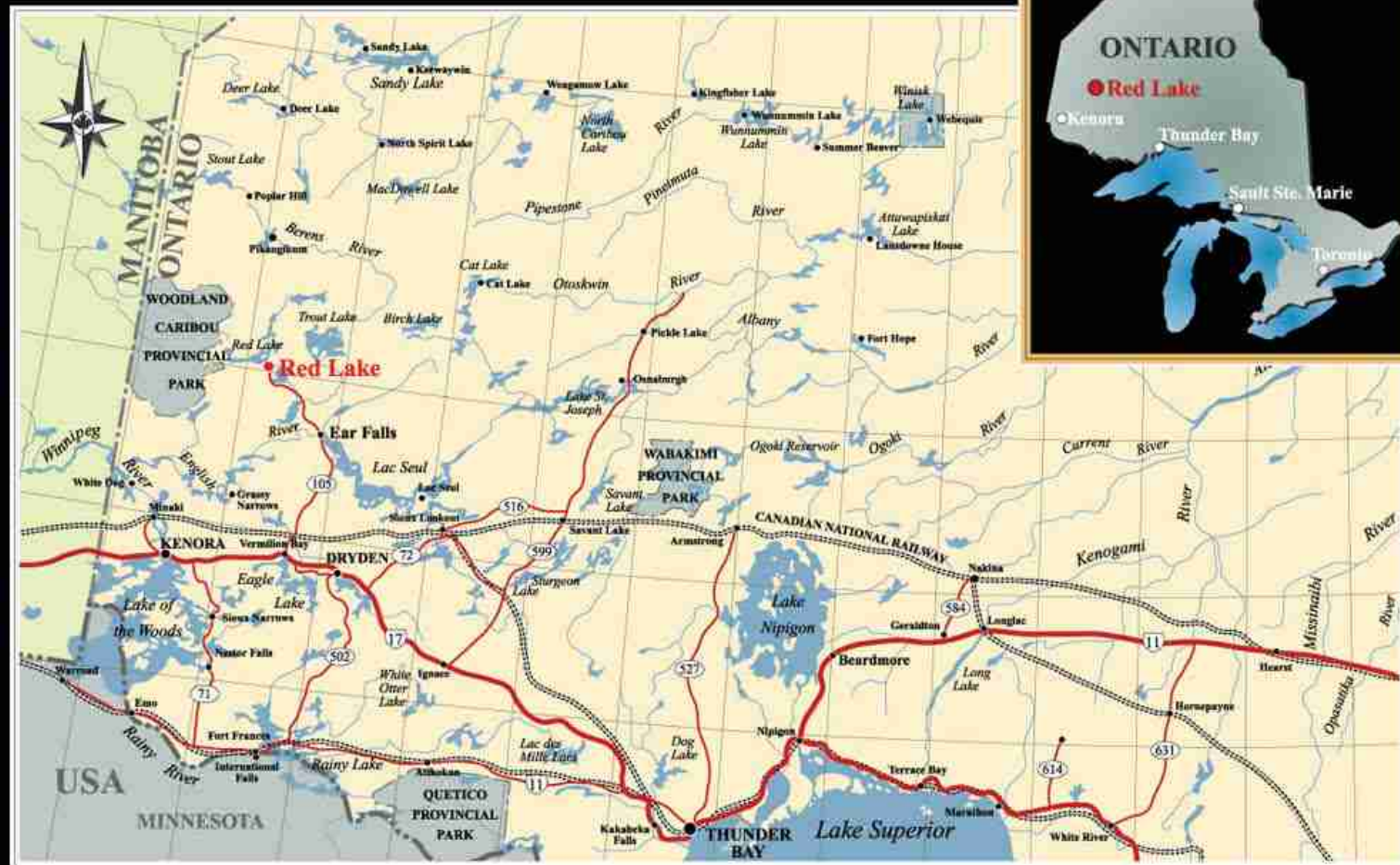




Visitor's Guide to the Red Lake / Ear Falls District

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Red Lake Gold Rush



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Red Lake Gold Rush

Printed in Canada



Join the Gold Rush to Red Lake - Ear Falls, Ontario, Canada. 2000 - 2001

A message from the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

Seventy-five years ago when prospectors discovered gold in the Red Lake area, they had no way of knowing it would lead to one of the biggest gold rushes in Ontario's history and the establishment of 17 gold mines which would produce more than 18 million ounces of gold.

The Red Lake gold rush began on July 25, 1925 when Lorne Howey and his brother Ray found gold in a quartz vein. They quickly staked nine claims each on the shore of what is now known as Howey Bay. Lorne's claims would eventually become the Howey Mine, the first producer in the Red Lake camp and the most successful low grade gold mine in Canadian history.

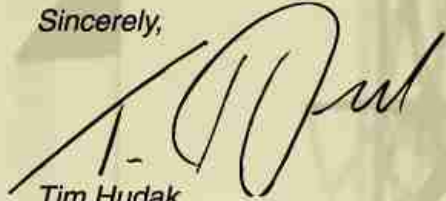
Word of the incredible economic potential of the Red Lake area spread quickly around the world. By January 1926, the rush was on to find even more gold in the area. That year, more than 1,000 prospectors staked a solid ten square miles around the lake. The Mining Recorder logged 3,500 claims in one month and more than 10,000 by the end of the year.

The Red Lake gold rush was the first in Canada to make use of aircraft to transport equipment for mine exploration and development. In fact, by the summer of 1936, Red Lake was considered one of the world's busiest airports and the busiest float plane airport in the world.

Red Lake has never looked back. In April 2000, Campbell Mine poured its 10 millionth ounce of gold, becoming one of five Ontario mines to achieve this milestone. The economic potential of the area has produced exceptional results throughout the past 75 years and I'm confident this potential will continue to generate positive outcomes for the people, industry and businesses in Red Lake.

I extend my best wishes to all those celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Red Lake gold rush. I also offer a special note of thanks to the Red Lake Museum and the Ear Falls Museum as well as local industry, business and organizations which have all worked hard to chronicle the region's history, preserve the area's heritage, and mark this historic event.

Sincerely,



Tim Hudak
Minister of Northern Development and Mines



A message from the Mayor of the Municipality of Red Lake.

It is my privilege and pleasure to compliment the Red Lake Museum on their excellent publication, "Visitor's Guide to the Red Lake / Ear Falls District". Our history dates back over two hundred years to the North West Company and the fur trade, our community history starts in 1925 with the Howey Mine Gold Discovery.

The Red Lake / Ear Falls history is intertwined from the beginning with the gold rush, establishing of the mines, construction of the Ear Falls power dam, and transportation into this new northern frontier by air, tugs and scows, and winter tractor trains.

This guide will introduce you to our people and communities, with sectoral views of trapping, mining, forest industry, tourism, and the advances in transportation.

Welcome to Red Lake - Ear Falls in our 75th year!



Duncan Wilson
Mayor
Municipality of Red Lake



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Our mandate is to preserve and promote the
area's culture and history.*

If you are interested in fishing, canoeing, outdoor adventures, or hotel, camp and resort accommodations, please write, phone or fax for a copy of the Red Lake District Map, c/o:

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Many different themes make up the story of the Red Lake and Ear Falls District. Because of space limitations, we were restricted in the amount of information we could include in this publication. Highlighted are those themes that best illustrate the rich history that ties our communities together.

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A living museum with a heart of gold...

Our story begins around 9000 years ago, when stone-age people first inhabited this area. Into this region came the ancestors of the Cree and Ojibway people who live here today. This period is known as the Woodland Era.

