

## Update and Review

Items of interest in 2024.....

2024 was a challenging year but also an exciting one and we are looking forward to an interesting 2025.

After an extensive search, we were fortunate to recruit Laala, our new CAO/Treasurer.

We still have some work to do on our Organization Structure and this will be finalized in early in the New Year.

We now have a very dedicated, skilled and willing Administration Team to lead us into 2025 and beyond. Council is reminded that our new CAO brings with her a new set of skills and approaches, and it is our role to provide her with the goals we want to move the Municipality in a positive and productive way.

In 2025, Council will sit down with our Team to revisit and set our priorities. We all need to constantly remind ourselves of our roles and responsibilities and stay within our lane. From a meeting standpoint, we need to finalize our procedural bylaw, and at meetings, concentrate on dealing with the topics as presented, giving direction as being requested to.

As Mayor I will spend more time on getting the agenda set and being more specific as to what is being requested. We do appreciate the efforts everyone is putting forth, and together we can move 2025 forward in a positive way.

In 2024, the upgrades to the new UV Plant in Temagami North have been completed. Work continues to finalize the upgrade to the water plant control system and on the replacement of the water tower. Some additional work is required to make sure that our design and plan will provide a long-term solution. We also hope to confirm water and sewer capacity in this area so we can look at the development of some of the existing vacant lots that exist in this area.

In the next while, will be releasing a report that sets out what available land the Municipality could consider selling to interested parties that are committed to redevelopment. The need for Housing is an important need to address!

In a recent study conducted by the local Nipissing and District Social Services Board it noted that Temagami needs at least 64 housing units to meet future needs.

Finalization and construction of a practical road system in our Industrial Park is still something that is required. Some legal matters still need to be resolved, and hopefully we can get these dealt with in 2025. There is also a need to acquire other lands in this area for future industrial use. Further discussion with the province and the owners of some of the other properties in this area are required.

There is a lot of potential land in this area that could be better utilized if we can get the decision makers and businesses with the resources needed to make something happen.

Not an easy task but it is an opportunity that still exists.

Management and operation of the Lake Temagami Access Landing has been something Councils have been working on and this work continues.

Following a meeting with MNRF, TFN and Municipality several years ago, it was determined that since both the residents of Lake Temagami and Bear Island depend on this location to access their homes and businesses, there was a need for a different land use arrangement other than the existing basic land use permit currently held by the Municipality.

After a considerable amount of work and effort there, is now a plan to have the Landing area turned over to a new joint corporation yet to be established involving TFN/TAA and the Municipality of Temagami/Economic Development Corporation.

In early 2025 a new corporate model is being set up. There is also a plan to get the land surveyed and purchased from the province. This new corporation has plans to seek funding to finalize and complete the construction of the plan set out in the past for the Lake Temagami Access point Plan. This plan was approved back in 2007. Plans are also being worked on to set up a system of proper management and control of this area in a manner that will meet the needs of those who depend upon it.

More details will be released as they evolve. This project is also being supported by the province and we are hopeful funding will be received through some of their funding programs once the plans get formalized.

Some good news about Temagami Dry that is to be made public in early 2025. There is a new company currently being set up that will begin to get this product brand back on Market. Although the Municipality will only have a minimal share of this company, arrangements are being worked out that will provide the Municipality with a royalty payment from the sale of products and merchandise. Terms will be set out that if the company ceases operation the trademark will be returned to the Municipality. Stay tuned as a presentation will be made to the Council in the new year once all agreements have been finalized.

Their business plan and approaches will also be shared.

Another project that is being worked on is a plan for the old MNRF property on Lakeshore Drive.

This property is still owned by the province and there are still some environmental issues that need to be resolved. This past summer some additional testing on the property was completed and we have had discussions to see if it would be feasible for the town to assume ownership at no cost to us.

We have been provided with some of this new information and have been made aware of some provincial funding that could be available to get this property back to a state that would allow for residential use.

Details of this are yet to be finalized by Council but our new EDC has the information and will be reviewed with Council early in the new year.

Another 2025 challenge will be the 2025 Budget.

