

Minutes of the TLA “Annual General Meeting” 2025

The 94th “Annual General Meeting” of the Temagami Lakes Association was held in person on Saturday, July 26, 2025 at Camp Wabun (on Island 981, Lake Temagami).

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

TLA President, Nicole Brooker, welcomed TLA members to the meeting. She then introduced the other Board Members in attendance (Bill Bateman, Lynn Buckham, Christopher Brooks, Brad Sablosky, and Carol Lowery) and those who couldn't attend (Rob Corcoran, Alec Morley, and Scot Paltrow). Rob and Alec's terms end on August 31, 2025. Nicole thanked them for their time and effort on behalf of TLA members and the Temagami community.

She also thanked Linda Bangay (Executive Director), Marty Martelle, and James Carr (summer student working at the Headquarters building) for their hard work on behalf of the TLA.

Two positions are currently open on the Board of Directors. Terms for these Director positions begin on September 1, 2025. Any interested members can contact a Board member.

UPDATES:

Nicole mentioned that the Lake Temagami transfer station overcharge amount from 2024 has been placed into Municipal reserves (instead of being refunded to those who paid these fees). She also noted the following: no additional O.P.P. patrols of the Lake will occur at the current funding level; random testing for septic contaminants in water will no longer occur; signage re: Eurasian Watermilfoil at the Town docks has been approved, but support from TFN is required; permission has been granted for removal of invasive *Phragmites* along the Access Road, but the TLA is waiting for a permit; and, along with the BBQ and AGM, the Association has organized fire-pump and first-aid training for members on July 30, 2025.

Other topics of interest included: the “Emergency Response Island Locator” template inside the back cover of the 2025 Membership Directory; the TLA website as a source for up-to-date information; requesting member assistance in taking discarded items from the Headquarters building to the landfill (on Mondays and Fridays); and, the shoreline clean-up challenge.

QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER:

44 voting members (plus guests) were in attendance, and 36 voting members were represented by proxies. After quorum was confirmed, Nicole called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

MOTIONS:

A motion to approve the “Agenda” for the 2025 TLA AGM was moved by Paul Tamburro (Island 676), seconded by Tim Richardson (Island 795), and carried at 10:21 a.m.

A motion to approve the “Minutes of the TLA Annual General Meeting 2024” was moved by Michael Bloomfield (Island 950), seconded by Robert Moore (Island 1248), and carried at 10:22 a.m. There was no business arising from these minutes.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 1: TLA Treasurer, Christopher Brooks, presented an overview of the 2024 financial statement. Highlights included an increase in both revenue (e.g., from investment interest, merchandise sales, and memberships) and expenses (e.g., due to website upgrades, increased prices for mailing, etc.) compared to 2023. The TLA should consider an increase in membership fees in 2026, as this has not occurred for 10+ years. The motion to adopt “the Resolution respecting approval of the “2024 TLA financial statement” was made by Robert Moore (Island 1248), seconded by Phil Bury (Island 985), and carried at 10:30 a.m.

Q. Tarik Muzaffar (Island 1119): What is the cost to take down the TLA building, and how much money will this save the Association?

A. Bill Bateman indicated that demolishing the building, retiring the septic system, capping the well, etc. (along with removal of the hydro and phone connections) will cost approximately \$50,000 CAD. Nicole Brooker said that current annual costs are about \$10,000 (plus payment for summer staffing). Linda Bangay added that the future savings are currently undetermined, as we don’t yet know what will occur regarding a new site for the Headquarters.

Resolution 2: The motion to adopt “the Resolution respecting approval of actions of the Directors and Officers since commencement of the 2024 TLA Annual General Meeting” was made by Valerie Hostetler (Island 49), seconded by Terry Males (Island 49), and carried at 10:31 a.m. No related questions were posed to the Directors.

RECOGNITION OF TLA MEMBERS:

Nicole congratulated Paul Tamburro and Biff Lowery for being selected as the TLA 2024 “Members-of-the-Year”. Both will receive complimentary, one-year memberships. Paul did a tremendous amount of work on the “Planning and Municipal Affairs Committee” (especially regarding the new Municipal OP) and spearheaded development of the “Temagami Shoreline Clean-Up Challenge” – now in its third year. Biff has assisted the TLA in numerous ways – especially during special events, such as the annual BBQ and AGM.

Carol Lowery spoke of TLA members and supporters lost since the 2024 AGM. They include: Anne Smart, Lois Code, Jack L. Goodman, Bobby Morrison, John Eberhard, Carol Cochrane, Rusty Hyde, Dan Carpenter, Jr., David May, Donald Hindson, Lorie Hunter, Peter Drenth, and Larry Gerstner. We will remember their contributions to the TLA over the years, and all will be greatly missed.

QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION + COMMENTS:

Comment by Valerie Hostetler (Island 49): She suggested that the TLA encourage the Municipality to clean up the Manitou Landing and put out garbage pails, as trash has been strewn all around the area.

Q. Lisa Tuckerman (Island 1005): What is the status of the Municipal parking situation?

A. Carol Lowery indicated that Council has requested further details – especially with respect to possible parking fees. She noted that the Municipality can't afford to lose money on such an initiative. Also, the public has until October 15, 2025 to remove boat trailers, etc. from Municipal parking areas, or they will be removed by the Municipality. Ice huts must be removed by March 15, 2026. Further, the Temagami Region Economic Development Corporation will soon hold a meeting for the public and Council to provide an overview of their activities.

