

***2002
Summer Television Campaign
Inquiry Conversion Survey***



***1000 Islands
International Tourism Council***

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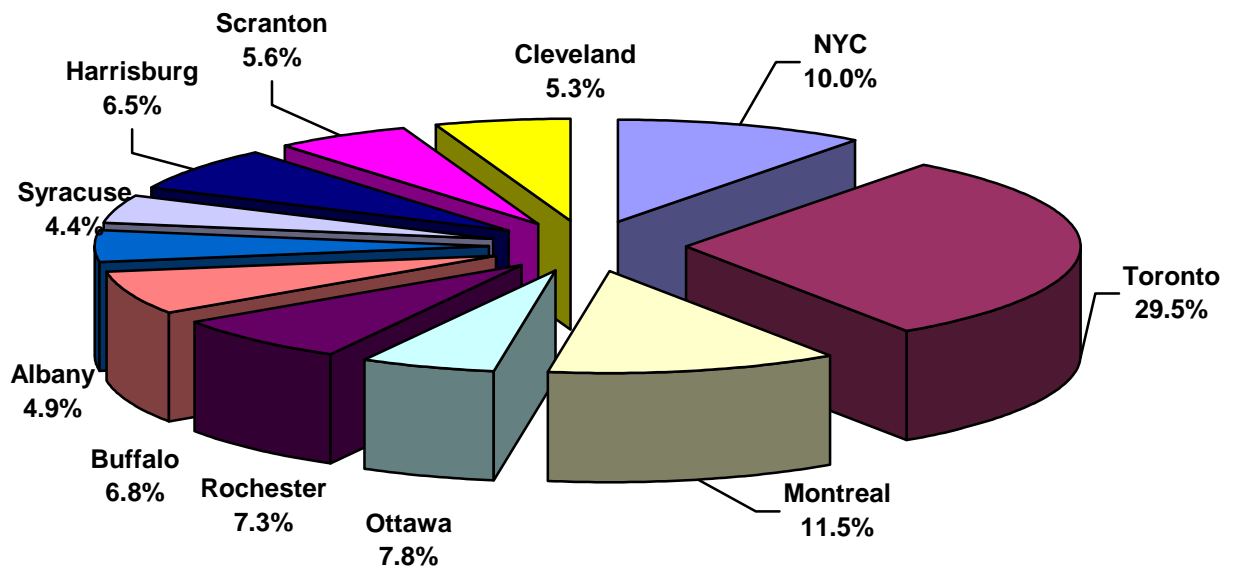
**2002 Summer Television Campaign – Conversion Survey
Thousand Islands Regional Tourism Development Corporation**

Overview

This is a report on a survey of inquiries to the 2002 summer television campaign. A few facts on the program are outlined below:

- \$165,000 USD total campaign buy
- May to August ad run
- Markets purchased in broadcast and cable:
 - Toronto
 - Ottawa
 - Montreal
 - Buffalo
 - Rochester
 - Syracuse
 - Albany
 - NYC Suburban, Northern New Jersey (cable only)
 - Binghamton
 - Scranton
 - Harrisburg
- 8,307 unique visitors inquired by way of 8island.com website
- 13,250 inquiries fulfilled by mail
- General underwriting funding provided by:
 - Jefferson County, New York
 - Thousand Islands Bridge Authority
 - Federal Bridge Corporation
 - State of New York
 - Province of Ontario
- Local buy-in funding provided by:
 - 1000 Islands Skydeck
 - Alexandria Bed Tax Committee
 - Antique Boat Museum
 - Boldt Castle – Heart Island
 - Gananoque Boat Lines
 - Kingston Economic Development
 - Riveredge Resort
 - Uncle Sam Boat Tours
 - Upper Canada Village
 - City of Watertown

INQUIRIES BY MARKET(%)



The Survey:

Approximately 6,000 email addresses collected during the 2002 summer campaign were mailed a request to complete a survey. The Council received 694 responses to the web-based survey. The following are the basic results from those answers.

Key findings:

- Two thirds of responses said they choose to visit after receiving information
- Most visitors (76%) came just once during the year
- Nearly half of the visitors (47%) were new customers who had never visited before
- Couples are as common as families
- The huge majority of visitors came during July and August
- More visitors choose to visit in the fall than spring
- A third of visitors are choosing the area for a long vacation (four nights or more)
- A relatively small number of respondents are only “day visitors” (13%)
- Two thirds of respondents visit Boldt Castle and Scenic Boat Tours

Conclusions:

The program is effective at meeting several objectives:

- Significant numbers of new visitors to the region were attracted
- Visitors responding to the program patronize participating supporters
- Visitors responding to the program traveled widely within the region
- Solid overnight business was attracted by the program

Concerns revealed:

- The survey supports evidence of continued very weak June business
- Survey comments had a number of disturbing complaints regarding vacation experiences
- There is a need to move average spending up
- There is a need to attract more customers that visit frequently

Summary of responses to questions:

Did you visit the 1000 Islands during 2002?

No	Yes
32.46%	67.54%

The following results are from those that indicated a visit (67.54% of total):

If you visited in 2002, how many times did you visit?

Once	Twice	Three times	Four or more times	No Answer
75.97%	11.59%	4.08%	8.15%	0.21%

Have you visited the 1000 Islands in the past; check all that apply?

