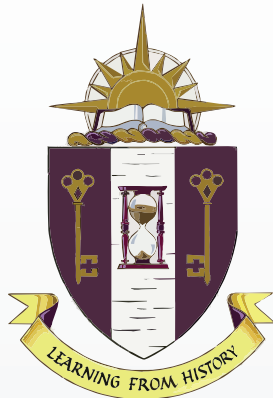


NOW & THEN

Recent and Upcoming Events at the Museum



TBHMS Newsletter
Fall 2026



Executive Director:
Scott Bradley

Curator / Archivist:
Michael deJong

Chief Operating Officer:
Marcus Agombar

**Education & Outreach
Coordinator:**
Hannah Viau

Collections Curator:
Mary Jane MacDonald

Exhibits Curator:
Jessica Stacey

Receptionist:
Brenda Young

Bookkeeper:
Terri-Lynn Carter

Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society

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The Society recognizes the ongoing support of the City of Thunder Bay through its Cultural Funding Program

A Full Fall Ahead at the Thunder Bay Museum



As summer draws to a close, the Board is pleased to look ahead to an exceptionally active fall at The Thunder Bay Museum.

We recently hosted the *Association of Great Lakes Maritime History Conference*, September 10 through 12. This month will also kick off *Ontario Culture Days*, the return of our free public lecture series, and our second 'Gaming Weekend' of the year. In October, *Haunted Halls* will transform the Museum for two weekends, while additional lectures and activities will carry us through

the rest of the season. We plan to open our newest travelling exhibit, *Anishnaabe Zhiimaagnishii Inaadiziwin / Life of Indigenous Soldiers*, in November.

Readers can also look forward to two forthcoming Society publications in late 2026 or early 2027: *Dear Shirley*, Margie Taylor's biography of her mother, Shirley Taylor, and Brent Cowan's *Ben Cowan's War: The Diary of a Citizen Soldier in WWII*. We look forward to sharing more about these titles as they progress toward publication.

Together, these offerings reflect the many ways the Museum connects people with the history, cultures, stories, and natural heritage of Northwestern Ontario. Whether your interests lie in maritime history, Indigenous military service, gaming, local waterways, community landmarks, or regional stories, you'll have many opportunities to learn, participate, and connect.

On a more practical note, we completed replacing the Museum's boiler system this summer. This project, funded by the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, will extend the life and resilience of our facility, preserving our past and providing public education for decades to come.

Continued on next page...

In this issue:

Upcoming Exhibits & Special Events / New Exhibits Curator

We are also pleased to welcome Jessica Stacey back to the Museum team as Exhibits Curator. Her experience will be a valuable asset as we deliver our upcoming exhibitions and programs.

Further information about these exhibits and events can be found throughout this newsletter. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I invite our members, supporters, and community partners to join us for the season ahead. We look forward to seeing you at the Museum.

Douglas Yahn
Chair and President of the Board of Directors
The Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society

Meet Our Exhibits Curator

Please welcome back Jessica Stacey

Jessica is eager to be returning to the Thunder Bay Museum as the Interim Exhibits Curator, and in particular to work again on the *Life of Indigenous Soldiers* travelling exhibit. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art from Lakehead University, a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Western Ontario, and loves finding creative ways to bring stories to life.

She is delighted to once again work with the Museum team and community. Outside of work you can usually find Jessica reading, browsing for vinyl records, planning her next concert outing, tending to her garden or deeply focused on her latest creative project.



Free Public Lecture Series

Monthly lectures during the fall and winter months

The Thunder Bay Museum invites you to join our monthly public lecture series with talks on a wide range of topics. Lectures take place at the Thunder Bay Museum on the fourth Tuesday of each month from September 2026 to March 2027. Virtual participation will be available through Zoom - links are provided in the event pages. Lectures start at approximately 7:30 PM and light refreshments are served after the speaker's presentation. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Learn more and register at www.thunderbaymuseum.com/events/public-lectures/



22 September Ryan Mackett – *Conservation in the Lakehead – A History of the LRCA*

27 October Betty Carpick & Julie Cosgove – *A Record of Time: Chronicling McVicar Creek Through Art*

24 November Myles Cummins – *Claude Garton/Herbarium History* (Official title TBA)

26 January Kelsey Pennanen – *Local Archaeology Work*

23 February Todd Miller – *From Voyageurs to Viking: A Brief Look at Transportation on the Great Lakes*

23 March Dr. Brandon Cordeiro – *Hydro-Electricity In The Thunder Bay Region*

Learn About Our Latest Exhibits

The Thunder Bay Art Society Presents: The Heritage Art Project

28 July 2026 – March 2027

In their first official group exhibition, seventeen members of the *Thunder Bay Art Society* spotlight heritage buildings across the city, showcasing our shared place through art and history. Alongside each painting is an accompanying archival image, history, and notable architectural features of each building. We invite you to take a look for yourself. Which buildings do you recognize, and which ones are new to you?

