

RIVER TALK 2022

MARCH



Founded in 1934

RIVER SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS



CLICK ON ANY OF THE TITLES TO VIEW

WINTER RIVER PHOTOS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FROM THE EDITOR

**ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS**

WATER LEVEL UPDATE

**FRIENDS OF TIA
TI LIFE**

**IN CASE YOU WERE
WONDERING**

**SAVE THE RIVER
PRESS RELEASE**

TIA ADMIRAL SPONSORS

Stay connected with TIA @







PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Malone Fitton

Our winter hibernation months will soon be behind us as we welcome spring.

To kick-off, March 1 is **Mardi Gras** which is the final feasting day before the Christian tradition of Lent. My family celebrated the day as Pancake Tuesday and competed for the best tasting recipe. Do you have one?



International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8, which is a day to celebrate the achievements of women and the progress made toward women's rights around the world. Read a book by a female author or research the work of a female scientist in tribute.

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13. Regardless of which groundhog celebrity you follow, six more weeks of winter is over on March 20 when we enjoy a near 50 -50 split of day and night from the vernal equinox – Hooray!

Beware of the Ides of March! Legend surrounds this ill-fated day going back to the assassination of Julius Caesar on March 15, 44 B.C. Take the same precautions as you would on a Friday the 13th.

Based on pub authority, there are two types of people in the world – those that are Irish, and those that wish they were. March 17 is **St. Patrick's Day** and a time for both to celebrate. According to folklore, folks wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because the saint used its three leaves to explain the Trinity. Long before, the ancient Celts recognized the four-leaf clover as a charm against evil spirits. In either case, why should you never iron a four-leaf clover? You don't want to press your luck!

I am pleased to welcome our newest Board Member, **Chris Edwards**.

I am also pleased to announce we have three official membership volunteers in our **Members-at-Large Advisory Group**. They are Mark Yehle, Stuart Arnett and Megan Coleman. Please visit our website to read their bios under "**About Us**".

Our posting for a **2022 summer student as Environmental Program Co-ordinator** remains open. Please encourage any potential candidates you might know to apply.

Please be reminded to renew your membership and receive your tax receipt www.thousandislandsassociation.com. Your support is essential to the sustainability of TIA.

Get your spring wardrobe out and think about memorable times on the river!



FROM THE EDITOR

ALLISON BURCHELL-ROBINSON



MARCH MEMBERSHIP MONTH

March, as we know, can be a mercurial month. It can be a month of heavy snow, high winds and torrential rain but it also brings spring. Once spring is here can summer be that far behind? And summer to us means being on, in or at the Thousand Islands.

But wait, have you renewed your membership? Perhaps you're new to the area and a neighbor has just introduced you to the Thousand Islands Association and you've decided to become a member. What are you waiting for? TIA has adopted March as March Membership Month. Just go to our website: thousandislandsassociation.com and click on "Join Now". We've made changes to the page to make it easier for you to sign up or renew. You can join by credit card without having to go through PayPal or by PayPal direct. You can also send a check to either our Canadian or US address, both of which are found on the website. Please take note of our new address in the US. It's P.O. Box 616, Clayton, NY 13624.

This year, for the very first time, you will receive a tax receipt for your membership. You can also sign up for automatic renewal. So don't wait, be among the first to help TIA kick off its 2022 membership campaign. Some of you have been absent from our membership rolls for a while. You've been busy, haven't been at the cottage, you forgot. No matter, we want you to come back.

TIA is growing beyond the shoal marking program. While that program remains our flagship and one that is highly visible, we've added an Environmental Awareness Pillar. [Check out our website](#) for news about upcoming programs for 2022. Our Community Support Pillar is growing as evidenced by the ever increasing number of followers on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Check out all three and add your voice. TIA wants to hear from you!

Please don't let another minute or day go by. Go to our [website and click that button, "Join Now"](#). We value our Business Sponsors and our Grants but TIA has always relied on the support of its members. We need your ideas and your energy. Get involved or become more involved. Let's make March Membership Month a memorable one!





Photo courtesy of SIMON DAVEY 2010

The Crayfish of Ontario

It may be difficult to believe but there are a total of ten species of Crayfish in Ontario with a total of eight being native species. These numbers seem tone-changing as well. There are two relatively new invasive species of crayfishes in Ontario.

The Rusty Crayfish and the Red Swamp Crayfish are the two main culprits of the invasion.

