

# RIVER TALK

may / june, 2025

**RIVER SAFETY**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
AWARENESS**  
**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**





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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.



# From the Editor

Keeping our river community members informed of what TIA is working on is at the heart of every River Talk issue. Beyond that, there is always the hope that we can, as a community, inspire others to be respectful of our surroundings and intentional with our environmental connection.

Last issue, I was personally inspired by Doug Bickerton and his work propagating local Pitch Pines. I was fortunate enough to have found some of my own seeds last fall and here they are! Thanks for the inspiration Doug!

Perhaps there will be something in this issue that will inspire you? Let us know. We'd love the feedback.

*Stephanie Scott.*  
*Editor*



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.



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# President's Message

Peter Fitton



For many of us, May and June marks the return from our winter hiatus to the place we love most. As we arrive, we are welcomed by familiar white and orange rock shoal markers—our dependable guides season after season. The scents of spring and the sounds of wildlife returning to the region creates a warm invitation to embrace the longer days leading to the summer solstice.

The St. Lawrence River and its Thousand Islands are shared by two sovereign nations—Canada and the United States. Every year, we celebrate a unique bond and the friendships that flourishes across borders. May nothing disrupt the spirit of our community that brings our families and friends together on these waters.

World Environment Day is June 5 and this year focuses on ending global plastic pollution. The Thousand Islands Association (TIA) promotes this cause through our Trash-Free River Clean-Up events. In partnership with Pollution Probe and the Gananoque Marina, we operate a Seabin V5 unit —a floating trash skimmer that captures debris including macro- and microplastics, microfibers, oil, and detergents from the water's surface. We invite you to stop by and see this technology in action! [Learn more about the Seabin.](#)

TIA is proud to award scholarships to graduating students from river community high schools who are enrolling in their first year of college or university. Congratulations to this year's recipients. They





## Welcome back to the river!

are Bridgit Murphy from St Mary's CHS Brockville and Marin McConnell from GSS Gananoque in Canada, and Ava Diabo from Thousand Islands HS Clayton and Emeline Barton from Lafargeville Central School in the United States. Visit our website to learn more about this opportunity.

A big shout out THANK YOU for Community Grants received to support our annual replacement of worn-out rock markers program. The Town of Gananoque awarded TIA \$4,012.50, and the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands (TLTI) awarded TIA \$10,000.00. The unit cost of a replacement rock marker including anchoring material has increased by 20% since 2022 to \$535.00. TIA will be self-funding about \$7,360 this year as a condition to receiving these grants to purchase 40 replacement makers in 2025.

On Thursday, July 10, TIA is once again offering a 4-hour CPR and AED Certified Training Session at the 1000 Islands History Museum. Space is limited to 18 participants, so register early under the Community Support section of our website: Register for CPR Training.

Mark your calendars! TIA AGM Chair Alec Turner is hard at work organizing our Annual General Meeting and breakfast to be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025 on the waterfront at the Gananoque Playhouse Theatre - details in this issue.

If you have not already, please renew your 2025 tax-deductible TIA membership. Your continued support makes everything we do possible. Please renew now.

Read on for more River Talk!

# TIA's 2025 Fire Pump Initiative

By: Jim Côté, Chair, River Safety

**UPDATE**

Efforts continue to help islanders prepare and equip themselves to deal with the threat of fires. Pictured here is FPO Doug Richardson accepting the delivery of the second of two portable fire pumps TIA has donated to Leeds 1000 Islands Fire Services. In the background is the new Fire Rescue Boat now stationed at Brennan Marine in Gananoque, complementing the other similar Fire Rescue Boat moored at the Ivy Lea Wharf. This new boat, and the donated fire pumps, will also be on display at TIA's AGM on July 19 at the Thousand Islands Playhouse.

As noted in the March/April issue of River Talk, the donated pumps will be used this summer by the TLTI Fire Prevention Team for demonstration clinics designed to educate islanders about portable fire pumps and the

benefits having one on hand to contain island fires until Emergency Fire Services arrive. The pumps are also permanent additions to the Fire Services emergency fire-fighting gear. Clinic dates and locations will be announced in future social media posts by Fire Services and TIA, so stay tuned.

