



OCTOBER 2021

RIVER TALK



RIVER SAFETY . ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS . COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our thanks to TIA member and friend, John N. Street,
for providing many of the images used in River Talk each month.

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October 2021 River Talk





TIA Member and Friend, John N. Street was back in the islands for the first time since COVID-19 and shared these amazing photos with TIA President Peter Fitton



Do You Have A Favourite **River Photo** that brings back a special moment or memory?

If so, please share it with **TIA**

You can email it to us at: thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Fitton



Autumn in the 1000 Islands is like few others. The sun's rays warm the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario all summer, leading to warmer-than-you-expect fall temperatures perfect for outdoor enjoyment.

The crystal-clear waters of the river reflect the reds, oranges, and yellows of fall to create a mirrored, double-foliage effect. A good way to see the show is aboard a local tour boat, but equally beautiful to see during an October cruise in your boat on the river before closing the cottage and hauling the boat out to winterize.

On the mainland, there's no better time to savor the flavors of the region than fall, when the grapes and grains for wines, beers and spirits are harvested. Mix in a stop at a few of the many countryside vineyards or downtown breweries and tasting rooms to add a new element to your 1000 Islands experience.

October is known for its Halloween festivities, but it's also the month for Thanksgiving in Canada which lines up with Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day in the United States.

Everyone seems to know the story of the first American Thanksgiving in 1621, but do you know how Canadian Thanksgiving came about? In fact, the first Canadian Thanksgiving may have even pre-dated the Pilgrims' big meal.

The tradition of Thanksgiving originated with the harvest festival—an autumn celebration meant to show appreciation for the bountiful harvest of the season. However, Canadian Thanksgiving was originally less about celebrating the harvest and more about thanking God for keeping early explorers safe as they ventured into the New World.

In that sense of “thanks-giving,” the earliest report of such a dinner dates back to 1578, when English explorer Martin Frobisher and his crew held a special meal to thank God for granting them safe passage through northern North America, into what is today the Canadian Territory of Nunavut.

Today, the tradition of Thanksgiving has come full circle and is primarily seen as a time to gather the family, mark the start of autumn, and celebrate the good food of the season – a turkey dinner with stuffing and pumpkin pie.

Enjoy the fall weather and fellowship opportunities!





FROM THE EDITOR

Allison Burchell-Robinson

I spent a month on the island and would have spent more time if I weren't moving. It was refreshing, calming and invigorating. I couldn't wait to start work on all the tasks I had set before me. Plant flowers, no need there were three large baskets scattered about; rake up the pine needles, no a large pile was already there; take the furniture out of the dock house, no already out and set up, set up the outdoor shower, no done. What could I do? In the end not much more than relax. Who was responsible to my laid back and carefree existence? I am lucky to have a whole family watching out for and caring for my property for the last two years.

Subsequently I have heard similar stories how friends and neighbors pitched in to help make the "homecoming" warm and welcoming. One neighbor even lent his boat knowing that his neighbor's boat was back in the states. What a wonderful feeling pervades the whole region and one that will spread when the US opens its borders to our Canadian colleagues.

Earlier this year I wrote about creating a Community Watch program to take on the responsibility of checking on their neighbor whether next door, on another island or down or up the river. While this program has not been officially launched, unofficially the River Community is taking care of its own.

TIA has many areas where volunteers are needed. When joining or renewing all members can express their interest then or send us an email to thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com.

I read recently that a person moves on average eleven times in their lifetime. As of the end of this month I will have moved fifteen times. This is the last one although I will go back and forth to Canada with a much shorter commute and I'll have a river view for 365 days. It's exciting, it's new and right now it's exhausting.

Read the article from Janet Smith-Staples to learn what FLRS means. You can always count on learning from Stuart Arnett's article on our wildlife. Do you have an interest or concern you'd like us to explore and maybe write about?

River Talk will next appear in December.



ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Janet Smith-Staples - TIA Environmental Chair



TIA'S FISH LINE RECYCLING STATIONS

TIA's environmental pillar has been busy over the summer developing initiatives to help inform our community and protect our wildlife. One such initiative has been our Fishing Line Recycling Station.

When Stuart Arnett read about a program in Florida that placed receptacles in popular fishing areas to collect discarded fishing line to recycle/repurpose, he brought the idea to the environmental committee.

It wasn't long before Alec Turner, Dave McWilliam, Stuart Arnett and Annabel Cowan were discussing all the variables - how to design it so people couldn't throw trash inside, it needed proper drainage, it had to be easily mounted and easy to access the line inside. These discussions soon turned into action and fabrication of a prototype was soon in the works.



By early summer the committee presented a finished unit to the board – complete with fully designed decals and labeling; which not only included all relevant & important information --the clever design mirrored our shoal markers – how's that for brand awareness!?

