

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Sioux Lookout is a modern, full-service community of 5500 residents, 536 sq km in size. Located at latitude 50° N and longitude 92° W and situated on Pelican Lake on the English River system. The Municipality is connected to the Trans-Canada Highway (65 km to the south) by Highway 72. The CN Rail mainline passes through Sioux Lookout which accommodates VIA Rail Passenger Service. Sioux Lookout is the only scheduled stop in Northwestern Ontario for VIA Rail, which stops seven days a week for refuelling purposes. As a result, over 80,000 VIA Rail passengers take advantage of Sioux Lookout's modern and welcoming amenities.

Sioux Lookout is home to Northwestern Ontario's second busiest airport with over 135,000 scheduled passengers accessing the airport in 2007. There are daily scheduled flights between Sioux Lookout and Winnipeg to the west; and Thunder Bay to the east. Flight time is about an hour in each case. Sioux Lookout is served by two major airlines -- Bearskin Airlines which flies to destinations both east and west, including Ottawa and Winnipeg; and Wasaya Airways LP which services 25 First Nation communities to the north as well as Winnipeg, Thunder Bay and Red Lake. Wasaya Airways LP is 100% First Nation owned. There are over 200 scheduled flights leaving the Sioux Lookout Municipal Airport weekly.

Sioux Lookout has one of the most dynamic economies in Northwestern Ontario. The Municipality's present economy can be attributed to its ability to adapt to changing technology and its broad economic base. Sioux Lookout's strategic location has allowed past civilizations to thrive and the modern-day community to take advantage of changing transportation modes and knowledge-based economies. Sioux Lookout also derives benefits from developments in other nearby major cities such as Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. Our 30,000 Northern Neighbours from the outlying 29 First Nation communities have helped shape Sioux Lookout as a modern service, transportation, communication, health and education centre.

Historically, Sioux Lookout has benefited from the resource sectors of forestry, mining and tourism. Presently, Sioux Lookout has become a hub for the knowledge-based economies of education, health and IT communications. In recent years, the community has benefited significantly from its close relationship with northern First Nations communities and providing services to these communities has become a major facet in Sioux Lookout's booming economy. Tourism continues to draw 20,000 visitors a year to our community, many dreaming of catching a world record fish, moose or deer.

In March 2008, the Provincial Ministry of Health and Long Term Care announced funding in the amount of \$130 million to construct a new, state-of-the-art, health care facility in Sioux Lookout to provide modern health care services to the residents of the Sioux Lookout area, including the 29 First Nation communities located north of the community. Additionally, the construction of a \$12 million hostel to accommodate First Nation patients travelling from the North has commenced. The new health care facility will also be a Centre of Excellence in health research and education, providing experience to medical interns from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

The construction of a new skilled-trades training school in Sioux Lookout will have a great impact and measurable benefits to the education and training of First Nation apprentices as well as increasing the number of professionals in the skilled trades in the region.

Brock University, Lakehead University and Confederation College have campuses in Sioux Lookout, further increasing the opportunities for northern youth to access programs in post-secondary education using modern and state-of-the-art IT communications technology.

Sioux Lookout has a long history in the tourism sector and many families have created multi-generational businesses as tourist operators on the many pristine lakes and shores of our community. With an estimated 20,000 guests to the area's outpost camps each year, Sioux Lookout has proven to be one of the most amazing tourist destinations in the region.

The forest industry is an important part of Sioux Lookout's economy. Having a long history in the forest industry, much employment has been derived from this resource sector. The current instability of the forestry sector has resulted in job losses in both woodlands and manufacturing, however the Municipality continues to encourage value-added businesses to grow until the traditional forest economy rebounds.

Hudson

Hudson is a small urban settlement area 25 km west of urban Sioux Lookout with a population of approximately 400 people. The community is predominantly a residential community but is home to a few commercial uses clustered in its core.

The community of Hudson is strategically located between two very unique bodies of water. To the south of Hudson is Big Vermilion Lake -- a clear, deep-water lake known for excellent trout and bass fishing and also renowned for Big Vermilion beach, one of the nicest swimming spots in the area. Lost Lake, on the northern boundary of Hudson, provides direct access to Lac Seul, well known across the continent for its Northern Pike and Walleye fishing.

Hudson also has a public school, a volunteer fire service, one church and a few small industrial services. The community is also the departure point for three tourist operators with houseboat, boat launch and air charter services. The CN Railway mainline passes through the community, with an amazing view of the shoreline, while Highway 664 provides access to McKenzie Forest Products sawmill which lies just over a kilometre to the west of Hudson. Recreational amenities include nearby Boat Bay recreational area which offers a picnic shelter, washrooms, a boat launch, a series of walking trails, and beautiful sand beach. A community hall, outdoor ice surface, well maintained walking trails and ball diamond are also available for public use. The Ojibway Power Toboggan Club maintains trails from Sioux Lookout to Hudson and the surrounding areas such as Dryden and Ignace that can be accessed in the winter months.

2.0 HISTORY

First Nation History

Local archaeological history provides evidence that Sioux Lookout and the Lac Seul area were utilized by First Nations people 8,000 years ago. The Ojibway people from surrounding First Nations have lived off the abundant resources of the land for thousands of years.

Historical Umphreville Park is a known site to gather artefacts from previous civilizations who would utilize the calm waters to portage around nearby Frog Rapids, where Pelican and Abram Lakes meet.

The name Sioux Lookout is a reflection of its strategic location. Early First Nations from the Ojibway Tribe passing through the area would encounter raiding First Nations from the Sioux Tribe. Standing at the top of “Sioux Mountain” and utilizing the view down the English River water system, approaching danger could be sighted from a great distance. The history books note that one such encounter saw the raiding Sioux Tribe slaughtered by the local Ojibway First Nations, all but one young boy who was raised by the Ojibway people to eventually become Chief.

Pioneering History

Beginning as a surveyors’ camp in the early 1900s, Sioux Lookout was eventually settled as a divisional point on the Lake Superior Junction Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway. In the early 1900’s, when track was being laid for the railway, to the east the track ended in Superior Junction (about 20 miles east of Sioux Lookout). After five years of political haggling, track was eventually laid to join the east and west by rail, with the last spike estimated to have been driven into the ground somewhere between Sioux Lookout and Hudson in November, 1913.

Sioux Lookout was incorporated in 1910 with approximately 150 residents a 9000 sq. ft. Train Station was constructed in Sioux Lookout and began operation in 1912 in anticipation that Sioux Lookout would grow and prosper as a result of the railway. Grow it did, with approximately 1,500 residents by 1914.

Sioux Lookout was a divisional point on the Canadian National Railway system and a base for refuelling, repair services, operations, equipment, maintenance staff, train crews and administration. In 1923 CNR funded the construction of a YMCA building, which became the hub of recreational and leisure activity for the community for many years.

By 1920, with the construction of the road networks throughout the Northwest, reliance was lessened on the use of rail to transport people and goods. In 1940, the construction of the TransCanada highway, ensured even less reliance.

Most significantly impacting the CNR in Sioux Lookout was the elimination of the steam engine and the move to diesel engines. The impact on refuelling and repair services occurred overnight for Sioux Lookout. In the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, decommissioning of some

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

on CNR's infrastructure took place with the demolition of the round house and water tower. Administrative positions were centralized to Winnipeg and the eventual closure of the "Beanery" restaurant at the Train Station in 1992 ensured the eventual closure of the Train Station altogether.

Mining

The Sioux Lookout area has a long mining and mineral exploration history. Records indicate the first prospecting of the area, by Europeans, occurred between 1880 and 1900. Prospectors and equipment ventured north along the lakes from Dinorwic on the CPR line. Several deposits were discovered by the turn of the century and some, like Burnthut Island, Ruby Island and the Parnes Lake Mine, were partially developed.

The building of the Great Northern Railway through Sioux Lookout and Hudson provided a vital transportation link to the east and south. It allowed the construction of North Pines mine on the east shore of Vermilion Lake in 1909. Pyrite was mined there, shipped east on the railway, and processed into Picric acid. Picric acid was used in the production of gunpowder. The mine ceased production in 1921.

Prospecting and development work continued in the Sioux Lookout area throughout the 1920's. Late in that decade and into the 1930's several sites were developed. About 23 ounces of gold was reported from Vermilion Lake Mine on the south shore of Vermilion Lake. Considerable development took place on several sites in the Alcona area, the largest operation being the Alcona gold mine west of Forty Mile Lake. During this time Sioux Lookout and Hudson became the transportation link during the gold rush eras of Red Lake and Pickle Lake.

In 1929, Northern Aerial Minerals Exploration established an airbase in Sioux Lookout and the provincial government opened the office of the Mining Recorder.

Air Force History

Between 1953 and 1987, the *Pinetree Radar Base* was one of the major employers in the Municipality. For over three decades, the Sioux Lookout landscape included large white globes on top of a mountain near Pelican Lake. Unseen by the public was electronic equipment inside these globes or domes, equipment important in the defense of North America.

In the early 1950s, the Sioux Lookout area was chosen by the United States Air Force (USAF) for the establishment of a Ground-Control Intercept (GCI) radar site, one of the many that would make up the Pinetree line. The Air Force formed the 915th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Grenier AFB in New Hampshire in 1952 and in April of the following year, operations began at the unit's permanent home, Sioux Lookout Air Station.

As a GCI base, the 915th's role was to guide interceptor aircraft toward unidentified intruders picked up on the unit's radar scopes. These interceptors were based at Duluth International Airport in Minnesota.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

In the early 1960's, the USAF relinquished control of the base to the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). Upon hand-over on 1 October 1962, the operating unit was re-designated *39 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron* and the base, *RCAF Station Sioux Lookout*. Second, approximately one year later, radar operations at 39 Squadron were automated and the station became a long-range radar site. It would no longer guide interceptors but only look for enemy aircraft. As a consequence of the change, the operating unit was once again re-named, this time as 39 Radar Squadron.

In October of 1967, Sioux Lookout was once again re-designated. This time, the change was due to the creation of the Canadian Armed Forces, the new tri-service organization that absorbed the RCAF, RCN and the Canadian Army. 39 Radar Squadron, RCAF Station Sioux Lookout, became simply *Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Sioux Lookout*.

The next major change came in the 1980's. After a lengthy review by both the Canadian and American defence ministries, it was decided to modernize the North American air defence infrastructure. DEW Line equipment was upgraded and the Line was renamed the *North Warning System*. With this newer equipment, it was decided to close most Pinetree Stations. CFS Sioux Lookout was thus disbanded in July 1987 and the large white globes, the radar domes, became a thing of the past.

Hudson

Originally called "Rolling Portage" (freight was portaged across Hudson from Lost Lake to Vermilion Lake); Hudson became established with the opening of a Railway Station in 1910.

