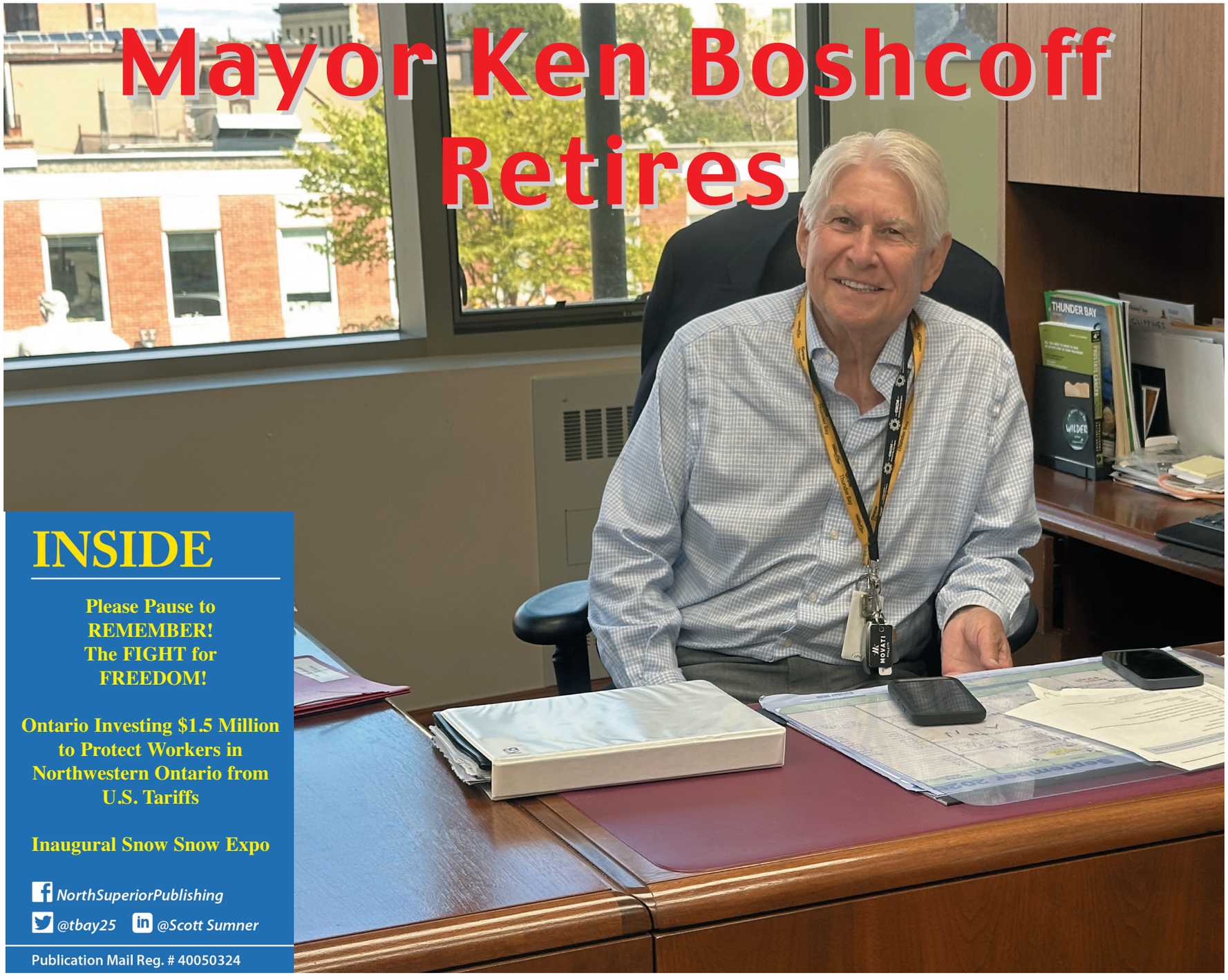
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November 2026
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THUNDER BAY BUSINESS

Mayor Ken Boshcoff Retires



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Inaugural Snow Snow Expo

NorthSuperiorPublishing
@tbay25 @Scott Sumner

Publication Mail Reg. # 40050324

Ontario Investing $1.5 Million to Protect Workers in Northwestern Ontario from U.S. Tariffs

Provincial funding will protect local jobs and support economic growth through the launch of the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre's Boreal Springboard Program

The Ontario government is investing $1.5 million through the Trade-Impacted Communities Program (TICP) to support the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre's Boreal Springboard program. The project will help accelerate the commercialization of forestry-related technologies and manufacturing opportunities while attracting new companies and investment to Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario. Delivered by the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre, the Boreal Springboard project offers theAccelerator and Soft-Landing programs, two pathways for businesses looking to grow in the region's forest sector. The initiative will help entrepreneurs and established companies access businessdevelopment support, mentorship, technical resources and connections to industry and new markets.

