

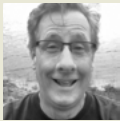


SPRING 2017

# Newsletter

Safety, Environment & Community

## President's Message



**By Thornley Stoker,**  
TIA President

Another spring followed by another summer... aren't we lucky? Even if it's only a weekend we always count ourselves lucky to spend time in this corner of God's playground. Sure, the Spring requires cleanup and maintenance but it is all about renewal and growth. Like the renewal of that promise you made to clear that pesky brush out from under the porch or finally fix that 'doohicky' on the boat this year.

This Summer marks a new beginning for the 1000 Islands Association. We've been doing a strategic planning exercise and by the time of our annual shore breakfast, we will be able to share the results.

The TIA has a rich history that reveals many accomplishments, but times are changing and we must understand the needs of today in order to build a sustainable membership for tomorrow.

We began with an assessment of the purpose of the TIA, its mission and values. This soon developed into what the TIA wants (or needs) to become. The Board then tested its findings with a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats). We believe there is a great deal more that the TIA can offer its members beyond its core effort of promoting safe boating through shoal marking. Peter Fitton summarizes our thinking to date in an article on page 4. We invite your comments on the plan that is currently under construction.

This Summer also marks the first season under the recently approved IJC Plan 2014 water management plan. Legislators finally signed the plan into law last Fall. I encourage all of you to stay tuned and input by connecting on our website and through our social media channels.

Orm Murphy has an update on the political progress being made to allow US boaters to simply 'cruise' without having to check into customs.

The 1000 Islands Boat Museum has exciting programming for all of us but especially for youth sailing. Don't forget TIBM's Annual Boat Show & Parade community event Saturday, July 15, 2017. We are all looking forward to seeing those museum docks in use!

And, one very sad note; This winter we lost a true River Rat, an icon of river life and history. Charlie Cliffe, boat builder, island resident and TIA member slipped away from us February 10, 2017. We will all miss Charlie and the legacy he brought to our community. Charlie was interviewed last Summer for a TIBM video and some of his story is shared on the next page.

Looking forward to another brilliant summer of river fun. Hope to see you.

In safe boating,

*Thornley Stoker*



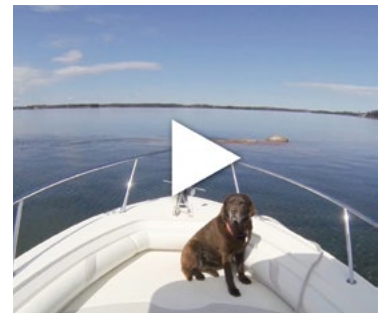
### HOW WE COMMUNICATE

This year the TIA is really going to CONNECT! Our members who are skilled in Social Media are volunteering their skills to ensure we can all connect and share in whatever ways we like. We also will continue publishing our newsletter online, as well as print. Online access will allow you to click on Internet links and watch short videos or access more information. It's your choice, so please let us know what you think!



### TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

White Shoal Markers save lives! We count on them so much for navigation you easily take them for granted. The program is completely funded by TIA members - no government money, so we need more young people and newcomers to join TIA. Forward this 30 sec video to non-members and ask them to join.



*In a few weeks as water levels rise, this shoal will be under water!*

Support White Shoal Markers by donating to TIA. Watch video at [LoveThisRiver.com/shoal-markers](http://LoveThisRiver.com/shoal-markers)

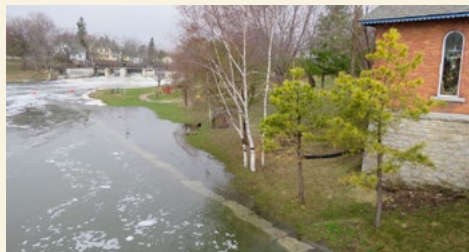
# River Moments



By Doug McLellan

## Water Levels

Winter saw little snow but you'd never know it from the water levels. The Gananoque River has overflowed its banks and is encroaching on the sculpture park.

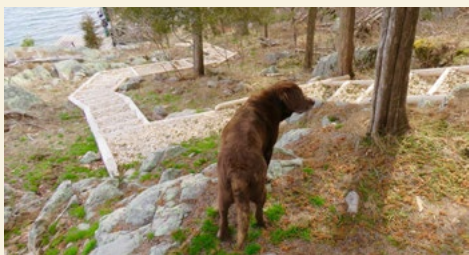


Down River, at Ed Huck Marine in Rockport, Scott MacCrimmon says "It's rained so much recently, water levels at the Cornwall dam are half a metre above chart datum. Thankfully our docks are mostly floaters!"