Commercial fishing operations based in Hudson began in 1922. During the 1930's and 40's, Bowman Fisheries shipped four boxcars of fish bi-weekly (pickerel, whitefish, jackfish, sturgeon from the north and lake trout from Vermilion Lake) to the market.

Hudson became a transportation hub in 1926 during the Red Lake gold rush. With no existing roads, one had to take the train to Hudson, board one of the many ferryboats or canoes to navigate the water system and traverse the portages to gain access to Red Lake. During the summer, boats and floatplanes were used and tractor trains and planes on skis were utilized in the winter months.

In 1929/1930 Hudson was the second busiest freighting airport in North America (Chicago was the first). Robert W. Starratt purchased Hudson Bay Transport in 1928 and Red Lake Transport in 1929 forming Northern Transportation, which was renamed Starratt Airways and Transportation in 1932.

The opening of a road into Red Lake in 1947/1948 resulted in the decline of freighting on Lac Seul and ended an era of glory for Hudson. During this time of decline, logging increased in Hudson and several saw mills began operation. Lac Seul Land and Lumber, being one of the first mills in Hudson, was built in 1945 on the site of present day McKenzie Forest Products, a Buchanan Company saw mill. Since then, the forest industry has become a major economic force in Sioux Lookout.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Political

The Honourable Leo Bernier (born 1929) is a former politician in Ontario. He served in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 1966 to 1987, and was a cabinet minister in the governments of Bill Davis and Frank Miller. Bernier was a member of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Bernier was born in Hudson in Northern Ontario and educated in the area. He became the general manager of Bernier & Sons Contractors, and served as President of the Hudson Chamber of Commerce. He is an honorary member of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Knights of Columbus.

Bernier first ran for the Ontario legislature in the 1963 provincial election, and lost to Liberal-Labour candidate Robert Gibson by 840 votes in Kenora. Gibson died in 1966, and Bernier was elected in a by-election to replace him. He was returned by an increased margin in the 1967 provincial election, and served as a backbench supporter of the John Roberts administration. When Bill Davis succeeded Roberts as Premier, he appointed Bernier as his Minister of Mines and Northern Affairs.

Bernier was easily re-elected in the 1971 provincial election and he was given additional responsibilities as Minister of Lands and Forests. During the same year, his portfolios were restructured as the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Bernier was re-elected without serious opposition in the elections of 1975, 1977, 1981 and 1985. He was named Minister of Northern Affairs in February 1977 and held this position for more than eight years. Bernier was the most powerful minister for Northern Ontario in the Bill Davis government, and was sometimes called the "King of the North". Like most Progressive Conservatives of his time, he supported government intervention in economic matters.

Bernier initially supported Dennis Timbrell in the Progressive Conservative Party's January 1985 leadership convention, but crossed to Frank Miller after Timbrell was eliminated. Miller retained him in the Northern Affairs portfolio after becoming Premier of Ontario in February 1985. The Progressive Conservatives under Miller were reduced to a tenuous minority government in the 1985 election, and were defeated in the house in June 1985. In opposition, Bernier served as his party's critic for Natural Resources and Northern Affairs and Mines. He did not run for re-election in 1987.

Leo and his wife, Marjory, continue to live in Sioux Lookout.

3.0 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

ELEVATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Sioux Lookout Community Profile
October 2008
www.siouxlookout.ca

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Elevation: 1258 ft or 390 meters

Coordinates: 50°06'50"N
091°54'19"W

Topography: Located in the Boreal Shield, this ecozone is named after the intersection of the boreal forest and the Canadian Shield, and the Precambrian granite bedrock of the latter is commonly exposed here. This may have once been a soaring mountain range, judging by its tumultuous geological past, but that was a billion years ago, and all that is left now are rolling hills. Glaciers swept over this area many times, and the resulting series of depressions and deposits have given rise to the millions of lakes and wetlands in the region.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Mining

Mineral exploration continues in the Sioux Lookout area today and there are several active, non-patented mining claims on Crown land within and outside the Municipal boundary.

Sioux Lookout is situated within a belt of greenstone that forms part of the Canadian Shield. The greenstone is more than 270 million years old and was deposited on the flanks of volcanoes within early seas. These rocks are presently termed metavolcanic and metasedimentary. Later, these rocks became the roots of mountains as the earth changed over time. Erosion and uplift have brought the rocks, once again, to the surface where they form an important part of our dramatic landscape.

The rocks around Sioux Lookout are host to many mineral occurrences. Most are gold occurrences though the area also has occurrences of copper, zinc, nickel, molybdenum, lithium, and other rare metals. More regionally, the greenstone has yielded economic deposits of: zinc-copper-lead-silver at the south end of Sturgeon Lake; gold at the north end of Sturgeon Lake; and gold and copper-nickel-platinum-palladium near Pickle Lake. Presently, the Goldcorp Musselwhite mine produces 200,000 ounces of gold annually at a site 100 km north of Pickle Lake.

More than one prospector has noted that the immediate Sioux Lookout area has all the right geologic conditions to host a significant and economic mineral deposit.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

FORESTRY

The forest in and around Sioux Lookout is a diverse and ever changing natural resource. This resource provides a great number of benefits to the residents of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and the surrounding areas, both economically and socially.

The region around the Municipality of Sioux Lookout is heavily forested and mainly comprised of Boreal Forest tree species and conditions. The main tree species are jack pine, black spruce, white spruce, balsam fir, poplar and white birch with minor components of white cedar and tamarack. There is also a minor component of white and red pine.

The forest industry in Sioux Lookout targets mainly softwood species such as jack pine, black spruce, white spruce and balsam fir. Hardwoods in the area such as poplar and white birch are currently under utilized because of a lack of local markets.

The forests are used for economic benefit through forest management activities, tourism activities and numerous other commercial and recreational activities.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is responsible for ensuring that forest management activities are conducted in a sustainable fashion and carried out following approved Provincial procedures and policies. Forest management activities are carried out so that the social and economic benefits derived from the forest will be sustained for present and future generations of the people of Ontario. Forest management planning has become a cooperative and team oriented effort involving the forest companies, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Local Citizens Committee (LCC), and the public.

The forests surrounding Sioux Lookout are split into Sustainable Forest Licenses (SFL's). These SFL's are identified as the Lac Seul Forest (which is licensed to McKenzie Forest Products Inc.) and the Caribou Forest (which is licensed to Bowater Pulp and Paper). The Lac Seul Forest is located to the north and south of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. The Caribou Forest is located to the northeast of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout.

The forested area north of these two SFL's is currently not available for large-scale commercial forest management activities. This area is outside of the geographical area that is currently approved for sustainable forestry operations, as cited in the Ministry of Natural Resources Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management and Crown lands in Ontario and the Crown Forest Sustainability Act RSO 1994. A provincial government initiative is currently underway to investigate the possibility of conducting forest operations in this previously unavailable area.

The forest companies are responsible for a wide variety of activities in the sustainable area. Some activities include forest management planning, harvesting, road building, as well as reforestation and tending activities. Compliance monitoring of forest management operations is a joint effort involving the MNR and SFL holders.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

WATER RESOURCES

The Sioux Lookout District encompasses a total area of 87,000 sq. km, 25,000 sq. km. of which is covered by water. The four major watersheds are Hudson/James Bay in the northeast; Winnipeg watershed to the west; Mississippi Headwaters to the south and the English River Water System to the east. The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is directly connected with hundreds of miles of lakes including Minnitaki, Abram, Pelican, Lost Lake, Big and Little Vermilion Lakes and Lac Seul. Lac Seul on its own is the second largest lake contained entirely within the Province of Ontario, covering 144,000 ha. Overall, the Sioux Lookout district has approximately 22,255 lakes greater than 10 ha and another 2,413 lakes that are greater than 100 ha. These lakes provide a good mix of both cold and warm water fisheries.

Water quality in the area is good with no major sources of industrial effluent. In 1998, Sioux Lookout finished constructing a new water treatment plant to provide better quality drinking water to the community. In 2008 a new water treatment plant was completed for the community of Hudson.

VEGETATION

Some of the common under-story species include blueberries in association with jack pine stands; Labrador tea and alder in black spruce lowland stands; and dogwood and pin cherry in more open, mixed stands.

Feather, sphagnum, and reindeer mosses are typical ground cover species. Bogs develop in poorly drained areas in bedrock pockets or over flat, gently sloping terrain. Scattered, stunted black spruce or tamarack may be present along with a low shrub layer. Fens, like bogs, also develop in poorly drained low-lying areas but water movement is characteristic. The movement of water creates such features as teardrop islands parallel to the flow of water.

Marshes maintained by seasonal water fluctuations are prevalent in or near watercourses throughout the area. Sedges and grasses predominate, with submerged or floating vegetation in areas of shallow, open water.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Sioux Lookout offers an abundance of opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Locals, as well as a vast number of visitors, thrive on the high quality of hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational activities that are available.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

The local Ministry of Natural Resources works with organized committees comprised of local citizens, outfitters, hunters, anglers and tourist operators. These committees, along with the MNR, develop management plans for lakes and forests to ensure the goal of ecological sustainability is achieved. This type of community involvement has been essential in helping to maintain our great fish and wildlife resources.

When driving into Sioux Lookout it is common to see deer or moose along the highway. Further exploration of the area will take you north of town where you may see another large land mammal - the woodland caribou.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has constructed viewing platforms so people can watch walleye spawn in the rapids in the spring. At the same time, you may see bald eagles or osprey fishing for their next meal.

Enjoying our local fish and wildlife resources is not only for the angler or hunter. Many people enjoy the remote character of the area by boating, canoeing, hiking and photographing the incredible beauty of the area.

Fish

The major sport species in the Sioux Lookout area are:

- ❖ Lake Trout
- ❖ Small Mouth Bass
- ❖ Muskellunge
- ❖ Walleye (Yellow Pickerel)
- ❖ Northern Pike

Other species common within the area lakes are:

- ❖ Yellow Perch
- ❖ Lake Whitefish
- ❖ White Sucker
- ❖ Ling

In order to protect these species from being over-fished, the MNR has imposed a variety of limits on licence holders. Fishing may only be done during a specified season and only fish that are bigger or smaller than the specified slot size can be kept. As well, each licence holder may only keep a certain number of fish, depending on species.

To maintain our high quality angling lakes the Ministry of Natural Resources, with public consultation, has instituted many new fishing regulations in the past few years. For further information on fishing and opening dates, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources at 807-737-1140 or refer to the current Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary.

Sioux Lookout District Master Angler Catch and Release Awards Program

Sioux Lookout also participates in the Master Angler Catch and Release Program. The Master Angler program encourages catch and release to ensure healthy fish stocks for future

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

generations. For more information and registration in the program, contact the Travel Information Centre at 807-737-2991.

Wildlife

Larger Mammals

Sioux Lookout's ecosystems provide a variety of habitat for wildlife. Larger mammals such as moose and black bear are abundant in the area and are often seen alongside roads or trails. Other large mammals like the woodland caribou are less common and are usually spotted from an aircraft. White-tailed deer are found within the area as well but harsh winters and heavy snowfalls can keep the herd numbers down.

