



NOVEMBER 2023

## from the Commodore

Another boating season has come and gone, all the toys are on the hard and hopefully tucked in for another North Western Ontario winter. It was a good boating season with a warm summer and extended good weather into the Fall.

At this time, I would like to thank all the TBYC Board of Directors, Committee members, and general membership who carried out their duties and/or completed tasks to keep the club running smoothly. A number of large projects were completed this year; crane mast lift restoration, new storage building construction, yard electrical upgrades, mooring ball installation and retrieval, and numerous maintenance issues were addressed with the travel lift. The members involved with completing these projects deserve a very large thank you – many have gone well above and beyond average volunteerism (bordering on full time work).

The one area that continues to challenge the TBYC, is travel lift maintenance and its aging capacity to lift larger/ and or heavier boats. It's most probably time that the membership seriously start looking at replacing and/or upgrading to a larger travel lift to avoid serious problems in the future. This can be done cost effectively with a small yearly contribution from each member over a number of years. It's definitely the most urgent matter that TBYC needs to address – If our one means of launching and hauling boats develops a major mechanical issue, we are all in a difficult and expensive situation. I strongly feel that this issue needs to be addressed proactively. It is being worked on presently with a committee that will be providing some direction – however, every TBYC member needs to understand the full impact of addressing this issue. Launching and hauling our boats is the lifeblood of TBYC.

To those members that are off to warmer climates for the winter season – all the best to you...don't forget to send a postcard (for all the dinosaurs in the group), or an email, text, etc., for those that cannot function without a steady diet of social media. Those that are hunkering down for the winter, don't forget to get that bottle of wine (ahead of time) from those that are leaving for the winter; assure them that you will check on their boats after each storm – recommendation; one bottle per storm (last year's average was one storm every 10 days).

Close of Navigation occurs November 18, 18:30, Goods and Co (old Eaton's Building). Get your tickets – new format this year, give it a try !!

AGM is November 30, 19:00 – give it a try also – would like to see some new faces!! It's your club!!.

*Vic Miller*  
Commodore



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## TBYC – Annual General Meeting and Board Election

The Annual General Meeting of the Thunder Bay Yacht Club will be held Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Clubhouse.

You are encouraged to contemplate the possibility of standing for a TBYC Board position. The 2 year terms for positions of Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Rear Commodore, Launch and Haul, Docking, and Bulletin directors are coming to a close, making them open for nomination and election.

If you are interested, kindly email Past Commodore Hugh Briggs [hbriggs@tbaytel.net](mailto:hbriggs@tbaytel.net), who oversees the nomination committee and along with other Past Commodores to make recommendations for filling the board at the AGM. Nominations can also be submitted from the floor during the AGM. Note there might be additional positions available from those who still have one year left ...this will be revealed at the AGM.

If you are not yet ready to commit to a board position but still want to contribute, consider approaching a Board member and offering your assistance. This provides a valuable opportunity to gain insights into the Board's operation, accumulate volunteer hours, and potentially become part of the Board at a future AGM.

Your involvement and support are integral to the success of TBYC, and your skills and perspective would be a valuable addition to the Board. Thank you for considering this opportunity, and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further information.

*Hugh*

## Social Happenings

Aaron Tator - Social Director

Greetings Boaters,

The social committee looks forward to seeing you at our upcoming events:

**Wednesday, November 15th, 19:00 at the clubhouse** - The first edition of the *TBYC Winter Speaker Series* will feature Dan Turk, presenting "Adventures of *Little Bea*", the story of his 2023 trans-Atlantic voyage. Dan set sail, alone, across the Atlantic this summer in his home built 5.8 meter sailboat *Little Bea*. Join us at the clubhouse to hear all about his adventures. BYOB

**Saturday, November 18th at 18:30 – Close of Navigation.** Close of Nav will take place in the main hall of *Goods & Co*, in the old Eaton's building, 251 Red River Rd., and will feature a cocktail party menu, with a fantastic assortment of hors d'oeuvres from their talented kitchen staff.

Presentations, music and dancing will take place throughout the evening. Dress to impress. Ticket sales (\$40 each) are officially closed, but if you haven't purchased yet, and would wish to attend, please contact Aaron at [social@tbyc.on.ca](mailto:social@tbyc.on.ca) and he'll do his best to accommodate your request, pending approval from the venue.

Please send your favourite photos from the season to add to the evening's slideshow (by Nov10 please).

We've added a new award this season: 'Most nights on the hook' exploring Lake Superior (yes, mooring balls count). So, tally things up, and email [social@tbyc.on.ca](mailto:social@tbyc.on.ca) with your stats.

*Aaron Tator*

## Volunteer Opportunities

Although there are many unsung volunteer hours, of recent attention is Jim Massey for painting the Mast Hoist Crane, and Helena and Gary Coughlin for ongoing rehabilitation of our picnic tables. Thanks also to the team looking after the moorings... and to all members and volunteers who help make the place run.

