

GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Moosonee, located in the district of Cochrane is situated at 80 degrees Latitude N 35' and Longitude 51 degrees W 07'. The community is situated on the north side of the Moose River approximately 8 miles inland on the West Coast of James Bay. *Moosonee* is Ontario's only saltwater port. Referred to as the "*Gateway to the North*" *Moosonee* is central to points north for both east and west coasts of James Bay.

Located on the mainland, *Moosonee* was linked up to the south when the Ontario Northland Railway laid tracks from Cochrane, located 186 miles south. The rail line was officially opened July 15, 1932. The other mode to travel to *Moosonee* from the south is by air. The *Moosonee* airport was officially opened in May 1970 and in July 1991 a new terminal building was constructed.

Moosonee lies on the southern border of the *James Bay Lowland* ecoregion. Short warm summers and long cold winters mark the region. James Bay has the effect of retarding the warmer temperatures of the spring months and prolonging slightly warmer temperatures of the fall. The mean summer temperature is 14 degrees Celsius and the mean winter temperature is -12 degrees Celsius.

This ecoregion is classified as having humid mid-boreal ecoclimate. The boreal forest is somewhat stunted and less dense here because of the northerly latitude and proximity to the tree line. Its mixed forest is characterized by stands of black spruce, white spruce, balsam fir, birch and trembling aspen, depending on the moisture in the soil.

Being situated so close to James Bay, *Moosonee* is affected by the Arctic tides which rise and fall twice daily, varying as much as 2.5 metres from high to low tide.

Moosonee came into existence at the turn of the century when, in 1900, Annie Hardisty and her two daughters became the first settlers on the site. The James Bay region is rich in fur trading history, in 1903 Revillon Freres set up their trading post, to compete with their main rival, the Hudson Bay Company, who had already established their trading post on the island of Moose Factory in 1673.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The *Moosonee Development Area Board* (MDAB) governs *Moosonee*. The board consists of seven members who are each elected for a 3-year term. Areas of responsibility of the MDAB include protection of persons and property, recreation and arena development and tourism, public works, and airport management.

The Province of Ontario, through different Ministries funds other services provided. These services include, *Payukotayno - James and Hudson Bay Family Services*, the *Moosonee Family Resource Centre*, *Ministry of Correctional Services*, the *James Bay*

General Hospital and Moosonee Clinic, Ontario Works formerly the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Moosonee has 2 elementary public schools and 1 high school. It is also a satellite campus of Northern College, which is based in Timmins. Its own school board governs each school.

OVERVIEW OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

The basis of the local economy is public service. Tourism during the summer months is the major industry. Transportation, shipping general cargo and bulk oil to coastal communities by barge during summer months and by a temporary road in the winter also contributes to the local economy.

The *Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce* has provided full financial services since 1959. Northern stores provide limited banking services. Debit cards are a popular method of paying for goods and services in local businesses.

POPULATION

The population of *Moosonee* is approximately 2500 people. *Moosonee* is not a First Nation but the majority of its residents are aboriginal (85-90%) who have settled from other First Nations from the coast of James Bay, i.e. Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Attawapiskat, Moose Factory and Peawanuck.

The *Moosonee Cree Alliance* was formed and is trying to establish a reserve with all the funding and recognition received by other First Nations.

***Age and Sex Group Distribution**

Characteristics	Total	Male	Female
Age 0 - 4	255	145	120
Age 5 - 14	440	215	230
Age 15 - 19	190	90	105
Age 20 - 24	145	70	80
Age 25 - 54	740	375	370
Age 55 - 64	80	35	50
Age 65 - 74	50	25	25

Age 75 +	25	20	15
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***Education Statistics**

Characteristics	Total	Male	Female
Total - All persons age 15 and over	1235	605	630
Persons without a high school certificate	590	285	305
Persons with a high school certificate	120	70	50
Persons with some post secondary education (post secondary not completed)	145	70	80
Persons with trades or non-university certificate or diploma	275	130	150
Persons who have completed university	100	45	55

* Stats taken from Statistics Canada Census '96

***Language**

Characteristics	Total	Male	Female
Total - Language(s) first learned and still understood - All persons	1940	960	980
Aboriginal language(s)	535	250	285
French	50	30	20
English	1325	660	665
Other languages	25	15	10
% of population with Aboriginal language(s) first learned and still understood	27.6	26.0	29.1
% of population with Aboriginal language(s) spoken at home	14.4	16.1	13.3
% of population with knowledge of Aboriginal language(s)	31.7	30.4	33.7

