

**SUCI Dive Master Program – 2014**  
**Used for Ivy Lea future dives**

Dive Mapping and Dive Briefing Exercise

*Ivy Lea Dives and Camping Extravaganza*

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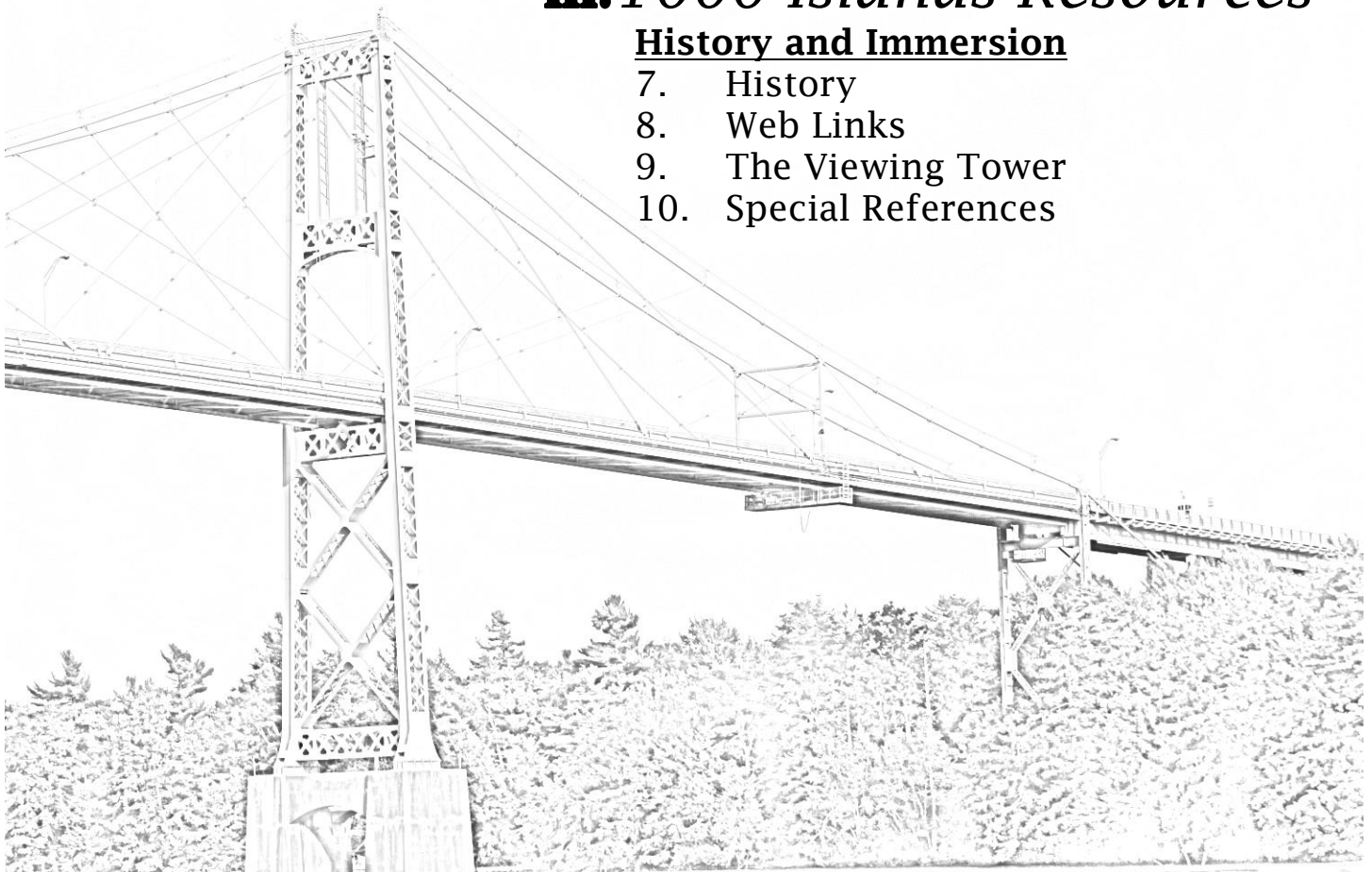


Image 1: 1000 Islands Bridge Credit: Jillian Gobrecht

# I. Above Water

## The Campground - Ivy Lea

→ Ivy Lea campground is located at the base of the 1000 islands bridge to approximately 17km east of Gananoque, and 38km west of Brockville.



