

Join us at the 2022 Annual General Meeting

We will gather on Sunday, July 24th at the Rockport Recreation Hall, 115 Escott-Rockport Road in Rockport for our annual meeting. If the weather allows we will meet outside.

The meeting will begin at 12:30 PM with a light picnic lunch, followed by a presentation from a speaker (to be determined), and finish with a business meeting and election of board members and officers. Come to learn, provide input to TIARA's board, and socialize.

If you are interested in serving on TIARA's board, please contact Michael Bell at 1mikebell1@gmail.com or Marion MacLeod at mmacleod2@xplornet.com to let us know and with any questions.

Please renew your membership!

Our membership year runs from May 1 to April 30, so unless you sent in your membership in the past couple of months it is time to renew. The cost is still \$40 for individuals and \$50 for a family. You can renew, join, or make an additional donation with PayPal through our website www.tiaraweb.org (click on the Membership & Survey button), or send a cheque to TIARA, 120 Cross Cemetery Road, Lansdowne ON K0E 1L0.

You can also help build TIARA's membership by inviting a neighbor to join! We very much appreciate your support and the extra donations that many have made.

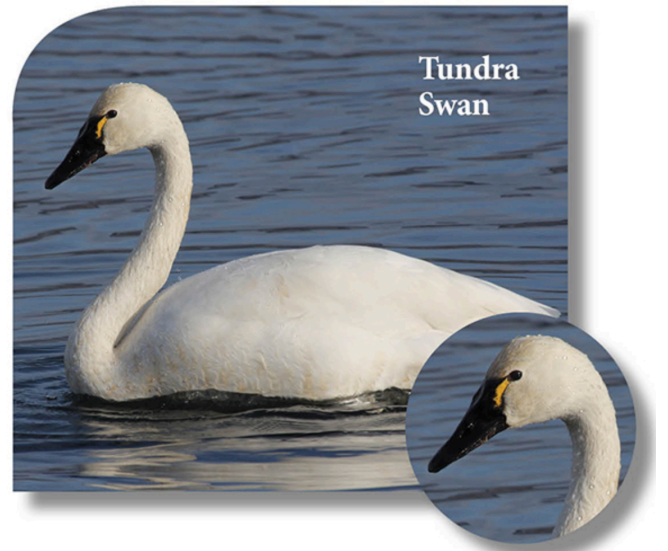
Identifying Swans in the 1000 Islands ... Continuing the Fall 2021 Article

There are 3 wild swan species that breed in Canada and that you might see in the Thousand Islands. The trumpeter and tundra swans are native to Ontario, while mute swans were introduced from Europe.

So how can you tell which species you are seeing? It is at times difficult to identify which species you are admiring; however, by carefully observing the visual differences as well as the swan "voices" you will be able to identify the magnificent bird in front of you.

The **Tundra Swan** is the smallest and most abundant swan in North America. Tundra Swans have a black bill with a "U" shape of this black colouring extending to the eyes. They may also have a yellow mark next to each eye, but this mark is not always present. The

Tundra Swan has a high-pitched quavering "who-who" call.



All swan photos are from the Government of Canada website <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-conservation/managing-conflicts/invasive-species-mute-swan.html>

The **Trumpeter Swan** is the largest swan in the world. They have all black bills with the black colour going all the way up to and meeting the eyes, forming a "V" shape between the eyes. Sometimes their bills have lipstick red markings on the lower part of the bill. The Trumpeter call is loud, low-pitched and sounds like a bugle.



The **Mute Swan** is native to Europe and Asia and is considered an invasive species in North America. It has a distinctive orange bill with a large black knob between the eyes. The Mute Swan is generally silent but not completely "mute". They will, on occasion, make hissing and/or snorting sounds.



To sum it up, if you see swans with orange bills those are the non-native Mute Swans; smaller swans with black bills are probably Tundra Swans, and big swans with black or mostly black bills are Trumpeter Swans.

Another example of how Mother Nature enriches our lives!

What's up with those water levels?

The good news is that predictions are that summer 2022 water levels for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River will be similar to historic averages, or in other words normal. The bad news is that climate scientists think we are likely to see both unusually high and unusually low water levels more often in future years. Why would a warming climate sometimes give us floods and in other years leave us with not enough water?

One important driver of low water levels is increased evaporation. Not only do warmer temperatures cause faster evaporation; they also mean that the Great Lakes and other water bodies spend less time covered by ice that would otherwise prevent evaporation.

However, that increased evaporation from the lakes, along with increased transpiration from crops and forests, means there is more water vapor in the air. (Transpiration is the water vapor that plants release when they are photosynthesizing.) More water vapor in the air means that humid parts of North America, including both the upper midwestern US and most of eastern Canada, have experienced increased rainfall in recent decades.

In some years, like 2022, these two opposing trends cancel each other out and water levels are normal. However, there is year-to-year variation in both temperatures and rainfall. When you add increased evaporation to years with low precipitation it results in very low water levels. In years that happen to have slightly lower temperatures and unusually high rainfall, like 2019, we get flooding. Although we have always had yearly variation in temperature and rainfall, climate change can make those normal fluctuations more extreme.

This is a very simplified explanation. If you want to learn more about the effects of climate change in the St. Lawrence River watershed, here are two resources: Bush, E. and Lemmen, D.S., editors (2019): *Canada's Changing Climate Report*; Government of Canada,

Ottawa, ON. 444 p.

<https://changingclimate.ca/CCCR2019/>

2021 Assessment Report: Wisconsin's Changing Climate: Impacts and Solutions for a Warmer Climate
<https://wicci.wisc.edu/2021-assessment-report/>

Historic image from the Leeds and the Thousand Islands Archives



The *Sport* once steamed through the Thousand Islands, captained by Wilson Henry Westcott, the great-great-grandfather of TIARA president Michael Bell. Steam evokes a romance of the past, streaming out behind like the trail of misty gray from the smokestack in this painting. But what a stink and a noise it made for those on-board and on-shore! As well, virtually the entire Thousand Islands was cut over for wood to feed the engines. Romantic it may seem now, but we are well to be rid of steam. (Now, can we also do something about "cigarette" boats?)

TIARA is looking for staff support

We are looking for someone with a knowledge of local government and natural resource issues in the 1000 Islands and good written and spoken communication skills to help us track and respond to local development proposals and communicate with local officials and our members. If this sounds like you, please contact Michael Bell at 1mikebell1@gmail.com or Marion MacLeod at mmacleod2@explornet.com.

TIARA

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