Of the two pumps, it seems that the 2-inch Honda pump mounted on a cart (the pump on the right in the photo) will be the most popular because it has large wheels that make it easy to move around even on rough surfaces. They are available locally from Princess Auto. More affordable Benchmark pumps are also available at Home Hardware. In either case, it is recommended that each pump be fitted with enough hose to reach from residents' docks to the back of their cottage, which will often be between 200 and 300 feet





FPO Doug Richardson accepting the delivery of the second of two portable fire pumps donated by TIA to Leeds 1000 Islands Fire Services.

(60 to 90 metres). It is also recommended that 1.5 inch forestry hose be purchased that uses the forestry quick connect couplings. Forestry hose is much more durable and long-lasting than what comes with some pumps, and quick connect couplings are more foolproof than the camlock couplings that come with some pumps. The gas recommended by Fire Services is Trufuel (or the equivalent from Stihl and Husqvarna), which is sold in hardware stores. This gas is very stable so can remain in pumps for long periods without

gumming them up. Because these are 4-stroke engines, make sure you get the unmixed variety — not a gas/oil mix.

Finally, as part of the Dock-to-Door Island Program, in which the Fire Prevention Team will visit individual cottages this summer to remind island residents about fire prevention practices, the Team will also have the donated pumps with them, so islanders who have not attended a clinic can see them then firsthand if they wish.

## QUIZ Time

# How Fire Smart are You?

Fires can burn underground over the winter.

☐ True ☐ False

How far can dangerous ambers be blown through the air?

☐ 100m ☐ 500m

☐ 200m ☐ 2km

If there are no red ambers left, the fire can't start again.

☐ True ☐ False

How many wildfires over the past 20 years have been caused by humans?

☐ 37% ☐ 50% ☐ 64% ☐ 75%



**A best practice is to have your island name and group, along with the civic/911 number of your property, handy for all guests and family in case of an emergency. If you have not received one of TIA's Emergency Information magnets, they will be available again at the AGM in July.**





# Can Firefighters Find you in an Emergency?

Download the What3Words app. What3words is a proprietary geocode system designed to identify any location on the surface of Earth with a resolution of approximately 3 metres. GPS will find your phone and give you 3 words to identify your location. It is designed to work anywhere in the world without internet connection.

## How to use what3words in an emergency



### 1. Open the app

Wait a few seconds for the blue dot to settle in one place. For a more accurate GPS location, you should be outdoors.

### 2. Locate yourself

Tap on iPhone or on Android. The 3 words for your location will display at the bottom of the screen.

### 3. Give the 3 words

Read the what3words location over the phone to the emergency services. They'll know exactly where to find you.

### Things to consider

The app works offline, even in areas with no internet access, by using the device's GPS signal.

Thousand Islands Association Founded in 1984		Marine Emergency Information for 911 Calls	
Begin the call with:	"Operator, I'm reporting a marine emergency on an island in the (Canadian or American) waters of the 1000 Islands in the St. Lawrence River."		
Civic/911 address of your cottage:	357 Big Paradise Island		
GPS coordinates of dock (DD or DMS):	Latitude: 44.123456	Longitude: -76.123456	
For more information on filling out this form:	<a href="https://www.thousandislandsassociation.com/river-safety-911">https://www.thousandislandsassociation.com/river-safety-911</a>		

# 10 of the Best Tips for Opening your Cottage

By: Stephanie Scott

Opening your cottage for the season is an exciting annual tradition, but it also comes with essential tasks to ensure everything is safe, clean, and ready for relaxation. Here are the top 10 best tips to help you open your cottage smoothly.

## 1. Inspect the Exterior First

Before entering, walk around the cottage to check for winter damage, such as broken branches, roof issues, or pest entry points. Look at the foundation, windows, and roof for visible signs of trouble.

## 2. Check for Animal Intrusions

Mice, raccoons, or squirrels may have taken up residence during the off-season. Look for droppings, chewed materials, or nests. Safely remove any pests and seal off entry points.

## 3. Turn on Utilities Carefully

Reconnect electricity, water, and propane. Check for leaks, blown fuses, or electrical faults. Turn water on gradually to

avoid pressure-related damage.

