

THE BULLETIN



SEPTEMBER 2026

from the Commodore

I have a habit of walking the docks, both at Mission Island and the PAL Marina. I enjoy looking at the variety of boats and the pride of ownership for each ship. I especially like to see the personal touches that make a boat your own: flags to support your community, fairy lights, custom cruising adaptations and pristine dock lines. It has me thinking of how much we all love being on the water and the joy we share with our friends and family.

Yesterday, we had the chance in a short weather window, before the lightning, to take a group of colleagues from the GTA on a tour of the harbour to see the working history of Thunder Bay and also the new emerging tourism opportunities of the Viking cruise ships. We motored slowly past the Viking and waved and saluted the passengers aboard. Our friends were amazed, and for a moment, a bit terrified as the thunder clapped behind us. I performed a rare 'perfect docking' to everyone's amazement and then we had dinner in the North Core. Outstanding evening.

This is a special place. We are blessed with the chance to travel on ancient thoroughfares that have been fishing and hunting and trade routes long before we all came here to play. I hope you can take a moment this season to pay tribute to the honour of being on Lake Superior in the summertime. There is no better place to be. There is no better club to belong to.

Rowan Seymour
Commodore

Upcoming Event Dates

Amethyst Weekend	<i>August 29 & 30 - Amethyst Island</i>
Marina Close	<i>October 15</i>
Last Haul-out Date	<i>October 25</i>
Close of Navigation Gala	<i>Saturday, November 14 - Delta Hotel</i>

Important....

Please address cradle and stand pad orientation issues prior to haul-out
Please identify your mast for storage ... remove aerals / instrumentation

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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 last newsletter:

Marc Perrier

Maaja – sail

Shaylin Hakala

Goldrush – sail

If you are thinking of purchasing a boat from outside our club please note that we are at storage capacity and best to check in with the storage director before going ahead.

TBYC Members Handbook... a quick reference guide to all things TBYC. Available from the documents section of the website. [TBYC Members Handbook](#)

Shannon Whale

Safety Awareness

Please review the [TBYC Safety Awareness Document](#) (documents section of website) and include safety considerations and review in all your work tasks and fall maintenance.

Ensure your cradle or boat stands are ready for haul-out... boat support pads must maintain the correct orientation without someone having to hold them. No one should be beneath a boat before the weight is supported on the keel. If cradle or boat stand pads can flop into some other position, please address this important aspect of boat storage and safety. Jack screws should also be free to adjust.

In many cases tightening or adding rubber washers to the pad pivot bolt assembly should work, other ideas are to add some type of material (foam piece for example) to limit movement or wrap the pad pivot with rubber inner tube or perhaps duct tape to provide some support to maintain an appropriate position to meet the boat. If your boat cannot be placed onto its cradle or stands without personnel under the lift or someone's hand on a support pad this aspect needs to be addressed.



← This

Not
this→



Social

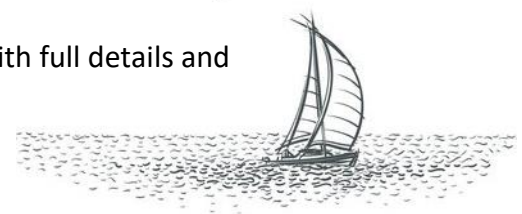
Aaron Tator - Social Director

Mark your calendars — **TBYC Close of Navigation** is **Saturday, November 14, 2026** starting at **7:00 PM**. This year's festivities return to the **Delta Hotel** at our city's beautiful marina, as the feedback from last year was very positive.

Ticket pricing is still being finalized — stay tuned for a follow-up email with full details and a Link to purchase.

Questions? Reach out to Aaron at social.tbyc@gmail.com.

Aaron Tator



Launch & Haul

Mitch Sandberg, Launch & Haul Director

Hello Boaters,

I hope everybody has been having a great summer and enjoying all this beautiful weather!

It's almost that time of year when we have to start getting our boats ready to come out of the water.

Please take note of the following important dates and reminders:

- **October 15:** Last day at the Marina. If you dock at the Marina, you can bring your boat over to the Yacht Club a few days early to prepare for haul-out.
- **Please book your haul-out session via the website** and make sure you are there early and have enough helping hands available to assist with lowering your mast and getting your boat ready for haul-out.
- Please make sure your boat has been **pumped out** before haul-out.
- Make sure your **sling positions** are adequately marked.
- **Powerboats:** Please ensure you have **limited fuel on board**.
- **Sailboats:** Please ensure your **cradle pads** do not require personnel to hold them in correct position.
- **October 25:** Final day for boat haul-outs.

Mast Storage:

Please make sure you have:

- Reviewed the **Guidelines** for hoist operation found on the website document section.
- Removed your **spreaders**.
- Removed your **VHF antenna**.
- Clearly **marked mast with your boat name**.
- Placed short masts on the upper racks
- Returned mast buggies to mast rack area.



