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RIVER TALK

RIVER SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT





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President's Message

Peter Fitton

Celebrate the month of May - the Sun is warming, the birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming, and the river is alive with the smell of spring!

Many of our enthusiastic members have already opened their cottages and celebrated Easter on the river. The next wave of seasonal residents will arrive as marinas open, and boats are launched for their owners. Read more about the forecasted water levels in this issue.

May is the month of the Flower Moon. Other names are Leaf Budding Moon celebrating the awakening of local flora, and Planting Moon marking the time when seeds should be started for the farming season ahead. On May 15 the full Moon coincides with a total lunar eclipse. Click [here](#) to learn more.

As we safely emerge from COVID-19 restrictions please remain respectful to our community and salute our health providers. National Nurses week starts on May 6 ending on International Nurses Day on May 12. Nurses and health providers are on duty for us all over the world. Show an act of kindness to these professionals whenever possible with gestures of thanks.



We lost past TIA Director John Taylor this year. John loved the river and was an advocate of the TIA Environmental Education Program. In his honour the Canadian Bursary is now called the John Clarke Taylor Bursary. Read more in this issue.

Our shoal marker placement program is well underway under the leadership of Director James Cote. Go to our [website](#) to learn more on how to get involved as a "marker watcher" and to appreciate the geographic territory that TIA is serving.

Our [Environmental Programs](#) are ready for launch under the leadership of Director Janet Smith-Staples and her team including our 2022 summer co-op student Jana Moore. Look forward to Jana's communications and please reach out to her at thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com to learn how to get involved or share ideas.

Mark July 23 in your calendar to attend the AGM. Read more in this issue.

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

See you on the river and remember to promote neighborhood watch to those in need.



From the Editor

Allison Burchell-Robinson

It's May, it's May, the merry month of May. The warm weather isn't just coming; the warm weather has arrived. People are walking their dogs, boats are in the water, sidewalk cafes are opening, farmer's markets are coming awake, birds are singing and stores are revitalizing their windows and their wares. The snow has all been washed away. There is a sense of expectation in the air, a sense of awakening, a change.

Speaking of change, welcome to the new River Talk and welcome to Megan Coleman, our new helmsperson responsible for the layout and graphics. She brings a new eye to the landscape as we continue into our fifth year of River Talk. If you have an idea for an article or wish to comment on previously published ones, you can write to TIA at thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com.

Thank you to those who have already joined or renewed during our ongoing 2022 Membership Drive. Don't forget that you are eligible to win the print donated by Stuart Arnett, Wildlife Conservation Artist AFC, to be raffled off at the AGM this year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 23rd. Details to follow.

The Muskies Have Been Saved was a recent headline around the River. Are the Gypsy Moths returning and if so with a different name? We have a new contributor. Turn the pages to learn more.

Every year TIA gives a \$500.00 bursary to a deserving student on both the Canadian and American sides of the River. Applications are sent to local high schools looking for students planning to study environmental issues in colleges or universities. Each applicant must supply a short video about themselves, their interest in the environment and future plans. The deadline to submit an application is May 15th. The two winners will be notified in early June and their videos will be featured at the AGM.

This year the Canadian Bursary has been named the John Clarke Taylor Bursary in honor of John - a long time member of the TIA Board. It is a nice feeling when a good idea is enthusiastically endorsed by all. John worked tirelessly on matters relating to TIA and was passionate about the Bursary program that now carries his name. See his daughter Anne's loving tribute in this issue.

Good Things Happen Too

Photo by John N. Street

Environmental Update

Janet Smith-Staples



Photo by John N. Street

If you've been following recent social media posts from Save The River, Thousand Islands Land Trust and TIA respectively you may already know that the proposed US Custom's and Border Patrol Station in Blind Bay has been squashed thanks to the purchase of the property by Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT). If you are just catching up on this news, please click [here](#) to get all the details.

Leading up to this great news was a combined effort to educate and inform the public and officials of the facts if such a project was to become a reality. Many letters of opposition were sent from a wide swath of individuals and organizations (TIA included) noting the horrific impact this proposed station would have on the fish & wildlife in the area. Blind Bay is a prolific spawning ground for Muskellunge and many other species that keep our river healthy and balanced.