## 4. Flush the Plumbing

Run taps and flush toilets to clear stale or antifreeze-treated water. Check for leaks in pipes and water lines, especially if temperatures dropped significantly.

## 5. Inspect and Clean Appliances

Check that your fridge, stove, and other appliances are in working order. Clean out any lingering smells or residue before turning them on.

## 6. Test Smoke and CO Detectors

Replace batteries and test alarms. Safety first—especially in a remote location where help might take time to arrive.





## **8. Stock Up on Essentials**

Bring fresh bedding, non-perishable food, clean towels, toiletries, and first-aid supplies. Double-check items that may have expired or been damaged.

## **9. Clean Thoroughly**

Dust surfaces, sweep floors, and clean windows. A good spring cleaning sets the tone for a pleasant stay.

**Check the Septic System** Have your septic tank inspected and pumped if needed to avoid backups.

## **10. Review Insurance and Emergency Plans**

Ensure your insurance policy is up to date and that you have emergency contacts and evacuation plans in place.

**Starting the season prepared ensures a relaxing and enjoyable time at the cottage.**



Attn: Boaters

## Drop off your expired flares

Collins Bay Marina, in conjunction with Marine Outfitters and CanBoat, is offering an expired flare drop off on June 14th from 12-3pm, Collins Bay Marina

Attn: TIA Anglers

## Drop off your lead tackle at this year's AGM for a chance to win!



Margie Manthey will be at the AGM collecting lead fishing gear during the Thousand Islands Association AGM, July 19, 2025. Just look for her booth. Anyone who drops off their lead will be given a coupon to enter into a draw to win a generously donated prize. Special lead-free packages for children!



# Renew Your Membership Today

Welcome to another year and new beginning on the river! Founded in 1934, and now 90 years and 5 generations later, our roots are deep in traditions and memories with friends and family in our world-renowned beautiful Thousand Islands of the upper St. Lawrence River.

Today we share the responsibility of its stewardship as we deliver on our Missions of River Safety, Environmental Awareness, and Community Support. Your renewed membership ensures the safety and support of residents and boaters alike.

- Purchase & maintenance of 200+ shoal markers
- Support of emergency response equipment & services
- Environmental awareness programs
- News and information on the river & its community
- Fellowship opportunities
- Information on water levels & a unified voice for local regulatory agencies and proposed legislation

**RENEW NOW**



**TIA is an international registered not-for-profit organization, which issues tax receipts for all Canadian and American memberships and donations.**



**\$70**  
**/person**

Register today.  
Limited spaces.

**CLICK TO  
REGISTER ONLINE**



# CPR & AED Certification

**July 10, 2025**  
**10am-2pm**  
**Thousand Islands**  
**History Museum**

The Action First Aid Company has tossed out the status quo when it comes to training – they get you up and out of your seat to create a 'real life' training experience. No PowerPoints here – come ready to learn and walk away empowered to take action. Action First Aid is one of the largest WSIB training agencies in Ontario, and their commitment to exceptional customer service along with their unique delivery style is why training participants keep coming back.

TIA is facilitating this event in support of its mission pillars of River Safety & Community Support.



