Major Municipal Election Issues and Where the TLA Board Stands

While the TLA will not endorse any candidates in this year’s Municipal election, the Association’s Board of Directors has discussed at length what it believes are the major issues in facing voters. They are:

- The economic survival of our community
- Development issues
- Taxation issues
- User fees
- Cooperation within our community
- Water quality on all municipal bodies of water
- Municipal planning policies

Furthermore, here are positions taken by the TLA Board of Directors that will influence their personal support of any candidates in this election:

1. Unequivocal support for the Tenets for Temagami;
2. Fair taxation - see letter from President to Municipal Council (page 6);
3. A non-resident user fee policy for the Lake Temagami Access Road, associated public parking and docking areas is a priority for the next Council;
4. Candidates for Municipal office should be seen to foster cooperation between all member groups within our community including mainland residents, lake residents and the Temagami First Nation;
5. Improved water quality through water testing initiatives and possible Municipal legislation;
6. Responsible municipal planning as set out in the Municipal Official Plan.

By Ted Tichinoff

The Board of the TLA has decided to undertake an independent water testing program for Lake Temagami. Testing the lake water will allow the formation of a base line point. Continued testing over time will allow us to monitor and identify trends of concerns. If there are troubling trends we can take steps to remedy the situation.

If, for example, testing shows that some areas of the lake have high phosphorus levels, this can be the basis to motivate cottagers to be active in combating phosphorus overloading: not washing anything in the lake, ensuring septic systems are functioning, not using fertilizers for lawns or gardens and preserving natural shorelines.

As well, it’s important to have solid data about the lake, obtained and analyzed in accordance with the highest technical standards. This information will be essential in discussions with the town or the Provincial government on issues such as the viability of the cold water fishery and the effect of future development on that cold water fishery. We should not be at the mercy of someone else’s data and interpretation of that data. In order to advocate for the lake, we have to know the biology of the lake.

Although we may presently have very good oxygen level readings and relatively low phosphorus readings, our lake may be particularly susceptible to damage and change from a small amount of new development. All lakes have a susceptibility factor and it is important to know what ours is.

In the past, various groups have conducted water testing. Some basic testing was carried out within the Lake Partners Program out of Dorset, Ontario. Lake Partners receives and tabulates phosphorus readings and secchi depth readings from cottage groups and individual cottagers all over Ontario. The Temagami Stewardship Council organized volunteer base testing with the lake partners program as late as 2007. The results, including those obtained from Lake Temagami, can be found on the Lake Partners Program website run by the Ministry of the Environment (www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water/lakepartner or google “Lake Partner Program”).

Other lake associations, particularly those in the Muskoka Lake region have conducted their own water testing program. Some of those programs began only once problems were obvious. It is hoped that the TLA’s program will be ahead of the curve.

The plan is to correlate past results and to begin in a systematic way to obtain results from 2011 on. The results will be accessible to all and likely posted on the TLA website.

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MUNICIPAL ELECTION: ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING

Monday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Temagami Community Hall / Arena, 100 Spruce Dr., Temagami North
Sponsored by the Temagami Talker and Temagami Legion
President’s letter

How many pairs of my thickest wool socks will I need to wear to “fill the shoes” of our outgoing president Rob Corcoran? What an incredible job you have done for the TLA Rob. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all of our members, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks for all of your hard work, your ingenuity and commitment, and of course all of the positive contributions you’ve made to the organization. What an honour it is to pick up the reins from you and serve as TLA President for the 2010/2011 season.

As another fantastic, but oh so short, summer comes to a close, it’s a great time to reflect on the new memories we’ve made and also on our plans for the fall and winter and what we can do to occupy time and mind, as we eagerly anticipate another summer on the lake.

The fall is an important time for the TLA. With the election of a new Board, the structuring of committees and the allocation of resources, comes a new set of challenges and goals for the upcoming year. Some of the biggest challenges we face this year are once again centred around how to best use our voice for reaching positive outcomes in important areas such as maintaining the Tenets of Temagami, encouraging fair taxation, promoting the sustainable management of our natural resources, and building relationships within the Temagami community.

Another challenge I see on the horizon is one that isn’t talked about often, but certainly warrants our attention. This challenge is to actively engage the younger generations on the lake: the ones we will be counting on for TLA membership and leadership not too far in the future. I am all ears for ideas on how we can welcome the younger generations into our organization.

While providing an active and unified voice is perhaps the fundamental role of the TLA, the TLA is also an organization of “doers”, one that has great potential to take on projects that benefit all members of the Temagami community. Some of the key projects we’re hoping to tackle this year are the creation of a TLA water quality monitoring program; expansion of the campsite clean-up and privy building initiative; and actively pursuing a cost recovery and user-fee system for the Access Road and Landings.

There are numerous other issues and projects that we will encounter and pursue this year. What is important to remember is that we are “your” organization and we strive to offer a voice and services for you, as well as the opportunity to help you make Temagami a better place for all. I am very much interested in hearing from you and finding out what issues and projects you feel are most important. Please don’t hesitate to contact me. I hope everyone has a wonderful fall and enjoys some time to reflect on what was the best summer I can remember.

All the best, Andrew Healy
(Healy.Andrew@gmail.com)

It is a great time for all members to bring your ideas forward.

The TEMAGAMI TIMES welcomes signed letters or emails on any subject.

The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity and relevance. Letters containing libelous remarks, personal attacks or inaccurate information will not be published nor will open letters or copies of letters sent to public officials or governments. The opinions expressed are the letter writers’ own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Temagami Lakes Association.

SKYLINE RESERVE

The mainland surrounding Lake Temagami and Cross Lake is to be zoned as a landscape ecology zone to preserve the beauty, restore the integrity and preserve the wilderness aspect of the Temagami Forest. This ecology zone would consist of 2 reserves which would be protected from natural disturbance e.g. fire and insect infestation, but would have separate management goals and prescriptions.

The two reserves would be the following:

1. Skyline: The Lake Temagami and Cross Lake reserves must protect any part of Lake Temagami or Cross Lake with no visual evidence to the naked eye that any activities such as timber cutting or mining have taken place. The minimum dimension would be 200 metres. It would be preserved in its natural state and its permissible uses would be very limited.

2. Ecological Buffer Reserve: This would surround the skyline reserve to protect the natural forest and wildlife habitat ecosystems of the Temagami region. It would have a broader range of controlled activities but no new public roads would pass through it except in the village of Temagami.

ROAD ACCESS

The current ban on construction of new public road access points to Lake Temagami and Cross Lake is supported by our three groups. We define the existing public road access points to consist of the village waterfront, Finlayson Park, Strathcona Landing and the Lake Temagami Access Road landings. We agree that, where possible, parking areas must be screened from the main body of the Lake. Shiningwood Bay, Cross Lake, Austin Bay, Blue Bay and any other illegal access points are to be closed using scarification methods. Existing gates are to be maintained and new ones are to be installed to prevent new public access roads to Lake Temagami and Cross Lake.

New ski-doo trails accessing Lake Temagami/Cross Lake are to be no wider than ten feet and for winter ski-doo use only. Proposals for these access points to Lake Temagami and Cross Lake are to be reviewed and sites inspected by the new governing body prior to construction.

MAINLAND DEVELOPMENT

There should be no mainland development on Lake Temagami and Cross Lake with the exception of those potential lots immediately adjacent to the Township of Temagami that are able to be serviced by the Township’s central sewage treatment facility. All other future development will occur on islands, the number and location to be determined by the revised official plan which will be sensitive to current ecological standards.
ELECTION 2010

Some Considerations When Selecting Councillor and Mayoral Candidates

By Rob Corcoran,
Outgoing TLA President

As the first four-year municipal term comes to a close, I would like to extend my thanks to those who have served the Municipality. Those of us who have had the opportunity to meet with and work closely with many of you respect the challenges imposed by the Province, and the level of effort that our Mayor and Council members have to put in to meet the challenges of their roles in Temagami.

This term has seen a high turnover among councillors and, in a municipality the size of Temagami, there are really only so many residents with the gumption, time and skills to fill many of the key roles in running a community.

While our elected government process dates back to simpler times, the reality is that the situation becomes progressively more complicated with each new term. The Province seems to have no shortage of time to create new regulations and download more responsibility to residents.

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TLA Flea Market: A Great Tradition Restored

By Elodie Tichinoff

After skipping a year for the first time since 1982, it looks like the Temagami Flea Market is back.

The return of the flea market is good news. It’s a community event that’s well attended and has a good history.

The market is a place for cottagers to recycle their used stuff, some of which is useful to other cottagers, and some of which is only slightly delayed on its journey to the landfill. But that’s what flea markets are all about.

It’s a fun market. Some of the more astute buyers have always been kids who come away, often for little more than pocket change, with veritable treasures (I can remember my youngest proudly returning with typewriter ribbons; a wooden crank ice cream maker; circa 1960’s water skis; and, for his mother, an amazing rolodex-type listing of the recipes for every martini and cocktail ever mixed.)

The flea market is also a major social event. For those who have been on the lake, it’s an opportunity to see old friends. Grandparents can proudly introduce the newest grandchildren to the lake community. For new cottage owners, it’s an occasion to get a sense of the community.

Bake tables have formed part of the flea market since the beginning. In more recent times, the flea market has been a venue for local vendors and craft makers to display their wares and sell some of their work.

The event has always counted on volunteers from the lake community. In that tradition, Rocco and Charlene Tamburro of island 211 and Debbie Nixon of island 850 have stepped forward to organize the event for the summer of 2011.

Those of you who wish to come out and volunteer to ensure the success of the flea market can contact Peter Healy at the TLA office or the 2011 organizers, Charlene Tamburro and Debbie Nixon. In the lead up to the event the TLA will be receiving and storing items for the flea market.

I am sure that all of us who have worked at or spent time at the flea market are happy to see its return. We can all look forward to the tradition continuing into the future.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Taxes & Temagami’s Economy: The Role of the Mine Road

By Judy Gouin

The unique environment of Temagami in general, and of Lake Temagami in particular, owes much to Ontario’s policy for timber in the area, as embodied in the Temagami Forest Reserve, created in 1903. The legacy of that policy, and the conscientious foresight of the TLA in preserving it through the Tenets for Temagami and the Official Plan, have created extraordinary value in the private properties on Lake Temagami.