The Rusty crayfish are large, aggressive crayfish native to the Ohio River Basin in the United States. The species was likely introduced to Ontario by anglers from other areas discarding crayfish they were using as bait. Rusty crayfish may also have been put in lakes or rivers by people who acquired them as pets or through the scientific supply trade. The first Ontario sighting of rusty crayfish was in the early 1960s in the Kawartha Lakes region.

The more recently Red Swamp Red crayfish is another large, aggressive crayfish that is native to the Gulf Coast and Mississippi River Basin in the United States. They present a significant threat to Ontario's waters and have recently been reported in Lake Erie. Their spread can be attributed to accidental and intentional releases from aquaculture and the aquarium trade.

The impacts of both crayfish are similar and may spread for diseases to native crayfish, such as the crayfish fungus plague. They eat large quantities of aquatic vegetation compared to the smaller native species and they reduce spawning and nursery habitat for native fish. Crayfish are known to eat fish eggs and larvae, which can lead to decreased populations of desired sport fish.

They can quickly dominate lakes, ponds, rivers, and wetlands, causing significant environmental change and damage. Similar to the lobster the female crayfish have the ability to carry between 100-500 fertilized eggs under their tail, which allows the crayfish to spread rapidly.

To help slow the spread of these large invasive crayfish you can learn how to identify them from our native species and if you are an avid fisherman who uses crayfishes as bait, you may only use them in the waterbody in which they were caught. It is illegal to transport them overland.

The maximum number of live crayfish you can have in your possession at one time is 36 which may make a very nice seafood dinner, This might be a testy way to reduce the spread!





WATER LEVEL UPDATE



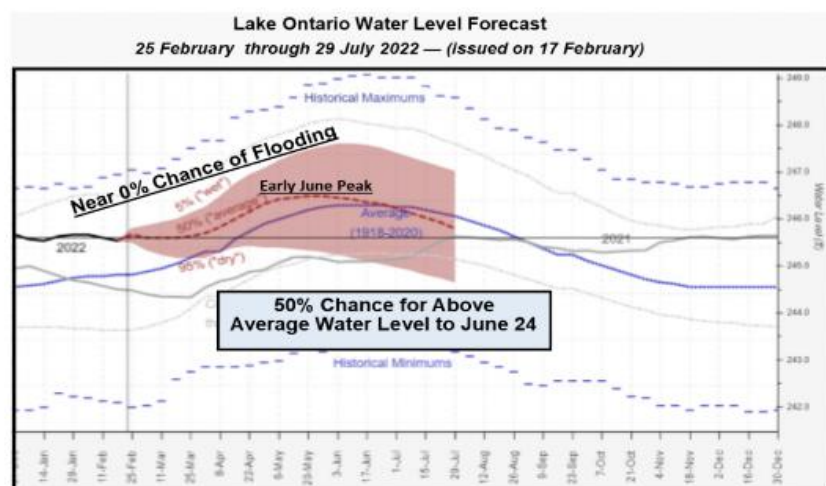
Water Levels – Ice Formation – Thaws – Looking toward Spring

TIA Water Levels Committee (2/22/22)

It's **"Farch"** on the River, a February-March time of wild weather, sudden scenery changes with ice and level swings. *Back and forth like a Yo-Yo we go.* Such extremes! After ice formation success in frigid late January, two mid-month thaws with 50° F days, bookended by 0° F plunges, saw open channels replace miles of ice cover.

TIA member reports on 2/19: Janet Smith-Staples said the first thaw did break up a lot of the channel ice off Clayton and even into French Creek, behind her house. Ross Stewart noted that near the Brockville narrows, the channel was wide open from the Canadian to the US side, with lots of ice chunks floating by. Shoreline ice extended out to 50 yards.

- The good news is that the ice booms and established sheets can handle the arrival of a fair amount of broken frazil ice which flows downstream.
- There are no reports on the Board's Facebook page of major ice sheet damage in critical areas of the River, and they are planning to further increase outflows to a substantial 8,520 m3/sec February 26 to March 5, as per regulation plan rules.
- Melt from these two thaws have purged a fair amount of water stored in snowpack from the Lake Ontario Basin, flowing into the Lake for an early release downstream.



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

- Amazingly, water levels have generally hovered within a 2 inch range during 2022.
- 2 feet above chart datum seems to be the holding limit for both the Lake and River.

