

# CAIGER'S NEWS

# 1000 Islands 2006

## FISHING 1000 ISLANDS

**According** to those famous song lyrics, the livin' is easy in the summertime. As for the fishing, that can be another matter.

For a group of Pennsylvanians fishing the 1000 Islands region of the St. Lawrence River last August, however, the action exceeded expectations. In fact, the action brought back memories of the good old days before zebra mussels had invaded the river.

Zebra mussels are annoying little creatures that were introduced in the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes by bilge water discharged from by commercial ships from Europe. Because of their ravenous appetite for microscopic organisms, these intruders turned even the deepest, darkest pockets of water crystal clear.

As a result, once productive locations became almost impossible to fish – even with nearly invisible leaders. At the slightest hint of a boat overhead, including those drifting without the use of even an electric trolling motor, the bass holding in deep water along drop-offs swam off to the nearby deeper channels.

Because of this, late-summer bass fishing on most areas of the St. Lawrence was confined to docks, bays and shallow shoreline protected by natural or artificial cover. Then, approximately three years ago, Mother Nature once again provided a reminder that she can do quite well balancing an ecosystem, thank you, without interference from man.

Tom Banditelli, a businessman from Tamaqua, Pa., has fished the St. Lawrence River for more than 40 years. During that time, he has seen the river undergo many changes, and success has come to those anglers who have adapted to those changes.

"For years, some of our biggest bass were taken by fishing tubes and grubs in channels, such as the entrance to the Lake of the Isles, and along the drop-offs along Tar Island and Grenadier Island," said Banditelli to some fellow anglers before leaving the dock at Caiger's. "Then, after zebra mussels became established in the river, the water became so clear you could see to the bottom in areas that were 20, 30 and even 40 feet deep.

"If you wore polarized sunglasses, you could actually see fish swimming and suspending near the bottom. Because of the water clarity, it became impossible, however, to fish these areas, which eliminated many of the prime spots.

"Now, because of the water clarity, weed beds have started to grow where they never were before, which has made these areas prime spots for late-summer bass fishing. Once the weeds grow, bait fish move into the cover, and the bass follow."

Deep-water bass fishing on the St. Lawrence is productive from late July through October, as the fish hold in the weed beds. That was true for the group of Pennsylvania anglers fishing out of Caiger's in early August and for those who returned in mid-September for a combined goose hunt and fishing trip.

While anglers are advised to target the bays and docks of summer cottages along the 1000 Islands Parkway, they should also try their luck fishing the deeper holes and channels in the St. Lawrence. It is there they may boat some of their biggest fish and have more success than they expected.

**By Doyle Dietz** a member of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writer's Association, editor for the Pottsville, Pa., REPUBLICAN & Herald/News



**50 years  
of  
fishing  
at  
Caiger's  
Mr. Anthony  
Genaurdi  
enjoyed his 50<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of  
fishing at  
Caiger's with his  
guide Billy  
Hodge**

**Mid Week Specials.** It seems that more people are discovering the beauty of the 1000 Islands. This year we will try to take some pressure off the weekends and offer some really attractive deals mid week for those who can take time off. We will offer one free night if you stay for four (Sunday – Wednesday). Some of our fishing and Diving Captains will offer some special deals as well.

**DIVING 1000 ISLANDS** It has come to past, another great year of diving on the St. Lawrence River. As usual, I was able to bring a number of new and experienced divers to Caiger's for some really great diving weekends. Mark, Sue and the crew at Caiger's kept my groups well fed and warm after each days diving. The diving is getting better each year, with smooth currents, no thermo clines and warm waters with 60-80' visibility. Diving the Keystorm, Kingshorn and Lillie Parsons are some of my favorite wrecks this year.

Having the boats pick us up at Caiger's docks really makes the day stretch out with more time to visit Rockport and the surrounding tourist sites after each days diving. Not having to drive half-way across the country side to get to and from the public boat docks is such a pleasure. I really like the fact that I can take two levels of divers out during the day. The technical guys in the early morning to do the Vicory with all their doubles and cameras, than the recreational divers later in the afternoon to some easier wrecks and drift dives. Diving the St. Lawrence has become one of the most exciting dives of the year for by groups and I'm now getting bookings every year earlier and earlier to make sure they get on my excursions

**Brian H. Wake PADI Course Director /DAN Instructor Trainer,**  
<http://www.idiveontario.com>



## Calendar of Events

*May 6 – Opening of Pike*

*May 11-14 ATV meet*

*May 22 – Victoria Day (Canada)*

*May 29 – Memorial Day (US)*

*June 17 – Opening of Bass (New York)*

*June 24 – Opening of Bass (Ontario)*

*June 30 – July 3 Riverfest*

*July 1 – Canada Day*

*July 4 – Independence Day*

*July 20 – 23 Lansdowne Fair*

*August 7 Civic Holiday (Canada)*

*Aug 11 – 20 Festival of the Islands*

*Sep 4 – Labour Day*

*Oct 5-8 ATV meet*

*Oct 7 – Big Feast –annual Caiger’s super  
Fall buffet*

*Oct 9 – Columbus Day (US)*

*Thanks Giving (Canada)*

## 2005 SEASON ENDS WITH A BANG!!!

The fishing season ended with the bang of shotguns as the duck and goose season took over the River. Fishing was good right up to the end of Oct. for bass and pike and of course the die hard muskie maniacs continued until Dec. when the ice finally drove them off the River.

