

**TIARA
 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday, August 4, 2018
 Rockport Recreation Centre
 9:00 am Registration and refreshments
 9:30 Welcome
 Speakers: Brian Phillips and Don Ross,
 followed by a short business meeting.

Save the date! We have two great speakers planned for our AGM on August 4.

The first will be **historian Brian Phillips**, speaking about the history of the **Customs property at Rockport** from its beginnings as the Carnegies' passenger and packet service, right up to the present time. We are celebrating this property because the Customs House and docks are now owned by the Township, which means the community dream of refurbishing and restoring the building and the docks can now begin. Brian is a lively and well-informed speaker and has a rare depth of knowledge about this area.



Next, **biologist Don Ross** will give us the scientific rationale for **natural shorelines**. We know that the 1000 Islands area draws tourists – and property owners, too – because of its world-famous natural beauty. Don will show us how allowing – or restoring – natural growth of shrubs and wild flowers along your waterfront has a real effect on the quality of the water and the health of fish and in fact some 90% of other animals that live in the region, depending on water for some or all of their life stages. Author of several books about the 1000 Islands, Don was instrumental in the founding of both the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve and the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust. A 2011 recipient of the A.D. Latonell Conservation Pioneer Award for his lifetime dedication to conservation, Don is an excellent and well-informed speaker.

After a break, we'll be summoned back (with rousing music!) by our Co-President Mike Bell for a short business meeting.

Bring your family and guests! It'll be interesting and fun! We'll be finished by about 11:30. We look forward to seeing you there!

A beautiful "Thousand Islands" island

This lovely picture is the work of Alec Purves, whose wife's family bought Codfish Island in 1938. "The River has been important to us for a long time," he says. "Drika and I spent part of each summer there for over 40 years." It was a magic place where they spent their "happiest and most fulfilling days each year". However, as time went on it became more and more difficult to come here, and they regretfully sold it in 2014.

Alec is an acclaimed artist and architect, and we are grateful for his permission to reproduce here his watercolour of Codfish Island, with pines

reaching for the sky, enticing shadows under the trees and sunlit rocks along the water's edge. A perfect example of the natural shoreline that the Township's planning is designed to encourage.

The Rockport Customs House

After years of lobbying and negotiating by a band of dedicated volunteers, the Customs House and dock at Rockport has passed from federal to municipal ownership. The Township in turn has rented it for \$1 a year to the not-for-profit **Friends of Rockport Customs**, who have embarked on a series of events to raise \$500,000 for repairs and restoration.

The kick-off was on a (finally!) sunny day in April, when the Eastern Ontario Development Corporation and the Township each presented a cheque for \$100,000, starting the painted red "mercury" to rise in the big thermometer on the property. TIARA is proud to have donated \$1,000 and we'll continue to help raise awareness at our Annual Meeting on August 4.

Congratulations to all who are making this happen!

Our fresh new look: Have you noticed our new Blue Heron logo?
 And have you visited our new website at <http://www.tiaraweb.org> recently?
 We are grateful to Carolyn Barnett of Two Hats Simple Sites for designing it and setting it up.