As more and more northern Ontario lakes are developed, as southern cities in general and Toronto in particular get closer and closer, that value will only increase. So the only way to reduce the tax burden on these property owners is to “lower the absolute tax burden,” as Walter Ross suggested in his letter to the Temagami Talker, published in the June issue.

But instead of relying on upper levels of government to somehow reduce our costs, or engaging in endless, divisive bickering over who pays how much for what, I think we have an obvious opportunity to 1) reduce the absolute tax burden and 2) distribute that tax burden more evenly, by developing the economy, and thus the tax base, of the “urban” areas of Temagami.

Both these objectives can be achieved, I believe, by turning the Lake Temagami Access Road back to a toll road, and the landings with it.

The decision to make the Mine Road a public road (the Lake Temagami Access Road) was made by a referendum and has always been respected. However, decisions made through democratic processes are not necessarily wise ones. In my opinion (and that of many old-timers who warned against it at the time), this one was a mistake.

Now, as a result of provincial government downloading and amalgamation, Temagami is actually taxing its citizens to provide and maintain a detour around its business section. What other municipality in the world taxes its businesses so that their competitors can have free access to business oppor-

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ELECTION 2010
continued from page 3
wife was born in Temagami, she’s been away for many decades), the “warring factions” in this community have been something of an eye opener.

For a community this size, we have far more battles going on than would seem to make sense. In times when all groups pulling together is paramount to the success of a community, there are some in the community who choose to light fires (figuratively speaking) and make questionable statements about a range of community members, including a wide swath of our elected municipal representatives.

Politics is by definition an activity where opinions and differing interests come together. The intent is to allow the freedom of opinion and to support majority rule. Where there are those who have different viewpoints, it is up to them to convince the remaining councillors that their viewpoint should be considered.

Elected officials are responsible for the interests and well being of their constituents. While in their elected positions, their personal interests (private viewpoints and business interests) are not items to be included in their activities. In higher level politics, (e.g. Federal), elected officials are required to distance themselves from business interests, which could represent a conflict of interest situation, for the duration of their terms.

One reality in Municipal politics is that this line can sometimes become blurred, particularly in smaller communities where the wages of elected officials are not sufficient to enable them to not hold down another job. The obligation is then on the elected official to ensure that his/her personal and business interests are clearly separated from the Municipal work and interests of the Municipality, essentially her/his constituents.

TEMAGAMI COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE

Temagami does not employ a ward-based system for our representation. As Temagami is a rather wide-ranging community, perhaps this is something to be considered as a potential future change. As it stands now, we rely upon the integrity of our elected officials,

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Highlights of the TLA’s 79th AGM

The 79th Temagami Lakes Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at Camp Wabun on Wednesday, July 28, 2010.

Just for the record, and for those members who missed the TLA’s Annual General Meeting on July 28 at Camp Wabun, here are selected highlights of the event:

Opening Remarks:

TLA President Rob Corcoran called the meeting to order and thanked the Directors of Camp Wabun for hosting the meeting. The Mayor of the Municipality of Temagami, Ike Laba, addressed the members and brought greetings from the municipality.

Chief Roxane Ayotte of the Temagami First Nation provided an update on the projects underway at Bear Island including the updating the constitution, the hiring of an executive director and a new membership code. The Chief and Council invite the Province to come back to the table to hopefully complete the land claim process.

Temagami Co-op Report:

Co-op Board President, Paul Middleton, acknowledged the difficulties in maintaining the co-op due to financial losses and restructuring. He reported receipts of gifts from the community of $25,000 as a result of an appeal in the Temagami Times.

Consultants were brought in to offer training and tools to management in the running of the store. Mentors were also brought in to work alongside to facilitate learning for all employees. Ordering and spending programs have been implemented to control costs and other consultant recommendations were initiated. Paul reported that “We can see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

Temagami Fish Improvement Program Report:

Hatchery rate up – 58% to 70% hatch rate increase from 2009 – 2010; Fingerprinting production: Roosevelt Road, Sherman and Red Squirrel Rd ponds used for fingerlings and due to low water many fingerlings were lost. Mergansers and snapping turtle also contributed to fingerling loss; Creek clearing; Some creeks have been identified for rehabilitation. Please notify Paul Middleton if you know of any additional creeks that require de-clogging.

Fish and Wildlife co-chair, Andrew Healy, presented TAFIP chair Paul Middleton a check for $1,000 on behalf of the members of the TLA.

Tla Committee Reports:

Planning: (Hilton Young)

The Tenets for Temagami continue to be the foundation of TLA planning efforts.

There is a five year review of the Official Plan now underway. The TLA has made many submissions and attended meetings on this process.

Re: the Planning Advisory Committee - Section 9.2 of the official plan appears to be non-conforming to the original amalgamation agreement that provides the lake community with equal representation on the Planning Advisory Committee. Municipal Council has deferred a vote on this at the request of the TLA so that further study can take place.

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Municipal Projects and Funding

The Temagami Lakes Association has been asking for more details from the Municipality on capital project expenditures and where the funds for these projects have come from. Below is a list supplied by the Municipality of the major projects scheduled for this year, currently underway or that have been completed within this term of Council, and how they are/were funded.

IN 2010 CAPITAL BUDGET

- Replace Temagami South water tower recirculation system (gas tax funding/user fees)
- New bridge to replace large culvert on Lake Temagami Access Road at Tapapa Creek (100% provincial “roads and bridges” funding).

- Arena upgrades including new flooring in the lobby of the arena, new flooring in the Community Hall, some upgrades to seating, and energy conservation projects. (67% RInC federal funding/ balance tax levy)
- Wheelchair ramp at chalet (100% federal HRDC funding)
- New accessible washrooms upstairs and downstairs at the arena (100% federal HRDC funding)
- Structural renovations to accommodate accessible washrooms above (67% RInC funded)
- Engineering the industrial component of the Lake Temagami Access Point landing (90% FedNor funding)
- Rebuilt retaining wall and refurbished boat ramp at Manitou Landing (90% FedNor funding)

IN PRIOR YEARS BUDGETS

- Rebuilt retaining walls at the Mine landing (municipal funds)
- New playground in Temagami North (100% DNSSAB funding for materials / volunteer labour)
- Public Library and Employment Resource Center Project (82% funded by the province)
- Renovation of the Welcome Center (project funding 50%)
Temagami Community Market: Another Successful Season!

By Dianne Laronde

The Temagami Community Market got off to another great start this summer season with vendors from Temagami, Powassan, Kirkland Lake, North Bay and Earlton. The selection these fine people brought to the Market was irresistible to the many who made it a tradition to visit each Saturday… rain or shine!

Tourists and local residents were greeted with an array of tempting and delicious maple sugar products, home-baked pies, bread, jams, freshly-cut flowers and perennials, freshly-picked blueberries and strawberries as well as fine jewelry, handmade soaps, knitted and quilted products and meticulously crafted furniture!

The Market would not have had the same friendly atmosphere if it were not for J.C. and Shelley making sure there was plenty of good old down home music that made everyone feel like dancing and singing along! The smell of those hamburgers and hotdogs cooking was wonderful!

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who made it a point to visit us and to the Municipality for their assistance in this venture. Also, to the Lions Club and Bill Kitts for the tents they erected for us and to Richard and Claire Smerdon for their services.

We are looking forward to next summer with a great deal of enthusiasm and hope to see everyone out again.

At this time, I would like to extend an invitation to anyone and everyone who would like to join our market next summer. If you have an interesting product we would like to talk with you. We are looking for additional vendors and would be interested in hearing from you. If so, please call Sabrina Picard at the Municipal Office 569-3421 or Dianne Laronde at 569-3686.

Once again, thanks to everyone.

The Role of the Mine Road continued from page 3

tourities that should be theirs?

Why, for example, should canoe trip outfitters in Temagami pay taxes to provide a road that their competitors from points south can use for free? At least, if it were a toll road, the playing field would be more level. As it is, business opportunities of all kinds bleed down the Lake Temagami Access Road because there is no necessity for people coming north on Highway 11 to go through the town of Temagami to reach the Lake.

In the Economic Development Strategy prepared for the Municipality in 2003, Summit Consulting says, “Temagami’s future lies not so much in looking externally for new development opportunities, but in examining the successes of its past to identify practical solutions for the future.” (p.14)

Long before timber cutting, mining, and the regional offices of the MNR and OPP became the core of the town’s economy, the tourism business opportunities represented by access to Lake Temagami were its sole reason for being. Based on traditional use as part of the portage route between two watersheds, the community became the intersection of the railway and boat lines, and later the highway. A community that loses the purpose represented by its location also loses the basis for an economy, and that is where we find ourselves now.

Every year, our population dwindles, and those residents who remain are older and older. Every year, our businesses have fewer customers and our school has fewer students. In the past year, our school had a total of fifty-eight students and older. Every year, our businesses have fewer customers and our school has fewer students. In the past year, our school had a total of fifty-eight students.

Every year, our population dwindles, and those residents who remain are older and older. Every year, our businesses have fewer customers and our school has fewer students. In the past year, our school had a total of fifty-eight students.

Of course, fifty years of public use have resulted in patterns of dependency on the Lake Temagami Access Road and landings, not just for seasonal residents and businesses based in other communities, but for permanent residents and our own businesses as well. The greater fuel-efficiency of automobile engines compared to boat engines also means that travel by boat the length of the northeast arm is unacceptably expensive.

I propose that this very fact represents economic development opportunities for Temagami as we anticipate the arrival of “peak oil”. Public transportation by train, boat, and shuttle bus is about to become more attractive, as fuelling our own private vehicles becomes increasingly unaffordable.

Viewed from this perspective, the days of the boat lines in Temagami have a futuristic quality to them, as does the image of baggage carts moving from the station to the docks, as dozens of visitors disembark from the train.

In the Ogilvie & Ogilvie economic development study of 1989, the fourth of the ten components of an economic development strategy is identified as “Image building...create positive community image within the community and external to [it] in support of both local opportunity development and external opportunity attraction.”

If the move away from single-vehicle access via a lengthy and expensive public road in favour of developing public transportation alternatives is pitched as a “green” decision, could it also provide an opportunity for the developers of “green” alternatives to internal combustion engines? We have four barge operators and two marinas on Lake Temagami, and another marina on Snake Lake. We have an industrial park with good access to both the highway and the ONR railway to points north and south.

Although we are far from sources of...
July 14, 2010
Mayor and Council
Municipality of Temagami
Temagami Ontario

Dear Mayor and Council:

We would like to acknowledge the municipal leadership, past and present, who have provided tangible support for the Tenets for Temagami and the furtherance and implementation of those principles by the Temagami Planning Advisory Committee’s (PAC) advice to council.

