

Eastside Aboriginal Sustainable Tourism Inc. (EAST Inc.)

Community Profiles

These neighbouring communities, along the banks and inland on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, embrace the committee members of *Eastside Aboriginal Sustainable Tourism Inc.* (EAST Inc.). Each committee member operates their own tourism-related and/or has an interest in their community's prosperity.

The geographic region is largely boreal forests, wet lands and lakes that are nestled on the Canadian Precambrian shield. Historically traditional trapping and commercial fishing are the main economic resources. Primary travel to the region is by air in the summer months and by land in the cold winter months (winter roads).

Below you will read a brief description of each community. All have a common Ojibwe and Cree culture and over the years a unique dialect emerged which derived from both cultural languages - Oji-Cree. Members of the communities laugh and joke about each others' dialects and accents, especially when visiting their friends in neighbouring communities.

Poplar River First Nation Committee Member – Mrs. Sophia Rabliauskas

This community is located in the central east side of Lake Winnipeg, about 400 km's north of Winnipeg. The population accounts for 929 on reserve and 223 off reserve (most recent survey). The community leaders and community members are seeking to protect the land around Poplar River which was traditionally used for hunting and trapping by their community members. The community's efforts in preserving and protecting the boreal forest and watersheds have been recognized by many.

Businesses:

- Sagatay Lodge
- Mitasosipe Store and Gas
- Northern Store
- Poplar River Handicrafts
- Dennis Bittern's Taxi
- Sag's and Bunny's Store
- Up the River Store
- Poplar River Transportation

Berens River First Nation Committee Member – Mr. Lester Everette

Berens River is nearly 100 km's south of Poplar River with a population of 1800 on- reserve and 350 off-reserve. It is approximately 270 air kilometres north of Winnipeg on the east shore of Lake Winnipeg and at the mouth of the Berens River. It is also 391 kilometers by road on

Provincial Road #304 (a few kilometers south is a more isolated reserve, Pigeon River No. 13A, which has been used as a collection point for logging operations in the past).

Businesses:

- Berens River Lodge
- Berens River Fishermans Association
- Berens River First Nation Amik Ventures
- Berens River Community Centre
- Northern Store
- Poplar River Transportation

Off Reserve:

- North Country Lodge
- John Alex Enterprises Ltd.
- Channel Area Loggers

Bloodvein First Nation
Chairperson – Mr. William Young

This community is 210 kilometres north of Winnipeg on the east shore of Lake Winnipeg, settled directly north of the Bloodvein River. The community is situated along three kilometres of shoreline at the mouth of the river. Angle fishing up and down the river is visited by anglers mostly from surrounding jurisdictions. It is said that the idea to name the community Bloodvein came from the rocks surface which visibly shows vein- like patterns that line the banks along the river.

Businesses:

- Bloodvein River Lodge
- Anicinabe Coffee Shop
- Frank & Son's Store
- Bloodvein Arena
- Keller and Son's Store
- Turtle Hill Café

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
Committee Member – Mr. Carl Smith

This community is located 35 minutes north from the City of Winnipeg on Provincial Highway 59 and extends north to the shores of Lake Winnipeg which includes part of the Netley Creek Mars area. The Brokenhead River runs through the core area of the community. Both PTH #59 and the CN rail line cross through the northwest section of the Reserve. To the south is Winnipeg, 82 kilometres down highway #59 and to the north are the Grand Beach Provincial Park, Patricia Beach, and Victoria Beach, to name a few. A couple of years ago, this community

including a consortium of the south east region First Nations banded together in a business partnership to design and develop an enterprise called the South Beach Casino. The communities envision spin off businesses with consumer activity around the casino.

Businesses:

- South Beach Casino, Hotel (under construction)
- Chicken Delight (under construction)
- Northwinds Gas & Grill & Convenience Store
- Bison Ranch
- Southeast Tribal Council Head/ Finance Office
- Tomali Pictures Head Office
- Treaty Land Entitlement Head Office
- Shining Butterfly/hobby/crafts
- Brokenhead Community Store

Black River First Nation

Committee Member – Mr. Ernest McPherson Jr.

This community sits at the banks of the O'Hanley and Black Rivers, along the east shore of Lake Winnipeg. It is 32 kilometers north of Pine Falls, 150 kilometers north of the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. The area is surrounded by a pristine shoreline with a beachfront sitting at the edge of the community. Locals and visitors enjoy community events along the beach each summer.

