

## TEMAGAMI FIRST NATION COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Background and Geographic Location:

The Temagami First Nation (TFN) community is a small remote community primarily located on Bear Island (also referred to as Bear Island Reserve #1). Bear Island is situated on Lake Temagami and encompasses 293.4 hectares of land. Bear Island is located in the Nipissing District in the northeastern region of Ontario. Bear Island is located approximately 90 kilometres northwest of the City of North Bay (1.5 hour drive) and approximately 85 kilometres south of the City of Temiskaming Shores. Bear Island is located 440 kilometres north of Toronto (5 hour drive). The nearest urban centre is the Municipality of Temagami, 29 kilometres to the northeast of Bear Island. Bear Island is located in the middle of Lake Temagami and is accessible via ice road in the winter or boat in the spring, summer and fall months. Bear Island can be accessed in the summer by boat leaving the mainland Lake Temagami access points which are located 17 kilometers from Highway 11 at the end of the Lake Temagami Access Road.

Figure 1. Location of Bear Island 1



Bear Island is roughly triangular in shape and contains an area of approximately 293.4 hectares. Bear Island sits at the geographic centre (hub) of Lake Temagami. Lake Temagami is a large deep lake, with a surface of 20,200 hectares and 1300 islands. Lake Temagami depths range to 107 metres giving rise to the Anishinabai name "*Teme Augama*" meaning "*deep water*". Lake Temagami has a shoreline of 600 km with five elongated bays. The area is located in rugged Precambrian topography dominated by pine-forests.

Terrain analysis for Bear Island indicates that approximately 90% of the island is bedrock. Soil cover is very limited with most soils being fairly permeable sands. The deepest soil areas in the island's interior range to two metres. Slopes are generally bedrock controlled and reflect the steepness of the rock

foundation. Much of the island contains slopes that are too steep to support development. Terrain analysis, it is concluded that there is very little land on Bear Island that is capable of supporting future development.

The Temagami First Nation Community is located within the warm Boreal Forest. Coniferous trees such as Red and White pine, Spruce, Jack pine and Balsam Fir dominate a large portion of the productive forest in the area. Deciduous tree mainly include maple, poplar and birch species. The Temagami area forests contain remnants of 'old growth' forest. Significant areas of 'old growth' forest include the White Bear Forest Conservation Reserve, Narrows Island, Temagami Island Conservation Reserve, Rabbit Lake Conservation Reserve, the Lake Temagami Skyline Reserve and the McLaren Forest.

### **Historical and Cultural and Political Background/Governance Structure:**

Teme Augama Anishnabai:

The Teme Augama Anishnabai (approximately 1500 citizens, which includes Temagami First Nation citizens) are the original inhabitants of n'Daki Menan since time immemorial. Temagami First Nation citizens are all descendants of, and therefore citizens of, the Teme Augama Anishnabai. Only a portion of the Teme Augama Anishnabai were provided Indian status under the *Indian Act*. The Teme Augama Anishnabai existed long before external Crown governments created the *Indian Act*. This being said, the Teme Augama Anishnabai Chief and Council represent the interests of all Teme Augama Anishnabai people, regardless of the *Indian Act*. The Teme Augama Anishnabai Chief and Council consists of a Chief, Second Chief and four Councillors. The most recent election for this Teme Augama Anishnabai Chief and Council was held in August 2014.

Temagami First Nation:

The Temagami First Nation Chief and Council is the governing body of the Temagami First Nation community under the *Indian Act*. The Temagami First Nation represents the interests of community members who have been recognized to have Indian status under the *Indian Act*. The Temagami First Nation is responsible for the administration of all programs to the Temagami First Nation community. Temagami First Nation Chief and Council are responsible for management the political agenda for the Temagami First Nation and its members. Temagami First Nation Chief and Council are responsible for ensuring appropriate policies are in place and delegate responsibilities for administration to the TFN Executive Director. The Temagami First Nation Chief and Council are elected to office serving a term of 3 years. The Chief and Council consist of a Chief, a Second Chief and six Councillors. The most recent Temagami First Nation election was held in July 2013.

### **N'Daki Menan**

As discussed above, the Temagami First Nation community of Bear Island lies at the cultural heart of n'Daki Menan (Our Homeland) (refer to Appendix "A", which is the historic 10,400 square kilometre traditional territory of the Teme Augama Anishnabai.

