

# RIVER TALK

may / june 2026



**AGM ANNOUNCEMENT  
BENEATH THE SURFACE  
FIRE PUMP INITIATIVE  
INVASIVE SPECIES - TENCH**



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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 awareness and supporting the interests of the Community for the benefit of the 1000 Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

# From the Editor

**It's great to have the summer on our horizons again. The boat is in the water, the cottage is opened, friend weekends have been booked, theatre tickets have been purchased and there is lots of sun to anticipate.**

**As we think forward to the sunny days, we can't forget to think about the lists of precautions we need to take every year to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe on the river. The police are usually blitzing early in the season to remind us to have our boats stocked with the proper equipment, and TIA is here to help with the rest.**

**A safe and fun summer is what it's all about!**

*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



**Another season dawns along  
the magnificent “Manitouana”!**

There is something timeless and deeply reassuring about spring in the “Garden of the Great Spirit” and the return to the familiar sounds and sights that generations have treasured – the haunting call of the loon across the water at dusk, the return of osprey and herons to their nesting grounds, the blossoming of wildflowers along the shoreline, and the fresh green canopy emerging once again over the Islands.

TIA continues to deliver on its mission of Community Support. Given the resounding success of the 2025 Fire Pump Initiative last year – thanks in good part to its integration with the Dock to Door Program of the Leeds 1000 Islands Fire Services – the program will be repeated and expanded this summer. For those who missed it, here is the link to the CBC coverage of the 2025 program. Read more in this issue about TIA Fire Pump 2026 Initiative - the Neighbourhood Network Program.

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 \$2,860.00, and the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands (TLTI) awarded TIA \$8,580.00. The unit cost of a replacement rock marker including anchoring material has increased to \$572.00. TIA will be self-

funding about \$5,720.00 this year as a condition to receiving these grants to purchase 30 replacement markers. These markers are an important reminder of TIA's longstanding commitment to river safety, stewardship, and community service throughout the Thousand Islands.

Mark your calendars! On Thursday, July 9, TIA is once again offering a 4-hour CPR and AED Certified Training Session at the 1000 Islands History Museum from 10am to 2pm. Space is limited to 21 participants, so register early under the Community Support section of our website: [Register for CPR Training](#)

SAVE THE DATE! TIA AGM Chair Alec Turner is hard at work organizing our Annual General Meeting and breakfast to be held on Saturday, July 18, 2026 on the waterfront at the Gananoque Playhouse Theatre - details in this issue.

Attention Island Patriots! Organizer Dan McWilliam is pleased to announce the Dock, Deck & Den Tour will be back for the 2026 river season on Saturday, August 8, 2026. The first step is to recruit ten (10) members to volunteer their cottage property as a stop over destination on this memorable event. This year, we are looking for Patriots from the Lake Fleet, Navy Group and Ivy Lea Islands to promote engagement beyond the Admiralty Group in our river community - feel free to connect with Dan at [mail@danmcwilliam.com](mailto:mail@danmcwilliam.com) - details in this issue.

If you have not already, please renew your 2026 tax-deductible TIA membership. Your continued support makes everything we do possible. Please renew online at <https://www.thousandislandsassociation.com/membership/>

**Read on for more River Talk!**

# Renew Your TIA Membership Today

Welcome to another year and a new beginning on the river! Founded in 1934, and now more than 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.**

# TIA's 2026 AGM



## **Thousand Islands Association Hot Breakfast and Social followed by TIA's Annual Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: Doug Richardson, TLTI Fire Prevention Officer**

**Saturday July 18th at the 1000 Islands Playhouse  
Save the Date and Sign up Now !!**

**Pre-Payment for Breakfast is Required: Adults \$16.99 Children (<10) \$8.99**

### The Breakfast & Social

Join us for TIA's  
Social Event of the Year

Registration Opens: 8:00  
Breakfast Starts: 8:30

TIA Full Hot Breakfast  
with remarks by local  
Dignitaries at 9:15

Tim Hallman  
Playing Live Island Tunes

### The AGM

Opening Remarks 10 am  
Followed by our Guest Speaker

**Doug Richardson**

Presenting: When the Road Ends...

Emergency Response  
in the 1000 Islands.



Doug will provide us  
with critical insight to  
emergency response in  
the 1000 Islands and  
how to best prepare  
should an emergency  
situation occur.

### Door Prizes

Robert Alvo's Book  
"Being a Bird in North America"

TIA Gear Packages

Local Artist's Prints

50/50 Draw

Attend the AGM to WIN !!

Also attending are...

Parks Canada R.A.R.E

TIWLT

TLTI's Fire Boat

Get the Lead Out

TIA's Programs Display

Get your TIA Gear too !

