

December 2013

Founded in 1934

President's Letter

The dark, cold skies of November bring to a close the wonderful summer of 2013. It was a beautiful autumn, and we brave souls swam in the River until mid-October.

It was a busy season for the Thousand Islands Association. We welcomed two new Board members, Allison Burchell-Robinson from Ivy Lea, and George Kittridge from the Admiralty Group. The Annual General Meeting and Breakfast was well attended with 270 members present.

The Thousand Islands Association has been experiencing financial pressure over the last several years, primarily due to declining membership. The Board has reacted to this situation by enhancing the website to permit convenient membership enrollment, increasing the visibility of the Association, and urging the existing membership to promote membership with their friends and neighbours.

To further this strategy, Board members manned a booth at the Tall Ships celebration in Brockville, attended the Gananoque Marina celebration, and we placed posters and displays in most local marinas. I am pleased to report that this strategy has resulted in 60 new members, although overall membership still is in decline.

Our donations have continued to increase whether through our Own Your Own Shoal Marker or our Life Members appeal. This has made the difference in our financial operations, allowing us to modestly increase our support to our education programs and our emergency response support programs.

The Association has also been active in representing the interests of our members with respect to water levels. Many members were adversely effected by the extreme low levels experienced in the late summer of 2012.

A new proposal of the International Joint Commission, known as Plan 2014, would have seen the water levels of 2012 reduced by a further 4 inches in August and a further 6 inches in October. Members of the Board attended the public hearings on the proposed plan and David Orr and I made a presentation at the Technical Hearings of the I.J.C. in Cornwall, advising the Committee that low water levels prior to mid October posed a significant safety risk for our members and should not be permitted. We believe our concerns were heard and adjustments to the proposed Plan may be made.

It is clear to the Board that most boaters do not realize that the Thousand Islands Association owns the shoal markers on the River. We are trying to get this message across but it is a challenge. Please take every opportunity to inform your non-member friends of our role in their safe boating and encourage them to join.

It is always a sad day to close the cottage but our season will begin in just four months. Have a safe and happy winter and I will see you next spring.

Ormond Murphy



Our newest invasive species, Mute Swans, an adult and 2 immature Cygnets.



Imagine the Thousand Islands without shoal markers...

Written by [John Taylor](#)

My father, Keith Taylor loved to talk about the early TIA days. He was one of the original boaters who attended the August 2, 1934 meeting in Gananoque, "The Gananoque Reporter" newspaper headlined their edition with "Summer Visitors Organize". This organization came to life after its founder, George R. Webb, then Mayor of Gananoque, "expressed a desire to form some sort of protective association which would co-operate with township officials in policing the islands during the winter when the owners were absent.

A group of interested island owners, and local residents held their first meeting at the Gananoque Town Hall. On that momentous August day, "The Summer Residents' Association of the Township of Leeds and Lansdowne" was born. It soon became known as TIA or the Thousand Islands Association, as it is known today.

The Association proposed that \$50.00 be used toward the investigation of printing a river map. This map would show each island, the government name for the island, the name it was known by, as well as the present owner. Many at this meeting felt that their share of tax dollars should be spent on winter policing measures, rather than roads and education. There was a committee appointed to secure better fire protection for cottage owners.

The following year the headlines read, "Better Marking of Shoals". The membership felt that the shoals were one of the biggest dangers on the St. Lawrence, and "a menace to navigation". Hence, the start of TIA's marking of "those outcroppings", or as we River Rats politely call them, "those darn shoals." At first they were marked by planks of wood, often painted a bright orange, but they got waterlogged and eventually were replaced by tin and later plastic barrels. Each shoal would have one or two markers – with the sensible advice, if you see a shoal marker, take care – stay well away!

Over the years the membership grew, attracting boaters and islanders from the Navy Fleet, Ivy lea and Rockport. Word of mouth about the usefulness of having shoals marked spread and soon there was no boundary – TIA marked both sides of the border. Then in the 1980s the US Coast Guard decreed that all shoal markers on navigable waters had to be uniform in shape and markings. The cost went from \$10 a barrel, plus the price of a chain, to \$100+ each! The Association turned to the decade old Save the River! organization based in Clayton. Would they like to partner in the shoal marking program? They agreed and today over 300 shoals are marked. TIA purchases the markers and is responsible for placing the markers on the Canadian side from Trident Yacht Club to Brockville. Save the River places them on the US side from Cape Vincent to east of Alexandria Bay.

This past summer Gananoque was chosen by the World Fishing Network as "Ontario's Ultimate Fishing Town". This was due to the hard work and dedication of Sandra Wright (Executive Secretarial Services) and others.

Because of the shoal marker program, The TIA was given a cheque for \$600.00 to support the ongoing placement of markers. The importance of the shoal markers to visiting as well as local fishermen was generously acknowledged.

