 6" above the late March average.
- The ILOSLR Board target outflow is still at a significant rate of 7,940 m<sup>3</sup>/s
- The Beauharnois Canal was ice covered. Ice jam & flood prevention is job #1.
- In the Upper St. Lawrence, both the American and Canadian Channels are open, as are the waters off Gananoque across toward Grindstone.
- Bays and protected areas are still frozen this year with soft white ice, rather than the more solid blue ice. With the arrival of March insulating snows, the top surface became slushy. There was and is very little dry ice to be found.
- Locals call this an 'Open Winter' and the River ice is different this year throughout. For typical 8 inch ice thickness, only the bottom inch is solid blue with the top 7" less dense airy 'snow ice'. The next strong NW blow will easily break remaining ice found in bays and more protected areas into large sheets.
- Lots of the inland lakes are open with evaporation stealing water from the spring. More early spring snow melt will be absorbed rather than runoff into the Ontario basin since the soil frost line is shallow, less than 2" from the surface.
- Lake Ontario Basin 1st Quarter precipitation has been pretty close to average through ~ March 20th, yet levels have been on the high side of forecasts.

Full Article Focus – Easy Reading, Large Print – **Click here for the PDF**





# In Case You Were Wondering:

*Let's talk Wakes...  
True or False?*

**Dave McWilliam & Alec Turner**

1. "Small "tin" boats are light enough not to cause any wake problems." They're not. Speed is just as important as size, both factors must be considered together. For their size, most outboard powered boats and PWC's travel much faster than almost anything. Wake has an impact on shorelines and the environment.
2. "On the plane, the smaller wake causes less damage." No it doesn't. Even though a wake reduces in height as the boat planes, the waves are moving faster and travelling further outwards from the vessel. When a planning vessel travels parallel to a shoreline, the wave energy is directed towards that shore. As for transition from displacement to plane, that is where the wake is the greatest.
3. "You can see what your wake's doing from the boat." No you can't. Even if you are fairly close to the shore, the peak wake impact of a boat travelling at 20 knots only occurs as the first 5-10 waves hit. By that time, you are quite a distance away. The only way to really observe the impact of wake is to stand on shore and watch all three phases of boat speed.
4. "Boat wake can't cause more damage than wind-driven waves." No again. It is difficult to dis-entangle the impact of wind versus boat driven waves, this is especially true as boat wake travels almost directly towards the bank and can cause erosion along the entire length of the waterway especially in shallower and narrow waterways. The greater the distance the waves are generated from shore, the more opportunity that they dissipate before reaching shore.

What you can do:

1. Be aware of the size of your wake during displacement, transition & while planning.
2. Keep your speed down – observe speed limits.
3. Position your passengers through-out the boat to reduce the time spent in transition speed.
4. Look behind you to see and understand the impact of your wake on shorelines, docks or other structures. Adjust your speed & direction to minimize the impact.
5. Respect the shoreline zone. Reduce your speed to less than 10 km/h within 30 metres (6 mph/100 feet) of any shore. islands.
6. Be aware that your wake waves have an impact on swimmers and other boaters.
7. Water-ski, tube & wake-board well away from all shorelines.

# Wildlife Corridor:

## *Fishing and Spawning*

**Stuart Arnett**



As Spring nears, the River starts to thaw and the waters warm, we start thinking about throwing the boat back in the water and getting out the fishing gear.

Well there are a few things that are important to remember. The 1000 Islands area is considered by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to be in Zone 20. The different zones determine when you can fish and the limits that you can keep. To fish in Canadian waters of the St. Lawrence an Ontario fishing license is required and to fish in the American waters a New York State fishing license is required.

