



A Tribute to Douglas and Blu Mackintosh - Founding Members of TIARA



At TIARA's annual meeting Blu and Douglas Mackintosh were presented with a beautiful Blue Heron metal lawn sculpture, created by TIARA director Canadian Mike Bell.

Douglas and Blu Mackintosh, owners of Blue Heron Marine, have worked tirelessly to protect the St. Lawrence River and Thousand Islands for over 50 years. In 2011 they received a Ministry of Natural Resources, "Managed Forest" award for the restoration and enhancement of their property; Douglas has served as a Township councilor; and they have been active in many community groups including Algonquin to Adirondack Assoc., Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, Thousand Islands Assoc., Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust, and the Gananoque Playhouse.

Under Douglas' leadership as founding president, TIARA was established in 1975. Blu and Douglas were involved in every step of TIARA's growth as it became a respected community voice for the environment, and even in "retirement" they continue help the organization.

In March of 2021 TIARA nominated Douglas for the Ian Shenstone Fraser Memorial Award, (Ontario Nature Conservation Award) for "protection, preservation or restoration of a U.N.E.S.C.O. World Biosphere Reserve in Ontario". Although Ontario Nature received a record number of nominations and this year's award

went to Don and Marnie Ross (who also deserve this recognition), we as a community can be proud that our Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve area won the award in this category. TIARA is proud to recognize Douglas and Blu's contributions to preserving this extraordinary region.

Dedication of the First Peoples Park of the Thousand Islands

On Sunday Oct 17th the First Peoples Park, a small waterfront area at the end of Stone Street in Gananoque, was officially dedicated as a place for ceremony and education. After people gathered at the Town Hall Bandstand for a teaching and smudging, the Two-Feathers Drum Group led a Water Walk along Stone Street with drumming and singing. Along the route we stopped at each church to remember and mourn the children who died and suffered the injustices of Canada's shameful residential school system. The "Little Shoes" memorial at the steps of the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church brought home the horrors of the cultural genocide of Canada's indigenous peoples and the need for truth and reconciliation.

The First Peoples Park is now a place to educate, to celebrate and to remember. Congratulations to all the First Peoples Circle for their work to make the First Peoples Park a reality.

Swans in the 1000 Islands

Many residents of the 1000 Islands take pleasure in observing the increase in the swan population. There are 3 wild swan species that breed in Canada. The trumpeter and tundra swans are native to Ontario, while mute swans were introduced from Europe.

The tundra swan is the smallest but most abundant swan in North America. They breed in the Arctic and may be sighted during their annual spring and fall migrations.

The trumpeter swan is the largest swan in the world. Male trumpeters (cobs) begin to pair with females (pens) during their third or fourth year. The majority mate for life. The pen may produce three to eight young cygnets each year. The trumpeter swan came close to extinction in Canada due to hunting pressure and habitat loss. Harry G. Lumsden led the restoration of trumpeter swans to Ontario, and they were removed from Canada's endangered species list in 1996.

The mute swan is considered an invasive species and is extremely aggressive, particularly while nesting and raising their young. They will drive trumpeter swans, Canada geese, loons, and ducks from their nests. They eat up large areas of aquatic plants each day, and large numbers of swans may alter wetland ecosystems. These powerful swans have been known to cause injury to people and pets. It is not wise to feed them or invade their territory.



TIARA directors present a cheque for \$2000 to the Rockport Recreation Hall, which lost income during the pandemic. The Recreation Hall is an important community gathering space and hosts many cultural and civic events, including being a frequent location for TIARA's annual general meeting. Photo by Mike Bell

In Memoriam

Peter Murray, former TIARA president, director, and long-term TIARA member passed away on November 18th. May his spirit ever flow with the river!

Historic photo from the Leeds and the Thousand Islands Archives



Tar Island cottagers and friends enjoy wading in the river, circa 1923. (Laura Bell collection)

Please renew your membership!

A renewal slip with this newsletter is a gentle reminder that you haven't renewed your 2021-22 membership. (Our membership year runs from May 1 to April 30.) It's still \$40 for individuals, \$50 for a family. Please renew, join, or make an additional donation through our website www.tiaraweb.org or by cheque to TIARA, 481 Thousand Islands Parkway, Lansdowne ON K0E 1L0. We very much appreciate your support and the extra donations that many have made.

Let us know what you think!

TIARA welcomes member involvement. If you have suggestions or would like to become more engaged, please write TIARA president Michael Bell at 1mikebell@gmail.com And like us on Facebook at facebook.com/TIARACANADA !

TIARA

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