Visited before 1999	41.63%
Visited in 2000	21.46%
Visited in 1999	17.81%
Never visited before	47.00%
Visited in 2001	22.75%

No Answer 0.43%

Do you plan to visit the 1000 Islands in the future?

No	Yes
6.28%	93.72%

How many including yourself were in your traveling party?

Five or more	Four	Three	Two	One	No Answer
22.75%	22.10%	11.37%	39.48%	1.50%	2.79%

What best describes your traveling party?

Single person	couple without children	Family with children	Group of friends	Other group
0.70%	38.40%	39.90%	16.40%	4.70%

In what month was your longest visit?

January - April	May	June	July	August	September	October-December
0.9%	3.1%	7.3%	32.8%	41.2%	11.1%	3.5%

Any months of other visits in 2002?

January-April	May	June	July	August	September	October-November	No Answer
3.43%	5.79%	8.58%	15.67%	15.02%	11.37%	6.87%	66.09%

How long was your visit? counted as overnights

Four or more overnights	Three overnights	Two overnights	One overnight	A day or less not overnight%	No Answer
33.48%	16.74%	21.89%	12.02%	13.30%	2.58%

If you stayed overnight, where did you stay

With friends or family	Onboard Boat	Vacation Home	State/ Provincial Park campground	Private/ Commercial campground	Hotel, motel, B&B or resort	No Answer
3.22%	5.58%	4.51%	8.58%	6.22%	55.79%	16.09%

Attractions visited

State or Provincial Park	32.19%
Watertown Zoo	4.94%
Upper Canada Village	14.38%
Skydeck Tower	18.24%
Fulford Place Mansion	4.94%
Fort Henry	25.54%
Boldt Castle	64.59%
Scenic Boat Tour/Cruise	66.31%
Antique Boat Museum	18.67%
1000 Islands Casino	13.73%
No Answer	8.58%

Sports & Recreation

Hunting	1.72%
Hiking	18.03%
Skiing/Snowmobiling	1.93%
Golfing	9.01%
Diving	2.79%
Boating	39.27%
Fishing	25.32%
Whitewater Rafting	2.36%
No Answer	44.85%

Communities in USA:	Overall Visitors	Visitors to USA
Wellesley Island	16.7%	28.2%
Watertown	20.4%	34.3%
Sackets Harbor	13.9%	23.5%
Henderson Harbor	5.6%	9.4%
Clayton	28.1%	47.3%
Chaumont	2.4%	4.0%
Cape Vincent	15.5%	26.0%
Alexandria Bay	52.6%	88.4%

Communities in Canada	Overall Visitors	Visitors to Canada
Rockport/Ivy Lea	25.3%	33.5%
Prescott	11.6%	15.3%
Kingston	50.4%	66.8%
Gananoque	59.9%	79.3%
Cornwall	15.7%	20.7%
Brockville	29.2%	38.6%

What would you say was the most important reason for your visit to the 1000 Islands?

Other reason not listed	Other recreation	Fishing	Boating/water recreation	Sightseeing	Relax/get-away	No Answer
5.79%	1.72%	5.15%	12.02%	28.97%	43.78%	2.58%

Please choose the range which best describes your total spending

Over \$1000	\$751 to \$1000	\$501 to \$750	\$251 to \$500	Less than \$100	\$101 to \$250	No Answer
14.59%	12.02%	15.88%	25.32%	6.22%	21.89%	4.08%

We welcome any additional comments and will include them as a supplement to the report on this survey given to our local businesses and government officials

Note: these are the unedited comments from those surveyed – spelling, grammar, etc. are as entered into the computer by the customers.

We had a wonderful time stopping at the small Islands. The rest rooms were clean and they even had paper. Our house boat rented from Gilbert's gave us a wonderful week. We docked at a different island each night and had them to our selves since it was late in the season. We were glad that we were docked back at Gilbert's the night the Noreastern came. That was exciting and our first. We love Canada and will be back again.

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Unfortunately we only had two nights to stay in your area so did not get to see or do all that we wanted. And due to unfortunate circumstances, our second night got cut short early and our plans for the next day did not work out as we had to leave the campground around midnight and head to my inlaws. We had planned on doing a lot more sightseeing of the area. But I must say that the short time we had there was absolutely wonderful and we loved every minute of it. We never even got a chance to go to the Canadian side. We would love to return there sometime and look forward to a day when we can. Thank you.

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Parking is a problem in Alex Bay We always visit Bonnie Castle mini-golf, Aqua Zoo, take a boat tour, Sky Deck, Duty Free Store, go to Kingston, Gan, would like to get to Brockville Sackets Harbor, Massena, Remington Museum in Ogdensburg - Purpose of our vacation is to see old friends (grew up in Watertown- my parents had a boat) and to help my parents do the Clayton Antique Show

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we ended up not going on vacation this year, due to family health problems.

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We are a mid 40's couple, myself being from Quebec, Canada, and my friend from Kansas, U.S.A. We had a wonderful time at the 1000 Islands. It was my friends' first time in Ontario and he told me it was his best vacation ever!!! It was my first time camping and I have to admit it was my best vacation also. It was so relaxing. We plan to do it again one day. The brochures that you sent me helped so much with our pre-planning. Thank you for helping to make our vacation so memorable.

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I enjoyed my visit to the thousand island region very much. I hope to return but don't have anything currently planned.

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I love going to my favorite bed and breakfast at the Hickey's They make my stay the best what great people.

