



JUNE 2021

RIVER TALK



Our thanks to TIA member and friend, John N. Street,
for providing many of the images used in River Talk each month.



JUNE 2021 RIVER TALK

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"The picture was taken from the deck of our cottage on Mudlunta Island on June 6th, 2020 at 7:45 in the morning. It was a nice way to start the day!" - Judy Orr



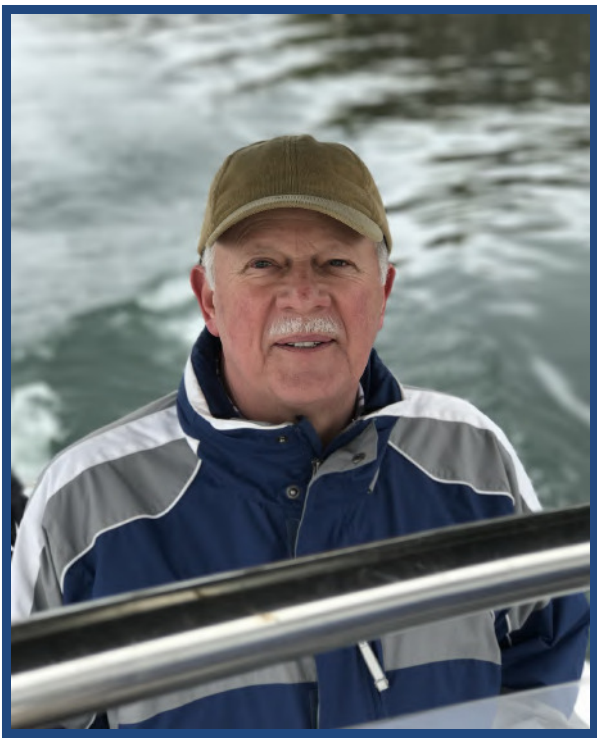
Do You Have A Favourite **River Photo** that brings back a special moment or memory?

If so, please share it with **TIA**

You can email it to us at: thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com

"I wondered what that person was thinking sitting on the bench, I know I get lost in thought at the sunsets on the river." Taken at Grass Point State Park by Dale Hull





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Peter Fitton

This year, the June solstice occurs on Sunday, June 20 which heralds the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. ... It's the day with the most hours of daylight, so enjoy!

The month also hosts "Best Friend Day". June 8 is a time to enjoy, honour and cherish relationships. If you are lucky, you have a number of best friends – they are very special people who share memorable times. During COVID-19, this social interaction has become paramount to maintaining hopes and encouragement to one another.

Many of the best friendships are found in our river community and TIA promotes the traditions of comradeship. Since 1934, TIA has been represented by citizens who share interests and concerns for the safety, beauty and fellowship within the community. The TIA By-Laws provide for a Board of 12 volunteer Directors. As time evolves there become openings for new Board members as Directors retire from much appreciated tours of duty.

Would you like to become a new Board member and promote our mission pillars: River Safety, Environmental Awareness, Community Support? TIA has a few openings and I invite you to consider the opportunity to give back to the river. The ideal Board is one that has diversity among gender, Canadian and American citizenship, and geographic location of summer residency among the 1000 Islands. The requirements are to be an active Board participant and to help develop the TIA vision and programs for future generations. We meet the 3rd Saturday morning of the month (presently on ZOOM) for 10 months of the year. July is reserved for the AGM and December for family.



Communications has become a significant part of TIA and its growing relationship with the river community. River Talk e-newsletter and social media platforms require content and production support. Does this stimulate your interest and skill set?

I invite you to contact myself or Allison Burchell-Robinson, our Secretary – Treasurer and we would be pleased to discuss the opportunities. ([Click Here](#) to email us.)

In closing, please mark your calendar for the TIA July 24, 2021 ZOOM AGM where you can meet and see your best friends on the river.





COMMUNITY SUPPORT

From the Editor

Thank you to all you who responded so quickly to the letter from Peter Fitton and me about membership. Interest in the cost of the shoal marking program was high and a surprise to some. TIA members should take pride in knowing that their dues make this program possible on both sides of the border. For those who have not yet joined or renewed, please do so now. Thank you.

