



BORDER BOATING

The Bill to amend the Customs Act received Royal Assent on June 19th, 2017. This Bill exempts boaters who cross into Canadian waters from reporting to Canada Customs, provided they do not land, anchor, moor or come into contact with another vessel.

According to Senator Bob Runciman “the practical effect is that you are not required to report when you enter or re-enter Canadian waters, unless an officer asks you to.”

This legislation grew out of an incident when a Baldwinsville, New York fisherman was detained by Canadian border officers and threatened with the seizure of his boat for not reporting to customs when he entered Canadian waters. New York State Senator Patty Ritchie picked up the phone and called Senator Bob Runciman.

Out of this conversation grew a close working relationship between the two and the formation of a cross-border caucus of legislators who are in contact regularly and meet occasionally to address matters of mutual concern.

This legislation was initially introduced in the Canadian Senate by Senator Runciman and then guided through the House of Commons by Member of Parliament Gord Brown.



By Orm Murphy



FALL 2017

Newsletter

Safety, Environment & Community

President's Message



By Allison Burchell-Robinson, TIA President

It's never a pretty sight. Certainly not for the unfortunate boater, not those who may have witnessed the event, not those involved in a rescue and retrieval. Simply, it's a bad time for anyone.

Most Thousand Islands veterans have no doubt heard the phrase “there are two classes of boaters: those who have hit a shoal and those who are going to do so”. We probably laugh and acknowledge our status and move on. But, think about moving around the river without the shoal markers. How would you feel about exploring an unknown part of the river, going for dinner on a neighboring island, traveling to town on a foggy day or picking up recent arrivals with hard driving rain surrounding you and doing so relying on memory and perhaps a shout from the bow of the boat, if you're lucky.

Maybe the next time you roar, row, glide or paddle past a shoal marker, you should give it a nod, an acknowledgment of the warning it bears. Maybe you can say a private thank you to the people who put them in before you arrive and take them out after you're gone. What you should also do as a member of TIA is pat yourself on your back for ensuring the shoal markers are there. The money you contribute makes it all possible. Can you give a little more the next time? Or, maybe you care enough about that shoal marker to adopt it, to make it your own. You can do that too. As long as you remain a member in good standing, for \$500.00 that shoal marker is yours. Name it, hug it, sponsor it. Our website has a donation page. It's that simple.

— Allison Burchell-Robinson

River levels are heading in the right direction...



By Ken White

Photography © Pete Medcalf

Remember the mid-May peak? The 5.42 feet above River chart datum. 243 feet above sea level, is now down about 3 feet. On 9/22/17 the Alexandria Bay NOAA buoy (<http://bit.ly/2ysVhMT>) registers 2.37 feet above datum, 245.37 feet. (Lake Ontario datum is 0.3 feet above the River).

