

### **Dominique Nobes, Temagami Outdoors and Cottage Care:**

[www.temagamioutdoors.ca](http://www.temagamioutdoors.ca)

- Business Focus: Ice fishing; guided fishing, guided hikes using existing trails on Temagami Island and White Bear Trails). Dom and her husband, Rielly, do not run overnight camping trips.
- Cottage Care focuses on cottage cleaning, landscaping, cottage maintenance.
- During the winter, they manage ice fishing trips, including daily garbage pick-up + greywater disposal, both of which are handled in accordance with MOEE and MNRF regulations
- Their business is on a commercially-zoned property, which is currently rented from another person.
- Taxation: Since they rent the property, they pay applicable payroll taxes for employees.
- They do not view future MNRF or Municipality regulations as a negative. They do believe that there are Lake capacity limits that should be considered in future MNRF or Municipality regulations.
- Dominique and her husband, Rielly, are not profit oriented. They are interested in outdoors and they have a deep love for the Temagami area.

### **Adam Pugh, Loon Lodge:**

[www.loonlodge.com](http://www.loonlodge.com)

- Currently run two on-shore accommodations, guided fishing tours, a water taxi, a small store, and 7 ice-fishing bungalows in winter.
- Guide boats are maintained by certified mechanic, with periodic inspections, log books, etc. for both boats and structures.
- Clientele is mostly older, as kids don't like to fish very much.
- Adam has a fish and wildlife diploma, and takes proactive measures to prevent overfishing. Guided trips are catch and release and he implements creel surveys
- Supports local businesses as much as possible with supplies and maintenance.
- Loon Lodge is zoned as commercial tourist operation and marina. There are no zoning requirements for ice fishing.
- Fears ecotourism will get "out of hand" in the future and would like to see more regulations to manage growth.
- Feels privileged to make a living at what he loves to do here on Temagami. Temagami is unique in so many ways, and encourages the support of TAFIP.

### **Ryan Smith, Chic Shore:**

<https://chicshore.ca>

- First came to the Lake as visitors in 1994; parents purchased a cottage near Skull Narrows.
- Established Chic Shore in 2022.
- Currently has one geodesic dome, which has a self-contained incineration toilet (no black water). Grey water is managed with above-deck reservoir and transferred to septic on Island 179.
- Business caters to couples and young families
- The Dome is a registered vessel with Transport Canada (same category as a houseboat). It stays at one site for no more than 10 days, and is moved around quite a bit. It is currently moored in a back bay.

***In addition to answering the questions during the Town Hall, all the operators were offered the opportunity to submit written responses as well. The following are written responses from Chic Shore:***

**How do you select placement for the Villas, and what actions do you take to respect property owners privacy, even if setting up a Villa nearby or within close visual range of private property is legally permitted? How long do you keep a villa in a particular place?**

We select locations based on many factors. It starts with what our client is seeking. ALL of our clients are either young families or couples celebrating a special occasion. Privacy and seclusion, swimming, preference of experiencing a sunrise or sunset? Sun exposure for the solar system. Weather.

Our 'Chic Shore Water Villa' is a registered vessel. As such, we are subject to the same rules that are established by Transport Canada and enforced by MNRF and OPP. Our vessels are permitted to moor at one location for 22 days. As a preference and out of respect for cottage owners, we as operators are not interested in disrupting seasonal or permanent residents. We have such a short season, and like most of the TLA members, we too appreciate the peace and quiet that Lake Temagami offers.

**What happens if one of your floating lodges is moored at a campsite for a significant period of time and canoeists and other campers want to camp on the shore in that spot?**

We will not have the Water Villa parked at one campsite for more than 10 days on average. To answer the question more directly, if there are campers/canoeists that are seeking a specific campsite that is already occupied by another group, they will have to keep paddling. The rules are simple, first come first serve ... within the 22 days of course. We don't necessarily agree or disagree with the rules, but we will follow them.

**Why can't the villas be a darker color, or at least be less conspicuous?**

We did initially seek a green exterior for the villa. Essentially it came down to the heat factor inside the villa. Going green would have been too dark, and as a result, increase the interior temperature to the point where it would be uncomfortable for our clients. This is the specific reason what most geodesic domes are white ... heat factor.

**Please describe the recovery and disposal of black and grey water from the villas.**

GREAT NEWS! There is NO black water as we invested in a state-of-the-art incineration toilet. As for grey water, it is stored in approved tanks that are above the deck boards (easy to see, not sitting in the lake, not subject to the risk that ice possess in the winter). VERY SECURE. The grey [water] is managed at our private island where it is deposited into our septic system that was designed for 4 cabins, of which only 2 are used. This was a system installed in 2018, was thoroughly inspected as per established building codes.

**How do the Province's proposed changes to camp site "stay times" affect your business?**

They do not affect our business.