This investment was announced today by Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay – Atikokan and Minister of Forestry and Forest Products. In the face of economic uncertainty, the $40 million TICP initiative is a tactical tool launched by the government of Ontario last year to protect good-paying jobs and build resilient, self-reliant communities across the province.

"Northwestern Ontario's forest sector is a major economic driver, supported by skilled workers,innovative businesses and a strong manufacturing base," said Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay–Atikokan and Minister of Forestry and Forest Products. "Through our government's Trade-Impacted Communities Program, we are helping forestry and wood-product businesses respond to the impacts of U.S. tariffs, attract new investment and pursue new opportunities that strengthen our local supply chains and grow Northwestern Ontario's forest sector."

In response to U.S. tariffs and ongoing global trade uncertainty, the $2.15 million Boreal Springboard project will build on the region's existing forestry expertise and industrial strengths to support new business development and economic diversification. With $1.5 million in provincial funding, the projectwill help new and existing companies develop value-added forest products and technologies, access newmarkets and pursue investment opportunities that support long-term growth in Northwestern Ontario.



Through the Accelerator, selected entrepreneurs and teams who are developing a forest-based business in Northwestern Ontario can now access up to $40,000 in support. Participants also receive hands-on business development support, mentorship, product development support, and curated access to industry and market opportunities.

The Soft-Landing stream is designed for established companies from outside the region looking to harness our region's natural advantages with forest resources, expertise, trade infrastructure or supply chains, and scale their businesses in Northwestern Ontario. Eligible businesses receive hands-on support in navigating the region's robust forest-sector ecosystem and planning their investments.

"Our region is a world-class investment jurisdiction with so many assets beyond just our forest resources and our access to market," said Graham Bracken, Project Coordinator for Boreal Springboard. "Support from our program partners and from the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade equips us to root businesses within a strong innovation ecosystem and position them for growth in a robust and dynamic sector for the future."

First announced as part of the province's nearly $30 billion tariff relief and support plan, the TICP is dedicated to projects aimed at strengthening economic resilience and competitiveness across industries and communities disproportionately impacted by global trade disruptions. The program also supports the diversification of supply chains across Ontario's priority sectors, while increasing export and investment opportunities to reduce reliance on U.S. markets.

"As U.S. tariffs continue to impact key sectors across Ontario, our government is taking decisive action to ensure regional communities have the tools needed to withstand economic pressure and secure new long-term investments," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Through the Trade-Impacted Communities Program, we are proud to support the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre's Boreal Springboard program, which will support local workers and strengthen domestic supply chains, while unlocking new trade and export partnerships.

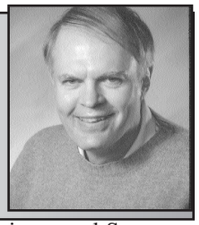
As Ontario continues to navigate the impacts of U.S. tariffs and global economic uncertainty, the government remains focused on delivering critical funding, cutting red tape, and positioning local economies to be more competitive, resilient, and investment-ready across priority sectors.

Quotes

"Boreal Springboard is creating new opportunities for forest-based companies to develop and grow in our region. The CEDC is proud to be a partner on this important initiative, supporting the economic growth of our forestry eco-system"
- said Jamie Taylor, CEO, Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC).

"Boreal Springboard fills an important niche in the growth of Northwestern Ontario's forest sector by providing critical support for companies looking to invest in the region. CRIBE is proud to be a part of this first-in-kind forestry-specific initiative in Canada"
- said Scott Jackson, CEO, Centre for Research & Innovation in the Bioeconomy

Publisher's Note
Scott Sumner



Inaugural Snow Snow Expo!

I enjoyed attending the inaugural Snow Show Expo produced by Andrew Kondor at the CLE grounds mid October. Our firm did five strictly snowmobile shows many years ago at the same site and it brought back many nice memories.