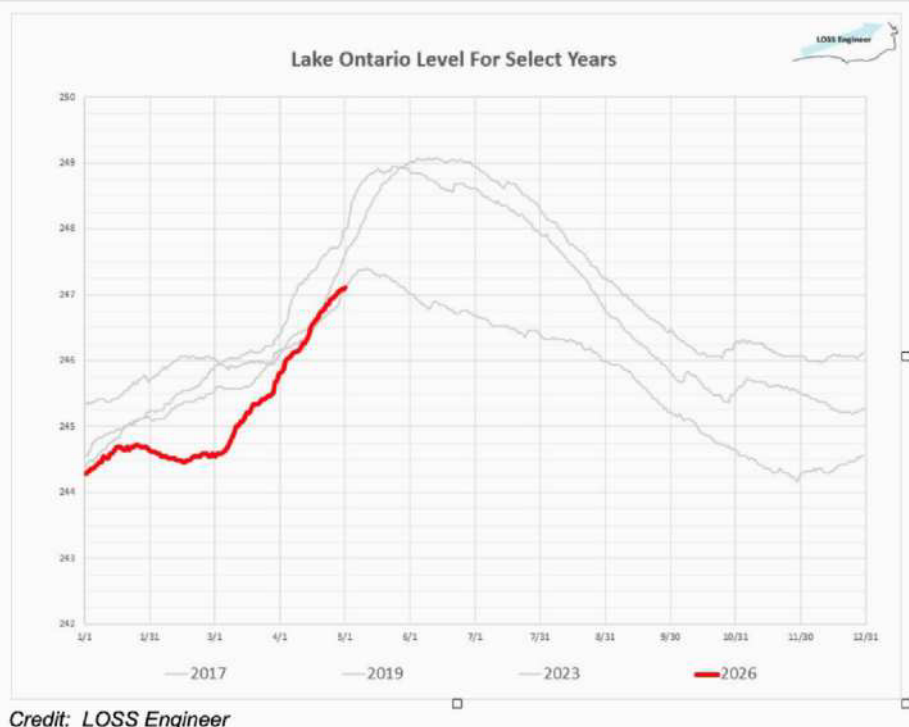
**Click Here to Sign up Now &  
Order your Hot Breakfasts!!**

# Level Looks to Stay Above Average for 2026

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

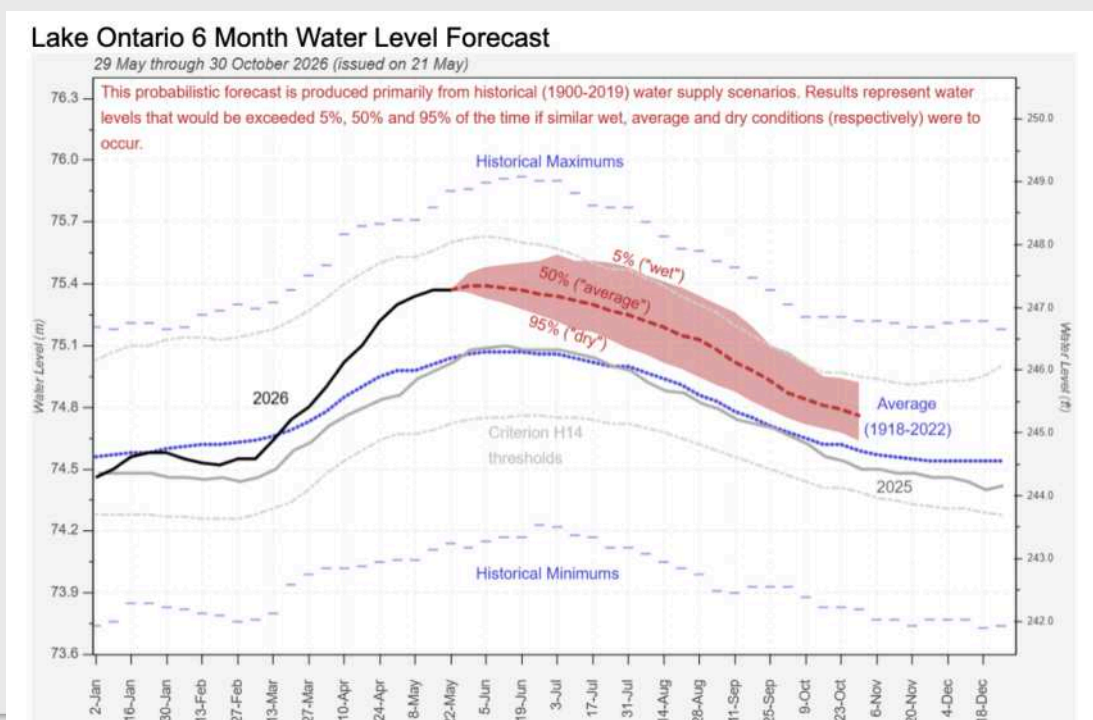
If we turn back the clock to May 1st, all things water levels were looking more than a bit scary for the remainder of spring and the summer. Water levels were rising FAST – Lake Ontario rose approximately 2.5 feet / 75 centimeters in just 8 weeks. Inflows to Lake Ontario (Net Total Supply – the combination of flows from Lake Erie, precipitation, and runoff) were well above average for nearly two months, the Ottawa River flows were setting record highs for late April, and St. Lawrence River outflows at the Moses Saunders Dam were reduced to help prevent flooding downriver. Was 2026 going to be another 2017/2019 year of exceptionally high water and flooding (top 2 curves)? Or might it instead be a year like 2023, where levels shot up rapidly, but then conditions shifted quickly in May,

