

April 2016

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President's Message

Dear River Lovers,
It's time.

Time to start making those lists for the spring opening. Water filter, check. Mouse traps, check. Rakes, check. Cloves, check. Cloves???? What the..?? Before we vacuum our cottage we always throw a bunch of cloves around. Then when you vacuum, the house will smell really nice!

In areas where the ice is already gone some of you may get an early start...lucky dogs. Does anyone have an early weather forecast? Does the farmers almanac suggest a brilliant season? We can all hope for the best... but plan for the worst.

If you are around in May we have been asked to make a presentation at the Mayor's breakfast (Leeds and the 1000 Islands) to describe what we do. Friday, May 6, 2016 at 8:00 am at the Lansdowne Community Hall at the corner of Jesse and Garden Street in Lansdowne. Stop for a moment and reflect on this. The placement of over 300 shoal markers is a huge contribution. We may not all recognize how much the river community depends on this simple act. While we all see the placement of the shoal markers as a very pedestrian responsibility... BUT for those that use the river, especially visitors, the shoal markers provide the confidence to explore our river safely.



Coming soon to a rock/shoal near you. Delivered by Huntley Marine Services.

So come for breakfast and listen to several guest speakers and get to know our municipal leaders. Mayor Baptista is a pretty cool guy and breakfast at \$15.00 is a great deal. RSVP to Kimberly Almeida at kimberly@townshipleeds.on.ca or 613-659-2415 Ext. 231 before April 29th. Seating is limited.

Dreaming of those long warm summer days? Those brilliant sunrises...and sunsets? That afternoon nap slowly swinging in the hammock you have strung between two trees? A leisurely sail? An energized water-ski? Or just swimming in our lovely river? Speaking of sailing, don't forget the annual KISSR Regatta (Keep it Simple Sailing Regatta) run by Derek Innes and helped by TIA, held each year at the end of August, near Half Moon Bay and Spectacles Light. All sailors and boats under 22' eligible, no entrance fees and this year for the first time there will be a grand prize.

Well, keep dreaming...but not for much longer.

Don't forget to come to our annual general meeting at the 1000 Islands Playhouse on Saturday, July 16. The Home of the Giant Shore Breakfast.

Until then have a wonderful spring. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the river.

Yours in safe boating

Cheers,

Thornley Stokes



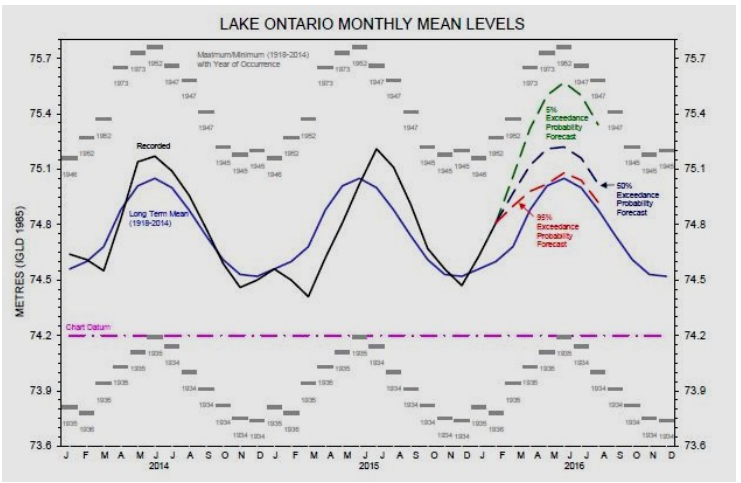
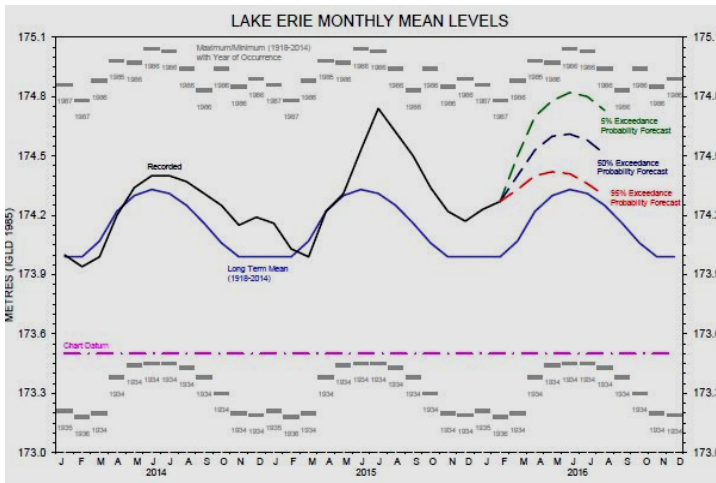
Algocanada approaching Sugar Island in the ice!
Ed. Note: This jumped out at me, then I discovered there is another Sugar Island at Sault St. Marie.



