

THUNDER BAY YACHT CLUB

Supporting boating since 1945

THE BULLETIN

Celebrating 80 years



MAY 2025

from the Commodore

Hello to all TBYC members.

Welcome to spring. I know I am happy to have winter behind as I am sure you are. Even though winter appeared to be hanging on with claws. At least the river is now open and the sun is warm with more daylight.

As we all start to visit the yard more to work on our boats in preparation for launch, lets all pause and make a plan with safe practices and yard cleanliness.

A new Safety Awareness document has been developed as an initial step in an effort to improve awareness, safety practices and processes. Please review and consider its underlying purpose. Every task should be thought out to eliminate potential injury to yourself, others or property while on the TBYC site. If not sure, ask. Help is always available.

With respect to the yard, each boat owners cradle space must be kept free of clutter. Dispose of any debris, and after launch please put stands and equipment away neatly on each storage site. Especially along the river, as dock users park along the river bank. Parking is at a premium in the yard because the club is filled to capacity with storage spots and cradles.

When removing winter antifreeze from engine and other systems, catching in a suitable container is required. No flushing of glycol onto the ground is allowed. Disposal of glycol in the waste container area, or taking it home for future use is required. Storage of glycol at cradle / storage locations is prohibited. Spills into ditches or along river bank will find its way into the waterway, causing an environmental upset.

Everyone's participation and efforts to make 2025 a wonderful boating adventure is appreciated. The cooperation we have always come together with at the TBYC is what has made this club a solid and enduring club. Our legacy stands true.

Tim Radul
Commodore

Upcoming Event Dates

TBYC Breakfast event Saturday, May 3rd, Clubhouse, 10:00am
Better Crew Program May 5th & 13th 7:30pm **Racing Social** May 7th 7pm
Start of Launch operations Sunday, May 11th **Marina opens** May 15th
CPR launch Re-enactment event/ flotilla noon, June 1st, Prince Arthur's Landing
Summer Solstice Raft Up June 21st - evening Marina after racing

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Membership

Shannon Whale - Membership Director

We'd like to welcome the following new members to the club who have joined since the winter newsletter:

Alaric Eamon and Launi Weber *Fandango*

Shannon Whale

Safety Awareness

A [TBYC Safety Awareness Document](#) was recently developed for safety awareness and guidance regarding activities around the club. Please review this document (click title link or in website document section). The intent is to bring attention to safety, good practice, and use of protective equipment as part of club, boating, and maintenance activities.

Of timely concern during Launch and Haul are personnel entering beneath a boat when weight is not supported on the keel. Although most likely occurring at haul-out if support blocking or a cradle support pad is not in an appropriate position for the boat, please consider this aspect when you launch.

For power boats, once the boat is removed, it is suggested to measure support blocking locations from say road edge, and from boat centre-line to chine so they can be pre-positioned prior to haul-out. Mark blocking to identify what goes together and where.

For sailboats, there is a summer to address the issues of stubborn jack screw adjustment and cradle pads being unable to maintain appropriate orientation without someone having to hold them.

As an initial step however, please review the [TBYC Safety Awareness Document](#). There will be further developments and information to come... and if you have some background or interest in safety aspects and programs, please let us know. *aghaill at tbaytel.net*.

From the membership:

Big shout out to *Bella*, *Brigadoon*, *Flying Circus*, and of course *Straight Jacket* (pics left to right) for representing the Thunder Bay Yacht Club and participating in this year's Thunder Bay Polar Plunge. A total of \$8873 was raised by these sailors' brave efforts. Thanks to everyone who donated which supported great causes like the Thunder Bay Special Olympics, PRO Kids, Roots Community Food Centre, and CNIB.

.... thanks to Jamie Gracey (*Flying Circus*) for the report and photos.





Rene St Jacques *Ticklish* reports ...a good turnout and number of club members showed up for a Racing Rules Seminar on Feb 5th at the clubhouse.

A hat was passed and a donation raised for the Dew Drop Inn.



Bruce Hansen's Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 10th, 2025, 11:00am at McGilvray's Landing (Fort William Historical Park). A service, with luncheon to follow.