**Certification: 4 Hours**



# Water Levels Recently Risen to Average

By: TIA Water Levels Committee,  
Barton, Stewart & White

## **“Data: Water Levels Along Great Lakes Staying Steady” Says Matt Jaworowski**

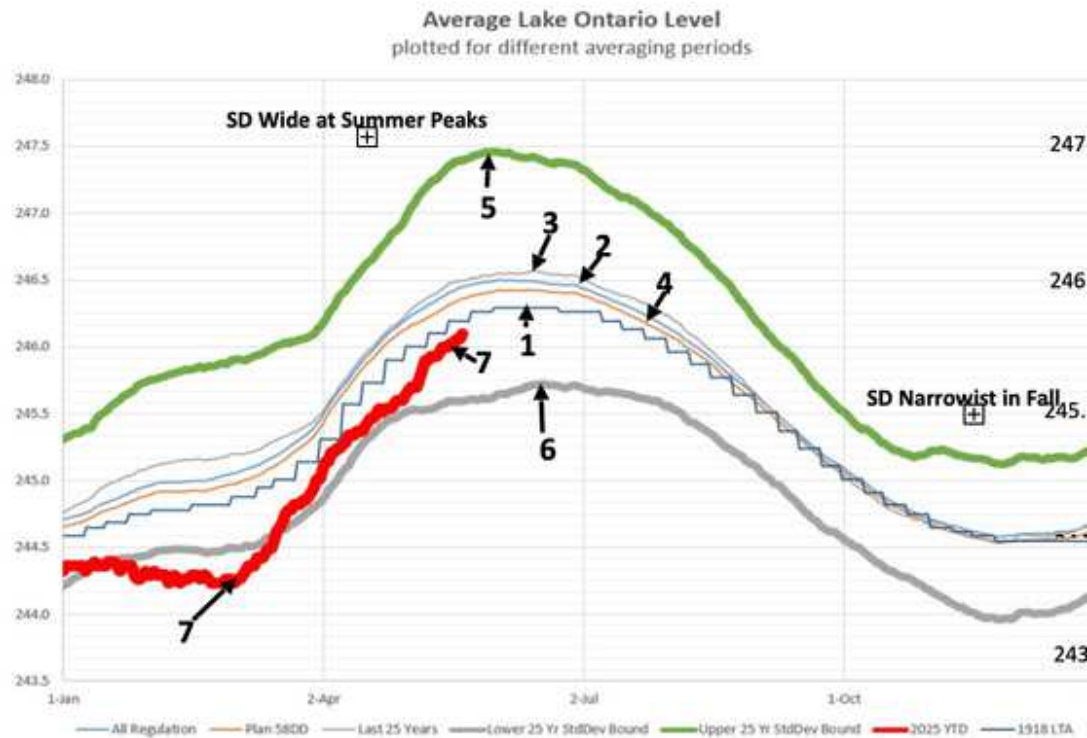
GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (WOOD) — “It has been nearly five years since Lake Michigan and Lake Huron hit record [high] levels, causing aggressive erosion and damaging several lakeside properties. After five years of steady drops, the lake has returned to average levels and could even stay below the mean this summer.”

The current water level in Alex Bay has risen from 2.3 ft. to 3 ft. above river chart datum in the last 10 days. Rainy and soggy weather has prevailed. This period makes clear the significance of how a week of precipitation can drive up the net basin supply (NBS) for Lake Ontario from an entire region.

Click here for the [Interactive LO Water Level Graphics](#)

We often talk about the “average” water level for a given point in time during the calendar year. Average is just a mathematical calculation – it’s not an observed level, nor is it a level that the water “should be.”

**Curve 1** - Even the average calculated can vary depending upon which timeframe we include. The International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board uses data from 1918 through 2022 on



**Graphic credit Bernie Gigas, labeling curves TIA**

their webpage. That's a REALLY long period of time, and it includes many years before the dam existed, including the very dry years of the 1930's when we had the Dust Bowl Drought. In the graphic, that's the jagged line (1) – the line that looks like uneven stair steps (the Board uses weekly averages, not daily, causing the stair step pattern).

**Curve 2** - One could argue that only levels since the dam went in should matter at this point. That average is represented by the blue line (2) on the graph – 1960 through 2024 – clearly it's higher than the average the Board publishes (Curve 1 mentioned previously).

**Curve 3** - What about just the last 25 years – 2000 through 2024? That's a lot more recent, represented by the highest of the 3 thin average lines. Why is it higher? It includes the recent high water stretch (2017 & 2019), and does not include a lot of low water years from the 1960s.

**Curve 4** - One could also argue it's important to understand the average from the old regulation Plan 1958DD – from 1960 through 2016. That average is represented by the thin orange line. It's lower than the other two thin line averages just discussed, but it's higher than the longer term average used by the Board. Why? It doesn't include the recent high water years, but it does include all those low water years from the 1960s.



While all those averages are clearly different – we should also take note that the difference in peak levels (late May / early June) between the highest average (2000-2024) and the lowest average (1918-2022) is a matter of just 3” or so, not a huge difference.

Each average is interesting to some degree, and the highest of those averages, from the last 25 years, sure “feels” a lot more relevant, since it’s the most recent experience we have. The MOST recent experience we have is from a recent high water cycle – which makes it feel like “normal” water levels are even higher than that average.