Let's talk about our members. Who are they and from where do they come. Well, they are lawyers, judges, professors, dentists, doctors, builders, business men and women, teachers, web designers, nurses, artists, landscapers, photographers, television executives, fishermen, detectives, boat designers, carpenters, plumbers, social media consultants, scientists, grant writers and so many more professions. They are first generation to eighth generations on the river. Some grew up on the river while others are seasonal.

Where they come from may very well surprise you. A few years ago, I researched the membership list and wrote about it in one of our newsletters. This is what I found. Canadians come from the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec. US members represent 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. North America is well represented. The pull of this river has a very long reach.

These people are your friends and neighbors. Introduce yourself to the stranger next door, on the next island or the next boat. After all, you already have something in common-your love of this special river community. And, in this second year of the border presently closed, please take some time to inspect and look over that unoccupied cottage, boat or house. This community does watch out for itself and for those who can't.

What is it about this river community that makes it so special? Is it the water, the sunsets, the wildlife, the watercraft, the tranquility, the shared border, the air? It is all of them and more. Each person has a special memory to draw on when needed. Who among us would have it any other way?



NOTICE OF TIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 24, 2021

Due to COVID 19 and the ongoing restrictions on large gatherings imposed by our government and health officials, the TIA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will not take place as customary at the Thousand Islands Playhouse facilities in Gananoque, Ontario, Canada. In accordance with the By-Laws of the Thousand Islands Association for the Preservation of River Quality Inc. (Canada) and The Thousand Islands Association Inc. (USA) collectively and hereinafter referred to as "TIA", this serves as notice from the Board of Directors of TIA that the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association will be held in two parts:

PART ONE

JULY 5 to JULY 20, 2021 - DOCUMENTS REVIEW AND SURVEY MONKEY VOTING:

Matters of TIA business requiring formal approval will be managed by sending copies of documents and motions to the general membership for review, discussion and then voting on Survey Monkey. Motions to be addressed include: Approval of the 2020 AGM Minutes; Approval 2020 Financial Statements for Canada and USA; Approval of Auditors for 2021 Fiscal Year End (FYE); and Election of Directors for 2021 / 2022 term.

On July 5, 2021 Survey Monkey will be turned on and TIA will request the membership to participate in voting on the motions with a response deadline of July 20, 2021.

PART TWO

JULY 24, 2021 - ZOOM AGM:

The fellowship aspect will be managed online comprised of meet & greet sessions opening at 9:00 EDT followed by welcomes from local government dignitaries and then starting at 10:00 EDT remarks from TIA President, Results of PART ONE DOCUMENTS REVIEW & MONKEY SURVEY VOTING, Introduction of Board of Directors, TIA Committee Report Updates, and Speaker Presentations.

Note pursuant to TIA By-Laws Article VII, and in line with the structure of the AGM proceedings outlined above, the business meeting is considered to start on July 5, 2021. Accordingly, and pursuant to By-Laws Article VI, proposals by members may include nominations for the election of Directors if the proposal is signed by not less than then (10) members entitled to vote at the meeting provided it is delivered and received by the Secretary of the Corporation by mail or electronic communication at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting and election, deadline therefore being June 28, 2021.



Did you know that TIA is a not-for-profit organization that will issue a Canadian or US Tax Receipt for any donation over \$10?

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

TIA Thanks

The Great Lakes Foundation For Their Generous Grant



The Great Lakes Foundation is an affiliate of the Great Lakes Cruising Club (GLCC). We are a charitable organization dedicated to preserving the richness of wilderness cruising areas of the Great Lakes and fostering the art and science of cruising. All members of the GLCC are automatically members of the Great Lakes Foundation and participate in its affairs.

The Foundation has awarded more than \$250,000 USD in grants since 1993 to activities that meet the Foundation's Grant Policy. This year, the Foundation was pleased to award a grant of \$8800 USD in support of the TIA Shoal Marker Program.

The GLCC was founded in 1934 (the same year as the TIA!) and is a non-profit organization of about 2,500 Canadian and American sail and power boaters who cruise throughout the Great Lakes and their connecting waterways. We are a virtual club with no conventional yacht club facilities. Instead, we focus on collecting and sharing cruising information through our authoritative Harbour Reports. We share knowledge and friendship through informal and organized events like our annual Rendezvous and other Rallies and gatherings around the Great Lakes.