giving us a very nice summer in the 1000 Islands? Here's a chart showing 2026 in red vs. those other 3 years in gray – you can see how all of them have similar steep rises in levels: We're near the 2023 peak right now!



Fast forward about 3 ½ weeks to today, May 25th, as we write this article, and it appears that important conditions have changed rapidly like in 2023. 1) Total inflows to Lake Ontario dropped to much-closer-to-average levels, 2) Ottawa River flows dropped down to a more average range of flows and didn't have a second large peak, and 3) St. Lawrence River outflows at the Moses Saunders Dam were able to be increased back up to Plan 2014-calculated outflows as the risk of downriver flooding abated. The risk of another 2017/2019 kind of year, thankfully, became a very remote possibility.

So where do we go from here? As is usually the case in the spring, it all depends on the weather! That said, all signs point to a year with plenty of water throughout the River season. As can be seen below in the most recent forecast below issued on May 21st, the levels between 5% “wet” and 95% “dry” conditions all remain well above average throughout the summer and into the fall. Is it going to be perfect for everyone? No, and it never is – for example, those with lower docks have already been having trouble with the relatively high water. However, many with shallow water have been rejoicing at the abundance of depth at their locations. All in all, it's shaping up to be a great season of water levels for the 1000 Islands!



TIA Supporter

# C-Tow Marine Assistance



For over 40 years, C-Tow Marine Assistance has been keeping Canadian boaters safe, confident, and on the water. Founded in 1984 by Jim MacDonald and Steve Ackles – inspired by a gap in Canadian Coast Guard recreational services – C-Tow was built on a simple belief: boaters deserve reliable, professional help when they need it most.

What started as a vision to support recreational boaters has grown into Canada's largest marine assistance network, with more than 10,000 members coast to coast. For boaters navigating the beautiful waters of the Thousand Islands and the St. Lawrence River, C-Tow is the name they trust.

C-Tow provides 24/7 on-water assistance, including towing, fuel delivery, soft ungroundings, battery boosts, and more. Our professional captains are local mariners who know Ontario waters – because being rescued by someone who understands your surroundings makes all the difference.

## **The Commander Membership – Built for Ontario Boaters**

The Commander Plan is designed for Ontario boaters, providing coverage from May 1 to October 31 each year. For just \$160/year, members receive:

2 tows per year

Unlimited service calls

20% off at the C-Tow Marine Store & exclusive partner discounts

Access to our **NEW, free mobile app** with GPS dispatch and live captain tracking

### **New: The C-Tow App**



Our revamped mobile app puts everything at your fingertips – GPS-based dispatch, live captain tracking, marine weather, and direct communication with our team. Getting help on the water has never been faster.

The Thousand Islands is one of Ontario's most treasured boating destinations, and we're proud to support every boater who calls it home. Visit us at [www.c-tow.ca](http://www.c-tow.ca) Call us 24/7: 1-888-419-2869 Email: [info@c-tow.ca](mailto:info@c-tow.ca)

# TIA Trash Free River Clean-up

By: Jean Dabros, Alli Regan

A big thanks to the dedicated volunteers who came out to support the TIA Trash Free River event that was held on Saturday, May 23rd. Your efforts to keep our River clean are commendable and we appreciate the support.

Among the numerous volunteers was none other than the Mayor of Leeds and the Thousand Islands, Corinna Smith-Gatcke



Special thanks to 1000 Islands Kayaking and Whaley Marine not only for their time but barges too, moving both people and trash!

We are happy to report that a trailer's worth of garbage has been properly disposed of!