Q. Deb Tucker (Island 981): What will the TLA be doing about MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) assessments?

A. Nicole Brooker indicated that the next set of assessments are expected in 2026, and any questions and appeals must be addressed by individual property owners with MPAC.

Q. Larry Archibald (Island 392): He thanked the TLA and Planning Committee for their work on the new Municipal "Official Plan" (OP) and asked about the timing of implementation.

A. Lynn Buckham said the new OP has not yet been approved by the Province. She indicated that most of the TLA's comments/concerns were incorporated into the OP and that it has been adopted by the Temagami Council. It is expected that the MMAH (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) will make a decision regarding approval by the end of September 2025. A comprehensive Zoning By-Law will then be created (with public input) to implement the OP after provincial approval.

Paul Tamburro added that the TLA's hiring of a planner was money well spent and that our influence was enormous. The "vision statement" of the OP, for example, was written by TLA member (and past Board Director), Tarik Muzaffar.

Linda Bangay and Christopher Brooks then provided an overview of the "Tenets" fund – which paid for the TLA's planner. As of July 21, 2025, there was \$16,000.00+ remaining in the fund. More money will likely be paid for planning services during development of the Zoning By-Law.

Comments by Nicole Brooker (Island 663): She reminded attendees that the next Municipal election for Ontario would be in October 2026 and that it would be beneficial for Canadian TLA members to consider putting their names forward to run for Temagami Council.

Also, as of September 1, 2025, there will be two open positions on the TLA Board. Nicole encouraged interested members to contact her. Representation from the South Arm, in particular, is needed.

PRESENTATION BY DR. JESSE VERMAIRE, CARLETON UNIVERSITY:

Dr. Tim Richardson provided an overview of TERAS (Temagami Environmental Research and Stewardship). He indicated that Lake Temagami water-testing results have been reasonably stable for a number of years, but the group wanted the historical information that could be acquired by a paleolimnology study. This was carried out by Carleton University Master's Student, Jose Roginal Gabriel Atienza, and supervised by Dr. Jesse Vermaire and Dr. Murray Richardson. Input for the study was also provided by Dr. John P. Smol of Queen's University and Branavaan Sivarajah, Fisheries Management Biologist, at Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Dr. Richardson then introduced guest speaker, Dr. Jesse Vermaire – who is currently an Associate Professor with the Institute of Environmental Science and cross-appointed with the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University. His research focuses on the long-term impacts of human activity on our freshwater resources. He employs a number of approaches to understand the long-term impacts of human actions on freshwater systems to help inform management and conservation of lakes and rivers in a changing environment.

Presentation: "Ecological Change in Lake Temagami Over the Last Century: Impacts of Damming, Acid Rain, and Climate Warming"

Lake Temagami in Northeastern Ontario, Canada, is a large, deep (maximum depth ~110 m), oligotrophic (total phosphorus < 10 micrograms/L) lake with many bays and over 1,000 islands. The region around Lake Temagami is relatively undeveloped and holds some of the last remaining old-growth forests in Ontario.

Lake Temagami has been exposed to some ecological pressures over the last few decades, including the potentially, wider-spread impacts related to climate warming and acid-rain deposition. To assess these potential impacts on the ecology of Lake Temagami, three sediment cores were collected and analyzed for diatoms (single-celled algae), as well as metal(loid) concentrations (e.g., for arsenic). Diatoms are important bioindicators (i.e., organisms that show ecosystem health).

Preliminary results suggest that the largest change in the diatom assemblage occurred with water-level increases when Lake Temagami was dammed in the early 1900s. Near the top of the cores, pronounced increases in the diatoms, *Discostella* and *Cyclotella*, suggest recent shifts toward stronger stratification, consistent with climate warming.

Metal(loids) began to increase in the lake sediments around the 1960s in response to acid-rain deposition; however, some metal(loids) began to decline in the 1970s as stronger environmental measures were put in place.

These results suggest that Lake Temagami has undergone some ecological change resulting from water-level modification, acid-rain deposition, and climate warming.

After his presentation, Dr. Vermaire then answered a few questions from TLA members.

WRAP-UP AND MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mary Soper (Islands 588 and 672) read an article in *Cottage Life* magazine about possible provincial legislation to promote septic systems over composting toilets. Bill Bateman said that his understanding of the legislation is that composting toilets were no longer permitted for new builds, but this shouldn't affect existing systems. New building projects would, however, require "proper" septic systems going forward. Nicole indicated that the TLA could look into this for a Fall *Times* article. Bill added that he thought incinerating toilets powered by propane were acceptable, as no effluent is produced.

Michael Bloomfield wondered if there could be associated ramifications for outhouses. Bill indicated that he wasn't sure, but thought that they might not be allowed anymore, as well.

Nicole thanked Dr. Vermaire for his presentation, Wabun for hosting the meeting, and TLA members for attending. She also welcomed feedback about the AGM.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Russell Tuckerman (Island 1005), seconded by Tim Richardson (Island 795), and carried at 11:40 a.m.