



AUGUST 2021

# RIVER TALK



**RIVER SAFETY . ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS . COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

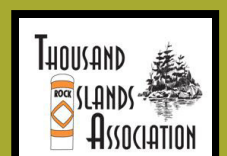
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If you missed our Annual General Meeting on ZOOM last month, you can view the different segments on our YouTube channel by **CLICKING HERE**

\*Please note, we will be editing and adding video over the next few weeks

## August 2021 River Talk







"The Coles Shoal Rear Range Lighthouse at Fulford Point that my Grandfather Albert Munro built before WW1 and purchased from the government back in the 1930's. It is still in the Munro family today."

*Rob Hunter*



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](mailto:thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com)

*View from the top of the Coles Shoal Rear Range Lighthouse  
Photos courtesy of Rob Hunter*





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Fitton

*Welcome August and the re-opening of the US-Canadian Border. The science of double vaccinations and the resulting herd immunity has made this possible - more details in this issue of River Talk.*

On July 24th TIA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on ZOOM. Attendees enjoyed meet & greet sessions in breakout rooms and heard welcoming messages from local dignitaries. Committee Reports were presented on Student Bursaries, River Safety Shoal Marking, Cross-Border Travel, and Water Levels. Feature speakers were Helen Cooper from Dive Brockville Adventure Centre presenting "Under the St. Lawrence" and Annabel Cowan, TIA's Environment Ambassador summer co-op student presenting "Get into the Green Scene". Go to the [TIA website](#) to find recordings of the 2021 AGM.

Next on the summer timetable is TIA's second annual "Trash Free River Clean Up Day" to be held on Saturday, August 7. Volunteers will meet at the Landon Bay parking area, next to Halsteads Bay at 9am where they will be assigned a specific area and pick up the necessary supplies including grabbers and buckets. Everyone, families, friends, are encouraged to create teams and participate. Find more information and the registration form on the TIA website or [CLICK HERE](#) to open the Registration Poster.

To advance the TIA Mission of Environmental Awareness, TIA has become a supporting member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA). Go to [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca) to read about their role in protecting thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario. TIA Members in good standing will be emailed a USERNAME and PASSWORD to access FOCA information and benefits.

In closing, August is the month to witness spectacular meteor showers over the river at night. Go to <https://www.almanac.com/content/meteor-shower-calendar> and click on <https://www.almanac.com/meteor-showers> to read more about the best and most reliable showers of Perseids between Aug 11 and 13.

Enjoy the river!







Photo Credit 680 News

# FROM THE EDITOR

**Allison Burchell-Robinson**

It's here, well it's almost here, the day that those of us in the US can cross the border and enter Canada. For the many who left the 1000 Islands region in September of 2019, it's been a long twenty two months. I, for one, can't remember what I left behind or what I meant to bring. Entering the cottage will be akin to a new experience, a new venture and I'll probably end up with two more of one thing and a zero of another. Who cares? We're back! I hope our Canadian friends with property on the US side can soon rejoice as well.

I do have one big regret. Our reentry date is two days after the Trash Free River Clean-Up set to August 7th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. See the Table of Contents to learn more about this event in Janet Smith-Staple's article (See Page 15). Learning about the trash in our River has been informative and interesting especially that the smallest items cause the most damage and the biggest problems. Those River Rats who've been around for a long time probably all have a skeleton in their closet. But it's not that brass bed that causes the problem. Join TIA on the 7th to learn more and play a small part in saving this magnificent river and those who live in, on or above it.

Many of you have probably seen the picture of the boat that hit a shoal not far from Mulcaster Island. The picture generated a lot of comments some sympathetic, others not. For me, the picture represents everything you do not want to happen or see on the river. It could have been much worse, it could have ended in tragedy. Fortunately the boat was towed to a marina and all on board were ok. What the picture also represents is the necessity of the shoal markers placed every year by the Thousand Islands Association. It is your membership dues that enable TIA's ability to purchase the shoal markers and to pay to have them placed and removed every spring and fall. Our membership is down, certainly not helped by the pandemic. Now that many of us are back, please renew or join. It's never too late!