A farewell to a fine sailor, musician, and all-round gentleman.



Clubhouse Report

Jim Heald - Clubhouse Director

The clubhouse is all stocked up with the relevant supplies. The pop machine has been loaded with fresh product. There is a collection jar for can tabs and a recycling container. A reminder, the Ice Machine was removed last year by the Ice Company so remember to bring your own ice. The fridge in the clubhouse is not to be used to make ice for your boat. Please be sure to drain down the dishwashing machine after use (instructions nearby).

A new Lake Chart has been mounted on the wall showing the coast down to the border.

Jim Heald 807 476 4671

Reminder: If you bring your dog to the yard, it is *mandatory* that you clean up after it. There are reports of deposits found and encountered in the yard and that is unacceptable. Dogs must be on a leash, and pets are not allowed in the clubhouse. Do not risk losing the privilege of bringing your dog to the yard.

... and friendly reminders: Clubhouse bookings can be made by contacting the director. Please note, it is everyone's responsibility to clean up after themselves and keep the clubhouse tidy. The clubhouse should not be used as a workshop, nor boat projects at the clubhouse picnic tables. No food shall be left stored in cupboards. Absolutely no smoking or vaping of any sort inside the clubhouse.

Destinations

From the Rear Commodore: For the 2025 Season, TBYC continues to support our Destinations Program: TBYC has purchased a group membership to the CLLS (Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior) associated sites on Lake Superior, allowing our members use of the facilities without purchase an individual membership or day pass. This mutually beneficial arrangement has provided TBYC members value in years past, and we are happy to continue supporting the CLLS as a sister organization. Details on the CLLS sites can be found at clls.ca. Please note that extra services, such as wi-fi or campsite reservations are not included in our group membership purchase.

There will also be moors placed at Tee Harbour, Welcome Island, and Sawyer Bay in May. These moorings are for both TBYC and public use, and are available at a first come first serve basis. Please reach out if you have recommendations for a destination that the club could consider for 2026. *Chris Saunders*



Little Bea Globe 5.80 Race Update

TBYC member Dan Turk and his homebuilt Class Globe 5.80 boat *Little Bea* are en-route the Marquesas Islands and completion of a 4700nm second leg portion of a sailing race around the world. After a March 25th start from Panama, it was a long slow journey past the Galapagos and out of the doldrums encompassing the equator. Then a night of high wind squalls, heavy rain and miserable conditions,

followed by some good weather and a few days of rain, lightning and thunder storms. Middle of April saw a best days run of 151 nautical miles and a note of continued pleasant trade wind racing, at around 120nm/day. Things are reported all well on *Little Bea* and closing in on the section finish. Currently 5th. We wish him continued success. For more information or to follow along visit: <https://minigloberace.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/littlebeasailingadventures>

"...what an epic journey. What day is it again?" Dan Turk



30th SUNORA July25 – Aug2 - Superior North-shore Regatta

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the SUNORA event. It's a unique and family friendly cruise/race along our Lake Superior shore using some of the most beautiful harbours on the way to Red Rock and return, with finish at Porphyry Island. All with many opportunities for social fun and comradery along the way.



If you're a sailor, you're pitting your skills against the rest of the fleet in daily races from anchorage to anchorage. If you're a powerboater you'll have time to explore and discover places along the way. SUNORA takes place the last week of July between July 25th evening to Aug 2nd. Come join us...

Further info as it develops... visit the SUNORA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/122572877720> or contact the SUNORA Commodore Rob Van Wyck at 807-344-7845.

Social

Aaron Tator - Social Director

Hello Boaters,

Join us for the **TBYC Spring Breakfast** this weekend as a little extra incentive to get out to the Mission yard to prep your boat for launch!

*Date: Saturday, May 3rd, 10:00am-12:00pm

*Menu: Breakfast sausages, hashbrowns, scrambled eggs, toast, fruit, coffee and tea

Donations to cover food costs are appreciated.

Members and their guests are welcome. RSVPing to estimate food needs is appreciated but not necessary. RSVPs can be sent to the TBYC Social Committee (social.tbyc@gmail.com).

