

# Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

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**Subject:** Parking By-law Consultation Summary and Analysis - Spring 2025

**Memo No:** 2025-M-161

**Date:** June 26, 2025

**Attachment:** None

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## Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-161 as presented;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to either finalize By-law 25-1823 as adopted at First Reading (Option A), or prepare amended by-law provisions reflecting Council's preferred option and the results of public consultation (Option B), for Council's further consideration.

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## **1. Executive Summary**

In response to direction from Council, staff conducted a comprehensive community engagement process, including a public consultation session and online survey, to gather feedback on proposed changes to Traffic and Parking By-law 23-1698. The consultation focused on introducing paid parking, updating infrastructure, and implementing a resident-friendly permit system. Over 400 individuals were reached through multiple engagement channels, and 83 detailed survey submissions were received.

The consultation highlighted both support and concern. Many urban residents welcomed paid parking in key areas to support cost recovery, while lake-access property owners voiced concerns about fairness, infrastructure limitations, and lack of service. A majority supported the introduction of annual or seasonal permits for residents. To balance revenue goals and community equity, staff recommend implementing a 2025 Pilot Project targeting three high-use zones, followed by a review in January 2026.

## **2. Background**

Staff reviewed the Traffic and Parking By-law 23-1698, as amended, to improve enforcement, enhance infrastructure, and explore a cost recovery model through paid parking. By-law 25-1823 was introduced on May 8, 2025, proposing new parking zones, schedules, and associated fees. Council directed staff to conduct a public consultation. A consultation session was held on May 21, 2025, followed by a resident and stakeholder survey. The objective was to ensure the updated by-law reflects Temagami's unique seasonal demands and geographic challenges.

## **3. Public Engagement Overview**

### **3.1. Participation Overview**

- In-person attendees: 32
- Online attendees (live): 17
- Recorded video views: 337

- Survey responses received: 83
- The complete survey results are available at the following link:  
<https://www.temagami.ca/public/download/files/270386>

### **3.2. Respondent Demographics**

- Seasonal Residents: 57% (47 respondents)
- Permanent Residents: 28% (23 respondents)
- Other: 13% (11 respondents), including Bear Island residents, educators, and service workers

### **3.3. Geographic Distribution of Respondents**

- Lake Temagami (including islands): Over 65%
- Temagami North and Downtown: Approx. 20%
- Bear Island, Rabbit Lake, and others: Remaining responses

## **4. Analysis of Trends by Residency Location**

### **4.1. Lake Temagami Property Owners**

- Opposition to Paid Parking at Access Points: Many opposed fees at Lake Temagami Access Road (Mine Landing), citing high taxes and fewer services (e.g., no curbside waste, fire, or policing).
- Support for Permits: Most favoured a resident pass system, not pay-per-use.
- Overcrowding Concerns: Shortage of parking during summer was a common theme; some noted multi-year waitlists.
- Enforcement Requests: Calls for removal of abandoned vehicles and misuse of long-term parking.

## **4.2. Temagami Urban Residents**

- Support for Paid Parking in Tourist Zones: Fees seen as acceptable if used for services.
- Concerns About Turnover: Some support paid models to improve turnover in high-traffic areas like the arena.
- Short-Term Fee Preference: Favour daily or 4-hour options over annual permits.

## **4.3. Temagami First Nation & Bear Island**

- Equity and Access: Multiple respondents emphasized the cultural and logistical reliance on lake access.
- Long-Term Parking for Essential Workers: Suggested accommodation for educators, contractors, and camp staff.

# **5. Summary of Key Themes from Survey Data**

## **5.1. Parking Usage**

- 70% use municipal parking weekly or more
- 56% report at least occasional difficulty finding parking

## **5.2. Paid Parking Attitudes**

- 49% support if funds are used for maintenance and enforcement
- 33% do not support paid parking at all

## **5.3. Permit Preferences**

- 57% favour annual/seasonal permits
- 41% support daily fees
- 34% oppose all fee models

## 5.4 Technology and Access

- 36% are comfortable with phone apps (e.g., HONK)
- 43% prefer phone/text options
- 33% prefer physical pay stations

## 5.5. Resident Equity

- 57% support stronger enforcement in summer months
- Over 50% want exemptions or discounts for ratepayers
- Multiple requests for ratepayer validation or digital permits

## 6. Financial/Budget Implications

Initial capital and administrative costs will be incurred for signage, digital payment tools, and enforcement. While resident permits will reduce revenue, they may improve long-term compliance and support. Based on the survey and readiness level, staff recommend a Pilot Project

- for the following zones:
  - Downtown Core
  - Fire Tower Lot
  - Lake Temagami Access Road
- Proposed Fees
  - \$5.00 for 4 hours
  - \$8.00 for full-day parking
- Pilot Duration: Summer to December 2025
- Review Date: January 2026

## 7. Communication Plan

Staff recommend a multi-channel outreach campaign, including:

- Direct mail to all property owners and residents
- Website and social media campaign
- On-site signage with QR code payment instructions
- A publicly accessible FAQ page

## 8. Options for Council Consideration

### 8.1. Option A – Proceed with By-law 25-1823 as Adopted at First Reading

- Pros: Supports enforcement objectives and aligns with current infrastructure plans.
- Cons: May lead to dissatisfaction among lake-access residents due to lack of exemption mechanisms.

### 8.2. Option B – Amend the By-law to Implement Changes

- **B1 - Implement a Tiered Fee and Permit System**
  - Pros: Increases equity and flexibility by accommodating different user groups.
  - Cons: Requires additional administrative resources and a new permit management process.
- **B2 - Defer Implementation at Select Locations**
  - Pros: Allows time to upgrade infrastructure and refine the implementation strategy.
  - Cons: Postpones potential revenue generation and may delay consistent enforcement.

## 9. Conclusion

The 2025 public consultation process revealed a wide range of perspectives on the proposed parking by-law amendments. While many urban and permanent residents supported paid

parking in key areas to help fund maintenance and enforcement, seasonal and lake-access property owners raised strong concerns about fairness, infrastructure capacity, and the need for exemptions. There was notable support for introducing digital resident permits, stronger seasonal enforcement, and time-limited options in high-demand locations.

To balance these views, staff recommend a phased pilot project focusing on three high-use zones: Downtown Core, Fire Tower Lot, and Lake Temagami Access Road. This approach allows the Municipality to assess operational impacts, community response, and revenue generation before full implementation. Staff will incorporate consultation feedback into a revised by-law for Council's consideration, with a formal review of the pilot scheduled for early 2026.

## **10. Note on Survey Representation**

Survey responses were dominated by seasonal and lake-access property owners, who expressed frustration with perceived tax inequity and limited municipal services. It is important to recognize this sentiment while also acknowledging that tax rates are consistent municipality-wide, with some localized service area charges where applicable.