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La tranquillité des lieux et la beauté des paysages sont ce qui nous attire le plus avec la qualité des services des parcs provinciaux.

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didnt see all i wanted traveling with handicap person who has trouble breathing. i myself use scooter was very happy with accessibility. very curious of sightseeing cruises

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We found the 1000 Islands to be a very pleasant and relaxing destination, a perfect place to escape from the stress of everyday life.

--

I love coming there every year

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for our every annuvasaries we decided to come there for a week. we were there on sep 08/2002 till sep 11/2002, this was our honey moon trip. we really enjoyed a lot. in 2003, during summer we going to have a family trip. Thanks for doing a survey Thaya

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WE HAD A GREAT TIME AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO RETURNING THIS YEAR WITH THE REST OF THE FAMILY.

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The Torchlight Motel on Wellesley Island is one of the best secrets in the Islands. It has a great view and the owners are wonderful. Alex Bay is not the tourists town it used to be and I feel sad for the people who live there.

--

It was a beautifully scenic area, the river views took your breath away. We are in our 40's and never knew how pretty this region is, or else we would have visited sooner. Will definitely return. –

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In two words: GREAT & BEAUTIFUL (in Canadian \$\$\$)

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Everything about the visit was amazing, the sightseeing, the food, the islands, the people. I was amazed at how many islands they are, the lighthouses, millionaires row. It was educational and we definitely plan on visiting again and has suggested the same to our friends.

--

A wonderful unspoiled place with friendly welcoming people.

--

We felt Canada did a much better job of appealing to and recognizing the role tourists play in their economy. Much cleaner, more reasonable prices...regardless of exchange rates....more access to the water, cleaner, cleaner, cleaner. US side seemed to only care if you were a fisherman. Prices were way out of range for offerings, especially considering it was "off season" while we were there. There seems to be little concern about what a treasure they have with water, scenery, etc. Remington Museum does not show on your list. His art is everywhere out West and yet many of his originals and his history is right there and we had to stumble on it by accident to know about it. Could not understand why US farms are abandoned or poorly neglected and Canadian farms were clean, viable and prosperous. Same climate, same terrain. Politics? Sacketts Harbor is a real treasure and what they have done is an example of what can be. The old fort in town was poorly utilized and is almost like an afterthought, yet the town still draws people in. We felt Sacketts Harbor was the highlight of our trip, in the US.

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We were not happy with our visit at all. We looked forward to going on the boat cruise and the only reason for the visit was to see the Bolldt Castle!!! We had been wanting to come for years, we live in Quebec, and made the drive to see the Castle. When we got there we found out we could not go to that castle, at that time. But the brochure we recieved said that it had many different times to go. We were pretty much told tough! So to sum it up we are not impressed with the tour!!!

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I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE AND WOULD PROBABLY GO SUMMER 2003. PLEASE KEEP ME POSTED WITH ALL THE SCHEDULES AND INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO ME. THANKS,

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It's a beautiful place with friendly people. We were well received where ever we visited.

--

I visited the Thousand Islands site to research a 4th grade social studies project that my class was doing on New York State.

Each of us got information and prepared our own travel brochures on a different area of NY State. We presented them to our class. I learned about lots of great places to visit, and I really want my parents to take me to the Thousand Islands next summer. A lot of kids in my class also thought that the Thousand Islands was a very cool place. The web site had lots of great information and was very easy to use. Thank you for the information that you sent me. I would also really love to get a Thousand Islands sweatshirt - I'm going to have my mom buy me one when we visit. Nava Aharon, Queens New York.

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We did not vacation in the area this year but definitely plan to go in 2003!!!

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██████████ was a total disappointment. It is featured as the central town to visit. We stayed at the ██████████ on Wellesley Island. It was very nice and the host was gracious, but it lacked sufficient air conditioning for the hot spell that existed while we were there. The other towns were also very disappointing. A lot of driving around but nothing of interest to see. Bolt Castle was likewise extremely disappointing. The only positive thing was the boat ride. Would not recommend 1,000 islands to any of our friends or family. Sorry

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I'm sorry I didn't get there this year. Family problems prevented me from travelling. I am looking forward to the boat cruise this summer. \donna

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I am from Toronto. It was wonderful to see the advertisements on TV during the summer. It reminded me what a beautiful area the thousand islands are. It was the reason why we took a group of friends this past summer to see Boldt Castle. Just this survey makes me want to go back and check out some visitor attractions that I did not know about!

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The St. Lawrence River has the most cleanest water I have ever seen among all the rivers. I am very impressed. The scenery is outstanding. However, there are not quality restaurants providing gourmet food. They should really use local seafood.

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The information you sent was good but not specific for areas. A map showing the counties would be helpful!

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You should do more to develop/promote the waterway as a boating destination. It's lovely.. mooring facilities should be expanded/created at the state parks...as it is now you have to go to canadian parks for the "remote" feel. Then there are not near enough spots to safely moor. Thanks for a great visit.

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the ticket for boat riding is a little too expensive. there should be some discount for family package.

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"national security" has made canadian customs enough of a pain so that we no longer go by boat to rockport and brockville both of which we favorite trips to take guests. the river front

restaurants and parks in canada a beautiful but not if you can't do it without a lot of hassle

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WE HAVE ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AREAS IN THE SUMMER TIME FOR TOURISTS TO VISIT. I FEEL ALL THE MARINA'S AND THE WATERWAY STOPS SHOULD BE PUBLISHED MORE. THERE ARE SOME BEAUTIFUL LOCATIONS TO STOP AND GET A BITE TO EAT.