# Beneath the Surface of the St. Lawrence River

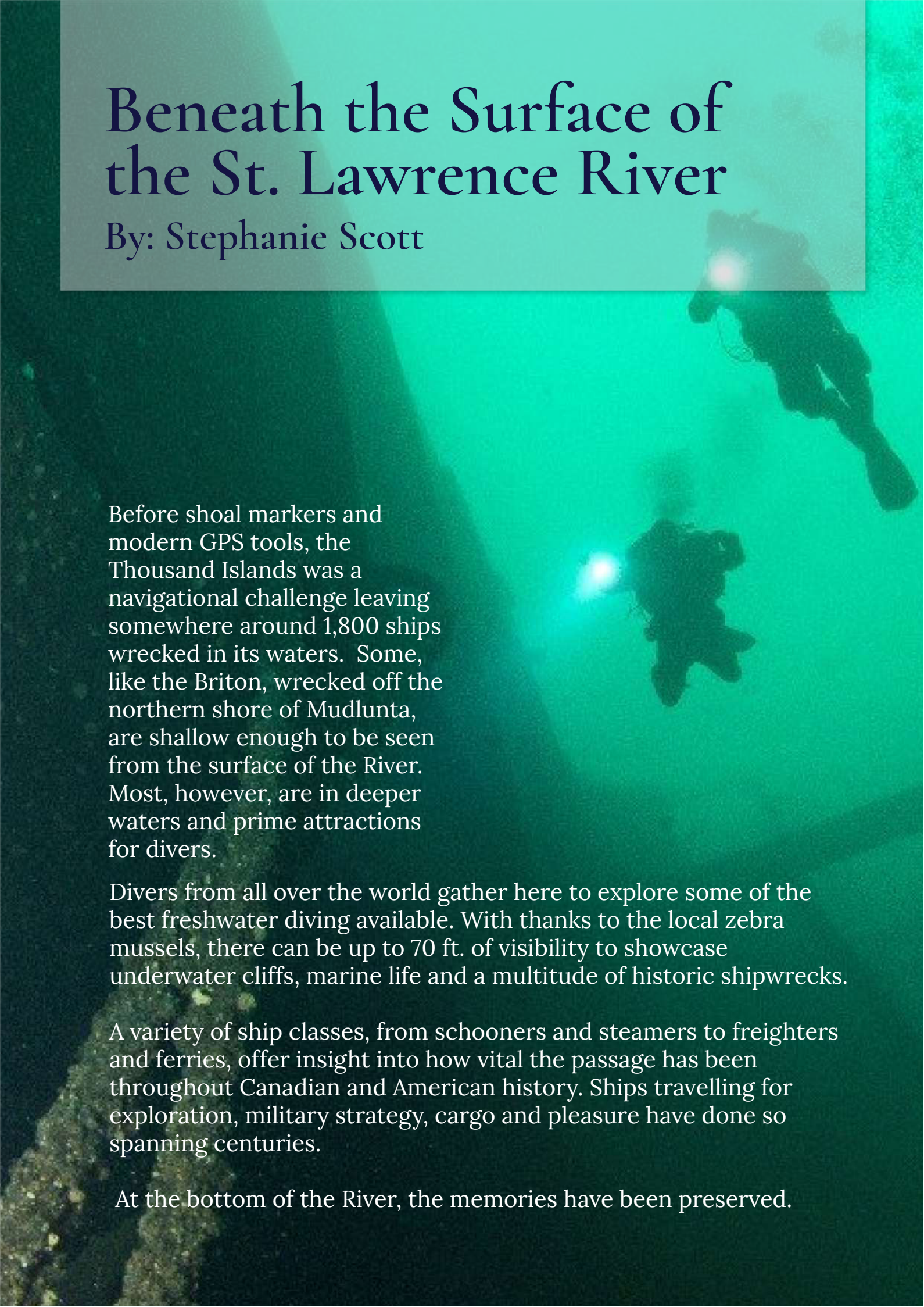
By: Stephanie Scott

Before shoal markers and modern GPS tools, the Thousand Islands was a navigational challenge leaving somewhere around 1,800 ships wrecked in its waters. Some, like the Briton, wrecked off the northern shore of Mudlunta, are shallow enough to be seen from the surface of the River. Most, however, are in deeper waters and prime attractions for divers.

Divers from all over the world gather here to explore some of the best freshwater diving available. With thanks to the local zebra mussels, there can be up to 70 ft. of visibility to showcase underwater cliffs, marine life and a multitude of historic shipwrecks.

A variety of ship classes, from schooners and steamers to freighters and ferries, offer insight into how vital the passage has been throughout Canadian and American history. Ships travelling for exploration, military strategy, cargo and pleasure have done so spanning centuries.

