



SUMMER 2018

# Newsletter

Safety, Environment & Community

## President's Message



*By Allison Burchell-Robinson,  
TIA President*

When talk turns to the Thousand Islands Association what immediately comes to your mind? The river, the sunsets, the islands, the wildlife or are your thoughts geared more to fishing, boating, swimming, camping, water skiing, cycling or is culture, dining and shopping more your venue? We all have our special thoughts about this region and what it means to us, our family and friends but whatever they may be, a common theme of community runs through all. Steve Friot writes movingly of the Community in this newsletter.

Who and what is this community and from where do we come? There are those who live in the area year round but a perusal of the membership indicates that many do not and some travel great distances to be here. In Canada, members come from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec. In the U.S. people travel from Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan,

Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia and Wyoming. There may well be others. What is it that draws people back year after year? They are all members of the same community.

Do other rivers command this same kind of loyalty? There are those who go back six generations of life on the river while others claim four or five. Every year new families join and sadly, some die. We have lawyers, scholars, fishermen, doctors, painters, writers, teachers, nurses, builders, tradesmen, handy men and those not so, people of all walks of life. There are mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, children, grand children and great grandchildren, cousins and second cousins. There are friends and neighbors and the strangers you wave to as you pass by in your water conveyance of choice.

The sounds of the river are among us all whether it be the calling of the loons, the honking of the geese, the zip of a fly cast, the shrieks of laughter as children cannonball into the river, the chugging of the barges, the scolding of the squirrels, the roar of the cigarette boats, the clatter of the big trucks on the bridge, the horn of the tour boats, the wind rustling through the trees, the waves rolling and tossing, the gulls screeching, the whistle of the train, the murmur of voices on the dock. We all listen to the same things, what we hear is the voice of the community.

It is a unique spot long loved, valued and cherished by families on both sides of the border. Can any community ask for more or be any better?

Come join that community at the Annual General Meeting of TIA held this year on July 21st. See you there!

*— Allison Burchell-Robinson*



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# “Everyone has his own way to enjoy the river”



By Steve Friot

My father, who had deep ancestral roots on both sides of the river, loved to say that “everyone has his own way to enjoy the river.” I think that simple observation goes a long way to explain why the river is so special to each of us as individuals and, of equal importance, to all of us as a community.

Think for just a minute about the wide range of favorite ways to enjoy the river: swimming, fishing, partying, sailing, photographing, wakeboarding, canoeing, kayaking, birdwatching, cruising, scuba diving, loafing (my favorite), or just contemplating this majestic waterway as the water glides silently by (a semi-religious form of loafing). And, for many of us, just watching kids and grandkids do any or all of these things is, or will ultimately become, by far our favorite way to enjoy the river.

The point here is that there is more to this river and these islands than rich history and spectacular beauty. There is more to the river than the promise of an early spring day, the live-for-the-moment joy of a sun-drenched July day, or the slightly wistful savoring of a golden October day. There is more to the river because the river brings us together, generationally and in every other way. As important as it is that the river brings families together (which it does, as few other things can), I submit that it is equally important that the river pulls together, into a true river community, people with disparate stories, from disparate walks of life, and, in many cases, from distant places. The river pulls us together because we share a love for the river and the river way of life. Essential to that river way of life is the fact that we each have our favorite way to enjoy the river.

We do our best – for the most part – to enjoy the river in our favorite ways without annoying others who are enjoying the river in their favorite ways. And at the end of the day (literally and figuratively) and from the beginning to the end of every season God gives us to enjoy this river and these islands, we are a community. We are a community, not because we all love do the same thing, but because we all love the same river.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The AGM will be held Saturday, July 21, 2018 at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque. Registration starts at 8:30. Please consider joining or renewing your membership now to avoid the lines at registration. A shore breakfast will be available followed by a brief meeting and a speaker.



## YOUR VERY OWN SHOAL MARKER

It is now possible to own that shoal marker on your favorite shoal. Whatever the reason, we all have a favorite or unfavorable shoal. It could be because we narrowly missed hitting it, did so head on or have carefully avoided it forever...at least so far. Maybe your son or daughter came into the cottage with that tell tale face. No matter the reason, that shoal marker can now be yours for \$500.00 for as long as you remain a member. Check out our website for more details. If you adopted a shoal marker earlier, your status has changed to permanent.



# Business

## Membership

As most of you know, The Thousand Islands Association (TIA) is made up of over 800 area homeowners, cottagers, and boaters throughout the 1000 Islands region. Since inception in 1934, our mission has remained constant:

*“Keeping the St. Lawrence River a safe and beautiful place.”*

The TIA provides and places nearly 200 shoal markers, starting mid-way on the Bateau Channel, north of Howe Island all the way down river to Brockville/ Morristown on most boating channels from Lake Ontario to Brockville. The TIA has also placed fire pumps and life-saving defibrillators in the region. The TIA celebrates the river, the ecology and the natural biosphere that surrounds us by offering scholarships each year to worthy high school students in Canada and the US.