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Being the survey asked for most info germane to 2002, we would reveal that we do, and have visited Gananoque, Kingston Clayton and others. We have been vacationers to the TI region since 1989 every summer for one or two week. Really can't get enough. Thanks for asking. FYI..... (If I win a shirt I am an XL)LOL

--

We had planned to visit Boldt Castle, had even visited their web site. Unfortunately we were unable to visit the castle because we did not bring our passports, had we known this was required we would have brought them. We were disappointed to miss the castle for this avoidable reason.

--

It was a wonderful trip and we regularly recommend it to friends. the people were very nice. We visited the legions and they were very friendly with lots of activities for us to participate in, including bbq's etc, if we wished.

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I would like to be able to announce to my group any special service or information of interest to them, specially reserved eating arrangements.

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We are planning to visit 1000 Islands next summer.

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We live in Albany, New York and are close to Lake George. What we love about the 1000 islands is that it's 1000 Lake George's. Both are full of beautiful and are both historic. 1000 islands is truly a great water way. We were eating breakfast in out resort and a huge taker came into view. It looked surreal when they dwarfed the surrounding pleasure craft. Only then did in sink in that this was a waterway of great commerce. We were amazed by the clarity of the water and the huge fish we spotted just under the surface. This area is truly spectacular and is a must to see.

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Should be easier to register to get back in Canada The office in Rockport is a real joke !

--

Boat cruise around the Thousand Islands was nice. But because of problems with passengers without passports, the stop-off at Bolt castle was canceled. If I remember correctly we were on a Gananoque cruise. This was a bit of a bummer since we were really looking forward to this. Weather was kinda rainy too, but I guess there ain't much you guys can do about that. The provincial park was very nice. Well kept, courteous staff, clean washrooms, reasonably priced. Congradulate them for me. Thanks!

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We went up twice this past summer. the first time was with family {and their children} for a family gathering/long weekend getaway. we basically stayed in ██████████. Sight-seeing, beach, etc. had a wonderful time. then my husband and I went up alone for labor day weekend. we did more sightseeing on both sides of the border. again we had a wonderful time. ██████████ is in desperate need of renovation. the town is

delapidated and depressing. the canadian side is much more built up and tourist appealing. also, the [REDACTED] {if memory serves me correctly that is the name of a motel in [REDACTED]}. i was told by the tourist office that this motel was very nice and clean - even though just a basic motel. we were quite suprised when we arrived. the motel is disgusting. we booked four rooms. they were dirty, smelled from mold, and the furnishings were falling apart. had it not been 2 AM when we checked in we would have slept elsewhere. one last comment: the various attractions in the area do seem to close quite early leaving little to do in the evenings.

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We just love Kingston and the area!

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The boat tour which we took usually stops at Boldt castle, however, on our particular tour our boat did not visit Boldt castle, something about customs. In any case, we were greatly disappointed about that, but we still had a lovely tour.

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We Also enjoy the many Beaches we go to with our Boat

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boats bot stopping at bolt castle made us cancel plans to go this year...

--
The only part which i did not like was the actual boat ride. The boat did not provide a variety of eating choices for the passengers. Going to Boldt Castle and back is over 3 hours and my husband and i were quite hungry. I felt like i was part of a herd instead of feeling like i was on a sightseeing vacation. All that was offered to eat was hot dogs and chips. This was a complaint by many people that were sitting around us. To have people return for this adventure i would suggest that you implement more eating options for passengers.

--
We enjoyed our visit to Gananoque very much. It was a very peaceful and scenic place to visit. The Inn was very comfortable and the food was excellent.

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We had a wonderful time! We were surprised at how much stuff there was to do...Fort Wellington was amazing and a hilight! I have been waiting to see Bolt Castle for years! A great vacation

--
WE REALLY JUST WANTED TO GET AWAY WITH MY FAMILY AND MY PARENTS. WE DID NOT FEEL THAT THERE WAS ENOUGH PUBLIC FISHING SPOTS, AND IF THERE WERE WE DID NOT FIND THEM. EVERY WHERE WE WENT TO GO YOU HAD TO PAY TO RENT A BOAT AND THEN YOU HAD TO FIND A LAUNCH PLACE FOR THE BOAT. THERE JUST DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ENOUGH "PUBLIC" SPOTS. OTHERWISE WE ENJOYED OUR SELVES.

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I was maybe a little younger then i am now but being on a Boat is the best for me.getting to visit things/places with your eyes and ears.Having someone on the boat tell you what are all the little islands around you while on the boat. Also for people who don't know this that an Island to be called an Island has to have more then 1 tree on that island.that was so great to know....

--
We had a beautiful room at Capt. Thompson's on the water with great view of Boldt Castle. Enjoyed walking around the village of Alexandria Bay. Toured Boldt Castle and viewed vidio, it was remarkable how the man succeeded in the U.S.A..I am a member of American Legion in Ft. Pierce,FL. and stop to visit

the Legion Post in Alexandria Bay, everyone was extremely friendly.

--
We intend to visit again when our children are older. They enjoyed the boat cruise even though my children are both under the age of 7.

-- I hope to visit the region pretty soon. My vacation weeks and my wife's didn't coordonate so we had to stay home. Maybe in the next years we plan to go.

