

## **Minutes of the TLA “Annual General Meeting” 2019**

The TLA AGM was held at CAMP WABUN on Saturday, July 27, 2019. The minutes will also be posted on the TLA website at: <https://tla-temagami.org>.

**Greetings:** President Brit Hyde welcomed TLA members and encouraged them to provide input for the Official Plan at the July 27<sup>th</sup> Temagami “Municipal Planning Session”.

**Board of Directors and Administrative Coordinator:** Brit introduced the current Board Members who were in attendance: Margaret Langfitt, Terry Males, and Amelia Brooker. Two seats will be open on the Board as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, Linda Bangay has been working as the TLA’s Administrative Coordinator since the beginning of 2019.

**Quorum and Approvals:** 60 TLA voting members were in attendance, along with approximately 15 other members and guests (and the Wabun staff). Voting members were also represented by 36 proxies. Having confirmed that quorum was achieved, Brit called the meeting to order. Rob Corcoran moved that the agenda be approved. This was seconded by Mary Soper and passed with a vote. The 2018 meeting minutes that were previously published in the *Temagami Times* were also approved, with no issues carried forward.

**President’s Summary:** The Board of Directors, Directors Elect, and Past Presidents received applause for their generous commitment to the TLA.

Brit lamented the passing of long-time TLA members (and former members of the Board of Directors), Tom Romans and Ted Tichinoff. He also commended Peter Healy’s 15-year contribution to the TLA as Executive Secretary.

Brit explained that the 2019 question-and-answer format for the AGM is expected to help the executive clarify issues that most concern TLA members. Unanswered questions will be researched, with answers posted. He encouraged members to direct questions to the three guests in attendance: Temagami Mayor, Dan O’Mara; John Turner, Second Chief – Temagami First Nation; and, Temagami Fire Chief, Jim Sanderson.

Having expressed the strengths of the TLA – the love of Temagami, belief in the Tenets for Temagami, and volunteerism – Brit recommended that the organization be open to change and committed to working with community partners. He also promoted the Temagami Community Foundation fundraiser (draw for a truck, boat, and trailer, and a cedar-strip canoe) and suggested that people purchase tickets for their fish-fry fundraiser.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 1:** Margaret Langfitt presented the 2018 financial statement. She also noted the steady membership numbers (approximately 596), a slight increase in the cost of the *Temagami Times*, and a decrease in cash on hand due to the \$46,000 cost of supporting the Tenets. David Langfitt moved to pass the financial statement. This was seconded by Mary Soper and passed with a vote.

**Resolution 2:** Mike Bloomfield moved to approve the actions of the Directors and Officers since the commencement of the 2018 AGM. This was seconded by Deborah Schuller and passed with a vote.

**Service Awards:** Brit thanked Past-President, Will Goodman, and former Executive Secretary, Peter Healy, for their work on behalf of TLA members. He presented Will with a gavel and plaque, and Peter with a commemorative plaque.

## **RESULTS OF THE TLA MEMBER SURVEY**

As of the date of the AGM, 188 of 410 surveys had been returned. Brit thanked members for helping the executive to focus on key issues. He encouraged those who had not completed the survey to do so. Results will be posted on the TLA website.

**SURVEY QUESTION #1:** When survey participants were asked to rank the importance of key issues, “Promotion/Protection of the Tenets for Temagami” ranked #1, “Environmental Protection Advocacy” (e.g., invasive species, water quality) ranked #2, and “Maintaining or Improving Relationships With Full-Time Residents” ranked #3. Property monitoring, information sharing by radio, other administrative services, and social events were ranked as being lower in importance.

**SURVEY QUESTION #2:** When asked about TLA services, “Zoning Review/Oversight and Engagement with Town’s Planning Committee” ranked #1, “Water Quality Testing” (through TERAS) ranked #2, and “Publication and Distribution of the *Temagami Times*” ranked #3. Rankings related to other environmental issues (e.g., campsite maintenance), publicity campaign to protect Lake Temagami from invasive species, headquarters and radio services, and publication of the Membership Directory received lower rankings. Amelia Brooker suggested that the expensive, annual TLA Directory could be a bi-yearly publication, with an update provided during off years. She also recommended continued education about environmental issues.