Recent discussions by council which could provide for the repudiation of the agreed on structure and membership of PAC as outlined in the August 15, 1997 Restructuring Commission Final Report (Final Report) is disturbing. PAC structure and membership was agreed to after negotiations which also explored a number of other governance formats including the rejection of amalgamation. PAC structure and membership was the central consideration as the Lake Temagami community proceeding with amalgamation. It has been central to a successful and harmonious relationship which has included tangible support by the TLA to the municipality in two OMB appeals.

The Temagami Lakes Association understood that property taxes resulting from amalgamation would increase but in return there was an understanding that the new Official Plan (OP) would incorporate the principles of the Tenets for Temagami as well as the Final Report. However, the size and proportion of municipal tax revenue paid by the Lake Temagami Neighbourhood has grown beyond expectations. Add that to the recent attempts by some to pursue Lake Temagami mainland development at Ferguson Point and Mountain as well as the possible restructuring of PAC and it is difficult not to place the original concept of harmonious amalgamation under strain.

We request that further actions by council related to the structure or membership of PAC be devoted to maintaining compliance with or bring PAC and all supporting local documents into compliance with Section 5.2 of the Final Report. This section provides that “... the committee be composed of fifty percent representation from qualified electors from islands on Lake Temagami.” This should include the correction of the oversight, error or late insertion in Section 9.2 of the OP dealing with membership of PAC and insuring continued compliance with By-law 02-536.

Rob Corcoran,
President, Temagami Lakes Association
cc.: Alan McNair  Jane Thompson

July 14, 2010
Mayor and Council
Municipality of Temagami
Temagami Ontario

Dear Mayor and Council:

This letter is written on the ongoing issue of Property Taxes on Lake Temagami. Without a doubt, funding the needs of a Municipality is something of a challenge, with the “curve balls” provided by our Provincial and Federal Budgets. We respect the fact that the Municipality is doing what it can to maintain the historical levels of service in the Municipality.

The point of this letter is to highlight what appear to be significant infrastructure capital costs, which would have some direct impact on the taxes paid by the “non-urban” residents across the Municipality of Temagami. For example, for residents who are provided with fire service, some of the capital costs (e.g., Marten River fire rescue vehicle) fit into their user-fee or service-based continued on page 7
Summary of TLA Meeting with Municipal Representatives to Discuss TLA Concerns

By Rob Corcoran
On Friday August 6, 2010, TLA representatives Rob Corcoran, Boyd Matchett, David McFarlane, Gerry Kluwak, and Peter Calverley met with representatives from Municipal Council and staff.

There were five items discussed resulting from the TLA submission to Municipal Council on July 22.

Items discussed are as follows:

Re: Clarity / Transparency of financial information
- It was agreed that more clarity is needed and that a higher standard of accounting and accountability is needed.
- The Municipality is only now getting a handle on their true costs.
- Any Capital costs paid for from debt need to be acknowledged as such.
- The need to identify where funds are being allocated was acknowledged.

Re: User Fee Levy
This topic was discussed in detail.
- It was suggested that there was no written agreement from amalgamation on record. It was agreed by both sides that any available documentation on amalgamation, including from the TLA files, should be gathered for both sides to read and come to a clear understanding.
- It was suggested by the municipality that operating fees were to be covered out of user fees, but not capital costs. TLA position remains that capital costs are a particularly relevant aspect of these area-rated services.

Re: Increased / Revived TLA Participation
- Discussion of a means by which TLA and Municipal budget committee involvement could be achieved
- TLA wants to have members on Budget committee
- Additional meetings akin to the 6 Aug meeting were discussed – potentially 2-3 of these per year, aligned with budget effort

Re: Holding the line on tax increases
- With the March 10 Council allocation of surplus capital budget fees to various area-rated services, discussion of capping property taxes was undertaken.
- The Municipality maintained that the areas which were funded out of surplus capital budget was covered out of user fees
- The 2010 budget clearly shows that “reserves” made up a significant portion of funding, and that reserves were topped up using surplus capital budget from 2009.
- The need to contain tax growth was discussed. The range of significant cost growth looming was pointed out, and it was suggested that capping taxes was likely not an option for the Municipality.
- Infrastructure spending with long term carrying costs needs to be reviewed.
- Industrial Landing efforts – will benefit specific lake businesses. The municipality advised that the access point project cannot be done without user fees and government funding, but the TLA still has concerns that some of the costs may be borne by the general tax base (i.e. waterfront properties). This needs to be reviewed.
- There was no commitment from the Municipality to the TLA view that there should be an emphasis on user fees to pay for capital projects.
- There was no commitment from the Municipality to a tax freeze as the newly elected council will determine that as well as the uncertainty of various provincial and/or federal grants.

Re: Parking and Docking Fees for Mine Road
A feasibility study should be undertaken by the new council.

LETTERS FROM TLA TO TOWN COUNCIL
continued from page 6
taxation source. For a great many of the Municipality’s taxpayers, however, some of the significant investments of past years, and those planned for the future, would appear to be outside of the agreed-upon areas of taxation.

We note that in the annual letters from the Municipality when MPAC Assessment rates increase, the municipal tax rates generally decrease. However, we seem to be in a situation where the overall taxes collected are continuing to increase on an annual basis. In 1998, the first tax year after amalgamation, total Municipal tax revenues were $1.535 million (with additional government grants totaling $368,000 and User Fees accounting for $90,000 in revenue. Since that time, the Municipality’s revenue has increased steadily. For those of us on the lake, the initial “cost” of amalgamation was a tax increase of approximately 150-200%. Tax revenues have in 2009 were $3.06 million and are projected at $3.23 million in 2010. Grants collected in 2009 totaled $1.334 million, and user fees in 2008 (we do not have data for 2009 user fees) were $180,000.

The MPAC guidelines clearly state, that an increase in assessed value is NOT necessarily a reason for increasing the taxes collected. It’s important to note that all waterfront properties generate about 60 % of Municipal tax revenues.

When the Lake and Municipality amalgamated in 1998, we did so recognizing the value of our input to the community as a whole. We agreed that our participation was essential to the sustainability of the Municipality of Temagami. At that time the Lake community was permitted to provide an advisory and oversight role in the planning and budgeting process. Since that time, the TLA’s role in the budget planning process has been eliminated, and the Municipality has not yet provided the TLA with a written explanation of why this has occurred. The TLA remains interested in working with the Municipality to assist in the budgeting process.

For reference, at the time of amalgamation, there was not a huge gap between assessed values of municipal properties and waterfront properties in the new Municipality. With the fee-based adjustments, taxes for many a waterfront property, and, presumably for many an urban property, were in the range of $1000/year.

As a means of addressing the needs (and costs) of different classes of property in a community, the Ministry of Finance had included allowances that specific classes of property not be charged for services not received. As such, in communities where a portion of the residences are not on a sewer system, those residences are not billed for the costs associated with the sewage system. Similarly, for such items as municipal water, when a portion of a community is rural, while those serviced are “urban.” In the case of Temagami, services such as fire protection are also not available to most waterfront residents.

With this understood at the time of amalgamation, non-serviced residents of the then new Municipality of Temagami were not to be billed for the costs of the water, and sewer services, and received significantly reduced billing for fire services, consistent with the Ministry of Finance definitions.

As only the “urban” taxpayers seem to be in a situation where their taxes are relatively flat, and as there seems to be some perception that cottage residents “deserve” to pay for any increases in Temagami, we nevertheless assume that we are continued on page 8
equal partners in the Municipality of Temagami, and that our rights are equivalent to those of any other citizens.

Reviewing some of the available information, we note that last year’s surplus appears to have been in excess of $200,000, at a time when the tax increase was some $150,000.

Rather than carrying this surplus forward to 2010, the surplus was apparently applied to a number of areas associated with capital costs, reserves, and debt payment. Many of these were within “common” areas of the cost base. A portion of it was applied to the following items:

- Purchase of a new fire rescue truck in Marten River (anticipated cost: $230,000, amount transferred not recorded)
- Against Grinder Pump Long Term Debt ($48,000)
- Reserves for Sewer Chambers ($23,000)
- Reserves for Temagami North Sewage Lagoon ($43,000)

All of these items would seem to fall under the area- or service-specific fee category.

Can the Municipality show us how the costs of aforementioned items are being paid for by the users of these services? If the Municipality is unable to use the amount of a given year’s tax increase, this amount should be used to balance the subsequent year’s costs, or better yet, to reduce the taxes for a subsequent year.

For 2010, the Municipality voted on a 5.5% tax increase to partially cover the approximately $600,000 in planned capital projects.

This year’s capital program includes what appears to be a $283,000 cost towards the water table in Temagami North in order to reduce the inflow (approximately 3:1 groundwater to sewage) into the leaky sewage lines in the area. The Municipality has subsequently suggested that this is road work. The TLA, on the other hand, considers that this project is very much focused on addressing a sewage problem and, as such, should be seen as an area-specific user-fee expenditure. If this is correct, then we believe a proposed tax increase for 2010 could have been avoided and general tax revenues held to the 2009 level.

Looking ahead, there appear to be significant capital costs looming for anticipated future projects.

One very notable item is maintenance work for the Fox Run road to the White Bear Estates. There is a $250,000 one-time expense anticipated in 2011 and $50,000 projected annually in the years 2012-2019. We understand that the Municipality may have assumed this roadway before the necessary work (completion of paving) had been completed by the developers of White Bear Estates.

If this is correct, all of the taxpayers of Temagami are apparently being asked to underwrite a major cost of the White Bear Estates project.

For future years, there appear to be pending sewer and water capital projects which could cost (collectively) more than $4 million over the next three years. This represents a total cost of about $10,000 for each of the 400 “urban” properties. Presumably there will be some level of grant support for such work, but we question how much of these costs are intended to be covered out of general capital budgets.

As far as we can assess, significant (about $900,000) capital investments in the form of accrued debt, have been made in recent years for sewer and water system upgrades, and grinder pumps for the sewage treatment plants. Can the Municipality clarify for us where the funding for these projects (and the payments for this debt) is coming from?

