THUNDER BAY YACHT CLUB

*Supporting boating since 1945*

# THE BULLETIN

*Celebrating 80 years*

**NOVEMBER 2026**

## TBYC – Annual Meeting — November 26th, 7pm

**The TBYC Annual Meeting will be held 7pm, Thursday, November 26th, at the Clubhouse.**

You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Thunder Bay Yacht Club. An opportunity for input and to hear club operational and project updates, director and financial reports, presentation information, and the selection of new directors to the board.

Member involvement and support is integral to the success of your club. Perhaps consider taking on a TBYC Board position. The following director positions are concluding their two-year term and open to nomination: *Social, Membership, Storage, Clubhouse, Community Engagement, Fleet Captain-Sail.*

A Nominating Committee led by the past-Commodore develops a list of candidate nominations for filling the director positions at the Annual Meeting. If interested (or to nominate someone), please e-mail past-Commodore Tim Radul *tim.radul at gmail.com*

Please note that the window for submission of interest / nominations closes a week prior to the meeting by November 19th. The nominee list will subsequently be forwarded to members, and floor nominations are limited to any remaining vacant positions.

Many directors also appreciate assistance in fulfilling their roles and are always looking for volunteers. This is a good way to learn more about the club, meet people, and possibly join the board at a later date with some experience. Please let us know if you are interested or can help out.

Contents


| | page |
|---|---|
| TBYC Annual Meeting | 1 |
| Membership Items | 2 |
| Destinations | 2 |
| Social | 2 |
| Launch and Haul | 3 |
| Racing | 4 |
| Storage | 5 |
| Clubhouse | 5 |
| Community Engagement | 6 |
| from the Newsletter editor | 7 |
| Board of Directors | 7 |

**Important**… Please ensure all radio aerials, instrumentation, spreaders, and radar are removed from your mast on the storage rack… these can be hazards. Identify your mast with your boat name.
Ensure tarps and storage areas are ready for winter.

**Upcoming Dates**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Close of Navigation gathering** (End of Nav) | *Saturday, November 14th, Delta Hotel (waterfront)* |
| **Historical Film Festival** | *Thursday, November 19th, Community Auditorium* |
| **TBYC Annual Meeting** | *Thursday, November 26th, Mission Clubhouse* |

## Membership Items

Shannon Whale - Membership Director

We'd like to welcome the following new members since the last newsletter:

| | |
|---|---|
| David Coates & Melinda Sault Coates | *WayWard* - power |
| Greg Kyle | *Monalot* - sail |
| Dave McCollum | *St. Tropez* - power |

*Shannon Whale*

### Seeking nominations for club-wide awards….

***Frank Heroux Memorial Award*** – for demonstrated excellence in seamanship.

***Lead Life Ring*** – for acts and occurrences of dubious and questionable seamanship.
LLR is usually selected by the previous recipient but if you have ideas, pass them on.

Nominations are also sought for a racing award:
***Paul Morton Memorial Award*** – to a crew member for dedication to the sport and demonstrating leadership and proficiency in their role as crew. Nominated by their skipper.

These awards are presented at the 'Close of Navigation' gathering Delta Hotel, Saturday, November 14th, Please forward nominations to *racing at tbyc.on.ca*

## Destinations

Appreciation to all who assisted with mooring buoy installation and retrieval this year. Thank you to Don Mitchell, Chris Saunders, and JP Hacquoil for spending a half day on the lake to assist me in removing the moors at Tee Harbour, Sawyer Bay, and the Welcome Islands. We were very fortunate for beautiful weather and calm water making the task go very smoothly. Multiple moors will need to be relocated in Sawyer Bay next spring due to misuse of the moors causing them to drag and relocate to less than desirable locations. My plan is to provide instructions on proper use of moors early next spring to hopefully avoid this issue next season.