" This is the inaugural Snow Show Expo event where we are bringing together the latest and greatest of gear and tech by Thunder Bay's best retailers that sell winter, either recreation or sports products. We have everything from the typical powersports sleds to nice warm gear you can put on to do camping in the winter or just going for a nice walk. There are optical products for skiing, hot tubs, saunas, ice diving and motorcycles you can ride or race on the ice." said Andrew Kondor.
" Fall in Thunder Bay is one of those times when you are looking forward to winter activities but there was no real show so we thought we would bridge that gap with a show for the local businesses to showcase what's new and upcoming."



It has gone well and a great start according to Kondor.
" It's was quite an undertaking to do this show, to pick a time that works for local vendors. We are hoping to make this an annual event."

Andrew is an entrepreneur with many different ideas over the years, but skiing had always been a great interest for him. He became a Level 1 ski coach and instructor in his early days.
" We manufacture our own line of ski goggles and sunglasses that float in the water. Our company has been very fortunate that some of our goggles have made it the Olympics. This past winter one of our athletes won a bronze medal with our product- the Xspex Recon - Brendan Mackay on the Canadian Ski Team. We design the goggles here and have them manufactured at our overseas plants in China and Taiwan."
" All of our pro models are designed by the athletes themselves and they get a bit of a kick back from every sale at the end of the season to help fund their training. We have some indigenous artists that we use from across the country to design the straps on the goggles."

Andrew Kondor also spent 20 years in the toy business manufacturing consumer hobby goods. He did a short stint in the aerospace industry with a patent they had but found it was a difficult process to begin a full on aerospace company with the technology they had but it is a business that has a place.

Andrew has been as Xspex for seven years now and are growing every year.

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Jones INSURANCE

Welcome Nitesh!

We're excited to welcome Nitesh to the Jones Insurance team. He is passionate about building meaningful relationships and supporting the local businesses and families that make Northwestern Ontario such a great place to call home. If you'd like to connect, he's always happy to chat.

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Feel free to reach out to Nitesh directly at:
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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Special Feature

Thank you to those who fought, and still fight today.

Please Pause to REMEMBER!

By Sherry Hanes

It is not much to ask for when you come to think of it. 'Pause to Remember'? Take a moment or give a moment. But please have one clear thought for true appreciation for the freedoms and liberties that we all enjoy today in our great nation!

Canada is known to be one of the most beautiful and peaceful countries in the world but, when called to defend and fight for the right for freedom…fight for the oppressed, fight for justice and liberation for those held in political captivity and are murdered and tortured, Canadians from all ethnicities, answer, as they always do, to the desperate call!

The horrific wars that were fought in the past and the gruesome wars that are still being fought around the world today, are too much for anyone to imagine. Canada and other nations try to intervene and try to bring peace, or enforce it, if you really must know.

Their days and night are filled with danger and uncertainty. Any second could be their last!

Try to imagine yourself being the victim of political ethnic cleansing, brutality, torture, murder of your families right before your eyes…rape, extortion, public beatings, abductions? Must I go on?

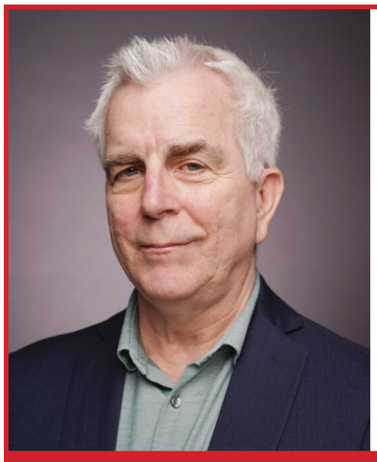
On this Remembrance Day, take the time to be grateful! Take the time to honour the fallen and the veterans who remain, and honour their families too, for they have also made great sacrifices, missing their loved ones and having them return home broken and misunderstood or…or not at all! Thank them for all man-kind. Thank them because they gave something we couldn't and didn't have to…their lives, their time, their freedom, their health, their limbs! Thank them because without them, you would not be standing here today…Thanking them!

It is not much to ask for, one moment of silence, or just an expression of gratitude, for even just one moment …just think how it might be if you were there yourself? … where they ARE or WERE?