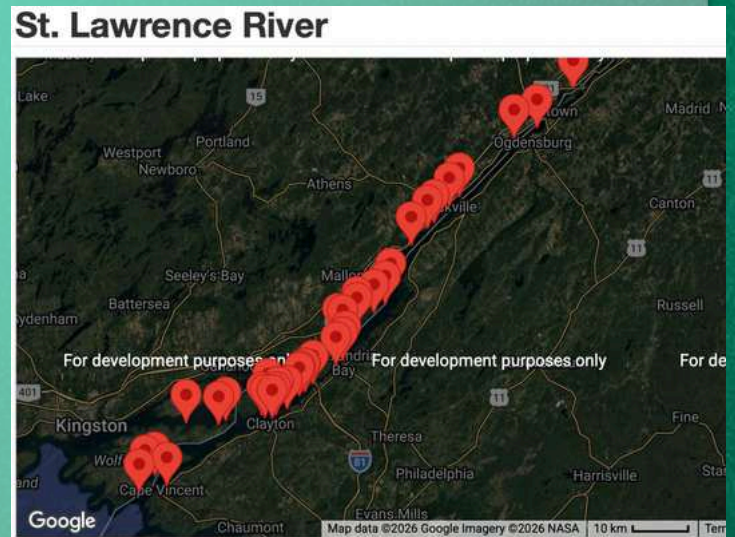
At the bottom of the River, the memories have been preserved.



## Want to know more about the shipwrecks of the River?

Details of some of the more notable shipwrecks are Google-able or available at your local library.

Depending on your search parameters, there are more than 42 shipwrecks listed on ShipwreckWorld.com. The website's interactive map provides the ship's names, longitude and latitude coordinates of its resting place and the date it sunk.



### Some popular diving spots in the St. Lawrence include:

**The Iroquois (HMS Anson)** - French built in 1759, sunk 1763

**The Maggie L** -90-foot schooner, sunk November 1927

**Eastcliffe Hall** - 343-foot freighter, sunk 1970

**AE Vickory** - 1861 three masted schooner, sunk August 17, 1889

**The America** - steel drill barge, sunk June 20, 1932

**Wolfe Islander II** - 1946 80-foot car ferry, sunk September 21, 1985

**The Keystorm** - 2300 ton English steamer, sunk October 12, 1912

**Lillie Parsons** - 2 masted centerboard schooner, sunk August 5, 1877

**The Muscallonge** - 245 ton tug, sunk August 15, 1936

**There are so many wrecks, you may be passing over one or two on your regular route and not even know it!**

## Meet an underwater River Clean-up Crew

# The Thousand Islands Divers Alliance (TIDA)

By: Todd D. Keister



The Thousand Islands Divers Alliance, known as TIDA and headquartered in Alexandria Bay, is a new nonprofit organization created to support the health, safety, and long-term stewardship of the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

Founded by local divers who saw a need for organized underwater cleanup, public education, and responsible access to the River's historic dive sites, TIDA brings together recreational divers, community partners, municipalities, and conservation-minded residents with a shared goal: to preserve, protect, and improve the underwater environment of the Thousand Islands.

TIDA's work focuses on underwater debris removal and cleanup projects, diver safety and public awareness, responsible recreational diving, and protection of the region's historically significant shipwrecks. The organization is also developing citizen-science and environmental monitoring projects that allow divers to collect useful observations about water clarity and underwater conditions.

Although TIDA is a young organization, it has already received encouraging community support. Recent grant support from the Northern New York Community Foundation and Stewart's Shops is helping TIDA expand volunteer recruitment, safety education, and public awareness efforts. TIDA is also proud to partner with Save The River, providing underwater support for River-focused events and

working alongside one of the region's leading environmental organizations.

One of TIDA's current priorities is improving public awareness of diver-down flag safety through shoreline signage at popular boating and diving locations. The organization is also working with local partners on improvements at the Islander dive site in Alexandria Bay, including safer shore access, shoreline beautification, and environmental stewardship.

TIDA welcomes support from volunteers, sponsors, waterfront businesses, municipalities, and anyone who cares about protecting the River above and below the surface.

To learn more, volunteer, or support TIDA's work, visit [www.tidivers.org](http://www.tidivers.org) or follow us on Facebook under [tidiversalliance](#). For more information, contact Todd D. Keister, Founder/Director, at [info@tidivers.org](mailto:info@tidivers.org).



