

## 2013 Campsite Report

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Another initiative that the TLA summer staff were busy with this summer was the campsite inspection program begun in summer 2012. Between summer 2012 and summer 2013, TLA staff managed to get to all of the lake's known campsites – 177 locations! The campsite map used was compiled from a combination of maps available to us – two different historical maps, the shoal map, MNR map #2, and Friends of Temagami map. Based on the master map created, TLA staff visited the many campsites and recorded the GPS location, estimated campsite size, and determined presence of campsite signage and privies. Existing privies were evaluated based on condition with necessity of replacement recorded and garbage on the campsites was removed. Based on the work completed, a new campsite map was compiled with campsites colour-coded by size, privies indicated, and a numbering system including all of the existing 151 campsites. The system devised means that campsites numbered similarly will often be visited on the same day in future years, when the campsite cleanup program continues. In case you're wondering about the difference in campsite numbers, some locations depicted have grown in since publishing of the map where the locations were found.

Overall, the campsites were in good condition, and staff were pleased to find some really nice sites that may need to be revisited with friends and a tent! Of the 151 campsites, 63 were small (fewer than 3 two-person tents would fit comfortably), 45 were medium (3-5 tents would fit), 37 were large (more than 5 tents would fit), and 5 were virtually unlimited in number of tents that could fit. 71 campsites were marked with an orange, diamond-shaped campsite sign and 70 campsites currently have privies. Of the 70 privies existing, 4 are slated to be repaired in the near future, and 12 are to be replaced. Looks like there will be more box privies that may be seen being built at the TLA building in the future!

Several campsites visited received new campsite signs in visible locations to make it easy for campers to find these sites, and some also received privy signage to help with those late-night treks. Six box privies were constructed this summer, and four box privies were installed in different arms of the lake where existing privies were in desperate need of replacement. Now that all of the campsite locations are recorded, TLA staff will be visiting campsites on a regular basis in years to come to ensure they stay in top condition for everyone's use. Also, if you haven't had a chance to go camping on the lake, we encourage you to try it or even have a picnic lunch at one of the campsites – these sites are stunning! It is hard to describe some of the amazing vistas and rock formations we saw.

We encourage you to collect trash if you see some while camping, or to adopt a campsite. Whether you choose a personal favourite spot or a campsite that happens to be easy for you to reach, all you have to do is visit your chosen campsite and fill out a short form giving a summary of its condition afterwards. It is really simple, and we hope you will participate in this program. (There are lots of campsites to choose from!) Together, we can preserve Lake Temagami's numerous campsites and continue to enjoy them for years to come.