



# TEMAGAMI TIMES

THE VOICE OF THE TEMAGAMI LAKES ASSOCIATION (TLA)

WINTER 2014

## Council Makes Decision on Fire Protection Options

Are you thinking of purchasing a fire pump to protect your cottage? You may be eligible for a municipal subsidy under a new policy being put in place in the near future. Does your cottage have water-only access? You will likely see some form of limited fire service rate on your tax bill in 2015. What prompted these changes?

In October of 2011, the Lake Temagami Permanent Residents Association (LaTemPRA) approached the Municipality to ask for their assistance in providing additional fire protection services on Lake Temagami. This request turned out to be quite complex, and Council decided to form an Ad Hoc Committee to research and make recommendations on the feasible options. The committee, which was struck in late April of 2012, was to include members of the community, with representation from both permanent and seasonal residents of Lake Temagami, as well as the Temagami and Marten River Fire Chiefs, the Ontario Fire Marshalls Office, and others.

After extensive research, they brought a report to Council in April 2013, which identified four options: (1) a Municipal, Marine-Based Fire Department; (2) a Non Municipal, Marine-Based Volunteer Organization; (3) Enhanced Distribution of Individual Fire Pumps; and (4) Enhanced Education & Prevention (beyond what the Municipality is required to provide).

The Municipality circulated this report for public input and held two

*continued on page 8*



*Friday Creek, Temagami  
Photo by Doug Adams.*

## TLA Study Finds Low Levels of Mercury in Lake Temagami Sport Fish

The TLA undertook an exciting new environmental monitoring project this past summer, in collaboration with volunteer fisherman from around Lake Temagami. The purpose was to assess mercury concentrations in several species of sport fish caught from the lake.

At high levels, mercury presents potential health risks to people and wildlife that consume fish. In addition to providing some insight into these

potential risks, the data collected will allow the TLA to monitor future trends in fish mercury concentrations in the lake. This is important because in some parts of Canada, fish mercury concentrations have been on the rise. The causes of these trends are not clear, but some researchers think they could be related to broader ecosystem changes brought about by climate warming.

The monitoring project began in

mid-June when sampling kits were distributed to interested volunteers, who donated small samples of fish muscle tissue and provided other information such as fish species, length and location of catch. In total, over 50 individual samples from Lake Trout (10 samples), Smallmouth Bass (31 samples) and Walleye (11 samples) were submitted by about five volunteers.

The results present a good news story overall, with average concentrations in each of the fish species falling well below the 0.5 parts per million (ppm) Health Canada guideline for commercial sale of fish. Only one individual fish, a large walleye, exceeded this guideline, but only slightly.

Mercury and other bioaccumulating contaminants normally increase with fish size, often reaching high levels, so this finding is not unusual. Moreover, in Ontario lakes, fish of

*continued on page 12*

*The results of the TLA study are a welcome confirmation that mercury has not tainted Lake Temagami's well-earned reputation for pristine waters.*

## THE TEMAGAMI TIMES

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#### THE TLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**1st Vice President:** Ted Tichinoff  
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**Directors:** Pete Calverley  
Will Goodman  
Andrew Healy  
Tim Richardson  
Justin Metz

*The term of office for a Director is 3 years.  
Elections are held every year in the summer.*

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## President's letter

It takes a lot to keep up with the needs of maintaining a cottage, or a house! At our family's cottage, we're fortunate to have a wide variety of skills, talents, and creativity among our relatives. My cousin is skilled at setting up and maintaining solar power (which is very important, since we don't have hydro!). My brother-in-law is a very talented and creative carpenter. In the past, relatives have applied their talents to various roofing or dock projects, installing new windows, or leveling the historic icehouse.

To be honest, I don't have any talents to bring to bear on keeping-up the cottage. I cut a little brush along the trails and around the cabins, but it is possible my biggest contribution is taking nephews to productive fishing holes! What has become clear to me over the years is that it takes a variety of skills to maintain and improve the cottage experience. And there are lots of ways people can contribute – each in their own helpful manner.

And so it is with the TLA. People make meaningful and creative contributions to the TLA in a wide variety of ways. People with a knack for writing help with content for the Temagami Times. Others volunteer to monitor campsites, pick up trash, or build and locate loon-nesting platforms. Come to the Corn Roast on July 26 at Wabun to see dozens of volunteers coming together to make a fun social event a success!

Some TLA volunteer activity is less obvious, but equally important to the success and future of the organization. Ten members volunteer their time, expertise, and perspective to serve on the TLA's Board of Directors. Three positions will be open in the summer of 2014, creating excellent opportunities to serve the TLA and participate in its mission to protect and enhance the Temagami Experience. In particular, the Board would benefit from new members with experience in finance, public relations, and planning. Newly retired with some time? Consider running for a position on the TLA Board. Are you a young adult who has enjoyed Temagami growing up, and want to give back or make a difference? The TLA and its Board of Directors would benefit from your perspective.

I can personally say that though I have visited Temagami for decades, my most fun, meaningful, and memorable years have been those I have spent on TLA's Board. I have met new friends, remained engaged in Temagami issues while not on the lake, and learned a great deal. My own personal "Temagami Experience" is strengthened through my involvement with the TLA's leadership. If you have some time, energy, and interest in serving the TLA, I encourage you to consider running for a position on the Board of Directors.