And further along, a June 21st **Summer Solstice Raft Up**.

See you there!

TBYC Social Committee

Aaron Tator



Marina Advisory Committee

Chris Unsworth - MAC Director

Updates from the MAC

Fuel Tank Replacement Update

- Marina is looking to replace the fuel tank at the dock in the fall. Was pushed back due to budgeting process and funds.

Fuel Prices – 2025 (Follow up to fall 2024 meeting regarding where prices come from)

- part of fuel price and marina fees go towards facility upgrades.
- rates are set with 4% annual increase for now. We are lower price to many other marinas - but are going into a debt to fund fuel tank and dock upgrades.
- rates might increase in future
- financial plan to be updated every 5 years

Marina Usage / Update on slip availability

- 260 slips
- 25 slips available (15 on pier 3)
- 15 boats on waiting list for a slip

Nomination / Selection of MAC Chair: - John Ongaro continues on as the chair of the MAC committee

Chris Unsworth



Launch & Haul

Mitch Sandberg, Launch & Haul Director

Weather and yard permitting, the first day of 2025 Launch will be Sunday, May 11.

Yahoo, spring is upon us. Which means the snow is melting and we can soon start launching our boats for the 2025 summer. Hope all boaters had a great winter and everyone is excited to start boating. The travel lift has been getting some new updated equipment / parts to launch boats safely. As the yard dries up and the warmer weather approaches, we should be able to launch as early as Sunday, May 11 as long as it is dry enough.

We also need a couple volunteers to finish painting the travel lift, if you are interested please contact Mitch Sandberg, Launch and Haul Director 807 633-4959.

A reminder to please park well off the road way when the travel lift is moving boats. There will also be no parking at the corner of the clubhouse building and launch ramp on Launch and Haul days.

Enjoy your summer!

Mitch Sandberg

- Please use the online booking system for all launch requests.
- Remember two people are required in addition to the boat owner to assist with your launch. It is up to the boat owner to arrange for this assistance. Please help others.
- Ensure your storage area is clear and free of debris and trip hazards.
- Make sure your sling locations are well marked now when you can see where they should go.
- For sailboats, either forestay or backstay must be removed prior to being lifted. Nothing should touch the travel lift other than where the slings support the boat.
- For power boats, measure support blocking locations, and identify blocking pieces in preparation for safer haul-out.
- For sailboats, ensure jacking screws are free to adjust and the cradle pads can maintain appropriate orientation to the boat without needing to be held in position.
- Please review the Launch & Haul Policy, and as applicable, the Mast Hoist Usage Guide, available in the documents section of the website.
- If stepping your mast, please take opportunity to ensure your boat name is marked on the mast... ideally at the top as should always be visible when stored on the rack.



Racing

Cam McWhirter - Fleet Captain -Sail

2025 Racing Season - Get Ready for a Great Season at Thunder Bay Yacht Club Racing!

We're excited to announce several upcoming events and programs to help you sharpen your skills, meet fellow sailors, and get set for an amazing season on the water.

"Become a Better Crew" Program – Starts May 5th

Thanks to an excellent idea from Chris B, we're launching a two-part evening series designed to help you become a more effective and confident crew member:

- *Session 1:* Monday, May 5th at 7:30 PM
Learn about crew communication during racing: What should be said, when to speak, and how much is too much? Plus, we'll discuss how crews can contribute to smart decision-making on board.
- *Session 2:* Monday, May 13th at 7:30 PM
We'll focus on boat and sail trim, exploring simple, practical rules for adjusting sails and managing crew weight. Topics include finding the right amount of heel and knowing who should move first to rebalance the boat.



Each session runs about 90 minutes and will be led by Dave Dellenbaugh, an internationally respected sailor, coach, and author. If there's enough interest, we may add a third session on May 20th — stay tuned!

Competitors' Meeting & Race Social – May 7th Mark your calendars!

Join us at the TBYC Clubhouse on Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 PM for the Competitors' Meeting and Race Social. This is a great chance to meet your fellow racers, review the season plans, and kick off the racing season together!