--
We love the 1000 islands! Our family has been comming up for over 40 years and will continue to do so. One thing we have noticed over the years is the fishing isn't as good as it was years ago, is there a way to stock the river? Let the government and local business know it is very important to keep the river clean. People come from around the world because of the clean water. Keep up the good work!

--
we thought it was ridiculous that the boat cruise to boldt castle only left twice a day...once in the morning and once later in the afternoon. it was very inconvenient for people who were just driving by and deciding to do a quick tour.

--
I absolutely love the area...the park islands are amazing but they are all getting closed down for walking which is a real shame. I hope they can resolve the problems and get the islands back up and running soon.

--
Hello, We enjoyed the area between Cornwall and Belleview very much, it was just a slow drive , taking pictures, stopping at the different attractions, no certain schedule, we hope to drive from west to east next time, and we have told several friends to plan seeing that area.

--
well maintained, relaxing and quiet roads. a great alternative to the 401. There needs to be more signs along the 401 to attract visitors to the great sights of the area. i had to fight my prejudices thinking towns like Brockville, Prescott etc. were just rest stops between Montreal and Toronto. I was surprised at everything i saw in the area. a great alternative to spending money in the US.

--
We very much enjoyed our stay. As compared to so many other places we've visited the area seemed relatively 'unspoiled.' It was clean and well maintained with its own unique character. I hope planners will make every attempt to maintain older buildings and landmarks to preserve the charm of the place. New and modern is definitely not what we look for when escaping the city to seek a little rest and relaxation. For us there is little point in travelling to visit a place that is virtually the same as home.

--
My sister and I really enjoyed the bicycle trail and we went out all 5 days and this would be a reason for visiting again in the future.

--
I plan on going back with my daughter, husband and grandchildren. The last time my family and I were at the Thousand Islands was in the 1970's and we camped at Jacques Cartier State Park. We had a great time back then and we always talked about going back. I see alot of work has been done to Boldt Castle since then!

People come here to get away from noise. Some sort of limit on power-boats is in order. There are simply overwhelming the otherwise pristine environment....

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We just love everyting in the thousand Islands

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We were somewhat disappointed that only one cruise stopped at Boldt Castle. We realize this is more a US issue. Other than that, everything was great, and we will return..likely in the summer of 2003. --

We wish to thank the excellent people of Gananoque whom we met during our morning and evening walks, they were very warm and friendly.

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I visited on Labor Day Weekend but was disappointed that the public beach wasn't still open (the one in Alexandria Bay).

--

While we stayed onboard overnight most of the time, we did stay at the Riverside Inn in Alexandria Bay one night. The trip was great except for one disturbing incident involving the extremely ignorant captain of an [REDACTED]. I should also mention that my friend much enjoyed the 1000 Islands poker run which we watched from both Gananoque and Rockport. We also enjoyed our overnight stay in Brockville. The Thousand Islands were a major factor in our decision to move from Halifax to Kingston in 2001.

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HAD A GREAT TIME ON THE HOUSEBOAT WE RENTED FROM REMAR RENTALS..CAN'T WAIT TO COME AGAIN NEXT YEAR...

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we went 3 times -- we will be back in 2003 for sure - could you please send me an up to date tourist books and pamphlets.

Thanks [REDACTED]

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The first place we stayed [REDACTED] advertised itself as being a part of the 1000 Islands. This should be rectified because it is not. We were very disappointed in the area and consequently moved to a campground (Merry Knolls) in Clayton for the balance of the trip. We feel as if we wasted the first part of our stay because we wanted to see the 1000 Islands sights. The last part of our trip was wonderful and we enjoyed ourselves very much.

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DID NOT VISIT YET BUT MADE RESERVATIONS FOR JUNE OF 2003.CAN'T WAIT IT SHOULD BE GREAT

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I did not get to travel north this year, maybe next year. It looks very pretty, and I would love to visit.

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I did not find a directory that gave information on all availabel recreational oppourtunities while we were on the visiting. If there is such a directory, please let me know, and if not, it would be helpful. It is difficult to collect all of the various assortment of individual brochures, an all in one would be most helpful.

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:)

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We love this area and look forward to visiting 1000 Islands Fantasia when it is complete.

--

We had a wonderful time. The tourism package arrived in time, however it would have been nice to know that someone had read and reacted to my request for material. That's the only thing I would change from the entire trip it was wonderful, as it always is in the 1000 Islands!!! Wish you all the best for the 2003 season.

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The Thousand Islands Area should also be recognized for all of it's Natural Beauty. Many Bird Species are seen in the area throughout all Seasons. Rare species also inhabit the area. Tourism would increase if the Naturalist Travellers were aware of the Rich Diversity in the Thousand Island Region. (ie.Bald Eagles along the St. Lawrence River in the Winter Months.)

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My family and I love the 1000 Islands and have been coming for 20 years now. We hope to spend another 20 there as well. I wish you could bring back Waterfun Village!

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I truly enjoyed Gananoque and the boat tour and Lunch at the Inn. Kingston was fascinating. Quite the beautiful town and the hospitality was wonderful. Didn't stay very long in Bellville. Ate dins in Trenton. Quite the Govt town. Drove down into Prince Edward county. Loved Picton. It is truly Niagara-on-the-Lake without the ATTITUDE. I was surprised what lovely areas Napanee and Wellington were. I have no idea what to expect but thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks for the information. Dorothy Brandt

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resturants were pretty bad in [REDACTED] other wise it was gret bboating and fishing plan on bringing friends who fish so lets get some good returants there

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I think question 10 is in poor taste. I don't think our expenditures is anybody's concern.