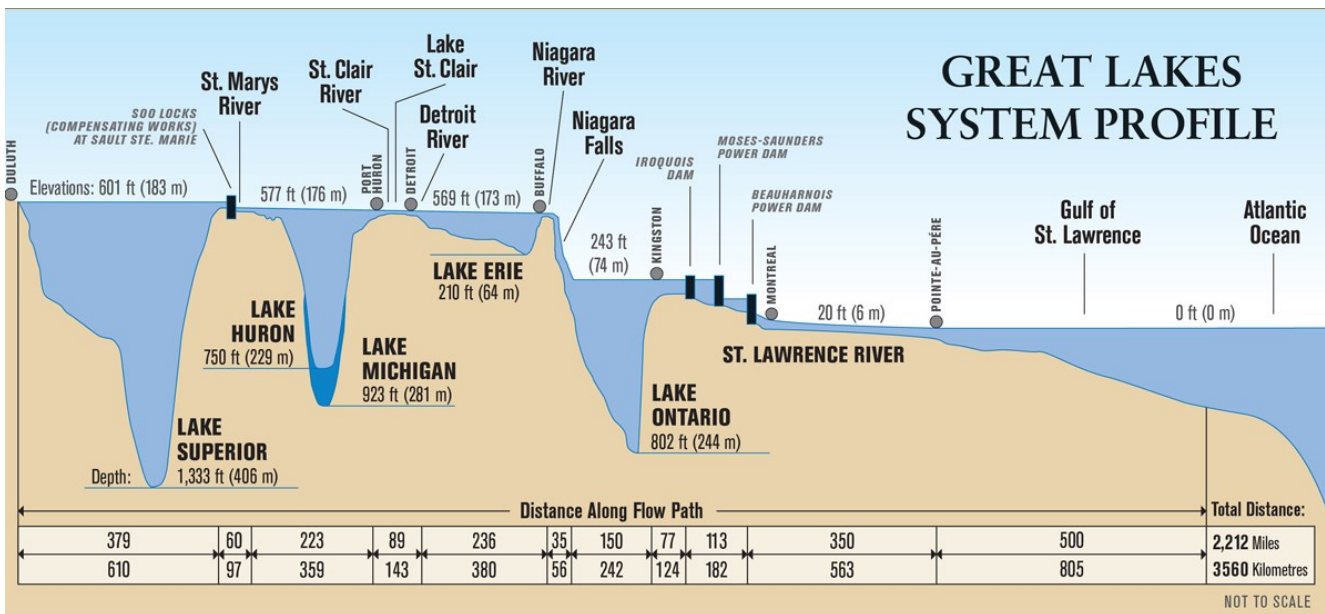
Captain Alan Bickerton taking his grand children canoeing on Christmas day.
Photo by Chris Bickerton



Christmas day on Camelot . Bernie & Susanne, Carolyn & Doug with their families. Photo by Doug



Compare the water level pattern on Lake Erie with the pattern of Lake Ontario. Ontario's graph shows they are very closely related. That would certainly suggest that Erie has the largest effect on Ontario's water levels.



There are only 2 water level control points in the Great Lakes System. The first one at the East end of Lake Superior at Sault Ste. Marie and the second at Cornwall at the Moses Saunders and the Beauharnois power dams. There is no control at Niagara Falls. The water can be diverted to generate power but there is nothing to slow the water rushing from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

Remember last Spring's water low water levels, with lots of snow and then run off? This winter we have had almost no snow, not much freeze up, which aids evaporation, and the run off such as it was has come and gone.

What will you find when you return to the Islands?

Great news, the level is currently 50 cm. (18 inches) above last year at this time. It is above average and expected to remain above until at least October.

How does that happen? The water we get comes predominantly from the Lakes up-stream. More than 80% of Lake Ontario's water supply comes from Lake Erie, and less than 20% comes from run-off in Ontario's basin. Look at the charts on the left and you will see the effects of the upper lakes which are all well above average.

Emma's Story

I grabbed my dad's hand as he helped me out of the rickety aluminum boat. As I was tying its old, damp ropes, the dock under my knees began to wobble, but a familiar hug saved me from losing my balance. I saw my grandma's face reflected in the water before I could even get up. When she finally released me, I turned around and was filled with joy when I saw what I consider to be the most beautiful place on earth. My eyes were being tugged in all directions, even though I've seen this place many times before. I leaped up the faded wooden stairs that led to the oversized deck and opened the squeaky door. The swinging couch was perfectly worn in and the tiny red kitchen was already cooking fresh corn from grandpa's garden. My yellow dog came and lay beside me, blending in perfectly with the all wooden walls around him, and nothing in the world could ever be more perfect.