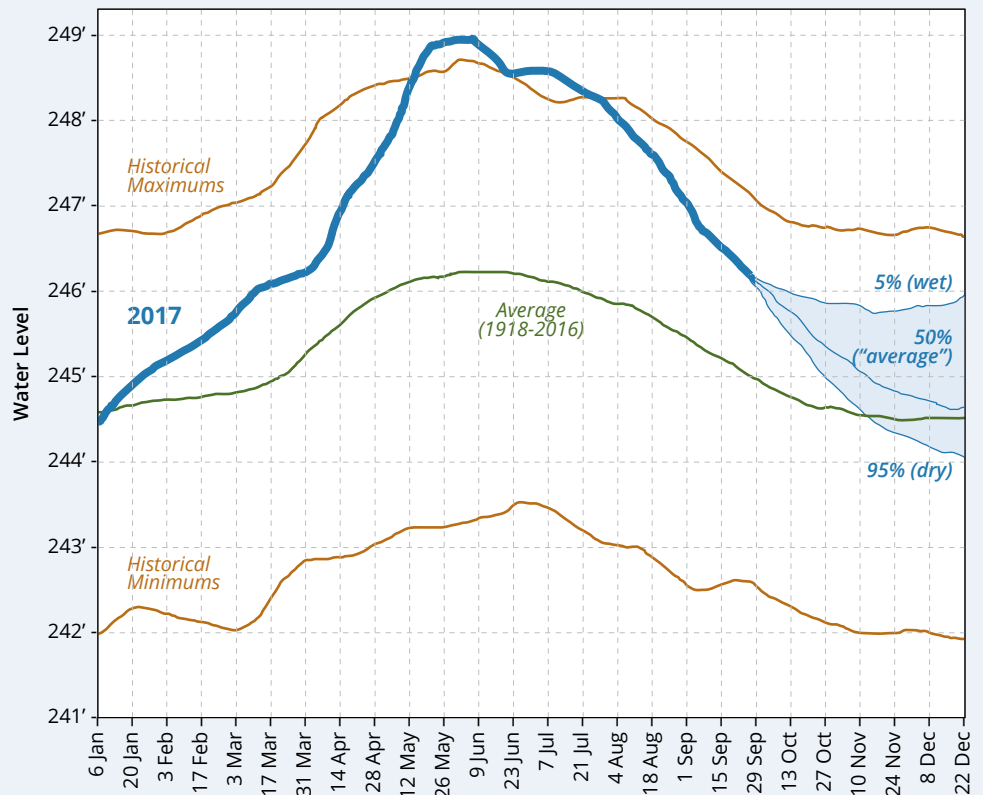
Hope is growing that River levels will make it back to "Average" by December 31, 2017. Maybe a 50/50 chance at this point? Yeoman efforts by the International Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River Board have yielded significant results, reducing levels with record flows (<http://bit.ly/2wVErds>). The sudden September

dry spell is further help, increasing the probability making it back to historical "Average" level by years end. We're still above "Average" for late September, but now just under 1 foot.

The range of uncertainty of the year end River level is about 2 feet, anywhere between 244 feet, if last quarter weather is "dry", and a worst case 246 feet if the weather turns "wet" (ironically the "wet" level is about the "Average" early summer peak level). Or with "average" weather, our chances approach 50% to meet or fall below this critical target for starting 2018. Place your bets!

Lake Ontario Water Level Forecast

(For week ending 29 September 2017 through 29 December 2017)



This probabilistic forecast is produced primarily from historical (1900-2008) water supply scenarios. Results represent water levels that would be exceeded 5%, 50% & 95% of the time if similar wet, average & dry conditions (respectively) were to occur.



May 2017 ▶

◀ September 2017



BE HAPPY, DON'T WORRY. GIVE.

Research on the subject of donating to good causes suggests that people who give are much happier than those who do not. There is a chemical reaction that occurs when you help others. Endorphins in your brain get excited and this results in a lovely feeling of contentment and happiness. In addition, the research suggests that this feeling is intensified when you give publicly.

I am not suggesting that you should spend your waking hours doing nothing but giving, but I will suggest that the Thousand Islands Association would be a grateful recipient of your generosity. Most of you 'get it' otherwise you would not be a member of this association, but have you stopped to think about the value of giving a bit more than your annual dues?

Okay, what would the association do with my donation? Glad you asked:

With water levels bouncing up and down recently we recognize that there may be new shoals we need to mark. Shoals we never needed to mark before. More funds for more shoal markers is an important part of what we could be doing. Please go to our website, at thousandislandsassociation.com find the donations page and give.



By Thornley Stoker
Photography © Pete Medcalf

- Our Roots -

History of the Thousand Islands Association

This history of the Thousand Islands Association is taken from the report compiled by Veronica A. Cooper in 1995 based on information from the Gananoque Reporter and the association's annual meetings. It covers the years 1934 through 1988. This is the second of a series of articles that will present the history of the association.

1949-1962



By Allison Burchell-Robinson

In 1949, the Ivy Lea Fire Department was applauded for saving properties on Princess Charlotte and Stave islands due in part to its 85 residents who purchased fire equipment available to island residents free of charge.