It's encouraging to know that regardless of which side of the river you spend your time, the combined care and consideration we have for this unique region is something we easily share with our neighbors and that we stand united in our conservation efforts. We've said it before, and we will say it again wildlife and pollution see no borders and standing together is always better than standing alone.

It's with many thanks to all who took time to send in their thoughts & concerns and ultimately to TILT who has stayed true to their mission by continuing to preserve the land and wildlife we all hope to enjoy for generations to come.

"April Showers Bring May Flowers" and in the animal kingdom a whole lot more. This is the time of year that most wildlife have their young.

Almost all of our avian species, those that have wintered over and those returning from the South build nests. Most birds time their breeding activities so that they will be feeding their young when food is most abundant. Usually by the time nest building starts, territories have already been established and defended. Migratory birds start this as soon as they arrive in the spring.

Once territories are established and nests are built, egg laying can commence. After copulation, egg formation typically takes about 24 hours, with only one egg produced per day. This is the reason for the frenzy of activity always surrounding nest building and mating.

Depending upon the species, some clutches of eggs can be 2 or 3 eggs while others like the Wood Duck can be up to 15 in one nesting. The size of the bird generally determines the length of incubation time, the larger the bird the longer incubation period.

Robins usually lay 4 eggs per nest but can have up to 4 broods depending upon food supply.

Mourning Doves lay 2 eggs but again produce multiple broods.

Great Blue Herons lay 3 to 5 eggs and start incubation after the first egg is laid so that the young are hatched at different times.

Crows lay 3 to 9 eggs and can have 2 broods per season again depending upon food supply.

We have all seen our local Osprey fixing up their nests from previous years. Osprey are site faithful and because these are long living birds, some nests have been in use for over 10 years. By the time you read this edition of River Talk, females by mid-April will have laid up to 3 eggs and incubation begins. Osprey typically have only one brood due to length of incubation, 37 days, and the time it takes to fledge.

So keep your eyes peeled for nest building and hatchlings this Spring! If you find a nest in a location that isn't terribly beneficial to you, please be patient and rest assured that it won't take long for the young to fledge and leave the nest.

Stuart Arnett

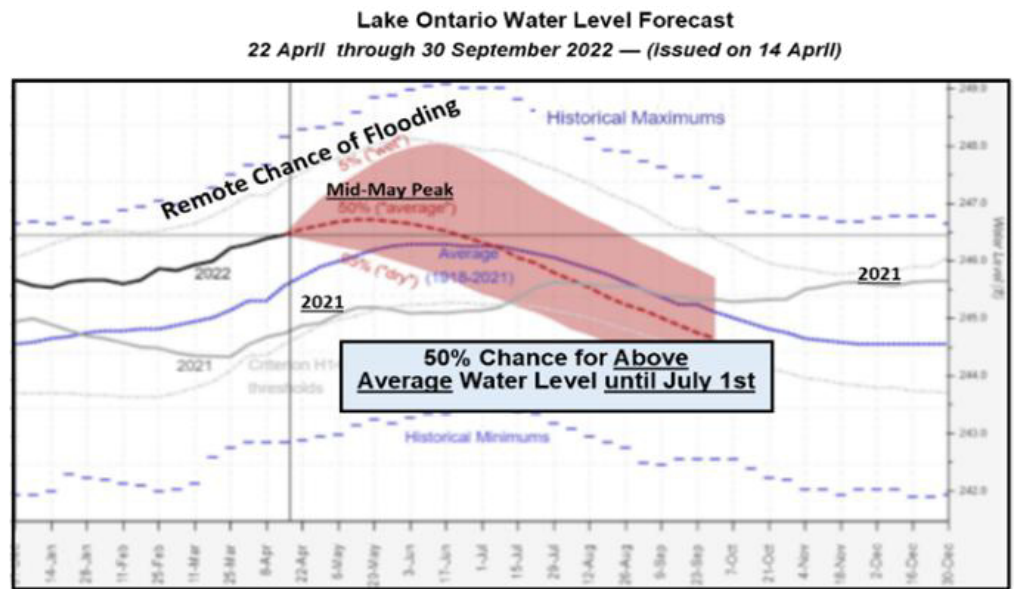
Environmental Awareness



Photo by Stuart Arnett

Ken White

Water Levels Update



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

Spring – The River Flows with Lots of Water – But Not Too Much Yet

TIA Water Levels Committee (4/22/22)

Referring to the 4/21/22 Weekly Water Updates [graphic](#), water levels & flows are mostly ranked half way between Average (A) and way Above Average (AA) according to the ILOSLR Board's [FB Page post](#). We call this half way ranking A+. 'Nothing is Average'!

