

THUNDER BAY YACHT CLUB

Supporting boating since 1945

THE BULLETIN



JULY 2026

from the Commodore

We live in a very beautiful place. It's now full-on summertime: sunshine (mostly), clear skies, and the greatest of the great lakes. I trust you have completed the majority of your boating task list and have been able to be out on the water with your friends and family. TBYC mooring balls are deployed in our safe harbours and dock repairs are nearing completion. The clubhouse is immaculate and the new electrical panels are up and running. Many thanks to our directors and volunteers for all their hard work.

I was thinking about our club burgee and how the Sleeping Giant is ever present in our boating experience. Whether you enter Superior from Mission River, Prince Arthur's Landing Marina, Amethyst or Silver Harbour, or from Silver Islet, the Giant is in full view; anchoring our horizon. Wherever we are on the water, the Giant is our point of reference. I like that our club burgee does not need letters or words, just the Giant. That's enough and that's what we all understand. I also like walking the docks and seeing the growing number of boats flying our burgee. Wouldn't it be nice to see them flying all over the lake...

I wish you a wonderful boating summer.
I look forward to crossing your wake.

Rowan Seymour
Commodore



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Upcoming Event Dates

Mayor's Cup Pursuit Race

Summer Raft Up

Launch and Haul vacation outage

Halloween in August

Amethyst Weekend

July 15th evening - Marina – open to all

July 15th - Marina – after racing

July 26 through August 8

August 12 evening - Marina / TRSC

August 29 - Amethyst Island

Membership

Shannon Whale - Membership Director

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

Geoff MacGillivray *Into the Mystic* – power
Andrew & Heidi Lucking *Unplugged* – sail

And a quick note to all members... 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.

And a reminder of our TBYC Members Handbook... a quick reference guide to all things TBYC. Available from the documents section of the website.

Shannon Whale

Safety Awareness

Please review the [TBYC Safety Awareness Document](#) (web-site document section) and include safety considerations and review in all your work tasks.

Ensure your cradle is 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 pads flop into some other position, please address this important aspect of boat storage and safety over the summer.

Marina Advisory Committee

Chris Unsworth - MAC Director

Little to report at present. More news next newsletter.

Chris Unsworth

Destinations

From the Rear Commodore: Moors have been installed at Tee Harbour, Sawyer Bay, and the Welcomes. A big thank you to Morgan Ellis, Rick and Jennifer Clase, and Nick Buckell for volunteering to inspect and deploy the moorings.

TBYC once again has purchased a group membership for TBYC members with the CLLS (Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior). This allows TBYC members the use of sites (such as Porphyry Island) without requirement of an individual membership or day pass. Details on the CLLS sites can be found at cls.ca. This mutually beneficial arrangement has provided TBYC members value in years past, and helps to continue supporting the work of the CLLS.

Lindsey MacDonnell



31st SUNORA - Superior North-shore Regatta

July 25 – Aug 3

July brings the SUNORA event. It is a unique and family friendly cruise/race along our fabulous Lake Superior shore using some of the most beautiful harbours on the way to Red Rock and return. All with many opportunities for social fun and comradery.

If you're a sailor, there is opportunity to pit 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 from July 24 evening to Aug 3rd.

Further info on the SUNORA Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/122572877720>



Launch & Haul

Mitch Sandberg, Launch & Haul Director

Hello Boaters, I hope you're all enjoying the start of summer!

Just a friendly reminder to make sure your cradles are clean and clear for the grass-cutting crew. If your cradle is not accessible due to overgrown grass or debris, you may be charged for additional maintenance.

Launch & Haul Reminder

Please note that the Launch & Haul crew will be on summer vacation from **Sunday, July 26, 2026, through Saturday, August 8, 2026.**

During this time, there will be **no scheduled launches or hauls**. The travel lift will only be available for emergencies.

- **Last scheduled Launch/Haul:** Saturday, July 25
- **Launch/Haul resumes:** Sunday, August 9

I'd like to send a big thank you to our Launch & Haul crew. They do an outstanding job, work efficiently, and have earned a well-deserved summer break.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer, and happy boating!

L&H Out.

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

Mitch Sandberg



Storage

Nick Kovachis - Storage Director

PLEASE RETURN MAST BUGGIES TO THE MAST RACK AREA. You are putting them in danger when they are left anywhere else. Heavy equipment will squash them. Unfortunately, we know this from experience.

The two docks that were ice damaged have had the pilings replaced and new docks installed. They are ready for service.

The yard grass has been getting attended to by a volunteer. The yard looks much better. Thank you to all the members that have pitched in to clean their site and cut their grass.



A good reference for how often you should cut the grass in your storage area is your own yard. If you need to trim it every week then you should also consider the grass at the club.

We are near capacity at the club. We have gained a couple of sites but we also have lost one site for a new row of mast racks.

The roads ways are in fair condition and will be resurfaced in the next couple of weeks. Feel free to pick up any debris left over from our upgrades. Rotten wood can be disposed of in the garbage bin.