Race Registration and Crew Membership

Race Registration for the 2025 season opens Monday, April 28th on the TBYC website — don't miss it!

- Crew Members : Please support our racing program by signing up for a Race Membership.

You can easily register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeV9aXsazCsBsazAR5ko_UFeLxAo3ilXx7qpWzOQtY1uXg-Vw/viewform?pli=1

Your support helps us continue to grow and improve the racing experience for everyone — thank you!

New Crew Program – Updated Dates

For those new to sailing, the New Crew Program will now run on:

- May 24th–25th and May 31st–June 1st

This program offers a fantastic introduction to sailing, with both on-land instruction and on-water practice led by experienced skippers and crew. No experience is needed — just bring your enthusiasm!

To register for the New Crew Program, please contact Bob Vander Ploeg at bobvdp@gmail.com.

TBYC Sailors Brave the Polar Plunge!

A huge shout-out to some of our Thunder Bay Yacht Club racing members who represented the club in this year's Polar Plunge! Together, they raised over \$5,000 for important local causes including Roots to Harvest, CNIB, Special Olympics, and PRO Kids. We're proud of their effort, spirit, and dedication to giving back to our community. Any and all boats — consider yourselves challenged for next year! Let's make an even bigger splash in 2026!

Cam McWhirter

Community Engagement

Paul Morralee - Community Engagement Director

This year marks the 150th anniversary of a pivotal construction milestone by the Canadian Pacific Railway that occurred in Fort William on June 1, 1875. Construction of the CPR was officially launched by the federal government from a spot in Westfort alongside the Kam River. An important part of the event was that about 500 people traveled by steamers from Prince Arthur's Landing, across the bay and up the Kam River to the ceremony site. A re-enactment event is planned, and TBYC boaters are invited to take part in a re-enactment flotilla up the Kaministiquia River to help in celebrating the historic launch of the CPR railway construction westward. This event is scheduled for Sunday, June 1, 2025, departing from Prince Arthur's Landing at noon and gathering 2pm at the site.

Paul Morralee



Other Items

The popular and frequently used bottom paint VC-17 is discontinued and has been replaced. One apparently can apply VC-Offshore without removing the current VC-17. Clean and sand with 80 grit then apply either VC-Offshore, Bottomkote CA or Micron CSC CA. Interlux 800-468-7589

1st Annual *Intercity Powersports* Yard Sale <https://www.facebook.com/share/1Kx4Yd2rNM/>

- 3/8" and 5/16" Yacht braid - sheets and halyard under \$0.52/ft
- Used parts, old inventory that's still perfectly good, tons of accessories
- May 5 - May 9 - Event on Facebook TBYC Members receive 13% off at *Intercity Powersports*

from the Newsletter editor

My thanks to those directors and club members who submitted information for this newsletter. And appreciation to all of you who read it. Although primarily communication from the club, it is also every member's newsletter, and certainly improved with your submissions or ideas. If you have a story of any sort, a boat project, a maintenance tip or advice, suggestion for some reading or place to visit, a photograph, etc., please send it in. No matter how small, any submission will be of interest and welcomed. And if there is something you'd like to see in the newsletter, please let me know.

Have a great sailing and boating season.

Andrew Haill aghaill at tbaytel.net



TBYC Board of Directors 2025

Contact information for the Board of Directors is listed within the member side of the website, ... or make a general inquiry to admin@tbyc.on.ca

Commodore	Tim Radul
Vice Commodore	Rowan Seymour
Rear Commodore	Chris Saunders
Past Commodore	Vic Miller
Secretary	Lindsey MacDonnell
Treasurer	Dave Saunders

Committees

Membership	Shannon Whale
Social	Aaron Tator
Community Engagement	Paul Morralee
Newsletter – <i>Bulletin</i>	Andrew Haill
Mission Clubhouse	Jim Heald
Storage	Nick Kovachis
Docking	Don DeBruyne
Launch & Haul	Mitch Sandberg
Fleet Captain Sail	Cam McWhirter
Marina Advisory	Chris Unsworth
Facility Manager	Richard Matheson