“A TIDA dive team poses with more than 200 pounds of debris removed from the River bottom following an operation along the Alexandria Bay shoreline”

# TIA Supporter Riva Restaurant



In 2013 Riva opened its doors at 45 King St West in Gananoque, in the historic stone Parmenter house, which had previously been home to The Golden Apple restaurant and tea room– a beloved staple in the community for over 60 years. Today, Riva operates as a casual fine dining Italian restaurant serving authentic pastas, pizza, and traditional dishes from all over Italy. Featuring an extensive wine list, indoor fireplaces, acoustic music nights, and a secluded garden patio, the space has become a favourite gathering place among those celebrating all the flavours of life. Riva serves both lunch and dinner 7 days a week. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling the restaurant at 613-887-2487 or visiting [www.rivarestaurant.ca](http://www.rivarestaurant.ca)

# 2026 Dock, Deck & Den Tour



**When:** August 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm

**Where:** up to 10 locations  
along the River

**What:** a freeform, progressive  
dock party/social event.

The Dock, Deck & Den Tour is your chance to meet those islanders you've been politely waving to for the last 30 years. An opportunity to take a closer look at that boathouse you've always admired. Maybe stroll through a riverfront garden, or a chance to safely navigate a new part of the river.

Simply, it's a fun chance to meet your island neighbours while supporting the TIA.

## CALL for HOSTS!

**We are still looking for a few more Patriots to host this social event.**

If you are open to sharing your Dock, Deck or Den for a day of socializing with your Island neighbours, email Dan today.





# TIA's 2026 Fire Pump Initiative and Neighbourhood Network Program (NNP)

By: Jim Côté, Chair, River Safety

Given the resounding success of the 2025 Fire Pump Initiative last year – thanks in good part to its integration with the Dock to Door Program of the Leeds 1000 Islands Fire Services – the program will be repeated and expanded this summer. For those who missed it, here is the link to the CBC coverage of the 2025 program.

To recap, last year TIA donated two portable fire pumps to Leeds 1000 Islands Fire Services. These pumps were used in several demonstration clinics by the Fire Prevention Team, headed by Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) Doug Richardson and Station Captain Peter Evans. In these clinics, islanders are given a presentation on best practices in fire prevention on islands, the benefits having a pump on hand to contain island fires, and a primer on pump use and maintenance. For those interested, hands-on experience in using a portable pump for fire containment is provided.

Demonstration clinics are scheduled for the locations and dates listed below, beginning at 9:00 AM and running until 12:00 at the latest, depending on the interests of those in attendance. Note that these demonstrations are open to all, but those on islands nearby each location will find them more convenient to attend.

**Sat. June 27, Ivy lea Government Dock, 117 Ivy Lea Road  
(come by boat or car)**

**Sat. July 25, Troughton Island**

**Sat. Aug. 8, Juniper Island**

The expansion of the TIA Fire Pump Initiative this summer will involve a pilot program – the Neighbourhood Network Program (NNP) – in three island groups (Admiralty, Lake Fleet, Navy). This program is designed to establish a system for mapping the locations of all portable water pumps that can be used to fight local island fires until Fire Services arrive in their fire-fighting boats. Several people have volunteered in each island group to be “skippers.” These skippers will canvass their neighbours to determine who already owns a pump but also to emphasize the importance of having (well-maintained) portable fire pumps for emergency preparation on islands. If you have a cottage in one of these three island groups, you can look forward to being contacted by your local skipper, who will explain the program and its benefits in greater detail. Based on lessons learned, this program will be expanded to more island groups in the future.

If you any questions, or want to know more, email:  
[fireprevention@townshipleeds.on.ca](mailto:fireprevention@townshipleeds.on.ca)  
or [markerwatchers@gmail.com](mailto:markerwatchers@gmail.com)



# TIA Supporter Concord Homes



Concord Homes has proudly been building and renovating homes for more than 27 years, with over 15 years of experience working throughout the Thousand Islands region. Over the decades, we've built a reputation for quality craftsmanship, attention to detail, and a commitment to creating spaces that reflect both our clients' vision and the unique character of the river community.

Concord Homes offers a full-service approach to construction, guiding clients through every stage of the process — from initial design concepts and permitting through to construction and final completion. For clients who already have a designer or architect, we are equally happy to collaborate as part of the team to help bring the project to life. Whether you're starting with a vision on paper or simply an idea, we can help streamline the process and serve as your first — and only — stop when it comes to your project.

Our services include custom new builds, renovations, additions, kitchens, bathrooms, exterior upgrades, and full project management from concept through completion. Whether restoring a seasonal cottage, expanding a family home, or building a custom waterfront retreat, our goal is always to deliver a high-quality finished product and a positive building experience.

As a Tarion Warranty registered builder, Concord Homes is committed to professionalism, transparency, and long-term quality. We take pride not only in the homes we build, but also in the relationships we've established within the Thousand Islands community over the years.