Furthermore, can the Municipality clarify how these fee-based services are (or are not) being funded out of general capital budgets? In addition to capital costs, what level of costs for service-specific infrastructure maintenance is being paid for out of the general Public Works labour pool? What percentage of equipment costs (vehicle use, maintenance costs and depreciation) is associated with the percentage of operational use associated with ser...
LETTERS FROM TLA TO TOWN COUNCIL
continued from page 8

vice-specific work activities?
In addition, we ask that the annual habit of increasing taxes be curtailed. Balancing budgets is absolutely essential. Many capital infrastructure projects can be delayed and probably spread over future years. This could include the proposed re-building of South Tetapaga bridge/culvert project on the Lake Temagami Access Road, if sufficient “life” remains in the existing culvert.

The addition of parking and docking fees for users at the end of the Mine Road should be pursued as a means of raising perhaps several hundred thousand dollars in revenue per year. The Municipality has no trouble charging for parking and docking within the Town of Temagami. A system to recover road and landing maintenance fees from the great many non-Temagami residents who use the Mine Road would assist in correcting the inequity which the province created when maintenance of this road was downloaded to the Municipality.

As our Municipal government, we ask you to provide suitable clarity as to where our tax dollars are being spent. The lake community has accepted that at some times assistance from the entire community may be needed for exceptional situations. This should not, however be treated as a matter of course, and the affected residents should be consulted on such matters, as they are clearly inconsistent with the MOF’s guidelines on service-based taxation for different property classes.

There seems to be a general perception that waterfront property residents are not adding anything to the Municipality. Their particular contribution to the Municipal tax base should be highlighted so that all residents are made aware that the community’s waterfront residents (seasonal and year-round) are indeed supporting the well being of the Municipality of Temagami.

We recognize that the Municipality has been able to successfully achieve government grant funding to offset the costs of many projects. It would be of interest to understand the correlation between specific grants and the applicable capital expenditures. Clarification of this breakdown by individual projects would assist in understanding Municipal expenditures.

We have attempted in this letter to articulate some of our thinking in respect to broad taxation matters and would appreciate your response to those questions raised.
Sincerely,
Rob Corcoran,
President

The Role of the Mine Road continued from page 5

supply and major markets, we still have a famous name and are well located for access to northern markets across Ontario and Québec. For the right company (-ies), Temagami could be the perfect site for testing and perfecting new, “green” technologies for transportation by water and by road. If it has appeal for transportation technologies, perhaps “green” home heating and urban infrastructure technologies would also benefit from being tested and proven, and branded, in Temagami.

The point on which all of this turns is, I believe, the Lake Temagami Access Road. Hundreds of thousands of Canadian, Ontario, and Temagami taxpayers’ dollars have gone into the maintenance and upgrading of that road and the landings on The Lake. It is in excellent condition now to be handed over to the Temagami First Nation, or to a private corporation in which the First Nation would have a major interest. For either entity to operate and maintain it as a toll road represents business and employment opportunities in the town of Temagami that do not exist at the present time, with the potential for attracting more from the outside through branding Temagami as “green”.

In the November issue of the Talker and the Winter issue of the Times, Shirley Ann Northrop-Pelcher, of Island 49 in Lake Temagami, says, “We are part of Temagami too...we are part of the town as much as those born here. Please don’t forget us!” Indeed, we are all Temagami. But the Lake Temagami Access Road is the physical expression of everything that divides us. I propose that the transition from a public road to a toll road, the creation of alternative systems of transportation and public access to Lake Temagami and the groundwork for a new economy for the town of Temagami should be a four-year plan, at the top of the agenda for the new Council and for the new Economic Development Officer, and included in the new Official Plan.

(After reading the summer Times article “TLA Objects to Draft Municipality Budget with Possible Special Impact on All Lake Properties,” Temagami resident Judy Gouin wrote an open letter (reprinted here as an article because of its length) to TLA President Rob Corcoran, the Mayor and Council, and the Temagami Talker.)

Highlights of Rob Corcoran’s Response to J. Gouin’s Letter:

A big picture, long-term perspective is essential for the survival and future of Temagami. The tourism market has indeed changed and your points regarding the impact of peak oil are particularly relevant to our future.

A Temagami “branding” and a unified approach, with tourism, suitable green industry and (ideally) research work based here, will offer the ability to create a multi-layered, integrated economy here, with the green industry fitting into the tourism industry, both as an advertising means, and as an aspect of the tourism experience.

I agree strongly with your suggestions re: the mine road, and the need to rethink how residents travel the lake.

With the huge number of non-taxpayers using the mine road, what value is there for Temagami in not charging for the use of the road? Parking areas are provided, largely for non-residents, at locations such as the South Tetapaga access point.

When camping in area parks (e.g., Lady Evelyn), each camper pays $10/day to the Province. MNR have clear fees for access to their parks – for both cars and buses. We are a destination of choice for many large groups from camps across Ontario. Surely, paying for the upkeep of the road and access points would not be an objectionable item for such users.

If the Municipality does not want to consider charging tolls for parking at the end of the mine road, then why not offer this as a business opportunity for the Temagami First Nation (TFN)? This will be the northern boundary of their lands per the definitions in the present settlement territories. The Municipality could then pay a fee to the TFN to cover the share of road maintenance applicable to lake residents.
Highlights of the TLA’s 79th AGM  continued from page 4

The Lakeshore capacity assessment handbook involves a three-year study, now in its second year, to review of phosphorus content in Lake Temagami as this relates to the prohibition of development on lakes that support a naturally spawning lake trout population.

We acknowledge good planning process in the Municipality as evidenced by applications at Ferguson Point and Ferguson Mountain that were rejected. The Planning Advisory Committee recommends that provisions in the Official Plan that support these decisions remain in the plan.

Natural Resources: (Andrew Healy)

Andrew recognized Director Chip Kittredge and Jim Hasler for their assistance throughout the year.

Fish Report: A new ‘catch limit’ fish sticker that is up-to-date was produced and is available to all members, lake residents and lodges free of charge.

A Fishery Management Plan in Zone 11 initiative is underway by the MNR to govern recreational fishing. The TLA has requested a seat on the advisory board that will be created.

Forestry Report: A new 5-year forestry plan will soon be created and we will monitor this closely. The forestry plan to the west of us is also being monitored as this encompasses many canoe route areas used by Temagami youth camps.

Minning: There are no active mining activities close to Lake Temagami to report on.

Crown land maintenance project: User fees were suggested and asked for but never implemented. MNR crews are cleaning up crown lands in parks and on crown land as well as coordinating with groups to keep initiatives going.

The TLA is encouraging lake residents to keep an eye on local sites and take the initiative to monitor sites and clean up as necessary. Incident reports may also be completed and submitted to the TLA. Based on the successful ‘adopt a highway’ program we will be initiating a ‘adopt a campsite’ program with further details at the TLA building, in the Fall Times and on our website. (See page xx)

Municipal Budget and Taxes: (Rob Corcoran and Boyd Matchett)

Waterfront properties currently represent 50% of the overall tax base rising to 67% by 2012. The TLA has been meeting with the municipal representatives to review the budget process, capital spending and the user pay promises made during the amalgamation process. We hope to be part of the budget discussions next year.

With respect to potential conflicts of interest on the part of municipal councilors it is up to members of the public, and not Municipal Council, to file a complaint.

Rob pointed out that there will be a Municipal Election this fall. The TLA board will update its members throughout this process via the Fall Temagami Times and our own website.

Member Comments:

Jack Goodman, Island 352, thanked Boyd and Rob for providing factual information of violations of amalgamation agreement. The lake and town need to work together to reach solution on taxes. Jack suggested that there is a need to help the town to create self sustaining environment so that they do not need to rely on the lake residents to fund their entire infrastructure. He further suggested some new and helpful income streams to offset increases, and possibly reduce the town tax rate, such as make the Temagami Access road a user pay facility for non-residents.

Water Quality:

(Peter Healy for Ted Tichinoff)

Ted’s report in the summer Temagami Times is a good update. The TLA is moving towards more involvement in water quality studies. We feel it is in the best interest of all lake residents to have active participation in water quality. We can do this by creating base line reporting on present water quality through a testing process with volunteers.

We hope to partner with professionals, perhaps a university or college, to ensure a result that will be accepted by other organizations. The next step is to plan and budget for initiatives in 2011.

Water Study Comments:

Jack Goodman, Island Is. 352, said that the Temagami Times report and recommendations are perceived as a local versus town initiative. He urges TLA to collaborate with the town on one water study and not to initiate a second study on water quality.

Biff Lowery, Island 234, noted that Municipal water quality studies are based on lake trout study, and not new lot development. Biff noted that “new lots” have been primarily the result of residents seeking approval to subdivide their land.

Andrew Healy, TLA Director: Water quality is not only about planning but continued on page 11.

NEW TLA ELECTED

At the September 1, 2010 Temagami Lakes Association Board Meeting, director Andrew Healy, Island 981, was elected President of the TLA for a one year term. David McFarlane, Island 660, was elected as First Vice-President and Ted Tichinoff, Island 1058, was elected as Second Vice-President.

ATTENTION - Future Journalists/Lake Community Archivists

The Temagami Times needs reporters/columnists from all corners of the lake to share their experiences, events and/or lake history. We will print submissions, subject to the usual editorial review. Students may want to contribute items as part of courses or to obtain community volunteer credits.
also about the quality of our drinking water. 

Rob Corcoran, TLA President: Water studies also needed to address beaver activity, fuel spills and houseboat issues.

David McFarlane, TLA Director: TLA needs to have ongoing way to test water quality for the purpose of quality of life on the lake. There needs to be a spirit of cooperation with the town to address water quality.

TLA History: (Vince Hovanec)

Pam Sinclair is updating her original book. This will be available in the summer of 2011. It will be a 225-page book with over 150 pictures. It will be printed on demand and made available through places such as Chapters, Indigo, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

Please submit high quality photos and lake stories to Pam and any possible title suggestions that meet with the story line of the book, which is “The TLA community and its historical perspective.” This book emphasizes a total community which includes summer residents, the native community and the town.

Municipal Election: (Peter Healy)

The upcoming Election scheduled for October 25, 2010. A mayor and six councillors are to be elected using an ‘at-large’ process. TLA members can follow the process and track the issues before voting in the fall Temagami Times and on our website.

Member comments

Lisa Tuckerman, Island 1005, suggested a communication go out on how to confirm if you are in fact listed as a registered voter and if not how to go about registering. Peter replied that this information will be on our website.

Blake Storm, Island 755, suggested adding “date” to updates on TLA website. Peter replied that we will try and do this.