Chip Kittredge  
Island 1158

### 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. As contributing authors write articles for the Times on a voluntary basis the TLA cannot take responsibility for errors or omissions which may accidentally appear in Times articles.*

### 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.

## TENETS FOR TEMAGAMI



**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.

## Needed: Men and women to submit nominations for TLA Board of Directors

The Temagami Lakes Association is administered by an Executive Secretary who reports to a Board of Directors comprising nine members of the association. This Board of Directors meets monthly by telephone for the most part. Each board member tends to chair a committee involving something that interests them or that they personally feel very important to the lake community. The members of your Board of Directors are listed on page 2 of this paper.

Board members, according to the by-laws of the association, may sit for only two terms of three years. Each year there are three seats on the Board that come up for nomination and election. All class A, F or Life members are eligible to stand for election.

Please consider taking an active role in your lake association. Nominations are now open for three seats on the Board this year. An official nomination form will be sent to all voting members in April; however, if you are interested now or would like to discuss the idea further please contact the Executive Secretary, Peter Healy, at [tla@onlink.net](mailto:tla@onlink.net) or 705-237-8927.

## Battery Recycling Program

Temagami Marine once again will undertake the battery recycling program in 2014. Many Lake Residents turned in used marine and automotive style batteries. Temagami Marine recycles these batteries through Crown Batteries, one of only 4 manufacturers left in North America.

Please let others know that this service is available....at NO cost to anyone!

Thank you for being part of this initiative.  
Andre

## Property Patrol Report for Jan. 2014 – Not Completed Yet

By Peter Healy

We had a very early freeze up this winter as folks on Bear Island were travelling to the mainland long before Christmas, much earlier than in past years.

Some heavy snowfalls into the second week of January delayed the start of property patrols and the slush came up, making travel to isolated parts of the lake something that was somewhat risky as the possibility of getting stuck in slush was increasing.

## Temagami Times Now Printed on FSC Certified Paper

The Temagami Lakes Association is pleased to inform our readers that the Temagami Times is now being printed on FSC certified paper, starting with this issue. To understand why the TLA board decided that the use of FSC paper is desirable, it helps to know a little about FSC certification.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Management (FM) certification is a voluntary certification system available to forestry organizations who want to demonstrate responsible forest management by having their forest management planning and practices independently evaluated against FSC's forest management standards.

The number of FSC certified forests has grown by 191% in the past five years and 31% of the world's FSC-certified forests are in Canada. As of January 2014, there were 61.2 million ha certified to FSC FM Standards in Canada. 34% of Canada's certified forests are FSC-certified.

FSC places a very high priority on the protection of rare and endangered forests and wildlife. All forests that are undergoing FSC certification must be assessed to determine if they contain any areas of high conservation value, and if these do exist they must take action to protect and enhance these values.



The FSC certification system also requires consultation with local Aboriginal Peoples with the intention of protecting their rights, on both public and private lands. FSC forest management requirements include an entire section dedicated to the rights of Aboriginal peoples, and are widely recognized as most extensively and specifically addressing the needs of Aboriginal Peoples.

The FSC Principles & Criteria describe the essential elements or rules of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management. There are ten principles setting out this vision; each principle is supported by several criteria that provide a way of judging whether the principle has been met in practice.

These principles include, among others, compliance with laws, regulations, treaties, etc.; upholding indigenous peoples' rights regarding land and resources; maintaining community relations and worker's rights; maintaining or restoring forest ecosystems, biodiversity, resources and landscapes; and maintenance of high conservation value forests.

In Canada, all of the major banks print on FSC-certified paper and several have procurement policies requiring FSC certification. Both the Province of Ontario and the Alberta Ministry of Environment require FSC-certified paper be used.

More information about FSC certification and forest management can be found at [www.ca.fsc.org](http://www.ca.fsc.org).

Source: Forest Stewardship Council website:  
<https://ca.fsc.org>

Finally, late in the third week of January I figured travel was good enough to begin. On my first day out I came across a break-in early in the morning – outboard motors missing from a lakeside shed. A week or so later I learned of another instance of this, even though I did not come across it myself.

There was a lot of snow that first day – three feet or more at the dock and much more up to some cottages. It was tough, and in some cases not possible, to access the buildings. That day a pattern developed – pull up to a dock, stop, stand on the snowmobile and step onto the dock thereby avoiding the slush and three feet of snow on the ice.

This proved to be a good idea until about my twentieth dock, when I felt the back of my snowmobile going down and sure enough I was in the water – not sunk but down with the front of the machine barely hanging onto the ice.

I was not able to extricate it, so I began walking – a walk

that was later measured at exactly 3km (2 mi.) through the slush before I was able to wave down some snowmobilers. We were not able to pull the machine up onto the ice and in fact actually made the situation worse – it was now sitting on bottom in five feet of water.

Two days later temperatures dropped to -30C for over a week with blowing snow each day making salvage operations impossible.

At this writing, my snowmobile remains on the bottom awaiting salvage. Only then can damage be ascertained, repairs made and property checks resumed.

Property checks will re-commence when one of two things happens – my transport is repaired or replaced. This is the first time in ten years such a thing has been necessary. Hopefully I can complete the rounds early this month.

## Planning Committee 2013-2014 Update By Andrew Healy

One of the key portfolios within the TLA Board of Directors is the Planning Committee. The role of the TLA Planning Committee is to ensure that development applications are conforming to the Tenets for Temagami and to the intent of the Official Plan and following the Zoning By-laws.

When applications for Minor Variances, Severances or Zoning By-law Amendments are submitted to the Municipality, the TLA and other interested parties are forwarded a copy of the application for comment. The TLA Planning Committee reviews each application in order to determine whether a comment is necessary, which in most cases it isn't based on the minor nature of the proposed development.