Please remember the message in the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrea:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky

Continue



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REMEMBRANCE DAY

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Thank you to those who fought, and still fight today.



Please Pause to REMEMBER!

Continue

The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

We thank you for standing up and giving your best hearts' salute to all who gave theirs, when they made the decision to defend.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

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We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

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Special Feature

Thank you to those who fought, and still fight today.



We must remember.
If we do not, the sacrifice of those one hundred thousand Canadian lives will be meaningless.
They died for us, for their homes and families and friends, for a collection of traditions they cherished and a future they believed in; they died for Canada.
The meaning of their sacrifice rests with our collective national consciousness; our future is their monument.





Retirement for Mayor Ken Boshcoff - October Feature



NORTH SUPERIOR PUBLISHING
THUNDER BAY BUSINESS

Mayor Ken Boshcoff Retires

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
***Thunder Bay* BUSINESS**

Mayor Ken Boshcoff is retiring after almost 50 years in public service! I asked Ken some questions recently.



You were born and raised in Thunder Bay Ken?

" I was born in Fort William and lived on West Frederica Street, Westfort. I grew up with a view of Mt McKay in all it's glory and all it's seasons."

" My father worked for CP Rail but he died when I was seven. My mother worked as a janitoress to make ends meet. My brother, Ed, went to night school for grade 10 and then he worked in the daytime in insurance offices and ended up buying them. I also have one sister who is still in California."

" I did 2 years at St Pats and 3 years at Westgate. Then it was an honours degree in economics and political science at Lakehead finishing in 1972. Next I went to York University for a Masters in Environmental Studies."

What was your work career at the beginning Ken?

" My professor at York was John Livingston who wrote a huge bird book and he said you should go work for national parks. I ended up working for 4 or 5 national parks in ecology and park design. You never had to pay rent and I was getting paid. With those credentials you had many choices for jobs so I picked one here in Thunder Bay in Environmental Planning working for the Federal government."

" Near the end of that time we were doing all kinds of fundraising emphazing the word FUN raising. We would organize parties on the Welcome Ship for " Save the Whales" and had big dances to "Save the Seals". Everyone was between 21 and 26 years old and it was the disco area. Some say I still like to party but not like they used to be."
" Eventually I joined the family insurance firm and became a partner. We then got bought by AON Reed Stenhouse and my brother and I became Vice Presidents for them."

Continued

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Congratulations on your retirement, Mayor Ken Boshcoff!



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Retirement for Mayor Ken Boshcoff - October Feature



NORTH SUPERIOR PUBLISHING
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Mayor Ken Boshcoff Retires

Continued
When did your political career begin?

" In politics I first ran for the Northwood Ward against Dale Willoughby and Romeo Lovis who were very strong candidates with strong name recognition and also good people. I didn't know that because when you are that young.

" I had like 50 canvessors. At that age, 25 or 26, you had nothing but friends so we knocked on every door in Northwood. I never had to say anything negative. One of the adages for the rest of my live. When I went to the door they would say I'm a Willoughby or Lovis fan and I would say you have two votes and I won because they were close and the vote split."



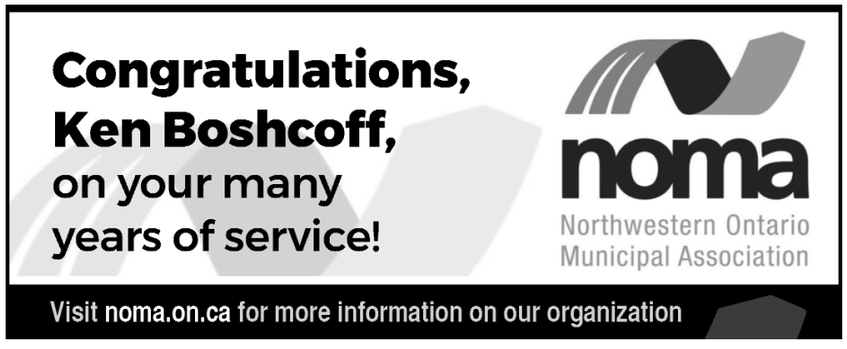
Mayor Ken Boshcoff with Larry Joy, Policy Assistant

So you have been in politics since 1978, almost 50 years?