Aboriginal people were ingenious, hardy people, familiar with the properties of plants and wood, and with the habits of wild animals. They lived off the land along the many waterways, and carved tools from stones, wood, and the bones of wild animals. Their clothing was made from the hides of the wildlife they killed for food. They treated their environment with respect, and celebrated its bounties through their spirituality.



J. Dodd



G. Wilson

The Legend of Red Lake

According to Ojibway legend, thousands of years ago two hunters came upon a very large moose beside a lake. They believed the beast was Matchee Manitou (evil spirit) and tried to kill it. Wounded, the animal escaped by diving deep into the lake. A large pool of blood coloured the water red, and the hunters named the body of water Misque Sakigon, or Colour of Blood Lake. Over the years it became known as Red Lake. The pictograph (left) which illustrates the Legend of Red Lake can still be seen today.

Woodland Caribou Park, a 462,000 hectare wilderness park located west of Red Lake, is one of the best places in Ontario to experience harmony with nature, as did the Native people. The park's main artery, the Bloodvein River, was recently designated as part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System for its outstanding natural and cultural heritage values and recreational opportunities. The ancient, weathered landscape supports the largest woodland caribou herds south of the Hudson Bay Lowlands. Other wild animals and birds, such as moose, bears, beavers, bald eagles and owls, live in abundance in the park as well.



Ministry of Natural Resources

Paddling along the Bloodvein River

8000 BC
End of last ice age, plants and animals return to region.

6000 BC
Stone age (Plano) people spread through the Northwest.

1000 BC
Laurel culture, widespread trading - first use of pottery.

500 AD
Two distinct cultures in area - Black Duck and Selkirk.

1000 AD
Cree and Ojibway are main linguistic groups in the region.

Pow-wows and the Drumming Ceremony

Pow-wows were large gatherings held at specified places, at certain times of the year, so that people could come together from far-reaching places. This is where family ties were renewed, courtships begun or completed, and tribal alliances strengthened. Marriages might be celebrated, children named, leaders chosen and honors awarded. In Red Lake, pow-wows were traditionally held at various places, such as Kinsmen Beach at Forestry Point, Rahill Beach, and Sandy Point. In the early 1900s, Chief Tom Paishk was one of the best known drummers and most respected elders. He passed on his knowledge to his son John, pictured below with his wife, Flora, who continued the tradition until the middle of the century.



Red Lake Museum



L. Gorman

Woodland Caribou herd

THE BIRTH OF WOODLAND ART



Red Lake Museum Collection

Red Lake Museum Collection - Norval Morrisseau Painting

In 1959, Norval Morrisseau, a young Ojibway man from Beardmore, Ontario, came to Red Lake to work in the gold mines. A self-taught artist with a grade three education, Morrisseau began interpreting the legends of his people through his paintings. "My aim is to reassemble the pieces of a once proud culture, and to show the dignity and bravery of my people. The time has come for us all to write and to record the story of our people; not only for ourselves, but for our white brothers so that they will be able to understand and respect us" wrote Morrisseau.

These early paintings marked the birth of Woodland Art in North America. Morrisseau experienced unprecedented fame as the founder of this art movement. Red Lake was the launching pad for the artist, as well as the place from which he drew inspiration for his work, from the landscape and rock paintings surrounding the area.

Today Morrisseau is recognized as one of the most important Aboriginal artists of the century, and originals of his early works can be found in many homes in the area.



Thunder Bay Art Gallery Collection

Thunder Bay Art Gallery Collection - Carl Ray Painting. Morrisseau's success inspired many Aboriginal artists such as Carl Ray of Sandy Lake to pursue careers in art.

1670
Independent traders establish trading post at Thunder Bay.

1688
First European travels into the region. De Noyon reaches the Rainy River area.

1731
La Verendrye establishes posts on Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods.

1760s
Independent French traders may have reached the Red Lake area.



Red Lake Museum

The first Hudson's Bay Post in Red Lake opened in 1790 at Post Narrows, and ran intermittently until 1822, when it closed due to over harvesting. It reopened in 1918 and served the area until 1926, when the building was moved to Johnson's Point, closer to Red Lake, to accommodate the gold seekers.

Early HBC stores were small log buildings where nearly all local business took place. They were general stores where you could trade furs and buy food, sewing supplies, fishing and trapping equipment, as well as pick up your mail.



Red Lake Museum

In 1933, the HBC opened a new, larger building on Howey Street. The main floor was transferred to the Improvement District of Red Lake in 1957, and was used as a municipal office until 1996, when it was torn down and replaced by a new structure. At one time, the Hudson's Bay Company had stores in every town in the district. Today they are known as the Northern Stores, and operate mainly on Northern reserves.



Red Lake Museum

Although the Hudson's Bay Company operated most of the trading posts, there were also independent traders across the region. Above, Oskar Lindokken and William Strang at the Deer Lake Trading Post (1950).



The Hudson's Bay Company Coat of Arms

Post managers were required to keep a Daily Journal of Events, recording fur trading and wildlife activity, significant events, and weather reports. The following excerpts are from the Red Lake Post Annual Report for 1925-26.

Gold rush affected fur trade because Indians were engaged for portage and road cutting by the hundreds of prospectors going in to their hunting grounds.

Pine Ridge and Red Lake served by the Hudson transport, which is maintained by a gasoline tug and yolk boat service. Goods all landed at Pine Ridge post and a canoe service over the lakes and portages used for Red Lake supplies.

... Indian trackers next used over this portage and the two following ones and canoes for the intermittent waters until the shores of Red Lake reached.



Red Lake Museum

Above, Bob Alexander and Kenneth McDougall with customers at McDougall's Store in Red Lake (1950). A replica of McDougall's Store now serves as the Red Lake Museum's gift shop.



Ear Falls Museum

Above, children love this tiny trapper's cabin at the Ear Falls Museum.



Ministry of Natural Resources

TRAPPING - A WAY OF LIFE

Until the 1950s, trapping was the principal occupation of most Native people in the area. Except for a small number of men who went to work in the gold mines of Red Lake and Pickle Lake, virtually every male over the age of sixteen was a licensed trapper.

Over the last 20 years, the animal rights movement has nearly destroyed the fur industry, severing the very lifeline of many of the First Nations people in the region. A lynx pelt that sold for \$600 in the late 70s now sells for only \$40. Trapping today is more of a hobby than a way of making a living.

Since the decline of the fur trade, finding meaningful, permanent employment has been a major challenge for Native people living in isolated communities. The Northern Chiefs Council, which represents six member nations north of Red Lake, continues to explore various economic development opportunities, such as tourism and small business.



K. Duenemann

Patty Keesic demonstrates how to prepare a beaver pelt at the Red Lake Trapper's Festival.

1760 Hudson's Bay Company is established.

4

1779 Formation of the North West Company.

1779

1780 Smallpox epidemic kills many area natives.

1780

1789 NWC Post and HBC Post established at Red Lake.

1789

1803 Fort William is built at Thunder Bay as principle NWC Post.

1803

1805 Climax of trading in Red Lake area.

1805

1821 NWC and HBC merged.

1821

1822 HBC Post at Red Lake abandoned.

1822

1918 George Swain opens post on Gullrock Lake.

1918

1925 Gold is discovered at Red Lake. Many natives abandon traplines to act as guides for the prospectors.

1925

Soapstone First Clue of Mineral Riches

In 1872, led by Native guides, Robert Bell and Alfred Selwyn, geologists with the Geological Survey of Canada, began a survey of Northwestern Ontario. While at Lac Seul, Native people showed them samples of soapstone rock from Red Lake. As gold is often found near soapstone, this was their first clue of the mineral potential of Red Lake.