**SURVEY QUESTION #3:** Regarding future options for the TLA headquarters building (with only three years left on the MNRF lease and an argument from some that its mainland location violates the Tenets), 52% of respondents voted to “stay put”, while 41.5% were less concerned with maintaining the current location. In addition, 6.5% of respondents supported the potential of a “virtual TLA” if the lease for the building site is not renewed.

**SURVEY QUESTION #4:** When surveyed about development on the Lake, 47% of respondents preferred no change, 27% supported limited mainland development near the Town of Temagami to support economic growth, while 26% were open to other options (including well-planned island development). Brit said these results indicated that this issue requires more work and discussion in the future.

**SURVEY QUESTION #5:** 85% of survey respondents supported the “Tenets for Temagami”.

**SURVEY QUESTION #6:** 80% of respondents agreed on the effectiveness of the TEMAGAMI LAKES ASSOCIATION, and that the association represented their interests well.

**SURVEY QUESTIONS #7 AND #8:** 40% of respondents said they would consider serving on a Committee or the Board of Directors of the TLA (and some provided their contact information).

**SURVEY QUESTION #9:** When asked about time spent in Temagami as part-time Lake residents, 46% of respondents said they go to Temagami to escape and have limited interactions with the Lake community (other than neighbours). 30% specified that they look forward to interacting with the Lake

community, but don't spend much time interacting in Town or outside of their Lake neighbourhoods.

In addition, 12% indicated that they are well integrated into the Lake and Town communities (with regular interactions in their Lake neighbourhoods and beyond), and 12% had "other" responses.

**SURVEY QUESTION #10:** Respondents indicated that there were a wide variety of other issues, concerns, or ideas that they wished to share with the TLA (e.g., emergency communications, updates to the Official Plan, water levels, Temagami First Nation land-claim settlement, cell service, parking, houseboats, taxation, invasive species, climate change).

## **"TOWN HALL"**

### **Guest Question-and-Answer Session:**

**JIM SANDERSON, TEMAGAMI FIRE CHIEF:** Jim presented a slide show with facts about the 2018 fires (e.g., lighting strikes from June 29<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, numerous fires in the Municipality of Temagami, fires coming to within one kilometre of Temagami Marine, etc.). He also discussed some future improvements: standardization of evacuation and emergency-management procedures; updating message boards; improving maps; enhancing communications between involved organizations; and, collecting resident contact information within the area. Jim advised cottagers to leave a three-metre ventilation area around their buildings, and to wet down buildings rather than try to fight a large fire.

Dan O'Mara recommended the purchase of municipality-approved Honda fire pumps and the use of multiple pumps within a neighbourhood, since pumps reach only 400 feet. Dan also said that Lake Watch is recommending a quick-connect hose that cottagers can use with their own pumps.

Steve Mitchell suggested that someone organize a training session. Beth Silver thanked TLA VHF radio operators, and Ann Gardner reinforced the important role of VHF radio and telephone networks between cottagers.

**JOHN TURNER, SECOND CHIEF – TEMAGAMI FIRST NATION (TFN):** Walter Ross asked John to talk about the TFN's ideas re: future Lake development, which he believes should depend on improved consultation and good relationships with the TFN. John said that the TFN feels caught "in between" the

town (development focus) and the TLA (environmental focus) on the issue of mainland development, given that they are full-time residents who interact with both parties and can benefit from economic development and environmental protection.

Walter asked about progress on the land-claim settlement. John said that the province deals with land status, while the federal government deals with reserve-status issues and compensation. He spoke of the 1850 approach to treaty creation, where a representative from each tribal unit was a partner in the negotiations. Decisions became more complex later on, when the government began to determine the structures and rules through the Indian Act, etc. John cautioned that the settlement will take time (e.g., an environmental assessment of the set-aside lands is due, and will take approximately two years to complete, while the land-claim process may take 10 years to finalize). John hopes the negotiations will begin again in September, although with elections coming up, this is uncertain. John ended by stating: “We remain optimistic, after 150 years.”