**Curve 5 and Curve 6** – These lines represent one standard deviation (SD) above (5) and below (6) the average of the last 25 years (2000-2024 – Curve 3). Standard deviation (SD) is a measure of data variability. It is a numerical value that is determined from the data set. Roughly speaking, the range from one SD above and below the average includes 2/3 of the observed data – meaning 2/3 of the time we would expect levels between those lines.

This actually makes for a pretty decent definition of “normal” water levels in a system that has variation and fluctuation. Any time the level is within one SD of average, that’s pretty “normal.”

**Curve 7** – This year’s water levels through May 23rd or so. You can see the fat red line (7) was below the lower standard deviation line in late January, February, and part of March. Since then, the level has climbed quite sharply, and it’s not all that far away from the various average lines. It’s well within the standard deviation (SD) lines. Since this graphic was produced, the level has come up even higher – and it’s now above the lowest (Curve 1) of those 4 average lines (Curves 1 – 4).

Even though the current water level may be below average for some periods, the current water level is quite normal when we consider the typical fluctuation of levels experienced over time.

# Fun Family Activities

By: Stephanie Scott

Summer can present challenges on how to keep your family entertained, especially if you have a long vacation or new visitors.

This year, why not create a game of activities to inspire your youngsters. Scavenger hunts or a bingo game can provide hours of fun.



[Check Out This How To Video](#)

## *Make your own* PINE NEEDLE SODA

Fill bottles with filtered water, leaving 1-2 inches of space at the top.

Add unwashed pine needles (you need to keep the natural yeast) and sugar/honey.

Secure lids and place bottles in a warm, dry place.

The soda will start fermenting in 2-3 days. Don't let the bottle sit 3 days without burping the excess gas.

Once the pine needle soda is bubbly, strain the pine needles from the soda and serve over ice.

Garnish your pine soda with lemon and ginger. Other fruits, citrus, and herbs like lemon or fresh herbs make for an excellent garnish as well.







**Thousand Islands Association Hot Breakfast & Social followed  
by TIA's Annual Meeting & Guest Speaker  
Chad Buchner, A/Director of Ontario Waterways, Parks Canada  
Saturday July 19th at the 1000 Islands Playhouse  
Save the Date & Sign up Now !!**

**Pre-Payment for Breakfast is Required: Adults \$15.99 Children (< 10) \$8.99**

<p><b><u>The Breakfast &amp; Social</u></b></p> <p>Registration Opens: 8:00 Breakfast Starts: 8:30</p> <p><b>TIA Hot Breakfast &amp; AGM held at the 1000 Islands Playhouse</b></p> <p><b>Join us for TIA's Social Event of the Year</b></p> <p><b>Full Hot Breakfast accompanied with Live Music by Tim Hallman</b></p>	<p><b><u>The AGM</u></b></p> <p>Opening Remarks 10 am Followed by Guest Speaker <b>Chad Buchner</b></p> <p><b>Presenting</b> <b>Navigating the Historic Rideau Canal &amp; Upper St. Lawrence Waterways.</b></p> <div data-bbox="507 1559 715 1796"> </div> <p>Chad will take us on a journey like no other in the world .. Travel the waterways and locks of the Rideau Canal, The Ottawa &amp; St. Lawrence Rivers.</p>	<p><b><u>Door Prizes</u></b></p> <p>Robert Alvo's Book "Being a Bird in North America" TIA Gear Packages Local Artist's Prints 50/50 Draw <b>Attend the AGM to WIN !!</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Also attending are...</b> Parks Canada R.A.R.E, TIWLT, Pollution Probe, TLTI's New Fire Boat, Get the Lead Out, RCMP Border Integrity Unit, TIA Gear &amp; TIA's Programs Display.</p>
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**Click Here to Sign up Now  
& Order your Hot Breakfasts !!**



# Hook, Line and Sinker - Let's get the Lead Out

In conversation with Margie Manthey, Fishing Specialist  
(and Environmentalist) with the Wolfe Lake Association  
(Westport) by Jean Dabros

## Lead Is The Number One Killer Of Loons



This pie chart reflects the causes of loon mortality as studied by one of the leading loon conservation groups/ biologists/ veterinarians. Loons ingest lead when they eat a fish that has ingested lead tackle (or has tackle attached to it) or when they scoop up pebbles from the river bottom to aid their digestion and one of the “pebbles” is actually a lead weight. Lead ingested by a loon makes its way into the gizzard and from there the loon’s fate is sealed. The lead attacks the bird’s nervous system, causing blindness, decreased reproductivity, and seizures, eventually resulting in a slow and painful death over 2-3 weeks. Even small amounts of lead can impair a bird’s ability to feed itself, nest properly, or care for its offspring. Lead affects not only Loons but any



aquatic birds that eat fish (Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, Osprey to name a few).