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We were absolutely delighted with our visit. I can't believe I waited so long to see the Thousand Islands. It is so beautiful! I was traveling with a friend and hope to return soon with my husband.

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We had a great time, stayed at Caiger's Fishing Resort, never left it until we came back home. Stopped at various places on the way up and back. Would definitely like to visit again!

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We appreciated our travel at thousand island and probably we will going next summer.

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We spent time in the 1000 Islands on our way to Ottawa and on the return trip, we took the ferries from Kingston to Wolfe Island and Cape Vincent, NY. One of the highlights of our trip was Sackett's Harbor and the Candlelight Inn B&B. We hope to go back

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Hi, I had plans in August 2002,for a week stay.A medical emergency came up and had to cancel.All is well now and my wife and I plan to spend a week to 10 days this coming summer 2003 as one of our vacation plans for 2003.I am retired now, and plan to do lot of traveling in the future.I have checked items in the survey for 2002 on things I plan to see and do.You are welcome to send me any information which I may be interested in. Thank you.

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IT IS THE BEST VACATION WE EVERY HAD AND IT IS THE ONLY PLACE WE LIKE TO GO WE WILL BE GOING BACK THIS YEAR AUG 2003

I was ordered to stop at item 4 because I answered no to the first question. I am glad to have a chance to say WHY. I kept such a good souvenir of the 1000 Island that I asked for up to date info BECAUSE I was supposed to have a Spanish lady visitor aged 40. It would have been here second trip to Canada. On the first one she did not even have time to visit Ottawa. So I had planned to go further west with her: Kingston and 1000 Island. This would have been in August 2002. BUT SHE DID NOT COME! Which does mean I shall never go back by myself, though I am in my seventies. I would not have crossed to the U.S. anymore though. Beside the \$ a new reason is the amount of border incidents (even at US Customs inside the Canadian Dorval Airport!) with US Border Patrol officers. Even myself had some 10 years ago in Southern Quebec, going into Vermont.

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We had a great time houseboating around the area. I would definitely recommend it to anyone. We will return! We all had a great time.

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Because of the beautiful weather this past summer we have enjoyed ourselves tremendously in the region. We are avid boaters and although we have travelled the region several times, we still feel the need to return and visit this beautiful area again. There are many great festivities in the area. We could never possibly witness them all as great as they are. All the cities on this great river are doing a great job of attracting and entertaining tourists like ourselves. Keep up the good work because we will be back. Sincerely; [REDACTED]

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I really liked the float plane ride in Gananoque! Make sure Make sure they can stay in business. We also liked the free dockage in Gananoque so we could get there by boat.

--
We would like to rent a house boat for a week in 2002 . But we cannot find any detailed info on what to expect when houseboating through the 1000 islands (ie An Idiots Guide to a week of renting a house boat to travel through the 1000 Islands) .We have a copy of "PORTS The Cruising Guide to 1000 Islands. But that book is more of a navigational book and does not tell you where to buy food and the best time to arrive at an island for docking.

--
Well on the day we went for the tour we had called ahead and were told the hours that the boat would be leaving. When we arrived to buy the tickets for the 4 o'clock tour we were told that it had sailed for that day only at 3:30. So we had to wait until 6 for the sunset cruise.....we were very unhappy. We should have been told when we called that morning.

--
see had a great time on vacation this year.. Saw the sights, went to the casino, and stayed at Glen House resort. The swimming in the St Lawrence could have been better (I like lake swimming). We usually go up north but we went east of Toronto for a change of scenery, and we enjoyed it. We will probably not go back this summer, since we like to go to other locations. Everything was really nice in the 1000 islands area. Luanne

--
We really enjoyed our visit and were thrilled to take the tour on the Boat. The only thing that detracted from the visit was the fact that we did not get to visit Boldt Castle. The fact that needing a birth certificate to visit was not mentioned in any of the advertising and being Canadian citizens who did not plan to visit anywhere else in the U.S, we did not bring ours. Needless

to say, we were disappointed as this was the main reason we came to visit.

--
Beautiful location..like a paradise

--
Enjoyed the Canadian to US exchange rate.

--
I really enjoyed the beauty of the place, please don't build too much and try to keep it as natural as possible !!! I'd like to see it in the same state the next time I'll come, and not with a lot of hotels, casinos, buildings... I think that this place is attractive because it's not very artificial.

--
We were delighted with our visit to Alexandria Bay and would like to repeat the experience.

--
I normally arrange bus groups (55 passengers) to casinos and other places of interest Would appreciate info on your casino and any incentives for guests

--
beautiful area, enjoyed the USA side which was very clean ie grass cut along highways, no litter etc. We are planning to return to visit on the Canadian side for biking and sightseeing. Note we found hotel rooms cheaper in the US even with the exchange rate. ie A 2 room suite at the Best Western in Watertown for 120 US. The [REDACTED].

--
There is not enough fishing (recreational) related activities this side of the border. Most of my friends and myself are fishing fans. We usually fish for fun only. But it was awfully difficult trying to find adequate fishing info (on Canadian side) on the web before we went to 1000 Islands. As a result, we had to put aside our idea of fishing during our stay, which reduced the length of our stay by half. In general, however, everybody loved the place. Definitely, we are going to visit again! And next time, probably the other side of the border as well.