We are grateful for the continued support from homeowners and local partners throughout the region and look forward to serving the community for many years to come.

To learn more about Concord Homes, visit [www.concordhomes.ca](http://www.concordhomes.ca) or contact us at 613-384-0033 or [info@concordhomes.ca](mailto:info@concordhomes.ca).

# 2026 Business Sponsorship Packages

Business support helps TIA fulfill its mission to the river community and its flagship program of maintaining more than **200** shoal markers essential to the safety of local boaters.

## Captain Level **\$200**

- One year business membership to TIA
- Social media mention on TIA socials
- Your logo hyperlinked on TIA webpage

## Admiral Level **\$500**

- One year business membership to TIA
- Social media mention on TIA social
- Your logo hyperlinked on TIA webpage
- Acknowledgement at TIA AGM
- Hyperlinked logo in 6 issues of River Talk
- Invitation to submit an article about your business for inclusion in a River Talk issue



**CLICK TO  
SUPPORT ONLINE**



**REQUEST AN  
INVOICE**





Photos from <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/invasives/tiered-species-list/tench/>

## Invasive Species Focus

# Tench

By: Jean Dabros

One of the most frustrating aspects of invasive species is that many of them are fairly widespread, well established and extremely difficult to remove or completely eradicate (they are, after all, invasive!). This species, the Tench, is one that is currently expanding its range up the St. Lawrence River towards the Laurentian Great Lakes, and we can help stop its spread.

The Tench (*Tinca tinca*) is a fish native to Europe and Western Asia that was brought to the U.S. as a sport and food fish. It has become well established in the U.S. Mississippi Watershed and the Columbia River in British Columbia. In 1991 Tench was illegally introduced by an unlicensed fish farm to the Richelieu River, a tributary of the St. Lawrence, where it has since proliferated. Commercial fisherman reported an exponentially increased rate of capture in the St. Lawrence fluvial lake, Lac St. Pierre. A recent issue of the Save the River Newsletter sought to draw attention to Tench by citing a study from McGill University, highlighting four fishing methods to best sample Tench in its introduced range

Tench prefer low flow, vegetated areas and compete for habitat space with native fish notably: Emerald Bowfin, Pumpkinseed, Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Brown Bullhead and Blacknose Shiner. They root around in the mud for food, which destroys native habitats and makes the water so cloudy that native plants struggle to grow

It is expected in Canada that biodiversity loss would also be a by-product of a Tench invasion which would be notable in terms of fewer native species living in suitable Tench habitats.

## How to identify Tench (*Tinca tinca*)



### Distribution of tench in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River



### Why are tench a problem?

Tench impact aquatic food webs, outcompete native fish, increase water turbidity by stirring up sediments, contribute to algal blooms, and introduce non-native parasites.

*Early detection of Tench is extremely important in preventing its spread into the Great Lakes basin. If you think you have caught (or seen) a Tench please contact the toll-free Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or visit [invadingspecies.com](http://invadingspecies.com) to report a sighting. Take photos and do NOT release it back into the water.*



# CPR & AED Certification

July 9, 2026

10am-2pm

Thousand Islands  
History Museum

**Action First Aid.ca**  
Empowering People to TAKE ACTION



**\$70**  
/person

Register today.  
Limited spaces.

**CLICK TO  
REGISTER ONLINE**



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**

# TIA Supporter St. Lawrence Cruise Lines



In response to a sold out 2026 season, the North American river cruising, Canadian-based small ship operator St. Lawrence Cruise Lines has started taking reservations for the 2027 cruise season.

“We are extremely pleased with the demand for 2026 cruises on the CANADIAN EMPRESS. It is obvious that small ship river cruising is alive and well, and we are striving to meet that demand by making 2027 cruises available now.” said President Jason Clark.

Some of the factors that are impacting consumer demand is a growing recognition of the benefits of small ship cruising, and the ability of smaller cruise vessels to offer a more private, intimate experience with a focus on safety, comfort and relaxation. However, perhaps the great impact on demand is from Canadians who are determined to travel in Canada and support Canadian-owned businesses.

The cruise line operates a single vessel, the classic riverboat CANADIAN EMPRESS, which features 32 staterooms with twin fixed beds, private bathrooms, and easy access to fresh air and a view of the river. The 2027 cruise schedule will run from May to October and will feature 4, 5, 6, and 7 night calm water cruises with departures from Kingston, Ottawa, and Quebec City.

Bookings for the 2027 season are now open and travellers may call 1-800-267-7868 for booking availability or to request the schedule and rates for the upcoming season. Additional information is available at [www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com](http://www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com).