Twenty-one years later the Geological Survey of Canada sent D.B. Dowling to the area. Dowling felt that Red Lake had high mineral potential, but didn't find any specific deposits. Before leaving, he carved his initials on soapstone at the mouth of Pipestone Bay, at the west end of Red Lake. Dowling's initials, as well as those of many other early prospectors, can still be seen there today. (above)



The Crull Rock and Mineral Collection at the Municipal Office in Balmertown features more than 2600 specimens from around the world, including spectacular gold samples from the local mines. The exhibit is part of the Red Lake Museum collection.



Dr. E.L. Bruce was the next geologist to survey the area. His report, published in 1924, stated that... "quartz veins (found at Red Lake)... contain visible gold in quantities". After reading his report, Ray Howey, George McNeely, and Lorne Howey (pictured above, left to right), prospectors from Cobalt, Ontario, travelled to Red Lake. On June 25, 1925, under the roots of an upturned tree, (below), they discovered a major gold vein on the shores of Red Lake, triggering the last great gold rush in North America.



Tragic Ending to Gold Discovery of 1897

At the turn of the century, the search for gold in Canada was at its peak. Intrigued by Dr. Dowling's report on the mineral potential of Red Lake, Robert Gilbert, an adventurous 33 year old prospector from New Brunswick, travelled to England. Together with three British partners, he formed the North Western Expedition Company, and sailed back to Canada.

Arriving in Dinorwic by train in June 1897, the party canoed 200 miles to Red Lake and discovered gold soon after their arrival at Slate Bay. As they were loading their canoes for their return trip, Gilbert's partners heard him cry out, "I have killed myself", and watched him collapse and die.

Just before stepping into the canoe, Gilbert had reached for his Colt revolver which landed on a rock and discharged. Gilbert was struck by the bullet in the chest.

With Gilbert's body sewn in a canvas bag, the men canoed back to the railhead in the extreme heat, carrying the heavy, decomposing body of their friend over numerous lengthy, mosquito infested portages. At Dinorwic, Gilbert's body was sealed in a metal casket and sent back to his family in the east.



A golden sunset on the way to Slate Bay.

RESOURCE EXPLORATION LEADS TO SIGNING OF TREATY THREE



Chief Akiwance and Councillor Nattaway Keesic, (ancestors of many Native people living in the area today), on Treaty Day at Lac Seul in 1914.

After three years of negotiations, on October 3, 1873, the Canadian Government and the Saulteaux (Ojibway) and the Chippewa Indians signed Treaty Three, which encompassed much of what is today known as Northwestern Ontario.

Under the terms of the agreement, Native people were to surrender their lands to the Queen, so that the government could proceed with the development of a railway and the harvesting of minerals and timber. In exchange, the Crown set aside certain areas for farming, schools were established, and fishing and farming supplies were provided to the bands.

The Ojibway of Northwestern Ontario proved to be highly skilled negotiators, and obtained additional terms not granted in previous treaties. Treaty Three was ground breaking, and became a model for future agreements.

1869 Hudson's Bay Company relinquishes Ruperts Land to Crown.

1873 Northwest Angle Treaty signed (Treaties 3 and 5).

1883 Dr. R. Bell conducts first survey of the Red Lake area.

1883 Dr. Dowling and party conduct further survey and writes report.

1897 Gilbert party discovers gold at Slate Bay.

1912 Tim Crowley and his three sons stake what would later become the Griffith Mine north of Ear Falls.

1924 Dr. Bruce releases his report on the mineral potential of Red Lake.

Popular Mechanics Magazine

REGISTERED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE
WRITTEN SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT

Vol. 45

JUNE, 1926

No. 6



Red Lake Museum

Airplanes Competed with Dog Teams in the First Rush to Reach the New Gold Field at Red Lake and Stake a Claim Before All of the Best Ground Was Taken Up by Early Comers

Planes Race Dog Teams in New Gold Rush

Wildest Stampede since Klondike Days Follows Reported Discovery of Rich Mines in Wilds of Northern Ontario

With airplanes roaring overhead and dog teams mushing across frozen lakes below, the wildest stampede since the Klondike days is drawing hundreds of adventurous prospectors into the wilds of Northern Ontario. Spurred by reports of a rich strike on Red Lake, 130 miles northwest of Hudson, the nearest railroad station, adventurers from all parts of Canada and the United States are flocking to the scene.



Red Lake Museum

Dome crew on Howey claims, Red Lake, July 1926.

News spread fast even in the bush. Prospectors are pouring in by the hundreds and the shores of Red Lake are staked as far as the eye can see.

When news of the gold discovery in Red Lake reached the outside world in March 1926, hundreds of journalists from across North America travelled to the area to see what the excitement was all about. We have reproduced excerpts from *Popular Mechanics* to give you an idea of the type of articles written at the time, and to show the enthusiasm generated by the find.



Unloading Curtiss Jennies from boxcars at Hudson, 1926.

Red Lake Museum



Prospector Conrad Hanson, 1926.

Red Lake Museum



Howey Mines Gasoline Husky, winter 1926.

Red Lake Museum

To the little poplar trees that stud the shore, dogs are chained, prick-eared huskies, collie curs, nondescript mongrels of intricate ancestry, fish eaters and self scratchers. They fill the air with a doleful sound, the collies yelping shrilly, the huskies unable to bark, rousing the echoes with that wailing ululation that resembles the cry of neither dog nor wolf.

The trail leads across frozen lakes and rivers through a virgin wilderness inhabited only by an occasional white or Indian trapper.



Red Lake Museum

Prospectors trenching the Howey claims, 1926.



George Jones on the trail to Red Lake, 1926.

Red Lake Museum



Falcon Moth leaving Red Lake, 1926.

Red Lake Museum

Through this chorus of mourning rings another song, the tapping of steel upon rock. It explains this whole northland spectacle, for it is the noise of the samplers, patiently chipping channels across the wide band of quartz where Lorne Howey struck gold.

The rush will go down in history as the first gold stampede in which airplanes were used.

Jul. 1925 Howey Brothers discover gold at Red Lake.

Feb. 1926 The Gold Rush is on!

Mar. 1926 First Air Mail to Red Lake.

1930 Howey Mine pours first gold brick.

1934 Gold price is fixed at \$35 U.S. per oz. Increased activity in the Red Lake Gold Camp.

1935 - 1939 Four producing mines open including McKenzie Gold, Goldshore, Madsen and Cochenour Willans.

1939 WWII - mines prospered - gold used to obtain US dollars to purchase war materials.

1940 McMarrac Mine in production.

1942 Gold mines slumped when gold declared a non war industry - labour and supplies are restricted.



Tractor Train at Red Lake, 1936.



Tug going over Snowshoe, mid 30s.



Scow at Sam's portage, 1933.



Footbridge at Snake Falls Camp, 1999.



"The Prospector" motor launch used on waterway, 1926.

Mines Report Preparation Intense Winter Activity in Red Lake Area

Shaft-sinking to begin on several properties with opening of transportation after freeze up

All indications point to the heaviest winter in the history of the Red Lake mining area. Reports coming in from the various properties are so satisfactory that there is every possibility that the winter's activity may outdo the past summer's boom. Surface work is being continued on most of the properties in the area thanks to the favorable weather and many shaft-sinking already underway at Pakwash. It is only a question of time before several new properties will be brought in. Red Lake is the only place in the area where the winter's activity may be kept going as long as the season lasts. The only place where the winter's activity may be kept going as long as the season lasts. The only place where the winter's activity may be kept going as long as the season lasts.