THOUSAND  
ISLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1934

# You're Invited!

WHAT: TIA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual River Clean Up Day

WHEN: Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

TIME: 9am - 12 Noon

[CLICK HERE](#)  
[TO REGISTER](#)





# ENVIRONMENTAL Sponsor Spotlight



Annabel Cowan- TIA Environmental Ambassador

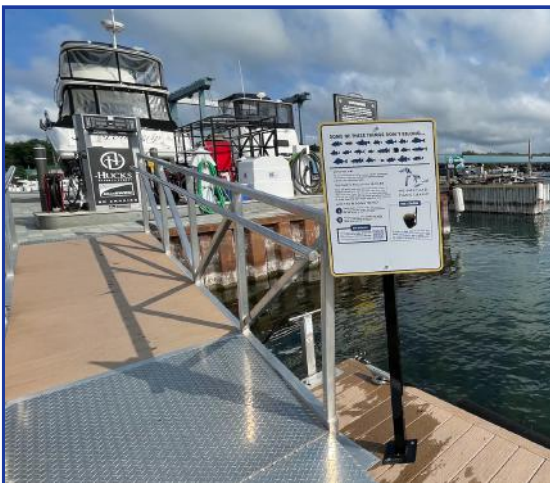
As one of the longest running businesses in Ontario, **Hucks Marine & Resort** has been a part of the River community for 132 years with the business playing a large role in creating the well known 1000 Islands image.

Today, Hucks is working towards bettering themselves and the community through impressive environmental initiatives. Most notably, with the help of the Great Lakes Plastic Cleanup Project, Hucks has recently become 1 of 26 marinas in the province to install innovative clean up technology in the form of the Sea Bin trash-skimming unit.

The device itself is fashioned as a floating garbage bag that draws in water while picking up all types of plastics, including harmful microplastics. When the unit is emptied the contents will be sent off to a lab at the University of Toronto where the types of plastic collected can be analyzed and used to inform future policy making- all of this done in the effort of improving our waterways and keeping our River clean for future generations. The next time you're visiting Hucks check out their fuel dock and you will find the Sea Bin in action!



Beyond this project, Hucks has also invested in other green initiatives including numerous recycling and waste stations throughout the marina for customers and visitors and offering local and eco-friendly products in Centre Stage, their brand new retail shop. In addition, Hucks has continually participated and supported Boating Ontario's Clean Marine Program for over 25 years. At Hucks, their goal is to enrich the lives of all those that live, work and play on the water and where possible they're making every effort to offset their environmental impact.



Sea Bin Installation at Hucks  
Marine & Resort

Thank you to Scott and the Crew at Hucks for taking the time to speak with us! For a 1000 Islands experience that takes you Beyond Boating, check out Hucks Marine and Resort at <https://hucks.ca>



Follow Hucks Marine & Resort  
on Social Media



# In Case You Were Wondering

Dave McWilliam and Alec Turner

## Your Pleasure Craft Licence May Expire !

So you've finally purchased the boat of your dreams, and gone out and gotten your Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC). Now, what? The next step will likely include getting your boat licenced (CDN) or registered (USA) which results in those numbers on the bow of your boat. These processes are required by law - much like with a car - and the rules and guidelines for how this is done and what kind of watercraft must be registered are dictated by your province, state, or country where your boat will operate.

In Canada, your Pleasure Craft Licence (PCL) may expire! If your PCL was issued or updated after 2010 it is valid for 10 years. At the end of that period, you must renew your licence. You may renew or update a licence online or by regular mail, using the procedures outlined on this site: [https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-paperwork-paperwork\\_boat\\_licence-1898.htm#obtain](https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-paperwork-paperwork_boat_licence-1898.htm#obtain).