The Teme-Augama Anishnabai have documented 7000 years of occupation of their homeland, n'Daki Menan, surrounding the Lake Temagami area in what is now called northeastern Ontario. At the time of the Royal Proclamation in 1763, through to and beyond the signing of Robinson Treaties in 1850, the

People of the Deep Water were a self-governing nation possessing over 3800 square miles of geographically-defined lands. Possession of lands and civil affairs were regulated by a communal system of law. Each family maintained its own tract of 200 to 300 square miles. Wendaban and Misabi are the names of two such traditional family grounds. Just before European contact our history documents that our 14 families who inhabited n'Daki Menan were relatively sedentary forming a society specific to this area. Attempts by the Iroquois to penetrate this area were numerous but unsuccessful, and are marked by several ancient battle sites on Lake Temagami. The repulse of the invaders allowed the Teme Augama Anishnabai, and Temagami First Nation, to remain as a unified and distinct people.

Teme-Augama Anishnabai lived in relative isolation on n'Daki Menan. until 1880 when Canadian Pacific Rail reach North Bay. In 1903, a steamship had been brought to Lake Temagami by sled, which served the visitors coming off the railway in Temagami. At that time, the area was truly open for development. There were four full-service hotels on Lake Temagami, as well as several canoe camps and cottages. By the 1930's there were as many as 10 steamships plying the waters of Lake Temagami. Commercial passenger services declined with the development of reliable, inexpensive outboard motors in the 1950's and the opening of the Lake Temagami Access Road to the hub of Lake Temagami in 1968. The economic importance of the recreational activity was noted in a 1949 Government of Ontario mining review publication, which noted that tourism had been the mainstay of Temagami for 50 years, and would likely continue indefinitely.

Natural resources extraction boomed within n'Daki Menan. The lands and waters of n'Daki Menan were being utilized by the government and various industrial proponents without the involvement of, or benefit to, the Teme Augama Anishnabai people. Sadly, for the most part, utilization of homeland continues today without benefit to us.

### **Our Long Struggle for Justice**

In 1877, Chief Tonene asks to be taken into treaty to gain protection for his people from encroaching lumberman and settlers.

The first European contact with the Teme Augama Anishnabai was by Jesuit missionaries and occurred in 1640. Fur trading activity ensued during the next two centuries and was formalized with the construction of a Hudson Bay Company Post on Temagami Island, Lake Temagami in 1834. This post was later relocated to Bear Island in 1876.

In 1884, a 100 square-mile reserve is surveyed at the southern outlet of Lake Temagami.

During the late 1890's and early 1900's, concern increased about the impact of tourism and settlement activity on the previously untouched White Pine forests surrounding Lake Temagami. In 1901, the Temagami Forest Reserve was established to avoid dangers with settlement impacting the forests, particular forest fire. The Forest Reserve acted as a buffer between the settlements on Lake Temagami and the forests on the mainland. No logging was permitted prior to 1924 except to salvage two minor burns. By 1926 seven companies were operating in the Temagami area.

In 1901 – Aubrey White, Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands (Ontario) writes: “(the reserve) taking in a great portion of Lake Timagami and many million of pine timber...was entirely out of keeping with the Indian population...no action was taken.”

In 1910 , The Department of Indian Affairs asks Ontario for a reserve for the Teme-Augama Anishnabai. Ontario again cites the timber value in its refusal.

The early 1900's saw the settlement of cottages on Lake Temagami as well as lumbering and mining activity in the greater region.

In 1910 – Ontario harasses the Teme-Augama Anishnabai. Chief Francois White Bear writes to the Indian agent: “we have to get permission from the chief fire ranger to cut even firewood.”

1911 – Ontario establishes the Timagami Game and Fish Reserve and harassment escalates. The Teme-Augama Anishnabai are prohibited from hunting and fishing in the reserve.

1912 – The White Bear family settlement on White Bear Lake is flooded by a hydroelectric development in their territory.

1921 – Cross Lake is flooded also causing loss and hardship for the Nebanegwune family.

1929 – Ontario charges rent to Teme-Augama Anishnabai living on Bear Island. Indian Affairs asks “special permission to remain without charge until...a reserve might be obtained...”

1930 – Ontario replies saying “as time goes on there seems to be less and less reason why lands should be set aside for the Timagami Indians”

1933 – The federal government insists that “the Province has a moral as well as a legal obligation to provide these (Temagami) Indians with a reserve.”

1939 – Ontario again states that the area surveyed for a reserve is “too valuable from a timber point of view... (the Temagami Indians) should be allotted a portion of Bear Island.”

1939 – The Teme-Augama Anishnabai are forbidden to trap without purchasing an Ontario license and trapping areas are cut down to 36 square miles.

1943 – The federal government purchases Bear Island from Ontario for \$3000.