Migratory Birds

Some of the common migratory birds are:

- ❖ Mallard Duck
- ❖ Green and Blue Wing Teal
- ❖ Greater and Lesser Scaup
- ❖ Canada Goose

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Other Mammals

Sioux Lookout has a number of smaller mammals that are common to the area such as:

- ❖ Wolf
- ❖ Lynx
- ❖ Ruffed and Spruce Grouse
- ❖ Marten
- ❖ Red Squirrel
- ❖ Snowshoe Hare

CLIMATE

Temperature (Celsius)

Month	Minimum	Maximum
January	-40.0	-10.0
February	-38.7	6.8
March	-22.2	10.8
April	-20.4	18.0
May	-4.1	29.0
June	1.9	29.0
July	7.7	28.0
August	4.4	26.2
September	-1.5	26.6
October	-2.9	20.0
November	-18.7	10.6
December	-30.6	-5.7
Average	-13.8	16.7

In past years there has been an average of 148.5 cm of snowfall at the end of December, with a maximum snowfall of 39.2 cm in October.

The winters are dominated by cold, dry arctic air and clear skies.

Precipitation averages 710 mm, most of which falls as rain in the summer and autumn.

AIR QUALITY

The Ministry of the Environment has found no reason for Sioux Lookout to monitor the air quality, as the community has no pollution. Air quality remains at a high level primarily due to the relatively low and scattered development in the area.

4.0 COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Sioux Lookout is a community of 5,500 people.

Below are the demographics for Sioux Lookout from the 2006 Census.

Age Characteristics	Total	Male	Female
All Persons	5500	2700	2800
Age 0-4	390	190	200
Age 5-14	850	430	420
Age 15-19	420	225	195
Age 20-24	335	175	160
Age 25-44	1795	890	900
Age 45-54	775	395	375
Age 55-64	455	240	210
Age 65-74	260	120	140
Age 75-84	175	70	110
Age 85 and over	45	15	25
Median Age	35.1	34.8	35.3
% 15 & over	78.9	78.7	79.4
Total 15 & over	4,339	2,125	2,223

Based on the 2006 census for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, once again, there has been an increase in population by 3% to 5,500 people. Sioux Lookout is one of the few communities in Northwestern Ontario to experience an increase in population.

The population density is now 13.7 people per square kilometre.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Family Structure

Family And Dwelling Characteristics	2006 Statistics
Number of married or common-law families	1,230
Average number of persons in married or common-law families	3.15
Number of lone parent families	240
Average number of persons in lone parent families	2.6
Households containing a couple (married or common-law) with children	575
Households containing a couple (married or common-law) without children	585
One-person Households	415
Other Household Types	345
Total number of private occupied dwellings	1,930
Number of owned dwellings	1,375
Number of rented dwellings	595
Number of Dwellings constructed before 1986	1,195
Number of Dwellings constructed between 1986 and 2006	730
Average Value of Owned Dwelling	\$184,898
Median Family Income, 2005	\$80,232

Education (2006 Census)

- 20.8 % of the residents aged 15 and over (1,145) had no diploma, certificate or degree
- 17% of the residents aged 15 and over (945) had their high school graduation certificate
- 24% of the residents aged 15 and over (1320) had a trade certificate or a certificate/diploma from college
- 9.6% of the residents aged 15 and over (530) had a university degree.

Ethnicity (2006 Census)

The majority of the population use English at work. The 2006 census revealed that the ethnic cultural characteristics of the community were:

- Aboriginal (1450);
- Chinese (25);
- South Asian (10);
- Black (65);
- Filipino (20);
- Arab (35)
- Japanese (20)

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Labour Force

- There are over 4,000 residents aged 15 and over
- 3,190 are active in the labour force
- 3,060 are employed
- 135 are unemployed with an unemployment rate of 4.2%
- Health care and social services is the major employer in Sioux Lookout

HOUSING

Several Real Estate businesses operate in Sioux Lookout and include:

- Gina McFee-Bernier, Royal LaPage Realty
- Latitude 50 Realty
- Molstad Realty
- Sioux Mountain Realty

According to Statistics Canada, the average value of owned dwellings in 2006 was \$184,898.

According to Statistics Canada, the median monthly payment for a rented dwelling in 2006 was \$740.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout Non-Profit Housing Corporation provides 154 units for rent in Sioux Lookout. They are summarized as follows:

Sioux Towers	Elevator equipped 32 unit senior citizens apartments, 12 of which are dedicated for supportive housing
Cole Terrace	12 unit senior citizens apartments
Uren Court & Pierson Manor	26 one and two bedroom family apartments
Sutton Place	Elevator equipped 26 one and two bedroom family apartments
64 First Avenue	8 one bedroom apartments
First Avenue	20 townhouse units situated in three separate buildings
First & Seventh Avenues	30 semi-detached units at various locations

Approximately one-third of the units owned by the Non-Profit Housing Corporation are rent, geared-to-income, subsidized units that provide affordable housing to low-income persons.

The Non-Profit Housing Corporation's occupancy rate is 100%. The average market rent for a three-bedroom unit is \$883.00 per month.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Kenora District Housing manages 59 units owned by the Ontario Housing Corporation, 10 of which are on an interim basis. The units include 37 senior units and 12 units in Hudson. The occupancy rate is 100% with vacant units filled from a waiting list. Rent is geared-to-income with adjustments made depending on whether the Housing Authority or the tenant pays the utilities. Tenants in receipt of social assistance have their rent calculated from a rent scale based on the number of beneficiaries receiving assistance.

The average market rent is \$759 per month for a two bedroom unit, \$792 for a three bedroom and \$830 for a four bedroom. Applications for housing in Sioux Lookout, as well as the waiting list, are held and managed by the Sioux Lookout Non-Profit Housing Corporation. The Housing Authority office maintains the Hudson waiting list.

The **Nitawin Development Corporation** was incorporated in 1986. It provides affordable rental units to First Nation families of low to moderate income. They currently own 45 residential housing units in the community comprised of 35 single-family dwellings and 2 five-plexes. They have a waiting list with many applicants. They charge rent on a geared-to-income basis, which, in most cases is 25% of the household's gross income. Nitawin provides grounds keeping and maintenance services for Elders and those with disabilities. They also provide tenant-counselling services when needed (budget counselling, referrals to other services, etc).

Land Development

Sewer and Water upgrades and extension out Highway 72 was completed in 2008. The extension has created a Highway Commercial Corridor for development purposes and provided much needed servicing to the new MNR Fire Management Centre to be constructed in 2009.

Sewer and Water upgrades and extension to the Municipal Airport is currently underway and will provide serviced commercial and industrial properties for development at the Airport. Additionally, a future extension of servicing is proposed for Municipal property at Bigwood Lake on Highway 516, near the Airport.

The property exchange with Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre was completed in December of 2005 and has opened up the area behind the "Bill George" Extended Care facility for residential development. The Municipality is currently working on making this their prime area for residential development. |

The Development Services Department is working on creating additional building lots in urban Sioux Lookout and has recently obtained lakefront and lakeview property in the community of Hudson for residential development.

5.0 HEALTH CARE and EDUCATION

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Health Care

Historically, there were two hospitals located in Sioux Lookout. Provincially, the Sioux Lookout District Health Centre was available for Sioux Lookout residents and the Federally funded Zone Hospital for use by First Nation patients travelling in from the 29 First Nation communities north of Sioux Lookout. The two hospitals were amalgamated into the Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre and now provides a wide array of services to all residents and First Nations in the area. The hospital is staffed by highly qualified professionals.

Services available at the Meno Ya Win Health Centre include: surgery, obstetrical, and x-ray facilities with a wide array of physicians, nursing, paramedic/ambulance attendants, fully qualified professional technologists and specialists working in the specialized areas of laboratory, clinical nutrition and diagnostic imaging.

Additional services provided are ground and air ambulance services, counselling services, physiotherapy, clinical laboratory, clinic nutritional counselling, cancer chemotherapy, long-term care, obstetrics, diagnostic radiology, emergency services, meals-on-wheels and chronic care services. Visiting specialist programs include paediatrics, orthopaedic surgery, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, and otolaryngology.

The Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre has approximately 20 doctors and 50 nurses on staff. The doctors rotate through McMaster University. The hospital serves as a medical hub for health care delivery to 29 First Nations communities north of Sioux Lookout. The Health Centre also oversees 28 remote nursing stations the Far North, in which between two to nine nurses work and reside.

Hospital Care in the Future

Construction of a new, 60 bed, modern facility is underway, with anticipated completion in 2010. The Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre will be a modern, \$130 million full-service medical facility that will represent the future of health care for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and the 29 northern First Nation communities.

The new health centre will allow patients the opportunity to obtain a wide range of health services, including intensive care, advanced heart treatment, acute care, continuing care, patient support services and other related services. Emergency services will improve by providing immediate care in one modern and fully accessible facility. The new hospital will bring together the existing programs of both hospitals, maintain and manage all acute, chronic and residential long-term care services including the 20-bed William A. "Bill" George Extended Care Facility. The new facility will include building a new hostel and the operation of a minimum five-bed detoxification centre. Having a new hospital will also help to recruit and retain health care professionals including physicians, visiting specialists, nurses and physiotherapists.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Sioux Lookout Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre will have a catchment area that will include Sioux Lookout, Hudson, Pickle Lake, Savant Lake and the unorganized territories surrounding these communities and the First Nations communities in the region, encompassing a population of over 30,000 people.

In 1997, a four-party agreement was signed between the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and Nishnawbe-Aski Nation to merge the resources and responsibilities of the two existing hospitals in order to best protect and enhance health care for the district. The new Sioux Lookout Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre will provide better medical service to everyone in the Sioux Lookout District.

The **William A. "Bill" George Extended Care Facility** (part of the Meno Ya Win Health Centre) was constructed and operational in February 1991. The facility has 20 beds in total with 12 single rooms and 4 double rooms. This facility provides long term care for patients requiring a minimum of 1 1/2 hours to a maximum of 4 1/2 hours of nursing care (including feeding time, if required) per day.

Hugh Allen Clinic

A modern Municipally owned medical clinic is staffed by excellent, caring doctors who work on a rotating basis to provide coverage at the clinic and 24-hour coverage at the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre. The clinic employs seven physicians serving approximately 120 patients per day. The following services are available through referral: Home Care, Public Health Nurse, Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology and General Surgery. In addition, many specialists, including oncology, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, ear, nose and throat and dermatology visit Sioux Lookout on a regular basis and are available for consultation or referral by one of the physicians.

Environmental Health Services

Environmental Health Officers are trained to prevent, identify and correct environmental problems that affect the health of community members. This important goal is achieved in a number of ways.

