

# *RECOMMENDATIONS*



## *RECREATION (INCLUDING TEMAGAMI ARENA)*

*Municipality of Temagami*

*Final Report – Service Delivery Review*



**RECREATION INITIATIVES (including Arena)**

Requirement for a Recreational Service Strategy (including the use of the Arena). Development of future Recreational and Leisure Master Plan for the Municipality. Requirement for a complete inventory of Temagami's recreational and leisure assets and provision of needed information and insight into how these assets are managed and co-managed on behalf of residents and visitors.

Establish a Recreation Strategy Plan and a Recreation Working Committee;  
Review the possibility of establishing a Youth Advisory Committee and involving youth community members.

**STRATEGY, PROCESS, PEOPLE****KEY FINDINGS**

*The median age of residents in Temagami is older than provincial and national averages (68% of the population is over 64 years of age). There are also slightly less people per household compared to the provincial average, suggesting a lower proportion of families. There are 20 children in Temagami's K-6 school. Temagami is about an hour away from other places that has organized minor sports. There is a community Arena containing an ice pad, which is a regular sized-rink. There is no minor hockey, but there is public skating four times a week. There is a rental hall and a kitchen. Rental hall does get rented often for weddings, summer-time meetings, ice time is not being used. Rentals have been sparse over the past few years outside of nightly public skating/pick up hockey.*

*Each municipality provides recreation and leisure opportunities differently. Some municipalities take a lead role in the delivery of programs, while others lend a supporting hand to community driven initiatives. Realistically, most municipalities provide these services in a combination of both methods. The following section shows an overview on how Temagami delivers these services.*

## COMMUNITY POPULATION TRENDS

The age profile of a community is an important indicator of its recreational demands, and offers guidance to the types of facilities that should be offered. For example, a community with a high proportion of children and youth may have higher demand for competitive sports such as hockey or skating, while a community with a higher proportion of older adults may require facilities that offer less intensive forms of exercise.

Temagami's 2016 Census population was listed as 801 and 2011 as 845. The Municipality has been experiencing a relatively significant population decline, having shrank by 4.5%. If this trends continues, the population will continuing declining. As a result, the proportion of children (ages 0-9) and youth (ages 10-19) has been steadily declining, while the population of older adults (50-64) has been increasing. Assuming these rates, while fluctuating, will still be on the decline, the youth ice market in Temagami will continue to decline. As 502 people in the Community are 40 years old and older and only 102 are people between 20 and 40. The aging population may create additional demand for some Recreation activities, particularly those related to the Arena, (i.e. old-timer leagues or specialized skating lessons), however, it will be fairly modest.