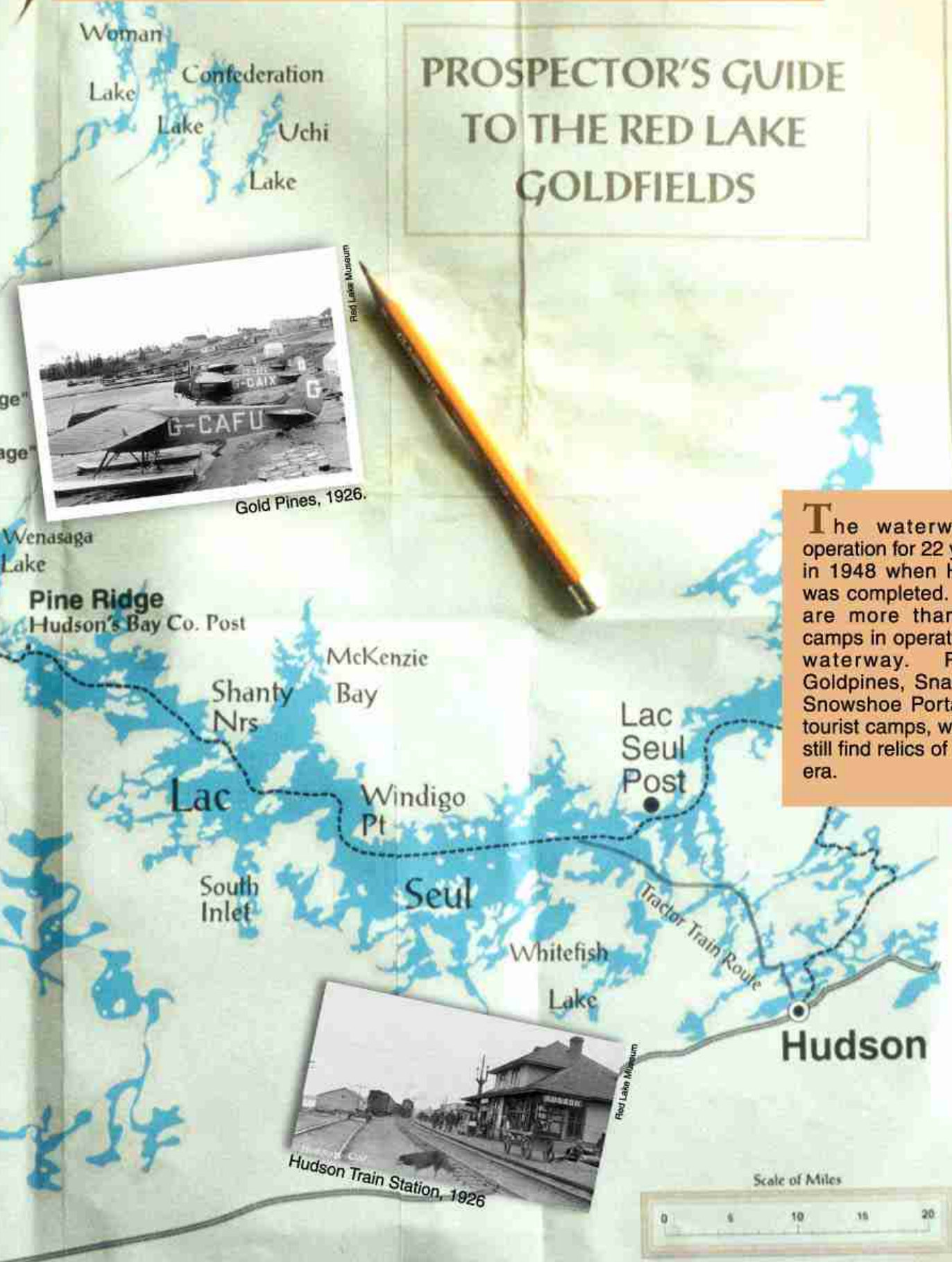
Halfway between Hudson and Red Lake, at the northwest end of Lac Seul, was Gold Pines. Here the stampedeers could replenish their supplies, play a little poker, and enjoy live entertainment at one of the hotels. From Goldpines the route followed the English and Chukuni River systems up to Red Lake. It took five to six days to complete the trip.

PROSPECTOR'S GUIDE TO THE RED LAKE GOLDFIELDS



Gold Pines, 1926.

The waterway was in operation for 22 years, closing in 1948 when Highway 105 was completed. Today there are more than 50 tourist camps in operation along the waterway. Places like Goldpines, Snake Falls and Snowshoe Portage are now tourist camps, where you can still find relics of the gold rush era.



Hudson Train Station, 1926

When gold was discovered in Red Lake, the only planes flying in the area were the Curtiss HS-2L Flying Boats. Operated by the Ontario Provincial Air Service, the planes were used for mapping and fire detection. In the fall of 1925, Jack Hammell, promoter for the Howey Gold Syndicate, chartered five Flying Boats to fly supplies to the Red Lake mining camp. This was the beginning of both winter and summer aviation in Canada. The highly skilled pilots, who were working seasonally for the government, were now in great demand by the budding commercial aviation industry.



Young pilots and mechanics aboard "Flying Boat" at Gold Pines, mid-20s.

Lured by the romance and adventure of bush flying, young men and women flocked to the area. Many of these aviation pioneers, such as Doc Oaks and Punch Dickins, went on to become some of Canada's best known and respected airmen.



Posing in front of CF-BAU, the first Norseman aircraft to fly into Red Lake, 1936.

Aviation played a major role in Red Lake's development and continues to be a big part of the community's identity today.



Red Lake pays tribute to its aviation history at Norseman Heritage Park. Pictured above is Norseman aircraft CF-DRD.



See this restored Beech 18A aircraft at the Ear Falls Museum.



Like Bill and Ruth Londry, many residents of Red Lake and Ear Falls fly their own bush planes for recreational purposes.



In 1936, the arrival of a Junkers 34 was a major social event in Red Lake. The biggest single motored aircraft in the world, the "flying boxcar" could carry three tons of freight. The CF-ARM, above, is now on display at the Western Canada Aviation Museum in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

During the depression, businesses around the world were struggling to survive. However, for Starratt Transportation Company and Western Canadian Airways, two transportation companies operating in the area, business was booming. Based in Hudson, at the jumping off point to the mining camps, both companies competed to fill the need to supply the mines and their growing communities.

In 1934, the price of gold rose from \$20.00 to \$30.00/oz, resulting in increased mining activity in Red Lake. By the mid 30s, the bush plane was dominating travel to the goldfields, and in the summer of 1936, with aircraft landing at fifteen minute intervals, Red Lake, Gold Pines, and Hudson had become the busiest airports in the world.

The formation of Western Canadian Airways in Hudson in 1926, as a result of the Red Lake Gold Rush, made a lasting impact on air travel in Canada.

From it evolved Canadian Airways and later CP Air and Canadian Airlines.



Western Canadian Airways' first aircraft was an open cockpit Fokker Universal Standard, bearing the Canadian registration G-CAFU. The first Fokker plane to fly in Canada, it was capable of operating on wheels, skis or floats, and could carry four passengers, or one thousand pounds of freight. The aircraft's cargo could vary from packs of smelly dogs, horses, bulls, as well as dynamite, food and mining executives.

First Commercial Passenger Flight



On March 3rd, 1926, pilots Jack Elliott and Harold Farrington, each carrying one passenger, flew two Curtiss Jennies from Hudson to Red Lake. With only a compass to chart their course, they landed on Howey Bay in several feet of deep snow.

Taking off from Howey Bay posed a major challenge. A crew of Native people were hired to pack a runway about a mile long, until a hard crust made it possible for the planes to take off. The men then "lifted" the planes onto the strip and the pilots began the return flight. When the planes did not arrive in Hudson at the expected time, a crew marked the runway with gasoline soaked rags, and the two planes landed safely after dark.