During the early fifties, concerns ranged from irresponsible outboard motor operators, doubtful value of the parking lot fees at Bay Street and garbage dumping in the river. The purchase of more buoys for shoal marking resulting in an increase in dues to \$5.00 and town officials announced a new Bay Dock. Moving into the mid fifties, the demands for a public washroom at the same dock increased "If we don't get toilets then all our councilors are stinkers". This issue was again defeated in 1959.

In 1957, Gananoque Mayor Walker informed TISRA that a properly manned and equipped

fireboat would soon be available. A minute of silence was observed in 1958 to honor the founder of this organization, George Webb. At the end of the fifties, it was brought to members attention that navigation lights in the island areas were outdated and needed brightening, the location of the overhead powerlines at the Canoe Club was needed as boater accidents with the lines were occurring with frequency.

At the August meeting in 1960 TISRA unanimously backed a resolution to the Federal government that all islands of half acres or less be removed from sale. Concerns were also raised about how the 92 Indian owned islands should be transferred to the National Parks Division.

A silent tribute was paid to Mrs. F.E. Wright in 1962-she was the first woman to hold an executive office with TISRA. Dues were raised to \$10.00.

Photo: King's Dock, Thousand Islands, Ontario.



TIA Executive Officers

President: Allison Burchell-Robinson
Secretary-Treasurer: Deborah McGee
Past President: Thornley Stoker

Directors

Troy Donovan
Peter Fitton
Bryan Jones
George Kittredge
Orm Murphy
David Orr
Paul Regan, Jr.
Ken White

TIA Membership

New members are welcome and needed!
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 online with PayPal to avoid being dropped from the mailing list.

We need your continued support to maintain and improve our programs. Visit our website to see a list of Donors.

Membership Fees:

Single: \$50 (Includes 1 AGM breakfast)
Couple: \$75 (Includes 2 AGM breakfasts)
Family: \$100 (Includes 4 AGM breakfasts: 2 adults and 2 children under 18)
Business: \$100 (Includes 2 AGM breakfasts)

THOUSAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

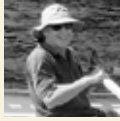
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AN ESSAY: RIVER PILGRIMAGE



By Thomas Cardamone

What is it about the Thousand Islands region of the Saint Lawrence River that inspires a quiet sense of wonder? Certainly, there are colorful cottages, impressive homes, and the diversity of boat traffic, from lumbering ships to classic mahogany antiques, to skittering jet skis.

Yet the magic is along the miles of forested shores of the many islands (1864 altogether), with white pine, and white oak standing tall, and black willows arching out over the water.

Rowing along silently, close to shore, ever-changing vistas captivate one with a timeless sense of place.

These natural shorelines looked much the same when Iroquois paddled their birch-barks on food-gathering or territorial missions. Say "Kahnawa'kye" and imagine the River through their eyes. It means "big waterway." Far bigger than Cartier likely imagined in 1535, he arrived in the River's estuary on Saint Lawrence's Feast Day and gave the River one of the very oldest European place names.

Cartier and his crew were in the world's largest estuary, 90 miles wide at River's mouth. They floated on the outflow of the Great Lakes which hold 20% of the world's fresh water. It is nearly 2,000 miles from the River's farthest Great Lake's tributary trout stream headwaters to its mouth in the estuary, where ten species of whales live. Seven hundred miles upstream from the mouth, the comparatively narrow Thousand Islands region eventually required a seven-mile bridge system, to cross from shore to shore. This is the 1000 Islands bridge system, built 400 years after Cartier.

There, amongst the islands, in quiet monuments best experienced in a muscle-powered boat, the full import of where you are in the world, is a revelation as deep and broad and rich as the River itself. You're connected to American's heartland, the far North, the oceans of the world, the diversity of life, and the transformative power of water.

Big place; small wonder – the "The River" gets under your skin and draws you back like a pilgrim. Life affirming. Restorative. Pure pleasure.

This article is provided to the Thousand Islands Association with permission from the author and the grateful help from the editor of Thousand Islands Life EMagazine, Susan Smith.

Photography © Pete Medcalf