Biff Lowery commented that the TFN and TAA (Teme-Augama Anishnabai) Chiefs met face-to-face with planners, reviewed all draft copies of the current Official Plan, and then provided recommendations (all of which were adopted). Hilton Young confirmed the “extensive dialogue” that occurred between the TLA and TFN during the creation of the plan.

DAN O’MARA, TEMAGAMI MAYOR: Marilyn Smelcer asked about the status of the Official Plan. Dan said that before they can begin drafting the new Official Plan, the Municipal Council must wait for the completion of a provincial survey which sets out updated rules for the process. He emphasized the need to “take the time” and “get it right”, and creating the plan in a working partnership between the TLA, TFN, and Temagami Council. He invited cottagers to send him comments that will help the Council meet their goal of bringing the communities together.

## **Member Questions/Comments and Answers:**

**Q.** Joe Barnett asked about emergency services on the Lake, as he believed that the Bear Island helipad service is not available to cottagers. *[NOTE: The website for the Municipality of Temagami currently lists Bear Island as a location of one of the local helipads.]*

**A.** He was advised to call 911, or have the TLA call the number. An ambulance can come from town, and helipads are also available in Temagami (at Snake Lake) and Marten River. Amelia Brooker directed members to articles on emergency preparedness (including the air-ambulance service) in the Winter and Summer 2019 issues of the *Temagami Times*. Amelia also suggested that everyone should know their cottage GPS coordinates (and latitude and longitude), as well as their cottage 911 numbers.

**Q.** Jack Goodman asked Dan O'Mara about the potential for enhanced cell-phone use on the Lake. Current service providers appear to show little interest in this, as there are already many of their landlines on the Lake.

**A.** Bear Island and the Municipality are investigating the government's rural broadband services for better local options. Doug Goodman suggested that members contact their MPs to explain that reliable cell-phone service is a safety issue. Dan O'Mara said the current population of Temagami is 900 and does not include Lake residents and cottagers. Therefore, to increase leverage on these issues, the Municipality, TFN, and TLA should lobby together. The TLA will follow up on this concern.

**C.** In speaking about reckless speed on the Access Road that endangers people and wildlife, Steve Mitchell advocated for enforcement of the 50 km-per-hour limit.

**A.** Peter Healy indicated the limit was set years ago to reduce legal liability as the road is narrower and not constructed for vehicle use at higher speeds.

**Q.** Nicole Brooker asked how the spraying of forests with glyphosate can be stopped in Temagami as the World Health Organization's "International Agency for Research on Cancer" has said that this herbicide is "probably carcinogenic".

A. Steve Mitchell suggested that concerned members contact the MNRF or Local Citizens' Committee since Temagami is a crown land unit. David Langfitt said that lawsuits against users of glyphosate (e.g., Monsanto) have been successful in the USA. Mary Clark asked for John Turner's comment on spraying. He said that the TFN opposes spraying in the N'Daki Menan. He suggested that people consult MNRF spraying maps, but noted that spraying is not permitted when there are signs of humans on the ground. The TLA will follow up on this issue and report back to members. Dan O'Mara said that the town is working with the TFN on forestry issues. He encouraged members to give him their names and e-mail addresses so that he can send out information on a regular basis.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Brit thanked members for attending, welcomed feedback about the AGM, and again thanked Linda Bangay for her work on the *Temagami Times* and data collection, etc. David Langfitt moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Rick Moore and passed with a vote.

***Editor's Note:** Special thanks is extended to Blake and Judy Stormes (who had the monstrous job of taking minutes), Carol Lowery and Nicole Brooker (who did registration), Julie Hyde and Margaret Langfitt (who assisted with various AGM tasks), Marty Martelle (the IT person), and Nate Mitchell, Stephen Mitchell, and David Langfitt (who made sure that people were able to dock their boats efficiently and safely). Amelia Brooker, in particular, went above and beyond to assist with the many details involved in the planning and implementation of the meeting. The TLA Summer Staff – Nate and Sam Mitchell – helped in this respect, as well. Of course, nothing would have been possible without the kind, conscientious, and hard-working staff from Camp Wabun!*