Mr. Elliot later commented that had it not been for the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the people in Red Lake and Hudson, there might have been a very different ending to Red Lake's first commercial flight.



Pilots Stan Comber and Ron Bell. On March 4, 1995, dressed in period costumes, a group of Red Lake aviation enthusiasts flew their bush planes to Hudson, retracing the heritage route to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Red Lake's first air mail delivery.

1924
Romeo Vachon lands first plane at Red Lake.

1926
First commercial flight to Red Lake.

1926
Western Canadian Airways is formed.

1932
Starratt Airways and Transportation Ltd. is formed.

1935-36
Red Lake, Gold Pines and Hudson are busiest airports in the world.

1948
Road to Red Lake - Highway 105 opens. Red Lake Airport opens.

1992
Norseman Heritage Park opens in Red Lake



The first medical party en route to Red Lake, 1926.

In June 1926, there were over 1,000 men and ten women in Red Lake. They lived in wall-to-wall tents along the shoreline of what became known as Howey Bay. To serve the camp, the Red Cross Society opened a medical outpost.

Joe Cromarty (far right), Nataway Keesic (second from left), and six other Native men from Lac Seul, guided the group to Red Lake, manning the five freighter canoes, which were loaded with 7,000 lbs of equipment, including beds. They arrived six days later and erected a tent, establishing Red Lake's first hospital.



Local residents rallied once again to contribute to the funding needed to build this addition to the hospital, a 22 bed extended care facility.

The present day hospital is a 28-bed modern facility which serves a population of approximately 10,000 and employs 125 people, including seven physicians. Physiotherapy, chemotherapy, ultrasound, chronic, obstetrical, and pastoral care are among the many services offered by the hospital today.

One of the most exciting technologies currently under development is the use of tele-medicine, linking heart patients in Red Lake with specialists at the Ottawa Heart Institute for consultation and diagnosis.

Hospital sponsored programs include ambulance bases, diabetes day care programs, and community counselling and addiction services, both in Red Lake and Ear Falls.

Devastating Fire

In June 1945, the Red Lake Hotel, a four storey wooden structure, burned to the ground in the middle of the night. Eleven guests were killed and 20 were injured. The closest hospital at the time was on McKenzie Island.

Determined never to have to go through such an ordeal again, the day after the tragedy Red Lake residents started planning for their own hospital. The Howey Mine donated a bunkhouse, and the community raised \$50,000 through bingos, bake sales, penny drives, and contributions from the mines. "We four nurses donned shirts and slacks and cleaned and scrubbed and painted and varnished for days," said Nurse Edith Chapman, Nursing Supervisor.

The Red Lake Museum features exhibits that document the area's medical history.

ABORIGINAL MEDICINE AND HEALING

The Ojibway people used many plants found in their environment as remedies. Much of the healing and preventative medical knowledge was tied to spiritual beliefs. Medicines that came from the earth were considered a gift from the creator, and were therefore sacred. In the Ojibway culture women were considered life-givers and healers; men were the "medicine people", who doctored the sick with medicines and spiritual ceremonies.

Fairwind or Naamiwan was one of the most powerful medicine men in the Berens River area north of Red Lake. His ability to perform everyday miracles was legendary and people would travel from hundreds of miles to be healed by him. While grieving over the death of his favourite grandson, Fairwind was told in a vision to build a dream dance drum, which would guide the dead to the next life.

Fairwind and his descendants used the drum in the Poplar Hill and Paungassi area until the mid 70s. Over the years, traditions such as the drumming ceremony declined and the drum was no longer used.

Fairwind's Drum, the biggest drum in the region, was passed on to the Red Lake Museum in the early 90s. Today, Aboriginal people who are going back to traditional ways, come to the Museum to pay their respects to this drum. Considered by some to still have a life of its own, the drum is the Museum's most prized artifact.

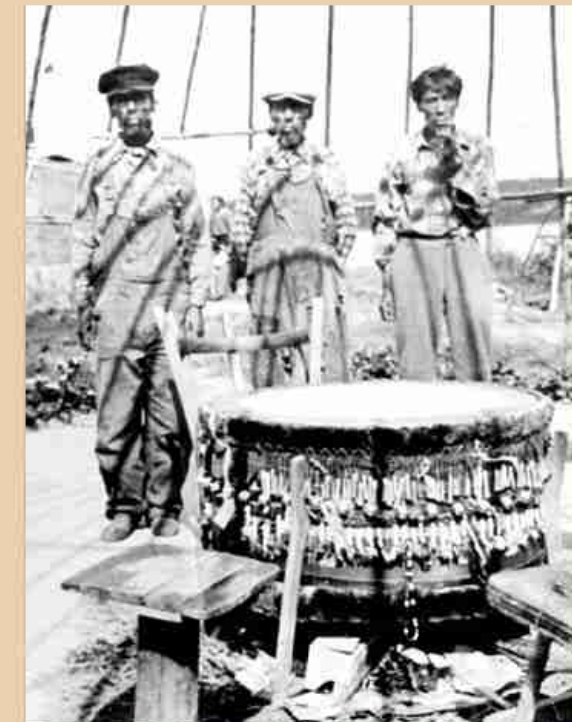


Romance Buds Quickly: Hospital Can't Keep Nurses

With five mines in full production, by 1950 Red Lake was booming. Recruiting and keeping professionals was an ongoing challenge, as this excerpt from the Toronto Daily Star indicates.

Red Lake, July 5, 1952 - With bachelors at eight to one for every unattached female in the gold mining town of Red Lake, the Red Cross hospital outpost is fighting a losing battle to keep its nurses single and working. Since February, the entire staff has married, with the exception of the nurse in charge. In Red Lake a nurse with matrimony on her mind can afford to be choosy. It's one of the few remaining female paradises where the gamut of available males runs from a mine manager to engineers, pilots and cooks. It's a hunting ground with every prospect earning over \$250 a month and many owning cars. Every girl's a doll and romance buds and blossoms quickly.

Today, the ratio of men to women is about even. Many young teachers, nurses and pilots who come here "for a year or two", meet lifelong partners, and never return to the city.



Taken by Dr. A. Irving Hallowell at Poplar Hill, 1932, of brothers (left to right), John Owen, James Owen, and Joseph Owen Moose with Fairwind's drum.

1926 First medical party into Red Lake.

1934 McKenzie Island General Hospital opens.

1945 Red Lake Hotel fire.

1946 Red Cross Hospital opens in Red Lake.

1949 Cochenour Hospital opens.

1974 Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital opens.

1980 Red Lake District Medical Centre opens.

1989 Northwood Lodge official opening.

airplane brick cold dogs eggs fish gold hockey ice job king logging mine



Patsy (Allison) Prokulovich on her first day of school, 1939.

Since the first school opened in a little log cabin on Howey Bay in 1931, schools have been the focal point of the community. On Saturday nights desks were pushed aside as the whole town got together to dance. By Sunday morning the same room was transformed into a church, as the local

clergy set up a portable altar and conducted service. For some time, until each congregation built their own church, this was common in many communities that developed around the area.

Team sports such as hockey, baseball, tennis and curling were very popular, both with children and adults. Today sports are as popular as ever, and tournaments are a highlight of the year.



Red Lake Madsen Public School and Family Futures, Red Lake, 2000.

Sports Day at the Red Lake School, 1934.



Red Lake Museum

Talented young actors dazzled audiences with their recent rendition of Pinocchio at the Golden Learning Centre in Balmertown.

Approximately 560 students currently attend elementary school in Red Lake and Balmertown.