**Are there any MNRF enforcements or inspections that your business or the villas have to go through.**

No – but we have welcomed them on board and showed them around.

**Why are your villas treated differently from an actual dwelling and not subject to the 15-metre shoreline standoff rules?**

The villas are not land “dwellings”, they are vessel dwellings [like houseboats]. The 15-m shoreline [setback] rules do not apply to vessels.

**You’re now in your 2nd year on the Lake as the owner of Chic Shore. Where do you see your business in 5 years in terms of growth, as well as the number and types of floating structures?**

The number of structures Chic Shore will invest in has yet to be determined.

**How are you zoned as a business and how are you taxed as an operator?**

Chic Shore Hospitality Ltd is a registered entity in the province of Ontario. We pay the associated tax that any business operator is subject to.

**As there are few regulations and little oversight currently in place for operating a business on the Lake, where do you see the eco-tourism industry on Lake Temagami in 5 years?**

In our opinion, it will be similar to what it is today with some evolvments. We are interested in ecotourism and the advancement in battery-powered hydrofoils is an area [we] are exploring. You might catch our daughters training this season in and around Skull Narrows. Their intention is to become good enough to instruct and take Chic Shore clients and visitors to the lake on guided tours. This is an idea I personally support. It will be up to my daughters, nieces, and nephews to make it happen. If you are not familiar with e-Foils, you can learn about them here: <https://youtu.be/1yEmtz4ZVMM>.

**Would you be in favor of Council, MNRF, or the Province implementing formal regulations for your types of businesses?**

In general, Yes. The problem we have as a province/country is we do not enable the MNRF to do their job properly. There is a tremendous amount of work to do to implement [an] operational structure that will: 1) meet the needs of the environment. 2) Help sustain the local economy. If we as a community establish rules and guidelines relating to governance of business operators on Lake Temagami, we MUST ensure that they are enforced. Rules/laws/governance means little if it is not backed up by enforcement across the board ... not just picking and choosing who to target based on who is calling the authorities. The number of times we had the MNRF helicopter up over Skull Narrows last season was stunning. On average, it’s \$15K to put the chopper up. We are not doing ourselves any favours, as a community, spending taxpayer dollars in this fashion. Chic Shore has nothing to hide. Come over in your own boat and have a conversation with me if your concerns have not been addressed in the above mentioned disclosure.

**What is the reason you started your business on Temagami? Were you profit motivated or is your business built around your passion?**

Out of all the questions, this is my favorite one. I first came to Temagami with my father when I was 11. We stayed at Ket-Chun-Eny, where we met Dennis, Rick, and Pauline. I have been coming back every year since, for 34 years. After living overseas and then the United States (Boston), I took a break and relocated to the lake full time for 2 years ... what an experience. This is when I knew this was the place where I want to grow old.

Our reason for starting Chic Shore Hospitality are many.

- 1) It was in the height of COVID. Having exited a telemedicine software co, I had time on my hands. Too much time. I needed a project that would keep my young family looking forward and staying positive. It worked.
- 2) I bartended around the world. I've worked at some of the seediest establishments as well as Diamond Rated resorts in the Asia-Pacific region. I am seeking to transfer the skills I developed in hospitality and customer service to my daughters.
- 3) A significant portion of our season is donated to NFPs [not for profits]. For 2023, we are supporting the Baycrest Foundation to help combat Alzheimer's and dementia.
- 4) Profit is the last lesson, for my girls. That said, "profits" come in many forms other than monetary gain.

**MEMBER-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS:**

**From Barb:**

[Question for Ryan ... Who chooses the location of the floating domes?](#)

Ryan: I choose them based on what clients want, weather conditions, and location of nearby cottages that could be bothered. This is not a party company.

**From Tarik:**

[Why \(and how\) should you keep Temagami unlike Muskoka – visually and with respect to noise? How can you maintain the peace and tranquility of the Lake?](#)

Adam: There is a finite amount of property to develop, and only on islands. Most people are like-minded; gas is expensive, so large boats are unlikely; non-residents should pay a fee to use the Access Road and dispose of garbage (i.e., untapped \$\$ in the Municipality)

Dominique: Maintaining the Skyline Reserve and island-only development may prevent Temagami from turning into Muskoka. Camps operate for only 2 months/year. We keep our ice huts, signage, etc. in green in colour to fit in visually with surroundings

Ryan: Temagami has a good group of like-minded people. Electric boats [in the future] will reduce noise.

**Question from Paul:**

What is the % of ice huts that are not from commercial operators?

Dominique: The majority are privately owned. Temagami Outdoors has only 6 huts.

Adam: Agrees with Dom. Loon Lodge has only 7 huts.

**Question from Greg:**

What is the degree of respect to the Lake and environment observed by non-commercial, ice-hut operators?

Adam: Loon Lodge has had to clean up after them.

Dominique: Temagami Outdoors has had to clean up after them, as well. We have also reported people to the MNRF.