John Russell, Island 1092, asked if the TLA will endorse candidates. Response: The TLA does not endorse any candidates. The role of the TLA board is to provide the facts about the issues and take a position on each. We will provide candidates with a chance to state their positions on our website.

Tom Whyte, Island 388: Municipal rules do not allow councillors to attend meeting by phone. Physical presence is required.

Pam Sinclair, Island 1003, suggested that the TLA contact and work with Federation of Ontario Cottage Association to lobby the provincial government to allow attendance by councillors at meetings by phone.

Mayoral / Councillor Candidates for 2010 Municipal Election:

The three candidates currently nominated were invited to say a few words.

Board of Directors Election Results:

The newly elected board members are: Pete Calvary, Island 968; Chip Kittredge, Islands 1155, 1158; and Gerry Kluwak, Island 758.

TLA Awards: (Peter Healy)

Many thanks to Wabun for hosting the meeting

Jack Goodman received a Temagami print for his 40 years of membership.

Rob Corcoran was recognized for his service and leadership of the Board the last two years.

Jim Dow, Island 1005, was honored as TLA Member of the Year in recognition his time and effort in the process of reprinting our shoal map in 2009.

Peter also thanked Robin Deninger for taking minutes once again this year.

Projects and Funding

• Renovations and ditching to westerly 3 km of the Lake Temagami Access Road (67% federal & provincial funding)
• Long Term Care Facility Feasibility Study (90% FedNor funding)
• Temagami North storm water management project (67% Building Canada Fund)
• Replaced all grinder pumps in Temagami South (user fees)
• Installed a Columbarium at Whispering Pines Cemetery (municipal funds, but sales of niches will be used for next one when needed).
• Temagami North and South Drinking Water Systems – started in previous term and completed in this term (83 % federal / provincial funding)

In addition, the Municipality contributed “in kind services” [such as building permit fees; and labour and materials to run water and sewer lines] to the building of the new Family Health Team and Medical Centre building, which was built and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. We have also been working on some Capital Projects that are not tangible, such as the Official Plan Review and the Lot Creation and Development Study from general revenues.

Some of the above projects have been mandated by provincial regulations and some are required for health and safety reasons.
ELECTION 2010  
continued from page 4

and their ability to support the interests of the community as a whole.

According to the Municipality, there are approximately 1500 waterfront and “rural” (no water or sewer, fire fighting generally based upon neighbours coming to assist) properties and roughly 400 “urban” (with sewers, water and fire services).

As lake residents, all of whom have absorbed a massive increase in the costs of being in Temagami due to our (voluntary) amalgamation with the Town of Temagami, to date, we have most definitely accepted our significantly increased role in the community as a whole.

From a Lake Temagami perspective, those of us who amalgamated don’t ask for a great deal – support the Tenets; keep the lake clean; maintain the agreements that enabled amalgamation; and keep as balanced a budget as possible. As seasonal residents, we do our part to try to keep local businesses viable. The Lake community “pitched in” this spring to assist the Co-op in kick-starting their summer product purchases. The TLA has offered input to the Municipality for business development, and continues to offer this input.

Temagami has a unique situation, with a particularly diverse community. Tapping into the varied backgrounds and cultures – from the Town to the TFN/TA, to Marten River, to the residents of the many area lakes – offers an exceptional mix of capabilities, with the potential to address Temagami’s near-term issues and put together a viable plan for sustainable long-term prosperity for Temagami.

As you review the postings for candidates on the TLA web pages over the coming month, ask yourself how well each of them can represent the interests of Temagami: where Temagami is all communities, including the many seasonal residents. Ask yourself if the individuals are able to separate their personal/business interests from those of their Constituents.

Many of the candidates have already served as elected officials in Temagami. For these, there should be a reasonable amount of information available. Google each of the candidates and see what shows up. Keep in mind that there has been some mud slinging among some area “special interest” groups. Look at those slinging mud and those receiving it. Was it justified?

What was the motivation? What were the end results?

COMPLEXITIES OF TEMAGAMI

One thing I’ve learned in my time on the TLA Board is that Temagami is a heck of a lot more complex than I had interpreted earlier on. My rose coloured glasses are cracked and no longer useable.

On the Municipal front, I believe you will find that we have been well represented in many areas, but that there are key aspects of the municipality’s operations, which appear to have not been fully understood.

What we are now becoming significantly more aware of are the significant financial challenges the Province (and perhaps some of the realities of the departure of Sherman Mine, Milne Lumber, MNR, …) have inflicted on the finances of the community. It is essential that our elected officials get a clear picture on the realities of Temagami’s present fiscal situation, and that this be clearly communicated to all residents. Finding a way to address these challenges, which is “viable” for the taxpayers is equally essential.

As indicated earlier in this article, a (perhaps “THE”) key aspect of the Amalgamation was the adoption of the Tenets, along with the key terms of Amalgamation. While lake residents have absorbed a huge tax increase due to a combination of MPAC assessments and partly to the 115% increase in taxes collected by the Municipality since amalgamation, letting go the reasons for amalgamation is not an area which was considered to be up for discussion, and particularly, to be decided for (and not by) those of us who voluntarily amalgamated.

Council came very close with a vote that would have effectively begun disassembling the Tenets last year, with regard to shoreline development. While this was described as a one-time situation, precedents are generally based upon “one-time”. Once a one-time precedent has been established, it can then be applied “many times”. This is one of the core principles of our Common Law system. The PAC composition is presently up in the air, with a proposal on the part of the Municipality to reduce the Lake Temagami representation on PAC to less than the 50% agreed upon at Amalgamation. The intent of the 50% representation was to ensure that the lake residents maintained control of development on Lake Temagami, another of the key elements of Amalgamation.

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Testing the Waters

The TLA program will begin with phosphorus and oxygen level measurement. These are the most essential elements in assessing the health of the lake. Oxygen measurement and the related phosphorus measurements are significant because adequate concentrations of dissolved oxygen are necessary for the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms. For cold water species such as lake trout, a minimum oxygen level of 6 mg/litre is needed along with a temperature below 10 degrees centigrade. One of the main influences on oxygen levels is phosphorus. Each lake has a sensitivity rating with respect to the lake's responsiveness to phosphorus inputs. A lake can have either a low, moderate or high sensitivity to phosphorus.

Phosphorus samples should be collected in the spring during a period called the spring turnover. This is the best time to sample the phosphorus because the lake is completely mixed and a water sample represents the phosphorus concentration throughout the whole lake. A sampling of spring phosphorus levels each year will allow us to detect changes in the nutrient status of the lake.

Some phosphorus enters the lake naturally through precipitation. Human sources of phosphorus enter primarily through surface run off from septic systems, agricultural fertilizers and wastewater. Trends in phosphorus levels should be the basis in discussing how much growth the lake can accommodate without “pressuring” the lake.

Other than oxygen and phosphorus, another common and simple test is a measurement of water clarity, known as a secchi depth test. While it is a simple measurement of water clarity, it also indicates indirectly phosphorus concentration and is a measurement of nutrient enrichments. A long-term effect of nutrient enrichment is a reduction of water clarity.

In the future, another potentially useful testing would be of the benthic zone of the lake. The benthic zone is the lower level of a water body. This testing would include the sediment and organisms found in the lake bottom. This type of testing gives valuable information with respect to a lake’s overall health.

Temperature measurements are also important and are fairly easy to carry out. Temperature influences the effects of pollution on aquatic life.

There are several chemical and biological indicators that could also be monitored. These would include testing the PH levels, conductivity, dissolved organic carbon, alkalinity, nitrates, sulphuric acid, iron and chlorine.

Some interesting and informal measurements, such as an annual frog count and loon count, have been done in the past, but it may be useful, over the longer term, to carry out these samplings on a more formal and organized basis.

The health of Lake Temagami is a priority for every lake resident. Clear and clean water is essentially not only to the quality of life on Lake Temagami, but is also a considerable factor in protecting the value of waterfront properties on the lake. Our common goal is to sustain and enhance the natural state of the lake water.

Lake trout are a sensitive fish that require cold, oxygenated waters, which are generally associated with lakes that deteriorate quickly as a result of human activity such as shoreline development or increased nutrient loads.

It is hoped that the testing results can be used in a manner so that we can both educate waterfront land owners, houseboat users and operators, and day use campers with respect to their effect upon the lake and motivate them to change some of their practices. Testing should also lead to better and more informed decisions about limiting development in areas where the studies indicate that additional development will significantly impact the natural fishery.

If the TLA is going to champion the health of the lake, then independent testing conducted by the TLA will be essential to that purpose. It may be the most important program the TLA carries out.
MUNICIPAL UPDATE

MUNICIPAL UPDATE is produced by the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Temagami. Council, in conjunction with the Temagami Lakes Association, has arranged for all its ratepayers to receive these copies of the Temagami Times. The Municipality’s participation in the Temagami Times through this page does not imply its agreement or disagreement with any other content in the paper.

STAFF CHANGES

There have been a number of changes in municipal staff since the summer issue of the Temagami Times. First, Erik Acs joined the municipality as our new Municipal Planner. Erik has a Masters Degree in Planning and Development from the University of Guelph.

John Santarossa was hired for a one-year contract position as Economic Development Officer (EDO). A native of North Bay, John brings 30 years of experience to the position, including as an EDO with the City of Barrie and with the Town of Richmond Hill.

We have further enhanced the Economic Development department with the addition of an intern, Kara McMillan. Her one-year contract is 90% funded by FedNor. Kara has a Masters degree in International Development. She has enhanced her studies with work and volunteer experience in England, France, Japan and Thailand.

Our Treasurer/Human Resources Manager, Marie-Paule Jacob, resigned in June to take a position in Hay River. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. We have hired Debra Kitts as Treasurer/Human Resources (HR) Manager. Debra moved to Temagami from Manitoba in 2009. She has an advanced certificate in accounting from the University of Manitoba and is close to completing the Certified Management Accounting program to receive her CMA designation. Debra also has over 20 years of management experience in accounting and HR with a large firm in Winnipeg.

With the approaching retirement of our CAO/Clerk, Brian Koski, the municipal council reviewed the position and felt it appropriate to reorganize the position structure. Elaine Gunnell, formerly Deputy Clerk-Treasurer for the Municipality of Temagami, has been appointed as Municipal Clerk and Patrick Cormier has been appointed as CAO.

