
Matheson Island

Community Status

The community of Matheson Island is situated on the island of the same name near the Narrows on Lake Winnipeg. Nearby communities include Princess Harbour, Pine Dock and the Bloodvein Indian Reserve. While Pine Dock is on the same side of the lake as Matheson Island, the other communities are about 16 km across the lake.

An internal road runs the length of the island from the ferry landing. The ferry connects to PR #234, in the part of the community known as Islandview, and an all-weather road with PTH #8 just north of Riverton. Winnipeg lies 224 km to the south of the island.

Matheson Island was recognized as a community in 1969 and is represented by a mayor and council under *The Northern Affairs Act*.

Community Contacts

By mail

Matheson Island Community Clerk
Matheson Island Post Office
Matheson Island, MB, R0C 2A0

By phone

Call (204) 276-2150
Fax (204) 276-2196

Office hours and staff

Office hours are:
Mon to Fri 9:00-11:30, 1:00-2:30

The community also has a volunteer fire chief, and a public works employee.

Community Statistics

Population

1985	150
1991	128
1996	111
2001	99

Information from Statistics Canada after 1985.

Households

There are 69 housing units in the community.

By-laws

- Employee Benefits (by minister's regulation)
- Financial Reserves
- Fire Department
- Speed Control

Boundary

Manitoba Regulation 161/95, as amended, refers to Director of Surveys Plan 19224. See map.

Property Assessment and Taxes

Values of Assessment	
Business	\$29,800
Real Property	3,003,400
Grants-in-lieu	349,800
Exempt	190,700
Total	3,573,700

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%

Emergency Services

Fire

Fire fighting capability is based on a pumper truck and equipment from the community firehall. Additional portable forestry-style equipment is available for grass and brush fires.

Police

Police response is from the Arborg detachment, RCMP, phone (204) 376-5251.

Medical

Medical response is based on ambulance service from Riverton. Hospitals are located in Arborg and Gimli. This community may qualify for the Northern Patient Transportation Program.

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Community-based Services

Airstrip

Wamair, a local contractor, operates an unattended limited maintenance 3,500' x 100' gravel strip adjacent to the community. Office is in Matheson Island, phone (204) 276-2410.

Ferry Services

- Manitoba Transportation and Government Services, Marine Services operate the ferry *MV Edgar Wood* on a Mon. to Fri. circuit including Islandview (Matheson Island), Princess Harbour and Bloodvein Reserve. Office is in Winnipeg, phone (204) 945-3424.
- The cable ferry *C. F. Ingemar Carlson II* operates between Islandview and Matheson Island on a daily basis, with connection to PR 234. Phone (204) 276-2150 for schedule information.

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 Office is located at Arborg, phone (204) 376-2277.

Telephone

Matheson Island is served out of the MTS Pine Dock Exchange. Manitoba Telecom Services provides individual- line service and digital switching with toll-free calling to Arborg, Hecla, Poplarfield, Riverton and Vidir. Call MTS toll-free at (204) 225-5687.

Water

There are 37 drilled private wells and some water intakes from Lake Winnipeg.

Waste Disposal

A solid-waste disposal site is located on the island near the community.

Sewage is collected by pumpout truck and treated by an SBR plant located in the community.

Schools

Frontier School Division operates the Matheson Island School. There are two teachers and three support staff. Phone (204) 276-2118.

Recreation Facilities

- Ball field
- Community hall and office, 2,750 sq. ft
- Gymnasium, 1,500 sq. ft
- Indoor skating rink, 3,200 sq. ft
- Snack Stand, 160 sq. ft.

Government Services

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

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Interlake Region, District Office located at Riverton, phone (204) 378-2945

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Interlake Region, Natural Resources office located in Gimli, phone (204) 642-6071.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Interlake Region, Public Health, located in Selkirk, (204) 785-5033.

Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Regional Services, Interlake Regional Office located at Gimli, phone (204) 642-6010.

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 Selkirk, phone (204) 785-5130.

Manitoba Justice, Circuit Court sits at Arborg or Bloodvein Reserve 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

There is commercial accomodation at Matheson Lodge or the Lake Winnipeg Island Eco Inn.

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Transportation

Both the firms of Fisher Branch-Hodgson Transfer and Riverton Transfer serve the community out of respective freight terminals in Fisher Branch and Riverton.

Businesses

- Island Grocery –phone (204) 276-2224
- Island Delight restaurant and convenience store phone (204) 276-2166
- Lake Winnipeg Island Eco Inn –phone (204) 276-2084
- Landing Grill and cafe, licensed restaurant, pool room, phone (204) 276-2027
- Matheson Island Co-op – phone (204) 276-2136
- Matheson Island Development Corp
- Matheson Island Fish Plant – phone (204) 276-2201
- Matheson Island Lodge – phone (204) 276-2121

Economic Overview

Present economic activity centres around commercial fishing, followed by trapping, some saw-logging and local services.

Commercial fisherman deliver their catch to the Islandview fish station, or one of the other fish stations on Lake Winnipeg.

Trapping is done in the Bullhead RTL zone. Snake Island Contractors are the owners and operators of the sawmill, and most of the lumber has been used locally for building purposes. They employ local residents in the operation.

A Community Development Corporation was formed to encourage economic development and growth. One of the local services is the operation of the two ferries, a cable ferry to the island, and a ferry boat to Princess Harbour and Bloodvein.

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