The GLCC is the single best source of information to enhance cruising the Great Lakes. We have over 1,000 reports on anchorages and ports that have been compiled by cruisers for cruisers. Our reports, which are available to members, provide detailed information often not found elsewhere. Our on-line curated updating process, driven by member contributions, makes these reports unique among cruising guides resulting in authoritative, accurate and up to date piloting and anchoring information for busy harbours and remote anchorages alike.

The GLCC also operates the Great Lake Cruising Club School offering an extensive curriculum of webinars in the off-season covering cruising destination information, weather, navigation and technical subjects. These popular webinars are open to all but are discounted for GLCC members.



Eric Sunstrum

For more information on the Great Lakes Foundation and The Great Lakes Cruising Club be sure to visit our website at <https://www.glccclub.com/>

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In Case You Were Wondering.....

By Alec Turner and Dave McWilliam



What To Do With Your Engine Cut Off Switch

As of April 1st, 2021 the U.S. Coast Guard requires that if you are piloting a boat less than 26 feet (7.9 m) in length you are required to use the engine cut-off switches (ECOS) while operating on plane or above displacement speed.

That means wearing a lanyard—aka ECOS link—while at the wheel. Many powerboats and PWC come equipped by the manufacturer with an emergency engine cut-off switch. This safety device can shut off the engine if the operator falls out of the powerboat or off the PWC, or is otherwise thrown from the proper operating position.



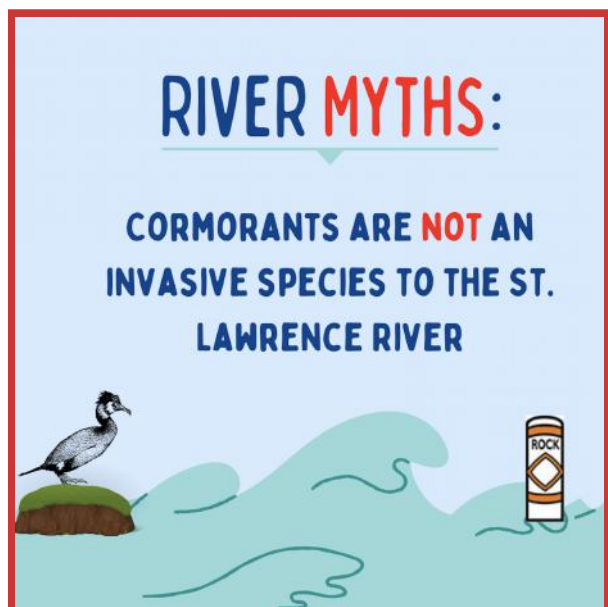
(Photo: Cheseapeake Bay Magazine)

In Canada, it is BEST practice while on a PWC to attach the engine shut-off line securely to your wrist or lifejacket or PFD.

For further information, **CLICK** on the following:

[US Coast Guard](#)

[Transport Canada- Safe Boating Guide](#)
Please see Page 48



Cormorants are in fact a native North American bird with populations throughout the continent. The bird's presence in the Great Lakes has been documented since the mid-20th century and it is likely they inhabited the area before this as well. The species was impacted by the excessive use of DDT and other pesticides starting in the 40's.

With the banning of these chemicals and increased pollution control laws in the 1970's, the Cormorant population was able to bounce back and reoccupy the Great Lakes region.