In 1971, the Bear Island Reserve was recognized as a reserve under the *Indian Act* by an Order in Council. Settlement at Bear Island was largely due to the location of the Hudson Bay Post on Bear Island and the significance of the fur trade at that time. Settlement by the Teme Augama Anishnabai at Bear Island was largely due to the enforcement of Crown rules and regulations on the Teme Augama Anishnabai people (ex. Regulations requiring permission of Indian agent to leave reserve lands, regulations surrounding utilization of the forests of n'Daki Menan and requirements that children attended school on Bear Island).

In 1973, the Teme Augama Anishnabai filed a land caution, which prevented the sale of Crown land. Today, it is estimated that more than 95% of the land in Temagami remain Crown land. In 1996 the land caution was lifted by the government and there has been on-going development since.

1978 – The Ontario Government sues the Tema-Augama Anishnabai in the Supreme Court of Ontario and

move litigation out of the District Court. This action effectively shuts down the land to all mining explorations.

1982 – In June, trial proceedings commence before Justice Donald Steele of the Supreme Court of Ontario. The trial continues for 119 days over the next two years.

1983 – Ontario escalates its administrative and legislative actions on the Tema-Augama Anishnabai lands. Ontario creates the Temagami Planning Area and the Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park.

1984 – December, Justice Donald Steele finds against the Tema-Augama Anishnabai agreeing that Tagawini signed the Robinson-Huron Treaty on behalf of Tema-Augama Anishnabai and thereby surrendering our Aboriginal title. Justice Steele also rules that the present Tema-Augama Anishnabai are not the descendants of the people who occupied the land in 1763. The Tema-Augama Anishnabai appeal this decision to the Appeal Court of Ontario.

1986 – September, Attorney General Ian Scott made a conditional settlement offer of lands and money a combination of up to \$30 million. \$15 million would come from the Federal Government who was not aware of the offer.

1987 – November, the Minister of Indian Affairs, William McKnight, withdraws funding of the appeal proceedings stating that \$400,000.00 was “a huge commitment for an appeal” and those who have a stake in the outcome should raise the balance.” The Tema-Augama Anishnabai reminded Mr McKnight of his responsibility and the fact that they raised \$1.6 million at the trial level.

1988 – April, the Appeal Court sets hearing for January 1989.

1988 – May 17<sup>th</sup> the Minister of Natural Resources, Vince Kerrio, announces that the construction of Red Squirrel Extension and Pinetorch Roads will go ahead. At assembly on May 22<sup>nd</sup> the Tema-Augama Anishnabai decide to blockade and stop road developments on K-Daki-Menan.

1988 – December, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled on injunctions brought forward by Ontario which sought an order from the court to remove the then 6 month Tema-Augama Anishnabai blockade of the Red Squirrel Road. In a compromise ruling the Tema-Augama Anishnabai were ordered to remove their blockade and Ontario was ordered to stop all construction until the outstanding title issue had been addressed by the Court of Appeal.

1989 – February 27<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld the lower court decision, denying the Tema-Augama Anishnabai title to their ancestral lands, stating the Aboriginal title was extinguished by any number of means. The Tema-Augama Anishnabai immediately applied for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

1989 – March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Tema-Augama Anishnabai staged a one day blockade on the Goulard logging road to serve notice to the Ontario Government that the clear cut logging practices would not be tolerated.

1990 - April 23, Ontario and the Teme-Augama Anishnabai sign the Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to negotiate a Treaty of Co-Existence over a three-year period. The Memorandum also sets up a bi-lateral process for the Tema-Augama Anishnabai to advise the MNR on forestry practices and sets up the framework for the Wendaban Stewardship Council.

1991 - Ultimately, the Supreme Court of Canada determined that the Temagami Indians had adhered to the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850. The Supreme Court of Canada noted that the Crown had breached its treaty and fiduciary obligations to the Temagami Indians. Also overturns Justice Steele's ruling on the facts, and rule that the Tema-Augama Anishnabai did before adhesion have aboriginal title.

Finally, after the estimated expenditures of \$17,000,000.00, two rounds of public consultation in the North Bay/Temagami area and extensive negotiations, Ontario, for the first time on July 31, 1993, tabled a formal offer, an "Agreement in Principle". In summary, it provided as follows:

- (a) The Teme-Augama Anishnabai would receive 115 square miles of land for their exclusive use;
- (b) Decisions in an area of 500 square miles around Lake Temagami affecting land and resource management would be made by a joint stewardship body with representatives of the Temagami Indians, Ontario government and local residents, and that the Teme-Augama Anishnabai would be in a position to veto all decisions made by this body;
- (c) The Teme-Augama Anishnabai would be notified of and would share in all land use and resource management decisions made on the rest of the Crown land in the land claim area, through the ability to refer disputes with the Crown to an independent fact finder.