" I did two terms in the Northwood ward, ran at large and then became mayor. Everyone wanted to be mayor because they have this idea from American television that the mayor calls Lassie and they rescue people. In the US mayors have more strong powers. In Ontario the mayor has one vote on council."

Continued







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Mayor Ken Boshcoff Retires



Continued

You also had some federal political experience?

" I was elected twice for Federal politics as an MP in 2004 and then 2006. It was only for 4 1/2 years in total and you need 6 years to get a pension. In my first term Paul Martin was the Prime Minister and in the second term Stephen Harper was PM. It was quite interesting. I ran again as MP again but it wasn't to be. By then the conservatives had a majority that was going to last for a long time. That was when I ran for mayor again."

How have you seen Thunder Bay progress over these years?

" When I ran for this term the city was on it's knees, everyone was closing shops, people we packing up and not really happy about anything. Now we see almost every week I am going to a new business opening or someone having an anniversary of their business or looking for people to work."

Continued

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Retirement for Mayor Ken Boshcoff - October Feature



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Continued

" We won an award for Ontario for building more homes which was worth a few million for the city. You can really see the difference from a few years ago when people were really quite depressed. Each year we have seen an improvement. Now things are really zooming here. Almost every week I go to a new business or some celebrating a business milestone. We have three new hotels going up right now."

How was your role in the growth?

" What is the role of the mayor. I never had to use strong mayor powers because we were always building so many homes. Strong mayor powers is a valuable tool with the right major but I never had to use it."

" The city as a community has got on board which is one thing. The second is in connection with the other mayors in the area we all decided to lay down our guns and lobby for the Northwest. The Association of Mayors of Ontario, Large Urban Mayors, the Great Lakes Mayors, the Thunder Bay District Municipal League - everyone is much more cohesive."

What is is like being the mayor of Thunder Bay?

" The mayors job is 70 hour a week, 7 day a week. You are always the mayor. People will see you somewhere, which is a good thing. You have to be prepared for the fact that people want to know they can approach their mayor and talk. People will talk to you anywhere, anytime. I think it is a blessing that people know they can talk to the mayor anytime. Not every week or day you will be working but you will always be the Mayor. You have enjoy it and to me it has always been kind of a secret weapon. This is my city and I am so pleased how far we have come so far in 3 1/2 years."

Continued

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In Gratitude to
Mayor Ken Boshcoff
on your many years of service!

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Mayor Ken Boshcoff
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Best wishes for your retirement!

Scott Sumner and the team at North Superior Publishing Inc.

Retirement for Mayor Ken Boshcoff - October Feature



NORTH SUPERIOR PUBLISHING
THUNDER BAY BUSINESS

Mayor Ken Boshcoff Retires

Continued
You were always very approachable as Mayor Ken?

" If a citizen wants to meet you they can call ahead and come in for a meeting, or if they want me to come and look at a problem I will. You have to want to do it, you can never be too busy for anybody."

What has been your most positive achievement as Mayor?

" The change in community spirit and people now realize we are a big city and we can do what we want. People we're really down on the city and now more optimistic. The South Core Roar is an example and showed community spirit."

Ken what is on the horizon for you?

" I would like to do some more travel and see more of the world. There are 200 countries in the world and I have only been to about 106 of them. The world though is much more dangerous now."

" More importantly I have to get back to the gym with yoga and weights and that kinda of stuff, including Tai Chi."

When will you leave the position Ken?