Niagara River Outflow from Lake Erie is 7,200 m³/s (AA). Precipitation & runoff adds 2,200 m³/s = 9,400 m³/s to the Net Basin Supply. Comparing the total Inflow Into Lake Ontario of 9,400 m³/s (A+) with the current SL River Outflow of 7,900 m³/s (A+) indicates that levels will continue rising until a mid/late May peak. From the Forecast:

- No Flooding in 2022, water levels remaining above average (10 inches currently) until early July, when the 50% line crosses and heads below long term average.
- 2022 is still a mirror image of 2021 – higher spring & lower fall water levels
- Lake Ontario & the River are now about +3.25 feet (A+) above chart datum
- The Ottawa River freshet A+ flow of about 5,000 m³/s arrives through multiple tributaries around the islands of Montreal and joins the SL River A+ Outflow of 7,900 m³/s at Lake St. Louis. The combined flow volume becomes 12,900 m³/s!
- SL River outflow has been reduced by the F Limit to lower flooding potential in the Montreal A+ water level region

Expedited Review of Plan 2014:

- The GLAM Committee (Great Lakes Adaptive Management) completed Phase 1 of the expedited review of Plan 2014
- Videos explaining this work and a copy of the report are available [here](#)
- Phase 1 focus – better information and tools, enabling the Board to make deviation decisions (like in 2017/19) with a better understanding of impacts to ALL stakeholders
- Small 1000 Islands informational session with key stakeholders was held on 4/13
- TIA was represented by our Board member Vince Barton at the session
- Focus was sharing the work of Phase 1, Q&A, and opening a continuing dialogue
- Phase 2 is already underway and will focus on the workings of the plan itself (the "formula" that calculates outflows, F Limit, L Limit, etc.)

See our Full Article for further discussion of these important topics! [Click HERE](#)

Spotlight:

THE TOWN OF ROCKPORT



The Misisquoi was a packet ship carrying mail, freight, and passengers from Kingston to Brockville making stops in Rockport. [Photo contributed by Brian Phillips]

Daniel Massey

Rockport has been established as a river port for more than 200 years. The village has seen many changes during even the 30 years that I was not living here. The Rockport of not so long ago was a community of people who knew each other well, socialized and worked together. It was a community of good river folk who made their living based on the economy of the St. Lawrence River and the 1000 Islands. This little village was a stopping off point for the boats such as the Misisquoi that transported goods and people between Brockville and Kingston. Rockport was a self-sufficient community that boasted a few area farms, a post office, two general stores, a bank, three churches, a two-room school, a cheese factory, a customs office, a dance hall and two marinas dating back to the late 1800s. Rockport was the home of the St. Lawrence Skiff and along with Alexandria Bay, the main shopping port for the people who lived and summered on the islands.

In the Rockport that I grew up in, there were lots of children and every home was visited by the Hallowe'en trick or treaters; our pillowcases were full of the forbidden homemade fudge, apples and candies. Our parents knew that we were safe. In the 1970s attempt by Parks Canada to expropriate our land for a National Park, the citizens of Rockport along with other river communities rallied together to oppose the government proposal by starting T.I.A.R.A. I will never forget the day that our parents told us that T.I.A.R.A had "won the battle" and our homes were safe. I cannot imagine a Rockport with no people.

I remember my grandmother, the late Lillian Andress Massey, telling stories of the many people who made up her community of Rockport and how so many things had changed during her lifetime, buildings, people, and customs. These changes shaped the community into the Rockport that I knew as a child. Now, more changes have taken place with new businesses, and new families bringing their values and customs to our community. All of this will create the Rockport that my grandchildren will know. The one thing that has not changed is that Rockport is a great community in which to live.