Image: Linda Dell - *Main Lighthouse Thunder Bay* (2026)

Out of Place: The Strange Plants of Lake Superior's North Shore

August 12, 2026 – March 21, 2027

The North Shore is a landscape of survivors, relics, and holdouts. Glaciation, climate and geology have created cold-air pockets, dry exposed bedrock, coastal cliffs, and mineral-rich wetlands, allowing plants associated with very different climates and ecosystems to persist side by side. Through carefully preserved herbarium specimens, discover these "out of place" species and the hidden side of the North Shore they reveal, one shaped by ancient climates, ecological boundaries, and millions of years of evolution.

This exhibit is presented by The Thunder Bay Museum in partnership with *Lakehead University's Claude E. Garton Herbarium*. Botanical Illustrations by Emily Palahnuk.



Out of Place: Strange Plants of Lake Superior's North Shore

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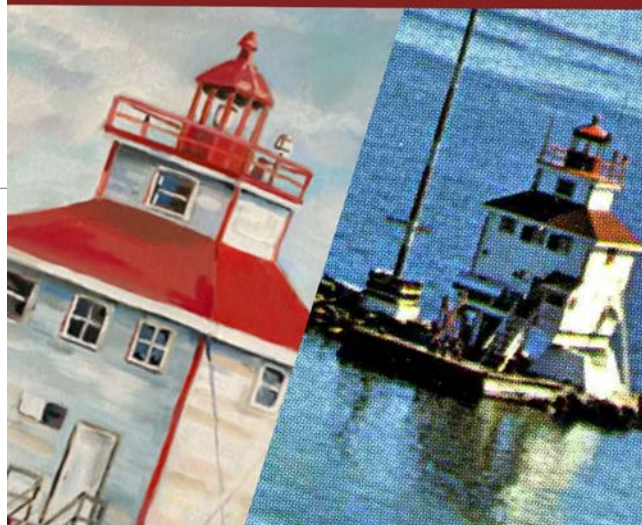


On display at the Thunder Bay Museum • 425 Donald St. E
807-623-0801 • info@thunderbaymuseum.com



The Thunder Bay Art Society Presents: THE HERITAGE ART PROJECT

ON DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 2027



Gaming Weekend Returns

Game on! The Thunder Bay Museum and Carlito's Board Game Café are teaming up for the second edition of *Gaming Weekend*, transforming the Museum into a welcoming space to play, learn and connect. Explore board games, join role-playing sessions, try your hand at miniature painting, watch or participate in *Warhammer 40k* Tournament play, and compete in a *Super Smash Bros.* tournament. With drop-in and learn-to-play opportunities for gamers of all experience levels, there's something for families, hobbyists, seasoned players and curious newcomers alike.

September 26–27

Come for the games, stay for the community — and discover the Museum from a whole new perspective!



Gaming Weekend
Registration



Haunted Halls Awakens This October!

Book Your Tour Now - Last Year Sold Out!
Only during October 15-17 & 22-24

The Museum is going dark! This October, *Haunted Halls* 2026 transforms the Thunder Bay Museum into an immersive Halloween experience filled with cursed objects, creepy characters, dark stories and plenty of surprises.

Presented in partnership with Science North, *Haunted Halls* runs October 15–17 and 22–24, with timed tours from 6:00–10:15 p.m. Tickets are \$18, and with limited spots, advance booking is strongly encouraged.

Enter if you dare... but remember, some artifacts should remain buried!

Info & Tickets:

www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/haunted-halls--2026



**Haunted Halls
Tickets**



Join the Thunder Bay Museum this school year for 7 unique & incredible camps!

Camps run from:
9:00am - 4:00pm
Drop off starts at 8:45am
Pick up by 4:30pm

Cost Per Day
Members: \$40
Non-Members: \$50

*Not including march break camps.
Space is limited
Ages 8-13 years

Campers must be 8 years of age by the start of camp

www.thunderbaymuseum.com
education@thunderbaymuseum.com
807-623-0801 ext. 116
Located at 425 Donald St. E.

PA DAY CAMPS 2026-2027

Oct 26
TRICK OR TREAT

Nov 27
FELTING FRIENDS

Jan 29
COMIC CREATORS

Feb 26
FOSSIL FINDERS

March 15-19
AROUND THE WORLD IN 5 DAYS

April 30
MUSICAL MAESTROS

June 11
OUT OF THIS WORLD



A Chance to Win Every Month!

The Thunder Bay Museum's Monthly 50/50 is more than a chance to win — it's a chance to help protect our community's history.

Half of every jackpot goes to the lucky winner, while the other half supports the Museum's Facility Enhancements Project, helping fund critical repairs, accessibility improvements and the preservation of our collections.

The September 50/50 is now open, get your tickets at museumraffle.com and help make sure history has a future! (added bonus if you tell all your friends!)

**Buy Raffle
Tickets**

