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RIVER TALK

RIVER SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT





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President's Message

Peter Fitton

Welcome to the start of another wonderful Fall on the river. A return to quieter times to watch wildlife migrate and prepare for winter.

September is known for return to school and routines, the start of harvest months and the fall equinox. To some that means getting darker earlier and coming inside to watch the start of another season of college and professional football!

Although it is sad to say summer is over, I embrace the fall season warm days, cool evenings, and the smell of smoke from the cottage fireplace. Did you know the first Sunday after Labour Day was declared by then President Jimmy Carter to be National Grandparents Day? Something to think about as generations enjoy their growing families and continue creating memories together.

On the river it was Trash Free River Clean-up Day on August 19. With the help of 39 volunteers (our biggest attendance on record) we visited the Parks Canada islands in the Admiralty Group and collected 300 lbs of trash and a trailer load of rotten pressure treated wood. No need to wait for an official TIA river clean-up event to practice waste management. Every day environmental awareness of the five R's: refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle helps to minimize the amount of waste we create, which will not only save money but conserve natural resources and energy as well.

Canadian Thanksgiving arrives on the second Monday in October which aligns with the end of the Canadian autumn harvest. Although six weeks ahead of than the American Thanksgiving we can celebrate the occasion together with international friendship on the river. Where do you gather, and what are your family traditions?

Many have started their annual ritual of hauling out their boats and closing the cottage for winter. Do you have a checklist so not to overlook important things – (click here) for a handy step-by-step guide published by an insurance carrier.

October is the month that TIA removes its rock markers. Thanks to our Grant Partners (click here) TIA is reinvesting with replacement rock markers and retiring those that the forces of nature have put into retirement. River Safety and Community Support are mission pillars of TIA.

Enjoy the Fall and your friends on the river!



Allison Burchell-Robinson

River Talk began in 2018 and here we are almost six years later. We've undergone some changes through the years, different formats, different covers, more articles and less pictures. One thing that has remained consistent is the contributors. We've lost a few and picked up one or two along the way but here are the mainstays of River Talk through the years.

Peter Fitton has been the President of the Thousand Islands Association since July 2019. His vision and determination brought the three pillars to life. Promoting River Safety, encouraging Environmental Awareness and support of the Community are now the cornerstones of our mission. Peter is involved with all programs and aspects of TIA.

Alec Turner and Dave McWilliam are the co-authors of "In Case You Were Wondering". Both are active with the Environmental Committee. Alec is also the Chair of the AGM committee and active with Business Sponsorships.

Ken White is a long-time member of the Board. He is the Chair of the Water Levels Committee and has worked tirelessly to keep the Board and you apprised of the current situation and predictions. Ross Stewart works alongside Ken and is a Member-at-Large. Vince Barton is the third member of the committee and is also Co-Chair of the Communications Committee. In addition, he manages our membership database and is responsible for River Talk arriving in your email box.

Janet-Smith-Staples is the Co-Chair of the Environmental Committee and under her leadership, the Turtle Nest Protectors, the FLRS and the now annual River Clean Ups came into being and continue to flourish. Stuart Arnett, the other Co-Chair is a well-known wildlife conservation artist and his paintings are often raffled at the AGM. He is the author of the Wildlife Corridor articles.

Orm Murphy is our longest serving Board member and served two terms as President. He was our behind-the-scenes man writing about the Border Closing. Jim Cote joined the Board in 2021 and immediately took over as Chair of the Shoal Marking program. Under his leadership this program has grown more and more sophisticated, complete with GPS locations, QR codes and identifying stickers.

And that leaves the Editor. I am also the Secretary/Treasurer and the Co-Chair of the Communications Committee.

In Case You Were Wondering...

...about the arrival of the electric boat

A sleek, modern electric speedboat with a dark blue and white hull is shown from a side profile, moving across a body of water. The boat has a low, aerodynamic design with a large windshield. A person is visible in the cockpit. The background shows a calm sea and a clear sky.

Dave McWilliam & Alec Turner

Certainly, the mobile phone and tablet have become as ubiquitous as battery powered tools...robot lawnmowers have found their way to our islands. Perhaps you already have an electric car. But when is the River likely to see electric vessels! We have all heard about diesel-electric powered commercial and military vessels on the St. Lawrence for decades, and now battery powered vessels are here...and more are coming.

Some years ago, we saw companies the likes of Minn Kota with electric trolling motors and Torqeedo producing electric outboards and now inboards.

Now we have a marine leader, Mercury Marine making their own electric Avator outboards with their sister company, VEER, launching a 13-foot two-seater manufactured from rotomolded polyethylene much like how many low cost kayaks are made.

