

Next steps

The Timiskaming Health Unit reviewed the findings and have committed to implementing the following recommendations:

Timiskaming Health Unit: recommendations

- Increase awareness about water treatment and waste management options that are economical, effective and appropriate. Consider TLA Times, presentations at AGM and other venues.
- Provide information about proper use of composting toilet.
- Promote availability of sanitary survey; include information about related costs and how to access the service.
- Advocate for septic system re-inspection by-law within the municipality of Temagami.
- Clarify houseboat enforcement jurisdiction with TLA members.

Others have been listed as possible steps for TLA to consider upon reviewing this report. Readers are encouraged to develop additional recommendations for further action.

Temagami Lakes Association: for consideration

- Use the information in this report to design the 2014 water sampling program.
- Advocate for a septic system re-inspection by-law within the municipality of Temagami.
- Work with houseboat owners to promote water stewardship.

Enhancing your health in so many ways!

The Timiskaming Health Unit would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to this project:

Amanda Mongeon, Program Evaluator
Renée Duval, Public Health Inspector
Doug Metson, Chief Building Officer
Cameron Clark, Manager
Celine Butler, Epidemiologist

For more detail about this study, refer to the full report:
Timiskaming Health Unit (2014). *Drinking Water and Waste Management among Members of the Temagami Lakes Association*, prepared by Amanda Mongeon.
Timiskaming Shores, ON.

For further information or to request a copy of the report, please contact Amanda Mongeon, Program Evaluator, Timiskaming Health Unit at 705-647-4305 x2264 or mongeona@timiskaminghu.com.



July 2014

Drinking Water & Waste Management Among Members of the Temagami Lakes Association: Highlights

During the spring of 2014, the Timiskaming Health Unit worked with the Temagami Lakes Association (TLA) to learn how THU can best support safe drinking water and human waste management in the Temagami Lakes area.

A questionnaire was created and made available online to all TLA members with email addresses from April 15 to May 6 2014 with an initial invitation sent on April 15 and one reminder May 2. Hard copies with an invitational letter and return envelope were mailed to remaining TLA members on April 28.

Even though the invitation went to all TLA members, recipients were asked to submit one response per property rather than one response per member.

Of the estimated 380 TLA member-owned properties in the Temagami Lakes area, this report reflects responses from 143. This indicates a response rate of 37.6%.



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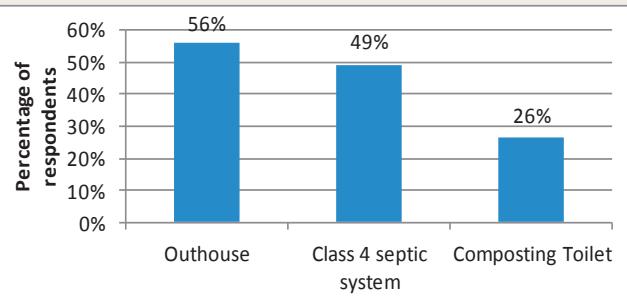
247 Whitewood Avenue Box 1090
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Waste management systems were not tracked until the health unit began maintaining records in the 1960s. Since then, although some new systems have been installed or upgraded, many have not. As a result, very little is known about the status of waste management systems throughout the Temagami Lakes area.

Waste Management

Types of waste management systems



Reasons for not having a septic system inspected



Other comments provided (waste)

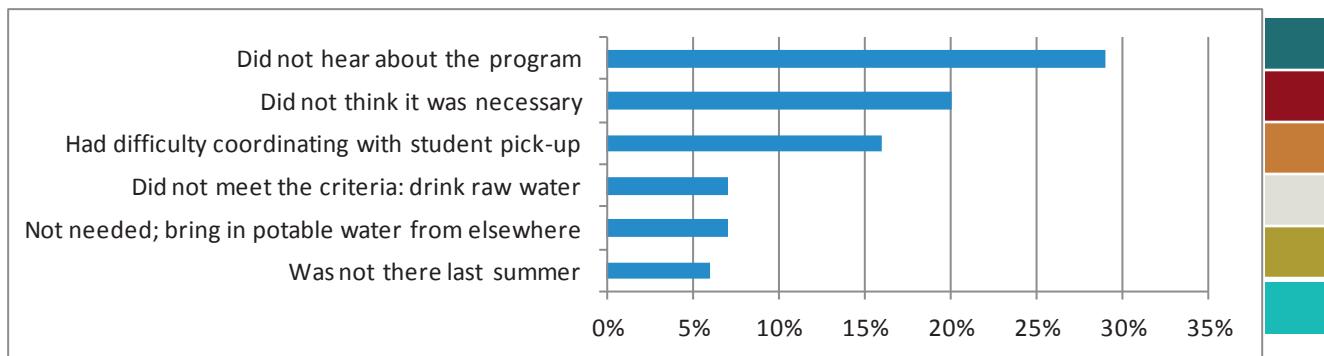
- Establish by-law / mandatory inspection program
- Regulate houseboat discharge
- Older systems are a hazard
- Offer financial assistance
- Interested in complying
- Regulate waste at campsites

To help with their drinking water and waste management decisions, respondents would like to know more about:

Drinking Water

During the summer of 2013 the Timiskaming Health Unit teamed up with the TLA to offer drinking water sampling services to residents on Lake Temagami. Drinking water samples were tested for total coliforms and *E. coli* at the Public Health Laboratory in Timmins. Of 142 question respondents, 33 reported having participated in the 2013 water sampling program.

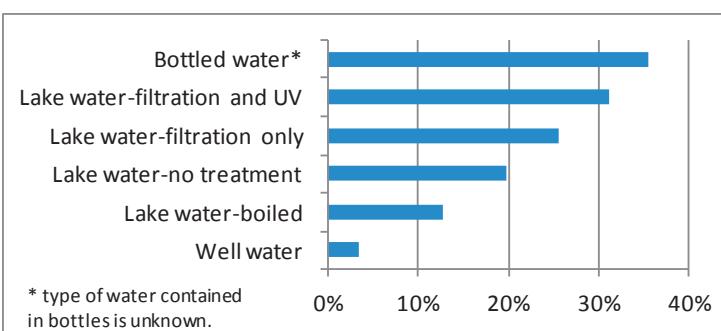
Top reasons offered by those who did not participate in the 2013 sampling program



Residents of the Temagami Lakes area have a number of options for sourcing and treating their drinking water.

Forty-two respondents (30%) would like help interpreting their sample results.

Most mentioned drinking water sources



Other comments provided (water)

- If able, will participate—only go into town on weekends, only in the area for a short time, lake conditions determine ability to make trip
- Belief that raw lake water is safe to drink
- Need clarification about the sampling program e.g. cost, timing, treated vs. untreated water
- Appreciate the program/information from TLA
- Some use a spring & believe the water has been tested
- Had a negative experience with the program last year

Waste Management

New technology (34%)
Overview of waste management in the Temagami Lakes Area (29%)
Waste management system design criteria (21%)
Use permit/application process (6A%)

Drinking Water

Drinking water treatment options (75%)
Drinking water hazards (49%)
Safe drinking water sources (38%)
Bacterial levels in surface waters (5%)