Monitoring and sampling of:

- Drinking water
- Recreational waters
- Sewage disposal systems
- Solid waste (garbage)

As well as:

- Reviewing community plans and providing technical support for their development.
- Providing information and consultation with community and government agencies.
- Providing health education and training for community members.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Other Health Related Services

There are three registered massage therapists and two dental clinics in the community offering a full range of services. Also servicing the community is one fulltime chiropractor and a visiting veterinarian.

Northwestern Health Unit

The Northwestern Health Unit provides general public health programs including:

- Immunization
- Sexual health services
- Child dental health
- Speech and language pathology, including “North Words”
- Reproductive health
- Child health including the “Healthy Babies, Healthy Children” program
- Child nutrition programs
- Heart Health
- Chronic disease prevention including nutrition, physical activity and tobacco-use prevention
- TB control
- Control of infectious disease
- Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS
- Health hazard investigation
- Food safety
- Infection control in institutions
- Rabies control
- Safe water
- Part 8 sewage disposal
- Emergency response
- Injury prevention
- Substance abuse prevention including “FOCUS” – a substance abuse prevention project
- Health planning

FAMILY and SOCIAL SERVICES

To complement the health services, there are also many social services available in Sioux Lookout. They include:

Home Care Program

Through this program, nursing care is provided to patients in their own homes. Nurses assist with personal care, change dressings, give injections, monitor vital signs and teach treatment protocol. An occupational therapist is also available every 6 weeks.

Home Support for the Elderly

The Sioux Lookout Home Support Program enables elderly, disabled, chronically ill and convalescent persons to maintain a self-determined, independent lifestyle within the stability

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

and comfort of their own home for as long as they can do so. The program offers the following services: adult day program; caregiver support counselling; caregiver support; training, information and education; congregate dining; friendly visiting; meals-on-wheels and supportive housing. The program is 100% funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and operated by the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. The Home Support Office can be reached by calling 807-737-3142.

First Step Women's Shelter

The Centre provides a safe and secure emergency shelter for abused women and their children. Services include room and board, referrals, information, and counselling. A support group and counselling are also available for those who do not reside at the Centre. Phone 737-1438, or 1-800-465-3623, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Aboriginal Family Support Program

The Aboriginal Family Support Program is a community service offered by the Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre. The Family Support Program offers a full range of programs including support to families, single parents, children up to six years of age; prenatal and postnatal care; youth preparing for parenthood; nutrition counselling; life skills; problem solving; traditional teachings; hygiene; parenting skills; and access to resources. The Support Program services are open to everyone - men and women, Native and Non-Native. For more information, please call 807-737-7521.

Norah Love Children's Centre and Biidaaban Children's Centre

The Norah Love Children's Centre and Biidaaban Children's Centre are non-profit integrated day care centres that are owned and operated by the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. They are licensed by the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services and an advisory board regulates the policies and procedures of the centres.

The license capacity of Norah Love is 42 children ranging in age from 18 months to five years. The license capacity of Biidaaban, which is located at Sacred Heart School, is 37 children during the day and 44 children at lunchtime. The ages range from three years to nine years. Also provided is an after school care program and, during the summer months, children six to nine years of age, as well as children with special needs, may be accommodated providing space is available.

The staff are trained professionals with Early Childhood Education diplomas and include a support staff of experienced supply teachers, a secretary, housekeeper and caretaker.

Each centre has a full-time cook who provides a hot lunch and nutritious snacks to the children in all programs, in accordance to the Canada Food Guide. The Municipality's day care centres are dedicated to supporting families by providing high quality care. They provide a wide range of programs that involve working together with families, the community and the schools.

The centres are open from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm daily and are closed weekends and holidays. For more information contact, 807-737-2131 (Norah Love) or 807-737-4570 (Biidaaban).

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Patricia Centre for Children and Youth

The Patricia Centre is a children's mental health centre, licensed and funded by the Ministry of Community, Family and Social Services. The Centre is a private, non-profit agency which assists families with children who are experiencing emotional, behavioural, developmental or interpersonal difficulties. It provides support services to families and appropriate professional assessments with personnel available in the fields of social work, psychology, psychiatry and speech therapy.

The Patricia Centre offers several services: Infant Development Program; Child and Family Intervention; Integrated Services for Northern Children; Special Services at Home Program; Young Offender Service; Community Support; and Professional Consultation. For more information, call 807-737-2086.

Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services

Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services provides quality child welfare services which ensure the right of every child to protection and permanence within a supportive environment. Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services is a Children's Aid Society mandated under the Child and Family Services Act of Ontario. For more information, call 807-737-3250.

Tikinagan Child and Family Services is a non-profit, Native child and family services organization serving 29 First Nations in the western portion of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation as well as the communities of Savant Lake, Pickle Lake and Allanwater. For more information, call 807-737-3466.

Kenora District Services Board

In 1997, approval was given to create a new district-wide organization (the Kenora District Services Board or KDSB) for the delivery of services in the Kenora District. The KDSB is accountable to the Municipalities and the residents of unincorporated areas in the Kenora District. The Board consists of elected representatives from the Municipalities and appointed representatives from the unincorporated areas. The Board also has, on staff, a full-time Chief Administrative Officer. The Board manages the delivery of, and is responsible for administering, cost sharing of Ontario Works, childcare, land ambulance and social housing.

Ontario Works

Ontario Works is the name of the welfare system in Ontario. The main four components of Ontario Works are Income Support; Employment Support; Community Placement and Employment Placement. The program assists participants in learning new skills, gaining self-confidence and establishing job contacts to enable them to find work. The Ontario Works office is located in the Sioux Lookout Municipal Office building. For more information, call 807-737-2700.

FAS/FAE Family Support Program

FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) and FAE (Fetal Alcohol Effects) Family Support Program's mission is to develop comprehensive integrated programs to promote the health and social development of at-risk Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and/or Fetal Alcohol Effected children and their families in a safe and healthy environment. Their objective is to provide, integrate and mobilize a wide range of support services that enable FAS/FAE children and their parents to

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

fulfill their life-skills from direct frontline services. Services such as advocacy, FAS/FAE education, childcare and support are provided for the children and the parents to aid in improving life-skills for those who have or live with FAS/FAE.

Sioux Lookout/Hudson Association for Community Living (ACL) provides supportive, independent living programs for adults who are physically or developmentally disabled.

Opportunities Plus (Part of ACL) provides day programs for disabled adults and allows them the opportunity to experience a more productive and meaningful life in our community.

EDUCATION

Residents are assured of high quality primary and secondary school education in Sioux Lookout. The many schools and educational facilities here are well staffed with competent and qualified teachers.

Under the direction of the **Keewatin-Patricia District School Board** are the following facilities:

Sioux Mountain Public School	Public School, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. - 400 students currently enrolled
Hudson Public School	Kindergarten to Grade 8 - 123 students currently enrolled
Queen Elizabeth High School	Secondary School, Grades 9 to 12 - 350 students currently enrolled

Under the direction of the **Northwest Catholic District School Board**:

Sacred Heart School	Separate School, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 - 315 students currently enrolled
----------------------------	--

Sacred Heart School is located on the west side Sioux Lookout. The school was built in 1994 and houses approximately 315 students and 25 staff. The facility serves students from Junior Kindergarten to grade eight. A municipally run day care, Biidaaban, is housed at one end of the facility, making the transfer of our half-day everyday kindergarten students both safe and convenient.

Bus transportation is provided for students. To qualify for bus transportation the parents or care giver must reside more than the following distance from the designated school: JK-3, 1.0 km; 4-6, 2.0km; 7-OAC, 3.2km. Bussing arrangements for both the Public and Catholic Schools can be arranged through the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board.

There are several other educational facilities as listed below:

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Christian Day School - Sioux Lookout Christian School, located on Sturgeon River Road, accommodates Grades 1 through 12 using the Accelerated Christian Education curriculum.

Confederation College – a satellite site of the main Thunder Bay campus offers programs and courses both in-class, correspondence and internet-based.

Brock University – The University offers a Bachelor of Education Program for First Nation students. The program creates research training and support for Aboriginal students and opportunities for Aboriginal and non-aboriginal scholars as well as a speaker series, colloquia, conferences, the sharing of resources, knowledge, collaborative research proposals and to generally foster intra-institutional communications relevant to Aboriginal issues, values, knowledge, experience and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples globally.

Lakehead University -- Four Year Nursing Program

A joint initiative between Confederation College and Lakehead University, the project provides a combination of classroom and community-based clinical education in Sioux Lookout. Education responsibilities are shared between the college and university, and students who complete the four-year project will receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) degree from Lakehead.

Contact North provides, through its state-of-the-art technology network, access to education and training at a distance through its 145 Access Centres in more than 100 communities in Northern Ontario, enabling northerners to become lifelong learners while continuing to contribute to and live in their communities.

The Wahsa Distance Education Centre was established in the fall of 1990 to provide Ontario accredited secondary school courses through distance education to the remote twenty-three Sioux Lookout District First Nations. Radio and correspondence are two different program delivery systems that are used by Wahsa to provide the students with a full selection of high school courses while living in their home community. Wahsa operates as a private school under the authority of the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council.

Pelican Falls First Nations High School, located twenty-eight kilometres from Sioux Lookout has a dedicated staff of 40 who provide education and counselling support for First Nation students attending grades 9 to 12 from the Far North. The staff also provide recreational and life skills programs. The state-of-the-art High School, located on the shores of Pelican Lake, and situated on a 172-acre site, is comprised of nine homes that house a minimum of ten students each. The school places a premium on enhancing student decision-making, responsibility and self-respect. Students can choose from a wide selection of academic courses including biology, mathematics, chemistry, English, art, physical education and life skills. With completion of the gymnasium in the summer of 1993, physical education courses are held on-site.

6.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES and RECREATION

CULTURAL

Cultural facilities include the Sioux Lookout Museum, the Sioux Lookout Public Library, the Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre, an art gallery, Sioux Hudson Entertainment Series, and many clubs and services.

Sioux Lookout's Annual Blueberry Festival has been in existence since 1983. It is a 10-day festival celebrating the Municipality and is open to everyone. With over 100 events, the Blueberry Festival has become a summer celebration attracting thousands of visitors from around the region and around the world. Starting on the Friday before the August long weekend and lasting for ten fun-filled days, residents and visitors come together and form a bond of great communal spirit. Many of the events encompass the beauty of the area, allowing participants and spectators to enjoy the many lakes and beaches. From the very young to the young at heart there is truly something for everyone at the Blueberry Festival.