M. Field

The School Trip of the Century

Royal Pilot Train, June 3, 1939 "Of all the stories that have come out of the epochal pilgrimage of the King and Queen across Canada, I know of nothing that quite matched this one. Before I left Winnipeg to join up with the royal tour I felt in my bones that Sioux Lookout was going to be one of the really wonderful stories of Their Majesties Canadian Odyssey". Francis Stevens, Winnipeg Free Press.

In 1939 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth travelled by train across Canada to solidify Canadian support for Britain on the eve of World War II. The response across the nation was phenomenal, as people travelled for miles to meet the train. Since the road connecting Red Lake to the Trans-Canada Highway was not yet built, the only way for people from Red Lake to attend was to travel by water, a distance of 180 miles.

On June 4th, courtesy of Starratt Airways and Transportation Company, 39 girls and 33 boys, ranging in age from eight to sixteen years, left Red Lake by boat and scow, with their teachers, en route to Sioux Lookout, to see their King and Queen. Crossing over four marine railways through the night, they reached Ear Falls by noon the next day. After a lunch of "boiled dinner", they entered Lac Seul. Ninety miles of open water lay between them and Hudson. By mid afternoon a fierce wind blew up and the children were getting seasick. The captain decided to seek shelter behind an island, where they stayed for four hours.

The trip could have turned into a tragedy, as there were no life jackets on board. Fortunately they arrived safely in Hudson, then travelled the remaining 23 miles to Sioux Lookout on the back of open air trucks, and joined the crowd of 8,000 spectators. They were greeted warmly by the King and Queen, and interviewed by newspaper reporters about their journey.

To preserve and share this unique story, the Red Lake Museum, in collaboration with performers from the region, produced a travelling play about the event, and presented it in Red Lake, Ear Falls and Sioux Lookout.



Golden Learning Centre, Balmertown, 2000.

Passing on Traditional Knowledge

Traditionally, Aboriginal children learned through example and by listening to ancient stories told by elders. When the Canadian government established residential schools, traditional knowledge, which formed an integral part of Aboriginal life, could no longer be passed on.

To help regain and preserve traditional lifestyles and values, Kaaren Dannenmann, a trapper from Trout Lake, and Celia Haig-Brown, Faculty of Education at York University in Toronto, have developed the Indigenous Knowledge Instructors' Program. Endorsed by the Assembly of First Nations and York University, this program offers instruction at Trout Lake, and practical work in surrounding communities. Graduates of the program work in the schools with students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.



Elder Sarah Olsen with youngsters at Trout Lake.

"By learning traditional values and practices students gain new respect for themselves and their heritage", says Ms. Dannenmann, who spent five years developing the program.

Ojibway language classes for children and adults of both Native and non-Native ancestry are currently available in Red Lake. Other organizations, such as the Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre, the Northern Chiefs Council, Kiishik, and the Northwestern Health Unit, also play a vital role in promoting health, pride and economic well-being in the Aboriginal community.

These organizations also work closely with the Red Lake Museum in developing special programs and exhibits that interpret the area's rich Aboriginal culture and history.

North Ontario puck queen reef scow tug Underground Victory War Xylophone Yo-yo Zoo

1931 Red Lake opens first school.

1937 McKenzie Island opens school.

1938 Red Lake Continuation School opens (grades 9 - 13).

1939 Cochenour and Madsen Schools open.

1946 Balmertown opens first school.

1947 Ear Falls School opens.

1952 New Red Lake District High School.

1958 St. John's Catholic School opens.

1963 Northern Eagle High School opens in Ear Falls.

1966 Golden Learning Centre opens.

1988 New Red Lake Madsen Public School opens.

In the early 40s, the Red Lake District suffered a series of blows that nearly turned it into a ghost town. First, gold ran out at the McMarmac and Gold Eagle Mines, and both operations shut down. Next a shaft pillar collapsed at the Howey Mine in Red Lake, and the ground caved in. The mine closed down for good, leaving hundreds of people unemployed. Businesses went bankrupt, and many people left the area. A few years later, however, Red Lake's good luck returned. First the Dickenson Mine was discovered, then George Campbell and his guide, Jacob Hager, found the mother lode next door. By 1949, both the Dickenson and Campbell Mines were in full production, and Balmertown was booming.

A Gold Mine is Where You Find It!

Major Cunningham-Dunlop staked the original Campbell property during the Red Lake Gold Rush of 1926, but he couldn't get the financial backing to develop it into a mine, so he let the claims expire. When George Campbell made a major discovery on the same grounds seventeen years later, he approached Brewis and White, Toronto stockbrokers and mining promoters. The firm invested \$10,000 in the property, and development got underway. Dome Exploration soon became interested in the property as well, and eventually came to control the majority of the shares, reaping the profits of an operation that soon grew into the richest gold mine in the western world. Campbell Mine, which is now owned by Placer Dome International, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary of continuous production. With 460 full-time and contract employees, Campbell Mine is now the largest employer in the area.

The Dickenson Mine, now the Goldcorp Red Lake Mine, shares much of the same history as its neighbour, also being staked by Major Cunningham-Dunlop, and financed by Brewis and White. Arthur White is remembered as saying, "I hope one day to have a little mining empire here. Dickenson is at the top of our list".

In 1995, Goldcorp announced the discovery of a new high-grade gold zone at the lowest levels of the mine. This discovery occurred 48 years after the mine began production, at a time when the mine had a questionable future due to declining reserves and increasing production costs. Following this spectacular discovery, which proved to be one of the highest-grade gold deposits in the world, Goldcorp rebuilt the mine, and modernized its operation. The discovery has created renewed interest in gold exploration throughout the Red Lake mining camp.



Red Lake mining pioneer, Charlie Peterson, at the pouring of Campbell Mine's 10 millionth ounce of gold, April 2000.



One of the first underground crews at Dickenson Mine, 1948. From left to right, Gord McQuade, Lyle Brooks, Laurence Campbell, Bernard Russell.

Investing in the Future of the Community

Both mines have made major contributions towards the growth of the area. The development of recreational facilities, such as the Campbell Recreation Centre, the Red Lake District Golf and Country Club, and local beaches were all initiated by the two mines. The companies continue to invest in the community by generously supporting non-profit organizations such as sports groups, health and education services, and arts and heritage organizations.



Buckets of gold from the Campbell Mine in Balmertown.

Red Lake Area Inspires World Renown Female Geologist



By all accounts, 1939 was one of the most memorable years in Red Lake. With six mines in operation, the area was booming and spirits were high, but the threat of World War II loomed on the horizon. By the fall local sports teams had disbanded as young men enrolled in the service.

Nineteen thirty-nine was also the year when, Diane Loranger, Red Lake's first high school graduate, enrolled in the Geology Department at the University of Manitoba. Following graduation in 1943 she went to work for Imperial Oil, and by 1947 had risen to a senior supervisory position with the company. As the first woman to work as a geologist in the oil industry, she continually had to prove her strength, endurance and knowledge to her male colleagues. Before long she was pioneering new techniques in locating oil deposits, and her expertise in geology and paleontology was in demand around the world.

Athletic, independent and adventurous, she played many sports, flew her own plane to various job sites and fixed her own cars. The first Red Lake-raised woman to earn a Ph.D., she also published numerous papers, and lectured in cities across North America and Europe.

Loranger credits her resourcefulness and knowledge to her upbringing in Red Lake, where, surrounded by nature, she developed a passion for geology and the environment.



Today, many women work in the local gold mines, and Red Lake's rich mineral deposits continue to inspire young women to pursue careers in the mining industry. Just recently, Shannon Franczak (left), had the distinction of being the first Red Lake-raised woman to obtain a degree in Mining Engineering. Adventurous and ambitious, she plans to explore new frontiers and share what she learned growing up next to one of North America's richest gold camps.