Looking toward Spring:

- Snow cover is a big driver of the Ottawa River freshet. The snow pack doesn't look too bad this year - especially compared to what it looked like in 2019 and even 2020.
- Early spring water levels appear to be acceptable as flows converge at Montreal.
- A lowering of the 6 mo. forecast curve suggests Area Wide Flooding is unlikely.

Click [FULL ARTICLE](#) for Winter **Ice & Ottawa River Basin snowpack** Spring implications

TIA Needs Your Help to Publish River Talk!!
Do you have a keen eye, Digital Media & Publishing Skills?

TIA is actively seeking volunteers to publish River Talk

River Talk is published 10 times per year

Jan/Feb, March, April, May, June, July, August, Sept, Oct & Nov/Dec
(Starting in May of 2022, TIA is considering moving to 8 Issues per year)

What's Involved...?

Co-ordinate & organize a timely publication working with TIA's editor
Assemble submitted articles and provide design layout of publication

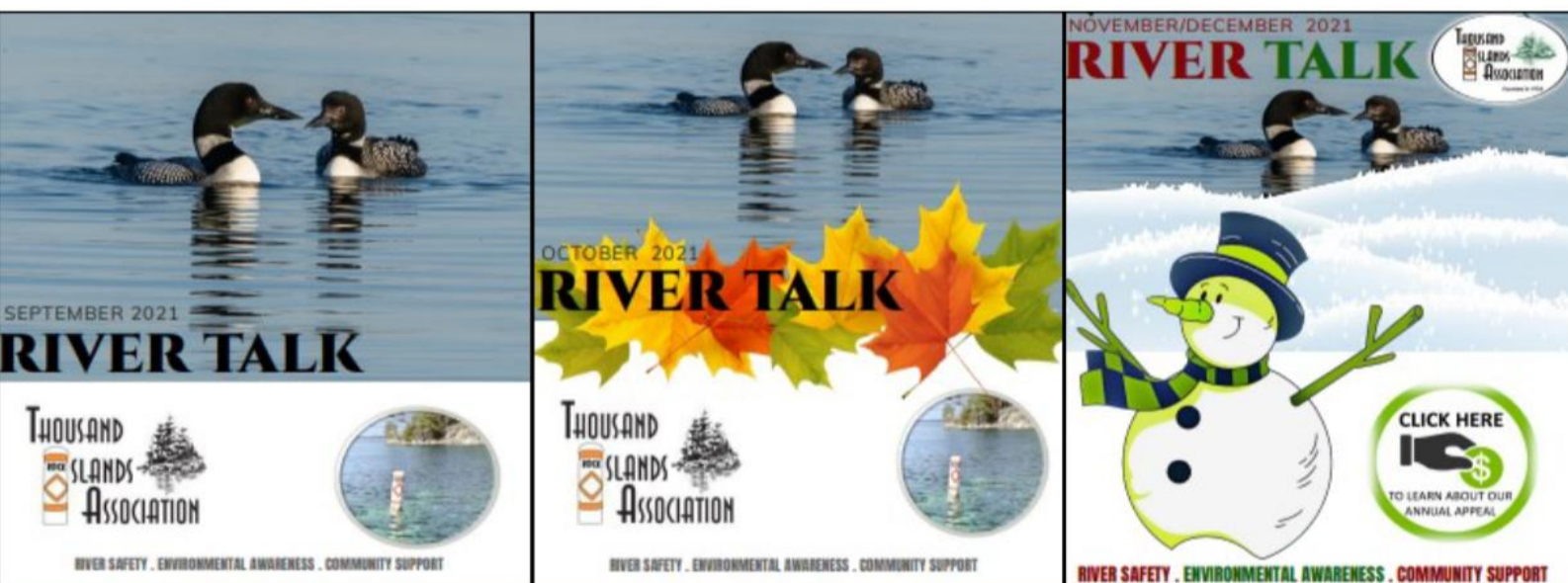
Add graphics and content as needed

Establish themes and have fun being creative

River Talk is currently published using Flipbook & a PDF
version is made available for download

Interested? Please email thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com
We'll call you back to answer any questions!

Previous River Talks can be viewed at [River Talk Library](#)



Pictured above are 3 of River Talk's most recent covers



Did you know that TIA will issue you a tax receipt for any
donation over \$10? We also issue both Canadian and US Tax
receipts. Learn More by [CLICKING HERE](#)

March Membership Month

Our flagship program is the placement of nearly 200 shoal markers each season.

Please consider becoming a member today.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)



Did You Know

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

TIA offers a "Sponsor a Shoal Marker" Program.

