



SUMMER 2017

Newsletter

Safety, Environment & Community

President's Message



*By Thornley Stoker,
TIA President*

We will all have our own special memories of the summer of 2017. I am guessing many of them may start with "We could not open the cottage until later that year..."

For many, this summer's story will be about rebuilding and repairing more than the usual winter damaged parts. Docks have been ripped apart and shorelines have been ravaged. Many municipalities along the river are streamlining the dock permit process, which should help.

Cruising on the river remains hazardous. There are logs, decks, docks, fridges, chairs and chunks of bog afloat in much stronger currents. All this necessitates lower speeds after dusk. Lower speeds can save boat damage but also damage to the miles of "new" shoreline that has never experienced wake-wash. Please observe much larger NO WAKE ZONES than you might normally, to allow these new shorelines to survive the destructive nature of wave action until the water subsides.

On a brighter note, all this water might have some benefit for the River. Do more bugs equal more fish? Fatter birds? Flourishing wetlands? Will this kick-start the River to reinvigorate all the environmental objectives in the new water management plan?

We have much to be thankful for in the Thousand Islands Region. Clear, clean, warm water, brilliant sunshine, soft breezes and bright starlit nights. Good friends and neighbors to keep us company. Oh ...and the occasional beer or glass of wine.

And don't forget the TIA's Annual General Meeting and Shore Breakfast. It's scheduled for Saturday July 29th at the Playhouse in Gananoque, starting at 8:30am. After breakfast with old friends and new, we'll have lots of other fun stuff happening! Please put it on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers,

Thornley Stoker

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

– July 29, 2017 –

Get ready for the event of the summer! The Thousand Islands Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 29th, starting at 8:30 am, at the 1000 Islands Playhouse. The best shore breakfast provided by the Shore Breakfast Team followed by some interesting, inspiring and educational presentations.



3 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE TIA ON FACEBOOK

In our last newsletter we shared an update on our social media activities - including the launch of our revitalized Facebook page! We've had a few questions on how to get information from our page, and how the communications we share on Facebook can benefit you, our members. To answer these questions, we have put together three key things to know about the TIA on Facebook:

- 1. You can read and share details on upcoming events, current issues and community updates.** On our page, we share information about upcoming events for members, news about local issues and updates from businesses and community members in the 1,000 Islands. If you have a Facebook profile, you can also share our updates with your own network of friends and family with the ➡ **Share** button.
- 2. If you "like" our page on Facebook, you will get updates every time we post new content.** Click the 👍 **Like** button for our page and you will start to receive notifications in your email or on your mobile phone every time we make an update.
- 3. You can submit your own content to share with our community!** If you have a Facebook profile, you can also share comments, updates and your own news on our Facebook page in the comments section. We're always looking for local news updates and photos to share, so we welcome your contributions! If you would like to send us content to post, please email us at 1000islandsassociation@gmail.com.

Find us on facebook at [facebook.com/ThousandIslandsAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/ThousandIslandsAssociation).



By Allison Fitton

THE VALUE OF BEING A TIA MEMBER

Why are you a member of TIA?

Could it be to support our critical shoal-marking program, which provides for the purchase, maintenance, placement and removal of markers on both sides of the border? This year's incredibly high water has covered many shoals and rocks that, in a normal year, would be seen by boaters. The shoal markers have provided a warning that dangerous rocks are nearby and you should take care. Just think what the impact would be if there were no shoal markers!

Perhaps its because of TIA's goal to keep the River and our environment a very special place. Our annual road clean up on the Parkway (done this year in May) and our scholarship program that provides financial support to deserving area students to further their ecological studies, are two examples.

Being a part of our TIA community goes beyond just a "warm fuzzy" feeling. We share a very unique part of the world and we have a history of supporting our area's first responders both financially and with the purchase of needed equipment. Our annual shore breakfast and general meeting, is considered a social highlight of the summer and offers all of us a chance to "renew" our community with friends and neighbors.

We have over 800 members, but many islanders, mainlanders and boaters have not yet joined. Many, wrongly "assume" some level of government funds our work. We need your help to tell them the real story and encourage them to join and help. Ask your neighbors and friends on nearby islands if they are TIA members and if not, why not? Ask the businesses you frequent if they will join you as a member of TIA.

Our membership must grow to continue our life-saving work and create/support new programs. Our goal is to have over 1000 members by the end of the year. We can do that adding just one new member at a time. Forward the online version of this newsletter to friends who are not TIA members and ask them directly to get involved and support TIA.



By George Kittredge



NO WAKES PLEASE!

Shorelines and heritage buildings are at risk.