This year TIA is introducing a new Business membership program designed in part to showcase local businesses and suppliers to our membership. With the enhanced sponsorship program, business members can gain significant exposure by participating in this years “Water Line” sponsorship program. Broken down into three distinct categories, Gold, Silver, and Bronze; business sponsors will receive exclusive access to our membership. Your company’s product or service could gain exposure at the AGM Shore Breakfast, annual sponsorship recognition on our Website, acknowledgment in our summer newsletter, complimentary tickets to our shore breakfast but above all, you will be top of mind with over 800 grateful members that will undoubtedly choose your company first when considering their next local purchase. Our goal is to create a situation where the TIA members support the local business sponsors, everyone wins.

If you have a product or service that you think the members of TIA may benefit from, we look forward to discussing this sponsorship opportunity with you. We encourage you to look on our website to find the deals of the program.

**- 2018 BUSINESS SPONSORS TO DATE -**  
Please support them, as they support the TIA

### Gold



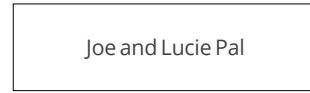
Gananoque Chevrolet



Georgina Ratcliffe, Sales Representative



Greenshield Pest Control



Joe and Lucie Pal

### Silver



1000 Islands RV Centre



Ed Huck Marine



Gananoque Boat Line



Gordon Barr Ltd



Kehoe Marine Construction

### Bronze



Baldree's No Frills



Carveth Care Centre



Cerow Agency Inc.



Glen House Resort



G. Tackaberry & Sons Construction



Keyes Real Estate



Lansdowne Telephone



Parks Canada



Parkway Pest Control



Redmond Realty



The Sam Group



St. Lawrence Cruise Lines



Redmond Realty



Tompkins Funeral Home

## TIA Officers

**President:** Allison Burchell-Robinson  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Deborah McGee

## Directors

Rob Aitchison  
Troy Donovan  
Peter Fitton  
Bryan Jones  
George Kittredge  
Ormond Murphy  
David Orr  
Paul Regan  
Thornley Stoker  
Ken White

**Emeritus:** Graham Armstrong, William Hale

## TIA Membership

TIA memberships run for the calendar year. Our membership drive begins in January/February and contact is made via email or by regular mail. If you don't hear from us we probably don't have your correct information as to either mail. We are constantly updating our membership lists and welcome hearing from you. You can join or renew a membership by going to our website [thousandislandsassociation.com](http://thousandislandsassociation.com) and clicking on membership. You can also send a check to the Canadian or US address listed below.

### Membership Fees:

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**Single:** \$50 (Includes 1 AGM breakfast)  
**Couple:** \$75 (Includes 2 AGM breakfasts)  
**Family:** \$100 (Includes 4 AGM breakfasts)

*Annual General Meeting (AGM):  
Saturday, July 21, 2018*

### THOUSAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

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

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

[thousandislandsassociation.com](http://thousandislandsassociation.com)

## SHOALS CAN RIP LIVES APART

*Please join TIA now and share this with someone you know.*

For decades the Thousand Islands Association has provided what many believe to be one of the important safety programs on the river. TIA's signature program is its shoal marking program, those orange and white cylinders you see bobbing about the water during spring, summer and fall. The markers alert boaters to dangerous rocks and shoals in the area.

Most people believe the markers are put in and funded by government agencies, but that is not the case, The Coast Guard in both Canada and the U.S. are responsible for the main channel markers but provide no funding for markers elsewhere. It's TIA that places the markers on the Canadian side and in partnership with Save the River on the American side of the river. TIA has simply has not done a very good job of getting the word out to area property owners, boaters and the business communities that we need their support.

The Thousand Islands Association is funded solely by membership dues and donations. Without this support, TIA would not be able to finance and maintain this vital program so necessary for the safety and well being of those traveling on the river and participating in the many recreational opportunities offered.

Each year, in early spring, the markers are put in place and remain there until late fall when they are removed and placed in storage. During the busy summer months, volunteers pick up errant or damaged markers thanks to tips received by TIA. Yearly, new markers are purchased to replace those lost or too heavily damaged to remain in service. Cable and other supplies to secure the marker to the shoal are purchased as well.

The shoal marking program has proved its worth many times over. Most recently, last year's record high waters covered many rocks and shoals that normally would have been visible. Were it not for TIA's shoal markers, many of those areas would have been serious boater hazards.

Consider how hazardous boating would be without shoal markers. It is a terrifying thought. TIA is proud of its flagship program and remains committed to providing this service in all the years to come. It needs your help to meet this commitment now more than ever. This is a program that benefits young and old - a potentially lifesaving program. Consider the impact of your contribution and please give.