For the first time, in or about early September 1993, in the course of drafting the Agreement in Principle, Ontario insisted that the Agreement be ratified separately by the Temagami First Nation as well as the Teme-Augama Anishnabai. Ontario's position in this regard divided the Temagami people with the result that, while the Teme-Augama Anishnabai were prepared to ratify the Agreement in Principle, the Temagami First Nation were not.

On or about July 25, 1995, Premier Harris, without notice or consultation announced that the Agreement in Principle was withdrawn. The sole reason provided by Premier Harris for withdrawing the Agreement was that the Temagami First Nation had failed to ratify the Agreement. Since that time, Ontario has not provided any reason as to why the Agreement in Principal was unsatisfactory.

In or about September of 1995, the Ontario Court (General Division) made an order removing the Cautions from the land claim area. This order was appealed to the Ontario Court of Appeal.

June 30, 1996, Minister of Natural Resources, Chris Hodgson while responding to the recommendations of the Comprehensive Council meet with the Chiefs of Tema-Augama Anishnabeg and Temagami First Nation to inform them that Ontario is setting aside 135 square miles of land to facilitate a settlement while telling them Ontario intends to manage the land and not get hung up with land claims.

On June 30, 1998 the Agreement of Co-Existence was forwarded to the Ontario Government as a proposal for settlement. Through a process of reconciliation, consultation and communication, the Teme-Augama Anishnabai and the Temagami First Nation reached a consensus on an Agreement of Co-Existence, which in all material respects is substantially the same as the Agreement in Principle negotiated in 1993

On August 21, 1998 a letter they receive from Attorney General Harnick encouraged the Temagami Indians. Harnick's letter states "a satisfactory resolution will help both the Native and non-native communities realise the full economic potential of the Temagami area." He also expresses the view that "a series of timely focused discussions are most likely to yield an agreement between us. It is in everyone's best interest for these discussions proceed as expeditiously as possible."

August 27, 1998 Ontario Court of Appeal hears the appeal of the 1995 Ontario Court (General Division) decision. The judges reserve their decision.

On September 24, 1998 the Chiefs and Councils of Temagami First Nation and Teme-Augama Anishnabai meet with Doug Carr (Senior Negotiator for Ontario Native Affairs). At the meeting it becomes clear that Mr. Carr does not have a mandate to negotiate. The Temagami Indians demand that Mr. Carr obtain a mandate by the end of October and propose a time table for negotiations that would lead to a settlement by March 31, 1999. Mr. Carr agrees to obtain a mandate by November 15, 1998.

November 15, 1998 Mr Carr telephones Chief Twain and Chief McKenzie to explain they are not ready.

March 1999 Teme-Augama Anishnabai set up a cabin a Shinningwood Bay Access Rd. Mr. Carr calls next day to inform he has a mandate

