

Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Subject: Lake Temagami Access Road Maintenance

Memo No: 2025-M-189

Date: August 14, 2025

Attachment: Appendix A - Letter from Letter from Victoria Winsor

Prepared By: Laala Jahanshahloo - CAO/Treasurer

Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-189 and the attached correspondence from Ms. Victoria Winsor as presented;

AND FURTHER THAT Council decide that no further action be taken at this time, as the Municipality continues to maintain the Lake Temagami Access Road in accordance with applicable standards, available resources, and in partnership with Temagami First Nation through an ongoing joint effort to improve road conditions.

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to use the proposed response for this and future correspondence to ensure consistent and accurate communication regarding road maintenance.

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1. Executive Summary

This memorandum provides Council with background and a proposed response to correspondence from a resident concerning the condition of the Lake Temagami Access Road. The letter references potential vehicle damage and road debris.

The Lake Temagami Access Road is classified as a Class 6 gravel road under Ontario's *Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways (O. Reg. 239/02)*. The Municipality maintains the road in accordance with its classification, available resources, and applicable legislation.

The Municipality also maintains a dedicated annual budget for the road and is engaged in an ongoing joint initiative with Temagami First Nation (TFN) to plan and carry out improvements.

Staff are requesting Council's direction to use the proposed response outlined in this memorandum for this correspondence.

2. Background

The Lake Temagami Access Road is a Class 6 gravel road as defined in *O. Reg. 239/02 – Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways*.

Legal and operational context of Class 6 roads:

- Traffic Volume – Class 6 applies to roads with an average annual daily traffic count of fewer than 50 vehicles.
- Surface Type – Typically unpaved gravel or surface-treated roads, where loose stone and variable surface conditions are normal.
- Minimum Maintenance Requirements – Maintenance standards for Class 6 roads differ significantly from those for higher-class roads, reflecting their rural nature and low traffic volumes. Municipalities are required to maintain these roads to a level reasonable for their classification, with inspections and repairs completed within timelines set out in the Minimum Maintenance Standards.

- Operational Context – These roads are not designed or maintained to urban or arterial standards. Maintenance expectations are proportionate to available resources, road use, and environmental conditions.

The Municipality meets these requirements for the Lake Temagami Access Road through regular grading, brushing, ditching, and spot repairs, with priorities set based on budget, staffing, and network-wide needs.

Additionally, the Municipality is working with TFN on collaborative strategies to improve road access over time, including long-term planning and infrastructure enhancements.

3. Considerations

- Gravel roads may inherently cause increased wear and tear on vehicles, especially depending on weather and traffic.
- The Municipality continues to act within its capacity and legislative obligations to maintain roads in a state appropriate to their classification.

4. Proposed Response

Should Council wish to proceed with a response, staff recommend that it convey the following points:

- Acknowledgement and appreciation of the resident's correspondence and concerns;
- Clarification that the Lake Temagami Access Road is classified as a Class 6 gravel road and is maintained in accordance with its classification and applicable provincial standards;
- Recognition of the continuing joint effort and partnership with Temagami First Nation to plan and implement road improvements;
- Confirmation that the Municipality continues to monitor and maintain the road network in alignment with legislated requirements and within approved budgetary resources.

5. Conclusion

The Lake Temagami Access Road is a Class 6 gravel road maintained in compliance with provincial standards and within available resources. The Municipality, in partnership with Temagami First Nation, continues to work on long-term improvement strategies. Using the proposed response for this and any future similar correspondence will ensure consistent, accurate communication regarding the road's classification and maintenance practices.

Victoria Winsor

June 19, 2025

Mayor and Council

Municipality of Temagami
7 Lakeshore Drive
Temagami, ON P0H 2H0

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Urgent Complaint Regarding Unsafe Conditions on Lake Temagami Access Road

I am writing to formally express my deep concern and frustration regarding the hazardous condition of the Lake Temagami Access Road, for which the Municipality of Temagami is responsible. Over the past week alone, I have suffered three flat tires due to the presence of large, sharp rocks, screws, and bolts scattered across the road surface. This is not only a significant financial burden but also a serious safety hazard for all road users.

As a resident who relies on this road for daily access to their workplace, I find the current state of disrepair unacceptable. The road's condition poses a risk to vehicles, endangers public safety, and reflects poorly on the Municipality's commitment to infrastructure maintenance.

Under **Section 44 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25**, municipalities are legally obligated to maintain roadways and keep them in a state of repair that is reasonable in the circumstances. Ontario Regulation 239/02, the **Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways**, further outlines the expectations for road upkeep, including the removal of debris and the maintenance of safe driving surfaces.

The current state of the Lake Temagami Access Road clearly falls short of these standards. I urge the Municipality to take immediate action to inspect, clear debris, and repair the road to prevent further damage and ensure the safety of all who travel it.

Please confirm receipt of this letter and advise what steps will be taken to address this issue. I would appreciate a timely response, as the situation continues to pose a daily risk.

Thank you for your time,
Victoria Winsor