* Stats taken from Statistics Canada Census '96

***Labour Force**

Total Labour Force	Age 15 - 64 years	1055
Persons in the employed labour force		675
1996 Unemployment Rate		13.5%
1996 Employment Rate		62.8%

*Figures for the number of people on social assistance unavailable at this time.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

- Moosonee Development Area Board** Employees: 40

Public Works
 Airport Maintenance & Management
 Family Resource Centre
 Fire Department
 Recreation
 Address: P.O Box 127
 Phone: (705) 336-2993
 Fax: (705) 336-2426
- Northern Stores-Moosonee** Employees: 60+

Address P.O Box 100
 Phone: (705) 336-2280
 Fax: (705) 336-2920
- Two Bay Enterprises Limited** Employees: 19 (35 IN SUMMER)

Purolator & Freight Delivery Service Owner: Bishop Hennessey
 Automotive, Snowmobile & Marine Centre
 Radio Shack - Authorized Sales Centre
 School bussing, garage
 Address: 16 Ferguson Road
 Phone: (705) 336-2944
 Fax: (705) 336-2910
- James Bay General Hospital** Employees: 42

Moosonee Clinic
 Mental Health Program
 Ambulance Services (Moosonee & Moose Factory)
 Administration offices
 Address: P.O Box 370
 Phone: (705) 336-2947
 Fax: (705) 336-2637

5. **Ontario Works** Employees: 4
 Address: P.O Box 160
 Revillon Road North
 Phone: (705) 336-2984
 Fax: (705) 336-2451
6. **Moosonee Transportation Limited** Employees: 50 (includes seasonal)
 Tug & Barge Service
 Tractor Train
 Equipment Rental
 Owner: Ray Cool
 Address: P.O Box 156
 Phone: (705) 336-2225
 Fax: (705) 336-2964
7. **Moosonee District School Area Board** Employees: 49
 Moosonee Public School
 Address: P.O Box 250
 Phone: (705) 366-2300
 Fax: (705) 336-2170
8. **Moosonee Roman Catholic Separate School Board** Employees: 11
 Bishop Belleau School
 9 teachers
 Address: P.O Box 340
 Phone: (705) 336-2605
 Fax: (705) 336-2881
9. **James Bay Lowlands Secondary School Board** Employees: 45
 Northern Lights Secondary School
 Address: P.O Box 304, Keewatin Drive
 Phone: (705) 336-2903
 Fax: (705) 336-2170
10. **Northern College - James Bay Education Centre** Employees: 14
 Address: P.O Box 130
 2 (part-time)
 Phone: (705) 336-2913
 Fax: (705) 336-2393
11. **Ontario Northland Services** Employees: 25 APPROX.
 Railway Passenger Services
 Express Services
 Marine Services
 Telecommunications

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Address: P.O Box 658
Phone: (705) 336-2364
Fax: (705) 336-3899

12. **Ministry of Natural Resources District Office** Employees:

Address: P.O Box
Phone: (705) 336
Fax:

Other Businesses

Moosonee LCBO

P.O Box 310
Phone: (705) 336-2301
Fax: 336-3153

Employees: 2 full-time, 3 part-time

Arctic Arts - Gifts and Souvenirs

P.O Box 63
Phone: (705) 336-2756
Fax: 336-2964

Owner: Barb Pappas
Employees: 3 (winter - full-time & part-time)
6 - 8 (summer-seasonal)

Sakabaun Cafe

P.O Box 63
Phone: (705) 336-3256
Fax: 336-2964

Owner: Barb Pappas
Employees: 12 (part-time & full-time)

Great North Builders and Supplies

P.O Box 430, 38 First Street
Phone: (705) 336-2777
Fax: 336-2775

Owners: Jack & Simone Hood
Employees: 12

InnLink Concrete Limited

1 Maheekan Road
Phone: (705) 336-2549
Fax: 336-3453

Owners: Wayne & Caroline Innes
Employees: 4

Meechim Enterprises

P.O Box 483, 6 First Street
Phone: (705) 336-2239
Fax: 336-2722

Owner: Wendell Clark
Employees: 7

Necessities

P.O Box 729
Phone: (705) 336-2131
Fax: 336-2616

Owner: Randy Bustraen
Employees: 7

Tempo Variety

P.O Box 546
 Phone: (705) 336-3766
 Fax: 336-3842

Owner: Lila Rifou
 Employees: 8 (average)

