
Bissett

Community Status

Bissett originally acted as the service centre for the San Antonio gold mine. During the 25 years, 1943 to 1968, some 200 employees produced 38,272.13 grams of gold and 6,108.62 grams of silver. The mine was closed down as being uneconomical. Since 1980-81, the mine has opened and closed several times. It is now owned by Harmony Gold, and is presently inactive although being maintained

The community of Bissett is located on PTH #304 about 256 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg. This road has now been extended into the Provincial Nopoming Park and to Wallace Lake, some 32 kilometers to the east, then southward through the park to Bird River Road. The highway traverses a major recreation area, and Bissett is one of two major entry points.

The community was recognized by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in October 1972, and is represented by a mayor and council under *The Northern Affairs Act*.

Community Contacts

By mail

Bissett Community Administrator
Bissett Post Office
Bissett, MB, R0E 0J0

By Phone

Call (204) 277-5218
Fax (204) 277-5521

Office hours and staff

Office hours are:
Mon to Fri: 9:00-11:00 and 1:00-3:00

The community also employs a public works employee, volunteer fire chief and shares a recreation director with neighbouring communities.

Community Statistics

Population

1985	146
1991	154
1996	159
2001	243

Information is from Statistics Canada after 1985.

Households

There are 130 housing units in the community.

By-laws

- Ambulance Service
- Basic Planning Statement
- Employee Benefits
- Financial Reserves
- Fire Department
- Trailer Court

Boundary

Manitoba Regulation 161/95, as amended, refers to Director of surveys plan 18427A. See map.

Property Assessment and Taxes

Value of Assessments

Business	\$81,300
Real Property	6,695,500
Grant-in-lieu	977,800
Exempt	308,600
Total	8,063,200

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 based on 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 and equipment from the community fire hall. Portable forestry equipment is available for grass and brush fires. In addition, a ½ ton truck with portable water supply responds to grass and small brush fires.

Police

Police services are based in Powerview detachment, RCMP, about one and a half hours away, phone (204) 367-2222. RCMP also has trailer facilities for overnight accommodation in the community.

Medical

Medical facilities are based on a community operated ambulance under contract to the North Eastman Health Association Inc. The nearest hospital is in Pine Falls, near Powerview.

Community-based Services

Hydro

Provided by Manitoba Hydro as land line electric 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 at Pine Falls, phone (204) 367-2617.

Telephone

Manitoba Telecom Services provides individual line service and digital switching with toll-free calling to Manigotagan and Pine Falls exchanges. Call MTS toll-free at (204) 225-5687.

Water

Water source is Rice Lake. In 1987, an upgraded intake line was installed. Treatment consists of a nanofiltration system, followed by chlorination. Water is then distributed by line throughout the community.

Waste Disposal

The community has a solid waste disposal site a few kilometers away. Sewage is transported to a lagoon by low pressure collection system, or truck haul.

Schools

The San Antonio School, located in the community, is operated by Frontier School Division. Three teachers and two support staff work here. Phone (204) 277-5277.

Recreation Facilities

- Ball diamond
- Beach area
- Campground
- Curling rink and hall, 922 sq. metres
- Handicraft building, 41.6 sq. metres
- Outdoor rink with change house

Government Services

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

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Eastern Region, District Office located at Lac du Bonnet, phone (204) 345-1444

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Eastern Region, Natural Resources office located in Bissett, phone (204) 277-5212.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Eastern Region, Public Health, (204) 345-1447.

Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Regional Services, Eastman Regional Office located at Beausejour, phone 1-800-665-6107

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, Community Development Services, 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 Pine Falls and is coordinated from the Selkirk Regional Court Office, phone (204) 785-5120.

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

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

Commercial Services

Accommodation

Hotel San Antonio has rooms, restaurant and pub, phone (204) 277-5250.

Transportation

- Bissett Air Service provides charter float and ski-plane services, phone (204) 277-5262
- M. Odsachuk Trucking (freight) serves the community of Bissett.
- N&K Trucking provides local trucking services, phone (204) 277-5254
- Selkirk Air provides charter air services between Selkirk, Bissett and other points, phone (204) 277-5536

Businesses

- Bissett Construction, phone (204) 277-5585
- Bissett Development Corporation
- Bissett Outfitters, phone (204) 277-5262
- Bissett Variety Shop, phone (204) 277-5229
- Calvery Prospecting Ltd.
- Henrickson Mining
- San Antonio Joint Ventures Ltd.
- Sub Tech
- Warren's Service, phone (204) 277-5260
- West Shield Consulting
- Wynn Drilling Ltd., phone (204) 277-5220
- Yield Mining Syndicate, phone (204) 277-5231

Economic Overview

Forestry, trapping, mining and wild rice are major contributors to the local economy. Tourism and the local services also provide income to the community.

Forested areas surrounding the community are included in the provincial forestry management unit #34. Substantial harvesting is done in the area, with the wood being delivered to the Pine Falls Paper Company Ltd. At Pine Falls. About 10 small private sawmills have a quota for saw logs in addition to their contracts with the Pine Falls Paper Company Ltd. The sawmills hire locally to fill the contracts.

Trapping is largely confined to registered traplines in the Hole River and Lac du Bonnet Registered Trap Line Zones. Bissett shares this Registered Trap Line Zone with other nearby communities.

Commercial fishing is not a large contributor to the local economy.

The San Antonio gold mine production has generally been suspended since 1983. While production has ceased, the mine infrastructure continues to be maintained by Harmony Gold, and there is potential for future additional mining.

The community formed the Bissett Development Corporation, which is responsible for encouraging economic development in the community and area.

Some tourism, as well as the local service sector, contributes income to the economy of the community.

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