Then there are the ever-increasing numbers of PWCs on the water, with a Montreal-based startup, Taiga Motors now producing the electric ORCA PWC promising zero emissions and zero noise for only \$20,000. USD. As for the PWC leader BRP, back in March of 2021, they announced they would offer electric models in each of its product lines by the end of 2026. "We have always said electrification was not a question of 'if' but a question of 'when' said José Boisjoli, President and CEO. A quick "Google" provides a glimpse at BRPs new Seadoo Rise, an electric hydrofoil, due next summer.

Electric motors deliver instant torque, fast and smooth acceleration that enhances the rider's experience. They are environmentally friendly producing no emissions, pollutants or greenhouse gases, reducing their impact on the environment and improving air and water quality.

Quieter operation makes them ideal for residential neighborhoods and nature reserves for a more enjoyable and considerate option for both riders and others in the area. Electric motors offer lower operating costs as they require no fuel and fewer maintenance requirements and fewer fluids to change with fewer moving parts. This may provide a longer lifespan. Reduced vibration of electric PWCs promise to provide be a smoother and more comfortable ride.

Promises... Promises... Are electric water craft the way of the future? Maybe.....

Do you already have an electric boat/PWC ? Please share your experience and a photo or two with us at thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com.

Getting Into the Green Scene



August 19th was our second and final river clean up of the season and our biggest group of volunteers to date. A big thanks to everyone who came out to spend their Saturday morning cleaning the shores of MacDonald Island, Aubrey Island, Beaurivage and Gordon Islands.

I've been thanked for initiating this event but questioned too – primarily with “Those are Park Islands; doesn't the government do that?” Sure, they have garbage pick-up and try to keep the main paths and campsites free of trash but they don't have the time or the manpower to do the kind of clean-up we do.

We had different groups on different islands, and each spent 3 hours looking through brush picking up cigarette butts, shot gun shells (which are now plastic & everywhere) plastic bags, old shoes, flip flops, chunks of polystyrene and much more. We combed the shoreline and in the rocky muck we found more trash and fishing line which is extremely deadly to wildlife.

My goal and the goal of all those who show up is to remove trash before it breaks down even more. It's being aware that even a little piece of plastic pollutes our river and that being a good steward of the land is what's important, not whose job it is or isn't.

Our first clean up this summer happened in June and was focused on the Parkway shoreline as well as some bay areas that are a catch all for trash that blows in off boats, islands, and docks. A good friend, who grew up on the River, joined me last June and was astounded at the amount of garbage we collected. Like me (after my first clean up with Save The River) she was hooked. When I gave her the agenda for the August clean-up, she only said “Great! I can't wait, I haven't been on a park island in years!” It's clear she loves the river and is happy to help keep it fishable, swimmable, and drinkable for generations to come!

300 pounds of bagged garbage and another 400 pounds of wood with nails and metal were removed from the River that morning. A huge thanks to those who came out that day – we really couldn't and can't do it without you!

Wildlife Corridor:

Fall Movement of Wildlife

Stuart Arnett



As Autumn approaches we start to see some wildlife that is typically hidden during the summer months. There are several reasons for this including bird migration, the search for wintering grounds, a more urgent search for food as well as the fact that the young, typically born in the Spring, no longer require adult supervision.

Blue Jays start to gather in groups, up to 20 birds, which consist of adults, their young and juvenile birds. They forage for food in these larger groups as they gradually make their way south to areas with more moderate wintering temperatures.

The Common Loon does the same before they leave in late fall for their ocean wintering waters. Our area loons typically migrate to the eastern shores of North and South Carolina.