Source: Gerry Smith (2017), tilife.org

WATER LEVEL UPDATE

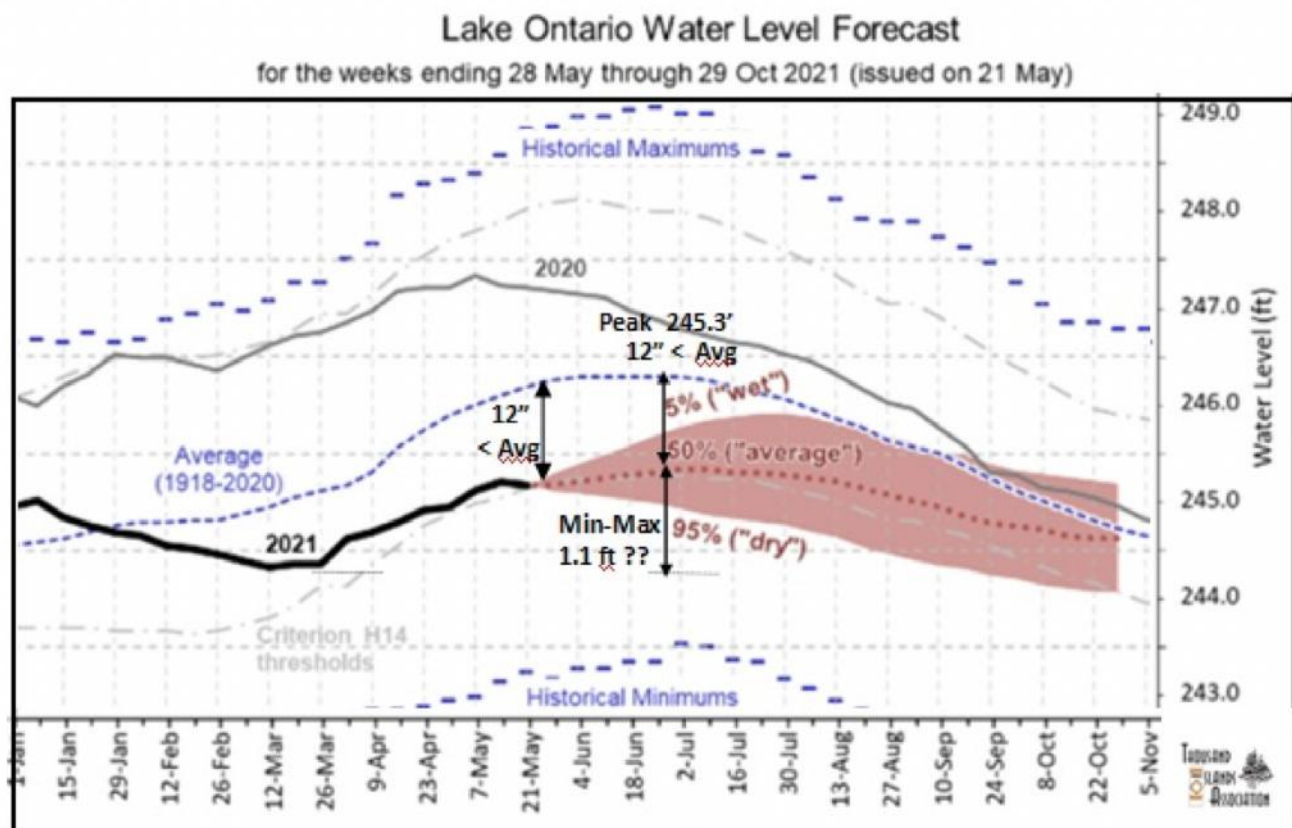


2021: A High Bottom - Low Water Season

By Vince Barton and Ken White

- Summer levels will be like fall/end-of-season. Docking & navigation will be challenging
- The 12-month dry cycle through April 1st tied for the driest 12 months since 1950
- A paltry 1.1 feet Min-to-Max total level swing may break the 1.3 foot record
- The projected 50% chance peak level is only 3-4" above early January!
- The current level is 13.5" below the average (100-year for May 27th)
- The IJC's ILOSLR Board just announced further outflow reductions due to water levels dropping below Criterion H14 low water trigger levels

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article



We take P.R.I.D.E. in our work!



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

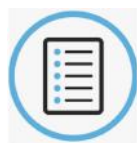


Over the next few months, TIA will be highlighting one of our business sponsors who has taken the initiative to implement sustainability and green practices into their business in an effort to reduce their impacts on the environment. This month's featured sponsor is **Thornbusch Landscaping**.

