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Summer 2022

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Downtown Improvement Grant Program Launches





Supporting Residents During the Covid-19 Crisis





Our Way Forward Maamawe (All Together)





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Notices

SHARE YOUR VISION FOR A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY!

The Thunder Bay Community
Economic Development Commission
(CEDC) is looking for input into a new
2023- 2026 Strategic Plan. The CEDC
aims to gather feedback from citizens
and stakeholders across the city to
help the CEDC build an effective plan
for the next three years.

The goal is to build a plan that will maximize economic growth, generate optimal opportunities and further promote the prosperity of Thunder Bay. The CEDC wants to hear from citizens on how to effectively support a thriving community.

Take the online survey or attend an in-person event to have the opportunity to interact with CEDC staff directly. The CEDC will be at:

Thunder Bay Country Market on June 4 from 8 am – 1 pm

Goods & Co Market on June 11 from 10 am – 2 pm

To fill out the online survey (closes June 15), and learn more, visit: thunderbay.ca/getinvolved





NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Do you know an influential woman who has made an impact and meaningful contribution to Thunder Bay's history? Nominate them today!

Submissions are due by July 1, and should include a brief biographical summary highlighting the individual's significance to Thunder Bay along with some images of the nominee (please include copyright information or attribution notes). The nominated woman's contributions to Thunder Bay's history should be notable and the facts in the biography must be true and verifiable.

Submissions can be emailed to <u>archives@thunderbay.ca</u> or submitted by mail to: City of Thunder Bay Archives, 500 Donald St E, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

The successful additions will be launched on the online exhibit this October, to coincide with the Status of Women Canada's celebration of Women's History Month.

To learn more, contact the City of Thunder Bay Archives at 625-2270, visit the Archives at 235 Vickers St N, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, or visit: thunderbay.ca/womenshistorymonth



HOW DO I BECOME A CANDIDATE?

To become a candidate for Mayor, City Councillor or School Board Trustee in the 2022 Municipal & School Board Election on Oct. 24, you must file a nomination paper with the City Clerk, in person, on the first floor of City Hall, 500 Donald St E. Nomination papers may be filed from Monday, May 2, 2022 to Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, by appointment only. Walk-in appointments will not be guaranteed. Book your appointment online or call the Office of the City Clerk at 807-625-2230.

The deadline to file a nomination is 2 pm on Friday, Aug. 19, 2022. A person cannot raise or spend money on an election campaign until they have filed their nomination paper.

For more information, visit: tbayvotes.ca



Published By: City of Thunder Bay

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ON THE COVER:

A number of annual city events have been modified for 2022. **Learn more on Page 13.**

Citizen Survey Gauges Top of Mind Issues

The City of Thunder Bay commissioned Ipsos, a professional public opinion research company, to conduct the 2022 Citizen Satisfaction Survey by telephone to a random selection of residents between April 1 – 21.

People over 18 years were asked a variety of questions to gauge their satisfaction with the services and quality of life in Thunder Bay. Questions included a range of topics like the most important issues facing the community, quality of life, importance of and satisfaction with municipal services, and communication needs.

The telephone survey generates results that are accurate to +/- 4.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, and is statistically valid. Information will be used by City Administration in the development of the next Strategic Plan, to be released in 2023.

In addition to the telephone survey, close to 2,800 people completed the survey online.

To view the detailed report, and the results of both the telephone and online survey, visit: thunderbay.ca/getinvolved



"Opinions matter. Feedback gathered through the Citizen Satisfaction Survey helps shape the future of our City and will help build the City's next Strategic Plan. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to complete the survey."

