

New Development Approval Process

In December 2021, the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands (TLTI) updated their Site Plan Control Guidelines. The new guidelines and site planning process provide a way for the Township to impose specific regulations on a development, with a signed legal contract between the developer or owner and the Township. The Township may also request significant financial deposits from the developer, to be refunded when professional confirmation of compliance is completed. The guidelines are comprehensive, and specify that various studies may be required prior to approval of variances.

The Planning Department has discretion to determine which studies and reports will be required, and thus, it is important that TIARA review all applications and comment when appropriate.

TIARA supports this strong site plan process, and commends the Township for developing the process. In the case of variances granted by the Township, and of concern to TIARA members, TIARA plans to review site plans, then monitor developments and report any concerns about variances from the agreed upon site plans.

TLTI's Site Plan Control information can be found at:
<https://www.leeds1000islands.ca/en/growing/Site-Plan-Control.aspx>

The TIARA Board welcomes your comments or questions at tiara@tiaraweb.org.

Martin Bordt

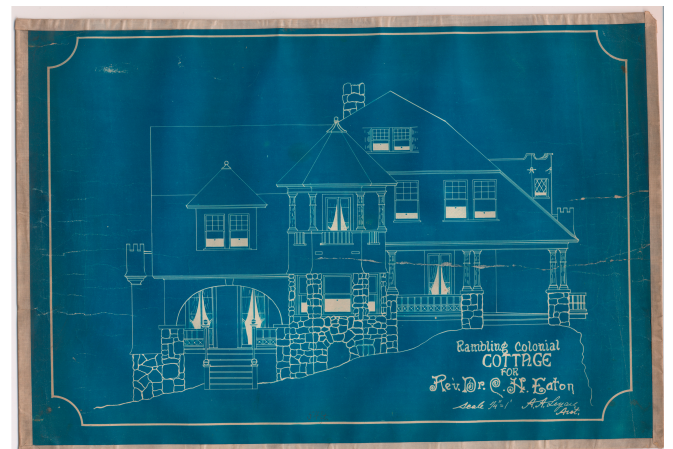
Leeds and the Thousand Islands Archives

The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Archives have been very fortunate to receive hundreds of images and even movies depicting locations on our river, the Saint Lawrence. For example, Totem Point, a local landmark for many decades located at the west end of Tar Island just southeast of Rockport, donated the photo shown here, as well as the guest book, and many other historical photographs, and the blueprints of the original Totem Lodge (1899).

If you wish to delve into the history of this place, look for two wonderful articles in *Thousand Islands Life*: "The Grand Lady of Totem Point" (April 2012) by Kim Lunman and "Totem Poles and Island History" (October 2022) by Nattanya Hewitt. You can access *Thousand Islands Life* by going to <https://tilife.org/BackIssues.html> <https://thousandislandslife.com/back-issues/>.



View of Totem Lodge with totem in foreground



Cover from the blueprints for the original Totem Lodge

The archives are always very happy to accept donations of documents, images, movies or other relevant items. Contact us at archivist@ltiarchives.ca .

Pierre Mercier

Who's that singing?

Have you ever heard birdsong and wondered what you were hearing? The Merlin Bird ID App from the Cornell Ornithology Lab can help identify birds based on their song, or from photos or based on visual cues.



You can learn more about the app and download it for free at <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>

Elisabeth Sterken

Rockport Customs Dock Update

The old Rockport Customs Dock, now a town park, was a busy hub in Rockport this summer. With the floating dock installed and the shade sail in place, it was a perfect location for land and water visitors.



Music night at the new park

There were 2 music nights on the dock, with the music sponsored by the Rockport Development Group. Many locals brought their chairs and enjoyed 2 hours of music and even some dancing. This was a vision of the team, and it felt so good to see it happen. Fishing was another prominent activity. Hardly a day went by without someone fishing from the dock.

Local volunteers act as ambassadors who welcome and chat with visitors. Someone is on duty from 10am to 4pm seven days a week from July 1st to Labour Day, and on weekends in Spring and Fall. We are always looking for more volunteers to be ambassadors! If you are interested in helping, please contact Wendy Merkley at wendymerkley@1000island.net or Dianne Phillips at diannephillips1000islands@outlook.com.

There are still more improvements planned for next year, including a donor wall and an improved surface material to be applied over the concrete. Thanks to many generous supporters we have already raised the funds to complete everything.

What a gift this park is to the village and for visitors and summer residents! A Dream Come True. A gift to the Community from the Community.

Wendy Merkley

Bill 23

TIARA recently provided comment on the Ontario Government's proposed Bill 23, "Building New Homes Faster". The bill, and associated changes to other Acts, particularly The Conservation Authorities Act, would be disastrous for the environment if passed. In particular, TIARA objected to three parts of the proposed bill: cutting the ability of Conservation Authorities in Ontario (such as the CRCA in our area) to guide development, denying third parties (citizens and organizations) the right to appeal planning decisions, and reducing development fees, which would result in shifting these costs from developers to taxpayers. The complete submission can be found on TIARA's webpage (www.tiaraweb.org) and Facebook page.

Martin Bordt

Please renew your membership!

A renewal slip with this newsletter is a gentle reminder that you haven't renewed your 2022-23 membership. (Our membership year runs from May 1 to April 30.) It's still \$40 for individuals and \$50 for a family. Please renew, join, or make an additional donation through our website at www.tiaraweb.org or by cheque to:

TIARA,
524 Thousand Islands Parkway,
Lansdowne ON K0E 1L0.

We very much appreciate your support and the extra donations that many have made.

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