Please note that the Renewal feature will only be available three months (90 days) prior to your licence expiry date, and continues to be free of charge. (Source: Transport Canada- Feb./21) Please note this is under review and may change in 2022, and a fee may be coming. (Learn more at this link <https://letstalktransportation.ca/pcl>)

In the USA, here are some basic steps to follow when registering a boat:

- Research the boat registration requirements in your state.
- All documents are available through your state's DMV (Dept. of Motor Vehicles)
- Complete the appropriate state registration form
- Provide proof of ownership—including a title and/or bill of sale
- Pay the registration fee, which varies by state and the size of the vessel.
- Be aware of the expiry date and apply for renewal. You will receive a registration sticker that must be displayed beside the numbers on your bow.

<https://www.discoverboating.com/resources/how-to-register-a-boat> or

<https://www.uscgboating.org/images/420.PDF>



In the USA, state registration is similar to Canadian licensing, but be aware there are also federal registrations available in both our countries. If your boat has a marine mortgage, or you are travelling outside territorial waters you must register the boat with federal authorities.





# WATER LEVEL UPDATE

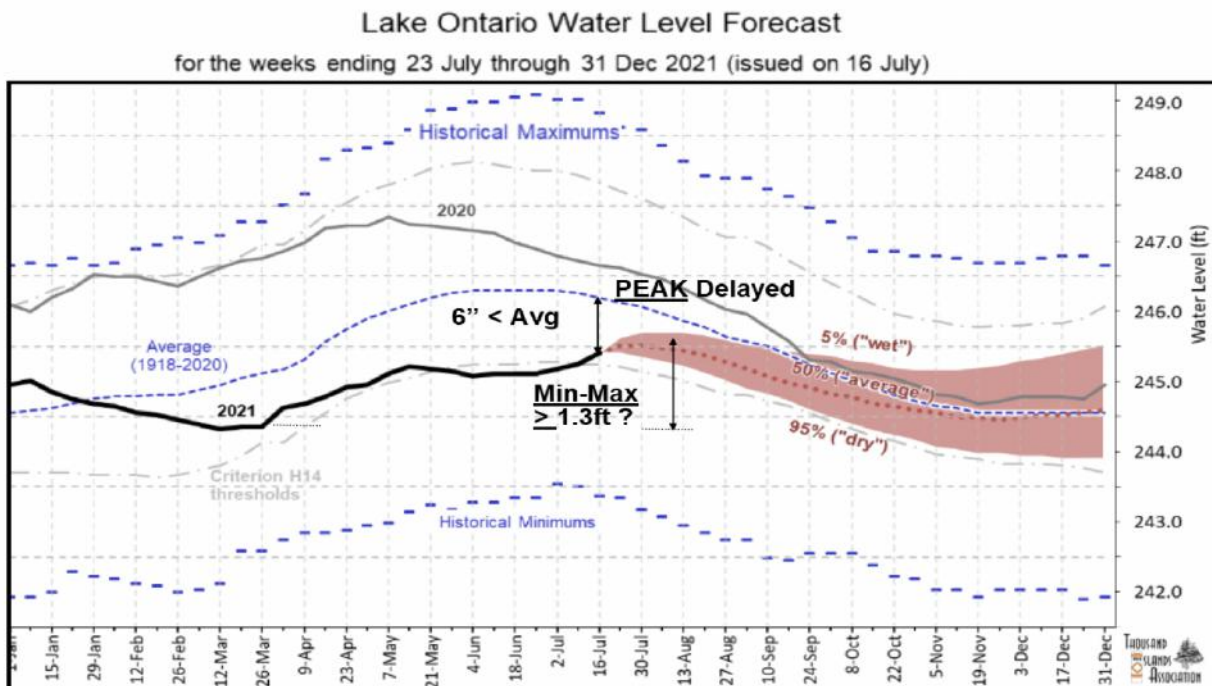
## The Water Is Getting Deeper!

TIA Water Levels Committee – Vince Barton & Ken White (7/22/21)

From one extreme to another – from drought to extreme precipitation.