For a fully tax deductible \$500 donation, TIA will designate the "Rock" marker that you indicate as your supported shoal.



Help your business take a step forward by becoming a TIA BUSINESS SPONSOR.

Packages start at just \$150 per year.

[CLICK HERE TO SPONSOR TIA](#)

FRIENDS OF TIA TI LIFE

Susan W. Smith



What is TI Life? www.thousandislandslife.com is an online magazine providing a comprehensive resource for information about the St. Lawrence River, its history and its community, from Cape Vincent NY, and Kingston ON, on Lake Ontario to Brockville ON, and Morristown, NY - fifty miles down the River. With over 1,200 articles, the website provides information published once a month. All TI Life team members, authors, and photographers are volunteers and provide their content & services as such. All written materials and photographs are copyrighted and remain the property of the author and photographer.

A team of three created and managed TI Life from 2006 to 2008. The late Paul Malo, emeritus professor architecture, Syracuse University; Mike Franklin, property specialist in Syracuse; and the late Ian Coristine, renowned Thousand Islands photographer and writer.

In August 2008, when the community learned of the death of Paul Malo, Ian made a request, "would someone like to help keep TI Life alive?" I volunteered to help but Ian visited me on the island and twisted my arm to be editor, and we are now in year 17!

The team is terrific: Elspeth Naismith is an editor; three proofreaders, Georgia Barker, Dane Zabriski, Rick Taylor; Jennifer Caddick manages our social media; Beth Lavos posts books, and John Swift posts events. Also, MaryAnne Erki our illustrator. The main cog in the wheel is Mike Cox, our IT Magician

There are over 380 authors, many have written over 20 articles each including Lynn McElfresh, Brian Johnson, Kim Lunman, Paul Hetzler, Gerry Smith, Linda Twitchell, and Tom King. Dan LeKander has provided 101 Sudoku Puzzles!

I worry about submissions each month; however each month brings more excellent material. If you like history— we got it! Like messing with boats – we got it! Like photographs of the Thousand Islands? Yes, we have lots, and each month they get better. Ian Coristine created the TI Life Photo Contest, and we just celebrated our 10th year. New York state photographer Chris Murray and Lyne Roberge (Ian's widow) are judges.

So that is the TI Life story. Not a month goes by that I don't smile when I think of Ian Coristine, my friend, mentor, and my taskmaster. I am sure he would be proud. Do visit us often, and by all means, if you have memories and material to share. Please do so!

Susansmith@thousandislandslife.com



In Case You Were Wondering.....

Dave McWilliams



Going Boating with Your Dog?

As the ice begins to look like it might just break up, and the weather is warming up, boaters and pet lovers are spending more time outside. It is fun to have your best furry buddy by your side while you enjoy the wind and sun, but it's also important to make sure your companion is safe. There are many potential dangers when boating, so take care of your pet when you bring them along for a boat ride so you can all enjoy summer fun on the River!

1. Have A 'Dog Overboard' Plan

Pets are pets and they can be unpredictable ... there's always a chance that your pet might fall or jump overboard, and you need to have a plan to get them back to safety without you jumping in.

2. Get The Right Kind Of Life Jacket...Especially those with handles.

3. Bring Sunscreen, Insect Repellent, & A First-Aid Kit....Ask your vet about these.

4. Have Fresh Water & Shade

5. Get Your Pet Used To The Boat

6. Bring A Floatable Leash & Plan For Potty Breaks

7. Pay Attention To Your Pet, But Don't Get Distracted

More than a few dogs have been lost at sea after falling overboard when their humans weren't paying attention and drove off without them. If you can't dedicate enough of your focus to your dog or driving, leave your dog at home or bring another responsible human along for the ride.

8. If Crossing the Border bring along Proper Identification and Vaccination Paperwork

Additional General Information for River Talk Readers:

In case you were wondering what you missed at the virtual Toronto Boat Show (January 26-30/22) you can still visit their internet site until July 31, 2022 free.. The link to the site is the same as you would have used during the Live Show: <https://virtual.torontoboatshow.com/>. If you have family or friends that would like access to the Virtual Show, they can also still register for free, up until July 31: <https://www.torontoboatshow.com/register/>. There is a bunch of info buried amongst its links, in particular under Safe Boating!...and note that the in-person show next year is scheduled for January 20-29, 2023





PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: John Peach

Executive Director & Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper

executivedirector@savetheriver.org

Cell (609) 575-9903

Northern Marine Replaces Outdated Floating Docks

Northern Marine of Clayton, NY has begun a program of replacing its old floating docks that were supported with non-encapsulated blocks of polystyrene. Their older style floating docks, many of which had been in use for over 30 years, had started to deteriorate due to wear and tear caused by ice and elements. Former owner Rick Gregware, who is also a long time member of Save The River Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper's® Board, was concerned about the environmental damage being done by the particles of polystyrene slowly diffusing into the St. Lawrence River.



