



NEWS

PO Box 428
43530 Interstate 81
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607
Contact: Shane Sanford
TIBA Promotions Director
Date: July 1, 2008

70 Years and More Than 85,000,000 Vehicles Have Passed Since the Official Opening of the Thousand Islands International Bridge

Collins Landing, NY; Ivy Lea, Ontario: 2008 marks 70 years since President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King cut the ribbon during the official opening ceremony of the Thousand Islands International Bridge. The dedication on August 18, 1938 marked a major event in our region's history, drawing an audience of more than 25,000.

The bridge system was constructed within 16 months at a total cost of \$3,050,000. In 1938 passenger car rates were \$1.25 each way, compared to \$2.50 today, 70 years later. More than 85,000,000 vehicles have crossed the bridges, which provide easy passage between the U.S. and Canada, linking Interstate 81 in New York and Highway 401 in Ontario.

In recognition of the 70 year anniversary, the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority (TIBA) invites the public to a special Open House on Saturday, August 16, 2008. From noon until 3:00 pm, attendees will be treated to an ice cream social, vintage car display and door prizes. TIBA staff will be on hand to share information about the bridge system, including its fascinating history, how the bridge is maintained and special equipment used. Attendees will receive a packet of postcards, featuring images of the 1000 Islands International Bridge, as well as other bridge-related memorabilia. The celebration continues at dusk with a fireworks display over Boldt Castle.

The Thousand Islands International Bridge is a unique, multi-span bridge that covers a distance of 8.5 miles, crossing the international border between American Wellesley Island and Canadian Hill Island. There are few places that can be reached by car or foot that offer such panoramic views of the region. From these bridges more than 200 islands may be counted. The Thousand Islands Bridge system is owned by the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority (TIBA) and the Federal Bridge Corporation Limited (FBCL) of Canada and is operated by TIBA under a joint agreement with FBCL.

The Thousand Islands Bridge Authority owns and operates Boldt Castle and the Boldt Yacht House, major tourist attractions with incalculable benefit to the Thousand Islands Region. The TIBA's Welcome Center, located near the U.S. span on Collins Landing, houses the offices of the 1000 Islands International Tourism Council, as well as informational and comfort facilities for the travelling public.

The Thousand Islands International Bridge system supports travel and trade between the world's two greatest trading partners, the United States and Canada, along the Capital Corridor. The bridge system is ranked 6th overall in trade value on the northern border equaling \$14.3 billion in trade annually or \$1.2 billion per month.

For more information on the Thousand Islands International Bridge System and the Capital Corridor, please call (315) 482-2501 or visit our websites at www.tibridge.com or www.thecapitalcorridor.com.

Mark your calendar for August 16, 2008 and join the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the official opening of the Thousand Islands International Bridge.

-END-