One caveat when trying to locate the campground using Google Maps™ is that the address provided by the website will actually come up incorrect, and put you about 2 km to the east of the entrance. [Please use this link](#), it has the correct location of the entrance: <http://goo.gl/Smkd2E>

Drive 275 km, 2 h 32 min

### ○ 875 Morningside Ave

Scarborough, ON M1C

- ↑ 1. Head north on Morningside Ave toward Tams Rd
- ↑ 2. Take the Ontario 401 E ramp to Kingston
- ↑ 3. Merge onto ON-401 E
- ↘ 4. Take exit 661 for ON-137 toward Hill Island/Ontario
- ↑ 5. Continue onto Thousand Islands Bridge/ON-137 S
- ↘ 6. Take the 1000 Islands Parkway exit toward Ivy Lea/Rockport
- ↘ 7. Turn right onto 1000 Islands Pkwy (signs for 1000 Island Parkway W)

### ○ 649 1000 Islands Pkwy

Leeds and the Thousand Islands, ON K0E

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

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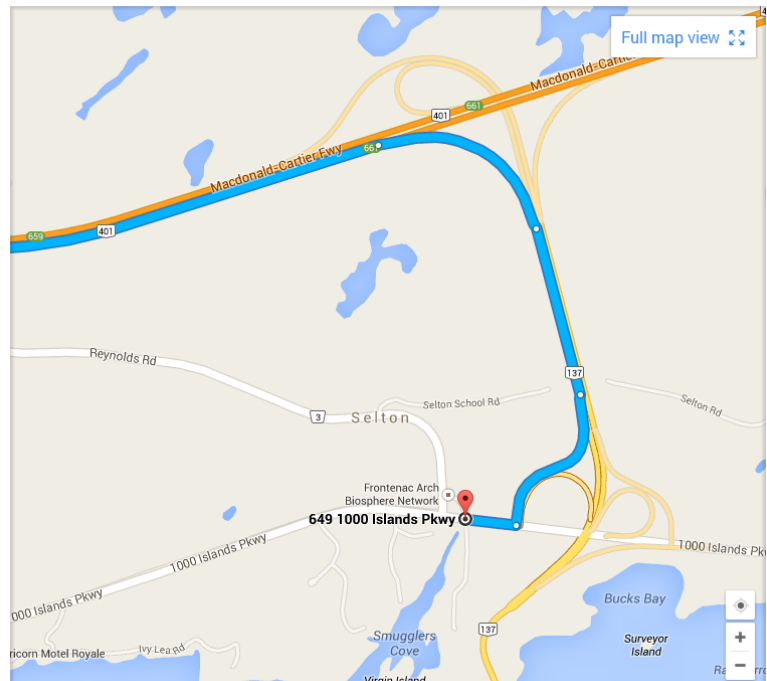