On January 7, 2017 Plan 2014 (created by the International Joint Commission) went into effect, it is designed to provide for more natural variations of water levels of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. According to Save The River there is a last minute effort now underway by some to cancel it and they have taken their fight to President Donald Trump. Trump's recent budget also "Eliminates all funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative". TIA recommends you Google these issues to learn more.

## Canada's 150th Birthday

Parks Canada is offering free admission and overnight mooring at 1000 Islands National Park. Get a free pass on their website at [www.commandesparcs-parksorders.ca](http://www.commandesparcs-parksorders.ca).



New hiking trails on Camelot.

## Charlie Cliffe

On Feb 10, 2017 the River lost one of its own. Charlie Cliffe, aged 87 and builder of Cliffe Craft boats, passed away at home in Lansdowne. Charlie built hundreds of wooden (and a few fibreglass) boats over the years. We caught up with Charlie last summer as he talked to the kids at TIBM after they had repaired a wooden boat.

"When I was a kid the St Lawrence skiff dominated the River because it was meant to row ... everybody had a flat bottom boat with a set of oars (chuckling) and there weren't too many motors. A big motor back then was 5hp! As the power got bigger we had to build a hull that could take the horsepower. I was certainly influenced by Lyman's lapstrake boats. The overlap creates a lot of strength (and) wooden boats certainly feel different in the water. They don't ride up, they cut through like a knife, which is hard to duplicate in fibreglass or aluminum..."

"If you like this kind of thing (fixing old wooden boats), you get motivated ... the idea of a wooden boat and how it handles in the water ... it captures your imagination and you get captivated ... I understand that ... it happened to me. It's a great way to get on the water and have some fun."

When asked by one of the kids how long it would take to build a boat Charlie said "that would depend on how much pressure the customer put on him".



Charlie was interviewed for the Thousand Islands Boat Museum's "Opening Doors to River History" video produced by [LoveThisRiver.com](http://LoveThisRiver.com). Watch this video and more at [tiboatmuseum.org](http://tiboatmuseum.org).

Tom King wrote an excellent article about Charlie and Cliffe Craft boats in 2011. You can find it on [Thousands Island Life](http://ThousandsIslandLife.com) or by using this link <http://bit.ly/2nhCWRG>.



## THOUSAND ISLANDS BOAT MUSEUM

The Thousand Islands Boat Museum is back in full swing - starting May 20th, 2017! The exciting Annual Boat Show and Parade is set for July 15.

Last year's successful Summer Sailing School will be extended and offered August 7-11, August 14-18 & August 21-25. Sailing School will run each day from 9am-4pm and is offered to kids aged 8-14.

Watch the sailing video and learn more at [tiboatmuseum.org](http://tiboatmuseum.org) or find the TIBM on Facebook for more information on upcoming events and programming.



## THE TIA HAS GONE SOCIAL!

The TIA has a new profile on Instagram to share photos of our favourite place. Get the Instagram app for your phone and become a TIA contributor! Our goal is to generate more awareness amongst our current members and bring in new ones. We are focused on sharing quality content that promotes the work of the TIA, builds our membership and promotes businesses and organizations that contribute to the TIA vision. We'll be re-imagining our Facebook page soon so stay tuned. Visit the TIA website for quick links or use [www.instagram.com/thousandislandsassociation](http://www.instagram.com/thousandislandsassociation) now. Please check in and share important information often.



By Allison Fitton





## AMENDMENT TO CUSTOMS ACT

A few years ago a New York fisherman was stopped near the Gananoque Narrows by an agent of the Canada Border Services Agency and was charged with failing to report in with Canadian authorities.

We were all shocked that he had done anything wrong but contrary to what we all thought, existing Canadian law requires that any American boat entering Canadian waters must report to Canadian Border Services.

Canadian Senator Bob Runciman and MP Gord Brown took up the issue. Mr. Brown introduced a private member's bill to amend the legislation but it was not embraced by the government and didn't pass.

Senator Runciman then introduced a Senate bill and it has received Government support. Second reading is complete and is expected to pass in the Senate and then get passed in the House of Commons this Spring.

The Bill provides that a boater who enters Canadian waters and then returns to his /her originating country, need not report to Canadian authorities if he/she did not disembark, anchor, moor, or make contact with another vessel while in Canadian waters.

Senator Runciman said: "It is not my intent with Bill S-233 to make our border more porous and I do not believe this bill will have that effect. It is my intent to make border reporting more practical in specific circumstances, such as in the sometimes-confusing geography of the Thousand Islands. There are other regions of Canada where the same issue is at play." Stay tuned for further developments.