Reminder to members planning on bringing a new vessel to the club... You are not guaranteed a storage site. If you choose to purchase a new vessel and do not inform the club then you must have made alternate arrangements for storage. Remember the priority for storage is given to existing boats being sold to new members.

If you have an existing boat and are planning to upgrade or downsize, make sure you notify the club. If you sell your current boat to a new local member then your storage site stays with the boat. If you sell it out of town then your existing storage site remains yours. If that site is too small for your new boat then we will try to accommodate your new boat with a different site.

Thank you again to all the senior members who pitched in to get our damaged docks replaced. Your volunteer dedication to the TBYC is greatly appreciated.

We will be installing another row of mast racks to accommodate member needs. We will try to get them installed prior to haul out.

Regards,

Nick Kovachis

Racing

Cam McWhirter - Fleet Captain -Sail

It's been a cold start to the 2025 sailing season at the Thunder Bay Yacht Club, but that hasn't slowed anyone down. With strong participation, competitive racing, and a great sense of camaraderie on and off the water, the fleet has pushed through the early-season conditions and set the tone for what's shaping up to be a fantastic summer.

Our Wednesday Night Racing series is already well underway, with consistent turnouts and some tight finishes across the fleet. It's been great to see both returning crews and new faces getting involved, contributing to a competitive and welcoming racing environment. The level of sportsmanship and enthusiasm this season has been especially notable. Full results and updated standings are being regularly posted online at <https://sites.google.com/view/tbyc-racing/home>. For weekly racing updates, keep an eye on the Thunder Bay Newswatch community submissions page at <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/community-submissions>.

The final number for the new crew program was 16, and it was encouraging to see such strong involvement from skippers, crew, and instructors alike. A very special thank you goes out to our instructors for the new crew program. Their time, patience, encouragement, and dedication made a real difference in welcoming new sailors into the fleet and helping build confidence on the water. Their support was a key part of the program's success, and it is deeply appreciated. Thank you as well to *Bella, Bobsled, Blue Jacket, Air Aura, Spes Bona, Gray Ghost, and Brigadoon* for helping put the program together and making it such a success.

A big thank you also goes out to all of the volunteers who have helped make the season possible so far. With most of the season still ahead of us, their time, effort, and support behind the scenes will continue to be essential to keeping race nights running smoothly and to the continued success of our sailing program.

There are also a number of sailing events planned for the season. Please watch for official club notices and updates for confirmed dates, details, and any changes as the summer progresses.

For those who are new to racing or thinking about getting involved, there's never been a better time to join in. Whether you're looking to crew, skipper, or just learn more about the sport, our fleet is open and welcoming. Don't hesitate to reach out at the sailing shed or connect with other members on race nights.

As we move further into the season, let's keep the momentum going. Get out on the water, support one another, and make the most of the summer ahead.

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.



Community Engagement

Paul Morralee – Community Engagement Director

***Nina* Returns: A Wooden Boat's Journey Home**

In the early days of the Thunder Bay Yacht Club, wooden boats ruled the waters. As building materials evolved, so did the fleet—but *Nina*, a 26-foot cabin cruiser built in 1955, remains one of the few wooden vessels still operating in Thunder Bay.