Save The River's executive director, John Peach, said, "Rick and Andy Gregware are stepping up to help remove this source of microplastic pollution that is harming our fish, birds, and other wildlife. We are seeing more and more evidence of these particles from floating docks and rafts getting out into the River and mixing with the sand and shoreline flora. Birds and fish mistake these tiny particles for insects and other sources of food. They ingest the microplastic, and it can become stuck in their guts and kill them." Peach went on to say, "there is now strong research showing that microplastic from water and other sources also gets into humans and has been found in human excrement in many different areas."



Northern Marine recently purchased docks from another marina. These docks are supported by encapsulated polystyrene floats. The replaced docks were floated by large blocks of non-encapsulated blue polystyrene that had deteriorated due to animals burrowing into them and the effects of ice and waves. The floats that needed repair or replacement have been reinstalled, and the docks will be in place by the time the spring boating season starts. Gregware said, "We are pleased to be able to help Save The River's efforts to remove these sources of microplastics from the River's ecosystem. People come to the River because of its beauty and fish and wildlife. We want to do everything in our power to help preserve it for our children and grandchildren." Lauran Throop, chairperson of Save The River's Sustainability Committee, remarked, "Many thanks to Northern Marine for recognizing this problem and being among the first to act on it."



After successfully advocating for New York State to ban single use plastic bags and polystyrene take home food containers, Save The River's Sustainability Committee is beginning a campaign to ban the use of non-encapsulated polystyrene floats in floating docks and swim platforms. Peach commented, "we have had strong support from local dock builders agreeing that new construction of and repairs to floating docks should either be using pipes made of metal and heavy wall pvc or heavy wall encapsulated floats."

Save The River's mission is to restore, preserve and protect the Upper St. Lawrence River now and for generations to come through advocacy, education, research, and stewardship.

Attached images:

1. New docks at Northern Marine in Clayton, NY
2. Polystyrene pieces found floating in the St. Lawrence River
3. Dead fish that was full of polystyrene

For 43 years, Save The River has been the leading grassroots environmental advocacy organization fighting for the ecological integrity of the St. Lawrence River. Save The River takes an active role in River policy issues by engaging decision makers, community leaders, residents, visitors and volunteers to make positive change. Every year Save The River works with educators in school districts in the watershed to educate 1,000+ students in a place-based curriculum that stresses age-appropriate aspects of stewardship.





TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



To learn more about any sponsor click on their logo



TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors



Captain Level \$150

- ❖ A One-Year Business membership to **TIA**
- ❖ A social media mention on **TIA** Social Media
- ❖ Your hyperlinked business logo on the **TIA** sponsorship webpage

Admiral Level \$500

- ❖ A One-Year Business membership to **TIA**
- ❖ 1 or more social media mentions on **TIA** Social Media
- ❖ Acknowledgement during **TIA**'s Annual General Meeting
- ❖ Your hyperlinked business logo on the **TIA** sponsorship webpage
- ❖ Your hyperlinked business logo in our scrolling banner at the top of all **TIA** webpages
- ❖ Hyperlinked logo in all **TIA** River Talk publications (Our digital newsletter published 8 times per year)
- ❖ Invitation to submit an article about you, your business or your passion for the 1000 Islands for inclusion in a **TIA** River Talk Edition

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

**Click To
Purchase**



SCAN ME

**Click To
Email**

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

TIA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

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



SCAN ME

Individual \$50

Couple \$75

Family \$100

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

www.thousandislandsassociation.com/membership



Thousand Islands Association (TIA)

Due to seasonality, varying water levels, vandalism and equipment failure, the Thousand Islands Association (TIA) disclaims any liability for the absence of any of its shoal markers from time to time.

The Thousand Islands Association (TIA) is a not for profit organization that is proactive in addressing safety on the river, promoting environmental preservation and supporting the interests of the Community for the benefit of the 1000 Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com

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

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

TIA's Three Pillars

River Safety

Environmental Awareness

Community Support