Interestingly, lead shot was banned from ammunition used for hunting over the water more than twenty years ago due to the risks involved to the aquatic environment. Lead is also harmful to humans having been banned in paint and gasoline

In 2021, Margie Manthey and Donna Garland of the Wolfe Lake Association got the Lead-Free movement off the ground in Ontario by offering a lead buy-back program in the Wolfe Lake and Westport area, known as the “Let’s Get the Lead Out!”

movement. This movement is an initiative to reduce toxic lead fishing tackle from accumulating in the environment where it is responsible for the deaths of millions of birds and other wildlife annually Fishleadfree.ca hosted by

<https://wolfelake.org/toxins-in-your-tackle-box>

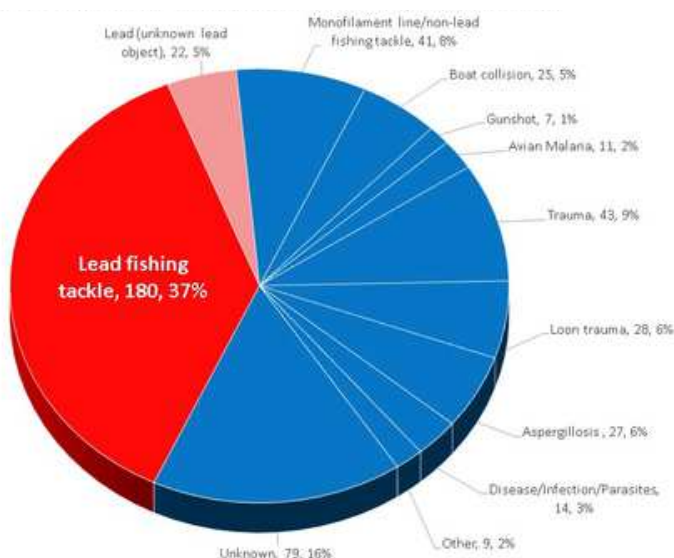
In this x-ray of a dead loon the fishing tackle it ingested is clearly visible (red circle)

Credit: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



**First steps – replacing any lead products that are 1 ounce or less will greatly reduce the chances that a loon will choose that pellet as a pebble to eat. Try tungsten, steel, bismuth, brass, ceramic or glass as a replacement. Go to the website**

**<https://wolfelake.org/toxins-in-your-tackle-box> to see a list of retailers in your area that will exchange lead tackle for an opportunity to be entered in a monthly draw.**



Credit: Dr. Tiffany Grade – Loon Preservation Committee

# Four Decades of Maritime Excellence: C-Tow's Journey as Canada's Most Trusted Marine Assistance Network

By: TIA Supporter, C-Tow



## Peace of Mind Boating

Set sail with confidence and let your worries drift away with Peace of Mind Boating from C-Tow. As a valued member, you're not just joining a towing service; you're embracing a community dedicated to ensuring your boating experience is safe and stress-free. With 24/7 on-water assistance, fuel delivery, jump-starts, and towing services available across Canada, your C-Tow Membership guarantees that help is always a call away.

Join C-Tow today and experience smooth sailing with every adventure!

[WWW.C-TOW.CA](http://WWW.C-TOW.CA)



What sets C-Tow apart isn't just our size – it's our unwavering commitment to excellence that has earned boaters' trust for four decades. Our network of experienced local Captains don't just know these waters; they live and breathe them. Each Captain brings intimate knowledge of their region's unique challenges, ensuring swift and skilled assistance when our members need it most.

Our 24/7 emergency response

system connects boaters directly with real people who understand the urgency of marine situations. Whether it's a midnight mechanical failure in Vancouver Island's waters or a daylight tow request in Ontario's lakes, our dispatch center ensures help is always within reach.

