

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

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**Subject:** Driving Innovation, Cost Savings, and Operational Support Across Municipal  
Departments

**Memo No:** 2025-M-141

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**Prepared By:** Keshav Singh – GIS/Asset Management Coordinator Intern

## Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-141 as presented.

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## Executive Summary

This report summarizes my contributions to the Municipality over the past several months, with a strong emphasis on laying the foundation for a modern and effective asset management

system, improving digital infrastructure, and enhancing operational efficiency across departments. These efforts are not isolated improvements, but interconnected steps that support long-term municipal planning, service delivery, and cost savings.

A central achievement during this period has been the transition from CGIS to Esri's ArcGIS platform. This decision alone is saving the Municipality approximately \$11,000 annually, while simultaneously providing us with industry-standard tools used by the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and surrounding municipalities. ArcGIS is a cornerstone in our asset management strategy, allowing for more accurate, detailed, and timely data collection, mapping, and analysis.

In addition, I have worked directly with departments such as Public Works, Finance, Economic Development, and Parks and Recreation to implement initiatives that range from introducing payment systems and security cameras to supporting regional development with mapping tools. These efforts demonstrate a collaborative, cross-departmental approach to problem-solving and digital modernization.

## Introduction

A In my current role, my primary objectives have been to establish the technical and organizational framework for a robust asset management system, enhance our digital infrastructure, and support operational efficiency across municipal departments. Asset management is not just a reporting requirement—it is a strategic tool that helps prioritize infrastructure investment, optimize maintenance, and manage risks over time.

A critical part of this effort is having access to reliable, real-time data. That is why transitioning to ArcGIS has been a pivotal step. The previous system, CGIS, provided limited control over data quality and accessibility. With ArcGIS, we are now in a position to build and maintain our own maps, collect field data using GPS, and analyze infrastructure performance in a way that is accurate, timely, and cost-effective. These capabilities are key to the success of the asset management plan, and more broadly, to making informed decisions that protect the Municipality's physical and financial health.

This report outlines the key initiatives undertaken so far, with particular attention to how they contribute to the Municipality's long-term resilience and service delivery goals..

## **Transition to ArcGIS: A Foundation for Better Asset Management**

One of the most impactful initiatives has been the move from CGIS to ArcGIS, the industry leader in geographic information systems. This transition has given the Municipality full control over its spatial data-something that was previously outsourced, expensive, and often inaccurate.

With ArcGIS, we are now equipped to:

- Accurately map municipal assets, land parcels, and infrastructure using GPS data.
- Visualize infrastructure conditions and integrate inspection data.
- Plan capital improvements based on real, location-specific information.
- Streamline interdepartmental collaboration with centralized, up-to-date maps and dashboards.

The decision to shift to ArcGIS is already saving the Municipality approximately \$11,000 per year while providing significantly better functionality and data security. This platform is essential for supporting a modern asset management plan-one that evolves with changing conditions and allows us to proactively plan for the future.

I have also scheduled a meeting with Esri Canada in July, where we will discuss how to further integrate ArcGIS into asset management and public works workflows, with the goal of automating inspections, tracking maintenance, and planning capital investments more efficiently.

## **Building Better Data with Government Support**

To ensure the success of ArcGIS and asset management, We have secured an agreement from CGIS to release relevant data and reached out to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). MNRF has now approved the release of property line data, which will be integrated into our GIS system to improve spatial accuracy.

These datasets will help us:

- Confirm ownership and jurisdiction boundaries.
- Map and manage right-of-way and utilities.
- Accurately assign assets to the correct parcels or departments.

Additionally, this summer, I plan to use GPS tools to map municipal assets, adding precise locations for signs, buildings, utilities, and infrastructure. This work is especially important for asset management, as it ensures that our asset database reflects actual field conditions—reducing uncertainty, improving efficiency, and supporting maintenance planning.

### **Supporting Finance and Public Works with Payment Technology**

Working with the Finance and Public Works, I helped implement Square payment systems at landfill sites. This upgrade replaces manual transactions with secure, efficient digital payments.

Benefits include:

- Faster, traceable transactions for residents and staff.
- Reduced cash-handling errors and risks.
- Better reporting and financial tracking.

This system aligns with our broader goal of digital modernization and makes municipal services more accessible and transparent for the public.

### **Economic Development Support through GIS**

In partnership with Economic Development and using MNRF datasets, I produced digital elevation maps for TREDCO (Temagami Regional Economic Development Corporation). These maps help identify areas for investment, showcase available lands, and communicate key geographic features to potential developers and stakeholders.

This initiative reflects how GIS can directly support economic development, enabling data-driven strategies that attract investment and encourage sustainable growth.

## Enhancing Municipal Security

I collaborated with the CAO and Economic Development Officer to select modern security cameras for municipal buildings. Installation will take place shortly, with help from the Public Works Superintendent and Economic Development staff.

These cameras are expected to:

- Deter vandalism and improve facility safety.
- Provide real-time and recorded footage for investigations.
- Potentially reduce municipal insurance costs by mitigating risk.

This is part of a broader effort to protect municipal assets, improve transparency, and reduce long-term operational costs.

## Infrastructure Monitoring with Environmental Sensors

I worked with the Parks and Recreation Coordinator to install temperature and moisture sensors in critical buildings. These sensors help detect risks such as frozen pipes or water damage.

By providing real-time alerts to designated staff, these systems:

Reduce the risk of expensive repairs.

Protect building integrity during weather fluctuations.

Improve response time to maintenance issues.

This proactive monitoring supports our asset preservation strategy and helps extend the lifespan of key infrastructure.

## Conclusion

In a short period of time, we have made substantial progress in improving the Municipality's digital systems, supporting cross-departmental operations, and laying the groundwork for a

sustainable asset management framework. Each of these efforts contributes to better service delivery, increased accountability, and long-term cost savings.

The adoption of ArcGIS is central to this transformation. With its full implementation, we will be able to monitor, maintain, and plan for our municipal assets with a level of precision and efficiency that was previously not possible. The upcoming meeting with Esri Canada in July will help us fine-tune how we use this platform to support Public Works, Finance, and Strategic Planning.

By focusing on collaboration, data accuracy, and forward-thinking solutions, we are building a stronger Municipality—one that is better equipped to serve its community now and, in the years, to come.