Businesses:

- Moppa's Store
- Eco-trail-walking/biking
- Wild Rice Harvesting
- Billy Bird Woodcutting
- D & W Logging

Hollow Water First Nation

Committee Member – Mr. Gary Raven

This community is approximately 190 kilometres north of Winnipeg at the southern edge of the Canadian Precambrian shield. Hunting and trapping are very much alive for the members of the community with many having designated trap-lines which are always maintained and protected. The elders speak of traditional and sacred sites that surround the entire Hollow Water community. An annual event, Black Island Days, is held at one of those sacred sites which is located on Black Island, between Hollow Water and Hecla Island on Lake Winnipeg.

Businesses:

- Raven's Creek Cultural Experiences

- Black Island Days-cultural celebrations
- Manigotogan – Wood-N-Bell Hotel
- North Star Hotel
- Bisset-San Antonio Motel
- Hollow Water Development Corporation
- Wanipigow Producer Co-op
- Raven's Creek Chipstand
- Grandpa George's Gas / Diesel Bar
- Wy-Ky-Kan Housing Authority

Sagkeeng First Nation
Committee member – vacant

Along south most shores of LakeWinnipeg, by hydro station Pine Falls.

Businesses:

- Pelican Landing Bed & Breakfast
- White Wolf Hunting & Fishing Supplies
- Turtle Lodge
- 4 convenience stores - Mamaweenong, Ed & Terry's, Teeny Boppers, Sagkeeng Superstore
- 1 smoke shop – The Smoking Tipi
- Bubbles Laundromat & Coffee Shop
- South Shore Hardware Sales
- Wolf's Den Restaurant
- Wolf FM – radio station
- B&M Pawn Shop
- Sagkeeng Gaming Commission & VLT's
- Sagkeeng Arena
- Sagkeeng Cultural Centre
- Artists – Wilfred Swampy, Larry Courchene, Joe Land, Gladys Redsky, Mr. Fenner

Pauingassi First Nation
Committee member – vacant

Approximately 280 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg & 24 kilometers north of Little Grand Rapids, on a peninsula jutting southward into Fishing Lake, a tributary of Berens River. Again trapping, fishing and seasonal rice harvesting are the economic source for income.

Businesses:

- Jojo's Store

Little Grand Rapids First Nation
Committee – vacant

Little Grand Rapids is 68 air kilometers northeast of Winnipeg, on the shores of Family Lake near the Manitoba/ Ontario border. The reserve is spread out over an eight kilometer stretch along the lake shore. There is a 3000 foot airstrip on provincial crown land across the lake from Little Grand Rapids. Access from the airport is restricted to boat or float plane during the summer months. During the winter, the community can be accessed by snow machine or vehicle over the ice. During the freeze up and spring thaw the site is only accessible by helicopter. There is no permanent access road. Winter roads are constructed to Pine Dock and Bloodvein. Pine Dock is accessible by all weather road via PHT #234.

Businesses:

- Nig-Gig Ventures/ Construction
- Clarence Keeper's Pool Hall (in progress)

Gods Lake Community
Committee Member – vacant

God's Lake Community is located 547 kilometers, by air, Northeast of Winnipeg. The community is headed by a Mayor and four Councillors. Service delivery affiliations are with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (DIAND). There is a ferry that services the community by taking vehicles across the river. Semi-trucks from Winnipeg and Thompson drive in on the winter road to bring in freight and fuel. The winter road season opens from February until March. Air transportation is available at the local airstrip that is maintained by Highways and Transportation. Several airlines fly in from Winnipeg and Thompson daily and each of the companies provide at least one flight per day. Chartering flights is also an option for people and visitors alike. Docking facilities are available for floatplanes throughout the community's shoreline.

Businesses:

- Healey's Lodge
- Burton's Hotel
- Northern Store

Gods River First Nation
Committee Member – vacant

The community of God's River was originally part of the God's Lake First Nation. It was in the mid 1940's that people moved from the God's Lake Narrows to form the community of God's River. Sources have indicated that separation of the communities was related to religious differences, while others contend it was for economic reasons. Ministerial Order formed the

God's River First Nation on May 7, 1976. The God's Lake First Nation is signatory to the adherence of Treaty 5, which was signed in 1909.

The God's River First Nation is located 585 air kilometers northeast of Winnipeg. The community is located at the mouth of the God's River along the north shoreline of God's Lake.