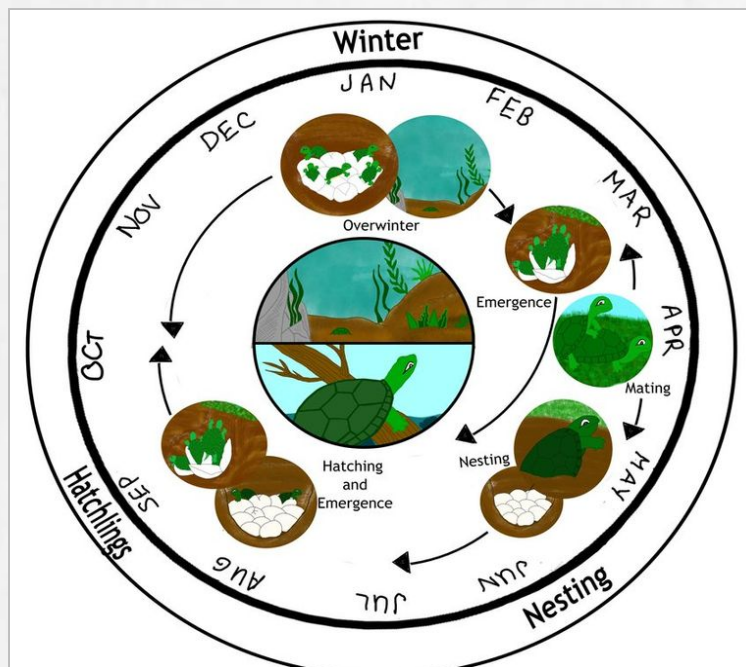
Regulations are in place to ensure that our fish populations continue at a healthy level and that fish diversity continues. This in turn will ensure that our River remains viable for generations to come. In conjunction with regulations, fishermen must remain knowledgeable of their fish biology and fish ethically. Below are the typically spawning periods of the most common game fish within the 1000 Islands.

<b>Fish Species</b>	<b>Water Temp for Spawning</b>	<b>Size and Age of Fish (Average)</b>
Small Mouth Bass	55 F to 65 F	5 lb - 6 - 16 yrs old
Large Mouth Bass	55 F to 65 F	5 lb - 6 - 16 yrs old
Northern Pike	40 F Immediately after thaw	36" - 16 yrs old
Muskellunge	45 F to 60 F. Late May to mid-June	30" - 5 yrs old
Walleye	40 F to mid 50 F	15" - 5 yrs old
Black Crappie	High 50 F to 60 F	1.4 lb - 9 yrs old
Yellow Perch	60 F to 70 F	6" - 9" - 3 yrs old
Panfish	68 F to 75 F	6" - 8" - 2 yrs old

You can see by the varying spawning times and the age of commonly caught fish that it is vital that all fishermen adhere to the regulations and practice live release as often as possible. Most fish mature to a reproductive age at 5 years, so it is important to remember their respective age to size ratios when determining which fish to harvest and which to live release, allowing that species to continue to thrive.

Fish ethically and fish knowledgeable!





# Getting Into the Green Scene:

## Turtles

**Janet Smith-Staples**

Last summer some TIA members along with people from Turtles Kingston joined Parks Canada for a morning of learning and building turtle nest protectors for their R.A.R.E. program (Reptile and Amphibian Recovery and Education). We have 8 different species in Ontario, and all are at risk.

Thanks to Member at Large Dave McWilliam who built over 20 turtle nest protectors to give away to TIA members as part of our environmental awareness initiative. These nest protectors are free to members and come with an information packet supplied by Parks Canada through their R.A.R.E program, so you are in the know!

Turtles can live well over 100 years and will take between 8-20 years to reach sexual maturity. Less than 1% of turtles reach sexual maturation due to predation so every little bit helps. While they have been around for more than 220 million years their presence here is not guaranteed. Habitat loss and road mortality are the first two reasons for their decline.

These are amazing creatures – did you know...

- Turtles have nerve endings in their shells, so they feel pain when they are cracked or split.
- They have ears, so they hear quite well.
- A turtle's sex is determined by the temperature of the nest when they are incubating.
- It takes 60-90 days for a turtle hatchling to emerge from its shell.
- Specifically, a female snapping turtle can travel up to 8 km looking for a suitable nesting area
- Snapping turtles cannot retract into their shells so they snap when threatened.
- Blanding turtles have hinged shells that allow them to close both half's (like a clam) for protection.

Two easy to follow rules – don't dig up a turtle nest (it's illegal even if it's on private property) and it's also illegal to keep a native turtle captive.