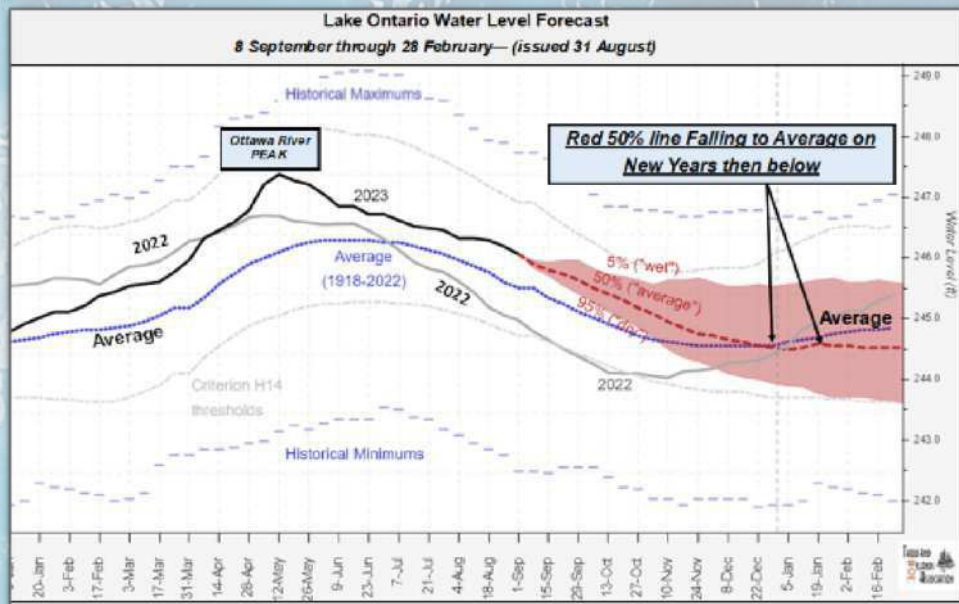
We often think of watching out for turtles in Spring during their annual egg laying adventures. There is however also a fall migration where turtles will start to seek out a better habitat for wintering purposes. Turtles don't truly hibernate, but they do "brumate". Turtles need to be in water deep enough that the temperature does not go below 1°C. The turtle's metabolism slows to the point where it only needs to breath through its skin and they can remain under water for several months. So in the fall turtles are searching out that ideal wintering pond.

Similar to us sending our kids off to school and college, most mammals will "kick" their young out on their own in late summer and early fall to fend for themselves. This is why in the fall you will see more young porcupines, raccoons, fox and other mammals crisscrossing our roads as they try to find their own winter territory and stock up on food supplies.

This fall, enjoy the cooler nights, the fall flowers and your garden harvest but remember when you are travelling to keep a watchful eye out for the movement of our wild friends.

Water Level Updates:

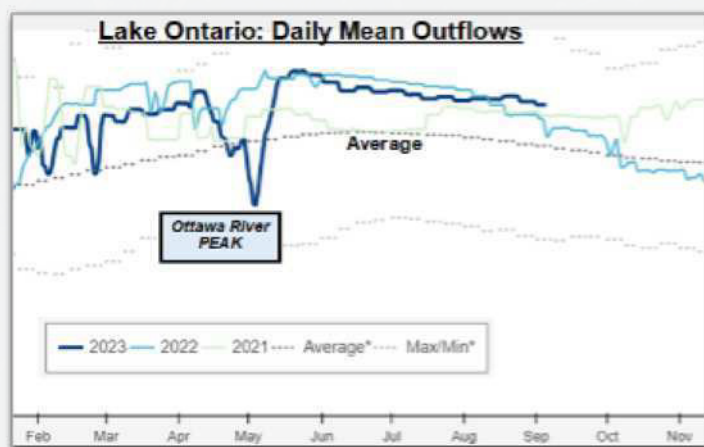
Remaining Above Average Until 2023 Year-End



Lake Ontario Water Level Forecast

Edits by TIA

Vince Barton, Ken White, Ross Stewart



Since the flow peak of 8,880 m³/s on May 27th, outflows have been slowly reduced by 700 m³/s to the current 8,180 m³/s (as of Sept 6th). Compared to last year, by early August 2022, it was evident a “**shallow fall**” was coming. Outflows were slashed after running for months at around 300 m³/sec higher than in 2023, as if we had an unlimited supply to disperse in 2022.

There is much to be learned during the IJC’s GLAM process by comparing 2022 and 2023 key variables and Plan 2014 control directives to understand why the outcomes were so different. We are fortunate to have Ross Stewart, TIA Member-At-Large, on the Canadian PAG group.

Reminder: Were YOU impacted by high or low water levels? The International Joint Committee (IJC) is now seeking public input on how water levels impact you! Have your say, TIA!

2022 Water Level Impacts Survey

2023 Water Level Impacts Survey

[Click HERE](#) for the latest FULL Article News Updates

On July 22nd, 2022, outflows were 8,660 m³/s, despite Lake Ontario being ~20cm / 8 inches lower than on July 22nd, 2023. This year's lower outflows improve the chances that 2023 won't be a low water repeat of 2022's painful fall lows. What's different this year? We believe the key factor is the 52-week lookback component (total water supply into Lake Ontario) of the Plan 2014 calculation. That factor caused much higher outflows in 2022, even as Lake Ontario and 1000 Islands water levels fell below average. Hopefully, the GLAM process will unearth a better way to account for water supplies and make necessary improvements.