**Dave McWilliam &
Alec Turner**

In Case You Were Wondering



USCG Updates Fire Extinguisher Service Life Regulation

It may be cold on the water but it's now time to pay attention to a new USCG federal regulation for fire extinguishers on motorized recreational boats as of April 20, 2022. The Best Practice of replacing your fire extinguishers has now been made into USCG regulation.

Any fire extinguishers older than 12 years from the manufacture date is no longer considered good and serviceable and must be replaced. While you're checking the manufacturing date on the bottom of your unit, make sure the unit is properly pressurized, labeled for Marine use "Marine Type U.S.C.G.". As well while it's upside down give it a vigorous shake to prevent the fire extinguisher from clumping. This should be done once a month.

For more information about Fire Extinguishers and their maintenance see pages 32/33 of the [Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide](#)



The New PFD Regulations- What You Don't Know About Lifejackets

For many years boaters from Canada and the USA have been dealing with different regulations in regard to PFD's. Finally, after many years the regulations are assimilated in regard to PFD's.

There are three different types of icons on each device:

The first icon identifies the overall performance rating of the device, such as Level 70.

The second icon represents the largest change on the life jacket labels. This icon depicts whether or not a device can turn an unconscious wearer from a face-down position to a face-up position without any action of the user.

The third icon included on the device label is the intended use icon. In other words, is it good for personal watercraft or high-speed water sports? Can it be used for white water rafting? Some devices are constructed for certain types of usage and have their own construction requirements, while others are constructed for general boating with no limitations on use.

Existing approved life preservers and lifejackets will maintain their approval and meet requirements as long as the equipment remains in serviceable condition and is used as approved.



[Click here for full Boat Blurb Article on New PFD Regulations](#)

[Click here for Life Jacket Label Infographic](#)

[Click here for USCG Policy](#)

[Click here for Transport Canada Policy](#)

**Dave McWilliam &
Annabel Cowan**

The Spongy Moth



Spongy Moth! Really!

Our hugely invasive caterpillar insect pest formerly known as "Gypsy Moth," has a new name designated by the Entomological Society of America: Spongy Moth!

Spongy moth populations are known to be cyclical as in booms in their population every 7-10 years. We have seen outbreaks in Ontario in 1985, 1991, 2002, 2020 and of course, 2021. Along with their natural population growth patterns, a perfect storm of environmental conditions can also be the cause of moth population booms. Warmer winters, dry and warm spring and summer weather and a lower number of predators all create an opportunity for moth populations to grow rapidly.

In the same way that we can expect their population to grow, we can also expect their population to decrease. Early indications in areas that were affected by the Spongy moth last year suggest that populations for this year should be less. One of the major allies in the fight against Spongy Moths is a fungus pathogen called *Entomophaga maimaiga* which attacks the caterpillars. It is too soon to tell if this spring's conditions will support this ally.

Actions you can take to reduce the damage these moths can cause to vegetation:

1. Inspect trees, firewood, vehicles, lawn furniture and other outdoor items that might have egg masses stuck to them. If you find the light brown egg masses, scrape them off into a bucket of soapy water or burn them.
2. Use of sticky bands, burlap barriers and traps on trees have been known to work
3. Purchase and apply your own microbial insecticide. BTK (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*) is the most common when trying to control the Spongy caterpillar. BTK is only effective on young caterpillars. It must be sprayed as the eggs hatch and the entire tree needs to be sprayed. Pesticides can sometimes cause more harm than good as they can have unintended effects on other critters that are vital parts of our ecosystem and are not a full proof solution for getting rid of spongy moths.

There is unfortunately no silver bullet solution, however, all these options can be added to your toolkit and empower you to be a part of the solution. What we can always count on is Mother Nature, and try to help her along.