*Lindsey MacDonnell*

## Social

Aaron Tator - Social Director

**Thunder Bay Yacht Club *'Close of Navigation'*** **Saturday, November 14, 2026, 7pm-12am**

Swap your foulies for your finest and join us for one last club gathering of the season.

After great feedback from members last year, we're returning to the ballroom of the **Delta Waterfront Hotel**. Get your tickets (by Nov12th) at: https://simpli.events/e/close-of-navigation-2026.

Enjoy a cocktail menu of hors d'oeuvres, charcuterie and pizza, with presentations, music and dancing throughout the night. Tickets are $45 per person and include one drink ticket. Racing skippers, please extend the invitation to your crews.

If you have any questions, please contact Aaron at social.tbyc@gmail.com.

*Aaron Tator*

## Launch & Haul

Mitch Sandberg - Launch & Haul Director

Hello Boaters,

What a great summer we had with all the power and sailboats! Now that our boats are all tucked away for the winter, I just wanted to say thank you. I think everything went pretty smoothly with the haul-outs this year. I also want to thank our travel lift operators, Richard and Daniel Quenneville for all their hard work pulling out the boats.

A few reminders for the winter:

• **Slings:** Please make sure your sling locations are marked in the correct spot, and know what sling length arrangement you need for future hauls.

• **Cradles:** Please take a few minutes to clean up around your cradle for the winter. Remember to properly dispose of any antifreeze and oil, and clean up any jugs, pails, or other items left around your boat.

• **Tarps:** Please double-check your tarps and make sure everything is secure for the winter weather. Check on your boat periodically through the season.

• **Halyards:** If your halyards are against the mast, please consider running them forward so they aren't slapping against the mast all winter. It will help keep the noise down and prevent unnecessary wear.

• **Mast Racks**: Please make sure your mast is secure and marked with your boat name, please also ensure that your radio aerials, instrumentation, spreaders, radars and any other attachments are removed.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me anytime at 807-633-4959.

Cheers, everyone! Have a great winter, stay safe, and we'll see you all in the spring!

*Mitch Sandberg*

## Racing

Cam McWhirter - Fleet Captain - Sail

### TBYC 2026 Sailing Season Wrap-Up

As another sailing season on Lake Superior comes to a close, it's time to look back on a great year of racing, competition, and camaraderie at the Thunder Bay Yacht Club.

A successful racing season doesn't happen without a lot of people working behind the scenes. A huge thank-you goes out to our Race Committee, Signals Officer, and all the volunteers who gave their time and effort throughout the season. From organizing starts and finishes to keeping races running smoothly, recording results, coordinating events, and helping out wherever needed, your contributions make TBYC racing possible. Thank you as well to everyone who helped organize our events and supported the fleet throughout the year.

Congratulations to all the boats and crews who competed this season and earned top honours!

### 2026 Racing Highlights

**Series Champions:**
Wednesday – *Bella* (A), *Flying Circus* (B), *Final Mile* (C)
Spring – *Bella, Eclipse, AirAura, Jubilee* (JAM)
Summer – *Bella*, *Flying Circus*, *Final Mile*, *Jubilee* (JAM)
Fall – *Bobsled*, *Flying Circus*, *Andiamo*, *Jubilee* (JAM)

**Distance Races:**
Around Welcomes – *Bobsled, Flying Circus, Andiamo, Jubilee* (JAM)
Burke Shoal – *Bella, Blue Jacket, AirAura, Jubilee* (JAM)
Sawyers Bay – *Bella, Eclipse, Airborne*
Silver Islet – *Bella, Flying Circus, AirAura, Jubilee* (JAM)
Thunder Bay Triangle – *Gong Show, Flying Circus, Ruby Tuesday*
Commissioner's Cup – *Bella*
Spar Channel – *Bobsled, Blue Jacket, Grand Cru*
Chili Buns Classic – *Gong Show*
Other Awards: Offshore Combined – *Bella, Flying Circus, Grand Cru, Jubilee* (JAM)
Mini Offshore – *Gong Show, Flying Circus, Grand Cru*; Mini Inshore – *Bella, Eclipse, AirAura, Jubilee*
**Season Combined** (Wednesday/Offshore) – *Bobsled, Flying Circus, Gray Ghost*
Single-Handed – *Flying Circus* (B), *Blade Runner* (C)
Double-Handed – *Bella* (A), *Aeolus* (C), *Rumble Fish* (JAM)