- Tracie Smith, Director - Strategic Initiatives & Engagement

2022 CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Overall, residents are positive about their quality of life and sense of community. However, the City faces some challenges: Crime, Economic and Social Issues



Quality of Life 76%

Down 6 points from 2019 and on a downward trend since 2013



Community & Belonging

85% Feel Thunder Bay is a welcoming community

84% Proud to be from Thunder Bay

Have a strong sense of belonging to Thunder Bay

♣ Down 6 points from 2019

Mixed Perceptions of Crime/Public Safety

51%

Mention crime as most important top-of-mind issue

Up 7 points from 2019

82%

Feel Thunder Bay is relatively safe

Up 28 points from 2019

Lower Personal Experience of Crime

8%

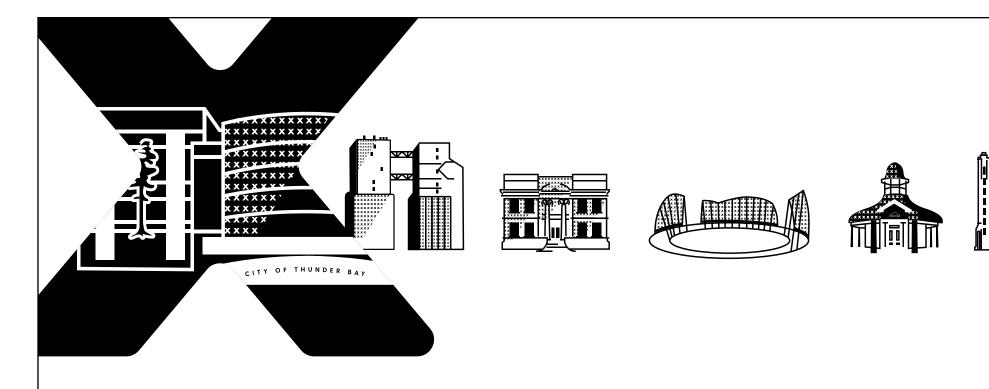
say they/household member was a victim of crime in the past year

Down 10 points from 2019

82%

Mix of property and violent crime

11 times higher among those who experience racial discrimination



Are you on the Voters List?

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE 2022 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 24?

If you have moved, changed your name or turned 18 since the 2018 municipal election, you might not be on the voters list.

The municipal voters list is different from provincial and federal lists. So, even if you received a voter's card for the upcoming provincial election, it doesn't automatically mean you will be on the municipal voters list. For municipal elections, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for collecting the information of residents in Ontario, such as name, date of birth, citizenship and school support, in order to create a preliminary list of electors. Municipalities then use that preliminary list of electors to prepare their voters lists.

Being on the voters list will save you time when you vote. Take a few minutes to verify your voter information by visiting: **voterlookup.ca**





Downtown Improvement Grant Program Launches

Looking to improve a downtown property? The City wants to help.

Two of the goals of the relaunched Downtown Improvement Grant Program are making Thunder Bay's cores more inviting and vibrant.

The program encourages redevelopment and investment. It allows eligible property or business owners in the North and South cores, as well as the Westfort business area, to apply for up to four grants to make improvements.

"This partnership program between the Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC) and the City is a great way to help reinvigorate the downtown cores," said Devon McCloskey, Supervisor – Planning Services. "This program can help improve the appearance and feel of our downtowns, help property and business owners make improvements, and provide a better experience for visitors and shoppers in the historic core areas of the city."

Downtown Improvement Grants can:

- Rebate the cost of building permits and planning application fees
- Reimburse 50% of the cost to improve commercial façades
- Reimburse 50% of the cost to convert or improve a second floor into an office or residential unit
- Reimburse 50% of the cost to convert or improve a main floor into a commercial space

Each of four grants has a \$10,000 cap, and can be stacked for a total



Aaron Gillingham, a recipient of a Downtown Improvement Grant, stands beside his building on Brown Street, where he is doing major renovations and improving the façade.

reimbursement of up to \$25,000. The funding cannot be applied to work done before an application is submitted.

City Council has approved a budget of \$200,000 for the program this year,

with half of the funding provided by the Thunder Bay CEDC.

For more information, visit: thunderbay.ca/improvementgrants

Hey Thunder Bay, We Want You To Get Involved!







- Stay connected
- Share your opinion
- Get project information
- Find out what's happening
- Read final reports and outcomes
- Discover more ways to get involved





Supporting Residents During the

Two years ago, in the spring of 2020, our world changed. On March 27, 2020, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit reported the city's first case of COVID-19, and exactly one week later Thunder Bay's Mayor declared a State of Emergency to help the municipality deliver essential services.

City of Thunder Bay staff rose to the challenge of optimizing safety for our citizens. In cooperation with many partner agencies, City employees often found themselves shifting their work locations, and even working in new roles to assure that services could be consistently provided.