Clubhouse renovations Tasks include; workspace prep, painting walls, refinishing flooring, cleaning race trophies, deep cleaning the kitchen and prepping the back deck for removal and replacement.

Restoration of exterior of the boathouse

Snow removal from Mission River Docks (2 person requirement)

Please contact Clubhouse, Storage, or Docking director (respectively) for additional information... these are great opportunities to fulfill volunteer hours and make a significant contribution to the club.

Sextant Display Case Fabrication

We are currently seeking a skilled woodworker or metalsmith who can undertake crafting a secure and visually appealing display case for a significant artifact recently donated to the club.

The sextant, a valuable contribution from the estate of Bill Dunlop, is housed in a wooden box and was crafted by J. Sewill in Liverpool, England, around 1871. The objective is to create a secure and aesthetically pleasing display case that will allow members and visitors alike to appreciate this unique piece of maritime history. Additionally, we aim to include a plaque detailing the sextant's particulars.

The club will cover costs of materials required for the construction of the display case. This project presents an excellent opportunity for someone to contribute their skills and passion as a volunteer while leaving a lasting legacy.

Should you be interested in taking on this winter project, or if you would like to delve into the research aspect of the sextant, determining its history and journey into Bill's possession, we welcome your involvement. Please reach out to Hugh Briggs, Past Commodore, or Vic Miller, Commodore.



## Docking

Don Debruyne - Docking Director

There is an opportunity for volunteer hours over the winter to help keep snow off the docks in an attempt to keep snow loads to a minimum. Hopefully this will keep dock pilings from sinking. A team of two people is a requirement at all times. The second person will be a spotter for the person shoveling. If docks become icy, then the plan will be cancelled due to safety concerns. Also, some good news for the club as we have purchased enough steel piling material to eventually upgrade 14 docks. The material was purchased at a substantially discounted price. Many thanks to all who made this happen.

*Don Debruyne*

## Destinations

Morgan Ellis

A big thanks to all who assisted with the mooring buoy installation and retrieval this year. We were very thankful to get a great day to pull the buoys at Sawyer Bay and Tee on October 16th!



## Clubhouse Report

Graeme Saukko-Sved - Clubhouse Director

Fellow boaters, another season is behind us and preparation for the next begins.

The clubhouse had steady use all summer, particularly by residents at the mission island docks. Many social gatherings were had and are continuing to be scheduled into the winter. Please contact me to reserve the clubhouse for a private function. If you are unsure what is permitted at the clubhouse, please refer to the 'TBYC Clubhouse Use Policy' found under the documents section of the TBYC website or reach out to me.

Over the past year, I have had numerous conversations with membership about next steps for the clubhouse. Many consider the clubhouse to be adequate as it is and only needs some minor upgrades, whereas a handful would like to see the construction of a new clubhouse. Currently, the prospect of a new clubhouse is not being considered. Some suggested low cost and high impact upgrades to the clubhouse are to update the bathrooms, apply a coat of paint to the interior, fix up or replace the back deck where the barbeque is and update the trophy cabinet and front entrance. Other suggestions are welcomed and volunteers for such activities are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all involved in the general upkeep of the clubhouse and surrounding area while I am busy with work and other endeavors. The clubhouse seems to run itself with day-to-day items especially with the help of Richard and the locals at the Mission Island docks.

Cheers,

*Graeme Saukko-Sved* [g.saukkosved@gmail.com](mailto:g.saukkosved@gmail.com)

807-632-9325

## Storage

Nick Kovachis - Storage Director

This year's storage requests have been accommodated. We currently have 3 available sites for future members.

The facilities manager has been working with members to discuss the removal or demolition of neglected boats. Richard was successful in negotiating the removal of 4 boats from the property and that enabled the club to accommodate the new member requests this year.

The water has been shut off and winterized. It will be reactivated sometime in May 2024.

Electrical repairs are ongoing and should be completed in the next couple of weeks. Thanks to Dan Hedley, Dave Klages, and Marco Grigio for their assistance. The repairs include restoring power to two areas in the yard that have been without power for the past year.

The hazardous waste collection area is full and we will be having all the barrels emptied and the multiple bags of discarded jugs removed. Thank you for your efforts in helping us contain and dispose of our hazardous waste responsibly.

We'll be starting restoration on the exterior of the boathouse during the winter and spring and anyone hoping to volunteer can contact me and I'll forward you our schedule as it evolves.

Respectfully,

*Nick Kovachis*

## Launch & Haul

Daniel Dimond, Launch & Haul Director

Hello Everyone;

Some big projects happened this season, probably the most visible is the work on the mast hoist and crane. The travel-lift also received some significant repair. These projects, and the long-term outlook for our launch and haul program, will be reported on at the upcoming AGM. I encourage everyone to attend and be part of the discussion as we plan for the future.

Thank you to everyone who helped with launch and haul projects, assisted with the travel lift, or just stepped in to help a fellow boater this season. The volunteer aspect of our club is an important part of being a member and is truly appreciated. There are opportunities to get involved each season so if you are interested, please contact the Director for more information.