1926 Maj. C. Dunlop stakes future Dickenson and Campbell Mine properties.

1930s Claims lapse after Maj. Dunlop's death.

1943 Howey Mine closes. G. Campbell retakes Campbell Mine property.

1944 G. Shearn restakes Dickenson, later sold to Brewis and White.

1948 Dickenson and Starratt-Olsen Mines go into production.

1949 Campbell Mine goes into production.

1956 Starratt-Olsen Mine closes.

2000 Campbell Mine pours 10 millionth ounce of gold.

2000 Goldcorp (formerly Dickenson) Mine builds new facility and restarts production.

In 1946, Highway 105 was built, linking Red Lake to the Trans-Canada Highway. Penetrating virgin country, the road unveiled Canada's newest frontier for tourists.

For the first 15 years, the road was so rough that it took over seven hours to get from Red Lake to Vermilion Bay. Motorists often had to get out of their cars to move boulders out of the way, or to push each other's cars out of snow drifts. Today this scenic drive only takes two hours.



Post cards like this one, featuring Lesia Dayneka, advertised Red Lake's emerging tourist industry to the outside world (1948).

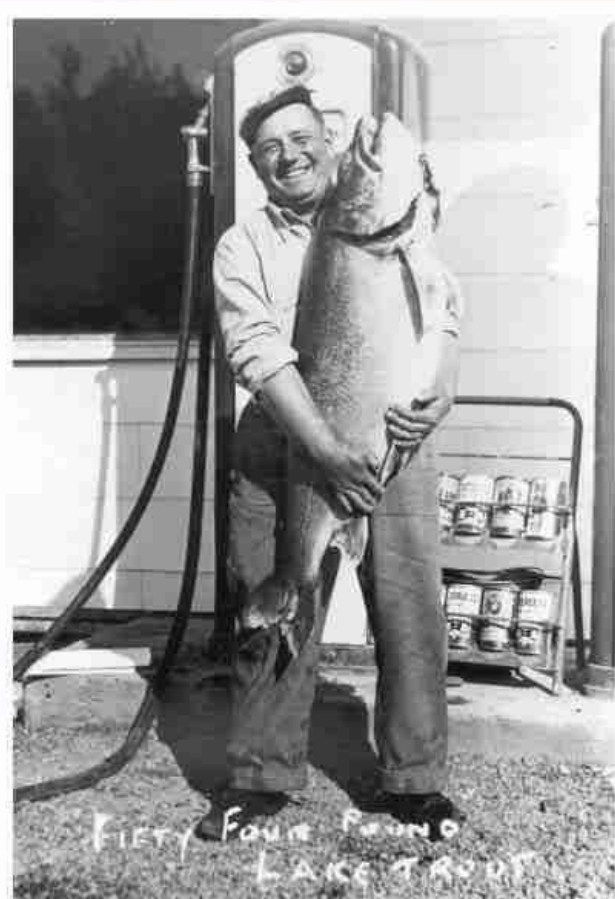


The opening of the first airport was another new development. An airstrip was bulldozed out of the bush near Cochenour, and covered with gravel. With a Quonset hut as a waiting room, Red Lake now had a primitive, but functional airport. The opening of the road and the airport meant that the old waterway from Hudson to Red Lake would no longer be needed. This would change life in Red Lake forever.

Red Lake Museum

Downtown Red Lake 1948. With seven gold mines in full production, Red Lake was booming.

The opening of the road meant that Red Lake no longer needed to rely strictly on the gold mines to support the economy. Tourist camps sprung up all over the north to feed the unsatiable appetite for big fish. Today, with over 50 tourist based businesses in the area, tourism remains one of Red Lake and Ear Falls' main industries.



Mining pioneer Charlie Peterson with a 54 lb. lake trout caught at Trout Lake in 1953.

Red Lake Museum



Red Lake Museum



Red Lake Museum

Red Lake mines recruited workers from war torn countries, such as Poland, the Ukraine and Estonia. These young immigrants faced overwhelming challenges, but they embraced their new land with enthusiasm. They were hard-working, fun-loving people, and although they missed their homelands, they adapted quickly to the new life.

Pristine wilderness and a rich mining heritage draws visitors from Canada and abroad.



Deneen Robertson, showing off her catch of the day.

G. Robertson



The new road also opened a flourishing logging industry. Logging today represents one of the major industries in the area.

G. Wornat



J. Swain



J. Deed



A. Lapp

Red Lake, (pop. 2200) is one of those rare communities that successfully combines old-fashioned charm and hospitality, a unique heritage, and ample recreational opportunities.

Begin your tour of the community at the Red Lake Museum. Here you'll find First Nation, gold mining displays and outdoor exhibits. You can also watch movies of the area's rich past, buy books and souvenirs, and find out about other attractions in the district. If you really want to immerse yourself in history, then a walking tour is a must. As you stroll along streets such as Calcite, Syenite, Quartz and Pyrite you'll soon understand how gold built this community.

Red Lake is the commercial hub of the district, so take some time to do some shopping and visit scenic Norseman Heritage Park. Red Lake is known as the "Norseman Capital of the World." The Norseman plane, the first to be designed and built in Canada, was created specifically for flying in the rugged Canadian North. Very few Norseman still exist, however, these planes live on in Red Lake, more than anywhere else in the world. Early morning at Norseman Park is the best time to see these historic planes, as they prepare to fly to remote communities, tourist lodges and mining camps.



Red Lake's annual Norseman Festival, traditionally held the third weekend in July, draws hundreds of visitors to the area.



Smokey the Bear - a friendly reminder of the importance of fire prevention.

With so much forest surrounding the community, forest fires are a fact of life in the area. There were many large forest fires over the past 75 years that could have burned every building to the ground and destroyed our forests. Thanks to the highly skilled and dedicated Forest Rangers who have protected the community since its beginnings, there has never been loss of life or major loss of private property due to forest fires.

In the past, fire lookout towers, such as the one that can be seen on the way to Forestry Point near Red Lake, were used to detect fires. Today fire detection is done mostly by aircraft and highly trained Fire Ranger crews are flown in by helicopters. Visitors can tour the Fire Operations Headquarters at Forestry Point to learn about fire detection and suppression, and to meet the people who provide a world class firefighting service in the region.

The District is fortunate to have an elite group of 70 men and women during the forest fire season, who are renowned for their dedication and heroic efforts in protecting lives, private property and forest resources critical to the area's forest-based economy.



Enjoy a picnic on the shores of Red Lake.



Go on a walking tour and see one of Red Lake's first homes. Hand-crafted stained glass and a raven for a weathervane add charm to this lovely log home.



Squash is enjoyed year-round at our exceptional recreation facility. Special events include instructional clinics, fun nights and the Red Lake Open, featuring visiting professionals. Pictured above, the 1998 World Champion, Canadian Jonathan Power, (top second left) with squash players from Red Lake.

Young Entrepreneur Finds Success at Home



At 23, Don Aiken is one of Red Lake's youngest and most successful businessmen, and a role model for young entrepreneurs in the region. The great-grandson of "Doc" Aiken, Red Lake's first dentist, Don got his start at 11 years old, working at a chip van

in Red Lake. Today he employs 18 people at the Pizza Hut/KFC Express, Don's Deli and three chip vans. He built these businesses while pursuing university degrees in political science and philosophy in London and Thunder Bay.

An accomplished athlete, Don held the title of Ontario Junior Judo champion between 1988 and 1991. Most recently, he was awarded the Northwestern Ontario Youth Multi-Cultural role model award.

Don credits his success to his family's support and encouragement, and to the community for supporting his businesses. "My brother Wayne and my parents have been instrumental in helping me develop my businesses", says Don. "I wouldn't have been able to succeed without their help." Don donates regularly to charities, volunteers at many community events, and never misses an opportunity to promote Red Lake at speaking engagements.