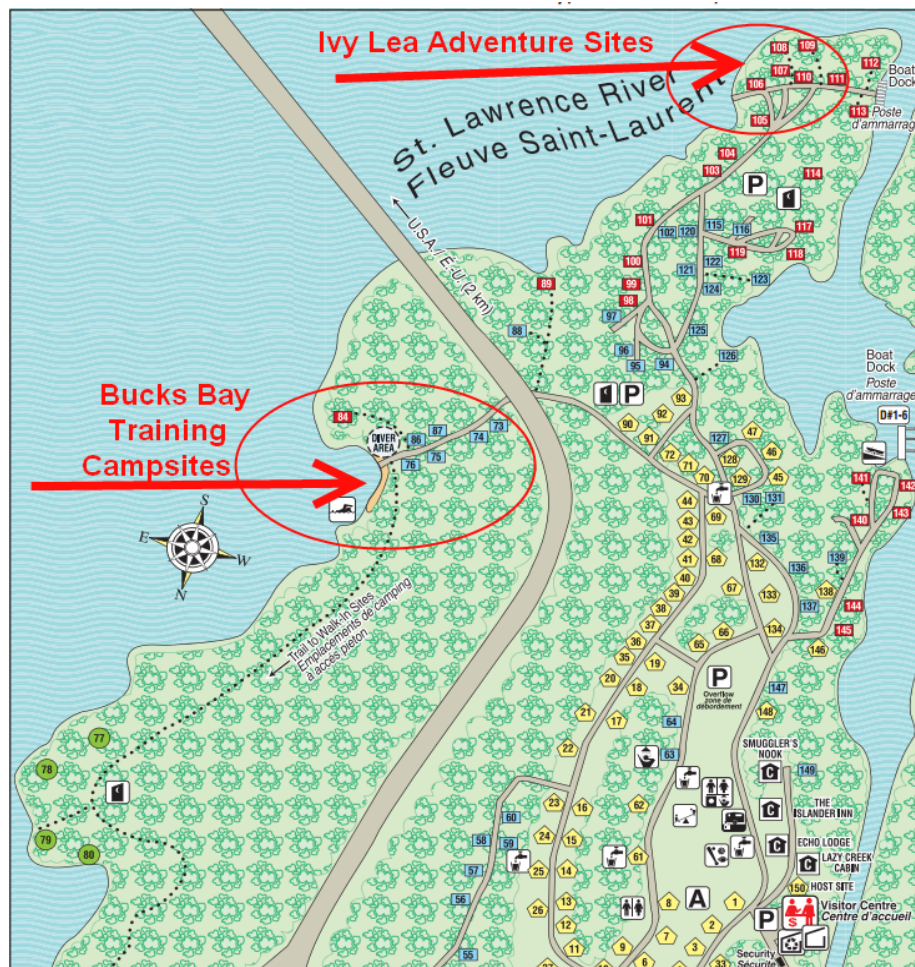


Image 2: Ivy Lea Entrance Credit: Google Maps

When you arrive you will need to check in with the campground office, whether you are camping or just need a day pass. If you are diving you will need to sign a waiver. If you plan on camping, sites are on a first come first serve basis and during the warm summer months book up well in advance. Below are some links to help in your planning:

<a href="http://www.stlawrenceparks.com/index.cfm/en/reservation/plan-your-visit/rules/">Ivy Lea Park Rules</a>	<a href="http://www.stlawrenceparks.com/index.cfm/en/reservation/plan-your-visit/rules/">http://www.stlawrenceparks.com/index.cfm/en/reservation/plan-your-visit/rules/</a>
<a href="http://www.stlawrenceparks.com/index.cfm/en/camping/campgrounds/ivy-lea-campsite/">Ivy Lea Park Web Site</a>	<a href="http://www.stlawrenceparks.com/index.cfm/en/camping/campgrounds/ivy-lea-campsite/">http://www.stlawrenceparks.com/index.cfm/en/camping/campgrounds/ivy-lea-campsite/</a>
<a href="https://secure.parks.on.ca/Reservations/Home.aspx">Ivy Lea Reservations</a>	<a href="https://secure.parks.on.ca/Reservations/Home.aspx">https://secure.parks.on.ca/Reservations/Home.aspx</a>

For the dives we will be doing, there are specific campsites that are ideal to reserve. There are two basic areas in the campground that are located ideally for our dives, depending on the purpose of your trip:



**Camp Sites close to the beach**

These are ideally suited for open water training, and other specialty courses. These campsites are a hop away from Buck’s Bay which has excellent open water for basic and advanced skills training. It even has benches setup for the purpose of staging equipment. Sites that are in this area, in order of preference / proximity:

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 76 | 75 |
| 86 | 87 |
| 74 | 73 |

**Ivy Lea Adventure Camp Sites**

These are ideally suited for exploratory and adventure diving. The sites literally sit on top of and upriver of the wreck dive and wall dives described later in this document, in order of

proximity and preference for a group camp:

- |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 106 | 105 | 107 | 110 | 108 | 109 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

## II. At the Waterline

### The Terrain and Layout

Boat dock with potential dive charter pickup.



near campsites 112/113

View of 1000 Islands Bridge from Campsite 106



Boat ramp - dive entry point in campsite 105/106

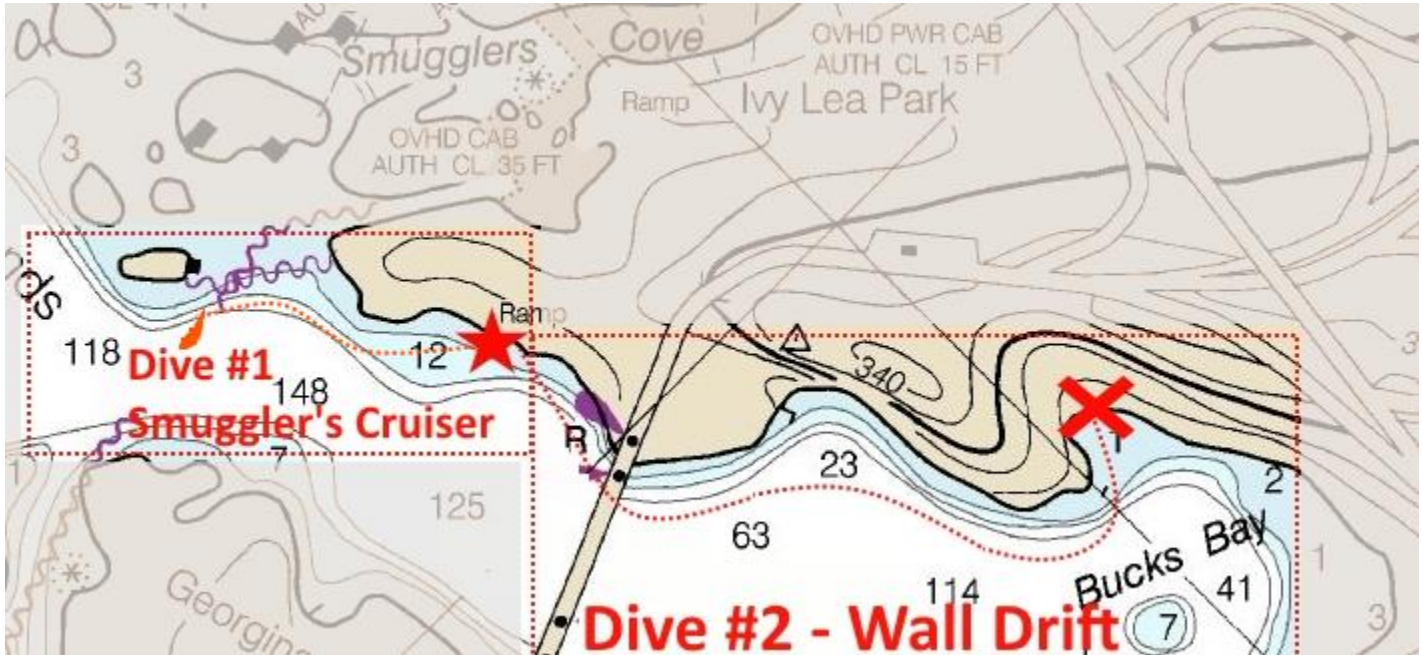


Bucks Bay Training Area - staging tables in background

There are several prominent features of the campground leading into the river. In the topographic map featured in the center, the river flows to the right. You can see it wraps around the campground, starting at the boat dock nestled in Smuggler's Cove. These boat docks are a short walk from the campsites, and are park property, for use of its campers. This would be ideal for a charter pickup. From the docks, the waters then move swiftly around the land jutting out just below the cove. Campsites are along the shore here, where the prime entry sites are located, as can be seen at the boat ramp entry between 105 and 106. This ramp is no longer active, so it is ideal for dive group entries.