Moosonee Homecare Building Centre

P.O Box 10, 75 Ferguson Road
 Phone: (705) 336-2620
 Fax: 336-2622

Owner: George Butcher
 Employees: 3

Nortec Automotive

P.O Box 708, 90 Ferguson Road North
 Phone: (705) 336-3300
 Fax: 336-3750

Owner:

Employees:

Macha Tay Way Ow Gallery

P.O Box
 Phone: (705) 336-3541
 Fax:

Owner:
 Employees:

Butcher Fuel - Imperial Oil Products

P.O Box 8, 79 Ferguson Road
 Phone: (705) 336-2600
 Fax: 336-2684

Owner: George Butcher
 Employees:

Paytahpun Petroleum - Shell Dealer

P.O Box 27
 Phone: (705) 336-2377
 Fax: 336-2964

Manager: William Small
 Employees: 6

Patricia's Laundromat and Confectionery

P.O Box 293
 Phone: (705) 336-2550

Owner: Patrick Linklater
 Employees: 1

Sears Outlet

P.O Box 729
 Phone: (705) 336-2940
 Fax: 336-2076

Owner: Randy Bustran
 Employees: 3

Sky Ranch Restaurant

P.O Box 413
 Phone: (705) 336-3729

Owner: George Douskas
 Employees: 25

Steelwood Construction/The Building Source

P.O Box 253

Owner: Steven Wong
 Employees: 6 (+ seasonal summer)

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Phone: (705) 336-2595 Fax: 336-2284

Waskahegun Properties

P.O Box
Phone: (705) 336-1303
Fax: 336-1302

Owner:
Employees

Wilson's Stationary and Office Equipment

Lot 7, Airport Road
Phone: (705) 336-3219
Fax: 336-3222

Manager: Steven Black, Tim Wowk
Employees: 2

Bertha's Hairstyling

P.O Box
Phone: (705) 336-
Fax:

Owner:
Employees:

Polar Bear Lodge

P.O Box 305
Phone: (705) 336-2345
Fax: 336-2185

Owner: Jack Fuller
Employees: 10

Moosonee Lodge

P.O Box
Phone: (705) 336-2351
Fax:

Owner:
Employees: 7

Moose River Bed & Breakfast

P.O Box
Phone: (705) 336-1555
Fax:

Owner:
Employees:

Osprey Country Inn

P.O Box 116
Phone: (705) 336-2226
Fax: 336-2088

Owner: Rina Crawford
Employees: (part-time, casual, as required)

At the present time there is a new Water Plant under construction, which will greatly enhance the water supply to the residents of Moosonee.

UTILITIES

At present all homes in the community of Moosonee are connected to water and sewage systems. A new water plant is under construction and upon completion will greatly enhance the quality of water and service to its residents. The sewage and water system is provided and serviced by the *Moosonee Development Area Board*.

Electrical service is provided and maintained by *Ontario Hydro*.

Ontario Northland Telecommunications provides and maintains service for all long distance telephone, data communications, television transmission, Internet access and cellular phone service via microwave mobile radio, remote communication via satellite.

Radio service is provided by *CHMO*, a local community volunteer station at 1450 AM. CHMO provides both English and Cree programming. *CBC North*, 1340 AM provides national and international coverage. *Wawatay* 89.9 FM provides service in Cree and transmits to all the coastal communities. *Wawatay* 89.9 FM, broadcasts weekday mornings.

Television service consists of up to 42 channels and is provided and maintained by *Moose Factory Cable Inc.* A large majority of homes do have television sets, with satellite service becoming more popular.

There is one local newspaper, *The Freighter*, which is distributed weekly.

Canada Post provides postal service. Mail arrives and is delivered on a daily basis (except Sundays) to post office boxes; there is no home delivery. There is a Purolator courier service located at Two Bay Enterprises.

Sanitation disposal is carried out twice weekly and disposed of at a site 2 miles south of Moosonee. The Moosonee Development Area Board Public Works department provides this service.

TRANSPORTATION

At present, Moosonee is accessible from the south by train or airplane. Moosonee is accessible to the north by air, barge in the summer (there is no passenger service) or a temporary road during the winter months. Highway 11 is the closest road and it ends in Cochrane.