--
I have been going to the 1000 Islands since I was a child. Going back brings back many happy memories. I think it is the most beautiful place I have ever been.

--
As a traveler, I was somewhat disappointed with the [REDACTED] downtown and surrounding area. Needs spiffing up to support tourism expectations. Was also disappointed in the accommodations at [REDACTED]. The river was gorgeous keep up the good work. Uncle Sam's 2 hour tour was very, very good for the entire family. Kudos to them! Boldt castle very good. Can we please catch up with the Canadian tourism standards? Niagara Falls USA also needs work, Canadian side beautiful, I think we forgot about our side. Come on America we have so much to offer and don't!!! We have such beautiful aspects but don't always seem to show them off with high regard.

--
my husband and i went for a day trip two weeks before we were due with our first child..... we thought it would be a nice place to be before we became parents..... we really enjoyed our trip.....

--
1000 islands hold a special place in our hearts and heartfully recommend it to others

--
Lovely place. My wife and I are coming again next year. Thank you.

--
We loved our visit- we are seniors---my husband died unexpectedly after a brief and cruel encounter with pancreatic

cancer in early August- I am moving to Texas to be near my children and probably will not get up your way again- it was our last trip and I will always remember it...

--
Love the place and will visit again.

--
I DID NOT VISIT 1000 ISLANDS BECAUSE OF THE BAD WEATHER AND I WAS ALSO OUT OF TIMES. HOPES I WILL GO NEXT SUMMER.

--
Wonderful area, great for the midwestener that likes water and few bugs.

--
we had a good time and are planning a longer stay next time

--
I want to visit however I was not able to secure lodging in the area for the time I was available. This year I will plan in the spring of the year.

--
Kingston is where we usually visit although I hope to see Brockville during our next visit. Kingston has a great selection of patio restaurants where you can sit and relax and enjoy the waterfront, and the historic tours are terrific!

--
I did not visit as I did not have the time this past summer to drive that far. Instead I went to the Sarnac lake Area. I still intend to visit once in the summer and again in the winter I just do not know when. I am from this stste and intend to see as much of it as I can. I would like to know what is available in your area's in regard to horseback riding around the islands. I would also like to know if there are any kosher places to eat or stay in the area. Please feel free to e mail at any time your mail will be read. Thank You, [REDACTED]

--
We loved your area! We would love to come back again. Our driving time is 6 hours with a small child. Not very easy! But she cried when we left our little house on the lake with the view of 8 of the 1000 islands. And the spectacular sunsets! The boat rides, the fishing site seeing! It was a wonderful 7 days! I'm sure we'll come again but maybe in later June or early July this time the fishing wasn't that great the first week of June and it was a little cold in the boat! Thanks again!

--
The family is originally from Alexandria Bay, but interestingly, it was the "grandchildren" - the young marrieds, who wanted to hold the reunion in the 1000 Island region, showing the place they visited frequently in their childhood to their spouses and children. We were the organizers of this first gathering of the clan in 50 years and managed to bring 100 relatives together at Cedar Point State Park.

--
a lovely laid back community, friendly and helpful people with lots to do

--
While I hadn't been back to the area since the early 1970's when I was a teenager, it was always remembered as the best family vacation we ever took. Now my son and nephew are saying the same thing. I'm sorry I waited so long to come up. We'll be back again.

--
The Chamber of Commerce in Clayton is an excellent source of information. They were of the utmost help. Also they were very friendly and courteous.

We have visited Boldt Castle almost every year since the early 1990's and really enjoy seeing the improvements made over the years. It is a real jewel and affordable.

--
We loved Kingston and Ottawa. Had a great time at a star-gazing event at the Provincial Park. Made use of internet access at public library in Gananoque - very friendly folks - a great resource. There were lots of people coming in to access e-mail, etc. Maybe you could market this.

--
THE RICH PEOPLE IN THE AREA NEED TO QUIT SHOOTING DOWN ALL THE PLANS THAT WOULD HELP THE AREA GROW..PROVIDE JOBS AND MAKE THE AREA A YEAR ROUND ATTRACTION...FOR EXAMPLE..CASINOS HAVE DONE NOTHING EXCEPT HELP CONN. JOBS, REVENUE AND THEY ATTRACT PEOPLE TO OTHER SPOTS...THE COAST GUARD NEEDS TO PATROL ON A REGULAR BASIS AND THEY NEED TO ENFORCE THE SPEED LIMIT..AND THE CANADIAN PROBLEM...THEY NEED TO BAN JET SKIIS IN CERTAIN AREAS LIKE THEY HAVE ON CAPE COD..THEY NEED TO ENFORCE THE JET SKI SPEED LIMIT NEAR SHORE AND UNDER AGE DRIVERS...THE BOATING IS NOT A PLEASURE LIKE IT USED TO BE BECAUSE NEW BOATS DO NOT KNOW THE COURTESY OF THE WATERS...I HOPE THIS INFO GETS SOME ATTENTION ...THANKS..

--
It is one of the nicest places we visited in Ontario. Specially the bike trails...

--
We had a wonderful time and although the main reason for going was to relax we also enjoyed the wonderful scenery. 1000 islands was recommended by a friend and I visited your website which was very well done and helpful. We can't wait to come back.