## The Adventure Dives

The adventure dives start at the unused boat ramp. There are two dives that can be done separately, or combined into one longer dive. For the latter, it is highly recommended that a larger cubic tank or a lower volume breather are involved.



### Adventure Dive #1 - The Smuggler's Cruiser

#### Conditions:

Current - **Strong**. Returning to ramp entry requires pulling on rope.

Depth - **Maximum 107'** around ship stern. Channel drops deeper.



The entry is via the boat ramp at camp site 106. You swim down the incline, where you will find a tethered line about 15' from shore that leads out to the wreck. Current will feel mild here, as going out to the ship you are going with the current. You will discover the ship wreck at 85', approximately 87' down the line. There will be many large fish in the vicinity, including bass, catfish, sheephead and carp. Once you have finished exploring the wreck use the line to pull yourself back to the exit point at the boat ramp. The current will be quite strong getting back. A surface marker buoy is not recommended because of the current and depth of this dive. However a deployable SMB should be carried by all dive pairs.

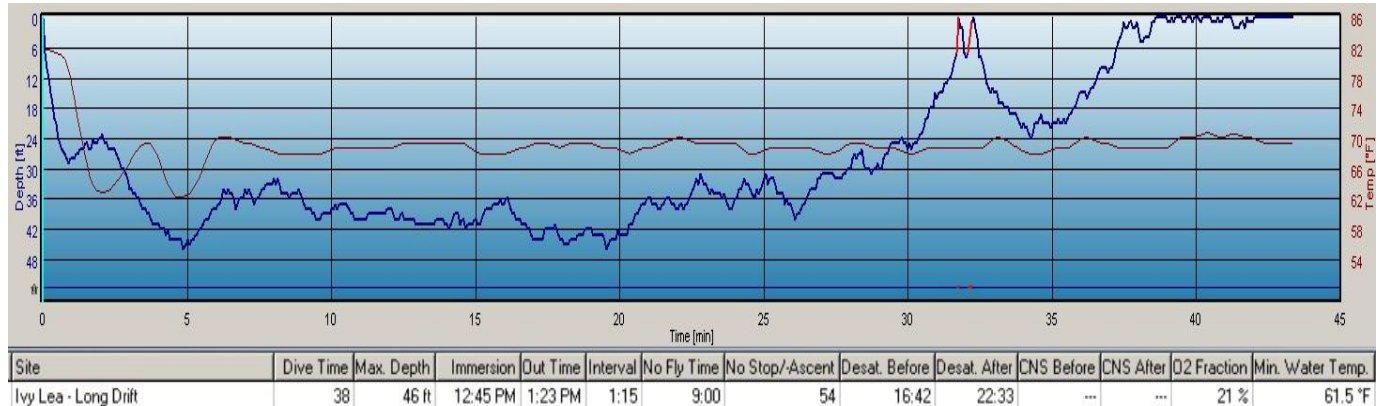
OPTION: If you have plenty of air, you can combine this into the Wall Drift toward the beach (Dive #2). With the use of air in Dive #1, consider staying shallower to make the distance all the way to beach. If this is your first dive on the Smuggler's Cruiser it is advisable to plan for separate dives to learn the terrain and acclimatize to the current.