If you come across an injured turtle, call Sandy Pine Wildlife Center (613) 354-0264 or the Ontario Turtle Conservation Center 705-741-5000 for help/advice.

TIA would like to make a special shout out to Turtles Kingston, a dedicated organization that provides answers, information and facts (such as the best way to move a turtle) so be sure to visit their website for more ways to help & get involved.



## *Spotlight:* **TIA Bursary**



The awarding of a bursary to a local high school graduating student who has been accepted by a post-secondary college or university to study in the fields of Environmental Science or a related field of Environmental Stewardship has long been an integral pillar of the Thousand Islands Association. Every year TIA awards one bursary named the John Taylor Bursary after John, a passionate river rat and longtime member of the TIA Board, to a student graduating from a local high school in Ontario. Another bursary is awarded to a student graduating from a local high school in New York.

Eligibility and Submission requirements are:

- Will be starting in the fall of the current year their post secondary education as a full time student with proof of acceptance
- Graduating grade average of 85% or higher
- A Canadian or US citizen
- A personal resume including details of community service

TIA works with guidance counselors from the local high schools in identifying potential recipients. Interested applicants should reach out to these counselors or write to TIA at [thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com)

Please note that local refers to the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

# Noteworthy

## CLAYTON

*USA Today's 2023 10Best Readers' Choice Travel Awards*

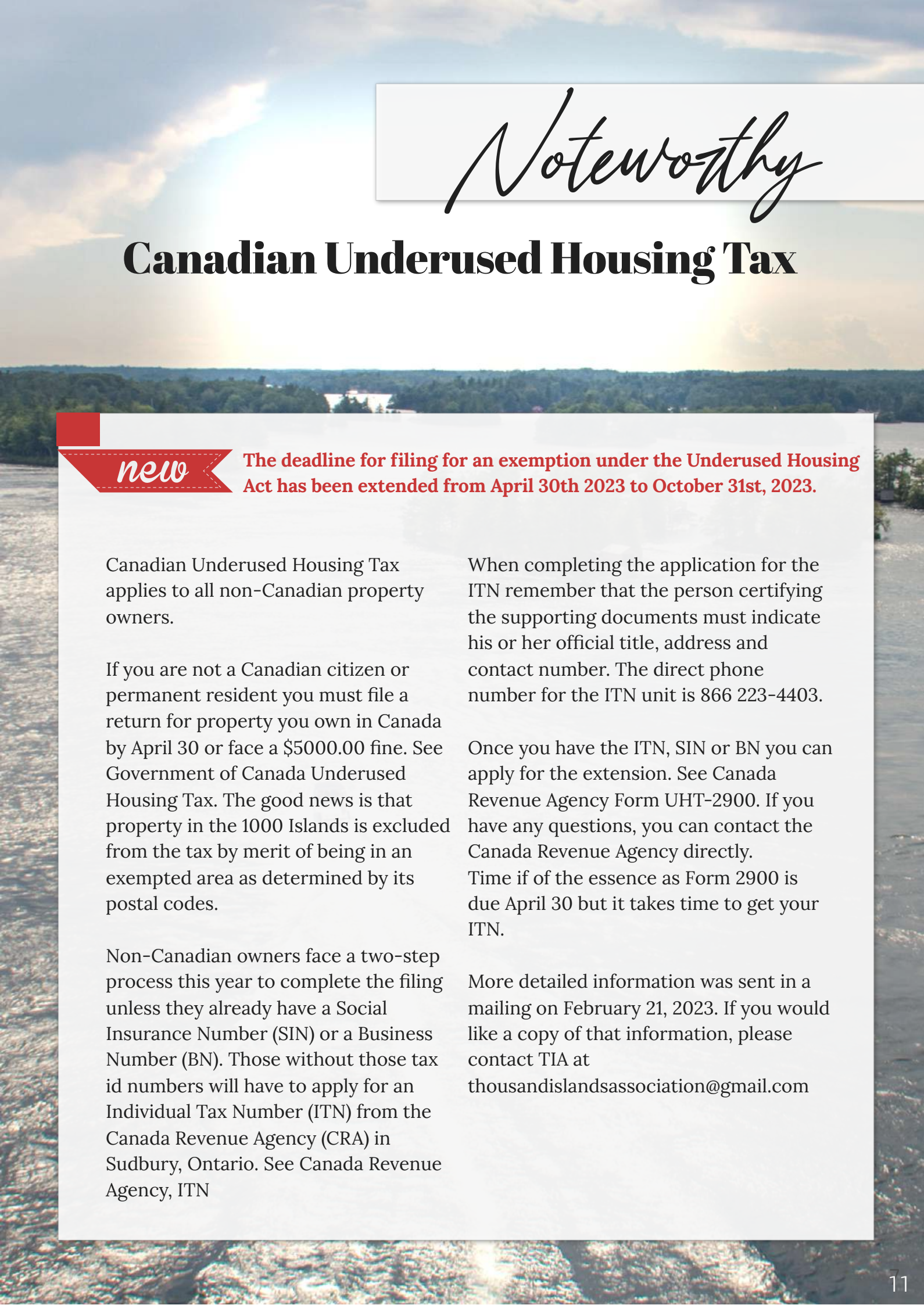
**Voted #1 Best Small Town Cultural Scene**