The *Ontario Northland Railway* carries passengers and freight north from Cochrane to Moosonee on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and returns south on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. During the summer tourist season, an additional train known as the *Polar Bear Express* arrives and departs daily in Moosonee. The tourist season usually begins on June 26 and ends the September long weekend. The regular train fare for an adult round trip is approximately \$83.00 and the excursion train fare is approximately \$60.00. During the summer months both trains run their regular schedules.

The Moosonee Airport provides facilities for 2 passenger carriers. *Air Creebec* provides passenger and freight service from Moosonee to points north including both the east and west coast of James Bay. To the south, passengers can make connections in Timmins. *Keeshig Air* is another carrier that operates from Timmins and provides passenger service from Timmins and Moosonee to Fort Albany, Kashechewan,

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Attawapiskat and Peawanuck. The cost for a return ticket from Moosonee to Timmins, is Air Creebec approximately \$475.00 and Keeshig Air approximately \$400.00 (airfares are subject to change).

The Moosonee District Area Board provides road maintenance in Moosonee. During the winter months a temporary winter road is maintained between the mainland of Moosonee and the island of Moose Factory. The Highway Traffic Act is enforced by the local OPP detachment.

Huisson Aviation is a helicopter company that provides air travel between Moosonee and Moose Factory during freeze up and break up. Huisson helicopters also transport local hunters and to their traditional hunting areas during the spring and fall goose hunt. Huisson also has a contract with the Weeneebayko General Hospital to transport patients with medical emergencies to the hospital from the coastal communities.

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Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services provides regional services in the areas of, Foster homes, Foster Parents, Adoption, Child Welfare, Children's Mental health, Young Offenders, protection from abuse and neglect, family counselling, adolescence counselling, marriage counselling etc.

Keewaytinook Native Legal Services provides services from its office on Revillon Road. A board of directors consists of members of the coastal communities and New Post. Funded by the Legal Aid Plan, *Keewaytinook Native Legal Services* provides assistance and representation to low-income people within the James Bay area in a wide variety of areas, from wills to debt problems. Provincial Court hearing are held once and month in Moosonee.

The *Moosonee Family Resource Centre - Omushkegiskwew House* provides a safe house for women in crisis and their children. The Centre provides emergency housing and support services to abused women - those under physical, social and emotional stress - along with single mothers and elderly women. *Omushkegiskwew House* also provides 24 hour crisis counselling in the shelter and by telephone.

Ontario Works formerly the Ministry of Community and Social Services provides regional services for communities north of Fraserdale and as far north as Peawanuck. The Cochrane Social Services Administration Board now administers this program. Financial assistance is readily available in the areas of, family benefits - called Ontario Works, (formerly mothers allowance and general welfare) programs and services for children based on a determination of available assistance.

The *Ministry of Correctional Services, Probation and Parole Adult*, is located in the government building on Revillon Road and its staff makes regular field trips up the coast to visit clients, to attend court or establish intervention programs.

The *James Bay Association for Community Living* is a program developed to assist

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developmentally handicapped; physically or intellectually handicapped persons by providing vocational training in a sheltered workshop setting. It also provides residential services in a group home setting.

Alemotaeta - Anemotaeta: James Bay Community Mental Health Program provides holistic front-line mental health services in a manner that recognizes and respects local cultures and languages. The program provides counselling, support services and special programs/workshops for its clients.

The *Ontario Housing Authority* constructed a senior citizen's home located on Niska road in 1976. The Ontario Housing Authority maintains and operates the home. It contains 28 apartments.

Moosonee is diversified in its religion denominations. There is the *Christ the King Cathedral* Catholic church, the *Church of the Apostles* Anglican church, the *Moosonee Baptist Church*, the *Moosonee Pentecostal Church* and the *Fellowship Chapel*.

The *Moosonee Clinic* provides outpatient services, daily weekday clinics are provided by doctors from the *Weeneebayko General Hospital*. The hospital is located on the island of Moose Factory. Medical emergencies are transferred to either the Weeneebayko General Hospital, Timmins and District Hospital or hospitals in Toronto or Kingston. There is always one nurse on call. The James Bay General Hospital (JBGH) provides the administration services for the Moosonee clinic, the Attawapiskat wing of the JBGH, and the Fort Albany wing of the JBGH. The JBGH also runs and maintains the *Mental Health Program*. *Ambulance services* for both Moosonee and Moose Factory are provided and administered by the James Bay General Hospital.

The *Public Health Clinic* provides various types of services to the public such as: immunization, school and community presentation programs, birth and family counselling, chronic and emotional counselling, health inspections, pre-natal classes, home visits including the senior citizen home.