We maintain the largest towing fleet in Canada, but it's our 80-90% renewal rate that truly speaks to member satisfaction.



**When Jim MacDonald and Steve Ackles founded C-Tow Marine Assistance in 1984, they envisioned creating a reliable safety net for Canadian boaters. Today, that vision has evolved into Canada's largest and most trusted marine assistance network, serving over 10,000 members across British Columbia, Ontario, and Newfoundland.**

Our comprehensive coverage extends beyond Canadian waters, offering peace of mind even when venturing into US waters, with guaranteed towing back to Canadian ports.

Innovation has been key to our evolution: Our recently revamped mobile app provides real-time weather updates, GPS tracking, and tide information – modern tools that complement our traditional service values.

Meanwhile, our new e-commerce platform, C-Marine Store, offers members exclusive discounts on essential boating gear.

What began as a vision for better boating safety has grown into a legacy of trust, expertise, and unmatched service. Our Admiral, Captain, and Commander membership plans are tailored to different regional needs, ensuring every Canadian boater has access to reliable assistance. After 40 years on Canadian waters, C-Tow continues to set the standard for marine assistance. We're not just a service provider; we're a community of passionate mariners dedicated to keeping Canadian boaters safe and confident on the water, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Don't delay - get your membership today!

Download  
our App.



# The River in the 1880s

By: Paul Côté

It seems the River was also a lively place for socializing 150 years ago. However, the advent of better roads, automobiles and international bridges put a big dent in the once vibrant commercial river trade.



**THE NEW A 1**  
**STR. ALEXANDRIA**  
[PASSENGERS AND FREIGHT]  
Leaves Gananoque every Monday evening for Montreal and intermediate ports. Returning, leaves Gananoque every Friday evening for Bay of Quinte ports.  
For further particulars apply to  
**The Rathbun Co.,**  
GANANOQUE.

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**GANANOQUE AND KINGSTON**  
**STR. PRINCESS LOUISE**  
(CAPT. W. ROTHWELL)  
Will until further notice run to Kingston as follows:  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, leave Gananoque at 8 o'clock a.m.  
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, leave at 7 a.m.  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, will go by North side of Howe island.  
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, will call on South side of Howe island, and also at Halliday's, on Wolfe island.  
Thursdays (only) will call at Brakie's Bay, Wolfe island.  
Leave Kingston to return every day at 3:30 p.m.

River travel was the preferred way to get from point to point beginning with the arrival of the first settlers in the late 1700s. Roads were virtually nonexistent at first and, in fact, the state of the roads remained problematic into the early 1900s. Sailing ships and then steamers plied the St Lawrence and Lake Ontario for all that time. By the later part of the 1800s there were numerous steamers calling at ports large and small to pick up passengers and cargo. There were also regular ferries taking passengers and cargo between Gananoque and Clayton.

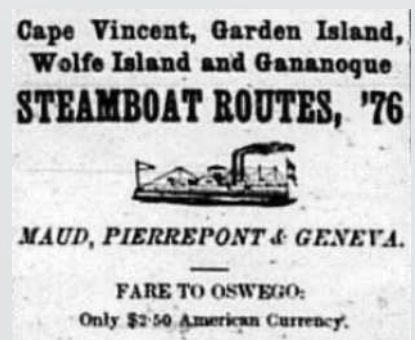
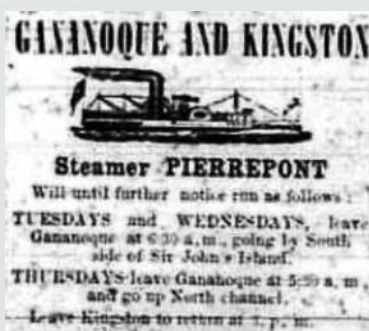
Tour boats, though, weren't an invention of the 1940s and 1950s. They came much earlier. Aside from the regular passenger steamers, there were other ships that specialized in excursions up and down the river as early as the 1870s. One popular day excursion was from Gananoque to the Park on Wellsley Island. Hundreds of Gananoqueans made the outing during the summer season. Some excursions went farther afield. In June of 1888 the Gananoque Brass Band organized a successful trip from Gananoque to Ogdensburg and back aboard the St. Lawrence operated by Capt. Estes, which



specialized in such excursions. A Gananoque Reporter article reported that the St Lawrence excelled in accommodating large parties or long distances and was equipped with a large dining room catered by an experienced staff operated by Joseph Bradley.