City workers shared an experience that has been common to all of us during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the early days — loneliness, due to safety measures and distancing. But at the same time, many citizens helped the City's employees feel appreciated — whether staff were answering questions by phone, planting flowers in a City park, or driving a Lift+ public transit vehicle. We thank Thunder Bay citizens for boosting our spirits while we worked to serve you during pandemic times.



Tony DaSilva, Datacentre/ Hardware Administrator

"Seeing people working with a smile on their face, despite the challenges in their workplace, is inspiring."



Lee Mesic, Administrator – Pioneer Ridge

"Like they have in all challenging situations, our staff have stepped up to the plate."

A FEW OF OUR STAFF SAY IT IN THEIR OWN WORDS:



Dennis Brescacin, Division Chief – Fire Administration – Thunder Bay Fire Rescue

"The quick action of all our partners helped to contain the spread of the virus in early 2021."

"I and members of all groups pitched in wherever we could.

When not at meetings, I assisted at the isolation hotels."



Tessa Hettrick, Program Volunteer Coordinator – 55 Plus Centre

"Witnessing how people have come together to rise above what has been happening – it's been very inspiring."



Todd Little, Specialized Transit Operator

"I love what I do and feel lucky to have been able to do it for so long."



Alexa Fares, Program Supervisor – Customer Services & Programs

"I'm proud of how everyone has stepped up and found ways to make it work."

Covid-19 Crisis



April Johnson, Archivist Assistant

"There have been many inspiring stories in our community that have proven we are in this together'."



Cindy Woodbeck, Clerk Dispatcher

"People are very glad that someone—a human being, answers their call. It's very touching how we are appreciated just for being here at this time."



Karen Nadeau, Lead-Hand/ Curator – Conservatory

"People appreciate our work more during these times when a lot has been cancelled."



Eric Kwisses, Acting Lead Hand & Mechanic

"It's good to see how our colleagues have come together and taken the pandemic seriously."



"Our main focus during the pandemic was to make sure that the essential and critical city services that residents rely on continued to be delivered. We also learned a great deal. Customer service demands and the nature of service delivery have changed. Our goals are to continue to maximize effort, reduce cost, and meet demand and customer needs. We are proud of our employees and their dedication during the pandemic, and we know this was a difficult time for all residents including them and their families."

- Norm Gale, City Manager

Council extends well-received Patio Program

A popular program allowing outdoor dining in Thunder Bay will continue in 2022.

The temporary patio program allows eligible bars, restaurants and retail businesses to use a portion of a sidewalk, roadway, public property or private parking lot to operate outside if the City's criteria are met.

"This is a really popular program, which allows businesses to expand their service area at a minimal cost," said Joel DePeuter, Manager – Realty Services.

In 2021, there were 63 temporary patios approved on city streets and sidewalks, along with those in parking lots. That was an increase from the 38 approved in 2020.

Eligible businesses can still apply to build patios in private parking lots, municipal parking lots, or on sidewalks. The temporary patio season ends October 15.

Applicants who want to use City land are required to meet certain specifications and enter into an agreement with the City. Using a portion of a private parking lot as an outdoor patio requires registration with the City.

Businesses without the required equipment to create their own patio, such as traffic barriers and picnic tables, may be able to borrow them from the City. There is a limited supply available.



The temporary patio process is currently in effect for the 2022 patio season, ending Oct. 15, 2022.

For additional information on the City's patio regulations, or to register or create a temporary patio, visit: thunderbay.ca/patios











OUR RECYCLING PROGRAM HAS GROWN!















NOW ACCEPTING #1 THROUGH #7 PLASTIC CONTAINERS

thunderbay.ca/recycling



SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES

Learn more about your Water & Wastewater Services in Annual Reports

The City of Thunder Bay is committed to effective water treatment, source protection, and continual monitoring in order to provide residents with safe drinking water.