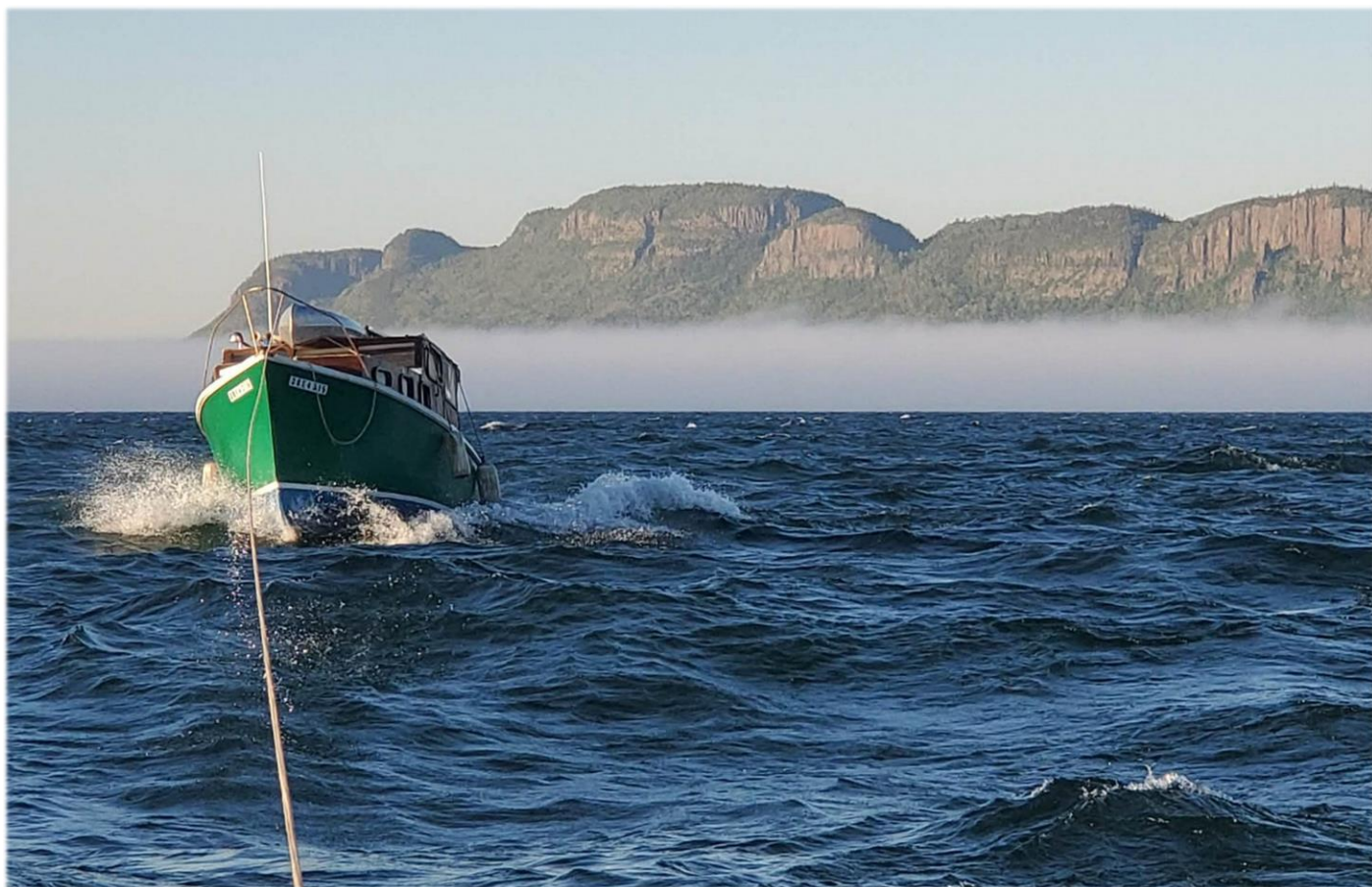
Over the years, she has passed through the hands of George Philips, Glen Murie, Ralph Skedgel, and boat builder Jon Olson. Her current owner is Paul Morralee, and under his care, *Nina* has remained a lasting piece of local history. In 2004, she made an epic 1,062-nautical-mile journey from Thunder Bay to Montreal—a feat that was documented in the TBYC bulletin.

For ten years, *Nina* served Porphyry Island, providing transport for lighthouse volunteers, delivering cargo, and offering accommodations for host keepers on term at the light station. After a three-year hiatus, she has now returned to Thunder Bay. She spent some years on the hard as a static exhibit, but recent restoration work brought her back to life. After three weeks of hull repairs—clearing and repacking all seams with cotton and sealant—she was refloated on July 1st.

For the 23-nautical-mile journey home, *Nina* was towed by a 32-foot vessel, *Hidora*. The trip wasn't smooth—hit by 20 kt SW winds and 2.5 metre waves, the crew diverted to Pie Island for calmer waters before completing the return.

Nina's restoration continues at the TBYC yard. Her final resting place will be announced at the end of the summer.

Paul Morralee



from the Newsletter editor

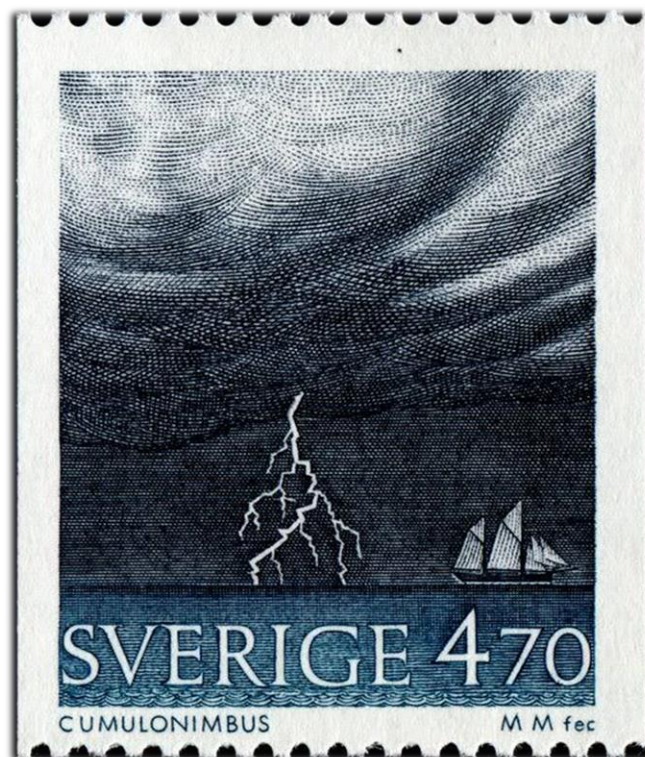
My thanks to those directors who submitted information for this newsletter. And appreciation to all members who read it.

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.

Although primarily communication from the club, it is also every member's newsletter, and certainly improved with your submissions or ideas. 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 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@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 Morrilee
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