We welcome Pat’s return to the Municipality of Temagami. Pat had left his former position of Administrative Assistant in Temagami to take a position of Executive Assistant to the CAO and Policy Analyst for the City of Temiskaming Shores. While there he worked his way up to Deputy Clerk. Patrick has been taking courses with the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and is close to completing his Diploma in Municipal Administration.

Brian Koski will be available until December to assist in the transition, but will also be responsible for a number of special projects during the transition period. We wish him a happy and productive retirement.

COUNCIL PACKAGES NOW ON WEBSITE

The Municipal Council has now embraced the concept of “going paperless” for council packages, in order to enhance the way the Municipality provides information to the residents. At the August 26, 2010 regular Council meeting, Council passed bylaws to amend the Procedural Bylaw and the Incoming/Outgoing Mail Policy bylaw to facilitate this change. They also passed a bylaw to adopt a revised Accountability and Transparency Policy.

All regular Council meeting packages will now be produced electronically and posted on the website by 2:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting. We have been providing this information on the website for several months on a trial run basis, and it has worked very well. For those who do not have computers of their own, the computers at the Temagami Public Library / Employment Resource Centre are available. The staff will be happy to help you if needed.

One new feature under this system is that the draft minutes from the previous council meeting(s) that are to be adopted at the meeting will also be posted on the website with the rest of the package (once council has reviewed them). Posting this information on our website is a very progressive step that will increase the accountability and transparency of Council to the public.

In addition, changes were made to internal mail processing, to promote the circulation of information by electronic means instead of paper wherever possible. These two measures will save a lot of paper, which is good for the environment and also a cost saving for the Municipality.

NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE

Environmental issues are always a concern in Temagami. Fortunately people are becoming more aware of the need to keep Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) out of our landfills. As a Municipality, this has been a concern to us, as none of Temagami’s 3 landfill sites are equipped to accept or store such items and we have been unable to have our own hazardous waste facility here.

Temagami entered into a contract this year with the City of North Bay to allow our residents to dispose of their household hazardous waste at North Bay’s HHW depot. This applies to all year round and seasonal residents. Their facility is open all year round.

Under the agreement, Temagami pays a flat annual fee of $2 per household, so there is NO CHARGE to you to drop these items off. Since this option is now available, please do not place any of these items in your garbage for pick up or take them to the Temagami landfills or transfer stations.

For more information, including a list of items accepted at the HWD, please contact our Public Works Department at 569-3272 or visit the North Bay website at http://www.city.north-bay.on.ca/cityhall/department/environmental/hhw.asp

The North Bay HHW depot is located at 112 Patton St., North Bay, just off Hwy 11 at Seymour Street. (When traveling south from Temagami, Seymour is the next set of traffic lights past the Northgate shopping mall and the railway tracks.) See the map for location. Hours of Operation are: Wednesday to Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Your cooperation in this important environmental step is appreciated.

RECYCLING CHANGES

Please note there has been a change to the types of materials now taken at the recycling bins in the town of Temagami and in the Temagami North townsite. These bins no longer take glass of any kind, but they do now take all plastics numbered 1-7, instead of just #1 plastics.

There are no changes at this time to the types of materials accepted at the bins at the Lake Temagami Access Point (Mine Landing) or in the Marten River Landfill Site. Those bins are serviced by a different company, which was already taking plastics #1 - 7.
OP REVIEW / ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT

Even though there is an ongoing Official Plan Review, the Municipality of Temagami is applying for an administrative amendment to correct a housekeeping error in the current document. It was recently brought to Council’s attention that the format set out in the 2006 Official Plan (OP) for the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) differed from the format currently in use, which was set out in a bylaw passed in 2002.

Although the format as described in the 2006 OP is not the desired or intended format for PAC, our bylaws must conform to the OP. Therefore a bylaw was required to bring the PAC format into compliance with the OP as an interim measure. Council also directed that an administrative OP amendment be initiated for this simple correction, which should require a much shorter timeframe than the full OP review process in progress.

The regular process must still be followed for an administrative amendment, with a public meeting in early October for input on the matter. More details are available from the Municipal Office or on the Municipal Website www.temagami.ca. Look under Your Government >> Departments >> Planning >> Notices of Applications.

As for the OP review itself, the feedback from those attending the public meetings was generally favourable towards the proposed changes. The biggest area of concern was on the subject of Site Plan Control and the feedback was positive regarding the revisions made pertaining to it.

TOWN HALL MEETING HELD AT CAMP WABUN

The July 22 regular council meeting was held at Camp Wabun on Lake Temagami. It was followed by an open topic Town Hall meeting. Both meetings were well attended. There were 19 people in the audience for the regular council meeting and 22 for the town hall meeting. We have held Town Hall meetings in the Marten River Fire Hall, and in the Temagami North Community Centre in previous years. Council had hoped to have one on Lake Temagami last summer, but was unable to schedule a suitable venue. We thank Camp Wabun for their hospitality this summer.

We also thank Peter Healy, who as moderator for the town hall meeting, ensured that the meeting ran smoothly. The audience asked many thoughtful questions. Topics of concern included financial and taxation issues; fire protection; policing on the lake; the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Temagami First Nations; the Lake Temagami Access Road and Access Point parking.

Council appreciated the chance to answer questions on the issues and hear the concerns of the residents who turned out for the meeting. In all it was a very positive exchange, with a good discussion and an increased understanding by all concerned.

VISA DISCONTINUATION REMINDER

As advised in the summer issue, the municipality will no longer accept Visa for any payments effective January 1, 2011. If you now pay your account by pre-authorized Visa payment, we encourage you to contact the tax department to make alternate arrangements.

We will still accept payment by cheque or cash in Canadian or U.S. dollars, by debit card, or by preauthorized bank withdrawal. Major Canadian banks and many trust companies also facilitate tax payments through internet or telephone banking.

We recognize that there can be delays in mail delivery, so effective with the discontinuation of Visa payments, penalties will be waived for mail payments that are postmarked at least three (3) days before the due date. We also accept post-dated cheques, which we hold until the cheque date for processing.

2010 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Election Day is Monday, October 25, 2010.

A person is entitled to vote in a municipal election, if on voting day he or she is:

- a Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years old;
- residing in the local municipality or an owner or tenant of land there, or the spouse of such owner or tenant; and
- not otherwise prohibited from voting.

For more Election information check out our web page at www.temagami.ca/election.

Temagami is using the Vote By Mail method this year. There will not be any advance polls or proxy ballots under this system. There will, however, be a Ballot Return Station at the Municipal Office from Monday, October 18th to Friday, October 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and on Monday, October 25, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The Polling Station is open on Monday, October 25, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Please note: The ballot sent to you with the Vote By Mail kit is your official ballot, regardless of whether you are voting by mail or in person.

If you are using the Ballot Return Station please bring the ballot sealed in the privacy envelope and also bring the Voter Declaration Form with you.

VOTE BY MAIL

The Vote By Mail option will make voting easier for eligible electors, even those for whom it is not convenient to go to a poll in person. We encourage every eligible voter to vote. Municipal Elections are only held every four years, so please take the opportunity and vote by mail or in person.

Canada Post is scheduled to mail out the Vote By Mail kits during the period of Sept. 27 to Sept. 30. If you are a qualified elector and have not received your vote by mail ballot after October 7th (or if it is lost or destroyed), you may obtain a new Vote By Mail Kit from the Municipal Office. The Clerk will require that you or your authorized agent sign a statement to verify and it will be noted on the Voters List that the elector/agent was issued a new Vote By Mail Kit.

There are tight turnaround times for mailing in your ballots. Please do not delay. Once you receive your ballot, please fill it out according to the instructions included in the kit and return it as soon as possible. Ballots must be RECEIVED no later than Election Day, October 25th in order to be counted.

ARE YOU ON THE VOTERS LIST?

The preliminary voters list is now at the Municipal Office. If you are an eligible elector, you may come to the office in person, or telephone to check if you are on the voters list. You may also ask any registered candidate to check for you.

If you are an eligible voter, but not on the list, you must fill out, sign and return the proper form in order to be added. The form may be obtained from the office or downloaded from our website at www.temagami.ca/election. The completed and signed form may be returned to the Municipal Office in person, or mailed to 7 Lakeshore Drive, P.O. Box 220, Temagami ON, P0H 2H0. Sorry, but emailed and faxed forms are not acceptable, as we must have an original signature on the form.

Additions and revisions may be made to the list right up until the close of voting on Monday, October 25, 2010. However, if you plan to vote by mail, please check early, as you will need to allow time for mailing.

MARTEN RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Marten River Provincial Park on its 50th anniversary. Although the earliest records indicate that a camping site at the current location was established sometime between 1927 and 1937 it was not until 1960 that it became a provincial park. On Tuesday, August 17th, the park held a special celebration to mark the occasion.

In addition to the traditional overnight camping and day use available at provincial parks, the Marten River Park also features a sizeable historical exhibit. A complete replica 19th century Logging Camp has been built there, along with many artifacts on display both indoors and out. Every July, the park hosts a two-day event called Loggers Days, with demonstrations, competitions, and fun events. The dedicated park staff and volunteers make the visit there a very positive experience.

Best wishes for the next 50 years.

LAKE TEMAGAMI ACCESS ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

We would like to remind all those who will be using the Lake Temagami Access Road this fall, that the replacement of the culvert at Tetapaga Creek will be taking place in October shortly after the Thanksgiving Weekend. Replacement of the culvert with a bridge will be the most effective and cost efficient method. Our Public Works Staff will construct a temporary, single-lane road bypass during the week prior to the bridge installation. The installation itself should take only a few days. We appreciate your patience during the traffic restrictions and installation.

Working for Temagami’s future... Together!
In 2008, we celebrated 25 years of service on Lake Temagami. Thank you for your patronage!

We are proud to provide experience, expertise and efficient service. We always offer a free and honest assessment of your needs. Give us a call if you are planning to do some improvements on your property. Our aim is always to give you the best price while minimizing the impact on the environment and on your property.

* Ask us about the available tax credit on your home or cottage improvements.

Although we have opposed the site plan control from the beginning and still do, until a decision is made at the municipal level, we are going to provide this service hoping it will alleviate some frustrations and give you a chance to enjoy your vacation.
Improvements in Boating Safety on the Lake this Summer.

By Angus Scully, Is 1087, Chair, Marine Committee

I conducted 22 Recreational Vessel Courtesy Checks (RVCC) for TLA members this summer. There has been a noted improvement in compliance with safety equipment requirements and documentation over the past three years. More boaters are earning Canadian Power Squadron stickers for being in compliance, but there are several issues that appear to remain.

