
Wabowden

Community Status

Wabowden, situated near the geographic centre of Manitoba, was first located at Setting Lake which is part of the historic Grass River fur trade route. With the arrival of the railway in the 1920s, the community relocated to its present site on Bowden Lake. This is 111 km Southwest of Thompson and 640 km north of Winnipeg along PTH #6.

Because of its existence for some 100 years, family structures are well developed and social functions are continual. The community finds strength in being populated by people of many diverse backgrounds, although the Metis culture is dominant. Many Wabowden families originated in Cross Lake, so there are strong historic ties to that community.

When the Manibridge Nickel Mine was operational in the early 1970s, the population was over 1,000, but has declined since the mine closed in 1976.

Quality of life is exceptional because of the excellent water supply, low air pollution, adequate housing, excellent educational facilities and ongoing recreational programming. Social events are highlighted by an annual July 1 sports day and the end of the winter "Carnival." Sport fishing, hunting and other outdoor activities are available in the pristine environment.

Wabowden is represented by a mayor and council under *The Northern Affairs Act*.

Community Contacts

By mail

Wabowden Community Administrator
Box 130
Wabowden, Mb, R0B 1S0

By phone

Call (204) 689-2362
Fax (204) 689-2555

Office hours and staff

Office hours are:
Mon. to Fri. 8:00 - 4:30

Besides the administrator, the community employs two public works employees, a volunteer fire chief and a recreation director.

Community Statistics

Population

| | |
|------|-----|
| 1985 | 660 |
| 1991 | 546 |
| 1996 | 563 |
| 2001 | 497 |

Information from Statistics Canada after 1985.

Households

There are 187 housing units in the community.

By-laws

- Basic Planning Statement
- Control of Horses
- Dog Control
- Emergency Services Department
- Employee Benefits
- Garbage Disposal
- Licensing Taxicabs
- Licensing Trades & Occupations
- Licensing Trailer Court
- Noise Control
- Zoning

Boundary

Manitoba Regulation 161/95, as amended, refers to Director of Surveys Plan 19313. See map.

Wabowden

Property Assessment and Taxes

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Values of Assessment | |
| Business | \$127,800 |
| Real Property | 4,039,000 |
| Grants-in-lieu | 2,214,500 |
| Exempt | 3,057,000 |
| Total | 9,438,300 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 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% |

Emergency Services

Fire

Fire fighting capability is based on a pumper truck and equipment from the community emergency centre. Portable forestry equipment is also available for grass and brush fires.

Police

Police response is from the Wabowden detachment, RCMP, phone (204) 689-2152.

Medical

Medical response is based on a provincial nursing station staffed by a public health nurse, community health worker and part-time receptionist. A fully equipped ambulance provides emergency services from Wabowden to the hospital in Thompson. The Northern Patient Transportation Program provides financial assistance involving medical travel.

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 Thompson, phone (204) 677-2357.

Telephone

Manitoba Telecom Services provide individual-line service and digital switching with toll-free calling to Thompson in 1996. Call MTS toll-free at (204) 225-5687.

Water

Water is pumped from Bowden Lake to the treatment plant. Water is filtered, chlorinated and fluoridated, then pumped into a reservoir. A distribution system is throughout the community and most of the homes are connected.

Waste Disposal

Solid-waste is picked up twice weekly and transported to a solid-waste disposal site two miles north of the community.

Sewage is collected by a low-pressure and gravity system to a lift station and then pumped to a sewage lagoon for treatment.

Schools

The Mel Johnson School in Wabowden is operated by Frontier School Division. Staffing includes the principal, 12 teachers and about 14 support staff.

Recreation Facilities

- Ball diamonds
- Beaches
- Campers park area
- Golf Driving range
- Recreation complex, including multi-purpose hall, skating/hockey ice facilities and curling ice
- Toboggan slide area
- Tot lots

Recreational Activities

The Setting Lake-Grass River watershed is ideal for many recreational activities, including camping, canoeing, sport fishing, sport hunting, swimming and water skiing. The wayside park at Setting Lake is a favourite camping and tourist location, and provides 10 electrical camping spot and 11 sites without electricity. All sites have picnic tables and barbecues.

Government Services

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

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Northeast Region Office, District Office located at Thompson, phone (204) 677-6648.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Northeastern Region, Fire Control Officer located at Thompson, phone (204) 677-6627.

Manitoba Conservation, Regional Operations, Northeast Region Public Health, phone (204) 677-6703.

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Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Regional Services Branch, Norman Region Office located at Thompson, phone (204) 677-6780.

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, Community Economic Development, Regional Office at Thompson, phone (204) 677-6792.

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, Community Planning Services, Regional Office located at Thompson, phone (204) 677-6700.

Manitoba Justice Circuit Court sits at Thompson coordinated by the Thompson Regional Court Office, phone (204) 677-6759.

Manitoba Labour, Employment Services Standards, Employment Standards Officer is located at Thompson, phone (204) 677-6664.

Manitoba Labour, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Assistant Fire Commissioner is located at Thompson, phone (204) 677-6592.

Commercial Services

Accommodation

Accommodation is available at the Silver Leaf Hotel.

Transportation

- Gardewine North provides freight service to this community by all-weather road from its terminals in Thompson.
- VIA Rail provides scheduled passenger service between Thompson and The Pas.
- Grey Goose Bus Lines provides passenger service and small-parcel service between Thompson and Winnipeg.
- One local taxi provides local transportation as well as additional means of travel to Thompson.
- Cross Lake Air Services provides charter float/ski plane services.

Businesses

- Abel Hall Logging – phone (204) 689-2102
- Bowden Lake Contractors – phone (204) 689-2296
- Clarke's Garden – phone (204) 689-2283
- Dwyer's General Store – phone (204) 689-2277
- Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (Packing Plant) – phone (204) 689-2198
- Grass River Logging – phone (204) 689-2169
- Hall Logging – phone (204) 689-2602
- Ice Cream Parlour – phone (204) 689-2247
- Jonasson Fisheries
- Mescanow Autograde Contracting Ltd. – phone (204) 689-2019

- Mud Lake Logging
- MY's Gas Station
- Nelson River Logging
- Pat Smith Trucking & Construction – phone (204) 689-2345
- Ponton Gas Station & Motel – phone (204) 689-9900
- Skulmoski Fisheries
- Trach Trucking – phone (204) 689-1618
- Utik Lake Outfitters
- Wabowden Development Corp. – phone (204) 689-2465
- Wabowden taxi –

Economic Overview

Wabowden is located in the southern part of Manitoba's nickel belt. A number of ore bodies are known to exist near the community. Manibridge Nickel Mines operated from 1970 to 1976.

In 1972 a logging operation was started at Sipiwesk, about 16 kilometres to the west of Wabowden. It provides wood to the Tolko Manitoba Inc pulp and paper mill, and sawmill plant at The Pas. The timber harvest has become Wabowden's most important industry supplying the Tolko processing plant.

Wabowden is also situated in the "Wabowden Clay Belt," an agricultural zone with some potential for agricultural applications. An agriculture research station operated from 1956 to 1965 in the community to assess soil fertility and plant adaptability in mid-northern Manitoba.

Commercial fishing continues to be one of the major sources of employment. The Wabowden fish station, located in the community, serves the communities of Wabowden, Nelson House, Thicket Portage, Cross Lake and Herb Lake Landing, all of whom have access to the Nelson and Grass River watershed areas. The area connection with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation provides valuable facilities and creates seasonal employment.

Trappers in the Wabowden Registered Trap Line Zone produce additional income for the community economy.

Wild rice is a growing economic activity in the area.

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