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Janet Smith-Staples - TIA Environmental Chair



In July we installed a few units on the Canadian side, by August several more including 10 along the NY side through a partnership with **Save The River**. We're currently in talks with Parks Canada & St Lawrence Parks to have a number of units placed in popular fishing spots along The St Lawrence and the Rideau system. By spring 2022 we hope to have 25-30 units distributed throughout the region. For a listing of current Fishing Line Recycling Stations [CLICK HERE](#)



TIA's Fishing Line Recycling Stations (FLRS) have garnered over 3 pounds of fishing line which equates to 45,000 feet + or 9 miles of line feet that will be recycled through Berkley's in the USA. Also, future collections will be shared with Dupont (Kingston) who will experiment with the nylon line to see if we have the option to recycle locally.

Fishing line takes over 600 years to break down, it causes a slow and painful death to a variety of wildlife that can ingest it &/or get tangled up in it. If you Care to see the reality of line left in the environment, [CLICK HERE](#) or [CLICK HERE](#)

When you're ready to de-spool your fishing line for the season don't forget to recycle and if you are out walking and notice some line, please pick it up and drop it in one of the units!! Those who notice the littlest things can often make the biggest difference!

See you on the River!





IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING

Alec Turner and Dave McWilliam

Every dock has an impact on the environment. Of all the options for docks from traditional cribs, to cantilevers, to plastic barrels, to steel pontoons, they are all better than Styrofoam. Unencapsulated polystyrene foam whether it be white or blue inevitably breaks down and fragments, littering widely and never going away - just breaking down into microplastics. The recent second annual TIA River Clean-up Day turned up hundreds, if not thousands of little blue plastic fragments on all of our shorelines that likely had no other source than Styrofoam dock floats or billets.



As of May 2021, Keeping Polystyrene Out of Ontario's Lakes and Rivers Act www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/s21016 was passed which will prohibit unencapsulated expanded or extruded polystyrene in floating docks, floating platforms and buoys starting in May 2023.

Whether you reside in an area where a law or regulation exists or not, we should inspect our docks & rafts to determine the materials used and what sort of condition they are in, and then start making plans to switch out any Styrofoam that might be in use.

This is never an easy proposition as docks are expensive, and replacing them often requires extensive work. However, the replacement options will last longer, be safer, and be more environmentally friendly.



We are lucky in the Thousand Islands to have a number of excellent dock building companies along with sources of materials for the ever intrepid DIYer. For Dock Builders in our area check out TIA's list of Sponsors - **Thousand Islands Association**

Noteworthy News

CROSS BORDER COMMITTEE REPORT

Orm Murphy - TIA Board Member

The Canadian Border opened on August 9th, 2021 to fully vaccinated U.S. citizens. I have spoken to many of our members and generally the opening proceeded in an efficient and orderly manner. Even the crossing by boat seems to have occurred without delay or difficulty.

The COVID numbers remain relatively low on the Canadian side of the 1000 Islands and there is no indication of the spread of the disease from our American members who have recently arrived.

Unfortunately, our Canadian members are still restricted from attending their properties in the U.S. I am told that some Canadians have flown into the U.S. and then proceeded to their summer homes, subject to the quarantine restrictions. Many hoped that the U.S. would follow the Canadian lead on August 21st but this did not happen and as of the writing of this (September 15th) there is no evidence that anything will change on September 21st.

Whatever and wherever the final resolution occurs on the American side, it will be too late for this season. Hopefully all will be resolved next year.



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

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS I

Ken White - TIA Board Member



THE AMERICAN DAGGER MOTH CATERPILLAR

These critters fall into the "do not touch" category

They also have four, elegant, slender, black "pencils" of setae that extend out from the first and third abdominal segments. A fifth pencil of black bristles extends near the rear of the caterpillar. It is reputed that these pencils may break off and become embedded into skin. Toxins supposedly inside the hairs are reputed to cause a stinging sensation that may develop into a rash.

Caterpillars may grow as long as 2 inches and are often found on the soil near their host trees from July through late October.



Photo by Ken White - TIA Board Member

Here is the moth The American dagger moth, *Acronicta americana*, is so called because of markings on the forewing that resemble daggers (if you have a good imagination).

These moths have grayish-white setae on the wings and upper legs. The wings are marked with faint black zigzags and a narrow, black ring near the edge of each wing.

A faint white band along the edge of the forewings is marked with black spots.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS II

Stuart Arnett



THE DEERBERRY SHRUB A GEM OF THE ISLANDS

Well, if you didn't already know that the 1000 Islands was a special place to live and grow up in, here is one more reason to cherish the islands. Our 1000 Islands is home to 5 of the last 6 populations of the Deerberry Shrub in Canada.

Now this lonely shrub may not be the most exciting species to talk about, but no matter what one believes the combination of all of our distinct species make up the ecosystem of the 1000 Islands that we enjoy so much. The Deerberry is considered Threatened in Canada.

