
Berens River

Community Status

Berens River Community adjoins the independent Berens River Reserve. The community lies on provincial Crown Land. All information in this report refers to the non-treaty community unless otherwise noted.

Berens River is located along the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg at the mouth of the Berens River. It is about 292 kilometres north of Winnipeg by air. The area is part of the Precambrian Shield region of Manitoba. A large part of the region is quite flat and well forested while the balance is rock outcrops and marsh. There are currently only winter road, barge and air linkages to the community.

Berens River has been governed by a mayor and council under *The Northern Affairs Act* since June 1970.

Community Contacts

By mail

Berens River Community Council
Berens River Post Office
Berens River, Manitoba, R0B 0A0

By phone

Call (204) 382-2417

Office hours and staff

Office hours are:
Mon to Fri 9:00 to 4:00

The community also employs a public works employee, community constable, a volunteer fire chief and a recreation director.

Community Statistics

Population

1985	195
1991	140
1996	105
2001	42

Information is from Statistics Canada after 1985.

Households

There are about 53 housing units in the community.

By-laws

- Employees Benefits (by minister's regulation)

Boundary

Manitoba Regulation 161/95, as amended, refers to Director of Surveys Plan 19549. See map.

Property Assessment and Taxes

Values of assessment	
Business	\$25,900
Real Property	726,500
Grants-in-lieu	454,000
Exempt	260,900
School Exempt	27,000
Total	1,494,300

Rate of Taxation (mills)

General Municipal	7.00
School levies	
Farm & Residential	5.75
Commercial & Other	17.00
Frontier School Division (#48)	22.75
Business Tax	4%

Information is from the 2003 assessment roll and tax by-law of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

Emergency Services

Fire

Fire fighting capability is based on a pumper truck from the community fire hall. Portable forest equipment is also available for grass and brush fires.

Police

The community costable responds locally with back-up from the Selkirk detachment, RCMP, phone (204) 482-8114. Temporary detention facilities in the RCMP trailer in the community may be used until RCMP personnel arrive.

Medical

Medical response is provided by the staff of the federal nursing station located on the reserve. Serious cases will be airlifted to Winnipeg under the Northern Patient Transportation Program.

Community-based Services

Airstrip

Manitoba Transportation and Government Services, Northern Airports operate a 2,900'x75' crushed rock strip with terminal building and remote controlled lighting on the edge of the community. Highways Office is located in Winnipeg, phone (204) 945-3421, or the Berens River Airport Manager, phone (204) 382-2021 or fax (204) 382 -2342.

Hydro

Manitoba Hydro provides land line electric power, with limited emergency diesel power. Residential rates are:

Basic charge	\$6.25/month
First 175 kWh	5.78 cents/kWh
Balance	5.16 cents/kWh

Hydro Regional Office is located at Selkirk, phone (204) 482-2454.

Telephone

Manitoba Telecom Services provides individual line service and digital switching with toll-free calling to Little Grand Rapids and Poplar River. Call MTS toll-free at (204) 225-5687.

Water

Two basic water supply systems have been installed in the community to provide potable water to the community on both sides of Berens River. Water pumped from Lake Winnipeg is filtered, chlorinated and distributed to pressurised standpipes. Some homes on the south side are directly connected to the distribution system. The reserve water system is independent of the community system.

Waste Disposal

Solid waste disposal is trucked to a disposal site on the reserve.

Sewage is hauled by pump-out truck to a sewage lagoon, located on the reserve, north of the river.

Schools

Frontier School Division operates the Berens River School. It is a consolidated school for both community and reserve students, and is located on reserve land. The principal supervises 23 teachers and eight or more support staff. Phone (204) 382-2153.

Recreation Facilities

- Arena
- Community hall

Government Services

Communities Economic Development Fund, Head Office located in Thompson, phone (204) 778-4138.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Eastern Region, District Office is located in Lac du Bonnet, phone (204) 345-1400.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Eastern Region, seasonal Fire Ranger and Trap Line Officers are located at Berens River in winter; Natural Resources Officer and Regional Office are located in Lac du Bonnet, phone (204) 345-1444.

Manitoba conservation, Regional Operations, Eastern Region, Public Health officer is located in Lac du Bonnet, phone (204) 345-1447.

Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Regional Services Branch, Eastman Region Office is located at Beausejour, phone (204) 268-6018.

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, Community Economic Development, Regional Office located in Selkirk, phone (204) 785-5005.

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, Community Planning Services, Regional office located in Beausejour, phone (204) 268-6063

Manitoba Justice Circuit Court sits at Berens River, and is coordinated by the Selkirk Regional Court Office, phone (204) 785-5120.

Manitoba Labour, Employment Standards, Employment Standards Officer is located in Winnipeg, phone (204) 945-3352.

Manitoba Labour, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Assistant Fire Commissioner is located in Winnipeg, phone toll-free 1-800-282-8069.

Commercial Services

Accommodation

Two facilities at Berens River offer both meals and lodging.

Transportation

- Summer access by motorised lake barge.
- Winter roads provide seasonal access for all classes of vehicles.
- Both Horbas Trucking and Riverton Transfer provide transportation services to Berens River.
- Daily flights by Perimeter Airlines, SooWind Air, and Northway Aviation provide all-year access to and from Winnipeg.

Businesses

- Alix Enterprises, general groceries and merchandise, phone (204) 382-2341.
- Berens River Store, General groceries and merchandise.
- North Country Lodge, hotel accommodation, phone (204) 382-2379.
- Northern Stores, general groceries or merchandise, phone (204) 382-2118.
- Murrays Rest & Billiards
- Christina's Coffee Shop
- Linda's Canteen
- P. M. Video rentals
- Meesun Truck Rentals
- Oshetoon Building Supplies

Economic Overview

The economic activity includes fishing, trapping, forestry, wild rice and a rock quarry operation.

Local logging contractors operate independently and contract directly with The Pine Falls Paper Company Ltd, at Pine Falls for 8 foot pulpwood contracts delivered to the barge site at Pigeon Point on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, or by B-train truck on winter road.

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