The season started a little differently for me this year as I spent a couple of days guiding for carp before the pike season opened in May. If you have not tried fishing for carp on the River you are missing out on some big, hard fighting fish. Our biggest was 30lbs.! The pike fishing continued to improve again this year. We are looking forward to trying a new back lake in the spring that reports say produces catches of 20 to 30 pike a day. Bass fishing was good all summer with a couple fish over 6lbs. being put up on the “board”. Both the River and Charleston Lake produced some great smallmouth action. The hottest new bait for the bass was a soft plastic creature bait called the Beaver. I used it in the fall to out fish the mighty Senko 4 to 1 several times.

Hopefully the high water we had this year will continue next season to allow us to fish the shallow bays and weed lines again. For those who did not make a fall trip, the River level stayed high until freeze up. I cannot wait to get the boats back in the water and wet a line again. I hate winter! See you in 2006

**Tight Lines - Doug Amos**



**“MIDWEEK SPECIAL” RESTRICTIONS:**  
**Not valid May 22/29\* Jul 4 \*Aug 7\* Sep 4 \*Oct 9**  
**Check [www.vacation1000islands.com](http://www.vacation1000islands.com) for an  
extra bonus**

**Looking to have some fun while in the 1000 Islands.** ATVing is the fastest growing form of outdoor adventure and Vanridge ATV Tours & Trails is just a short drive from Caiger’s. Vanridge offers guided ATV tours from the Novice to the Advanced level driver. Passengers are also welcome. What better way to enjoy fresh country air while driving an all terrain vehicle through different terrain. The whole family can take part and have a great time. There are bypasses around the mud areas for those who wish not to get dirty. Helmets are supplied and all guides are trained by a certified instructor with the Canada Safety Council on ATV Rider Safety. All drivers receive instruction prior to all tours. We welcome groups of two people up to six people. We have a coffee run to the local coffee/donut shop which is a great hit. A special tour can be put on for the experienced drivers with their own ATVs or with our ATVs.  
[www.vanridgeatvtrails.com](http://www.vanridgeatvtrails.com)

## CAIGER’S RIVERFRONT RESORT

853 1000 ISLANDS PARKWAY

MALLORYTOWN, ONTARIO, K0E 1R0, CDN

Tel 613 659 2266 fax 613 659 2273

Email [caigers@ripnet.com](mailto:caigers@ripnet.com)

**Boating in the 1000 Islands** I have lived in this area for over 20 years and just in the last couple years I started discovering the true beauty of boating in this region. Everytime one decides to take a cruise a new destination is open. Caiger’s being located in a midpoint of this region makes it so much easier to explore by doing ½ day trips and return for a rest or refueling. There is a great number of small towns on either side of the border where one can shop, dine or just stopover for a visit. There is a lot of information on boating in the 1000 Islands on the web and through local chambers of commerce.

For those who never visited the 1000 Islands, the region lies on the St. Lawrence River, running along the Canadian side from Kingston to Brockville, Ontario and it measures a distance of about 80 km (50m). The width of the river ranges from about 24 km at Kingston to about 1 km. at Brockville. The Canada/U.S. border runs down the middle of the islands and is clearly shown on all charts. This is one of the best cruising areas anywhere in the world. It has many anchorages and beaches offering a great opportunity for swimming and exploring nature at its best. Canadian Federal parks as well as US State parks offer docks, picnic areas and walking paths.

The actual number of islands in this area is closer to two thousand, with the official count standing at 1,793 and 3000 shoals. In the late 19th century and early 20th century many distinguished visitors made the region widely known as a summer resort. Several grand hotels provided luxurious accommodations (most of which were destroyed by fires)while steamboats offered extensive tours among the islands. Wealthy and middle-class summer residents built summer homes. Some masonry “castles” remain as international landmarks. The most famous examples are Boldt Castle and Singer Castle. For those who are planning a visit for the first time or returning for another visit – this area offers more than just great fishing and diving –it’s like another world and still with a driving distance.

**Mark Janusz- co-owner Caiger’s Resort**

[www.caigers.com](http://www.caigers.com)  
[www.vacation1000islands.com](http://www.vacation1000islands.com)