Pleasure Craft Licence (PCL) – How to Licence Your Boat

This is the document that is issued with the boat licence numbers that must be posted on either side of the bow of your power boat (if equipped with an engine of 10 hp (7.5 kW) or greater). The PCL should be carried aboard the boat at all times, although Transport Canada has stated that a photocopy is acceptable. Failure to comply may result in a fine of $250.00.

Canadians and Americans may obtain a PCL free of charge by applying online at www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/boats/pcl.shtml. You may also apply in person at any Service Canada office – there is one in North Bay and one in New Liskeard. A licence will be issued even if the boat does not have a hull number and/or a compliance or capacity plate.

Note: To obtain the PCL you must have proof of ownership, such as a bill of sale. If you are the typical owner of an old unlicensed boat, you have long since lost any proof of ownership. In that case you may provide instead a notarized declaration. The declaration is explained on the Service Canada website (see above) and the cost of notarization is generally $30 to $50.

Pleasure Craft Operators Card (PCOC) – Photo Copy or Original?

All power boaters that I spoke to this summer had their Operator’s Card. Not having your PCOC while operating a power boat may result in a fine of $250.00.

But, there is a great deal of confusion about whether or not it is permissible to carry a photocopy of your card instead of the original. Federal regulations state that the original card itself must be carried with the boater and must be produced “forthwith” if so requested by an enforcement officer (in our case the OPP or Bear Island Police). I checked with the Office of Boating Safety, Transport Canada and they confirmed that this is the case. The OPP Marine Unit based in North Bay also requires that they see the original PCOC. They do operate on the Lake.

However, the OPP detachment in Temagami stated that they would in fact accept a photocopy.

What does this mean for you as a power boater? Well, it just depends on which enforcement officers you might meet. Certainly the $250.00 fine should help you to clarify your position.

Driving a Power Boat and Driving a Car

The regulations and expectations for these two activities are moving closer together. The rules on alcohol are the same. Now, just as you must have your driver’s licence and ownership when driving your car, you must also carry your PCOC and PCL when operating a power boat.

What about Canoes?

You do not need to have your PCOC with you when in a canoe, row boat or sail boat; however, you must have the required safety equipment in all boats including canoes.

Thanks to Temagami Marine

Andre Lamothe, owner of Temagami Marine has announced that to promote safe boating, they are selling marine safety equipment at cost. This includes PFD, life jackets, and safety kits with floating line, whistle, bailer, and flashlight.
Visit the Temagami Lakes’ Association website: www.tla-temagami.org

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Co-op Board President, Paul Middleton, commenced his report by referring to the stark realities facing the Co-op and the financial dilemma faced at the time of the 2009 AGM. While he stated that “the day-to-day realities at the Store have not changed all that much” from last year, he expressed hope for the future since some of the store’s financial performance indicators have been turned around.

He explained that last fall the Board had approached the South Temiskaming Community Futures Development Corporation (STCFDC) for assistance. “They were quick to respond and agreed to retain (at their cost) and bring in a couple of grocery-industry consultants to review our operations and make recommendations for change in order to survive. This REPORT (Gillespie/Morgan) was delivered in October 2009 and contained major recommendations such as: Winter Store / Summer Store Concept, Inventory Controls, Sales and Margins, Line by Line Analysis of the non-inventory costs, Communication Plan with Suppliers, Marketing and Branding the Temagami Store, and Board/staff relationship”.

“In addition, the Temiskaming Development Fund Corporation (TemFund) was brought on board and they agreed to advance us an additional $100,000 bridging loan, on a staged draw-down basis as required (to date we have used $75,000). Along with their financial assistance came a couple of “mentors” - Ted & Sandra Green of Latchford, who are retired grocery store owner/managers. They worked alongside our own staff to help train and implement the go-forward strategies contained in the overall REPORT.”

He then explained that in February 2010, the Board presented a complete evaluation and conclusions report of how the store was progressing in response to the Gillespie/Morgan report and the mentorship of the Greens. The STCFDC and TemFund were most satisfied with what they heard … that the store was truly setting about turning around towards success!

Paul also commented on the appeal that went out from some lake residents and was taken up by the TLA to raise funds to help the store stock the shelves for the summer. He stated: “To our delight and grateful surprise, donations rolled in from over 80 individuals or groups, for a total of over $24,000 towards a “Special Summer Stocking Fund”. He added that those who contributed have received letters of thanks and commented, “This indeed is what a “Co-operative” is all about.” He also gave an update on the repayment progress made during this summer.

Co-op members were also advised of a change made to the Board of Directors in April of this year. Ed Riopel had replaced long-time member Judy Gouin, who had resigned for personal reasons. “The volunteerism involved on such a Board can at times seem as demanding as a full-time job, and Judy already has one, as an artist of fine repute. She still remains a dedicated volunteer of the Co-op however, whether it be tending the garden out front or helping us organize this AGM! Thank you Judy.”

Also thanked were the Temagami Lions Club for donating new wheels for the shopping carts and installing them over the winter; to Judy Gouin, Wendy Henry and Sally Middleton for their work putting in and maintaining the front garden; and to Temagami Trucking for re-grading and surfacing the store’s parking lot.

In conclusion, he advised that the Co-op Board is committed to staying the course, to “doing our best to see to it that a Co-op Grocery Store remains a viable operation for the Temagami community. We and our management team and our staff do sincerely appreciate the continued support by our regular and faithful members, customers and community leaders.”

Note: as a result of the election, Wendy Henry and Art Arnold have replaced outgoing Co-op Board members Debby Burrows and Carol Lowery.
Municipal Emergency Management Plan Tested

The Province of Ontario requires all municipalities to have an Emergency Management Plan. Temagami has one and it is reviewed annually.

The Emergency Management Team, consisting of municipal staff, along with members of Council, and representatives of local emergency services (police, fire, ambulance) and related agencies, hold annual “Desk-top” exercises. These exercises, under the guidance of Emergency Management Ontario, simulate various disaster situations to allow team members to gain experience and practice in how to handle an emergency situation.

On July 12, 2010 when a small, non-commercial, Cessna airplane crashed into the dock at the Municipal waterfront, Temagami’s Emergency Management Plan was tested in real-time. Fortunately the occupants of the plane were not seriously injured. The Temagami Ambulance and Volunteer Fire Departments were on the scene within minutes.

The municipal Emergency Management Plan was called into action due to concerns over a fuel leak close to the drinking water intake. Municipal representatives, along with designates from the Ministry of the Environment, the Timiskaming Health Unit, and the OPP met and recommended that a “State of Emergency” be officially declared. Happily the process ran smoothly, thanks to the municipal training and also thanks to the great cooperation of local contractors called into action.

The fuel spill was effectively contained and cleaned up with no lasting impact. The plane was successfully removed without further incident.

There are many potential emergencies covered by the municipal Emergency Management Plan, including forest fires, wind storms, ice storms, power outages, train derailment, and many others. With the assistance of Emergency Management Ontario, the Emergency Management Team is taking measures to ensure that, regardless of the type of crisis situation that may arise, the Municipality will be prepared to meet any natural or man-made disaster that may threaten this community.

It takes effort, forethought, planning and practice to make sure that we are adequately prepared to handle any potential disaster, but when a disaster happens, it is evident that the preparation is well worth it.
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The Summer of 2010 - The News from Lake Temagami

The news from Lake Temagami this summer is the water. Not the temperature but the depth. It is about a foot lower than usual, and it seems the only topic of conversation here.

The problem appears to be one of the dams in the three river watersheds on which Lake Temagami lies, where the lake normally drains. Apparently, the enthusiastic authorities released too much water in the spring.

Low water, a problem everywhere in the province this summer, is at best a nuisance, at worst a hazard. Docks stick out from the shore like gangling teenagers, making getting in and out of a boat a feat of contortion. Rocks that are usually safely submerged now lurk just below the surface, posing a threat to boaters in this sea of hidden shoals and shallows.

Even experienced boaters are at risk. Two weeks ago an old hand here, in his sixties, drove into a rock at night and tore a hole in his boat. Rather than remain with the boat and await help in the morning, he chanced the swim to land. He didn't make it.

That shouldn't surprise. Lake Temagami is big and often treacherous. It is about 50 kilometres from north to south, 35 kilometers from east to west, dotted with 1,200 or so islands and thick with old growth woods. When it is angry, the winds roar and the water surges.

So beyond the clucking and hissing over low water this summer, there is now deep sadness over a drowning. Hundreds attended the funeral in town.

The talk of Temagami changes from year to year. If it isn't how low or high the water is, it is how warm or cool it is. Or when the ice came in and broke up (this year, an astonishing three weeks early).

One year it was the “blow-down,” a micro-burst tornado that uprooted many mature trees. Then it was how many trees there were to clear afterward, who would do it and how long it would take. By the time that conversation ended, a new forest had grown up.

In Temagami, the rhythms and realities are strong, enduring and reliable. For a Canada forever in search of ways to define itself, look no farther: it is here in the wilderness, in our annual retreat from everything.

Canadians may visit the cottage less than we think -- some say we average no more than two weeks a year -- but it commands our consciousness, and, of course, our conversation.

Is the septic system going to last another year? Will the outboard motor start? Did squirrels destroy the pillows in the attic? Did a beaver fell the sapling? Why is this room filling up with mosquitoes? Will it rain tomorrow, again?

Red squirrels, blackflies and white-caps -- of this life on the lake, any lake, is made.

From your mother-in-law's wormwood bookshelf, draw [a book]. From the old refrigerator draw a tall beer. From the dock find a deckchair, creaky but comfortable, and position it in line with a fading sun. Watch children take book and do the same -- and silently cheer.

continued on page 23
The political wireless has gone silent, at least until September. The summer is here, offering its solace. Like last year, like all years.

That’s the real news from Lake Temagami. (Andrew Cohen is president of The Historica-Dominion Institute. This article is excerpts from an article originally appearing in the Ottawa Citizen of July 6.)

Economic Development Officer’s Update

By John Santarossa,
Economic Development Officer

It has been three months since coming onboard as Temagami’s Economic Development Officer (EDO). The EDO function, previously combined with the Planning function, is focused on industry attraction, business retention, tourism development, and assisting local entrepreneurs.

My 30 years of experience in these areas - including international trade, industrial park development, and sourcing government funding - will bode well in my efforts in Temagami. In fact, a number of submissions have been made to various government funding programs and we will report on this status of these applications in the near future.