Deciding which applications to comment on can be tricky, especially considering the close-knit lake community and that an applicant could very well be a TLA member, neighbour or friend. In the event that an application seems to stretch the rules too far, the TLA Board may retain the services of a professional planning consultant to assist us in assessing the significance and also in preparing comment to the Municipality. Referring the application to the planning consultant ensures the TLA Board remains as impartial as possible and also that we are getting expert advice in order to provide meaningful comments.

In 2013 the TLA Planning Committee commented on three different applications that were felt to either stretch the rules too far, or that could potentially be precedent setting if approved. Subsequently, the Municipality approved two of these proposals, which was concerning to the TLA Board, given the Municipality had recently confirmed their support for "the rules" in the five-year review of the Comprehensive Zoning By-law. The third application, and perhaps the most concerning for the

*continued on page 6*

### Temagami Lakes Association Comments on Application Z-13-03

January 7, 2014

Wayne Koethe

Municipal Planner, Municipality of Temagami

Mr. Koethe:

The Temagami Lakes Association does not support Zoning By-law amendment Z-13-03; a proposal to permit construction of an accessory workshop building that does not meet all the requirements of the Zoning By-law. This proposal essentially aims to build a structure the size of a large garage, immediately adjacent to the water's edge, on a property that has already reached its development capacity both inside and outside of the shoreline activity area.

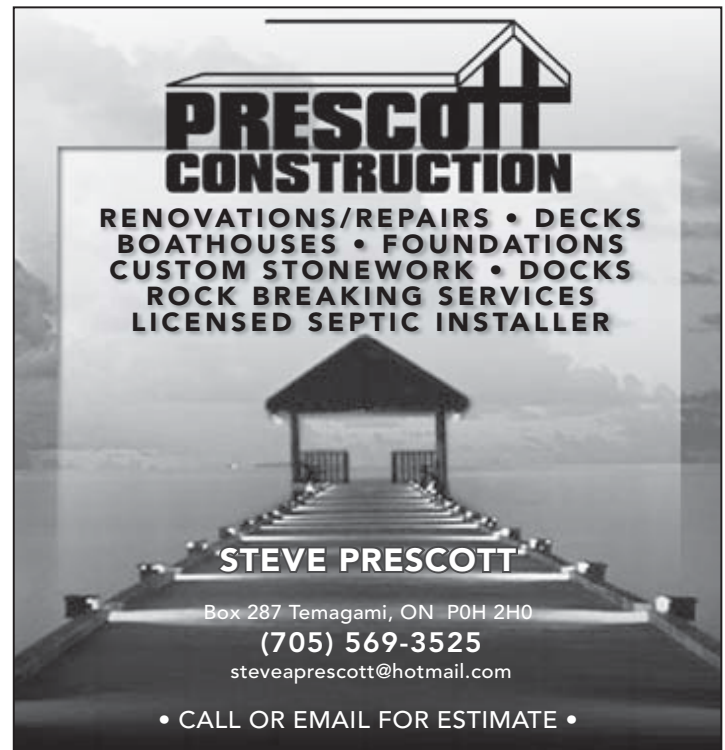
After the amalgamation of the lake community and the Township of Temagami residents of the old Township joined residents of the various lake communities to write both an Official Plan and an implementing Zoning By-Law for the new Municipality. It was a collaborative effort in every way that reflected the values of our new community. The ensuing 5 year review of both the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw further enhanced these.

This application displays a clear disregard for the intent of the Zoning by-law and the consensus on what appropriate island development should be on Lake Temagami.

This proposed amendment lies too far outside the provisions of the Zoning By-law, and would result in an increased intensity of development above what is permitted and/or desired in the Lake Temagami Community as well as setting a precedent that any other party could use to circumvent the intent of our Official Plan and Zoning ByLaw.

Andrew Healy  
Chair, TLA Planning Committee

Chip Kittredge  
President, Temagami Lakes Association



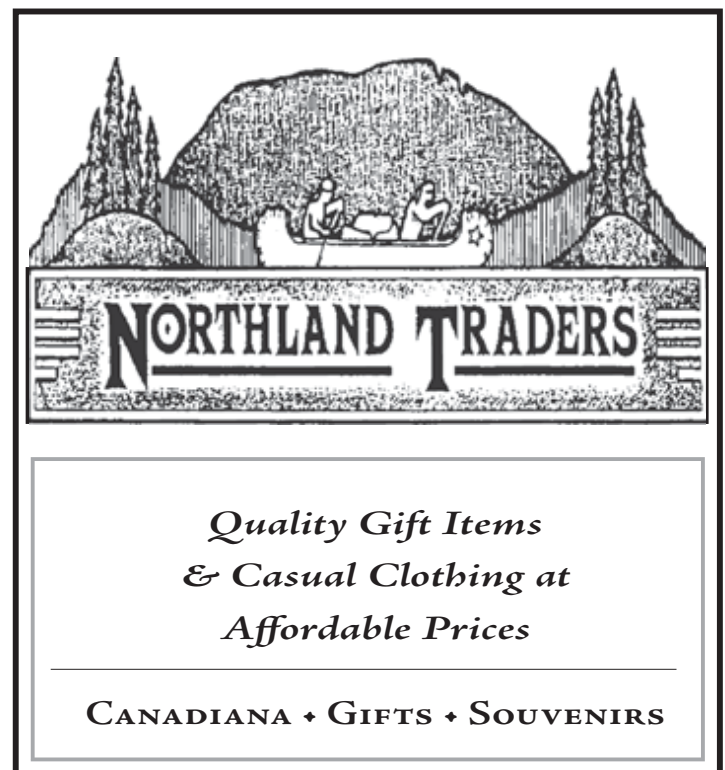
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# TLA's Fishing Line Recycling Program: REELING IN AND RECYCLING IN 2014



By Justin Metz  
TLA Director: Fish and Wildlife

The TLA is proud to announce our newest Fish and Wildlife Project for spring 2014: The Fishing Line Recycling Program. This initiative is part of our ongoing effort to provide convenient and environmentally friendly alternatives to recreational fishing practices.