High Water Levels



By Doug McLellan

Photography © Pete Medcalf
& Doug McLellan

The water is high and causing problems everywhere. There are lots of questions and even some finger pointing. Here's what we know for sure:

- All the water in the Great Lakes eventually comes through the 1000 Islands, although it takes years.
- The 1000 Islands area is essentially the same level as Lake Ontario. View or download a printable poster showing levels (<http://bit.ly/2sNpHdl>).
- The watershed is huge as shown here: 
- Since December 2016 the watershed has had over double its normal precipitation.
- Lake Ontario and our section of the River (above the dam) peaked at 39" above normal on May 29. While some sources claim this is the highest since 1900, the US Army Corps of Engineers say the highest was 1952.
- Down River, Montreal has suffered major flooding as well.
- While more water could be let out at the Moses-Saunders dam, for every 1" Lake Ontario is lowered, Montreal levels go up 10", if Montreal is in a flood state.
- Montreal levels are manageable now so IJC is releasing record amounts of water at the dam equivalent to 4 Olympic size swimming pools every second.
- By all accounts the high water levels have nothing to do with the International Joint Commission's new regulatory plan (Plan 2014), and everything to do with a very wet start to 2017.

Climate change? When will the water drop? Is this the new normal? The US Army Corps of Engineers (<http://bit.ly/2rSu829>) predicts we will be back to normal levels in mid August with an 8" drop predicted for July 16.

As for the future, we are experiencing massive swings in weather around the world. Remember last summer in the islands when we had a drought and trees were cracking, splitting and falling? Stay tuned for anything!



THOUSAND ISLANDS BOAT MUSEUM: CALLING ALL RIVER RATS, JULY 15TH, 2017

Help make the 4th Annual Boat Show and Parade the best yet by offering a free boat ride to a landlubber (or two). Let's give everyone the chance to experience our wonderful backyard. Local residents who register for a ride will be assigned to a parade boat immediately before departure. Register your boat (anything that floats counts) and enjoy free grub for the Captain and First Mate at the BBQ following the parade (with Chef Stev George of Casa Bella/Olivea). For details and to register visit tiboatmuseum.org.

"There is nothing--absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." - Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows

Photography © Doug McLellan



**CANADA 150
ANNIVERSARY**

On July 1, 2017 Canada will celebrate its 150th birthday since Confederation. It's a time to celebrate for sure, but also to reflect on who we are as a nation and what we stand for. We have extraordinary natural beauty, good friends we share the border with and a population that is more diverse than any other country in the world. We're a welcoming place and that is worth sharing and celebrating!

Please visit the official website to find out what people are doing to mark this important anniversary. In addition, our leader describes his favorite summer things during this celebration in a fun video (<http://bit.ly/2sZ8b3f>).

– 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 first of a series of articles that will present the history of the association.

1934-1948



By Allison Burchell-Robinson

The Summer Residents' Association of the Township of Leeds and Lansdowne first met in 1934, although there still exists today a rumor, for which there is no substantiation, that the Association really started in 1920. The name was later changed to the Thousand Islands Summer Residents' Association (TISRA). The first president was Arthur Castle.

One of the first concerns was an exemption of its members for payment of a fishing license along with a request for their guests to fish on a regular \$1.00 license. This request was denied in 1946. The danger presented by shoals was first raised in 1936 and at first TISRA looked to the Township for better marking. Another concern in those early years was winter break-ins and better protection. In 1938 Ottawa promised shoal action "very soon".

In 1941 a membership committee was formed and membership began to grow. Also that year, 25 buoys were placed at shoals and another 20 were ordered for the following year. TISRA learned that the Department of Transport was only concerned with what they deemed "navigable channels". In the nineteen forties issues raised included garbage disposal, proper washrooms for day visitors to Gananoque, the need for the town to provide a "reliable marine shop", fire fighting equipment, the possibility of the islands getting hydro and telephone service. In 1948 dues were raised from \$1.00 to \$2.00.

From the onset, TISRA supported local charities, clubs and associations. In 1945, Mayor Woodley said "the association is an industry and its members' contribution to the financial welfare of the town is an important one".

Photo: M.J. King's Store, Thousand Islands, Ontario.



TIA Executive Officers

President: Thornley Stoker
Vice-President: Allison Burchell Robinson
Past President, Programs: Ormond Murphy
Secretary-Treasurer: Rubab Nadeem

Directors

AGM: Bryan Jones (Chair)
Business Development: Troy Donovan (Chair)
Communications: Thornley Stoker (Chair),
Peter Fitton (Vice-Chair)
Emeritus: Graham Armstrong, William Hale
Finance & Administration:
Ormond Murphy (Chair), Allison Burchell-
Robinson (Vice-Chair)
Governance & Nominations:
Paul Regan (Chair)
Membership: George Kittredge (Chair)
Programs: David Orr (Chair), Ken White
(Vice-Chair)
Strategic Planning: Peter Fitton (Chair)

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:

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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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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS/SUPPORT



The TIA along with Save The River, places and maintains White Shoal Markers from Howe Island to Brockville. Various groups of volunteers or contractors put them in, take them out and maintain them.

Approximately 15 markers in the Brockville Narrows area to Butternut Bay need help! TIA is looking for a volunteer group or funding for a contractor to take these over.

In 2015, Frances Cloke (now 97) and her grand-daughter Isobel Muir (now 5) were photographed near Butternut Bay as part of the Shoal Sister's calendar fundraiser. If they can get involved, how about you? **Please help find a crew to look after these life-saving markers.**

Map is an approximation. Contact us for more details at 1000islandsassociation@gmail.com.

Photography © Doug McLellan