By Orm Murphy

# History of the White Rock Markers in the Thousand Islands



By David Orr

82 years ago, in 1934, a few islanders in the Admiralty Group (near Gananoque) formed the TIA to protect cottages from vandalism. A few years later Howard Gowing, Ralph Britton and Gus Schwarz started on their own, to mark the rocky shoals that were a constant hazard. While they may have wintered thousands of miles apart, these original few got together every Spring and roped 2 x 4 lumber together, painted the sticks yellow and attached them to a paint can filled with cement. Old painted beer kegs, emblazoned with the names of these early few, often joined the early shoal markers on the River.

The next generation of markers were the Styrofoam "pill boxes". These were painted fluorescent green, and were easily placed, stored and removed with little maintenance. They were the preferred marker of choice by all the River Residents and would still be in use today but for the Coast Guard. Both the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards insisted on a regulatory standard, of the type we use today. What started as lightweight, highly visible, low cost, became today's large, 5' x 9", 60 lbs. markers costing nearly \$200.00 each. TIA didn't have the funds to purchase the needed 100 units (\$100.00 each at the time). Fortunately, Save the River came to the rescue and donated \$10,000.00 to upgrade all of Canada's markers, and create new ones on the American side as well.

Markers were still being installed and removed by volunteers like Tom Cunningham, Bill Hale and Grahame Armstrong. When the job became too onerous, TIA contracted the work to Gananoque's Tom Harrison and later his son Mark. During that time, Hubert Huntley was doing the job in the Ivy Lea area, and the Brockville Yacht club did the Brockville area.

These days, Ian Huntley has replaced his Grandfather and taken over the rest of the River from Howe Island to the foot of Grenadier Island.

A group of individuals in Brockville, formerly the Dive Club under the leadership of Linus Mulder look after the markers in the Brockville section of the St. Lawrence.

Currently, TIA pays for all River shoal markers and maintenance including installation of about 200 markers on the Canadian side of the River. TIA's shoal marker partner, Save the River places the markers on the US side.



**Why So Many Shoals?** Our 1000 Islands area is unique. It is one of the largest rivers in the world flowing "over" an ancient mountain range. It even has an underwater waterfall higher than Niagara Falls! The shoals are mountains that are worn down. Watch this Aquarium video and learn more about our area, The Frontenac Arch Biosphere, at [bit.ly/2o9WITM](http://bit.ly/2o9WITM).

*TIA Executive Officers*

**President:** Thornley Stoker  
**Past President, Programs:** Ormond Murphy  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Rubab Nadeem

*Directors*

**AGM Coordinator:** Bryan Jones  
**Emeritus:** Graham Armstrong, William Hale  
**Development:** Peter Fitton, Maryellen Price  
**Finance:** Allison Burchell-Robinson, Paul Regan Jr., Ken White  
**Membership:** Troy Donovan, George Kittredge, John Taylor  
**Programs:** David Orr, John Taylor, 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**

1000islandsassociation@gmail.com

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

1000islandsassociation.com

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By Peter Fitton

**PROPOSED TIA MISSION STATEMENT 2017**

To develop an organization committed to the advancement of safety, environmental preservation and communications for the benefit of the greater 1000 Islands River Community.

**PROPOSED TIA VISION STATEMENT 2017**

The Thousand Islands Association (TIA) will continue as a non-profit organization that is pro-active in addressing membership concerns for all aspects of river safety and environmental preservation in the 1000 Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. The TIA will promote the community of interest among boaters, property owners, visitors, local government, local businesses and service providers through core mission programs and effective communications.

**The TIA will:**

-  Maintain shoal marking as river navigational aids to advance safe water travel.
-  Promote and provide leadership to safeguards on the river by fostering prompt access to emergency response for medical aid, fire protection and property security.
-  Encourage stewardship of the river and participation in programs providing means and ways to share information focused on safe boating and environmental preservation.
-  Become a "go to" organization for communications and collaboration among members with links to information using web based and social media platforms on matters relating to TIA's Mission.
-  Align and partner with other key organizations that complement TIA goals and objectives.
-  Build a growing organization and sustainable membership dedicated to further develop the TIA Vision by networking and engaging present and future generations sharing the love for the river.
-  Create an opportunity to connect people and to assist members to strengthen their relationships to enhance the quality of living in the 1000 Islands River Community.



Photography © Doug McLellan

Please tell us what you think. Better yet, please consider volunteering to participate in the plans of the TIA to become the Association the membership wants (or needs) it to become! You can contact us by emailing to [1000shoals@hotmail.com](mailto:1000shoals@hotmail.com).