In Memory Of **JOHN TAYLOR**



Anne Taylor Modler

My father, John Clarke Taylor, was passionate about the river. Anyone who knew him well or met him briefly would have heard the stories of his lifelong adventures on the river. Although his earlier years were occasionally less than cautious, as a young adult he became very concerned about the islanders and tourists who would brave the waves. The Thousand Islands Association (TIA) was the closest organization to his heart. As a past board member and enthusiastic champion, he continued to unabashedly promote the installation of the shoal markers to keep boaters safe. His father was one of the original founders of the Thousand Islands Summer Residents Association, later expanded to TIA to include those in the surrounding communities as well.

The environmental academic bursary, was also a project that Dad both championed and was eager to facilitate. More than once a child or grandchild joined him to deliver the award to a deserving student at a school across the border in New York State. He took pride in presenting the bursary and always told all of us all about the aspiring student winners from Gananoque Secondary School and on the New York side.

Dad infamously navigated the river by the tree line after dark, and I remember clearly how frustrated he was after the ice storm that transformed the line he knew so well. His brother Jim remembers that one of the reasons the shoal markers were so important to him is that in his early days exploring the river, hitting them and putting his name on a few, he never forgot where they were. The rest of us all rely on TIA and the installation of shoal markers.

Although we all will miss his stories, his legacy lives on in the work of the TIA. We are so grateful to all of the family and friends who have donated to the TIA in Dad's name. We know he is smiling as he goes for yet another boat ride.



Chantaille Buczynski

It was mid-July 2004. I was on watch onboard the bridge of the HMCS KINGSTON, a maritime coastal defence vessel minor warship of the Royal Canadian Navy. The Captain pointed out the window across the starboard bridge wing bringing the watch's attention to one of the most remarkable edifices I have seen in my life. Admiral Marta Mulkins (Commander at the time) was directing the watch's attention to Boldt Castle on Heart Island near Alexandria Bay, New York. This was my introduction to the luxury that is the beauty of the 1000 Islands.

Between 2001-2004, while undertaking bridge watchkeeping and coastal navigation training on the West-coast at the Naval Officer Training Centre VENTURE in Victoria British Columbia, which is where I am originally from, I came to develop a fond curiosity of the 1000 Islands because there is something special and unique to the Great Lakes Basin.

There exists a maritime collision regulation that is unseen anywhere else on earth. My journey up the St. Lawrence River into Lake Ontario onboard the HMCS KINGSTON caused me to fall in love with the topography and wildlife in the 1000 Islands region. Now that I am retired, I enjoy visiting sites I once navigated past during my time on her bridge. I have developed a great care for maritime visual aids to navigation of the 1000 Islands region many of which I used as fixing points that summer.

Some aids to navigation stand out more to me than others. One of my favourites in the local area is the lighthouse on the point of Joel Stone Heritage Park in Gananoque Ontario. Today, I abide in the Kingston/1000 Islands region, and I see the river from its shores instead of from its center while standing on the bridge of a warship. During our warm Ontario summer months, instead of taking visual fixes off the lighthouse in Joel Stone Heritage Park I take my children swimming at the park's sandy community beach, which brings back the most beautiful memories. Sometimes, I can almost see the HMCS KINGSTON passing by far off in the distance whispering memories from times long ago of fair winds and following seas.

Membership Drive

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

The finished print will feature 8 local sunfish on a nautical chart of the Thousand Islands.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN TODAY!](#)

Take pride in knowing that your membership made navigation on the river safer for all, and participate in any one or more of the environmental programs offered this summer.



Every year, TIA offers a Bursary to a high school student pursuing a higher education with a planned career related to the Environment. Applications are sent to local high schools on both sides of the River. Completed applications should be sent to thousnadislandsassociation@gmail.com no later than May 15th.

JOIN THE TIA TURTLE TEAM!

SATURDAY, MAY 28



**MALLORYTOWN LANDING
11:30AM - 1PM**



**JOIN TIA AND PARKS CANADA FOR A TURTLE NEST
PROTECTOR BUILDING WORKSHOP. HELP SAVE
TURTLES BY PROTECTING THEIR NESTS!
SPACES ARE LIMITED.**

TO SIGN UP, CONTACT US AT THOUSANDISLANDSASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM





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- ❖ 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



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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.

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TIA's Three Pillars

River Safety

Environmental Awareness

Community Support