- Through July 21st, the Lake Ontario Basin received 4.84" of precipitation -(227% of average through 7/21)
- Entire month of July averages just 3.15" of precipitation.
- All that precipitation caused a very welcome rise in Lake Ontario levels.
- Lake Ontario is up almost 5.5" in July.
- New 2021 peak of 245.60' reached on July 21st
- The water hasn't risen this much in the first three weeks of July since the Seaway was completed (1959)
- Levels are now above the critical low H14 threshold of Plan 2014 (no more deviation authority for the Board)
- Keep in mind – deviations were only keeping an extra ¼" worth of water on Lake Ontario per week
- Average precipitation the rest of the year could bring us right to average

VIEW OUR WATER LEVELS PRESENTATION FROM TIA'S JULY 24TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BY [CLICKING HERE](#)



<https://www.ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/forecasts>





## Styrofoam in our 1000 Island Beaches

John Peach - Save The River Executive Director

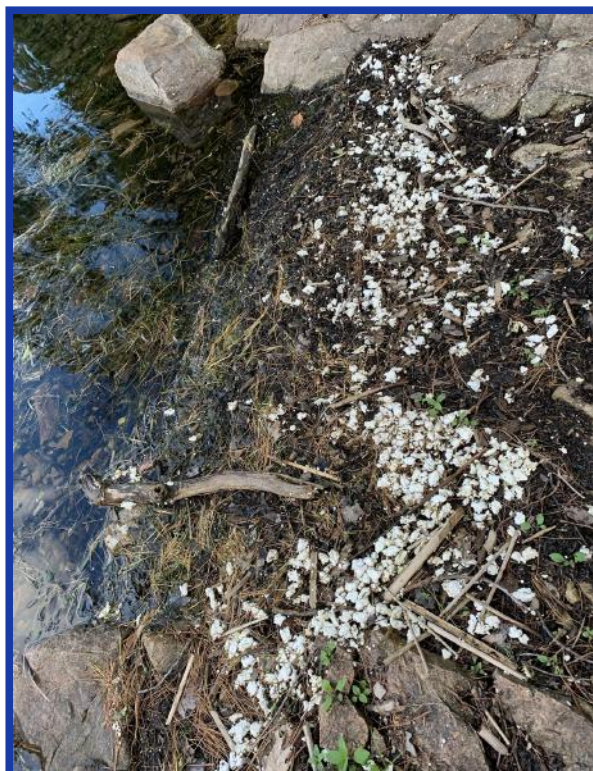
Several years ago, I noticed a blue color appearing on our 1000 Island beaches and rocky shorelines that had not been there in the past. Wading along the beaches, it became obvious to me that the blue and white polystyrene (styrofoam) material used as dock floats was breaking loose and degrading into small granular-size particles to become a pervasive part of our beaches. This environmentally disastrous material, used in docks and swim floats across the River, is an ecological calamity.

The styrofoam is broken apart inside the wooden docks by different factors - muskrat and mink nesting habits, abrasion from ice and waves. **Save The River Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper®** is seeking the help of all River lovers to replace styrofoam with more sustainable materials that will not harm the environment.

A few winters ago, at Save The River's Winter Environmental Conference, Dr. Sherri Mason introduced many of us to the perils of microplastics in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Since then, research has shown that microplastics and nano plastics enter the intestines and bloodstreams of humans, birds, fish, and other creatures. New research shows that toxic chemicals can attach to these microscopic plastic particles, making them even more potent as a source of contamination and pollution. So, what can be done about getting rid of this environmentally disastrous material?

Most floating dock builders are now using alternative materials, instead building the vast majority of their new floaters using steel or virgin PVC tubes to support the docks. While using plastic encapsulated tubes and floats may seem to be introducing more plastic to the environment, they are guaranteed for 25 plus years and should not degrade into microplastics.