The catalyst for this project sparked last year during a 5-day canoe trip down the beautifully historic Mattawa River, an hour south of Lake Temagami. I was paddling through a narrow, twisting section



Loons can fall victim to fishing line while feeding.

of slow-moving water, while soaking in the sights and sounds that hovered above, when around the next bend I saw something out of place.

As I drifted closer and closer, my heart began to sink as I saw a stunning Yellow Warbler suspended from the branches, lifeless and horribly entwined in discarded fishing line. I cut it down, untangled the poor bird, and then brought him into the forest to rest. I went back to my canoe and zipped the line into my vest pocket.

Drifting down river I felt an overwhelming feeling of guilt, not for the fault of what happened, but by knowing

that as a lifetime angler, I too have ditched line in our forests and lakes. "How many innocent creatures have I harmed?" I thought. It was a simple process: you get snagged; you cut the line; you need new

there. This day forever changed that mindset and the line in my vest remains, waiting to be turned into something great...

Improperly discarded fishing line poses a threat to all of Temagami's wildlife from land to lake. The TLA Fishing Line Recycling Program will allow anglers to discard their cut, tangled and expired fishing line into custom-built receptacles at high traffic areas around the lake, including the TLA headquarters.

These receptacles will be built, distributed and maintained by our summer staff. At the end of each season, all the discarded line will be sent to Berkley Fishing, a world-renowned tackle producer in the U.S. They will properly recycle the discarded line to create a unique crate-like fish habitat or "Fish-Hab" and send it back to us.



Berkley recycles used fishing line to create artificial "Fish-Habs".

These Fish-Habs are artificial underwater habitat structures made from recycled monofilament line and line spools along with other post-consumer materials like milk cartons and pop bottles. They attract fish and encourage plant growth almost immediately, providing the natural cover essential to the growth of healthy fish populations.

The beauty of this program is that it allows us to turn something potentially harmful into something undoubtedly beneficial, all by making one simple choice. Monofilament line takes 600 years to decompose. The choice is simple. Take advantage of this new initiative and be part of sustaining Temagami's pristine legacy.

If you have any questions regarding this initiative, please feel free to contact the TLA. We also encourage commercial fishing and marina operators on the lake who are willing to participate in this program to contact us.



Recycling Depots like these will be set up at the TLA and other high traffic areas around the lake. Photo by Chip Kittredge.

line; you throw the old one in the garbage. I did this not out of disrespect for nature but out of an unknown ignorance as to what will happen to the line when I left it



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## Planning Committee 2013-2014 Update

*continued from page 4*

TLA, was denied by the Municipal Council, as recommended by the Municipality's Planning Advisory Committee.

This application included construction of a workshop on a small island that failed to meet the minimum distance from shore by a great deal (one third actually) in the Zoning By-Law. Further the application exceeded maximums for floor size and total lot coverage permitted in the By-Law by sizeable amounts.

These differences between what the applicant wanted to build and the community standards established by residents and approved by Councils over the years were just too great. Accordingly the TLA Planning Committee recommended that the Temagami Lakes Association express its concerns, as you can see in the letter appearing on page 4.

It is relevant and important to note that Municipal Council has just completed a five-year review of the Town's Official Plan and Zoning By-Law. This review was endorsed by Council resolution. What this means is that

a vote to approve any application as radically different from the Zoning By-Law as this one would be a vote against a position Council took in the recent past.

The application went through the process of a Public Meeting to receive community input; and a Planning Advisory Committee meeting at which the Municipal Planner's report that recommended the application be denied was presented. This committee voted unanimously to recommend that Council deny the application. On January 30, 2014 the matter was included on a Municipal Council agenda for adoption or rejection. Council endorsed the Municipal Planner's report to deny the application. The result was a vote of 4-2 to deny the application.

The TLA was served well by its Planning Consultant, who provided sound advice as to how the application differed greatly from the Town's approved Zoning By-Law. We would also like to acknowledge the strong leadership of Mayor Hunter and Planning Advisory Committee chair Councillor Middleton throughout as they worked to ensure this process conformed to accepted municipal practices in municipalities throughout Ontario.

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## 2014 TLA Student Jobs

**EMPLOYER:** Temagami Lakes Association (TLA)

**Position:** Students (2) - Environmental Monitoring, Maintenance & Administration

**Location:** Lake Temagami, Ontario

**Job Term:** Approximately 15 weeks

**Anticipated Start date:** May 12th, 2014

**Wage:** \$13 - \$15/hr depending on education and experience.

**Schedule:** 35hrs/week, some weekends required.

#### JOB DESCRIPTION/DUTIES:

- Implement the TLA's Water Quality Monitoring program, including: collection of field data and lake water samples; distribution and liaison with laboratories; and reporting on results.
- Assist with the management and operations of the TLA Headquarters Building, which provides services and products to members. Operate TLA marine radio and communications services as well as other administrative duties.
- Coordinate the TLA's Campsite Clean-up Program, including: performing campsite and hiking trail maintenance; installation of privy toilets; and the development of a map and recreational user info.
- Assist with other environmental stewardship initiatives and membership events.