In the attached picture John Taylor and Bruce Wilson accept the award.



All Film Strip Pictures are by Pete and Jan Medcalf



Daniel Robert, Cottage Rentals, Lansdowne, ON
Gananoque Fire Fighters Association
The Glen House Resort, Lansdowne, ON
Historic 1000 Islands Village, (Arthur Child Centre)
Gananoque
The Lansdowne Rural Telephone Co. Lansdowne

All donations receive a charitable receipt and any donations post marked prior to Jan. 1, 2014 are eligible for your 2013 returns.

The Simcoe
removing
lighted
buoys.



We lost another long time River Resident. Sadly, the family of Sally Richardson announces her passing suddenly on her beloved Moneysunk Island in the arms of her Husband on Monday October 14, 2013. Beloved wife of 53 years to Ewart Richardson. Sally rarely missed an opportunity to sit on her porch from ice out to late in the fall watching the River and it's friends passing by.

★ A TIA Fundraising Program encouraging you to adopt your favourite neighbouring shoal. For a modest, fully tax deductible, \$500, TIA will designate the "ROCK" marker that you indicate as your own personal shoal. For a period of 5 years you can tell your friends, "I Own My Own Shoal" For a real deal, get 10 years for \$1,000! Your donation will be officially recognized in our Newsletter, you will receive a copy of a chart with your marker named on it, a stylish T.I.A. t-shirt proclaiming your status, along with a Canadian or U.S. income tax receipt.

Own Your Own Shoal makes a perfect family Christmas gift for the person who is hard to buy for and your donation will help support our shoal marking program.

- ★ **Dorothy Collins:** North East end of Hill Island
- ★ **Dr. Gregory Davies:** North of Death Dealer Island
- ★ **Carol Devlin:** South East end of MacDoald Island
- ★ **The Gananoque Ontario Ultimate Fishing Town:**
North of MacDonald Island
- ★ **Bryan Jones:** Middle of 40 Acres Shoal
- ★ **William Kyle:** Due East of Forsythe Island
- ★ **Orm Murphy:** Due West of Apohaqui Island
- ★ **Doug McLellan & Caroline Yeung:** Due South of
Wood Isle
- ★ **David & Judy Orr:** South East of Mudlunta Island
- ★ **Paul Regan Jr.:** Due North of Mermaid Island
- ★ **Paul Regan III:** Due south of Gosling and Black Duck
Islands
- ★ **Paul Regan Family:** Between Bostwick and Black Duck
Islands
- ★ **In memory of Barbara Regan:** Between Bostwick and
Black Duck Islands
- ★ **Joan Ritchie:** North West of Binacle Island
- ★ **River Port Marina:** Directly West of Gananoque Inn
- ★ **Thornley Stoker:** Due south of White Calf Island
- ★ **Bill Tranmer:** South West of Horse Block Point
- ★ **Henry Heine:** Between Hickey and Otty Island North
- ★ **In memory of Grace Lois Tranmer:** Between Hickey
and Otty Island South
- ★ **The Tremont Island Association:** Between White Calf
and Forsythe Island



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 INFORMATION PLEASE READ

Any current TIA member (to include singles, couples, family, and business members) who renew their memberships via the TIA website with PayPal, before April 1 of any given year, can do so at a 10 percent discount off of the prevailing membership fee.

Any new member (to include singles, family, and businesses) who join TIA any time after June 30th (Including at the AGM of any given year and regardless of the method of payment, can do so at half of the prevailing membership fee.

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

Ormond Murphy - President
 Graham Armstrong - V.P./ Secretary-Treasurer
 Allison Burchell-Robinson—Member at Large
 Bryan Jones - AGM Coordinator
 George Kittredge - Member at Large
 Pete Medcalf - Photographer
 David Orr - Shoal Markers/Newsletter
 Raymond Pfeiffer - Membership
 Paul Regan - Heritage Foundation
 Thornley Stoker- Web site
 John Taylor - Environment, Membership
 Ken White - Shoal Markers
 Bruce Wilson - Parkway Clean-Up
 Emeritus: William Hale
 E-Mail: info@1000islandsassociation.net
 Web: www.1000islandsassociation.net



You know it's closing time when Barbara Butts cleans her freezer on closing day on Hickey (Smoke) Island

The Spring and Summer of 2013 saw 22 Shoal Sisters grab their lamps and "hit" the shoals with their photographers. From 11 months to 94 years of age, from Brockville to Wolff Island, Alexandria Bay to Grindstone. It's all been about raising awareness for the White Shoal markers we all rely on and raising funds for their maintenance. Now ... the calendar, good for 2 years, from 2014 through 2015, is available for purchase in time for Christmas. Please order lots and give them as Christmas presents! The River community will thank you! Visit www.lovetheRiver.com to order now.