Thank you everyone for helping make the haul-out process run smoothly. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to seeing everyone safely tucked away for the winter!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me: 807-633-4959

Mitch Sandberg

Storage

Nick Kovachis - Storage Director

There are approximately 84 boats that did not launch this year. Our storage capacity shortfall is not in how many boats we have on the property but in how many derelicts and boats that have been abandoned that we continue to store.

If you have not launched your boat in 5 years, we would like you to remove it from the TBYC property.

We understand that life sometimes gets in the way of boating. However, if you haven't launched in five years nor continued to maintain your boat then it is slowly turning into a derelict.

We will be looking at drastically increasing fees for such boats. It costs the TBYC considerable time and expense to relocate or demolish abandoned boats to make room for new members and boats.

We are not a scrap yard or junk storage yard and we will motivate you to deal with your boat by making it a financial burden.

If you are a two-boat owner you will pay double the fees. If you don't launch then we will increase your fees.

The TBYC wants to be able to accommodate new and existing members and continue to promote growth and support avid and active boaters. In order to do so we need to get rid of the abandoned and trash boats.

These may be harsh words and ideas for some of the members. So be it. The TBYC has previously removed derelict boats and will continue to work on removing derelict and abandoned boats. We are at 100 percent storage capacity only because of the situation with abandoned and derelict boats.

There is a third row of mast racks being installed parallel to the two existing rows. This will increase our storage capability by 50%. This should give us sufficient capacity for growth for the foreseeable future.

The new member / boat sites have been prepped. Please contact Richard Matheson to get your allocated storage spot.

Any questions or concerns please contact me before the end of August, otherwise unavailable for a few weeks.

Nick Kovachis



Footings for the new mast rack

Racing

Cam McWhirter - Fleet Captain -Sail

Big Winds, Tight Finishes Highlight TBYC Racing Since July

It's been a stretch of high-energy racing on Lake Superior, with Thunder Bay Yacht Club sailors experiencing everything from heavy-air battles to near-perfect sailing conditions since early July.

Recent races have delivered big breeze and steep waves, testing crews and making for physical, exciting racing. At other times, shifting winds have turned races into tactical "thrillers", with results coming down to the final leg.

Offshore racing has also lived up to its reputation, with the Silver Islet Race once again standing out as a demanding highlight—combining distance, strategy, and Lake Superior's unpredictability.

More recently, conditions have settled, giving the fleet some ideal racing nights and allowing teams to really dial in performance.

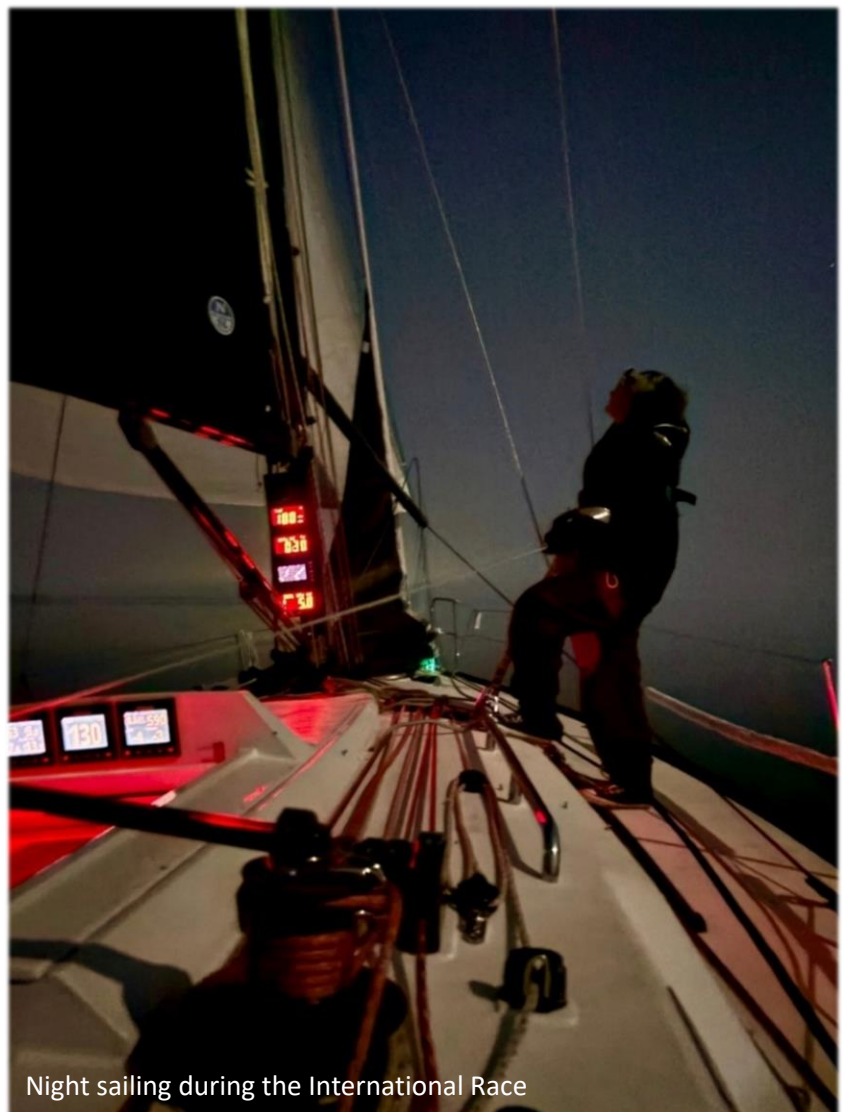
With momentum building, all eyes now turn to one of the premier events of the season—the Amethyst Race Weekend, taking place this weekend. Featuring courses around Buck Island, Temple Reef, and Caribou Island, it promises to be another standout chapter in an already exciting season.