Each year, the City produces a Drinking Water Quality Report and a Wastewater Treatment Annual Report to meet the requirements of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The 2021 Drinking Water Quality Report was released earlier this year and outlines how the City's drinking water is treated, monitored, and delivered to your home. At the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant, water is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week to deliver safe drinking water in compliance with the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

In addition, the 2021 Wastewater Treatment Annual Report was also released earlier this year and in it you will find statistical details and a comprehensive description of the wastewater treatment at the Atlantic Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant. This plant provides primary and secondary treatment, phosphorus and ammonia removal and anaerobic sludge digestion for the entire serviced area of Thunder Bay. The

Report also outlines the City's progress in 2021 on sewer separation work as part of the Pollution Prevention Control Plan.

"The City is dedicated to providing residents with high quality drinking water and effective treatment of wastewater," said Michelle Warywoda, Director – Environment Division. "We encourage residents to read the reports in order to learn more about the City's water services."

DRINKING WATER CUALITY

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

OT.



To learn more about the City's water services, or to read the Reports, visit: thunderbay.ca/drinkingwater



Treasure Exchange Days are perfect for anyone searching for that special something or wanting to get rid of an item no longer needed. Exchange reusable items like furniture, small appliances and toys – for freel

Want to participate? It's easy - just follow these steps.

· Clearly label items 'FREE'. Place them at

- the curb after 5 pm on Friday, June 17.
- Keep items that aren't 'give aways' like bikes, toys and tools well away from the curb to prevent misunderstandings.
- Post your items on social media using the hashtag #TbayTreasureDays to be able to share and explore treasures throughout Thunder Bay!
- · Tour your neighbourhood to see what great deals you can find at the curb.
- On Sunday, remove all uncollected items by 7 pm. Items left at the curb are subject to enforcement as per City By-Laws. They will not be collected by the City.

Treasure Exchange Days are an action item from the Solid Waste Management Strategy.

For more information, contact Infrastructure & Operations Dispatch 625-2195 or visit thunderbay.ca/wastereduction

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Use a new App to Pay for On-Street Parking

Drivers who park their vehicle at a metered space in Thunder Bay will now be able to use an app to pay for parking at any of the more than 1,000 municipal parking spots across the city.

The City of Thunder Bay has launched the Passport Parking Canada app to enable anyone to pay for their parking on a smartphone. The software will also allow users to pay for parking tickets through the City's website.

"This app allows people to pay right on their smartphone, even top up your time if it's running out. You don't have to go out to the meter," said Jonathan Paske, Supervisor - Parking Authority.

"The app also complements existing parking meters and pay stations

already in place at municipal parking lots and on-street parking," added Paske.

Parking tickets can also now

be paid online through the City's website. To pay a ticket, visit the parking page and select the 'Pay a Ticket' feature.

The Passport Parking Canada app can be downloaded for free on any mobile device from the App Store or Google Play. Once downloaded, you can enter in your licence plate and a specific zone number, displayed on signs near parking spaces, and pay directly from your phone.



Jonathan Paske, Supervisor - Parking Authority uses the new Passport Parking Canada app in the city's north core.

For more information, visit: thunderbay.ca/parking

Switch gears this summer!

Read for fun and have a chance to win a new Nintendo Switch. Open to all students, K to 12!

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 who sign up, use, or renew their library card by June 30, will have a chance to win a Nintendo Switch. Earn extra ballots every time you use your library card!

Visit your neighbourhood library today!

Contact Us

WEB PHONE EMAIL www.tbpl.ca 345-8275 comments@tbpl.ca

SOCIAL @tbaypl @tbplyouth









Our Way Forward Maamawe (All Together)

The City's Indigenous Relations team is focused on listening to the community, strengthening relations, collaborating with partners and organizations, and planning a path forward in the spirit of reconciliation.

Actions of the Indigenous Relations Office are guided by the City's Anishinaabe Elders Council and local Indigenous community partners.

Engaging the Community

A new seven year Indigenous
Relations Strategy identifies 11
important commitments to improve
Indigenous Relations in Thunder Bay.
To help prioritize these actions, the
Indigenous Relations team reached
out to the community for input. They
gathered feedback from more than
300 people about increasing
Indigenous spaces, building
cultural awareness,

expanding antiracism education, and exploring more responsive services and community supports. They will now take this feedback to community partners and service providers.