## ***Adventure Dive #2 - Wall Drift toward Buck Bay from the Beach***

### ***Conditions:***

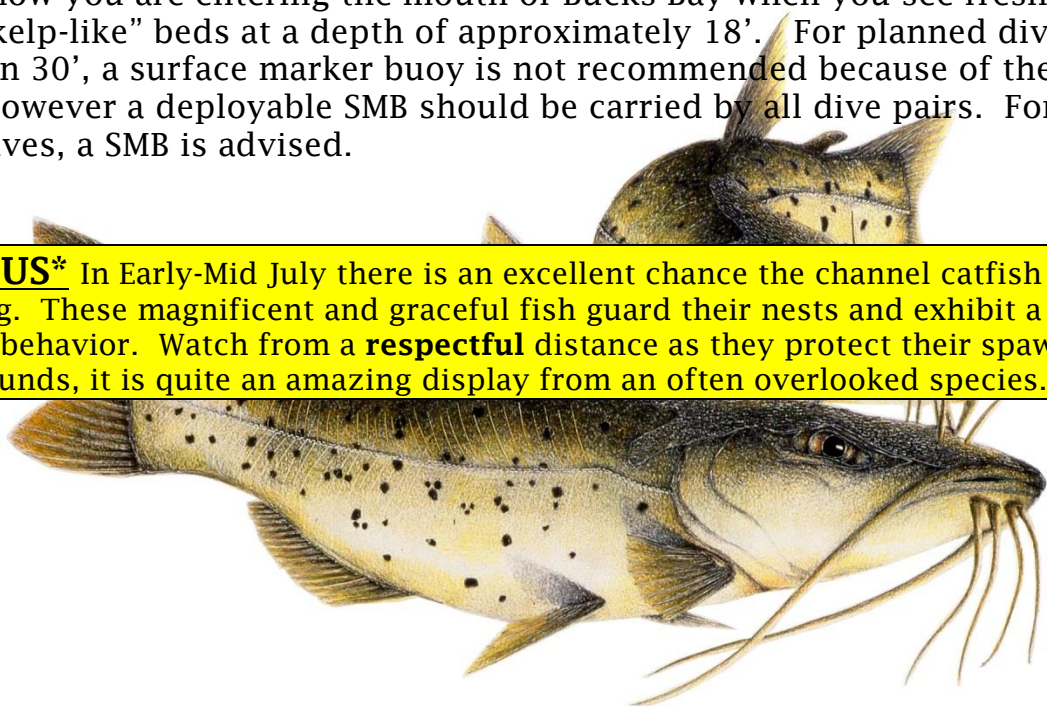
**Current** - **Moderate**. The drift is with the current, so enjoy it.

**Depth** - **Maximum 125'** in channel. Dive as deep or shallow as you want.



The entry is via the boat ramp at camp site 106. Descend while letting the current carry you to the depth you wish to dive. Do not surface in the channel at any time as there is heavy boat traffic. Approximately half way through the drift on a moderately sunny day you will see the shadow of the bridge as you pass underneath it. The drive will take approximately 45 minutes with no fin kicks. You will know you are entering the mouth of Bucks Bay when you see freshwater seaweed "kelp-like" beds at a depth of approximately 18'. For planned dives deeper than 30', a surface marker buoy is not recommended because of the current. However a deployable SMB should be carried by all dive pairs. For less than 30' dives, a SMB is advised.

**\*BONUS\*** In Early-Mid July there is an excellent chance the channel catfish are spawning. These magnificent and graceful fish guard their nests and exhibit a most forward behavior. Watch from a **respectful** distance as they protect their spawning grounds, it is quite an amazing display from an often overlooked species.

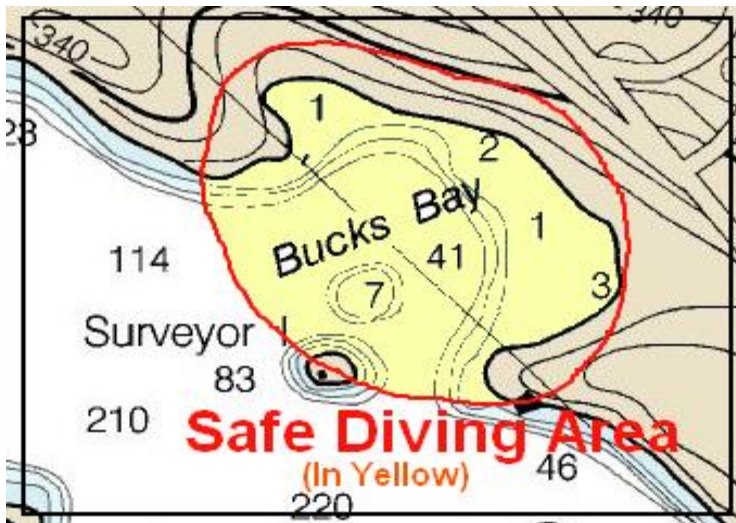


## ***Bucks Bay - Training Playground***

### ***Conditions:***

Current - **Mild, sheltered cove.** Current picks up if you go out in the channel.