The *Sagashtawao Healing Lodge* serves the James and Hudson Bay areas. It is a 12-bed residential treatment centre for those with alcohol and drug abuse problems. The program lasts for 6 weeks and this includes a week for family healing and provides participants with the option of building on the traditional lifestyle of the James Bay Cree.

Police protection services are provided by a detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police. Moosonee has a volunteer fire department, which provides protection services to the community.

RECREATION/RELAXATION

Recreational facilities include the *Moosonee Arena*, which houses a *skating rink*, a

community hall and the *End of the Rail Curling Club*. A temporary outdoor rink is built during the winter months. There is a *swimming pool* located at the former CAF base site. It provides swimming programs for all ages. There are 2 *gymnasiums* available for public use, one at the Northern Lights Secondary School and one located in the James Bay Education Centre. There are 2 *ball diamonds* available for use, one located on the south side of Store Creek and one at the former CAF base site.

The local *community centre* is housed in the Moosonee arena and is used for a wide variety of functions. The *basement of the Roman Catholic Church* is used for smaller gatherings, such as, coffeehouses. The *parish hall* for the Anglican Church becomes a Teahouse during the summer tourist months.

The *Moosonee Native Friendship Centre* located at the corner of Ferguson road, provides many programs to the local residents, some programs include, Li'l Beavers, an elders outreach program, a community development worker, a native family court worker for Young Offenders aged 12 - 16 years, a criminal court worker and an English literacy program.

EDUCATION/DAYCARE

Northern College of Moosonee manages the day-care and nursery school. The nursery school has a morning and afternoon session, sessions are full with 25 children registered for each session. The day-care program has 16 children enrolled. The nursery and day-care facilities are located in the James Bay Education Centre.

Moosonee has the education facilities to make it possible for a student to remain in their community to pursue their education goals from pre-school to post secondary (depending on the chosen field of study.) The *Moosonee Public School* has approximately 370 students enrolled. Classes begin from the Junior Kindergarten level through to grade 8. The Moosonee Public School is governed by the Moosonee District School Area Board. *Bishop Belleau Catholic Separate School* had 107 students enrolled this school year. The school is the only one in the area to provide a French language instructional unit, this year there were 9 students enrolled. The Moosonee Roman Catholic Separate School Board governs the school.

Northern Lights Secondary School is located on what used to be a Canadian Armed Forces base.

It has an enrolment of approximately 170 students and is governed by the James Bay Lowland Secondary School Board.

Northern College is a satellite campus of the main Northern College campus situated in Timmins; it is located in the James Bay Education Centre. The 1998/99 school year had 70 - 90 students enrolled. A few select courses are offered which would be of interest to students who wish to pursue their studies locally. The NORCOL board of governors governs Northern College.

Long distance education is available through *Contact North*. Students are instructed

through video teleconferencing.

SOCIAL SERVICES CLUBS

The *Lions Club of Moosonee* has approximately 20 members and its members take responsibility in helping those less fortunate. Funds are raised through weekly bingos, dances and banquets.

The *Lioness Club of Moosonee* carries out fundraising activities for a variety of community projects or for people who are in need. Projects include a bursary awarded for a high school graduate intending on continuing his/her education, trophies to various groups, wheelchairs for those who cannot afford one, eyeglasses for CNIB, a portable incubator for the air ambulance etc.

The *Catholic Women's League* has 9 active members. They plan various community events and set up fundraising activities for a variety of community needs, such as the annual grade 8 trip for the Separate School, gifts for needy families, especially at Christmas time, etc.

The *Anglican Church Women's* group plans various social activities and fundraising for those in need. The group also operates a Thrift shop twice a month, as well, the group has published a cookbook of local recipes. There is also a Men's club. Other groups, which use the basement of the church, are Brownies, Girl Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Pathfinders, Scouts and bible study groups.

AWANA is a non-denominational group Evangelist group, under the direction of the Fellowship Chapel, which promotes good Christian values and principles. The *AWANA* club is a worldwide organization.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Visitors to the community may enjoy walking through the *Revillon Freres museum*, which is open weekday afternoons during the summer months except Fridays. Inside they will discover the rich history of the James Bay region in regards to the fur trading days.

Across the river from Moosonee on Charles Island is the *Tidewater Provincial Park*. The park is maintained and operated by the Moosonee Development Area Board. It is open early June to early September.