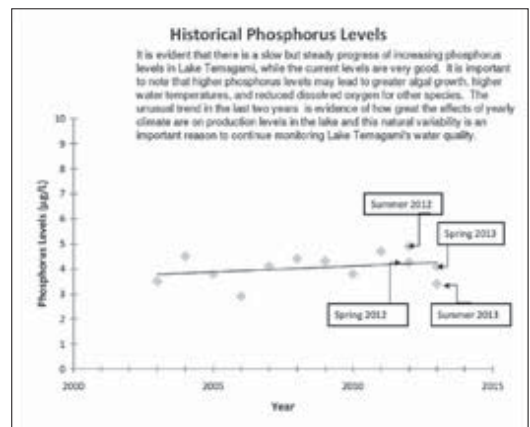
#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Currently enrolled (or recently graduated) in a related field of study from a recognized university or college.
- Experience working outdoors and performing environmental fieldwork.
- Experience collecting and analyzing water quality samples an asset.
- Knowledge and interest in water chemistry, biology, outdoor recreation and environmental issues.
- Excellent communications skills including the ability to operate marine radio clearly, provide excellent customer service to members, and write technical reports.
- Posses a Pleasure Craft Operator's Card and have experience operating boats & outboard motors.
- Knowledge and experience boating on Lake Temagami an asset.
- Experience with hand and power tools an asset.
- Valid First Aid and CPR Certification an asset.

Please submit resume and covering letter by March 15 to:  
Peter Healy, Executive Secretary Email: [tl@onlink.net](mailto:tl@onlink.net)

References will be requested of those candidates selected for interviews.

*This chart is an example of data collected by TLA summer students for the Water Quality Monitoring program.*



# Automated BP Kiosk a Welcome Addition to the Temagami Medical Centre

By Ellen Ibey

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, about one-quarter of Canadians have hypertension, commonly known as high blood pressure. Elevated blood pressure (BP) is the number one correctable risk factor for stroke and a major risk factor for heart disease. What's more, hypertension is on the rise in Canadians 18-35 years of age, due in part to rising rates of obesity in children and teens.

Big health benefits are the pay-off for reducing high blood pressure. According to the Canadian Hypertension Society, lowering high blood pressure can reduce:

- Heart attacks by 25%
- Stroke by 40%
- Heart failure by 50%

All adult Canadians should know what their BP numbers are – just like they should

know their numbers for weight, cholesterol and blood sugar. Knowing your BP numbers can be particularly important, since most people with high blood pressure have no symptoms.

One reading doesn't tell the whole story. While it's important to have your blood pressure checked at least once a year by a healthcare professional, a single BP reading taken in the physician's office isn't usually enough to provide a true picture of a person's BP.

It's normal for blood pressure to fluctuate significantly – as much as 15 or more points from minute to minute. BP is affected by many variables such as exercise, coffee, smoking, illness, etc. The average of multiple readings over a period of time is the best indication of a person's BP.

In an effort to encourage blood pressure self-management and increase access

to regular BP monitoring, the Temagami FHT embarked on a fundraising initiative to purchase an automated BP Kiosk. Recently, through some very determined individuals, groups and service clubs, the fundraising target has been achieved and a PharmaSmart automated BP kiosk has been installed in the waiting area at the Temagami Medical Centre.

It has only been through the generosity of the following individuals, groups, and service clubs that the purchase of this equipment was possible:

- Temagami Lion's Club
- Earleton Lion's Club
- Royal Canadian Legion, Temagami Branch
- T&K Scholarship Fund
- Royal Canadian Legion, Temagami Poppy Fund
- Physician & Staff of the Temagami FHT

This equipment comes with Hypertension Management Smart Card tracking capability which allows patients and their providers to determine their average BP from multiple readings taken over a period

of time. From a clinical perspective, this information allows for improved professional consultation and patient management.

When using the kiosk, the patient should rest seated at the unit for a full minute prior to commencing the test. This will allow them to return to a resting pulse. It's also important to use the proper arm position. A diagram on the instruction panel indicates the correct arm position. It is also very important that the patient remains quiet and still for the duration of the test. Patients are encouraged to use the BP kiosk to take the average of 8 to 10 readings. Only then will they have a good indication of their average blood pressure.

Plans for an official unveiling of the BP kiosk are in the works -- watch for details in the not-too-distant future.

For information, contact:  
Ellen Ibey, Executive Director  
Temagami Family Health Team  
17 O'Connor Drive  
Temagami, ON P0H 2H0  
Tel: (705) 569-3244, ext. 223  
Email: [elibey@temagamifht.ca](mailto:elibey@temagamifht.ca)

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## Council Makes Decisions on Fire Protection Options

continued from page 1

also asked for written comments. During the process, it became apparent that in 2005, the town had changed the practice of billing limited or full fire service charges to properties according to their geographical location and the type of access to the property.

So, in the fall of 2013, Council agreed to postpone their decision on the Lake Temagami Fire Protection Report's options while staff researched the history for the reason this changed. Council received the staff report at the January 10, 2014 meeting. It explained that the 2005 Council exercised their right to change the method of charging fees by adopting the 2005 budget by-law; however, no documentation was found on why this decision was made. The report stated that there had been verbal accounts indicating that the vast majority of fire department calls at the time were highway and vehicle collision related (and that remains to this day).