Depth - **Maximum 40'** in the cove. It gets deeper rapidly out in the channel.



This area is accessed from the beach and swimming down river. There are multiple tables for staging of equipment. Entry is via the beach and is a gradual incline. This is a great training area for both beginner and advanced courses like Rescue Diver. Unfortunately there is no parking in the immediate area unless you have one of the campsites mentioned above. It is a short walk to the parking area just past the 1000 islands bridge you go under to get here. Drop your gear, park your car and walk back.

In the water, a dive marker (SMB) should be used, especially during warm summer months when boat traffic in the 1000 Islands can be brisk. If for some reason a SMB is not used, then a deployable SMB should be carried by all buddy pairs. Care should be taken with newer divers that they do not get out into the channel because it drops to very deep quite quickly, and the current also is moderately strong.

There is also an opportunity to do a two-way drift dive here. To do this you can fight the current in reverse of the above mentioned Adventure drift dive, pulling yourself along the wall. When you use 1/3 of your air (perhaps 1/2 for experienced divers) turn back and drift back into the beach and exit.



## III. 1000 Islands Resources

### History

The 1000 Islands area has a rich history dating for several 1000 years by various First Nations tribes. The European colonization of the area followed, starting in the 1500s. Pirates have plied these waters, wars have been fought, and shipwrecks dot the bottom of the river from these historic events. There are museums dedicated to this rich and fascinating history located up and down the river, from Kingston to Montreal, on both sides of the river.

Some links to get you started in learning more about this amazing area and its history:

<http://www.visit1000islands.com/visitorinfo/>

A site ran by the tourism bureau of the 1000 islands, it contains a comprehensive listing of the many attractions and museums in the area.

<http://www.thousandislandslife.com/>

This site is a beautiful and super informative lifestyle and historic guide for residents and visitors to the 1000 islands. It is filled with historic information about the area, as well as running features on the residents of the area.

<http://www.piratebilljohnston.com/>

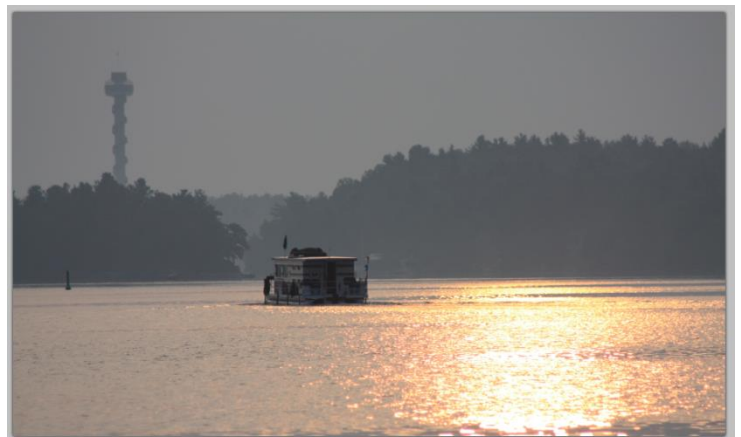
A blog site about the famous 1000 islands pirate Bill Johnston. This site is a fascinating account of a historic figure in the area whose adventures spanned the War of 1812 and the Rebellion wars of the 1860's.

### See the Islands ... Literally!

One of the most spectacular attractions in the area is the 1000 Islands tower. It offers views of the entire region in all its beauty and majesty. It is quite a treat to see the areas you just dived from a bird's eye view!

The tower is closed part of the year in the winter months, so be sure to check the website before visiting:

<http://www.1000islandstower.com/>



*Image 4: The tower at sunset, Imagine the view from up top!*

*Photo Credit: Jillian Gobrecht*

Link for Topographic Maps used in the Dive Mapping:

<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/14772.shtml>

<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml>

*The 1000 Islands Life, a quiet life and quite a life:*



*Image 5: The author at rest, dreaming her dreams of the 1000 islands.*

*Photo Credit: Jillian Gobrecht*