The Deerberry is an upright, spreading, deciduous shrub that belongs to the heath family and is quite closely related to blueberries and cranberries. The Deerberry flowers in early summer with clusters of pendant white flower which are attached to long slender stalks. The Deerberry is pollinated by bees and produces a fruit that is a greenish to bluish juicy berry that falls upon ripening.



The plant is typically propagated by its rhizomes which cause it to form colonies covering several metres in area. The growth by seed distribution has limited success and usually occurs when the fruit is eaten by birds and mammals which disperse the Deerberry seed in their droppings.

So, when you are out exploring the Islands of Lyndoch, Georgina, Endymion and the western part of Grenadier keep an eye out for this small shrub that is trying to survive and enjoy the Island Life like us.



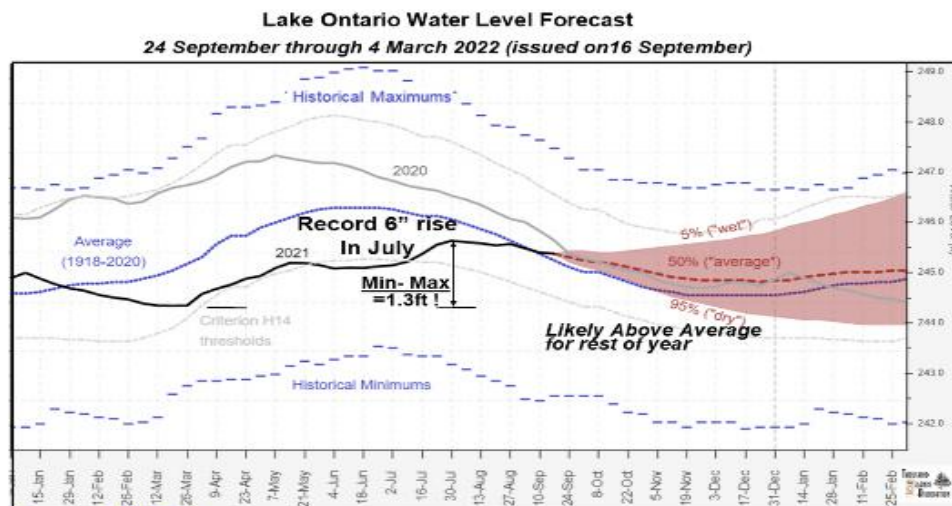
WATER LEVEL UPDATE

Water Levels Now Above Seasonal Average for the Rest of the Year

By TIA Water Levels Committee – White, Barton & Stewart

1) Current Level Update with 6 month Forecast

- We're now at AVERAGE Levels [for this time of year], likely continue into the fall
- Levels only rose 1.3 feet this season (Min-to-Max), a near-record low amount
- A 6" rise broke the record for the largest July level increase (was 4.5")



Source [LOSLRB](#) with additions by TIA – [Click graph or link and try the readout cursor!](#)

2) The Challenge of Forecasting - Precipitation, Evaporation & Weather. Why are water levels so difficult to predict and control?

We highly encourage all to watch the Sept 9th groundbreaking presentation by Dr. Andrew Gronewold, a noted hydrologist and authority on Great Lakes water levels. It is titled [“The Ups and Downs of Great Lakes Water Levels”](#) and was sponsored in part by [Save The River](#).

Do the big models give us any better information than using historical data? Dr. Gronewold demonstrated how all the international computer models confuse, rather than inform. They do not improve on the traditional forecast method of using long term historical records. He said:

"Nobody has found a pattern where there is a particular model, that does a particularly good job of forecasting precipitation, over an area as large as Lake Ontario, due to influences of things like the Jet Stream, due to movement of these large Continental Air Masses...it's just a really hard problem to solve."

3) The Water Levels Strategy for Fall Haul-out, Raising Lake St. Lawrence

See the ILOSLRB's announcement [HERE](#). We'll talk more next month about how this action has very little impact on our water levels in the Thousand Islands with the actual numbers.

4) For a PDF of the FULL ARTICLE click [HERE](#).



200

175

150

125

100

75

50

25



Help Us Reach This Year's Goal Of **200 New TIA Members**

Memberships Start At Just \$50 Per Year

CLICK HERE TO BECOME A MEMBER

**TIA's Flagship Program Is The Placement,
Maintenance And Removal Of 200
Rock Markers Each Season**



Watch for more detail on our 3rd Annual Fundraising Appeal in our
November/December River Talk.



TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors



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To learn more about any sponsor click on their logo



"This is my sister's (Brittany Marteniano) Portuguese Water Dog/puppy, Rio (Portuguese for 'river') had her maiden voyage to the 1000 Islands this weekend and it went swimmingly! Hopefully next year she'll be brave enough to go in without a life jacket. Photo taken on Minota, our family island in the Admiralty group."

Photo and caption supplied by Annabel Cowan September 2nd 2021

Thousand Islands Association

Due to seasonality, varying water levels, vandalism and equipment failure, the Thousand Island Association 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