" My last day is November 19th but the election is much sooner and it

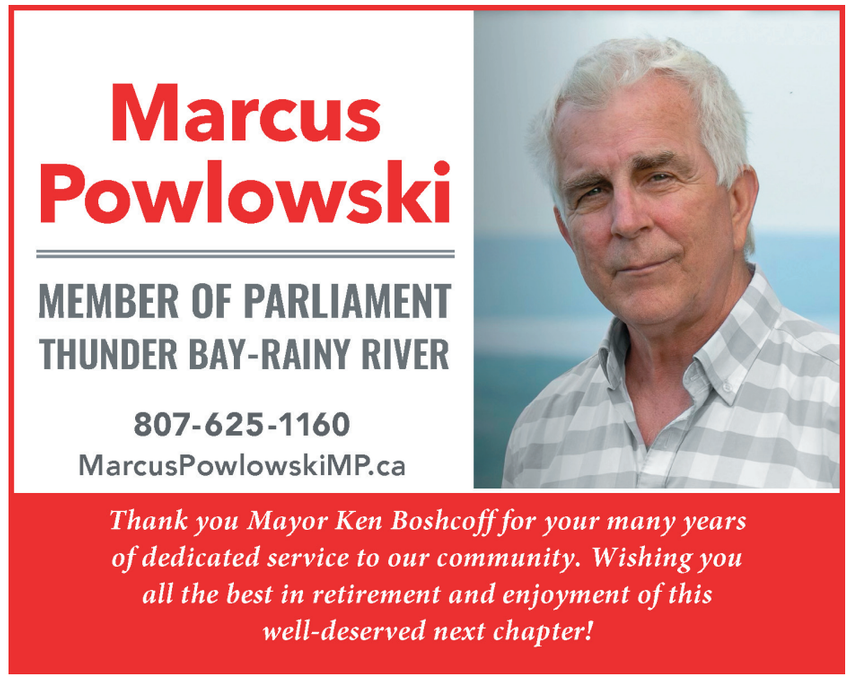


depends if the new mayor wants to start earlier. I can show them or help them in transition. They may need a rest after the campaign. If you are a door knocker you will get much stronger because you are going up all the steps and the people will tell you what they think. They are not shy."

Anything else you would like to add Ken?

" In summary we could not have achieved as much with out the collegiality and trust of the council and that translates as well to the administration team. In the past some councils may not have got along so well but this one has been pretty good. There is always room for improvement but as long as council votes democratically and administration, administrate everyone knows where there are at and going."





Government of Canada investing nearly $5 million to enhance economic development across Northern Ontario

FedNor investments will help strengthen and expand regional business supports to build local economies

Entrepreneurs are facing unprecedented change in the business landscape, from tumultuous international trade markets to rapidly changing technologies and innovations. Canada's economy has long been a leader in fostering the success of small and medium-sized enterprises and translating that success into national strength and achievement.

To that end, the Government of Canada is supporting strategic action that ensures businesses can continue to establish and grow, build an economy that ensures Canadians continue to thrive.

That is why the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for FedNor, today announced a total FedNor investment of $4,985,998 in five economic development projects that directly support small and medium-sized enterprises in Thunder Bay and across Northern Ontario.

As a result of these investments, Northern Ontario businesses will benefit from financial assistance opportunities, business counselling, access to information and resources, the development of industry networks, and improved and expanded labour force matching and retention. Additionally, FedNor funds will support the Government of Canada's commitment to advancing economic reconciliation through the awarding of federal contracts to Indigenous-owned businesses.

These initiatives are expected to help strengthen and expand the local economies by empowering businesses to continue innovating and growing.

For more detail on the projects being funded, please see the associated backgrounder.

Quotes

"Northern Ontario's economy grows when more people have the chance to participate. These investments will help entrepreneurs build good jobs close to home and help communities create an economy that includes everyone who lives here. When talented people can build their careers in Northern Ontario, they stay and the whole region is stronger for it."

• The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for FedNor, and Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay—Superior North

"The world needs women to be leaders, and PARO is proud to be an organization that uplifts women in Northern Ontario to thrive in our regional economy by seizing business opportunities and building the communities they call home. Thanks to FedNor's support, we can continue to provide a solid foundation for not just growth but also continued adaptation in a changing economy. Our mission is to empower women, strengthen small business, and promote economic development. Thanks to collaborative partnerships like this, we have supported nearly 50,000 businesses to date, and we look forward to bolstering many more."

• Rosalind Lockyer, Founder & CEO, PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise

"True economic reconciliation requires moving beyond policy targets to building actionable, Indigenous-led pathways to commercial success. Through our Procurement Navigator Project, the ABPA is serving as a catalyst to bridge the federal 5% procurement gap and position our First Nation businesses at the forefront of major supply chains. Our partnership with FedNor establishes a scalable, high-integrity blueprint in Northern Ontario that demonstrates how direct investment in Indigenous business capacity drives lasting economic self-determination across Canada."

• Jason Rasevych, President, Anishnawbe Business Professional Association

"Francophones provide countless economic and cultural contributions to Northwestern Ontario, and AFNOO develops and provides access to resources in order to facilitate the their integration into the region. We are proud to promote the Francophonie in several arenas, including entrepreneurship, educations, culture, and more. Thanks to FedNor and the Government of Canada, we can continue to represent Francophones in Northwestern Ontario, providing the support they need to thrive in the region."