The report, which can be viewed online, also outlined the financial implications, and recommended that Council consider reinstating the limited and full fire service

public meetings, one in town and one on the lake during the summer months and

charges on a go forward basis. Council accepted the recommendation and has directed that a form of limited and full fire service charges will be reinstated.

They have referred this to the General Government and Finance Advisory Committee for recommendations on the method of allocation, taking into consideration the level of response to highway calls as well as fires, and the properties to be charged limited and full fire service – this recommendation is to be made in time for implementation in the 2015 taxation year.

Once that was decided, Council turned to the original question of which option(s) to pick for fire protection for water-access properties. It is ironic that the very things that make Temagami so unique and wonderful can also present the greatest challenges. Several of the public comments expressed the opinion that island-only development with many remote, secluded properties makes a central water-based fire department response impractical. Council selected a combination of options 3 (Enhanced Distribution of Individual Fire Pumps) and 4a (Enhanced Education & Prevention) as the most feasible choice.

The General Government and Finance Advisory Committee will be drafting a financial plan for implementation of these options for Council's consideration. The proposal had included municipal subsidies for the purchase of standardized individual fire pumps by any municipal resident with no municipal fire protection, (i.e. not limited to Lake

Temagami). More details on how this will be done will be available at a later date.

The enhanced fire education and prevention option could include distribution of additional educational printed material through mailouts and the town website. It could also include working with organizations like the TLA to help get messages out through their various communication channels (i.e. broadcasts over the TLA radio service, regular fire prevention articles in the Temagami Times, TLA web site, literature distributed at the annual meeting, etc.).

The full Lake Temagami Fire Protection Report, the public comments submitted (including from the TLA) and the follow up staff report, are available for public viewing at: [www.temagami.ca](http://www.temagami.ca).

**TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARMS**



Test your smoke alarms once a month and replace the batteries every year.



## The TLA Loon Nest Project Needs Your Help!

By Justin Metz, TLA Director, Fish and Wildlife



Artificial nest like these will be strategically placed around the lake this spring. The TLA is seeking valuable loon information from lake residents to assist in determining these locations. Photo by Justin Metz.

The TLA is calling on all Loon lovers to assist us with our returning Loon Nesting Platform Project and our overall commitment to the preservation of the Loon population in Temagami. In order for this project to be successful a number of Loon Surveys must be completed on the lake. The TLA will be working closely with Bird Studies Canada in participating in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS).

Taking part in the CLLS is an excellent way to enjoy watching loons over the summer while contributing to loon research and conservation. To track loon chick survival through CLLS we need each volunteer:

- in June to watch for pairs of loons occupying the lake;
- in July to look for newly-hatched chicks;
- in August to record the number of chicks that have survived the summer.

Each participant is provided with a survey kit and detailed instructions that explain the survey protocol. You decide which part of the lake you wish to survey within the Common Loon's

breeding range; even parts of the lake without loons provide valuable information.

All participants will receive a paper kit that can be picked up at the TLA Building in mid-May. Surveyors have the choice of submitting their observations to Bird Studies Canada on paper or entering them online at Bird Studies Canada's website. All observations are to be submitted by 15 September.

We understand that many of us (unfortunately) cannot visit our islands at least once from May to August. However, if you are interested in this project nonetheless or have any personal historic data on loon breeding sites and success rates, we would love to hear from you.

Furthermore, based on specific data you may have on loon breeding activity near your island, you may be a candidate to host one of our unique loon nesting platforms if interested.

Please inquire about this great volunteer opportunity with the TLA by email: [tl@onlink.net](mailto:tl@onlink.net) or by phone (705) 237-8927.



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## Low Numbers Cause Volunteer Fire Departments to Join Resources and Respond Together

By Jim Sanderson, Temagami Fire Chief

Marten River and Temagami Fire Departments are concerned of not having enough members available to be able to provide an adequate response to daytime emergencies or to structural fires at any time of the day or night. In the past, both departments have had sufficient personnel available to operate independently of each other, occasionally requesting assistance at structural fires or large highway incidents.

A drop in available personnel over the last 4 months, especially during the day, has resulted in the Fire Chiefs requesting a change in operating procedures. This change, authorized by Council on January 30, 2014, will see both departments responding simultaneously to structure fires in the departments' coverage areas. Between the hours of 06:00 AM and 6:00PM, both departments will respond to highway incidents within their combined coverage areas, stretching from Tilden Lake to James Lake on Hwy 11, and to Temagami River Road on Hwy 64.

What does this mean? If you call and there are not any other emergencies happening, both departments will respond. It also means there are NO additional fire resources immediately available should the departments be out at another emergency.

To better protect yourself, the departments are strongly urging residents of Temagami and Marten River to be more vigilant in practicing fire safety.

Make sure all your smoke alarms are working, checking them monthly and replacing batteries at least yearly (preferably every 6 months when the time changes). Recognize the low battery chirping sound that your smoke alarm makes and replace batteries im-

mediately if you hear that sound. This chirping will only run for a few days, so if you are away from home for several days or more, check your smoke alarm when you return. Replace smoke alarms that are older than 10 years old.

Both departments are actively looking for new members interested in being emergency responders. While both departments have a strong need to increase the number of

emergency responders, there are many other activities within the department that do not include responding to emergencies. Perhaps you are interested in helping with public fire education activities or fire prevention inspections. If you are interested in helping improve fire safety in your community, please contact either Paul Elliott, Marten River Fire Chief (at 705-892-2340 or email [pelliott@ontera.net](mailto:pelliott@ontera.net)) or Jim Sanderson, Temagami Fire Chief (at 705-569-

34211 ext 1500 or email [temfire@temagami.ca](mailto:temfire@temagami.ca)) for further information on how you can help; OR visit the fire departments' page on the municipal website at [www.temagami.ca/pagesmith/39](http://www.temagami.ca/pagesmith/39).