Other trips were of a more local nature and some could be quite spontaneous. And it appears that many in Gananoque were ready to party at the drop of a hat. One such trip was to the opening of Tremont Park, just off Gananoque, also in June of 1888. Tremont Park was a seasonal subdivision on Tidds Island, now called Tremont Island. A Reporter article covering one large such party provided the following details:


“Owing to the threatening state of the weather on Wednesday evening, the opening of Tremont Park did not take place, and as it showed no signs of clearing off, no future date was announced. On Thursday afternoon, however, every indication pointed to a clear evening and it was decided to have the opening that night. It was then too late to advertise the fact, and the first notice a majority of those who attended had that the opening would take place was when the band played down the street to the dock. Notwithstanding this, a large party assembled on the grounds. Besides the 250 passengers carried by the St Julian on her half hourly trips, there were no less than 165 skiffs, by actual count, landed at the Park at one time. The Park was beautifully illuminated with white and coloured lanterns and looked very pretty from the Gananoque shore. Dancing was indulged in till about 11 o'clock, to music furnished by the Carriage Works Brass Band orchestra. The evening was still and clear and the music and calls could be plainly heard in any part of the village.”



# Kehoe Marine – Proudly Serving Waterfront Customers for Over 20 Years!

By: TIA Supporter, Kehoe

At Kehoe Marine, our focus has always been on helping you get the most out of your waterfront. As we grow and evolve, so does our ability to serve you better.

 [www.kehoemarine.com](http://www.kehoemarine.com) 

Facebook: Kehoe Marine

Construction  Instagram:  
[@kehoemarineconstruction](https://www.instagram.com/kehoemarineconstruction)



**New Floating Dock Design! We've recently launched a new floating dock design that does not require pressure-treated lumber. This innovation not only enhances durability but also makes the dock virtually maintenance-free, a major win for both longevity and convenience.**



## NEW! Golden Tornado Boat Lifts

As a long-time Golden Boat Lifts dealer, we're proud to now offer an exciting new solution: a bottom-mount hydraulic boat lift that does not require dock support. This design provides greater flexibility in installation and is ideal for securing your boat, even in areas where traditional lifts are not feasible.

## Seaweed Removal Services

We've also added a new aquatic vegetation removal service. Many of our customers have voiced concerns about invasive weeds restricting their enjoyment of the water.

We're pleased to now offer a solution that is fully supported by regulatory agencies, helping to restore waterfront access in an environmentally responsible manner.



## Planning Ahead:

Marine construction projects can come with their challenges, many of them outside of our control. That's why we encourage early conversations—starting your project planning a year ahead gives us the time to help you navigate permitting, design, and construction with less stress and better results. Whether you're dreaming of a low-maintenance floating dock or embarking on a large, engineered build, we're here to guide you—every step of the way.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates as we continue to invest in improvements that support our team and allow us to serve you even better.



# TIA Community Board

River Talk is introducing the Community Bulletin Board to allow organizations, businesses and persons to post notices, events and meetings relevant to the River Community.



**Tall Ships are back!**  
**Brockville June 20-22, 2025**



## CPR & AED Certification

July 10, 2025  
10am-2pm  
Thousand Islands  
History Museum

Action First Aid.ca  
Empowering People to TAKE ACTION

**Mark your  
calendar for  
the July 19th  
AGM!**





From left Allie Regan, Lee and Peter VanSickle, Jean Dabros, Alec Turner

**TIA  
supporters  
help out at the  
Gananoque  
Rotary Club's  
Great Lakes  
Watershed  
Cleanup  
April 26, 2025**



**Collins Bay Marina**

**Safety Day - June 14th  
12-3pm**

**Gananoque  
Farmers Market  
is back!  
Town Park  
Thursdays  
4pm-7pm**



**TIA has turtle nest protectors  
available for anyone who has a nest  
that needs to be protected.  
Contact: Jean Dabros or Alec Turner**





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