**Special Honours**: *Bella* claimed the Lake Superior Trophy, Bob Morton Award, Siskiwit Cup, and TBYC International Division A title. *Red Shift* won the Prince Arthur Cup and Prince Arthur Bowl. *Grand Cru* earned the Corinthian award and the TBYC International Division C title.

Congratulations to all our winners, and thank you to everyone who made the 2026 season a success. We look forward to seeing everyone back on the water next year!

*Cam McWhirter*
Fleet Captain - Sail

## Storage

Nick Kovachis - Storage Director

All of our members boats have been hauled out. We are at maximum capacity for storage. We were able to accommodate the new member boats and existing member's new boats by reconfiguring our yard. There is a waiting list for new storage sites with 2 boats currently on it. The yard roads have been graded and are in good shape going into the winter.

Dan Hedley and Dave Klages – installing the rack frames … 146 years of experience…

The 3rd row of mast racks has been installed. There are lifting davits to assist with lifting your masts. Use the step platforms to relocate the davits as needed. They can be moved to any post on the racks. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the fabrication and the installation of the concrete supports, anchor bolts and racks.

Please ensure that your masts are labelled with your name and boat name. If we have any issues with mast storage it makes it easier to contact the owners. Also ensure that your spreaders are removed and that all lines and cables are properly tied up. If you have a radar dome ensure that it is placed on the racks in a manner that does not interfere with the other masts on the rack.

Any aerials or instruments on your mast should be removed prior to storage. If you leave your instruments on your mast head it probably means you're hoping to replace them in the spring. Please order them in advance to ensure you're not held up in the spring.

Please tidy up your storage site. Ensure your tarps are properly secured. If anything breaks free during severe weather you are responsible for any damage to neighbouring boats.

The environmental containment area has been cleaned up and prepped for pickup of all of the barrels of glycol and fuel/ water mix. These barrels will be emptied and returned for spring service.

All of the plastic containers have been crushed and bagged for disposal. In the future, only glycol and oil containers should be put in the plastics storage bin. Empty water bottles, beer cans and bottles, and any other recyclable containers should be put in the appropriate container inside the clubhouse. These items make quite a mess and are not eligible for pickup under the contaminated container program.

Ensure your site is free of any obstructions for snow blowing. If you leave your possessions on the ground you are responsible for any damage caused by snow blowing or loader snow removal.

Thank you to all the members that took care and pride in being part of the TBYC. Your assistance in keeping the yard organized and tidy is appreciated.

*Nick Kovachis* 807-626-6197

## Clubhouse Report

Jim Heald - Clubhouse Director

Bookings for the Fall and Christmas seasons are coming in. A reminder to anyone wanting to use our facilities to please review the policy as laid out on our website. Clean-up is essential.

I have enjoyed my stint as TBYC Clubhouse Director, working with a great group of people. However, I am stepping down and will relinquish the position in favour of someone younger.

*Jim Heald*

# Community Engagement

Paul Morralee – Community Engagement Director

**The Alexander Henry: A Story You Only Thought You Knew**

Many of us have sailed past her — the red and white stripped-hulled *Alexander Henry*, moored at Pool Six, a familiar silhouette against the Thunder Bay waterfront. Most of us know her simply as a museum ship. Fewer know the story of what she did, and fewer still know the story of what she inspired.