• Élodie Grunerud, Executive Director, Association des Francophones du Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario

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Temporary Shelter Village Now Operational

The Temporary Shelter Village at 879 Alloy Place is now open and operational.

The Temporary Shelter Village is one component of the City's 10-Part Enhanced Encampment Response Action Plan. The site provides temporary indoor accommodations for individuals experiencing homelessness and supports access to services and housing pathways.

The site includes individual sleeping units, shared amenities, and supports designed to help its residents access housing and community services. Resident intake will begin over the coming days.

Continued







Temporary Shelter Village Now Operational

Continued

"The Temporary Shelter Village is now operational and will begin receiving residents shortly," said John Collin, City Manager. "The site provides a temporary indoor accommodation option for individuals experiencing homelessness and forms part of the City's broader response to homelessness, encampments, and other complex community challenges."

The site was developed through the efforts of community partners, City staff, and contractors, and is now ready to begin serving residents.

"This project represents significant collaboration, planning and preparation by many partners," said Rilee Willianen, Supervisor – Encampment Response. "Access to temporary accommodation and support services can help individuals as they work toward housing stability and other personal goals."



The City would like to acknowledge community partners, staff, contractors, and others who contributed to the planning, construction, and implementation of the project. Their collective efforts supported the delivery of a key component of the City's Enhanced Encampment Response Action Plan.

The City would also like to acknowledge the Province of Ontario, through the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board, for its $2.8 million capital contribution toward the project. This investment significantly reduced the City's original $5 million capital commitment.



THUNDER BAY BUSINESS

2026 DEADLINE / PRINTING / DISTRIBUTION DATES

Issue	Ad Copy Deadline 4PM Friday	Printing Deadline Friday	Distribution Date	Topic
February	January 23	January 27	February 1	Financial/Legal
March	February 20	February 24	March 1	Forestry/Mining
April	March 23	March 30	April 1	Transport
May	April 20	April 7	May 2	Construction
June	May 22	May 26	June 1	Report On Thunder Bay
July	June 23	June 27	July 2	Manufacturing
August	July 24	July 28	Aug 1	Environment
September	August 21	August 24	September 2	Education
October	September 21	September 8	October 1	Aboriginal
November	October 23	October 27`	November 2	Health/Remembrance Day
December	November 20	November 23	December 2	Technology/Christmas
January	December 18	December 22	January 4	Fitness

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November 2026 www.ThunderBayBusiness.ca

The 2026/ 2027 Snowmobile Season!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Great Outdoors

As we are fast approaching winter, many avid snowmobilers will start to think about the upcoming season. This year it was a good transition from the golf season to attending the inaugural Snow Show Expo at the CLE grounds. Our company, North Superior Publishing Inc. had produced 5 strictly snowmobile shows many years ago that I remember well!

There was some good snow conditions last season and it was ridable for a fairly good season. We are not able to predict the weather, but I am hoping that this year we will get a consistent snow fall for Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario.

I know the snowmobile dealers have a good



inventory of sleds available to buy. If the snow comes fairly early and the weather remains cooler, I'm sure they'll sell their sleds very quickly. Last season was a banner year for many of our local dealers with some selling hundreds of sleds including to up north locations. This tells me the sport is still quite strong.

The trail association is preparing for the season by clearing their trails of brush, readying their groomers and were at the Snow Show Expo with a booth. They sold close to 200 permits last year in Thunder Bay I was told and hope to increase that number this season.





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City Expands Build Thunder Bay Services to Include Sign Permits

The City of Thunder Bay is expanding services offered through the Build Thunder Bay: One-Stop Development Shop with the addition of sign permit applications.

This expansion supports the City's ongoing efforts to improve customer service by bringing development-related services together in one convenient location. Signage permits were previously managed through Municipal Enforcement Services.

Customers can now access sign permit applications and information at buildthunderbay.ca. Support is available by calling 807-62-BUILD (807-622-8453).

Please note that matters relating to election signs for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election will continue to be managed through Municipal Enforcement Services.

This service consolidation is part of the ongoing implementation of Action R27 - One-Stop Development Shop in Thunder Bay's Smart Growth Action Plan. This action supports growth by streamlining development processes for local businesses.