The Sioux Lookout Anti-Racism Committee (SLARC) is a community-based volunteer group of concerned citizens. The group was formed in 1988 in an attempt to ensure that all residents in the community would have the opportunity to learn, work and live together while respecting and celebrating differences creating a just community. The Sioux Lookout Anti-Racism Committee's mandate is to identify and eliminate discrimination that may prevent any person of the community from reaching their full potential and to encourage, develop and support initiatives, programs and activities that promote respect, understanding, acceptance and cooperation in the community. The Anti-Racism Committee provides a variety of programs and services to Sioux Lookout and the surrounding region. An extensive school program reaches all students; the "Voices For The Future" youth group involves young people in projects which promote social change; the Multi-Cultural Youth Centre holds events; the Resolve Advocacy Group provides mediation services to individuals and organizations in racial conflict; and community workshops and forums provide education on cross-cultural topics. Yearly highlights include Race Relations Month in March, the Blueberry Festival's Bannock Bake-Off and the Sioux Mountain Music and Cultural Festival.

The Sioux Lookout Museum was created to collect, preserve, research, exhibit and interpret objects that serve to illustrate the founding, settlement, and development of Sioux Lookout, Hudson and area. The collection chronicles the arrival of the First Native Americans in the region up to the present day with special emphasis on the arrival of the CN Railway (1910) until the end of World War II (1945).

The museum was founded in 1977 when a temporary exhibit was built to see if there was enough interest to justify such a venture. Displays were set up in the Moose Hall and in the Sarah Vaughn Public Library where over a thousand people came to view them. It was decided that a permanent museum was necessary. Two portable classrooms donated by the Dryden Board of Education were moved to 15 Wellington Street where many volunteers helped with the construction and set-up of the museum. On July 17, 1981, the museum was officially open. Over the years, the museum has grown and now holds character as well as

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

the history of Sioux Lookout. The museum is open daily during the summer months. Contact the Community Services Department at 807-737-1994 for further information.

The **Travel Information Centre** is located on Highway 72 at the entrance to urban Sioux Lookout in a picturesque setting overlooking Pelican Lake. This modern facility was included in the first phase of a waterfront development project.

The Centre is operated by the Chamber of Commerce and provides information on the Municipality's history, attractions and events in the area, as well as maps and directions to assist the traveling public. Brochures are available with information on the excellent fishing, hunting and tourist opportunities in the Sioux Lookout area. The Travel Centre is the focal point of many activities in the community including some of the annual Blueberry Festival activities.

The Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce is an active group of business and professional people contributing to the economic, social and cultural development of Sioux Lookout and Area. The Chamber promotes ethics and integrity in business. Members of the Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce represent a growing and diverse network of expertise.

The Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce brings together businesses, organizations and individuals for the purpose of improving our community and making Sioux Lookout a vibrant, progressive community in which to live and work.

The Chamber hosts numerous annual events including the Business Excellence Awards; the Trade, Craft and Home Show; the Chamber Auction and Moonlight Madness, just to name a few.

You can contact the Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce by calling 737-1937.

The present **Sioux Lookout Public Library** is a brick building approximately 630 square metres in size, located at 21 Fifth Avenue. It was officially opened on October 16, 1989.

The Library is a full service organization open seven days a week during the winter and Monday through Friday during the months of July and August. Membership is free to permanent residents of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and temporary memberships are available at a cost. Books, audiocassettes, videos, dvd's and books on CD, are some of the materials available for loan and the automated catalogue and helpful staff will assist the public in locating items of interest. Special programming for children and adults is offered throughout the year. Services such as photocopying, sending/receiving of faxes and interlibrary loans are also provided.

Internet access is available to the public in the **Community Internet Access Centre** located at the Library, along with the use of a scanner, printer and digital camera.

You can contact the Sioux Lookout Public Library by calling (807) 737-3660.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Sioux Hudson Entertainment Series

The Sioux Hudson Entertainment Series is a committee made up of ten members. The Committee, working a year in advance, brings family oriented concerts to Sioux Lookout from all across Canada. Some examples are the Toronto Dance Theatre, the National Tap Dance group and plays performed by companies such as the Manitoba Theatre Centre, Magnus Theatre and the Shaw Festival. Musical groups such as the Thunder Bay Symphony have also performed here. These concerts are coordinated with other Northwestern Ontario communities and are very well attended by the residents of Sioux Lookout.

The Kid's Kaleidoscope program, offering entertainment targeted toward children's groups, is also available in the community.

Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre

The Friendship Centre is a drop-in centre that provides a number of social activities, youth services and houses the Aboriginal Family Support Program.

Clubs and Organizations

There are a wide variety of service clubs and organizations in Sioux Lookout which include the Lions, Rotary, Shriner's and Masons, Pelican Rebekah Lodge, Beta Sigma Phi, Sparks, Girl Guides, Brownies, Pathfinders, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Many of the lodges have buildings available for meetings, dinners, etc. There is a large and active branch of the Royal Canadian Legion with full facilities. Their Ladies Auxiliary supports many community activities.

There are entertainment groups, sports clubs, a block parents association, two senior citizens centres, adult and youth choirs, square dancing club, parent-teacher associations, bridge clubs, genealogical society, historical society, hospital auxiliary, horticultural society, literacy council, tourism association, TOPS, Weight Watchers and much, much more.

Also available in the Municipality is Crime Stoppers and the Sioux Lookout-Hudson Community Policing Committee with offices in Sioux Lookout and Hudson. This committee develops local solutions to local policing matters.

Sioux Area Seniors Activity Centre

On November 11, 1983, the official opening of SASAC (Sioux Area Seniors Activity Centre) was held with 100 paid members. Within a year, membership rose to 268 people. At first, meetings were held in centrally located rented premises. The present building at 66D Front Street was purchased by sales of shares, and renovated through Provincial grants. The Centre helps to prevent social isolation of the elderly and provides a meeting place to maintain old friendships and make new ones. Other objectives are to take collective action on matters of concern to the members, supply information and encourage continued participation in community affairs.

Anyone 55 and over is welcome to become a member for a nominal annual fee of \$10.00. The Centre is open 10 – 4, Monday through Saturday, and is operated each day by volunteers. Members meet the first Wednesday of each month to attend to the regular

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

business of the group. A variety of activities are available such as table shuffleboard, exercise classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, darts on Thursday morning, cribbage Monday afternoon, and cards on Friday night, which includes bridge, 500 and cribbage. Potluck suppers are held the last Sunday of the month. Local crafts made by seniors are available for sale to the public, as well as used books.

Health clinics are also held, fund-raising teas and bake sales are organized, bus tours to various cities for concerts are arranged and many other worthwhile projects are undertaken. The Centre helps to improve the quality of life for its members through social activities and companionship.

Lost Lake Drop-In Centre

The Lost Lake Drop-In Centre in Hudson officially opened June 11, 1993. There are approximately 40 members and a lower age limit to accommodate more people in order to increase the activity in the Centre and have more community involvement (all volunteer labour). The Centre is open for coffee Monday – Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. Every Wednesday the Centre offers a soup and sandwich luncheon that is open to the public.

The Centre's main activities are monthly meetings, potluck suppers, receptions for various groups and fund raising events. The building accommodates other services such as community policing, literacy and employment services.

CHURCHES

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout has many church communities available for religious worship and fellowship:

Believer's Fellowship (Mennonite)

36 Fourth Avenue

Phone 737-2755

Fax 737-7388

Services are held Wednesday at 7:00 pm for Bible Study

Sunday at 11:00 am for morning worship

6:00 pm for evening worship.

Calvary Baptist Church

34 Prince Street

737-3293

Hudson Community Church (Mennonite/Protestant)

Second Street

Services are held Sunday at 10:00 am

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

New Life Assembly (Penticostal)

28 First Avenue

Phone 737-2843

Fax 737-4281

Services are held Sunday at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm

Adult Bible study is Wednesday at 7:00 pm

There are groups for women, men, youth, children and single moms, as well as a bus ministry.

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church

118 King Street

Phone 737-3760

Fax 737-4464

Mass is held Saturday evening at 5:15 pm

Sunday morning at 8:30 am and 10:00 am

St. Andrew's United Church

21 Sixth Avenue

Phone 737-3131

Sunday Worship is at 10:00 am, with Sunday school during the service.

St. Andrew's would like to invite you to worship with them and enjoy their music ministry. St. Andrew's supplies space for a playgroup on Tuesday's and Thursday's and Girl Guide groups.

St. Mary's Anglican Church

103 King Street

Phone 737-2790

The service of Holy Communion is held at 8:00 am and 10:00 am every Sunday;

The choir performs at 9:30 am Sundays.

Sioux Lookout also has several Church groups including the Anglican Church Women, the Catholic Women's League, the United Church Women, and in Hudson, the Catholic Women's League.

RECREATION

A wide variety of recreational activities are available to residents and visitors. Each season brings a wide array of pastimes to choose from. The community offers something for everyone, from cultural activities to sporting opportunities to recreational pursuits.

Sioux Lookout is blessed with many volunteers who spend hours planning and organizing local community clubs and associations. Some of the activities children and youth can

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

choose from include Boy Scouts, Sparks, Brownies, Girl Guides, Pathfinders, Junior Rangers, Air Cadets, minor hockey, minor baseball, minor soccer, figure skating, gymnastics, junior curling, cross-country skiing, pre-school playgroup, volleyball camp and so many others.

For adults there is a women's softball league, mixed slo-pitch league, men's and women's soccer, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, recreational basketball, men's and women's curling, mixed curling, cross-country skiing, tennis, bocce and golfing, as well as many other activities.

Sioux Lookout Fitness Centre

This multipurpose centre is located at 85 King Street. It includes an arena, gymnasium, weight room, walking/running track, meeting rooms, and racquetball and squash courts.

Arena: During the winter months, the Community Services Department offers regularly scheduled ice time for the figure skating club, minor hockey, girls hockey, Old Timer's league, commercial hockey league and other groups and businesses looking for ice time. As well, all of the local schools book time for recreational skating for their students throughout the season. Sioux Lookout hosts a number of tournaments and carnivals during the year, drawing people from all over the region. In the summer the arena is available for trade shows, socials, weddings, ball hockey and roller blade hockey programs.

Sioux Lookout has recently acquired the *Sioux Lookout Flyers*, a Junior A team affiliated with the Superior International Junior Hockey League (SIJHL). Several home games this season should prove to be a spectator's delight!

The Community Services Department is also responsible for two outdoor ice surfaces, one in urban Sioux Lookout on Fuller Street, and one in Hudson.

Gymnasium: The full-sized gym is available for drop-in use or rental. Sports equipment is available from the front desk. Scheduled activities include after-school sports, basketball, volleyball, badminton and tennis and an array of exercise classes. The gym is home to the Gymnastics Club and senior line dancers.

Weight Room: The weight room is top-notch, complete with a universal gym; peck deck, hack-squat machine and a large selection of free weights. Cardio equipment is located around the running track for use as well.

Running Track: No matter what the weather, the indoor track will suit your needs. Stationary bikes and steppers are situated at intervals along the track.

Courts: Book a court for a game of racquetball or squash. Courts are air-conditioned for your comfort. Equipment can be rented at the front desk.

