

Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Subject: Waste Services – CALA Lake System Liaison

Memo No: 2025-M-128

Date: May 22, 2025

Attachment: Appendix A - Draft Letter to CALA

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CAO/Treasurer

Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-128 as presented;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the letter attached as Appendix A, hereby made part of this report, as the Municipality's official correspondence regarding waste services for the CALA lake system, and directs staff to liaise with CALA to identify compliant solutions and a path forward.

Contents

1. Executive Summary.....	2
2. Background	2
3. Current Regulatory Requirements.....	2
4. Interim Measures.....	3
5. Path Forward.....	3
6. Conclusion	4
Appendix A.....	5

1. Executive Summary

This memorandum provides an update on interim waste disposal arrangements for residents of Cassels and Rabbit Lakes, in response to Resolution 25-152. It seeks Council approval to issue a formal letter to the Cassels and Adjoining Lakes Association (CALA), confirming current legal requirements and outlining steps to explore compliant waste service solutions. The Municipality remains committed to working with affected residents; however, all options must align with provincial legislation and operate on a cost-recovery basis.

2. Background

Following the issuance of Memo 2025-M-114, the Municipality undertook measures to halt unauthorized use of CampMart as an informal waste drop-off point. These actions were necessary to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act and to protect the Municipality from potential liability.

Council subsequently adopted Resolution 25-152, directing staff to work with residents of Cassels and Rabbit Lakes to identify compliant, acceptable waste management options. An initial communication was issued to CALA on April 30, 2025, advising that waste disposal at Cassels Marine & Powersports was no longer permitted.

3. Current Regulatory Requirements

Under Ontario Regulation O. Reg. 347/90, "*General – Waste Management*," under the *Environmental Protection Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19.:

- A waste transfer station must receive Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP);
- Unauthorized drop-off or bin sites, even if located at private docks or businesses, are not permitted;
- The Municipality cannot legally authorize or support such activity without MECP approval;

- Non-compliance may result in significant penalties.

The only approved waste disposal option currently available to seasonal residents is the Strathy Landfill (300 Milne-Sherman Road), which accepts residential waste and recycling.

4. Interim Measures

Until a compliant alternative is established, all water-access seasonal residents must utilize the Strathy Landfill. The Municipality has not prohibited access to waste services for seasonal users; rather, it is enforcing existing provincial legislation. Access continues to be provided through designated, regulated locations.

5. Path Forward

The Municipality is prepared to work with CALA lake system residents to explore the feasibility of a seasonal bin site, similar to the Northeast Arm model. To proceed, the following conditions must be met:

- User-Pay Only: All costs—including bin servicing, hauling, permits, supervision, and MECP approvals—must be covered entirely by users;
- Municipally Owned Land: Any bin site must be located on municipally owned land to satisfy ECA and control requirements;
- Eligibility Limits: Participation will be limited to water-access-only properties; road-access residents already receive curbside collection;
- Adjacent Property Consent: Written consent from nearby landowners must be secured if the site is adjacent to private property;
- Single Point of Contact: CALA must designate a representative to liaise with municipal staff, coordinate feedback, and facilitate decision-making.

Staff will continue discussions with CALA and return to Council with formal proposals that meet these criteria.

6. Conclusion

The Municipality has responded promptly to compliance issues while ensuring legal access to waste services remains available for seasonal residents. Staff recommend that Council approve the attached letter to CALA to support transparent communication and initiate coordinated planning for a potential seasonal collection solution.

Appendix A – 2025-M-128

[Date]

Cassels and Adjoining Lakes Association (CALA)

[Contact Information]

Dear CALA Board,

RE: Waste Disposal – Cassels and Rabbit Lakes Water-Access Properties

The Municipality of Temagami is writing to clarify the current waste disposal arrangements for water-access properties on Cassels and Rabbit Lakes and to outline options for a potential seasonal collection program.

As previously communicated, waste may not be deposited at private marinas or docking areas unless those locations are certified waste transfer stations under Ontario Regulation 347. This includes Cassels Marine and CampMart, which were directed to cease unauthorized collection activity. These requirements are provincial in scope and apply throughout Ontario.

At this time, the designated disposal site for Cassels and Rabbit Lake residents remains the Strathy Landfill. This ensures access to a legal and compliant option for seasonal waste disposal.

Should CALA wish to explore the establishment of a community bin site, the Municipality is willing to assist, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The site must be located on municipally owned property;
2. Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) from the Ministry of the Environment is required;
3. Written consent from adjacent property owners must be obtained where applicable;
4. The service must be fully funded by seasonal users;
5. CALA must appoint a single point of contact to coordinate with the Municipality;
6. Only water-access-only properties would be eligible to participate;

Appendix A – 2025-M-128 (Continued)

7. Participation must be mandatory for all eligible residents, who must also share equally in the associated costs, with no option to opt out.

Please also confirm whether CALA represents all water-access property owners in the Cassels and Rabbit Lake area. If not, the Municipality will reach out separately to ensure all affected residents are included in future discussions.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with your representative to review potential options. Our goal is to support a fair, sustainable solution that complies with all regulations and safeguards the interests of all taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Municipal Law Enforcement Officer

The Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

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