### Population

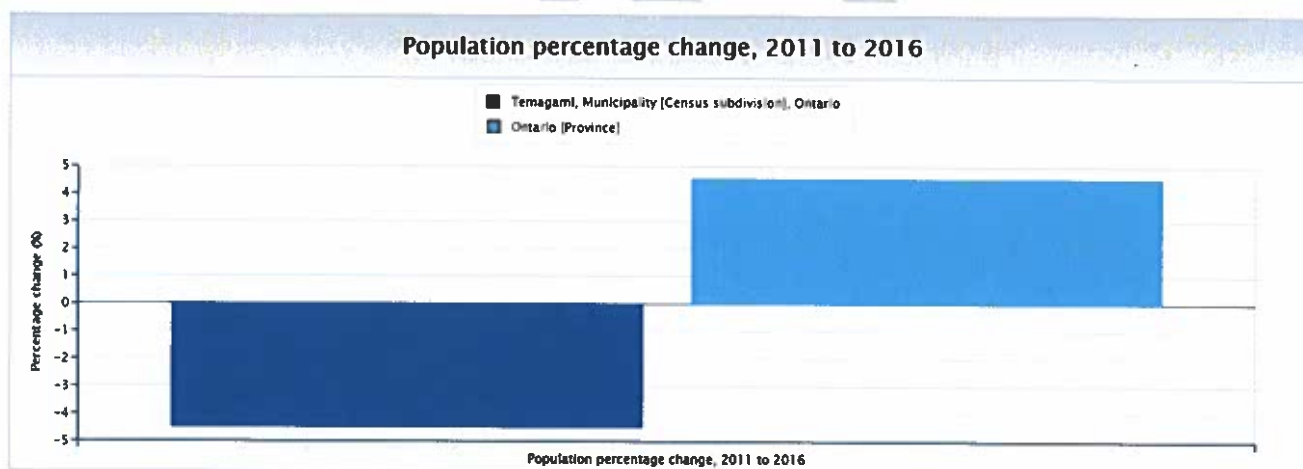


Figure 8. Temagami population trends relative to Ontario population trends



## Population Age Distribution

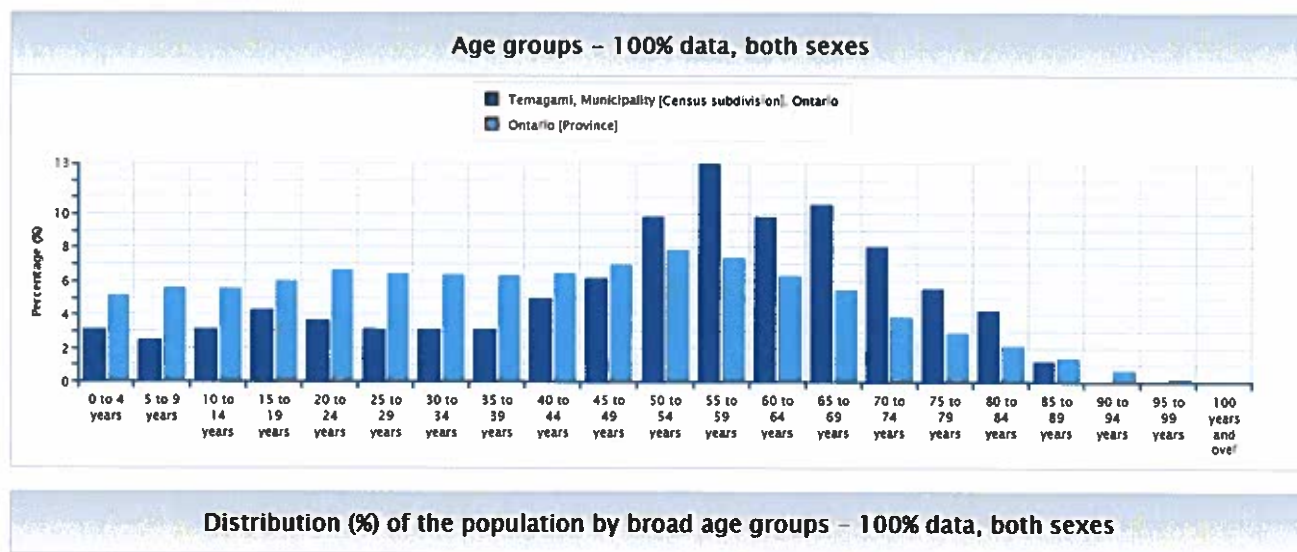


Figure 9. Temagami population trends relative to Ontario population trends (2019)

## Average Age of the Population

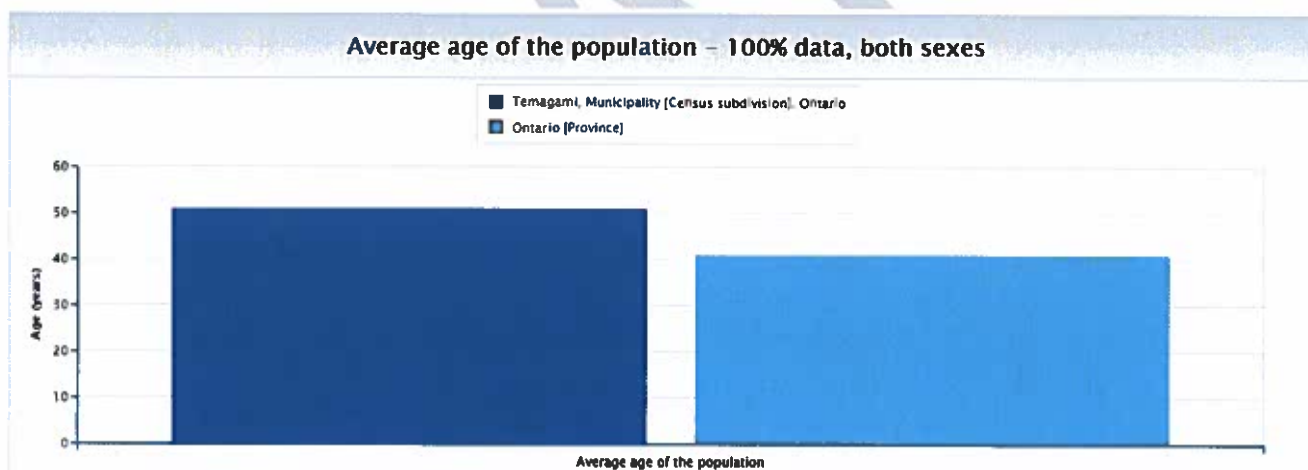


Figure 10. Temagami average age of population (2019)

We recommend that the Municipality invest into a Recreation Plan that would act as a tool that would inform Recreation-related decision-making and guide Temagami Administration action. The Plan would provide a common vision and path forward for all stakeholders. As such, it would enable creativity and foster ownership of administrative and front line actions.