Thornbusch Landscaping has been serving the 1000 Islands and Rideau Lakes regions from Brockville to Kingston since 2007. Being a part of an industry that is inherently connected to the land, Paul Doornbos, President and CEO of **Thornbusch Landscaping**, has always taken his business' environmental footprint into consideration. Paul is a firm believer in "one step at a time" and has been transitioning to more and more ecologically friendly products and practices over the years, including permeable paving stones, battery operated machinery and working with his employees and clients to reduce waste generation through repurposing and recycling. While many businesses cite the cost of environmental products as the driving reason to continue to use cheaper, more polluting products and machinery, Paul believes making the transition is not all that costly if it means his people are happy, less tired and can do their work better and more efficiently. With a growing 'Green' movement gaining traction around the world, making these eco-friendly transitions are also a matter of staying relevant within his industry.

Along with these changes, Paul and his employees at **Thornbusch** prioritize reducing the waste they produce wherever possible. During the last year, **Thornbusch** has produced less than 100 bags of waste including all waste from their worksites and place of business. Paul's advice for business owners who are considering making the switch to greener business is to "do one thing, don't try ten things at once". His recommendation is to give yourself a goal for one area of your operation and ask yourself how can we get better and/or reduce our impact, once you have accomplished that move onto the next thing. This is how Paul believes lasting and effective change within your business can happen.

Thank you to Paul Doornbos for taking the time to speak with us! For any of your landscaping or lawn care needs check out Thornbusch Landscaping at <http://thornbuschlandscaping.com>



FRIENDS OF TIA

FEATURING

THOUSAND ISLANDS

AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



CLICK OUR LOGO TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT TIARA

Who is TIARA, an organization that some confuse with TIA? We're different but complementary to each other. Our mandate is to preserve and improve the Thousand Islands environment. We monitor and support actions and planning that can carry this out. We provide essential information, so people can make decisions promoting a healthy ecosystem. We connect and collaborate with other area organizations supporting a sustainable environment.

TIARA was founded in 1975 following an alarming announcement. With a huge budget, Parks Canada intended to expand its small holdings in the 1000 Islands by taking over 30 square miles of islands and mainland – within five years! Fear of expropriation reminded us how lucky we were to be in a place of world-famous natural beauty. We're now part of a UNESCO biosphere, which says we have "arguably, Canada's greatest diversity of plant and animal communities".

TIARA realized that preserving this unique environment depended on good planning, firmly based on residents' wishes. We persuaded the drafters of our first Official Plan to declare the islands and mainland south of the 401 a Special Policy Area, with guidelines protecting the "ribbon of life" where land and water meet. Ever since, TIARA has worked to uphold this planning.

During the floods of 2017 and 2019, TIARA urged increased outflow at Cornwall, but still acknowledged that no management plan could have prevented the flooding caused by unprecedented precipitation and sudden spring snowmelt. People are beginning to appreciate the value of wetlands in such weather crises. Wetlands act as sponges, holding back rain falling over the whole watershed, allowing it to enter the River gradually. TIARA protests government policies which pave over wetlands for development.

In March 2020, TIARA was planning a workshop on planting shorelines to make them resilient during both flood and drought. We invited other organizations (including TIA) to collaborate with us. The pandemic put plans on hold, but we hope to revive them soon.

TIARA is nominating the Upper St. Lawrence as a Canadian Heritage River. Our nomination document, submitted last June, awaits government approval.

Last September, TIARA joined the national Decibel Coalition, promoting enhanced boat muffler legislation specifying decibel limits.

We're happy to be working with TIA for a safe, beautiful, healthy River.



Noteworthy News I



TIA- CROSS BORDER TASK FORCE UPDATE

By Orm Murphy- TIA Board Member

The goal of this committee is to ensure that policymakers on both sides of the border understand that property owners residing across the border are in a unique situation and require special consideration. The simple solution is to have property owners and their families considered as essential travelers and be allowed cross border access in the initial stage of a graduated re-opening, subject to appropriate health requirements.

We targeted the Wilson Centre in Washington, D.C., which was supposed to provide guidelines to both governments. Unfortunately, their report has never been made public, but other releases seem to confirm that they supported the concept of special status to property owners.

Several American politicians have advocated strongly for immediate action on establishing a re-opening plan. Congressman Brian Higgins (Democratic) and Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (Republican) were strong advocates early on and recently Senator Chuck Schumer has supported fully vaccinated people who have property across the border to be considered essential travelers.

Unfortunately, the Canadian Government remains mostly silent on the issue. Prime Minister Trudeau recently responded to a question of re-opening the border saying, "Perhaps this summer if everything goes well ... now is not the time to travel."