Meeting Room: Located upstairs, the meeting room can be rented by calling ahead of time. Audio-Visual equipment, flip charts, blackboards and conference supplies are available. Kitchen facilities, phone service and message taking are included with your rental service.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Recreation Programs

A wide variety of seasonal programs for all ages are offered through the Community Services Department. Special events and fun days are highlighted throughout the year. Following is a list of some of the many activities co-ordinated by the department:

Minor soccer, minor baseball, fitness classes, karate, hockey development camp, jazz, ballet, tap dancing, mixed slo-pitch, ball hockey, Irish dancing, pre-school programs, youth badminton, youth volleyball camp, tennis lessons, squash tournaments, after-school programs, winter-break programs, swimming lessons, Cedar Bay day camp, Summer Explorer's day program and a Junior Leadership program.

Located on Third Avenue (across from the Ojibway Golf and Curling Club) is the Outdoor Sports Complex. This facility includes baseball diamonds, tennis courts, bocce courts, horseshoe pitches, a skateboard park, a children's sandbox and a concession stand with a shelter.

Cedar Bay Recreational Facility

Take a walk out to Cedar Bay and enjoy the beautiful view and relaxing setting. Sensational during all seasons of the year, Cedar Bay offers a chalet, a lodge with electricity and three additional cabins complete with bunk beds. A craft cabin is used by the summer day-campers and near the lake is a beach house suitable for storing beach supplies and getting changed. The Nordic Nomads have a cabin open during the winter months for cross country skiers to use as a rest spot. A large playing field and a number of trails make this facility an inviting, rustic camp setting for all to enjoy. Rentals are available year-round.

Adult Soccer

The growing love of soccer in Sioux Lookout can best be witnessed in the two adult soccer teams competing in the Dryden Soccer League. The Sioux Legionnaires is a men's team that has been around for a while. The Sioux Strikers is a new team in the women's league, and after only two years they amassed a playoff championship and a league championship. The two teams often work together to help each other out. Men can contact Laurie Jefferson at 737-3766 and women can contact J.L. Pierce at 737-1123 for more information.

Hudson Facilities

The Hudson Community Hall is centrally located in downtown Hudson. It is a multi-purpose hall ideal for family reunions, dances and community events. The hall comes complete with a full kitchen and tables and chairs. A number of activities are offered at the hall throughout the year.

In the summertime, Hudson residents enjoy Boat Bay, a community recreational facility located just minutes from downtown on the shores of Lost Lake. The boat launch serves as an entranceway to Lac Seul. The well-maintained area has a picnic shelter, a beautiful beach, boat launch and washroom facilities are available. Also located in Hudson are a ball diamond and an outdoor skating rink.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Sioux Lookout Golf and Curling Club

The Club is a non-profit community organization that operates and maintains both a nine-hole golf course with grass greens, and a curling rink with four sheets of ice. The Golf and Curling Club offers one of the most scenic and challenging nine-hole golf courses in the region.

Ojibway Provincial Park

The Sioux Lookout & Hudson Association for Community Living now operates Ojibway Provincial Park in partnership with Ontario Parks. It is located approximately 30 km south of the urban core of Sioux Lookout, at the Municipal boundary, on Little Vermilion Lake. The park covers 2,630 hectares of land and water. Facilities provided at Ojibway Park include 50 campsites, 50 day-use parking spaces, a large picnic shelter, barbecues and a beach area, two boat launches, 11 kilometres of nature trails, group camping areas and groomed cross-country ski trails. It is easily accessible from Highway 72 and is approximately a 20-minute drive from downtown Sioux Lookout. Many local residents and tourists visiting the area utilize the park.

Umphreville Walking Trail

The Umphreville Trail is named after the famous explorer Edward Umphreville, who engaged the First Nations people to lead him through the “third” water route to the west from Lake Superior in 1784. They travelled on the local chain of lakes from English River Falls on Minnitaki Lake to Abram Lake and Pelican Lake en route to Lac Seul and Lake Winnipeg. The trail is developed on the land between Abram and Pelican Lakes offering glimpses of the water that the explorer travelled on. This trail links the past six millennium to the future by commemorating historical events during that time on interpretive plaques.

This first phase of the Umphreville Trail begins at the Sioux Lookout Tourist Information Centre and winds its way to Frog Rapids Bridge located north of Umphreville Park. At the park is a national historic site commemorating Edward Umphreville’s documentation of a third canoe route from Lake Superior to the west in 1784. The trail ends at Frog Rapids Bridge, the point at which both lakes can be viewed. Interpretive historical signage shares the memory of the legend of Sioux Mountain, our cultural beginnings, the original portage and archaeological sites that span the 8,000 years of human occupation in the Sioux Lookout area.

Crown Land Recreation

Outdoor recreational activity, particularly winter sports such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling, often requires the use of Crown Land. The Ministry of Natural Resources has provided Land Use Permits to allow the use of these properties for recreational purposes.

Boating

The abundance of crystal-clear lakes including Pelican Lake, Abram Lake, Minnitaki Lake, Lac Seul, Lost Lake, Big and Little Vermilion Lakes, and so many others, allows access for boating. Several boat launches are located in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout as well as in Hudson.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Several local tourist operators will rent boating equipment for day trips and will often provide a local guide, upon request.

Beaches

The Municipality has several beautiful beaches in the area that are accessible to the public. The beaches include the Town Beach (urban Sioux Lookout), Second Sandy Beach (rural Sioux Lookout), Big Vermilion Beach and Boat Bay Beach (both in Hudson).

Snowmobile Club

The Ojibway Power Toboggan Association is an active snowmobile club providing social activities and 365 km of groomed trails, both locally and interconnecting with other communities. The clubhouse on Abram Lake Road is the base for activities and meetings.

The Club boasts some of the best snow conditions and trails in Ontario. Activities include evening and day trail rides, potluck suppers, socials, cross-country trips, wiener roasts and safety courses.

Blueberry Hill

Located at the west end of King Street, Blueberry Hill is the perfect sliding spot. All ages will enjoy this well-lit tobogganing hill during the winter months.

Cross Country Ski Club

The Nordic Nomads Ski Club maintains and grooms approximately forty kilometres of cross-country ski trails in the Sioux Lookout area. These trails are geared to all levels of skier ability. Skiers can get on the trails from several points throughout the network and they all converge on Cedar Bay Lodge, which is kept open by the ski club. The Nordic Nomads is a non-profit club dedicated to the promotion of cross-country skiing in the Sioux Lookout area. There are also several ski trails in Hudson.

7.0 **BUSINESSES and ORGANIZATIONS**

ORGANIZATIONS

First Nations Services

The 29 First Nations communities serviced by Sioux Lookout are spread from Lac Seul, a few kilometres from Hudson, to Fort Severn on the coast of Hudson Bay. Most of the communities are accessible only by air and rely on services provided in Sioux Lookout.

One such service, **Wawatay Native Communications Society**, is a radio network that reaches all the First Nation communities and broadcasts in the native language of the area. Wawatay also produces native language television programs. Other activities include publishing a semi-monthly newspaper, translation services, distance education and assisting in establishing local community radio stations and high frequency radios for emergency use by hunters and trappers. Wawatay employs approximately 34 people.

There are three **First Nation Councils** based in Sioux Lookout that coordinate activities and services for their member First Nations; Shibogama First Nation Council, Windigo First Nation Council and the Independent First Nations Alliance.

Tikinagan Child and Family Services is a non-profit, Native child and family services organization serving 29 First Nations in the western portion of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation as well as the communities of Savant Lake, Pickle Lake and Allanwater.

Their services include: community-based customary care; child protection; child care; permanent care; family support; community services; Family Counselling Unit, Quake-E-Say-Win Children's Centre; Chakabesh Youth Centre; and the Band Family Service Worker Program.

The **Northern Nishnawbe Education Council** assists First Nation people to access post-secondary school programs and to successfully transition in their first year of high school in Sioux Lookout.

Pelican Falls First Nations High School is located twenty-eight kilometres from Sioux Lookout. The High School provides a full range of services to First Nations students in the district. The students are housed at the Pelican Falls Centre to provide a transition period while living away from home for the first time.

The **Wahsa Distance Education Centre** was established in the fall of 1990 to provide Ontario accredited secondary school courses through distance education to the 29 Sioux Lookout District First Nations. Wahsa operates as a private school under the authority of Northern Nishnawbe Education Centre.

Equay-Wuk is a dedicated group of women with a common vision to increase the role of Native women in the changing world of Northern Ontario. The common vision includes:

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

- Healthy families and lifestyles
- A common voice for First Nations women
- To increase representation of First Nations women in politics, employment, committees and organizations

The **Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority** provides health-related services for First Nation communities in the Sioux Lookout area. Services include transportation to medical appointments for patients from the Far North, translation services, hostel accommodation services during the patients stay in Sioux Lookout, Tuberculosis Education, Diabetes Education, Prenatal Nutrition Programs, Breakfast for Learning Programs and FAS/FAE Education.

BUSINESSES

Downtown Retail

Sioux Lookout is serviced by a downtown shopping area. The Municipality has recently removed the parking meters in an effort make shopping in the downtown an easier and more pleasant experience.

Current retail stores include:

- Sears, mail order outlet
- The Northern Store
- Johnny's Fresh Market
- The Bootlegger
- Cheers!
- Bloomin' Wild Flowers
- Three Pharmacies
- Ireland's Jewellery
- Wilson's Business Supply
- Al Sports
- Critters Cuts & Huts
- Signatures Signs and Stichery
- Sioux Lottery
- Home Hardware
- Rona
- DJ's Gas Bar
- Roy Lane
- Oshtugon – The Source
- Several Hair Stylists
- Several Day Spas

There are many artists in Sioux Lookout who offer a fine variety of paintings, original ceramics and native crafts that can be purchased in the local gift shops.

Presently the town draws upon a market of approximately 50,000 people from the Far North as well as summer tourists and residents.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Skilled Trades & Services

The Municipality has a wide variety of specialty services which include:

- carpentry
- drafting/mapping
- dry-walling/painting
- electrical
- heavy equipment
- insulation
- inspection
- appliance repair
- locksmith
- masonry
- plumbing/heating
- welding

Professional services include four real estate offices, four lawyers, accountants, consultants, insurance agents, and an engineering firm. Available for your banking needs are the Bank of Montreal, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Northern Lights Credit Union.

Night Life

For your entertainment, Sioux Lookout has five licensed establishments.

For Your Dining Pleasure

From fast food outlets to elegant dining -- there are 14 restaurants in Sioux Lookout offering a wide variety of food. From hamburgers and pizza, to surf and turf, the decision is yours.

Banquet facilities are available through various restaurants and motels in Sioux Lookout as well as the many service organization halls. The Royal Canadian Legion has the largest banquet facility and can seat up to 307 persons. Catering services are also available in Sioux Lookout.

Accommodations

There are six modern and well-run hotels and motels in Sioux Lookout, providing 164 available units.