Framework Agreement signed in June 2000

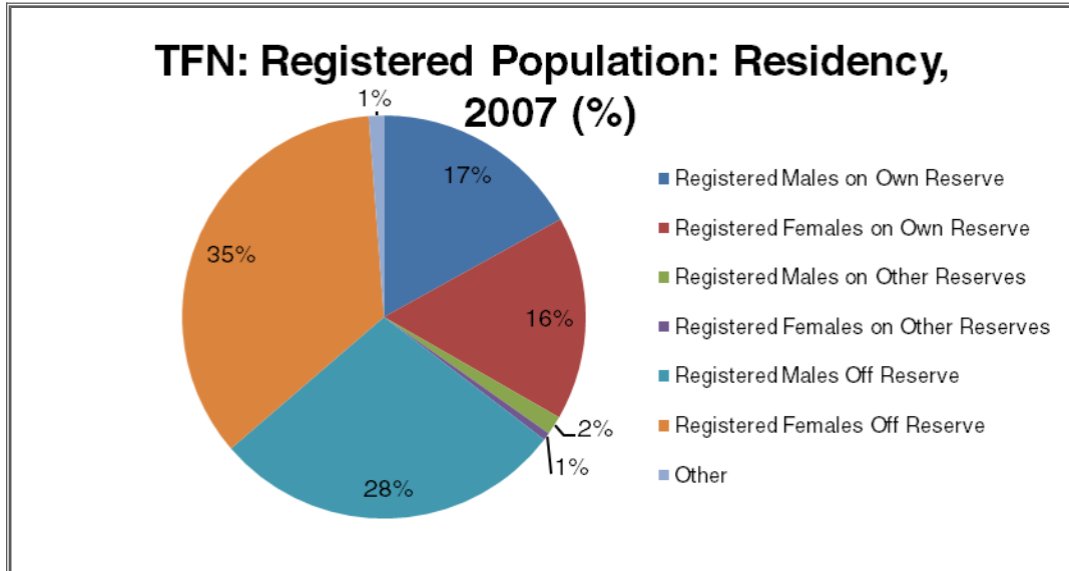
Draft settlement agreement 2008

2015 – we are still without a settlement agreement and our struggle continues.

### **Population Growth:**

As of 2015, the approximate on-reserve population of the Temagami First Nation community is 220, and the approximate off-reserve population is 783. As of 2007, there was a relatively even distribution of males and females residing on Bear Island (see Figure 2 below). (Please note: this section only documents Temagami First Nation citizens and does not include all Teme-Augama Anishnabai citizens).

Figure 1: TFN Registered Population – Residency 2007 (%)



Changes in the population of any community are a function of demographic factors and net-mitigation that is primarily drive by changes in economic activity.

It is expected that any increase in the community’s labour force, and associated increase in population, will be dependent on the following two factors:

1. The creation of new economic activities and job opportunities in the area; and
2. Capacity building within the community organization and resources.

**Education:**

The educational levels attained by the resident population have implications for the growth of the local economy (see Figure 2 below).

Approximately 18.5% of the total persons aged 15 and over in Temagami First Nation have either had some post-secondary education or have completed university. Nearly double the number of those with post-secondary education, have either a trades or non-university certificate or diploma.

**Employment:**

Figure 2 and 3 below illustrate the employment and residency figures among Temagami First Nation residents . The data illustrated in the graph below indicates more than half of Temagami First Nation’s residents are employed, while 11% were self-employed.

Figure 2: TFN Employment Figures, 2007



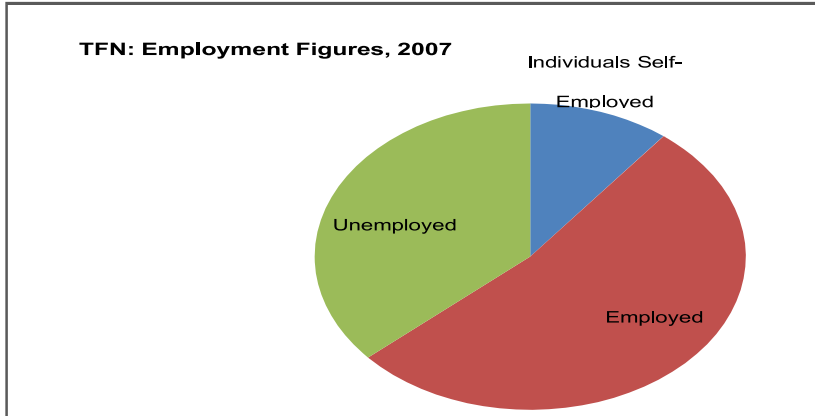
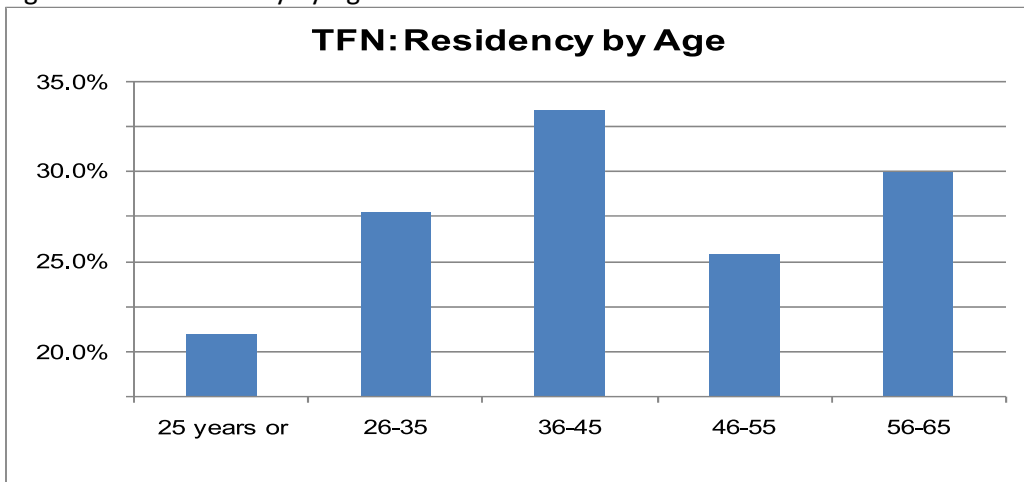