# Agnes Maule Machar

By Karen Wand

Let's get acquainted with this truly remarkable woman



Agnes Maule Machar was a quaint figure from the 1800s who owned a 17-acre forest in the west-end waterfront of Gananoque. Locally known as Machar's Woods, the area has been a place of fond memories for generations of children who explored the woods. Just who was this person that these woods were named after?

Agnes Maule Machar was born in Kingston on January 23, 1837, to Reverend John Machar, a Scottish Presbyterian minister who co-founded and served as an early principal of Queen's University. Her mother, Margaret Sims, devoted her life to religious and charitable activities in Kingston, greatly influencing her daughter's thoughts and values.

Miss Machar began writing at an early age, and although discouraged by her mother, she went on to become a prolific poet, novelist, essayist, historian, and journalist. She adopted the pen name Fidelis to signify her commitment to Christian faithfulness and possibly to hide her activities from her mother. She was an honorary member of the Canadian Women's Press Club and the first to conduct a woman's column in any Canadian newspaper.

She divided her time between Kingston and her beloved summer property, Ferncliff, located in Gananoque. She leased Ferncliff in 1873 from mutual friends Alexander Campbell and the family of George Romanes, who were prominent residents of Kingston. After Alexander Campbell's passing, Miss Machar bought the property for herself. Her home is located on a prominent, wooded bluff overlooking the river, adjacent to Bay Road. She welcomed children to her property with one simple rule: they were not allowed to pick the flowers.

Miss Machar became one of the most gifted, intellectual and social critics in late nineteenth-century Canada, despite the limited formal education available to her. In her lifetime, Miss Machar was recognised as a writer, historian, poet, social activist, humanitarian, artist and environmentalist.

Agnes Maule Machar passed away a day after her 90th birthday, January 24, 1927. A passage from *The Kingston Whig-Standard* published a few days after her death nicely sums up her remarkable character:

Only those who were given accidental glimpses of her real mind, and who stumbled upon an action of deep wisdom or of broad sympathy, knew Miss Machar for what she really was – a woman of keen, well-trained brain, of a rare tolerance for a sinner and an indefatigable worker for those who could do nothing for themselves. Many a time this little woman, quaint in her dress and perhaps eccentric in some things, became an effective thorn in the side of those who would oppress or neglect the poor. Many an overbearing landlord cowered, many an institutional committee mended its ways, when Miss Machar descended to righteous wrath; and many a poor beast was saved from suffering through her influence upon the children in the schools, and upon masters who were more thoughtless than they were deliberately cruel.

# 6 Summer Boredom Busters



## DIY Tie Dye

Set up outside and dye your own cotton t-shirts, socks or pillowcases in fun colours. Find dyes at your local dollar store or Michaels. \*Supervision recommended!



## Explore Local History

Take a day trip to the local museums or research ShipwreckWorld.com and discover more about the local area. Consider a boat trip to explore further.



## Fishing Contest

Turn your regular fishing day into a tournament. Set a time limit and have awards for most fish caught, largest catch or most seaweed reeled in.



## Try Geocaching

Join the world's largest treasure hunt! Download the app to explore your local area. If nothing is near you, why not set out your own treasure for people to find.



## Bake with Scavenged Berries

Take those freshly picked raspberries or huckleberries and throw them into muffins or make mini pies to snack on. Find small batch recipes online here.

## Night-time Glow Swim

Grab some glow sticks and head to the river for a fun night-time swim. Be sure to have this activity well supervised and choose a safe location for the most fun.



# Congrats to the Winners of the 2026 TIA Scholarship

TIA awards two scholarships in memory of TIA supporters John Taylor and Marjorie Heagy, one for a Canadian student and one for an American student. Each of the winners receive \$1,000 towards their post secondary education.

This year's recipients are:

**Asia Johnston-McBride**

St. Mary Catholic High School, Brockville

Post-Secondary Education Plans: Bachelor of Health Science at Western University

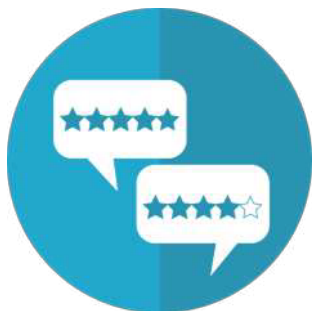
**Sophia Cohen**

Thousand Islands Central School, Clayton

Post-Secondary Education Plans: Binghamton University's Harpur College of Arts and Sciences

We wish you continued success in your academic endeavours.

*We love to hear from you*



Your river experience matters to us. Send us an email with your thoughts, compliments, suggestions or your favourite summer picture. We love it all.

[thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com)

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