We will work on a plan that will try and keep our tax levy in line with what people can afford.

We do face some infrastructure challenges and still want to get the Fox Run Road completed. We did commit to get an engineered plan completed and to look for funds to help fund this. This is still ongoing and will be discussed as part of the 2025 plan.

Another issue we need to plan for are the costs associated with future construction work being planned for Highway 11 through town, as there are storm sewer issues under the roadway that also connect through town. We are waiting for a meeting with MTO to discuss our cost responsibilities and we have expressed concern about our financial capabilities.

The good news is this will now be a 2026 expense to deal with.

As many of you know we face several costs we have no control of. Good news this year is the OPP cost increases proposed will be lower due to the province now agreeing to fund them directly. District Social Services costs were capped at 2.99% and we have not yet heard as to what Public Health will be.

Now that our Health Unit has merged with the Timmins and District Health Unit, hopefully some savings from this will be passed on. Our big issue continues to be the requirement to support the Au Chateau Home at a cost of about 480,000 last year.

A home that we do not use.

We have had numerous meetings and discussions with Provincial officials and all we have received is promises they are looking at the issue, but we have not seen any results. Our efforts will continue but there does not seem to be any quick fix to get this resolved. If we do have to pay, then we will need to come up with a plan that will get more benefit from this current arrangement.

Dealing with the issue of Temagami Barge has been an item of concern for years. The province has taken the position that they are occupying this land illegally and the matter is still in the courts to deal with.

The issue the Municipality has is that, over the years, the scope of activities being carried out at that location has expanded well beyond construction and propane sales business that existed from the start. The Municipality took them to Court over this and they now are required to maintain only their Construction and Propane business and other businesses like the marina and gas sales are not allowed and must not continue.

This ruling is being challenged, however it was also ordered that the original order is still in effect, regardless of the appeal. The Municipality did hire a legal firm, and as part of this first ruling, a portion of our court costs will now have to be covered by Temagami Barge if their appeal is denied.

What is still more concerning is that since the province has taken the position that this occupation of the land is illegal, there are no taxes being collected. This business, for years, has not paid any property tax, and we have no recourse to receive anything.

This is not right, and we felt obligated to at least restrict them to comply with the level of business activity that they had been authorized to do before the Ministry of Natural Resources stepped in to deal with their issues. This appeal will be heard this spring

We would like to recognize the Marten River Firefighters Association on their efforts to get the heliport in Marten River moved to a new location and be equipped with night landing lighting.

Changes to medical transport guidelines years ago for helicopters did result in having this service available during the day only. The Association did present Council with a plan that they would fund themselves and this did receive Council approval to proceed.

Council also recognizes the need in Marten River for a Community Centre and will work with them to either make changes to the existing hall now the helipad has moved or to investigate a new centre on land the municipality purchased a few years ago.

Again, the Municipality is appreciative of the work that this Association does and for the efforts of both Fire Departments do to keep our area safe. Special thanks to the Fire Chiefs as they have been doing some extra work dealing with some of the additional work needed to meet their standards and assisting us to meet our requirements as it relates to emergency planning.

Recently we have had some discussions with Cogeco about their plan to bring fibre internet service to Temagami.

We have been advised that plans and details are being worked on and we have requested that they update Council at the meeting in early February. Discussions are ongoing with Rogers to possibly extend cell service on Lake Temagami using the Leepfrog Tower.

Leepfrog owns this Tower and is looking for other providers to utilize it for the benefit of Lake Temagami users. Bell Canada was approached but, as usual, they have no interest in providing or cooperating with anyone to help improve our services locally. This is unfortunate but I do not have a lot of good to say about Bell as it relates to our area.

In closing, I do want to thank all members of our Municipal Team who continue to provide the services we need and depend on. I also want to thank all Councillors for their time and efforts.

2025 should be an interesting year and we are always interested in hearing from our Community Partners.

Again, I do encourage everyone to make sure they have an active email address with us on Communicate as this is a good avenue to keep informed. To join the email list please email [communicate@temagami.ca](mailto:communicate@temagami.ca).

Thanks.

DAN