A former Liberal Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament from Prince Edward Island, Wayne Easter, has co-authored a joint statement with Congressman Brian Higgins, urging their respective governments to develop a plan for re-opening.

Our Committee Member, Stephen Friot, has recently authored a strong letter to Congressman Higgins and Congresswoman Stefanik, through their respective executive assistants Nick Montalbano and Marek Laco. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the letter.

The Committee will continue to pressure local politicians on both sides of the border to give priority to property owners across the border, and hopefully salvage some of the summer.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the thoughts of Phillip Murdock. A retired Canadian Coast Guard member who owns property in US waters.



Looking for a unique way to recognize or honour someone special? Why not sponsor a TIA Shoal Marker in their name. Learn more by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Noteworthy News II



The End of Seasonal Electricity Rates Update



FOCA recently learned of developments in the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decision to eliminate the seasonal rate class of Hydro One customers.

[CLICK](#) the HYDRO ONE Logo for more info



TIA's Trash Free River Clean Up Day is August 7th

This is a friendly reminder of our Trash Free River Clean Up Day on Saturday August 7th!

As an ongoing effort with [Save the River](#), we are working to clean up our shorelines and keep the St. Lawrence "swimmable, fishable and drinkable now and for generations to come".

In collaboration with St. Lawrence Parks, we will be visiting and cleaning up sites along the 1000 Islands Parkway, including Gray's Bay, Landon's Bay and Brown's Bay with more sites to come!

Due to COVID and border restrictions, we are unable to share this event in person. However, we can share in mutual care and effort. Removing plastics and other man-made debris from the St. Lawrence River is a pressing concern and with our Trash Free River cleanup, we hope to start an annual tradition of shoreline and river bottom cleanups, removing a major source of pollution from the River.

These cleanups are community-based and volunteer oriented. As we continue to plan this event, we are looking to our members and community as a whole, to participate and help us keep our River clean.

If you are interested in potentially participating in this event, please fill out this [interest form](#) to let us know, so we may gauge the level of interest in our Clean Up Day. We would love to hear from you!



Help TIA grow our membership in 2021. Please renew today, and tell a friend or neighbour about the work we do. Buy your membership today by [CLICKING HERE](#)

WE MARK ROCKS AND SAVE PROPS!

[LEARN MORE](#)



It May Be Time To Say Goodbye To Your Boat If:

- The essential repairs to keep your boat operational exceed the monetary or emotional value of the boat.
- It is no longer seaworthy.
- It can no longer safely be operated.

Boating Ontario has a terrific section on their web site about your options when it comes to disposing of your old boat. Learn about all of your options, obligations and responsibilities.

[CLICK HERE](#) for all the answers you need.

Boating
Ontario



WE NEED YOU TO FLOAT OUR ROCK MARKER!

200

175

150

125

100

75

50

25



**Help Us Reach This Year's Goal Of
200 New TIA Members**

Memberships Start At Just \$50 Per Year

[CLICK HERE TO BECOME A MEMBER](#)



**TIA's Flagship Program Is The Placement,
Maintenance And Removal Of 200
Rock Markers Each Season**

MOTHER NATURE VERSUS TIA SHOAL MARKERS - WHO WINS?

By Peter Fitton



Mother nature takes no prisoners – it can be ruthless, uncompromising, and unyielding with the TIA rock shoal markers. The variables of fluctuating water levels, winds and wave actions create extreme wear and tear on our safety beacons, in some areas of the river more than others. This leaves TIA with the necessity to create a reserve fund to replace an aging inventory of approximately 200 rock markers in Canadian SLR waters and providing regular funding to Save the River to help support another 100 shoal markers in US SLR waters ... but at what cost?

The life of a shoal marker is uncertain but, assuming a 5-year average life span, here is some hypothetical math. Based on a capital cost of **\$350** for one marker, connection chain and cement block anchors this equates to **\$70** per year straight line depreciation. Add to that another **\$80** per marker to place in the spring and remove in the fall. Multiply that by 200 markers and TIA has a **\$30,000** per year financial operating liability for the Canadian St. Lawrence River side excluding its support to STR and excluding the other fixed costs of the organization such as insurance, communication platforms, events, and other programs.