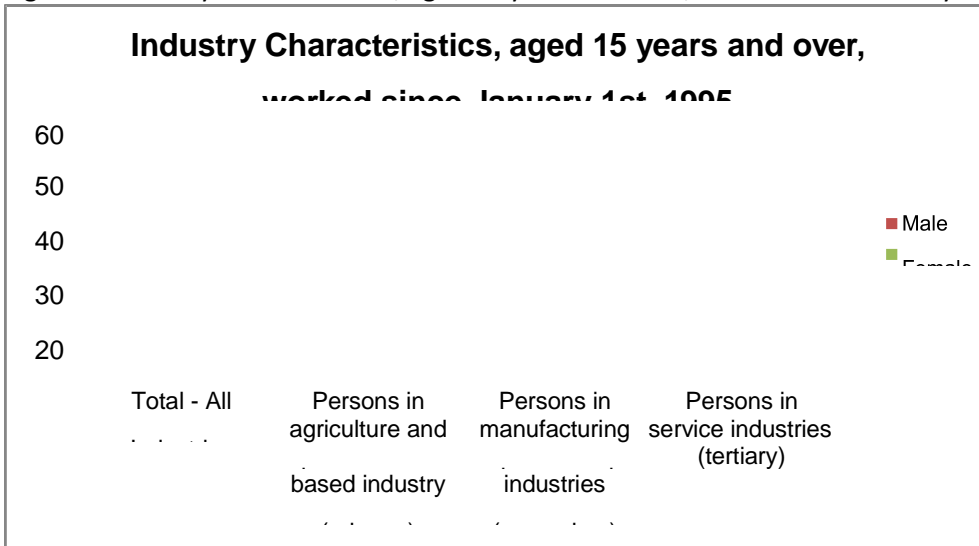
Figure 3: TFN Residency by Age



**Labour Force by Industry:**

The graph in Figure 4 below suggests a local economy that relies heavily on the service orientated industry. Anecdotal evidence suggests an increasing reliance on construction occupations that service the local cottage industry.

Figure 4: Industry Characteristics, aged 15 years and over, worked since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1995



### **Transportation:**

As mentioned above, the Temagami First Nation Community is located on a remote island on Lake Temagami. The closest mainland access points to travel from the mainland to Bear Island are the Mine Landing and Manitou Landing access points located at the end of the Lake Temagami Access Road. The Lake Temagami Access Road extends off of Highway 11 North for approximately 17 kilometres. Bear Island is only accessible by water travel (i.e. boat) during the spring, summer and fall months and by ice (i.e. ice road, snowmobile) during the winter months. Freeze-up and Break-up of the lake in the spring and fall seasons usually occur in a two-week timeframe and during that time community residents usually do not travel. Temagami First Nation does have a helipad that is utilized by air ambulance helicopters for emergency response purposes. Temagami First Nation is equipped with an airboat that can be utilized for emergency response purposes where air ambulance may not be available during the Freeze-up and Break-up times (ex. During high winds or low visibility).

Temagami First Nation's road system is suitable mainly for pedestrian traffic and off road vehicles (ex. ATVs), however, many residents do have regular cars and trucks for use on Bear Island.

### **Natural Resources in the Area:**

Natural resources have been a major, if not the largest, contributor to the economic growth and community development of the Temagami area. Mining, forestry, hydro-electric power and tourism are the main economic sectors of the Temagami area. **Temagami First Nation is building its capacity to become actively involved in such economic development initiatives.**

#### ***Forestry Capability:***

A review of the Temagami area indicates that forest capability is moderate although there are sites of significantly higher capability (*Lake Temagami Plan for Land Use and Recreational Development*, MNR, 1973). At one time Temagami supported both logging and mill processing operations. Presumably logging will continue into the foreseeable future. The area may be able to attract other wood related industry given the right market conditions.

#### ***Mining Potential:***

For most of the last century Temagami had considerable mining activity. The town of Temagami and the community of Bear Island are located in a well-mineralized portion of the province and is noteworthy for the variety and large number of mineral occurrences it contains (*History of Mining Bulletin*, Temagami Area Comprehensive Planning Program, March 1991).