Various services are also available at the:

Lamplighter Motel, Hwy. 72 - (807) 737-1014

Forest Inn & Conference Centre: 11 May Street, (807) 737-1330,

Best Western, Hwy. 72 – (807) 737-4444

Sunset Suites Motel, Hwy. 72 – (807) 737-1111

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Sunset Inn, Hwy. 72 - (807) 737-1113

Wellington Inn, 67 Wellington St. - (807) 737-4030

There are approximately 38 cottage resorts and lodges on the many surrounding lakes that provide clean and comfortable accommodation to tourists.

For a complete list of businesses, groups and organizations, a business directory is available at the Tourist Information Centre at: (807) 737-2991.

8.0 POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mayor and Council

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout is comprised of the Mayor and six Councillors. The Municipal government structure is comprised of various committees and boards that advise Mayor and Council on specific Municipal responsibilities.

Boards, Committees & Commissions

Six Boards, Committees and Commissions form part of the municipal structure that address public matters. An array of elected and appointed members volunteer to represent the citizens of Sioux Lookout.

Municipal Services

The Municipal Council is responsive to the social, economic, recreational, cultural and health needs of the community.

The Municipal Corporation is comprised of the following Departments:

- Clerk's department including Licensing and Cemetery
- Development Services including Building and Zoning By-Law and Planning
- Economic Development which is governed by a Commission
- Community Services Department includes Parks and Recreation and Facilities
- Day Care
- Emergency Services which includes Fire Service and By-Law Enforcement
- Library
- Non-Profit Housing
- Ontario Works
- Public Works includes the Roads Department, the Utilities Department which includes water treatment and sewer and garbage collection
- Municipal Airport which is governed by a Commission.

Federal Government Services

Federal government services in the community include two Canada Post Offices (Hudson and Sioux Lookout), a Health Canada Occupation and Environmental office, a National Health and Welfare office, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Provincial Government Services

Provincial government services in the Municipality include the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Tourism and the Health Promotion Branch; Ministry of Community and Social Services; Ministry of Natural Resources; Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (including Driver and Vehicle Licensing); and the Ministry of Correctional and Services.

9.0 ENFORCEMENT

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ontario Provincial Police

The Sioux Lookout detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police consists of one Staff Sergeant, four Sergeants, 30 Constables, three Stenographers and ten Guards, as well as four Auxiliary Officers. The detachment also maintains two Cadet positions. The OPP provide 24-hour service to the community and outlying unorganized territory. Policing consists of regular highway patrol, foot/bicycle patrols, marine patrol, commercial vehicle enforcement, motorized snow vehicle patrol, school safety and crime prevention programs.

In March 2002, the Sioux Lookout Criminal Unit was added to the force with a compliment of one Detective Sergeant, three Detective Constables and one Abuse Issues Coordinator.

The Sioux Lookout Detachment also manages the Northwest Patrol Unit, which is responsible for administrating the Ontario First Nations Policing Programs in Big Trout Lake and Weagamow Lake. The Unit's staff consists of one Sergeant and five Constables who conduct fly-in supervision and management of 12 First Nations Constables policing the First Nation communities.

Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Police service

This police force took over the duties of most of the First Nation communities under the jurisdiction of the OPP Northwest Patrol. The Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services Agreement is an "agreement in principle" negotiated between the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. The primary goal behind the Agreement is the establishment of a First Nation Police Service that provides effective, efficient and culturally appropriate policing to the people in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.

On June 1, 1998, the Sioux Lookout Detachment of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service assumed policing from the former Northwest Patrol Unit administered by the Ontario Provincial Police, except for the First Nations communities of Big Trout Lake, Weagamow, and Pikangikum. As of April 1, 1999, it was one of the larger police forces in the Province.

The Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service Agreement is the most autonomous policing agreement in Canada. Its jurisdictional area encompasses almost two-thirds of the Province of Ontario, from the Manitoba to Quebec borders. It employs a complement of 93 police officers and 18 civilian support staff and has jurisdiction both on and off reserve.

MNR Conservation Officers

The mandate of the Enforcement Branch is to provide effective regulatory protection of Ontario's natural resources, environment and public safety. MNR enforces 27 Acts and Regulations and administers 45 Acts and Regulations.

Enforcement efforts cover all MNR program areas including; Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, Lands/Waters, Species at Risk, Petroleum, Parks, Agriculture, Fire and Aggregates.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Correctional Services

The correctional system in Sioux Lookout (i.e. probation, police and the courts) allows a cooperative, pro-active team approach to assist people who, for whatever reason, choose anti-social behaviour and end up in the court system.

Probation Services, Young Offenders

Probation Services provides supervision and guidance for young offenders and their families as provided by the Young Offenders Act and is governed under the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services. Probation Services work with young offenders up to the age of 16 years who are on probation or in custody and liaises with community agencies to assist the youth in developing a plan of action to avoid further involvement with the legal system.

By-Law Enforcement

The By-Law Enforcement Department, under the jurisdiction of the Corporation of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, provides a variety of services including the enforcement of by-laws for the community, including animal control. The By-Law Office can be reached by calling 807-737-2564.

Emergency Services

Fire Protection is a Municipal responsibility. The Fire Chief manages the resources of the Municipal Fire Department to provide immediate and effective emergency response services to the community, to promote fire safety, fire prevention, and to coordinate emergency planning for the Municipality. The Fire Department consists of two fire halls: The Sioux Lookout Fire Station and the Hudson Fire Station.

The two fire stations have a combined volunteer force of 44 fire fighters. In addition to the Fire Chief, there is one District Fire Chief, one Deputy Fire Chief, six Captains and 35 fire fighters. One Administrative Clerk is located at the Sioux Lookout Fire Station.

The Fire Department equipment consists of two equipment trucks, four pumper trucks, one Jaws-of-Life truck, an Ice/Water Rescue truck, a Compressed Foam Fire Truck and, the newest addition, a ladder truck. All of this equipment is used to aid the fire fighters in all aspects of fire fighting, auto extrication and the rescuing of survivors in ice/water related mishaps. The Fire Department is responsible for 24 hours-a-day coverage of an area of 536 square kilometres, which encompasses Alcona to the east, just beyond Ojibway Provincial Park to the south, Hudson to the west and ten kilometres to the north.

Throughout the year fire fighters perform additional duties such as conducting tours of the Fire Halls for the schools to teach students about the operations of the Fire Department. Fire fighters spearhead the annual Santa Clause parade; provide assistance every year to the Lions Club with their annual July 1st fire works display; hold a Children's Day during the Blueberry Festival and hold an open house during Fire Prevention week.

Also in place, under the mandate of the Municipality's Chief Administrative Officer, is an Emergency Plan which prepares the community in the event of a major disaster.

9.0 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout department of Development Services includes Planning and Building. The overall responsibility of Development Services is to assist with development within the community.

The main objectives of the Department include providing excellent customer service and promoting the community as an attractive location to all residents, visitors and investors.

The Development Services Department delivers quality service as a one-stop-shopping resource for citizens, visitors, investors and developers in Sioux Lookout.

Land-use planning helps the Municipality to manage land and resources within the community and the goal is to promote a pattern of land use that will provide a healthy local economy and offer a wide range of opportunities for the citizens.

The Planning Department assists individuals and developers with their development initiatives, provides direction for future land use and ensures compatibility between land uses. The Official Plan and Zoning By-Law establish policies and regulation to provide direction for the community's planning decisions. Regulatory functions include the issuing of various licenses and permits related to property development and business, as well as lotteries.

The review of construction plans prior to the issuance of a building permit and the ongoing inspection of construction activities contribute to the health and safety of the community. The Department manages the Municipality's property-related transactions and provides services such as property acquisition and development, sales and road allowance sales.

Lakefront Development

Within the municipal boundaries, Sioux Lookout's urban waterfront includes an eclectic mix of homes and other commercial operations, beaches, and parks. The rural and natural areas contain thousands of kilometres of almost totally undeveloped shoreline, providing endless opportunities for outdoor activities.

11.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development is the process of creating wealth through the mobilization of human, financial, capital, physical and natural resources to generate marketable goods and services and improve the quality of life for all residents.

In July 2007 Mayor and Council voted in favour of establishing an Economic Development Commission (EDC) to undertake a number of mandates to move the Municipality forward in terms of community growth, job creation and supporting local business.

A call for Membership to the residents of Sioux Lookout brought forward a very pro-active, eager and open-minded group of individuals who held their inaugural meeting in September 2007.

Council had given a wide mandate and as a result the EDC proposed the creation of five sub-committees to assist with the achievement of the mandates. They include:

- Enhancement sub-committee
- Marketing & Promotions sub-committee
- Strategic Planning sub-committee
- Train Station sub-committee
- Urban Reserve sub-committee

Achievements of the EDC to date include:

- Downtown Revitalization Project
- Engaged the landscape architect firm of Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram
- Expression of Interest for commercial space at the renovated heritage Train Station
- Opening of a Community Development Office on Front Street
- Business supports such as video-conferencing and a lending library to provide free training opportunities to small business
- Completion of a Residents Survey and Final Report
- Communications Strategy
- Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Urban Reserve Feasibility Study
- Marketing & Promotion Strategy

11.0 PUBLIC WORKS

HARD SERVICES AND UTILITIES

The Roads department is responsible for the daily upkeep and maintenance of municipal roads, sidewalks and signage while the Utilities Department looks after waste management, sewer and water treatment facilities.

Roads

The Sioux Lookout area has approximately 42 km of urban roads and lanes, as well as 39 km of rural roads. The urban sector roads are made up of approximately 16 km of asphalt, 19 km of surface treatment, two km of gravel roads and five km of gravel lanes. The rural sector roads have approximately 24 km of surface treated roads and 15 km of gravel roads.

Water/Sewer

Urban Sioux Lookout has an excellent system of Water and Sewage Treatment Plants, distribution systems, collection systems for sewer and potable water, and storm sewers.

The urban Sioux Lookout Sewage Treatment Plant was built in 1994, and is capable of handling 500,000 gallons of raw sewage each day. Sewage disposal in Hudson is by the use of septic fields that are privately owned and maintained by the landholder.

The Municipality pumps its water from Pelican Lake. The Water Treatment Plant, which began operation in 1999, has Zenon ultra-filtration membranes. Pelican Lake water is transformed into clear, clean water that is safe to drink.

The new system produces 5,200m³ (or 1.1 million gallons) of treated water per day. Currently, the Municipality produces on average, 500,000 to 600,000 gallons of treated water a day, depending on the season. The water is pumped from Pelican Lake where the colour is removed, along with any Cryptosporidium, through ultra-filtration. Chlorine and fluorine are then added to the water. The new plant is a computerized "state of the art" water treatment plant that supplies urban Sioux Lookout with the cleanest drinking water possible.

Hudson began operation of a new water treatment plant in 2008 and provides excellent drinking water to the 400 residents of that community. The water is derived from Lost Lake.