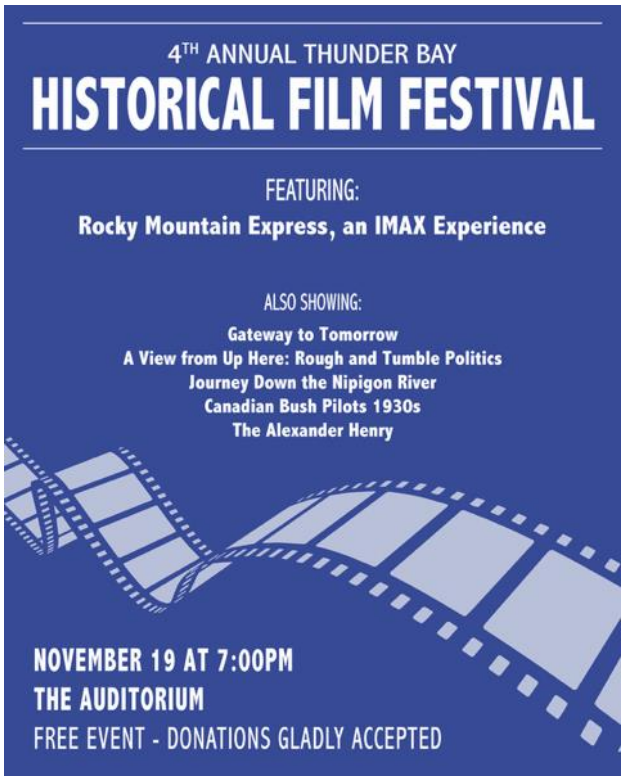
On Thursday, November 19, the 4th Annual Historical Film Festival at the Community Auditorium will screen "*The Alexander Henry*", a short film built around rare home movie footage shot aboard the ship in the early 1960s by Ret'd Capt. Jack Kennedy, one of her first captains. Kennedy carried his camera to sea and captured the working life of the vessel: lighthouse keepers returning to their isolated stations in spring, the careful deployment of navigation buoys, and the hard, grinding business of breaking ice on Lake Superior.

But the film holds a story that was not widely known until recently. In the months after the *Edmund Fitzgerald* went down in November 1975, Gordon Lightfoot called the Coast Guard district office in Parry Sound, looking for background on the sinking. The man who answered the phone was Jack Kennedy. He didn't know who Lightfoot was — but he talked with him anyway, about the storm, the ship, and what the crew might have said to each other in their final moments. Kennedy suggested: "So long, boys, it's been good to know you." Lightfoot carried that conversation into "The Wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*".

For sailors, this is more than nostalgia. The *Alexander Henry* represents the ingenuity that built this community — the same instincts that built the lighthouses, marked the channels, and kept the lakes open through winter. Understanding that history reminds us of what was engineered here, and why it still matters to those of us who sail these waters today.

*The Alexander Henry* is just one part of the evening. The festival will screen **five other historical films**, each offering its own window into the people and places that shaped our region. Make an evening of it — come for the *Alexander Henry*, and stay for the rest.

Join us Thursday, November 19, 7pm at the Community Auditorium. **Admission is by donation.**



## from the Newsletter editor

My thanks to those directors and club members who submitted material for this newsletter. And my appreciation to all those members 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.

*2013 British stamp… convoy - Battle of the Atlantic* Lest we Forget

See you at the Annual Meeting, and have a great winter season…

*Andrew Haill* *aghaill at tbaytel.net*

## TBYC Board of Directors 2026

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Commodore | Rowan Seymour |
| Vice Commodore | Chris Saunders |
| Rear Commodore | Lindsey MacDonnell |
| Past Commodore | Tim Radul |
| Secretary | Nadine Elmehriki |
| Treasurer | Dave Saunders |

***Committees***

| | |
|---|---|
| Membership | Shannon Whale |
| Social | Aaron Tator |
| Community Engagement | Paul Morralee |
| Newsletter – *Bulletin* | 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 |