Spotlight:

Limestone Boats

Cindy Hayhurst

Scott Hanson's, CEO of Limestone Boats, love of boating came from time spent on the River, first at his grandparent's cottage on Hemlock, where he learned to row a St Lawrence Skiff and helped restore the family Akroyd dingy. Later, as a teenager, he started a windsurfing school on the 1,000 Islands Playhouse dock and a store out of Brennan's Marine. Summers on the River meant friends spread all over and boating everywhere.

As an adult, Scott's career in marketing meant less time for messing around in boats but its lure never left him so in 1990 he became a student at the Landing School in Kennebunkport, Maine where he learned the craft of wooden boat building and marine design. He spent the summer in between the two year program at the cottage where he and a classmate commuted to the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, NY and built a 19' wooden pointer they designed based on the boats found at fishing camps in northern Quebec.

After graduation Scott returned to the marketing world but he eventually found his way back to boatbuilding

moving his family to the Collingwood area and building the business from a small shop of three part-time employees to over 45 by the time he sold the business in 2017. Not finished with his passion for designing and building beautiful watercraft Scott saw an opportunity when Limestone Boats, another celebrated Canadian manufacturer, became available. He contacted longtime Thousand Islander, Mark Ellis, the original designer of Limestone and the two hit it off, bonding over their love of the River and boats. After weathering the stormy seas of Covid, Limestone Boats has found a new home in southwestern New Brunswick on the shores of the St Croix River where Scott and his family have relocated, and the company is building a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility as well as a comprehensive employee training program in partnership with the local community college. Although far from the River, Scott is still pursuing his passion and has plans in the works for new Limestone models that will carry the legacy of Mark Ellis' original designs with the quality and functionality that Scott has brought to every boat he has designed and built over the years.



Noteworthy



Being a steward for the River means being the voice for its ecosystem, including its wetlands and tributaries. This is evident in Blind Bay, where industrial development threatens the fragile habitat.

Last year, the River community took action to protect one of the River's wetland habitats after learning of Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) plan to construct a new 48,000 square foot industrial-scale facility. Consequences of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed facility would include habitat fragmentation, migration barriers, light pollution, and wetland degradation. We support CBP's mission, however the environmental impact on this property would be detrimental to the River ecosystem.

In November, Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) officially acquired the 22 acre property - home to 53 aquatic species, numerous terrestrial species, and a historic and monitored breeding ground for muskellunge. Following the acquisition, TILT and Save The River® Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper® (STR) began to develop plans for long term conservation and building a coalition. Conservation plans include Trash Free River cleanups and placing bird and bat houses throughout the preserve. The Blind Bay Coalition of TILT, STR, River Institute, Thousand Islands Association, Antique Boat Museum, The Ship Watcher, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper®, Swim Drink Fish, Thousand Islands Life, Blue Fish Canada, Thousand Islands Park, Antique Boat Museum, Thousand Islands Art Center, and Town of Orleans work together to protect this environmental treasure.

The Coalition has been working with elected officials and community leaders to help identify alternative sites for the proposed Border Patrol facility. This summer, TILT and STR held an informative event at Blind Bay Preserve to gather signatures for the Save Blind Bay petition and raise funds for the Blind Bay legal defense fund. To stay informed on the most recent efforts to protect Blind Bay or donate to the legal defense fund, visit saveblindbay.com. You can also view the video, "Save Blind Bay: An Environmental Treasure," created by Save The River' summer intern, Emma French

2023 Membership Drive Prize Winners



**Our Grand Prize Winners
of a Print “AMBUSH”
by Wildlife Conservation Artist**

**Stuart Arnett, AFC
(www.stuartarnett.com)**

**Are John & Linda Glowienka
of Bingham Island**

**Our 2 Runner Up Prize Winners of a book
“Being a Bird in North America” by
Conservation Biologist, Bird Expert and Author
Robert Alvo are:
Blaine & Jeannie Shore, Canadian Boaters &
Frederick & Leslie Hager of Wellesley Island**



**Congratulations to our Lucky Prize Winners !
And a GREAT BIG TIA THANK YOU to all for your continued support !**



Stay tuned as TIA turns 90 Next Year !!

Captain Level \$150

- ❖ A One-Year Business membership to TIA
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Social media mention 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 your business for inclusion in TIA River Talk

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Our Mission: River Safety - Environmental Awareness - Community Support

Business Sponsorship support helps TIA to fulfill its mission to the river community and its flagship program of maintaining 200 shoal markers essential to the safety of boating and our local and seasonal residents.

www.thousandislandsassociation.com/sponsor



Thousand Islands Association (TIA)

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

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

thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com

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

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





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