- **Have a home escape plan, and practice it with your family so that everybody knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds and gets out safely.**
- **During the winter, clear out both exits of snow, so that you can open and get out your secondary exit if required.**
- **Clean out wood stove chimneys monthly.**
- **Practice fire safety at all times.**
- **Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home if you have any fuel burning appliances (wood, gas, oil, propane,...).**

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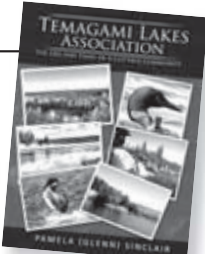


**CATHY DWYER**  
P.O. Box 275, Temagami, ON P0H 2H0

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# Temagami Old Growth Trail Project

By Cathy Dwyer

The Temagami Community Foundation (TCF) has approached local groups – Friends of Temagami, Nastawgan Trails Inc., Temagami Lakes Association, the Temagami Chamber of Commerce, along with the Municipality of Temagami and the Temagami First Nation – with a proposal to develop a partnership plan for the Old Growth trails on Temagami Island and in the White Bear Forest.

The plan would identify trails for maintenance, standardize signage, electronically update and print maps, identify and prioritize infrastructure needs and develop a funding plan.

To fund part of the plan, the TCF intends to promote the project on a web-based Crowdfunding site. It also plans on reaching out to specific supporters and donors. The Temagami Lakes Association (TLA), for example, has already committed funds towards some of the infrastructure requirements.

In the past, volunteers and organizations like the Friends of Temagami, Nastawgan Trails Inc. and the TLA have all worked on the trails, but there has not been a cohesive plan in place for the two areas that would ensure the long-term care of these unique areas.

While maintaining these valuable ecosystems, the partnership plan will include a strategy to market and promote the trails so that the public can enjoy, learn and experience what is so special about Temagami's Old Growth trails.

Both sites were set aside in 2002 as Conservation Reserves by the Province to permanently protect representative ecosystems, biodiversity and provincially significant elements of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage and then to manage these areas to ensure that ecological integrity is maintained.



Photo by Cathy Dwyer.



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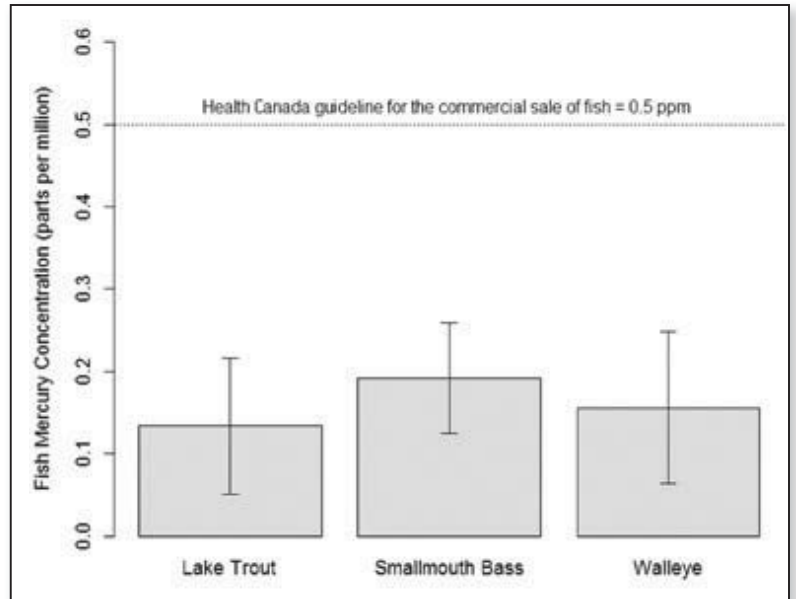
## TLA Study Finds Low Levels of Mercury in Lake Temagami Sport Fish

*continued from page 1*

sport fish size can exceed 0.5 ppm, so the results of the Temagami mercury study are reassuring. They imply that mercury-related risks to humans and wildlife consuming these sport fish from Lake Temagami are relatively low.

It is important to know, however, that the 0.5 ppm guideline is just that: a guideline. In fact, it is not necessarily unsafe to eat a fish with mercury levels that exceed 0.5 ppm, rather it serves as a trigger for recommending a limitation on the amount of fish consumed per week. For more information, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources provides a comprehensive, annual "Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish" ([http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/resources/collection/guide\\_to\\_eating\\_ontario\\_sport\\_fish/index.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/resources/collection/guide_to_eating_ontario_sport_fish/index.htm)). Health Canada guidelines can also be found at: [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/pubs/mercur/merc\\_fish\\_poison-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/pubs/mercur/merc_fish_poison-eng.php).

Mercury is a ubiquitous atmospheric pollutant that is often found at elevated concentrations in Canada's aquatic ecosystems, even in pristine and remote lakes far from any industrial activities. The results are a welcome confirmation that mercury has not tainted Lake Temagami's well-earned reputation for pristine waters, like it has for other lakes in Canada. We thank all volunteers who contributed fish samples in support of this monitoring study.