Save The River and Thousand Islands Association highly recommend replacing the blue styrofoam in your existing docks to stop the scourge of adding to the microplastics already in the River. There are excellent dock builders and repairers in the area on both sides of the River who will make the repairs for you and help us all in our mission to restore, preserve and protect the Upper St. Lawrence River now and for generations to come.



Styrofoam on Constance Island  
Photo by Anna Cowan





# FRIENDS OF TIA FEATURING



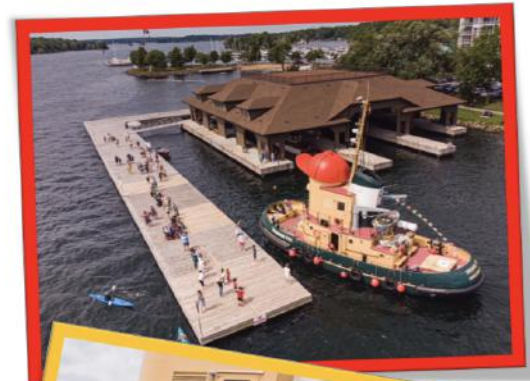
**"And you really live by the river? What a jolly life!"**

"By it and with it and on it and in it," said the Rat. . . "It's my world, and I don't want any other. What it hasn't got is not worth having, and what it doesn't know is not worth knowing."

Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

River Rats are friends. They lend a hand to anyone. A neighbour, a boater in distress, a lost tourist, and to the River itself – of which there is only one, and it needs our help.

The Boat Museum is raising water health awareness among its visitors and followers with several initiatives and partnerships. Theodore TOO, the iconic tugboat, literally has the Museum on board! He is travelling the Great Lakes with the Museum's newly built birch bark canoe. Together, the two are connecting people of all ages and raising awareness about Indigenous water travel and long-term water health.



The Museum team will follow the TIA's leadership on August 7th, and join the Trash Free River Clean Up Day. A new and engaging outdoor exhibit of collected plastics and other debris is being created to bring greater awareness to shoreline litter and its devastating impact on the environment.

The Boat Museum has become a lively marine hub where one can touch, see, and feel the history of the River. Come visit soon... climb aboard majestic antique boats, learn how birch bark canoes were made, wander through an island cottage from yesteryear, travel back in time with a Voyageur Canoe Tour, or build a mini boat with the kids.

Join us to preserve the most beautiful place in the world so we may all continue to live the 'jolly life'!



The fascinating stories are awakened . . .  
and history is made!



# Noteworthy News Cross Border Task Force

I wish to thank members of our task force for their hard work.

Peter Fitton, Stephen Friot, Thornley Stoker, Ken White, Phil Murdock and Alec Turner.

We began our work by drafting a submission to the Wilson Centre of Washington D.C. which was mandated to make recommendations to the Canadian and American governments on how and when to lift their restrictions on the Border. In our submission we urged that the reopening of the Border be graduated and give priority to nonresident property and boat owners and emphasized that our area had a very unique situation because of the high water levels in 2019. We argued that property and boat owners should be considered as essential travelers, leaving the position for reopening for general travelers as a separate decision.

Unfortunately, the Wilson report, which was due the end of March, was never published and subsequent dates for submission have not been kept.

We wrote many letters to Canadian and American politicians making our case and identifying that our issue was unique and should be an exception with respect to the consideration of the general lifting of Border restrictions.

As of August 9th the Canadian border will be open to fully vaccinated American citizens and permanent residents who must produce a certificate indicating that they are Covid free.

All of this information, including details of a quarantine location if necessary, must be downloaded to the Canadian Border Security app known as ArriveCan. The computer systems records the information and issues a receipt which must be shown to Canadian Border security when crossing the Border. Unless you are randomly chosen you will not have to quarantine or obtain a post arrival Covid assessment. It is essential that this information be downloaded to the Arrive Can app.

As of this date there is no news of the opening of the US Border. The decision has been deferred until August 21st. It is possible that the American Border could open before that date.

It is difficult to determine what influence TIA has had with respect to the opening of the Border but our task force has done everything in its power to hasten the decision with respect to the reopening of both Borders.