These conversations will focus on identifying the priorities for each year and finding collaborative ways to move these forward. The team thanks everyone who shared their voice and continue to be involved. The feedback will help see these activities come to life in our community each year. "As we embark on this journey towards reconciliation, it's important that we do it all together, 'maamawe', one step at a time. Some may be further down the path than others, but the key in moving forward is that everyone is 'maamo-bimosedaa', walking together."

- Tanis Thompson, Manager Indigenous Relations

Truth & Reconciliation

The overarching goal of the Indigenous Relations office is to move the City and community forward on the path to Reconciliation while creating a more respectful and inclusive community for all. Several projects and initiatives have taken place in the City and many more are waiting in the wings with significant input from the Indigenous community. The creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Committee in close collaboration with our key Indigenous partners

across the city will guide reconciliation activities across Thunder Bay.

A new Maamawe
Summer Festival
and Showcase will
be held on June 25,
between National
Indigenous People's
Day and Canada Day.
The Festival provides an
opportunity to celebrate

culture and reflect on our new approach to Canada Day as we go forward. Our approach to Canada Day celebrations this year will be one that is still special to our community, but is more inclusive and respectful to current events like the ongoing discovery of unmarked graves.

City of Thunder Bay Indigenous Relations Team: Tanis Thompson - Manager, Alain Joseph – Policy Analyst, and James Wilkinson – Indigenous Liaison

The Indigenous Relations Team invites you to stay up-to-date on the latest activities by visiting thunderbay.ca/IndigenousRelations or liking Thunder Bay Indigenous Relations on Facebook.

Canada Day 2022 is changing this year

Since early 2021, there has been an ongoing re-envisioning of Canada Day on the Waterfront to reflect and recognize that Canada Day means something different to everyone, and to move forward in an inclusive, thoughtful, and meaningful way towards Reconciliation.

Event planning discussions for Canada Day 2022 have taken place with the City's Indigenous Relations Office with input from the Anishinaabe Elders Council, community partners, other municipalities and cultural organizations.

The uncertainty presented by the pandemic and evolving public health restrictions has presented challenges with planning large scale events which require a longer lead time. A number of annual City events have been modified for 2022 as a result. Many of the activities planned for Canada Day will be similar to previous years,



including food vendors, educational sessions, and a multicultural stage show. The fireworks will be deferred to later in the summer and hosted at a Live on the Waterfront event.

For more information, visit: thunderbay.ca/events



MOVIE NIGHTS IN THE PARK

Movies will begin after sunset, around 9:00 pm

August 12th

Carrick Park-88 Marlborough St.

August 19th

West Thunder Community Centre - 915 Edward St. S.

August 26th

Vicker's Park - 1700 Arthur St. E.

September 1st

Current River Park- 425 Grenville Ave.

For more information, visit: thunderbay.ca/movienights



Celebrating the Faces of Paramedicine

Superior North EMS was recently contacted by a patient, Katelyn Frasca, who wanted to meet and thank the paramedics who saved her life after a near-fatal overdose. Katelyn and her family personally expressed their gratitude to the paramedics who attended to the call that day.

It is not often that paramedics learn the outcome of their patients after they are brought to the hospital. It is less often paramedics have the opportunity to meet with patients after the patient has recovered. Katelyn

freely shared her experiences, and celebrated six months and 22 days of sobriety. She expressed that she is working hard to complete her schooling as a Personal Support Worker. Superior North EMS staff were honoured to highlight the paramedics who, alongside their paramedic colleagues, provide expert, compassionate and dedicated care to the patients they serve every day in Thunder Bay and District. They wish Katelyn continued health, sobriety and success and were very pleased to have met her and her loving family.



(l to r) Breanne Frasca, Crystal Frasca, Mel (paramedic), Katelyn Frasca, James (paramedic), Ashley Frasca, Rob Frasca

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST

In 2020, Thunder Bay had the 5th highest rate of police-reported hate crime in Canada.

- STATISTICS CANADA, HATE CRIME DATA (2021)



SCAN TO LEARN
WHAT A HATE CRIME IS &
ITS PRESENCE IN THUNDER BAY



SEVEN YOUTH INQUEST RECOMMENDATION 112 AWARENESS PROJECT





A mobility network that can keep up with us

Built for life in the North

Messages

Tbaytel has built the largest network in Northern Ontario – making it the number one choice for living and sharing the Northern experience.

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