TIA is a membership driven not-for-profit corporation and your annual dues and donations are critical to keep TIA sustainable. Click here www.thousandislandsassociation.com and join now to help keep our shoal markers afloat!



Please LIKE or FOLLOW US





Fraud and Floods

Change can be scary, especially in times like these. However, **Cerow Agency, Inc.** has remained a constant in the insurance industry since its establishment in 1876, making it the oldest continuous insurance business in Clayton, NY. In fact, we were the only agency in town whose office premises remained open for business during the worldwide pandemic and we provided no disruption in services. Now, still open in two locations with a friendly, experienced and fully vaccinated staff, **Cerow Agency, Inc.** continues to stay up to date on emerging perils, limitations, and other coverage issues for the sake of their clients and is proud to be Compliant with all New York State regulations.

In recent months, there has been a noticeable surge in Cyber and Identity Fraud. So much of life is now digital, from shopping to banking, leaving personal information vulnerable. So it is not surprising that so many have been exposed in at least one major data breach or more! Coverage is available for a business or individual, but it is not standard on most policies and the policy would need to be specifically endorsed.

Another risk that the Thousand Islands region has been specifically afflicted with is rising Lake and River waters. In most cases this is considered Flooding which, again, is an excluded peril under a typical Homeowner's policy. A few insurance carriers now offer Flood coverage with a simple endorsement added to a Homeowner's policy so speaking with a representative could be an easy fix for this risk. Another (generally pricier) option is to purchase a separate Flood policy. This policy sometimes requires a 30-day period before becoming effective so don't wait if you are worried about flood damage to your property.

With so many unknowns in the universe, don't let insurable risks add undue stress to your life. We urge you to take the time to go over potential hazards with an insurance professional today, even if we are not your agency of choice.



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TIA's Environmental Ambassador- Anna Cowan

Meet our Environmental Ambassador Anna Cowan

As Peter so kindly introduced me in last month's River Talk, my name is Anna Cowan and I have the pleasure to be TIA's first ever 'Environmental Ambassador'. I am currently finishing up my degree at McGill University in Environmental Studies which focuses on the highly interconnected relationships which exist between humans, society and our surrounding environments. While I am still deciding on my future career goals, I would like to find a position that allows me to work closely with people and work to create an environmentally sustainable and equitable future for all. Beyond academics, I have also had the privilege to pursue my athletic goals and play for the women's rugby team during my time at McGill. Go Martlets!

While I have absolutely loved my time in Montreal and am grateful for all the memories I made there, I am very excited for the chance to return to my home on the River. I have the great fortune to come from a long line of River Rats and have been able to spend all of my summers on our family island, Minota. I have vivid memories of hopping in the boat on a chilly May morning as my dad and I raced across the river to make it to my bus to school on time. My friends would always ask why I would go to all the extra trouble, but falling asleep to the sounds of the river and being greeted by the sunrise reflected on a dew-covered dock were always worth it for me. As I am sure many of you can relate, even after 4 months of taking every opportunity to be on the river, having to say goodbye in September always felt like it was happening too soon. I am very grateful for the opportunity TIA and [ECO Canada](#) have provided me to combine my passion for protecting the environment and my love for the 1000 Islands as we work towards preserving the River we all know and love.

I look forward to hopefully getting to know some of you over the course of the summer and am excited to see what we will be able to accomplish together!

Cheers,
Anna



TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



GANANOQUE
BOAT LINE
BY HORNBLOWER



TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors



CLICK TO
LEARN MORE





"My view from down in the Brockville narrows area. Woke up early this morning (May 19) grabbed a coffee and enjoyed this view...Tranquility."

Photo supplied by Ross Stewart- Royal Island

Thousand Islands Association

Due to seasonality, varying water levels, vandalism and equipment failure, the Thousand Island Association disclaims any liability for the absence of any of its shoal markers from time to time.

The Thousand Islands Association (TIA) is a not for profit organization that is proactive in addressing safety on the river, promoting environmental preservation and supporting the interests of the Community for the benefit of the 1000 Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

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TIA's Three Pillars

River Safety
Environmental Awareness
Community Support