Orm Murphy- TIA Board Member



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](#)



Looking For A Unique Way To Recognize Or Honor  
Someone Special? Consider Sponsoring A  
TIA Shoal Marker In Their Name.  
[CLICK HERE To Learn More](#)



If you missed our Annual General Meeting on ZOOM last month, you can view the different segments on our YouTube channel by [CLICKING HERE](#)  
\*Please note, we will be editing and adding video over the next few weeks





# WE MARK ROCKS AND SAVE PROPS!

[LEARN MORE](#)



## RIVER MYTHS:

**EVEN IF A SOAP OR  
DETERGENT IS LABELLED  
"GREEN" OR "ECO-FRIENDLY"  
IT IS STILL NOT RIVER-  
FRIENDLY**



Have you ever purchased a product because it said it was "green" or "eco-friendly"? Well we have!! Unfortunately, that label can oftentimes be very misleading... these very ambiguous terms are used to appeal to consumers and can lead us to think that products are greener or healthier than they really are. This is called #Greenwashing. Some of the greatest culprits of greenwashing are soap and detergent brands which make promises they cannot keep about their impact on the environment and in particular the water.

There is no one soap that will have zero effect on the river as even organic and biodegradable soaps contain chemicals that do not naturally belong in the water. However, there are some choices you can make to reduce your impact. Avoid purchases of soap that includes these key words: antibacterial, contains phosphorous or sulfur/sulfide, and/or scented soaps (oftentimes these scents are added using synthetic chemicals).

Small changes in behaviour can make a world of difference!



## 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**





# TIA'S 2021 RIVER CLEAN UP DAY

Photo courtesy of National Geographic

The problems of trash in the water of the St. Lawrence River have been well documented and can be observed on a daily basis by islanders and boaters. 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 continue an annual tradition of shoreline and River bottom cleanups removing a major source of pollution from The River.

On **August 7th from 9:00am to 12:00pm** the Thousand Islands Association is sponsoring our second annual River Clean Up. Registration is required and a waiver signed before you can participate. [CLICK HERE](#) to register Everyone is welcome! Make it an event for families, friends, roommates and teams!



We will all meet at the big parking lot at Landon Bay, near Halsteads Bay, along the parkway at 9am. TIA will provide grabbers, buckets & gloves (however we do encourage you to bring your own if you have them.). We will review the housekeeping items, assign locations and then set off to rid the river of some trash!

We are covering areas that are known as catch basins and problem areas for trash.

- Brown's Bay
- Gray's Bay- Parkette
- Landon's Bay Bridge/Lookout
- Club Island
- Frontenac Arch Paddling Trail (clean up accessible by foot or by kayak)
- Georgina Island (clean up accessible by foot or by kayak)

## Who Can Participate?

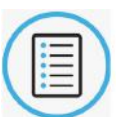
Families are also encouraged to register as teams, this is a family-friendly event but anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Individuals are also encouraged to register and will be assigned to a team and a specific zone.

Calling all kayakers! TIA is hoping that our network of volunteers will help provide coverage from the water with your own personal kayak.

TIA is encouraging local businesses to register a team and we will highlight them on our social media platform

We all love the St. Lawrence River. Help TIA's efforts to keep it clean.



*FOCA is...  
protecting thriving and  
sustainable waterfronts  
across Ontario*



## FOCA – yes, you're a member!

The Thousand Islands Association is a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) and as a result our Association and all member families of TIA can access FOCA member benefits.

But what does that mean?

For nearly 60 years, FOCA has been the voice of waterfront Ontario. In 1963, a small group of cottage owners united as a provincial organization that has grown to represent more than 520 lake and resident associations and 50,000 families across the province. Our united voice carries weight on the issues that matter. The issues evolved over time, but the motivation remains the same: to protect the sustainability of Ontario waterfronts and freshwater resources for our kids, and their kids after them.

