



United in the Preservation  
of Heritage Wilderness,  
and the Temagami Experience

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Dear Temagami Integrated Planning Team Members,

As a recreational user of the Temagami Backcountry, I would like to thank the MNR for this initiative to develop and integrate recreation management amongst the area Parks, Conservation Reserves (CR) and Crown Lands (CL). I have been actively following the Temagami Integrated Planning (TIP) initiative and I have several comments and concerns that I would like the TIP Management Team to address:

- Temagami's system of nastawgan routes (ancient routes of travel) must be recognized and protected in its entirety as a cultural and recreational asset with an intrinsic and irreplaceable value. These routes form the template over which recreation and use have evolved and hold much of the region's heritage and its recreation potential - they should be valued as such.
- Ecological Integrity must be central to the management of Temagami's wild areas. Particular attention must be made to the relationships of officially Protected Areas and the adjoining spaces, in accordance with the new Provincial Parks Act.
- All motorized access and use within Protected Areas must be consistent with existing parks legislation and Bill 11, the new Parks and CR legislation. Motorized access zones that have been identified within Lady Evelyn Smoothwater - Wilderness Class Park should be removed: Access Zones A1, A3, A4, A5s and A6 cut deep into the park and must be eliminated.
- Decommissioned roads within Parks and Conservation Reserves must be scarified and replanted to prevent further motorized access and existing bridges and culverts removed.
- Motorboats allowed in Waterway Class Parks by regulation, must be limited to 10HP or less with a low polluting engine.
- There must be a strategy to control the spread of exotic or non-native species into the area.
- All access and use on Public Lands must be held at 1997 levels in accordance with the Temagami Land Use Plan (TLUP) and all unauthorized roads, trails and access must be immediately removed.
- There must be a comprehensive management initiative to enforce and enhance existing access controls. While this issue is largely dealt with outside of the TIP process, it must be recognized that much of the unauthorized access and use is for recreation purposes. Therefore, the TIP has a responsibility to address this issue in a meaningful manner.
- All guiding values and principles established within the Temagami Land Use Plan must be upheld and the TIP must not be used as an instrument to undermine the TLUP.
- The TIP must address all of the issues identified within the TLUP's Recreation Management Strategy. This must include the protection of area specific values and potentials as identified within the TLUP and upon which the Recreation Strategy was based.
- Resolve the issue of allowable group sizes between Ontario Parks and the Temagami area canoe camps in a fair and equitable manner. The unique role of area camps should be recognized
- Recognize the existence and value of hiking trails throughout Temagami and include a process for their upkeep in the plan. The potential to develop Backcountry hiking trails as indicated in the Temagami Land Use Plan must be retained with related management options and partnerships considered.

- Develop a process that allows for the enhancement and expansion of Temagami canoe routes, hiking trails and other non-motorized activities and acknowledge the benefits of doing so.
- Implement a boat cache policy throughout the planning area and not just the problem areas. Registration of boats will allow for the eventual removal of derelicts.
- ATV use can be damaging when practiced irresponsibly. Rules for responsible ATV use on common lands need to be spelled out in conjunction with an enforcement plan.
- The use of motorized vehicles within Officially Protected Areas, ecologically sensitive areas and Special Management Areas (non-motorized) as defined by The Temagami Land Use Plan must not be allowed nor permitted to continue. The TIP process must develop a strategy to identify and remove such unauthorized use and establish measures to preserve the integrity of the boundaries that define these officially recognized areas
- All recreational users and their organizations must recognize and learn to respect the rights of other citizens.
- Recognize the economic worth of non – timber forest values such as clean water, undisturbed wetlands, preservation of rare and declining species of flora and fauna, etc.
- Forest Management Plans recognize the value of timber. The Recreation Management Plan needs to recognize the value of Temagami's recreation capital. The plan(s) should acknowledge the contribution of recreation and tourism to the regional economy.
- There must be improved communications between the Resource Extraction sector, MNR Recreation Management and the Recreation Community. A communication strategy should be developed and facilitated by the MNR to help identify issues and areas of concerns and to help diffuse conflicts before they are given the chance to arise.
- The plan(s) need to use concise wording with clear timelines stating what is to be done, by whom and by when.
- Provide a timeline for introducing recreation management to Zones 2, 3 and 4.
- Enforcement of all final plan(s) rules, including access rules is a necessary requirement of implementation. A financial commitment to enforcement needs to be made by MNR management and spelled out.

An integrated and consultative planning exercise such as the TIP is precedent setting in Ontario. Both of you, your respective staff and others in MNR are to be congratulated for undertaking such a difficult task.

I look forward to reviewing the final management proposals.

Yours truly,



For the Nastawgan Network

c.c.

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