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We never knew there was a zoo in Watertown or we would have went there too. I swear we picked up every brochure we came across during our stay.

--
I went to do some shopping. I had heard it was a good place to go, but I didn't see enough unique shops. We were able to see most of the shops in about 2 hours. I may have been in the wrong area, but we were on the main street near Boldt Castle.

--
I love specially Rockport were I attended the school across the highway. Lived the big white house on the hill. Have great memories of my mother and my sister who are now dead. I feel very at home there and just can't find enough time to spend there. My mother was the Sunday School teacher at the little prebyterian church and also worked on Mechell's Island. We use to get our fish cooked in the Motel before it burnt down. I went to school with Beverly Huck and can't remember the other kids names. The Thousand Islands is a very beautiful place and its close to a lot of major cities. When I was there we would go once a week to Landsdowne or Gananoque for our groceries, that was in 1949 or 1950. I have been back every few years since. I remember in the winter watching as they cut blocks of ice out of the St. Lawrence and they would bring young dear home to warm up before letting them go again. A wonderful life for a child. I love your place and if I can ever help to give out brochures or to talk about the 1000 Islands here in London Ontario, I would be glad to help. Sincerely [REDACTED]

The restaurants were too expensive and the town was not as fun as we thought it would be

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The 1000 Islands is an amazing place to visit. It's beautiful, peaceful, and the people are friendly. I love it because there is so much to do, but there aren't really large crowds, which is a definite plus for me. One of my FAVORITE places to visit.

█

I have been visiting the 1000 Islands for years and have watched Boldt Castle go from being a deserted building to the Grand Palace it is today. The first time I visited Boldt Castle the marble slabs were still leaning against the walls. I am so glad that you have preserved this building

really enjoyed our fishing trip. food was great and fishing was very good. planning on a trip this year, again.

WE ENJOYED OUR STAY AT GANANOQUE AS WELL THE CRUISE & ALSO THE FOOD AT GANANOQUE & KINGSTON WE ALSO ENJOYED WALKING THE STREETS OF GANANOQUE ENJOYING THE OLD WORLD CHARM, WE HOPE TO RETURN NEXT SUMMER.

█ was a complete disappointment, very disappointing waste of money. Travelled and took the

█. I thought there would be something to look at when I reached █ very disappointing. Brochures misrepresent what █ is really like. My Children and I were looking forward to this day trip for a long time.

I never received any requested information. This did upset me to a point that we did not visit 1000 Islands.

area was very picturesque and we would return.

Our family loved Alexandria Bay. The people were very courteous, & accommodating. We had an outstanding time and are looking forward to vacationing in Alex Bay in the Summer of 2003.

Most of the restaurants are terrible. Most places we ate in █ we would never return to. There seemed the attitude they already knew this & would just rather get the money one time, rather than have good food at reasonable prices with adequate service. This is the one area that really needs addressing in an otherwise beautiful vacation area.

I have been visiting the 1000 Islands for over 20 years. It is a beautiful area, however, the fishing has deteriorated significantly. The water level throughout the 1000 Islands has also become a concern. Two years ago we rented a cottage North of Alex Bay and were unable to use the dock. It was "high and dry" !!! █

As a family group, reasons for coming back to family cottage on Wellesley Island vary with each person-what brings us back

each year is the opportunity to visit with family members from different parts of the country and participate in activities as they are of interest to each person-whether fishing, golfing, water sports, eating-out, site-seeing, or just chilling out.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Gananoque Theatre. the Show was well acted and the scenery was wonderful. The newly opened casino was enjoyable too.

I would like to see more flyers and brochures being sent to my home or e-mail to state ongoings that go on throughout the year at 1000 islands. Detailed maps of attractions would be good as well so that we can plan and map out our trips. Coupons are great and to have more promotion at our Canadian side.

We visited the Thousand Islands last 4th of July and stayed at the █ We were extremely disappointed with the accommodations and felt misled that they call themselves a RESORT. The █ is nothing more than a run down motel and much better suited as a welfare motel. The thousand Islands region is very picturesque, however, █ is also run down with no charm and takes away from the natural beauty of the region. █ has the potential of being a charming village but lacks the accommodations. Although we do plan on going back, we will be spending most of our time and money on the Canadian side because they do have beautiful well-kept towns and accommodations without taking away from the natural beauty of the Thousand Islands.

A great place and all 5 plan on coming back next summer to explore more of Alexandria and the area.

We were terribly disappointed with the town of █ and I couldn't leave there fast enough. We stayed in the █ which charges modern day prices but is a relic and needs some major updating. There is no town pride either. Paint sales must be at an all time low and if people would just stop and think of the gold mine they are sitting on there, there were thousands of people that took the boat tour the same day we did and we absolutely loved the boat tour and the reasonable price of it. But there has to be a major change in attitude in this area and a chamber of commerce can do some good but it boils down to the community doing their part. Perhaps have town pride and see what you can stimulate people to do to improve the looks of their homes and their yards. If thousands come now and there is such poor interest imagine if the town looked nice how you could draw crowds.

Enjoyed the whole area very much. We three are interested in various parts of Ontario and see a different area each June. So far, the Brockville area is one we have recommended to others and would choose to visit again in the future.

2002 was my first visit to the 1000 islands, and when I originally made reservations at a place to stay, I didn't know much about the area. So I looked at your website for the place with the most activities, and that