On the environmental front, FOCA has played an important advocacy role on water quality and sustainability issues. In the 1980s FOCA fought hard for government action on the issue of acid rain and lobbied to stop the use of toxic Dombind as a road-dust suppressant. FOCA's Lake Stewards are at the core of the Lake Partner Program of volunteer water quality monitoring to inform scientific and policy decision-making in the face of a changing climate.

On the advocacy front, FOCA secured your right to vote at the cottage in Ontario municipal elections as second home owners, and is an ongoing intervenor at the Ontario Energy Board, currently protesting about the pending elimination of the seasonal rate class of Hydro One electricity customers – a move that will see those charges double for thousands of families.

Over the years, FOCA has gone to Parliament Hill and Queen's Park to speak out against federal and provincial omnibus bills that gutted protection for our fisheries and fish habitat. FOCA continues to sit as a stakeholder at the table for discussions about the Algonquin Land Claim and FOCA worked with partners to secure landowners' rights during claim-staking after years of behind-the-scenes work on the Mining Act.

FOCA has lobbied hard in recent years for reforms to water management planning, and continues to work to ensure that land use planning is responsible and accountable to community interests. In 2017, after more than 18 months of FOCA's advocacy efforts on the issue of dock permits, Ontario confirmed certain occupations of public land would be enabled without an MNRF permit (subject to conditions, and only where allowed by municipal bylaw or Federal statute).







To support our member Associations, FOCA assembled the most comprehensive risk-management program for volunteers in rural environmental groups, through the FOCA Insurance Program. The program insures 400 fellow lake associations across Ontario, to protect their volunteer boards with cost-effective liability insurance.

Each member family of TIA can also access CottageFirst, the first group insurance program for cottage owners, available exclusively to FOCA members through Cade Associates Insurance Brokers. Find out more and get a quote when your cottage, car, boat or home insurance is next up for renewal: <http://cadeinsurance.com/cottagefirst/>.

Got a cottage-country question? FOCA is a clearinghouse for current information on invasive species prevention and maintenance, private road issues, responsible rental and safe boating, among hundreds of other cottage country topics. Start your search by keyword here: <https://foca.on.ca/resources/>.

While you're at it, check out all the offers, discounts and other benefits available to you, because of our association's annual membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>.

Lake associations across the province benefit from FOCA's ongoing research, information, and advocacy. FOCA is here to help our associations, and to help make continued progress on the issues most important to waterfront residents.

The effort continues, and FOCA is working year round on behalf of thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario.



Follow FOCA  
on Social Media



# TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors



**1000 Islands Cottage Services**  
Dock Maintenance - Property Management



**AMERICAN  
BAITWORKS**

THE  
**Boat Warehouse**  
THE WORLD'S LARGEST FOUR WINNS & LOWE DEALER



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**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



**Daltco Electric**  
ELECTRICAL SUPPLY SOLUTIONS



**HANSLER  
SMITH LIMITED**  
Providing Innovative Solutions, Service and Value

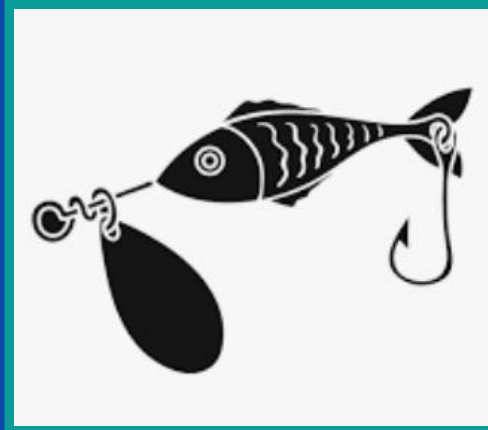




# TIA Thanks Our ADMIRAL Sponsors



To learn more about any sponsor click on their logo



*A Tremont Island  
"Superfisherman"-  
10 year old Haine.*

*Photo sbmitted by  
Jane Taylor*

## 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.

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

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### TIA's Three Pillars

River Safety  
Environmental Awareness  
Community Support