Fair winds,

Cam McWhirter

[TBYC Racing](https://sites.google.com/view/tbyc-racing/home)

(sites.google.com/view/tbyc-racing/home)
the official Notice Board of TBYC racing.



Night sailing during the International Race

Community Engagement

Paul Morralee – Community Engagement Director

Over a seventeen-day voyage across the north shore of Lake Superior, I was able to see many examples of TBYC engagement on the water. I was travelling on *Hidora* a thirty-two-foot wooden cabin cruiser, pulling a dinghy. Leaving the city is always met with some trepidation—hoping you haven't forgotten any important supplies—but once underway, the adventure truly begins.

My first objective was to chase the Superior North Regatta (SUNORA) fleet, as they had set out a few days earlier from Thunder Bay. I caught up to some of them as they dashed perpendicular to me, catching what wind there was while entering and exiting the fog. Storm clouds also gathered, which made for a fast run to a safe anchorage—Moss Harbour—where the group had planned to moor overnight.

I was fortunate to be invited to the Red Rock Legion for a banquet and to hear more about the adventures of those in the regatta. The Mayor of Red Rock and the economic development officer were in attendance, with the docks filling up with yacht club boats. This was a great opportunity to share boating with landlubbers and to educate people on the connection we have with the lake.

The National Marine Conservation Area, (Parks Canada) has been offering new programs on Lake Superior at Silver Islet and Terrace Bay, ever expanding their connection to the lake. A hike up Mount St. Ignace

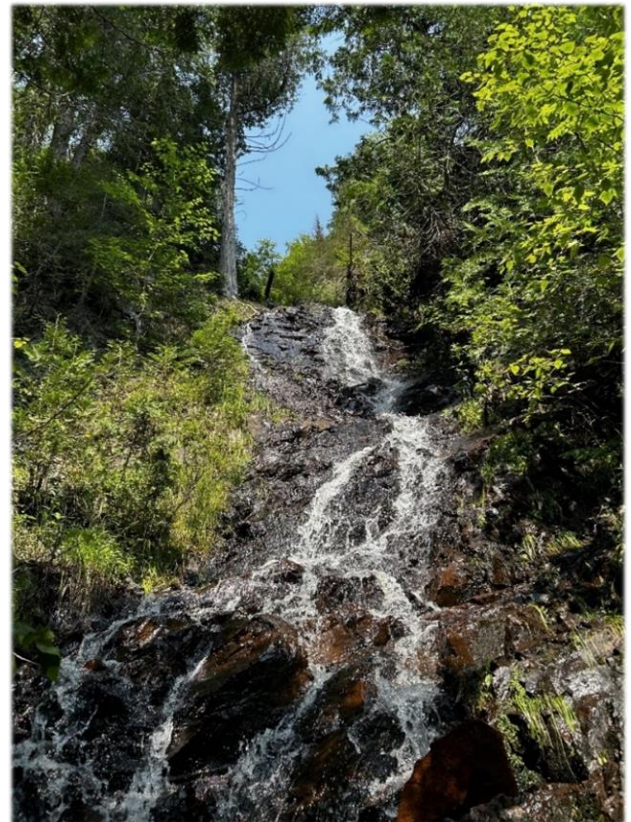
was tough, but the view was incredible, especially to see all of the islands. The Thunder Bay Bird Observatory, located at the feet of the Sleeping Giant and now closed, was a destination to climb the Sleeping Giant Provincial Park observation tower. The mooring balls at Tee-Harbour were all taken, with two boats visiting from the U.S.



Touring the north shore from Thunder Bay to the Slate Islands was a great way to spend the summer. Thanks to the work of the many volunteers who make mooring balls, destinations, and regattas happen on the water—and to the organizations that continue to build connection to this great lake we live on.

Paul Morralee

St Ignace Island view and waterfall, during a hike up the 11km 1220 foot elev gain Mount St. Ignace Trail.



from the Newsletter editor

My thanks to those directors who submitted information for this newsletter. And appreciation to all 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.

Have a great remaining boating 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](mailto:admin(at)tbyc.on.ca)

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Secretary	Nadine Elmehriki
Treasurer	Dave Saunders

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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