#### ***Recreation Capability***

The Temagami Area is primarily an outdoor vacation and recreation destination. The majority of recreation activity takes place between May and October although snowmobiling is very popular in the winter. Historically, the area has been known for canoeing, fishing, hunting, a complex array of lakes and rivers and quiet solitude (*Commercial Tourism Bulletin*, Temagami Area Comprehensive Planning Program). The favourable recognition of the area for recreation activities is founded in the area's ability to supply these elements.

### ***Fish and Wildlife Capability:***

The Temagami area is perhaps best known for its lake trout lakes but populations of brook trout, rainbow trout, walleye, smallmouth bass, whitefish and pike also exist. Traditional non-sport fish species such as yellow perch, rock bass and burbot can also be found. As might be expected, a significant portion of angling pressure occurs during the summer months. Walleye, lake trout and brook trout are all popular sport fishing species in the Temagami area. Uneven distribution of angling pressure has placed a high demand on lakes with easy access. Many lakes cannot sustain heavy fishing use. In order to maintain or improve the quality of fishing that is present in Temagami, it is important to protect fish resources from over-exploitation and habitat degradation (*Fishing Bulletin*, Temagami Area Comprehensive Planning Program, March 1991).

Moose is perhaps the best-known wildlife species in the Temagami area. The Ministry of Natural Resources monitors the moose population on a regular basis and has a management system that allows control over the age and sex of moose harvested by hunters. **Moose is a staple food resource for the Temagami First Nation community. Temagami First Nation community members continue to hunt moose throughout n'Daki Menan.**

Other wildlife species in the Temagami area include, but are not limited to, beaver, marten, bear, wolf and lynx. **Temagami First Nation Community members continue to trap these species throughout n'Daki Menan.**

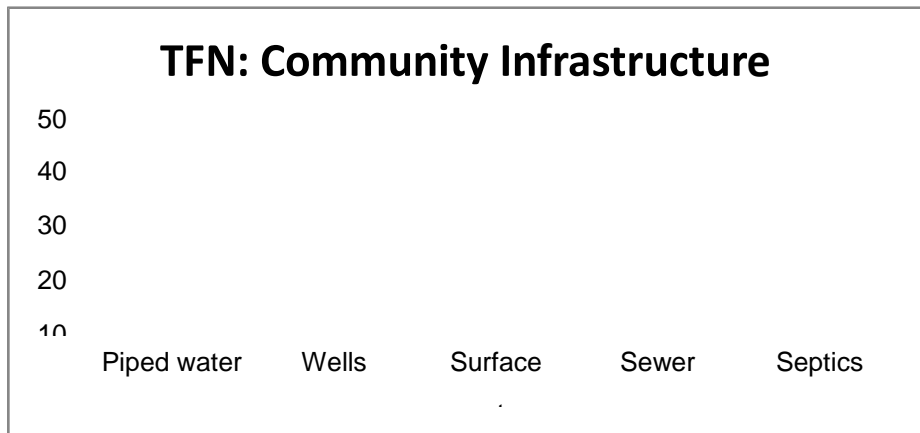
**Gathering of berries and medicinal plants throughout n'Daki Menan continues to be a significant aspect of the Temagami First Nation subsistence economy and is a key cultural activity.**

### **Bear Island Services and Facilities:**

#### **Local Sewer and Water System:**

In order to maintain a clean water system, Temagami First Nation primarily relies on the local sewer system. Over 40 services housing lots utilize the sewer system, followed by either use of piped water (40), surface water (33) or septic tanks (33). The least utilized means of local infrastructure is the use of wells, in which only 2 households use this system. See Figure 5 below for further information.

Figure 5: TFN Community Infrastructure



#### **Technological Infrastructure:**

Temagami First Nation's local technological infrastructure is well serviced with excellent internet connectivity. The presences of internet connectivity will help stimulate Temagami First Nation's ability to satisfy the needs of existing and future business asa well as offer effective communications tools to its members. Residential use of the internet and satellite television is also high. Cellular service is all available in some locations on Bear Island.

#### **Community Buildings and Services:**

The Temagami First Nation Band Office is the central administration building. The services provided from this building include the following:

- Chiefs Office
- Council Chambers
- Executive Director
- Economic Development Officer
- Capital Projects/Policy Analyst
- Membership Clerk/Office Secretary
- Finance Department
- Communication Officer
- Infrastructure Manager
- Housing Coordinator
- TFN Enrichment Clerk

The TFN Warehouse and Heavy Equipment Division building provides services by a Heavy Equipment Operator and a Handyman.

The Recreation Centre is a historical single story log building. This building currently functions as a community hall for various community functions. A medical helipad is located at the shoreline directly in front of this building for emergency response purposes.