## COMMUNITY TRENDS RELATED TO TEMAGAMI ARENA

One of the top topics of discussions with key stakeholders during our consultations was the Temagami Arena. The Arena is utilized for recreational hockey and minor hockey, figure skating, and public skating. The Arena is very rarely booked to capacity and is usually underutilized, even during the height of the regular season (October – March). The following table represents a sample of the Temagami Arena usage and the types of activities it hosts:

### Temagami Arena Events Sample

■ Lions Hockey Tournament - Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lions Club
■ Baseball Tournament – June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Renaud's
■ Wild Game Dinner – November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Chamber of Commerce
■ Shiverfest – February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Town of Temagami
■ TFD Breakfast with Santa– December 8 <sup>th</sup>	TFD
■ Halloween Pumpkin Carvings – October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Town of Temagami
■ Lions Senior Christmas Dinner – December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lions Club
■ Net Lake Winter classic Hockey – January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Poirier
■ Youth & Adult Hockey – (Seasonal)	Town of Temagami
■ Easter egg hunt – April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Town of Temagami
■ Santa Parade – December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Town of Temagami
■ Ducks Unlimited Dinner/Auction -	Ducks Unlimited
■ Night of murder mystery	Lions Club
■ Pow-wow – July 13 <sup>th</sup>	TFN - TAA
■ Lions Club Steak fry & Dance – July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lions Club
■ Kids Sliding Day – March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Town of Temagami
■ Spaghetti Dinner	T.P.S
■ Community Yard Sale -	Town of Temagami
■ Canada Day – July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Town of Temagami
■ Halloween Dance	Legion
■ Curling	Curling Club
■ Movie Nights	Town of Temagami
■ Themed Events/Dances	Town of Temagami

Figure 9. Community events (highlighted) related to Arena rentals and usage

There are several issues associated with the maintenance and services related to the Arena. It generates close to \$9,000 in revenues, from the Arena Ice and Hall Rental fees, and it costs about \$106,000/year to maintain it. Arenas require a compressor – a refrigeration system (direct or indirect), which removes heat and creates cold. The compressor is the heart of a refrigeration system. It's the only active main component maintaining the flow of refrigerant.

The compressor found in Temagami's Arena is very expensive to operate and, with Arena use and attendance being limited to drop-in skating and hockey, (and very rarely, curling), and occasional community events (see Figure 9), the costs associated with keeping the Arena as is are very high, with very little revenue in return.

The Arena is also used occasionally for weddings and other events, however, it is also very expensive to heat up, due to its age (confirm how old it is) and poor insulation.

The following list represents the current Arena services and rates (as per 2020 fee updates):

<b>Services Offered</b>	<b>2020 Fees</b>
Arena Ice Rental/hr	\$100.00
Minor Hockey Ice Rate/hr	\$75.00
Public School Rental /hr	\$75.00
Adult Pick-up Hockey/person	\$7.00
Children's Pick-up Hockey/person	\$5.00
Public Skating/person	\$3.00
Arena Ice Rental/day	\$800.00
Arena Ice out Rental/hr	\$50.00
Arena Rental Ice out/day	\$500.00
Arena Weekend Rental - Ice Surface and Hall	\$2000.00
Arena Hall Rental/hr	\$40.00
Arena Hall Rental/day	\$350.00
Arena Hall for Fitness Class (\$1.00 per person max \$20.00)	\$20.00
Local Service Clubs/Lion Non Profit Rental/event	\$200.00
Kitchen Use	\$150.00
SoCan Fee	\$20.00
Set Up - Clean Up/hr	\$45.00
Ballfield Rental/weekend	\$200.00

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Options for Future Arena Decisions



**Option 1: Renovate Arena with Expanded Options and Improvements****Pros:**

- Keep the Arena as a community center and a gathering place
- Closeness and connection to the community remains (particularly important as part of new Economic Development Strategy for citizen and business retention – consult **Section 3.3, section C7** of this Report)
- Fall-over emergency control center will not need a new location
- May increase attendance and revenues

**Cons:**

- Expensive to operate
- Pad may not withstand heavy objects (further research and analysis will be required)
- Does not pay for itself
- May not justify the expense

**Option 2: Convert Arena to a garage for Public Works and offices/facilities****Pros:**

- Substantial savings
- Better space utilization
- Retaining the dance hall
- Savings in heating and electricity
- Newer facility for public works garage
- Easy to justify in terms of savings and efficiencies,
- The Community Centre of the upstairs of the Arena upstairs can still be utilized (while repurposing the Arena for the Public Works garage)