A request to anyone using the mast racks this winter; please ensure aials and wind instruments are removed from the top of your masts. They present a hazard for others working around them, and risk of accidental damage is high. Spreaders must also be removed. Please make sure they do not rest on another mast.

Make sure stays, lines, radar reflectors, and anything else that may be flopping down onto other masts is tied up and secure to limit chafe or damage to both your mast and others. Please also label your mast in some way, such as the boat name written inside the bottom opening, so that we are able to contact you if needed.

Have a great winter,

*Daniel Dimond*

## Racing

Bob Vander Ploeg, Fleet Captain -Sail

### WINTER SAILING SOCIAL SERIES

The Race Committee is planning a winter sailors' social series open to all club members and guests. Once a month there will be a fun and informative evening get-together at the Clubhouse. Each evening will feature a subject of interest to be explored by a speaker, or a seminar, or a movie, or games, or group study, or.... Suggestions for themes and formats are welcome.

To lead off, on Wednesday, November 15, 7pm, Dan Turk will talk about his summer 2023 solo voyage from Halifax to Portugal on a 5.8 meter boat he built in his garage during Covid. For a teaser see the interview at <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/following-up/solo-sailor-found-some-surprises-during-his-transatlantic-crossing-7368499>

Other dates planned are Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 7, March 6, Apr 10, and May 14. Planned topics include a movie night, racing rules (possibly including a mock protest or redress hearing), and a presentation about tall-ship sailing. If you would like to help coordinate these events, or have an idea for a subject that would interest you and others, please let me know.

### SUMMER 2023 RACING

Racing and other awards will be presented at the Close of Navigation, and that will officially end the 2023 racing season. Twenty-six different boats competed in one or more races, and sixteen different boats will be honoured as winners. Planning is already underway for 2024. A meeting was held on October 18, attended by more than forty skippers and crew to provide feedback and input for event planning, race course management, and continued growth and development of our racing fleet. The addition of a JAM jib-and-main division this year brought new boats and new sailors into our racing program. Proposals for next season include the New Crew program, a New Skipper program, and we are thinking about adding "spinnaker school" - a weekend event to assist jib-and-main boats that want to race in the spinnaker division.

A full report on the Club's racing program will be provided at the annual general meeting on November 30.

*Bob Vander Ploeg*



Photo: Lucas Johnson

## from the Newsletter editor

My appreciation and thanks to those individuals and directors who submitted information for this newsletter. Although primarily communication from the club, it is of course also every member's newsletter, and certainly improved with your submissions or ideas. Particularly over the upcoming 'wish we were boating' season if you have a story of any sort, a boat project, a maintenance tip or advice, a suggestion for some reading or place to visit, a photo, etc., please send it in. No matter the size, any submission will be of interest and very appreciated.

And if there is something you'd like to see in the newsletter, please let me know.

Have a great firm water season, and looking forward to next year.

*Andrew Haill*

[aghaill@tbaytel.net](mailto:aghaill@tbaytel.net)



## TBYC Board of Directors 2023

Commodore	Vic Miller	807-626-2373	<a href="mailto:cmiller@tbaytel.net">cmiller@tbaytel.net</a>
Vice Commodore	Tim Radul	807-626-6936	<a href="mailto:tim.radul@gmail.com">tim.radul@gmail.com</a>
Rear Commodore	Rowan Seymour	807-631-8439	<a href="mailto:rowan173@gmail.com">rowan173@gmail.com</a>
Past Commodore	Hugh Briggs	807-344-0654	<a href="mailto:hbriggs@tbaytel.net">hbriggs@tbaytel.net</a>
Secretary	Lindsey MacDonnell	807-474-9768	<a href="mailto:ldmacdonnell@gmail.com">ldmacdonnell@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Chris Saunders	807-630-1511	<a href="mailto:chris.saunders@tbaytel.com">chris.saunders@tbaytel.com</a>

### Committees

Membership	Kyle Stroomer	807 707 4696	<a href="mailto:kyle.stroomer@medportal.ca">kyle.stroomer@medportal.ca</a>
Social	Aaron Tator	416-726-4784	<a href="mailto:aarontator@gmail.com">aarontator@gmail.com</a>
Community Engagement	Paul Morralee	807-472-5190	<a href="mailto:info@morvision.on.ca">info@morvision.on.ca</a>
Bulletin - newsletter	Andrew Haill	807-344-6578	<a href="mailto:aghaill@tbaytel.net">aghaill@tbaytel.net</a>
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Launch & Haul	Daniel Dimond	403-870-9152	<a href="mailto:daniel.dimond@outlook.com">daniel.dimond@outlook.com</a>
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Marina Advisory	Sean Fillion	807-630-9303	<a href="mailto:sfillion@tbaytel.net">sfillion@tbaytel.net</a>
Facility Manager	Richard Matheson	807-251-6832	<a href="mailto:cruise10@shaw.ca">cruise10@shaw.ca</a>