*Average mercury concentrations in Lake Trout (10 samples), Smallmouth Bass (31 samples), and Walleye (11 samples), determined through the 2013 TLA fish mercury study. Grey bars are the averages; error bars show the amount of variability around these averages based on the individual fish samples for each species (95% confidence intervals).*

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## Take Action to Protect Water Quality

By Cameron Clark, Renee Duval, and Doug Metson of the Timiskaming Health Unit

Cottage life means that we swim in the lake, drink from the lake and use lake water to wash and shower. We fish and boat in it and take great pride in protecting the future water quality and biodiversity of the lake. Environmental initiatives such as the Fish Mercury Study, the Lead Tackle Exchange Program and the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey have all been discussed on Lake Temagami, but another serious problem exists closer to home: Faulty septic systems.

There are over 900 properties on Lake Temagami. This means there are likely hundreds of sewage disposal systems. These include outhouses, composting toilets and septic systems. The largest potential source of contamination to the lake is faulty outdated septic systems.

A proper septic system consists of a watertight septic tank and leaching bed of filter pipes and sand. A modern septic tank will not empty from year to year unless it has been pumped. Without sufficient sand and soil, wastewater will not be adequately filtered and treated. This can result in raw sewage in the lake leading to a risk to human health and the health of the environment.

E. coli can survive in lake water and

travel with currents and wave activity. No one wants to consider what happens if water quality deteriorates. This is an environmental concern that you can control; take action now. Encouraging cottagers to have their septic systems assessed and replaced should be a community initiative, where everyone is honest with themselves and their neighbors in the interest of protecting each other and the quality of the lake.

Is your septic tank safe? Ask yourself these questions:

- Is your septic tank empty after a period of non-use?
- Does the grass over the system at times become unusually green or spongy to walk on?
- Do toilets, showers and sinks take longer to drain?
- Do occasional sewage odours become noticeable?
- Do you see gray or black liquid surfacing in your yard or backing up through plumbing fixtures?
- Do you see unusual algae growth along the shoreline near your septic system?
- Was your system installed before 1984?
- Does your system consist of a steel tank installed before 1970?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the ques-

tions above, you may have a malfunctioning septic system that is contaminating the lake.

Under the Ontario Building Code, a septic system is considered a structure. It is important that you obtain a sewage system permit from Timiskaming Health Unit for the following situations:

- When installing a new septic system;
- When altering or putting additions on to your cottage;
- When corrective work or repairs are needed for an existing system;
- When updating an existing system.

**Make it safe and make it legal. Contact the Timiskaming Health Unit to learn more.**

Here is another question for you. If your septic system is malfunctioning and there is a potential for sewage to leak into the waterway, would you allow your children or grandchildren to drink untreated lake water? To learn more about drinking water safety, contact Renee Duval, Public Health Inspector ([duvalr@timiskaminghu.com](mailto:duvalr@timiskaminghu.com)).

To learn more what you can do to preserve the water quality of Lake Temagami, contact Doug Metson, Building Control Officer ([metsond@timiskaminghu.com](mailto:metsond@timiskaminghu.com)).

Watch your email for a short survey from



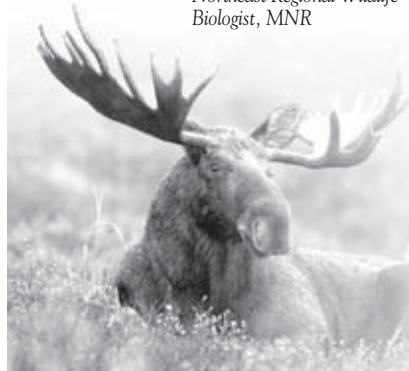
Does your septic system have a steel tank installed before 1970? If so, it may look like these and need replacement. Photos supplied by the Timiskaming Health Unit.



the Timiskaming Health Unit – we want to know how to best support your community in maintaining human and environmental health.

## MNR Moose Management in Ontario's Northeast Region

By Peter Davis,  
Northeast Regional Wildlife  
Biologist, MNR



Ontario's Northeast Region (NER) has 25 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) that are managed for licenced moose hunts (WMUs 01A, 01D, 21B, 22 to 42 inclusive and 47).

The combined moose population in the NER has been mainly in a declining trend since 2004. It is currently estimated that there are just under 39,000 moose for those WMUs with licenced moose hunts. The majority of WMUs with moose aerial inventories in the past decade have shown lower moose calf recruitment since 2002. WMUs 31, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 40 have moose densities that are near or below desired ecological minimums of 20 moose per 100 sq. kilometres.

In the winter of 2014, moose aerial inventories are planned for WMUs 23, 28, 30, 32, 35, 36, 39 and 41.

Moose with substantial hair loss caused by high winter tick infestation have been observed in the NER during the winter and spring of 2013 (Chapleau, Timmins, North Bay and Sudbury Districts), with several documented tick related mortalities. In 2012, snow

depths disappeared by mid-March across the NER which favoured winter ticks. Deeper snow extending well into April, 2013, may have resulted in higher mortality of engorged female winter ticks and may cause fewer ticks on moose this winter compared to last winter.

In 2012, 49 per cent of resident hunters in the province hunted within the NER (42,589 of 86,650 hunters), which accounted for 37 per cent of the provincial resident moose harvest (2,192 of 5,861 moose).

The estimated 2012 resident moose harvest from the NER WMUs was 2,192, comprised of 927 bulls, 499 cows and 766 calves. Tourist industry clients harvested a total of 206 moose comprised of 146 bulls, 54 cows and 6 calves. The high number of resident hunters and effort results in high calf harvests, which reduces the adult validation tag quotas offered under the current system.

For further information on moose biology, moose management and resident moose harvest estimates by WMU, please visit <http://ontario.ca/moose>.