**Cons:**

- Loss of public/community space, loss of hockey/skating area

**Option 3: Do nothing to the Arena and expand Recreation Programming only****Pros:**

- Sole emphasis of change will be dedicated to a new Recreation plan, along with staff and future strategy
- Improve promotional and new program activities
- The Arena will remain and continue being a gathering place for the Community



**Cons:**

- Continued financial burden until changes associated with Programming are realized
- Arena conditions will continue deteriorating
- Possibility of failure new Recreational Strategy and Programming – no changes will be realized

**RECOMMENDATION: Option 1**  
**Renovate Arena with Expanded Options and Improvements**

At the present time, it is our recommendation to proceed with Option #1. While this option is less disruptive than Option #2, it represents significant changes via a "meet-halfway" solution that may also positively indirectly contribute to the success of Economic Development, citizen & business retention, as well as Tourism strategies.

The following is a list of specific steps and considerations to proceed with this option:

- Replacing old compressors with more efficient ones will save a lot of energy and maintenance costs. Indirect refrigeration systems allow for safer control of potentially harmful refrigerants. Research into systems and cost-efficient innovative solutions will be a very important component of this step.
- Computer programs and applications give arena operator more control to schedule when compressors are powered on and powered off. Programming for shutdown at night, on holidays and during other downtimes allows for significant energy savings. New equipment will increase the cooling efficiency of the compressor.
- Introduce a community-wide initiative, engaging all interested community members in coming up with ideas and suggestions on organizing and planning various events at the Arena, and other Recreational events. Propose volunteer organizers and planners for these events, and consider adding some youth to the planner mix.
- Increase attendance by planning and organizing events related to hockey, addition of bowling isles, rented hourly; consider the addition of curling bonspiel.
- Increase Service rates as per following recommendations:
  - Arena Ice Rental/hr - \$185.00 (Canadian Municipal arena average rental rates - \$245/hr)
  - Arena Ice Rental/day - \$1,450.00 (Canadian Municipal arena average rental rate - \$1,860.00)



- *Arena Weekend Rental – Ice Surface and Hall - \$3,200.00*
- *We recommend increasing all other rates by 15-25%*
- *Develop programming based on a mix of Prime and Fringe time Arena use, as follows:*
  - Usual prime times for Arena use in most municipalities are:*
    - *Mon-Fri: 6:00 pm-10:00 pm*
    - *Weekend: 8:00 am-10:00 pm*
  - Usual fringe times for Arena use for most municipalities are:*
    - *Early Mornings: 6:00 am-8:00 am*
    - *Late Afternoons: 4:00 pm-6:00 pm*
    - *Late Evenings: 10:00 pm-12:00 am*
- *Introduce vendor and / or nominal admission fees to take part in the Temagami Community Market in the spring/summer months. Consider the introduction of a volunteer committee to come up with ideas and themes for various seasons and uses for the Market.*
- *Introduce skate rentals and skating lessons and / or classes.*
- *Create a specific mission for the Arena, (for example, "create and train skaters" and promote it within the Community.*
- *Schedule specific programs and schedules at convenient and logical times (e.g. evenings and weekends). Right scheduling is key!*
- *Consider the possibility of using volunteer instructors and add a basic curriculum in place; invite the community to participate.*
- *Emphasize all age participation to attract attendants of all ages.*
- *Review upgrades that may be required, (i.e. installation of larger doors, electrical, plumbing, windows, insulation, etc.) and determine their feasibility.*
- *Develop hockey camp programming - if you need more revenue, at the most basic level, you need more skaters on the ice.*
- *Open the Arena to Business/Corporate rentals. For example, make Monday nights into "Business Night", when businesses looking for a fun "teambuilding" activity for employees can rent the ice for a few hours or, the entire evening, depending on their needs.*
- *Review the possibility of using a synthetic ice pad.*
- *Purchase a cushioned floor covering and convert it to an inside recreation area for pickle ball, sports activities, jogging and / or other sports. The floor could*

*then be removed for special events, without disturbing the infrastructure, for occasions that require ice-time.*

- *For the public space connected to the Arena, review the feasibility of using it as:*
  - *Tennis or basketball courts*
  - *Baseball field*
  - *A Walking/Jogging track*
  - *A playground*
  - *Transport parking area*
- *Create a pleasant atmosphere (for example, background music, add some concessions and / or homemade "goodies" prepared by volunteers) - ensure it is not just a building with a sheet of ice!*

DRAFT