Municipal priority projects are: the sale of surplus municipal land; affordable housing; long term care facility; and the ORC/former MNR site. Also, another one of my priorities was to get to know the business community. To-date I have visited dozens of businesses in Temagami and Marten River to learn about their successes and issues and to work together where possible.

The Municipality also hired an Economic Development Intern, Kara McMillan, who has a Masters Degree in International Development. Kara is very enthusiastic about assisting with economic development projects in Temagami. This position is 90% funded by FedNor for one year.

I am fortunate to work with our Intern, municipal staff, Council, and a pro-active economic development committee. In addition, we have developed partnerships with government agencies as well as with regional partners/initiatives such as Cobalt-Coleman-Latchford-Temagami (CCLT), IPM 2010, ATV initiative, Dream Catcher Express, and the Lake Temiskaming Loop Tour. Also, a Small Business Week event is planned for October in Temagami.

In closing, I look forward to working with business and stakeholders in Temagami in the coming months.

(In response to recommendations from the Economic Development Committee and input from the community, the Municipality created a contract position for an Economic Development Officer (EDO) with the intent of enhancing Economic Development opportunities in Temagami. As we see the need for economic development in Temagami becoming increasingly important, we asked the new municipal EDO for an update on what is happening in that area.)
Why Not Adopt a Camp Site Next Summer?

There are roughly 200 or so campsites on Lake Temagami and chances are there’s one very near most cottages on the lake. That’s the good news for campers and canoe trippers; the bad news, or at least frequently for most of us, is that many of the sites need a good clean up.

As a proud member of the Ministry of Natural Resources Crown Land Maintenance Partnership, the Temagami Lakes Association is aiming to do our part to help keep the lake’s campsites clean. Some of the other partner organizations who have taken up action, such as the MNR, Ontario Parks, and Friends of Temagami, are focusing efforts mainly on the backcountry lakes and portages, leaving a void on some of the most highly used sites such as those on Lake Temagami.

While the lake’s youth camps and many private campers are helping out on the lake, there remains a lot of work to be done.

So why not adopt a campsite and help to keep Temagami beautiful? Lots of us do it for roads and highways, so campsites are a natural, right?

Campsite adoption takes as much time as you’re willing to devote. At a minimum, download a TLA Campsite Clean-Up Form from the “Initiatives” page of the TLA website (www.tla-temagami.org) and then make an inventory and assessment of the nearest campsite. What’s the general condition? Good, fair, poor? Is there a campsite sign, usually an orange MNR triangle?

Then look to see if there is a privy toilet. If yes, is it in good, fair or poor condition? Does it need replacement or is it in a bad location, too close to the lake, for instance? The Clean-Up Form also asks about garbage – and how much you were able to remove (less than one bag, approximately one bag, or more than one garbage bag).

Take along a camera and snap a few photos to further amplify the information on the site.

Sure, you’ve got better things to do than picking up someone else’s trash. Who doesn’t? But then who wants to have an unsightly neighboring campsite or a garbage dump of sorts across the water or perhaps elsewhere on the island?

Make a difference next summer. Take time to adopt a campsite and do what you can to maintain the pristine environment that we all cherish.

If you would like to receive an application for membership or information related to that contact Peter at tla@onlink.net or call 705-237-8927

Visit the Temagami Lakes’ Association website: www.tla-temagami.org
Municipal Taxation and Spending Concerns

Here’s a summary of TLA’s concerns about Municipal taxation and spending that was prepared by Boyd Matchett:

The first is the emphasis we place on the need to provide more clarity, or transparency, in financial information particularly covering those major infrastructure costs either underway now or planned in future years. By this we mean to clearly reveal the various sources of funding for each project. That is, show a breakdown between government grants, tax revenues, of debt, and if tax revenue between user fee revenues, or general tax revenues.

We also highlight the principle of user fee levy as a tax revenue source which is provided for in the Municipal tax rules and regulations for funding of certain area specific infrastructure capital or operating expenditures in which one segment of the community is the prime or significant beneficiary. We believe this principle has particular relevance in our municipality with its distinct diversity.

A third point is our recognition of the need to reintroduce TLA input and participation in the broad planning and review process of annual and long term budgeting. A TLA oversight role, agreed to at the time of amalgamation, practiced for some years, but abandoned in more recent years, we firmly believe is warranted given:

Waterfront properties’ rapidly growing share of municipal tax revenues - now contributing approximately 60% of total municipal tax revenue or three times the town residents’ share,

The huge escalation in projected current and future infrastructure capital costs, most of which appear to relate exclusively to area specific services not shared be the majority of waterfront property residents.

In brief, we believe a more judicious application of the user fee funding method for some of the significant capital projects underway, as well as a further tightening of general expenses, could well have enabled either the avoidance, or at least a further reduction, of the 2009 and projected 2010 tax increases, which fall mainly on the shoulders of the waterfront property residents.

We think this could be achieved without overburdening current tax levels paid by the urban segment of our community, and would assist in a fairer rebalancing of tax contributions between the waterfront and urban residents. By following a strategy of balancing budgets, delaying and spreading our future infrastructure projects, and the continuing pursuit of government grants for such projects, the pattern of consistent annual tax increases can be broken.

We strongly support an early feasibility study to determine the practicality and viability of parking/docking fees for non-residents users of the mine access road.

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ELECTION 2010

continued from page 12

FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATION

ELECTING THE RIGHT POLITICIANS, and then holding these politicians to their commitments once elected, is a fundamental obligation of all voters. For those of us on the lake, it is particularly imperative. As representatives of the lake community, the TLA exists to serve your interests. We work closely with the Municipality on all areas of relevance to the Lake Community and, where possible, on items where we can add useful value to broader community issues.

As I’ve indicated in past articles, for all eligible voters, VOTE. And vote carefully – select who you want to vote for. If you have only one or two candidates you wish to vote for, and aren’t sure about the rest, vote for only the candidates you are comfortable with. Randomly picking other choices to use up the max number of votes you are permitted is counter-productive, potentially voting against the candidates you do want to see elected.

Think carefully about your selections before you cast your ballot – we’ll have the next council in place for another four years, and need a council who can work together, and who share a common vision for the health and well being of the Municipality of Temagami, with all portions of the community given equal consideration.
Richard (Dick) Stanley Grout

1928 — 2010

Born in Columbus, Ohio on October 2, 1928. Died on June 9, 2010 after a short, valiant battle with cancer.

The son of Harold Main Grout and Esther Grout (nee Stoedal). Predeceased by his parents and his older brother Philip. Survived by his loving wife Sally (nee Baker), children Judy (Stuart), James, Bruce (Catherine), Carolyn (Alan) and grandchildren Eryn, Stephen and Carey LeMesurier, Lindsay and David Grout and Eric and Owen Christensen. Dad was very fond of his daughter in law Sharon Pel.

Dad's family moved to Toronto from Wisconsin in 1931. Dad attended Swansea Public and the University of Toronto Schools. He graduated from Victoria College at the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in 1951. Dad spent his entire business career at Imperial Oil. He was a member of the generation of young people who built the oil industry in Canada after oil was discovered in Leduc, Alberta in 1948.

Dad met Mum on Lake Temagami as teenagers. They married in 1954. Later in life, Dad took up riding as Mum wanted to return to the riding she did as a child and teenager. They spent time every year at a ranch in Arizona where they met a wide array of people.

Dad was a bright, articulate, well-read man. He enjoyed bridge and his many friends at the University Club. A true outdoorsman, he spent every summer of his life from an early age on his beloved Lake Temagami. Dad was a camper and then a counsellor at Camp Temagami where he honed his outdoor skills of canoeing, tripping and fishing. In 1946 his family purchased Island 943. Grandfather, Philip, Dad and Alec Aird built the original cabin with a pink granite fireplace.

The families who cottage on Lake Temagami are a close knit group of which our family was an integral part. Dad was heavily involved in the Temagami Lakes Association and the efforts of the community to protect the last old growth forest in Eastern Canada. Dad loved to have family and friends at Island 943. Many of our friends enjoyed trips to the Lake and have fond memories of political debates, historical analysis, story telling and constant teasing. Affectionately known as “Grumpy”, he will be missed by all who knew him.
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**WANTED:**

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**A SPECTACULAR LAKE TEMAGAMI PHOTO . . . . and others too**

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Pam Sinclair has written an expanded version of her popular TLA history with more great stories and some new photos, but what’s really needed now is a truly great colour photograph for the book that will come out next summer.

There’s no denying that Lake Temagami is a unique place where photos abound of sunsets, sunrises, canoes and all the things that make for a cottaging summer. Would you have a photo that really epitomizes the Temagami Experience? And would you love to share it with others by having it adorn the cover of the new book?

If so, what we’re looking for is a high resolution (2 MB or more) colour digital (jpeg or tiff image, a photo that typifies Temagami. Include a title or where and when it was taken. Email your photo to Vince Hovanec at vhovanec@gmail.com. If it’s selected for the cover, you’ll receive full credit in the book.

What’s more, if you have Temagami photos—digital, with a pixel count of at least 1 MB—of years gone by, send them along too. Include the usual details—who, what, when and where the photo was taken.

All photos should be submitted by December 1.
Misson: Success!

It is the title of a book written by OG Mandino, a widely read inspirational and self-help author. I submit it should also be our mission for the Municipality of Temagami as a whole. The officials elected in this fall municipal election need to make this goal THE overriding one. We must all rally to make the downtown core strong again. Gone is industry yet we have the collective intelligence by including members of the Native community, the Lake residents, and our Temagami constituents, to fashion a world class, leading edge and sustainable place to live and recreate. Let us embrace a vibrant service industry that entails wholesale redevelopment of our urban area. Invite ideas for this model community and forge ahead to a bright future that in turn will entice families with young children to establish roots here. Schools, service clubs, commercial enterprises will again be alive with laughter and prosperity. It will also mean investing in training for our people in order that we become the best that we can be. Our mayor, after the close of the polls on election night, should be a leader whose strong vision and interpersonal skills encourage people to join this new Mission: Success!

On behalf of all of us at Temagami Marine, I want to thank everyone who has supported us during the last three challenging and difficult years. It is a new world around us today and I sincerely hope that we all exercise our democratic right and moral obligation in order to elect a leader and council for the coming term that will do what is right for Temagami above all.

Andre

www.temagamimarine.com • info@temagamimarine.com