Solid Waste Management

Currently, the Municipality operates one landfill site on Alcona Drive. Refuse is collected in urban and most of rural Sioux Lookout using a bag-tag system. Dump hours are available to allow residents to haul their own refuse to the landfill site.

The implementation of a recycling program has been very successful with approximately 3,000 yd³ being recycled every year.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

UTILITIES

Fuel Oil

Fuel oil is available from two suppliers, Esso and Petro-Canada, within the community. Each supplies in bulk: diesel fuel, heating oil and automobile fuel, primarily to retail distributors. The demand for home heating oil is consistent with homeowners using wood/oil and converting to electric. Aviation fuel is available at Esso as well as at the Sioux Lookout Airport.

Hydro

Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc. has been operating since 1939, serving the entire Municipality of Sioux Lookout.

Sioux Lookout Hydro operates with a staff of seven, under the direction of five Directors, consisting of two Councillors and three members of the public who are appointed by Council.

13.0 TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

TRANSPORTATION

The four major transportation systems: road, rail, water and air, each play a vital role in the economy of the area. Air transport is, however, of greater significance to this area than it is to the rest of the Province, due to the scattered and isolated locations of many of the area residents.

Air Transportation

The primary mode of transportation in the Far North is by air and this service has improved over time with new airports, modern aircraft and navigational aids.

There are two air carriers providing scheduled air service as well as a number of charter services located at the Sioux Lookout Airport. Year-round passenger, freight and mail service is provided by a variety of aircraft equipped with wheels, floats, and skis.

Sioux Lookout Municipal Airport

The Corporation of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout owns and operates the airport under the Sioux Lookout Airport Commission. The airport serves as the Hub for many Far North communities and handles approximately 135,000 passengers travelling through the airport per year. The newly extended runway is now 5,300 feet by 100 feet, with paved surface and lighting. The Sioux Lookout Airport accommodates a 24-hour NavCanada Flight Services Station.

Bearskin Airlines, Wasaya Airlines and other commercial air carriers offer passenger and freight service from the Sioux Lookout Airport with 200 scheduled flights per week. Daily scheduled flights are provided throughout the Far North, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, North Bay and Ottawa, making it one of the busiest small airports in Canada and second busiest, next to Thunder Bay, in Northwestern Ontario.

As well as providing charter and scheduled service from the terminal building, Bearskin Airlines also operates a maintenance hangar located on the airport property.

Other hangers belonging to the Ontario Ministry of Health, Air Ambulance Division; Allen Airways; Wasaya Airways; Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service and Northern Airborne Maintenance are also situated at the airport. The Ministry of Health Air Ambulance provides emergency services to Thunder Bay and Winnipeg from Sioux Lookout and the Far North communities.

Allen Airways, an aircraft overhaul and rebuilding company does routine maintenance work, and Lockhart Air provides charter services as well as flight school instruction.

The Sioux Lookout Airport is open to traffic 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, and is known for its excellence in service and operational efficiency.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Water Bases

Pelican Lake Bay, within the urban core, is an active water base for three-charter services - Bamaji Air, Slate Falls Airways, and Knobby's Fly-In Services. Tudhope Airways operates out of Hudson and several tourist operators located on the water in both areas own private aircraft.

Rail

The C.N.R. mainline connects Sioux Lookout with Winnipeg and Toronto. This line passes through a number of very small settlements, some of which have no other means of overland transportation.

Primarily used to haul freight over the CN Rail lines, VIA Rail also passes through Sioux Lookout with a 30 minute scheduled stop to refuel.

Roads

Sioux Lookout is connected to the Trans-Canada by Highway 72, a 65 km paved two-lane highway.

The Ministry of Northern Development & Mines and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada contribute funds to work in partnership with the area First Nations to establish a Winter Road Network located north of Sioux Lookout. For a short time frame between January and March, fuel, housing materials and freight are shipped by winter road to these remote communities in the Far North.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Sioux Lookout communication network consists of a cell phone provider through TBayTel, telephone system provided through the Bell Network, High Speed Internet Access, newspaper, post office, courier, radio, and television stations. Sioux Lookout is also connect to the 911 emergency telephone service.

Newspapers

The Sioux Lookout Bulletin is published every week and has a circulation of 4,717 copies in Sioux Lookout, Hudson, Kejick Bay, Pickle Lake, Savant Lake and 17 northern communities.

Wawatay News is an award-winning bilingual, semi-monthly newspaper that carries all types of news for, and about, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation in both English and Oji-Cree. The newspaper has a readership of more than 10,000 and is self-supporting through advertising revenue and subscriptions. Wawatay News is distributed in all Nishnawbe-Aski communities and is often the only newspaper sold. Subscriptions are also sent across Canada, the U.S. and overseas.

The Winnipeg and Thunder Bay newspapers have daily home delivery service in Sioux Lookout and are also available at a number of establishments throughout the community. Residents also have an option to pick up the National Post and Globe and Mail at Rexall Pharmacy, by order.

SIoux LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Post Office

Canada Post provides Sioux Lookout with Community Mailbox postal service. Mail leaves the Municipality daily, Monday to Friday en route to Dryden. Canada Post has an office in urban Sioux Lookout and one in Hudson.

Couriers

Courier service is available by Purolator.

Radio

CBC Radio service is available via low-power repeaters. These stations provide a mix of regional and local coverage produced by the CBC station located in Thunder Bay.

Repeaters for CKDR, a privately owned radio station in Dryden, provide regional news, information and advertising.

CBLS-1240 is the local AM station, broadcasting both local stories from Sioux Lookout and national coverage from CBC out of Thunder Bay.

Television

Shaw Cable, from Kenora, provides cable service to the community. The services include regular and digital TV channels as well as high speed Internet.

Wawatay Native Communication Society

Since 1973, Wawatay Native Communications Society has helped to bring the people of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation closer together by providing a variety of communication systems and media. The programs offered by Wawatay are: a native language newspaper, a native language radio network, native language television programs, rental of high frequency trail radios, maintenance of 33 community radio stations, installation and maintenance of high frequency base radios, Bell Canada translataphone service, native broadcaster/journalism training, research and development of new technologies and systems in communications, community liaison, government liaison, market research and analysis, Wahsa distance education distribution, and Wawatay's recording studio.

Wawatay Radio Network was established in 1984, to provide information in the Native language to the people of Nishnawbe-Aski. The network produces hours of Oji-Cree and Coastal Cree programs each week. Programming consists of legends, news, dedications and religious shows.

Wawatay Television aired the first Native language television program in January 1987. The main objectives of the television department are to help maintain the Native languages; educate both Native and non-native people about Native culture; and provide news and information to the people of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. Wawatay TV currently produces two hours of programming each week. This includes youth, current affairs and magazine format shows.

14.0 NATURAL RESOURCE ENVIRONMENT

NATURAL RESOURCES

Manufacturing

Although not involved in heavy industry, Sioux Lookout does have a stable light industrial base consisting mainly of forestry and private manufacturing operations. Industries include lumber and wood, printing and publishing, sand and gravel supply, glass, furniture fabrication, telecommunication repairs, sign fabrication and others. There are also vast and unlimited opportunities present in private entrepreneurial enterprises for the retail, leisure and service sectors.

Several mineral exploration companies are working in the area and there is good opportunity for Sioux Lookout to become a mineral staging area to the Far North.

Commercial and Service Activities

Growth in the commercial and service sectors has been extensive. Commercial, First Nation and government agencies have all expanded to meet the needs of our growing service centre.

Tourism

Northwestern Ontario has historically been known for its "pristine" waters and its abundance of renewable resources such as fish, waterfowl, moose, deer and woodland caribou, as well as other wildlife. In fact, a large percentage of tourist promotion of Northwestern Ontario has been, and is presently, geared towards this "wilderness/ frontier" image. When tourists are asked to comment on the image conveyed by the term "Northwestern Ontario" the following responses are most often given:

- lakes, trees, relaxation
- good fishing, boating and vacationing area

Tourists visiting the area have traditionally been attracted and continue to be attracted by the "untouched" and "pure" nature of the area. Part of the attraction also lies in the "frontier" experience, reinforcing the impression that the tourist is interacting one-on-one with the natural environment and that he/she is entering an unknown frontier.

The local tourist industry, conscious of this market, has been able to capitalize on this image and to develop a strong tourist base.

Forestry

Due to the current downturn in the forest economy across North America, Buchanan Forest Products operates McKenzie Forest Products, a stud sawmill, during spring and summer only. The mill is located in Hudson. It is anticipated that the mill will reopen in May, 2009.

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

Agriculture

Agricultural activity within the area is limited primarily to private gardening for personal use. There are, however, a number of people who enjoy farming as a hobby and a source of supplementary income.

Although some hay is grown locally, in the Sioux Lookout area, much of the feed for local farm animals is trucked in from the Dryden area.

15.0 LABOUR FORCE

LABOUR FORCE

A diverse economic base has given Sioux Lookout stability over the years, and the Municipality is generally not susceptible to "booms or busts." The closing of the Canadian Forces Base and layoffs by CN Rail reflected a slight downturn in the local economy for a short period. This has been offset over the years by the further development of Sioux Lookout as a regional service centre for the Far North.

Sioux Lookout is experiencing growth in terms of the number of opportunities available to professional firms, for example: engineering, legal, etc., to provide services to the northern First Nations communities.

Total Labour Force by Industry for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout (2006 Census)

Industry	Total	Male	Female
Total Experienced labour Force	3,170	1,585	1,585
Agriculture & Other Resource-Based	135	105	30
Manufacturing & Construction	345	325	20
Wholesale & Retail Trade	405	165	240
Finance & Real Estate	110	35	75
Health & Education	1000	265	735
Business Services	530	355	175
Other services	645	340	305

SIOUX LOOKOUT COMMUNITY PROFILE

EMPLOYMENT

Sioux Hudson Employment Services

The primary function of the Employment Services Office is to provide information and support for community members looking for employment or training opportunities. Services include:

- Posting of jobs in the Sioux Lookout area
- Assistance in developing job search strategies
- Advice in preparing résumés and covering letters
- Referrals to training courses and educational opportunities
- Academic calendars for Ontario Universities and Colleges
- Referrals to organizations that may provide further assistance in meeting employment needs, such as employment standards
- All necessary forms to apply for Employment Insurance and assistance in completing forms
- Various resource material such as “Job Searching via the Internet” and “Small Business Information Contacts”
- Resource Centre access to the Internet
- Videos on employment-related information
- Information on job searching, career planning, résumé writing and interview techniques
- Use of the computer to prepare résumés and cover letters

The Sioux-Hudson Employment Services & Resource Centre offices are located in urban Sioux Lookout and Hudson.

For Further Information Please Contact:

Florence Bailey,
Economic Development Officer
Corporation of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout
25 Fifth Avenue, PO Box 158
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A4
807-737-4670 x 2228
edo@siouxlookout.ca