This is my favorite place in the entire world, my house on Tar Island in the Thousand Islands, Canada. The house was built entirely by my grandparents over many summers and is where my dad and uncle spent every childhood summer. My favorite characteristic of the house is that you can see how much love and use it has had throughout the years; it's been a part of my very essence ever since I was a baby. No matter how long I stay each summer, there's never a dull moment, rain or shine. On hot days we spend hours on the boat investigating the tiny nearby islands, finding unusual creatures, and sometimes nebulous evidence of explorers that came before us. Endless intervals of jumping into the wide river to cool our hot skin and then drying in the sun's warm rays on one of the large flat rocks that seem to appear around each corner. At day's end, I sit and read in one of the dated swinging bamboo lounges. - - - -

Submitted by Art Bourdeau, Tar Island

This was written, Nov. 2015, by Emma Bourdeau, granddaughter of Art and Dottie Bourdeau, Tar Island, as part of her college entrance requirements.



Emma Bourdeau, taken at an earlier age, on Tar Island.

The memories that I have taken from this house are my most treasured memories. Every day I spend in there, I grow and learn more and more. It's truly a magical place that's like a strong chain that binds my grandparents, my parents and my siblings together.

There's a wall of pictures that my grandmother created when they first built the house in 1964 and it's the first thing that you notice when you enter. The pictures are a reminder of the thick history of the house, the island and our family. This hodgepodge of pictures is like a big pot of special moments from many different time periods. There's a picture of my dad when he was a toddler, jumping off the wobbly dock. Next to that is a picture of me and my sister as toddlers jumping off the same wobbly dock. The picture wall is like a time machine that has taken special moments from so many years and thrown them all over the wall. When I walk in and see this every year, there are always new pictures from the previous year that my grandmother has added to the collection. The picture wall is a perfect representation of the years spent, the love exchanged and the endless memories that the house has given to my family.

My eyes widened to the sound of crackling bacon and the hot air from outside. When I rolled over in my little bed, my little brother and sister's beds were empty. I scurried down the narrow steps to a hearty "good morning" from my grandpa who had cooked plenty of freshly picked potatoes. Just as I was about to fill my plate, I heard my little brother splash into the river. I ran out the door and into the beating sun ready for another perfect day.

Membership Fees

- Single Membership: \$50.00 (Includes one Breakfast)
- Couple Membership: \$75.00 (Includes two Breakfasts)
- Family Membership: \$100.00 (Includes Breakfasts for 2 adults and 2 children under 18)
- Business Membership: \$100.00 (Includes two Breakfasts)

Memberships run for a calendar year. Reminders are sent in the April Newsletter with your Boat Decal. If you haven't done so already, please send your membership fees or pay on-line with PayPal to avoid being dropped from the mailing list. We need your continued support to maintain and improve our programs.

New Members most welcome.

Canadian Address	U.S. Address
P.O. Box 274,	P.O. Box 718
Gananoque, Ontario	Wellesley Island,
K7G 2T8	NY, 13640

TIA Executive Officers

Thornley Stoker- President
Ormond Murphy - Past President
Marilee Chisamore Secretary-Treasurer

Directors

Allison Burchell-Robinson - Membership
Troy Donovan - Fresh Ideas
Bryan Jones - AGM Coordinator
George Kittredge - Membership
David Orr - Shoal Markers/Newsletter
Paul Regan Jr. - Heritage Foundation
John Taylor - Environment, Membership
Ken White - Shoal Markers
Bruce Wilson - Parkway Clean-Up
Emeritus: Graham Armstrong,
William Hale

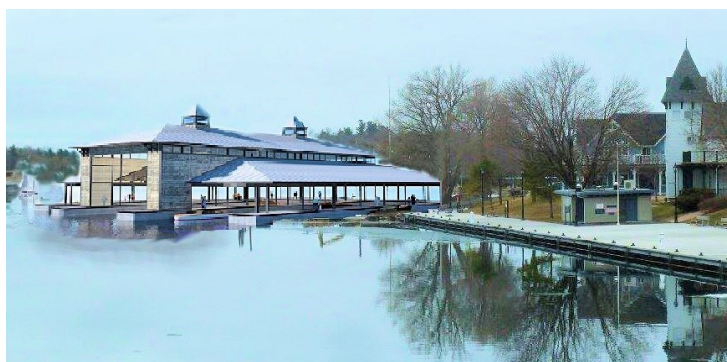


The Statue of Saint Lawrence placed by the Admiralty of the Thousand Islands will become visible this Summer at night.

Standing tall on the Canadian Palisades, just East of Darlingside, the Statue proudly looks out on his River and the Islands.

The lights will be led, powered by solar and batteries and run on a timer, a new night time spectacle on the River. Funding for the Statue and now the lights has been provided by donations from the River/Island community.

The Idea for the Statue originated with Gerry Roney and was overseen to completion by Hal McCarney.



The Gananoque Boat Museum's docks are nearing first stage completion. Keyhoe Marine Construction was able to work through the winter. The boathouse (artist's concept) will be started when funds permit.