Businesses:

- Okemow's Restaurant
- God's River Lodge
- Percy Okemow's Convenience Store

Bunibonibee Cree Nation (Oxford House)
Committee Member – vacant

History: Oxford House was originally one of the trading posts set up by the Hudson's Bay Company, en route to Norway House. People from nearby areas, as far as York Factory, moved to the trading site and formed the community of Oxford House. The main dialect spoken is Cree. The United Church played a major role in the development of the community. The ministers and their wives were the first nurses and teachers. Oxford House officially became a community in 1798. The location of the community is located along the Eastern shoreline of Oxford House Lake at the mouth of Hayes River, in Northern area of Manitoba. The First Nation is 950 kilometers North of Winnipeg.

Businesses:

- Triple B Motel – bed and breakfast
- C. Grieves Hauling
- Billy Jack Grieves Transport
- The Knee Lake Resort (off community)

Red Sucker Lake First Nation
Committee member – vacant

Until 1969 Island Lake Band was a single band that consisted of four bands: Red Sucker lake , St. Theresa Point, Wasagamack and Garden Hill. Red Sucker Lake has no outstanding land entitlements. The band is signatory to the 1909 adherence to Treaty No.5. Local residents mention that the late Mr. Elijah McDougall was the first settler and founder of Red Sucker Lake gband, Red Sucker Lake First Naqtion recently celebrated their bi-centennial. The main dialect spoken in the Island Lake region is Oji-Cree. The location of Red Sucker Lake is approximately 709 kilometers Northeast of Winnipeg. Red Sucker Lake First Nation has no year-round road access to a service center and as of a result: it experiences a higher cost of transportation. Distance, measured directly, to the nearest service center is greater than 480 kilometers. Recreational activity include in the winter snow mobiling and the annual winter carnival in the summer fishing, hockey, baseball and volleyball.

Businesses:

- Red Sucker Lake Gas Bar
- Monias Store
- Monias Restaurant
- Andy Little's Store

St. Teresa Point First Nation
Committee member – vacant

St. Theresa Point is located 610 kilometers Northeast of Winnipeg. This community is one of the larger populated First Nation in the region. The community is accessible by plane and boat in the summer and by winter road in the winter.

Businesses:

- Klassy Laundromat
- Monias Store
- Snack Shack
- Waylon's Video
- Mariah Portage Café

Garden Hill First Nation
Committee – vacant

Consider the remoteness, English is now part of everyday life due to the fact that tourist frequently visit the lodges in Island plays a major role. The location of Garden Hill is 610 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg and has challenge that exists in all First Nation in the east side of Manitoba.

Businesses:

- Garden Hill Convenience Store
- Birch Coffee Shop
- Island Lake Lodge
- Knott's Store
- Kistagan Sportplex
- Northern Store located on Stevenson Island
- McDougall's Photo
- Joe Wood's Store

Wasagamack First Nation

Committee member - Vacant

Wasagamack First Nation used to belong to the Island Lake Band, which consisted of four communities: Garden Hill, Wasagamack, St. Theresa Point and Red Sucker Lake. Wasagamack is a signatory to the 1909 adhesion Treaty No. 5. The main dialect is Oji-Cree, however English has also become part of the everyday language.

Wasagamack is located 610 kilometers Northeast of Winnipeg. The community is accessible by plane and boat in the summer and by winter road in the winter.

Businesses:

- Tee-pee station
- Wasagamack Take-Out
- Wasagamack Gas Bar
- Wasagamack Community Store

Norway House Cree Nation
Committee member – vacant

Every August, people gather at Norway House to celebrate the history & tradition of the York Boat & the people who sailed them. It is a celebration that includes music, dancing and of course, the World Championship York Boat Races in which teams of 10 challenge for the title of York Boat Champion. For almost 200 years, the York Boat ruled the waterways of the Northern Canada carrying trade goods and supplies back and forth from the remote Northern Outpost of York factory to Norway House. The main staging area is a hub of activity as racers & spectators compare boats, rowing techniques and race strategy all in an effort to win.

Businesses:

- York Boat Inn and Diner
- Playgreen Development Corporation
- Keenanow Trust
- Reggie's Pizza

Shamattawa First Nation
Committee member – vacant

When the York Factory Hudson's Bay operation was closed in the 1950's. Shamattawa was established as a permanent settlement. Shamattawa operated as an outpost to York Factory as early as 1915 and in 1934 it became a full post. Shamattawa is located along the north shore

where God's River and Echoing River interest intersect. The First Nation is located 1.277 kilometers from the City of Winnipeg 320 kilometers from Thompson.

Businesses:

- Drop in Centre
- Northern Store
- Shamattawa Gas Bar