The Doreen Potts Health Centre is Temagami First Nation's central health building providing health related services. This building houses a Health Services Manager, a Community Health Representative, the Community Health Nurse, the Health Promotion Program and the Home and Community Care Program.

The Family Healing and Wellness Centre is the building that houses various social programming for the Temagami First Nation community. Services offered include Native Child Welfare Prevention Program, Healthy Babies Program, Native Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program, Ontario Works, and Community Wellness Program.

The Laura McKenzie Learning Centre is the Temagami First Nation band run elementary school (grades K-8). Although secondary and post-secondary school students attend their studies off-reserve, programming for these students are administered by the Education Manager housed in this building.

The Tillie Missabie Family Centre is the community day care facility and provides daycare programming as well as the Aboriginal Head Start programming.

The Temagami First Nation Public Library and the Bear Island Police Service are housed out of the same building. The library provides a number of books and literacy resources, as well as providing public computer and internet services. The police service provides two Bear Island Police constables.

There is a Roman Catholic Church located in the community. This church is considered to be of historic significance to the community. Some community residents and cottagers use the Church during the summer months.

The Temagami First Nation Water Treatment Plant provides sewer and water facilities to buildings and residents located in the central area of Bear Island. The building managed by the Temagami First Nation Infrastructure Manager.

The Community Fire Hall and Emergency First Response building accommodates storage for fire equipment for the Volunteer Fire Department and the volunteer Emergency First Response Team vehicle.

The Elders Recreational Building (aka Northstar Building) is a community building accommodating elder's recreational activities.

The Sonny Moore Building is a recreational building that is often used to prepare for baseball, pow wow and winter skating activities. An outdoor skating rink and baseball diamond are located directly beside this building.

The Store Complex is a community owned building that is leased to a privately owned confectionary business run by a Temagami First Nation community member.

## Temagami First Nation Current situation on Bear Island

An economic development study conducted in 2009<sup>1</sup> provided some insight as to why community residents reside on Bear Island. The natural beauty and environment was of key importance to Temagami First Nation community residents. Equally as important were family relationships and a strong sense of community. See Table 1 below. The aforementioned study of 2009 also discussed the crucial importance of the natural environment and traditional living to the Temagami First Nation community. **As discussed in this study<sup>2</sup>, “While a number of participants identified the inherent changes they wish to see over the next ten years, an overwhelming consensus of preserving the natural environment was established. A Strong appreciation for the environment and to better respect the elements of traditional living was also recognized as being integral for the future growth of Temagami First Nation.”** A subsistence economy provided by n’Daki Menan is a crucial aspect of Temagami First Nation culture and life. As discussed in the previously mentioned study<sup>3</sup>, **“Although official unemployment is high, there is recognition that many residents of Bear Island are involved in the subsistence economy that provides them a livelihood for part of the year. It is also an incredibly important part of their cultural way of life. These activities include hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering.”**

Table 1: The Best Things About Being a Resident on Bear Island

Natural Beauty and the Environment	22
Family and Community	19
Quietness/Peacefulness	6
Nature Activities	5
Distance from City/Remoteness	5
Tax Free Status	4
Other	6

One of the top three challenges and barriers to successful growth of the Temagami First Nation community access to funding (the other top two being lack of mainland development and the small number of successful businesses)<sup>4</sup>. A 2009 economic development study conducted for Temagami First Nation discusses the lack of capacity in manpower and long term stable funding as a barrier to long term

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<sup>1</sup> Miller Dickinson Blais Inc. (March, 2009). *Temagami First Nation Economic Development Systems Planning – Final Report*. Pp. 17.

<sup>2</sup> Miller Dickinson Blais Inc. (March, 2009). *Temagami First Nation Economic Development Systems Planning – Final Report*. Pp. 23.

<sup>3</sup> Miller Dickinson Blais Inc. (March, 2009). *Temagami First Nation Economic Development Systems Planning – Final Report*. Pp. 24.

<sup>4</sup> Miller Dickinson Blais Inc. (March, 2009). *Temagami First Nation Economic Development Systems Planning – Final Report*. Pp. 21.

planning and development activities<sup>5</sup>. A lack of public infrastructure and housing is also a challenge to the growth of the Temagami First Nation community<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Miller Dickinson Blais Inc. (March, 2009). *Temagami First Nation Economic Development Systems Planning – Final Report*. Pp. 49.

<sup>6</sup> Miller Dickinson Blais Inc. (March, 2009). *Temagami First Nation Economic Development Systems Planning – Final Report*. Pp. 23.