### **No. 1: Clayton, New York**

This New York community was first settled in 1822 and became a significant port for shipbuilding and lumbering. Many unique museums detailing aspects of Clayton's history are in this area, including the Antique Boat Museum, with the most extensive collection of freshwater recreational boats in North America and the host of the nation's oldest antique boat show. Also visit the Thousand Islands Museum, a waterfront museum with a collection of antique watercraft and innovative exhibits, and the Thousand Islands Art Center, with an extensive 20th-century textile collection from North America, and pottery and weaving studios.





# Noteworthy

## Canadian Underused Housing Tax

*new*

**The deadline for filing for an exemption under the Underused Housing Act has been extended from April 30th 2023 to October 31st, 2023.**

Canadian Underused Housing Tax applies to all non-Canadian property owners.

If you are not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident you must file a return for property you own in Canada by April 30 or face a \$5000.00 fine. See Government of Canada Underused Housing Tax. The good news is that property in the 1000 Islands is excluded from the tax by merit of being in an exempted area as determined by its postal codes.

Non-Canadian owners face a two-step process this year to complete the filing unless they already have a Social Insurance Number (SIN) or a Business Number (BN). Those without those tax id numbers will have to apply for an Individual Tax Number (ITN) from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) in Sudbury, Ontario. See Canada Revenue Agency, ITN

When completing the application for the ITN remember that the person certifying the supporting documents must indicate his or her official title, address and contact number. The direct phone number for the ITN unit is 866 223-4403.

Once you have the ITN, SIN or BN you can apply for the extension. See Canada Revenue Agency Form UHT-2900. If you have any questions, you can contact the Canada Revenue Agency directly. Time if of the essence as Form 2900 is due April 30 but it takes time to get your ITN.

More detailed information was sent in a mailing on February 21, 2023. If you would like a copy of that information, please contact TIA at [thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com)





# What's Happening



TIA would like to welcome Grace Mychajlyszyn who will serve as TIA's ambassador & program director this summer. After completing an invitation-only outdoor science/education program, Grace is currently studying Environmental Science at Queen's University set to graduate in April 2024. Last summer Grace worked as a tour guide for Kingston boat tours and before that a dock attendant for False Cree Fuels in BC. Grace comes to TIA with a love for the environment and a passion for the outdoors and we are excited to have her on our team. Please be sure to say hello to her this summer as she meets our members and helps to keep the wheels turning!





## **In Memory Of John Bishop 1946-2023**

John Bishop was an institution on the St. Lawrence, building cottages and docks for many of the local Islanders. His blue tugs were a regular sight on the River as was John's beloved boat "Banjo". An original "River Rat", John was a Marine Contractor for over 56 years. He worked long hours on the river until the age of 75 providing quality workmanship for generations of cottagers. His family has kindly requested if desired, a donation can be made in John's memory to the Thousand Islands Association or the Canadian Cancer Society.

## 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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## TIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

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



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Individual \$50

Couple \$75

Family \$100

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[www.thousandislandsassociation.com/membership](http://www.thousandislandsassociation.com/membership)



# 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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