"I believe that Red Lake is full of opportunities for young people", says Don. "This is a great place to live, to do business and to raise a family. No way could I ever leave Red Lake".



A quilt exhibition by Aboriginal quilter Alice Olsen Williams in the First Nation Gallery at the Red Lake Museum. Summer 1999.



For sisters Julia and Renée Robertson of Toronto, visiting Grandma Tannis means endless possibilities to explore and discover the beauty of nature. Their father, Greg Robertson, a Toronto Star journalist and photographer, took this photo at their family cottage near Balmertown.

G. Robertson



L. Beck

The Campbell Recreation Centre pool provides access to swimming programs year-round.



G. Worrall



G. Worrall

With 18 holes, a driving range, lounge, restaurant and pro shop, the Red Lake Golf and Country Club offers some of the best golfing in Northwestern Ontario.



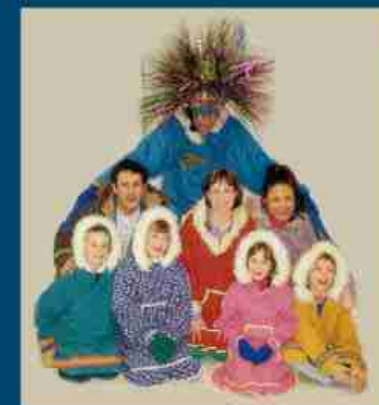
G. Worrall

Placer Dome, Campbell Mine, has been in continuous operation since 1949, producing more than 10 million ounces of gold. Mine tours are offered on Thursdays during the summer months.



G. Worrall

The municipal office contains both administrative offices for the Municipality of Red Lake, and the Crull Rock and Mineral Collection.



M. Vermorel

The Family Entertainment Series brings artists of national calibre to the community, and offers live entertainment throughout the year.

The history of Ear Falls dates back to 1840, when the Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post at Gold Pines. Strategically located at the halfway point between Hudson and Red Lake, at the north extremity of Lac Seul, Gold Pines boomed during the Red Lake Gold Rush. In 1929 Ontario Hydro built a dam on the English River to bring electricity to the Howey Mine in Red Lake, and Ear Falls was established.

Until the mid 60s, volunteers, for the most part Hydro workers, ran the community. When the Griffith Mine opened 16 miles north of Ear Falls, the town began to prosper. But the bubble burst when the price of iron ore plummeted in the early 80s, and the Griffith Mine closed down. The residents of Ear Falls were left with two choices: board up their homes and move away, or rally to save their town. They chose to stay. Had it not been for the ingenuity, resourcefulness and vision of the residents, Ear Falls would never have weathered losing its main industry.

Today, Ear Falls can take pride in its accomplishments. The town is attracting new industries, and tourism is expanding. Ear Falls is now a modern community that offers a wide range of services and attractions. Recreational facilities include a nine hole golf course, a fully equipped fitness centre and arena, cross country ski trails, and miles of snowmobile trails. Pakwash Park, located 12 miles north of Ear Falls, offers excellent camping and boating opportunities.



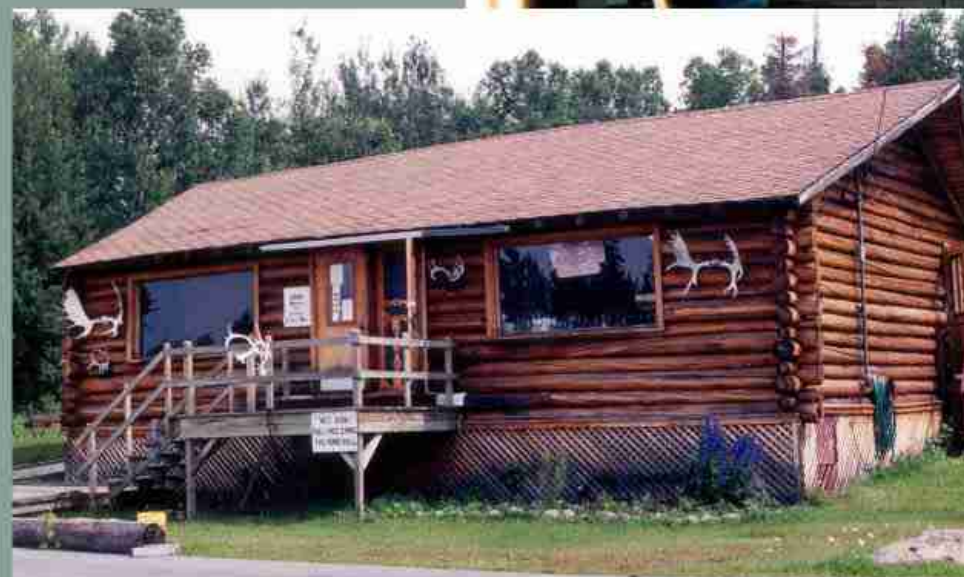
The shores of the English River and Lac Seul provide a natural habitat for Bald Eagles. This high concentration of nesting sites has given Ear Falls the distinction of being the **Bald Eagle Capital of North America**. A sculpture of this majestic bird can be seen at the Tourist Information Centre.



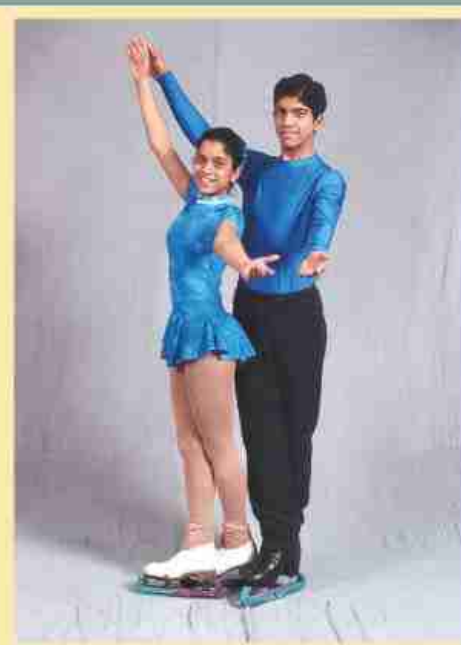
The Trout Forest Music Festival, held every August on the shores of the English River, brings together musical talent from across the country, and is a highlight of the summer season.



The Ear Falls hydro-electric generating dam at the outflow of Lac Seul.



The Ear Falls Museum features hundreds of artifacts relating to the area's rich transportation, logging and fur trading history.



Courtesy K. Singh

Brother and sister Neeta and Devinder Singh are becoming a presence on the figure skating scene in Canada. Born in India, they moved to Ear Falls in 1993, and started skating soon after their arrival.

Since 1997, when they began competing, they have earned twenty-four gold, seven silver and eight bronze medals in various competitions. Most recently, they earned a bronze medal at the Junior Canadians (National level) competition, held in Kelowna, B.C.

"It was a challenge competing with teams coming from across Canada who skate all year round with top coaches", says their proud mother Krishna. With their talent, determination and love of skating, Neeta and Devinder have a bright future ahead.



Originally built in the early thirties, this little cabin is a living relic of Gold Pines' colourful past.

G. Wornall

M. Adenon

In the 1930s, mines sprang up when gold was discovered in Madsen, Starratt Olsen, Cochenour and McKenzie Island. Today these mines have all shut down, but many people stayed in the communities where they grew up. Located within a few minutes' drive of Balmertown and Red Lake, these friendly and safe communities have their own unique identity, and offer excellent recreational opportunities at your doorstep.



McKenzie Island (pop. 125) offers excellent cross-country skiing for all levels. In the summer, travel to the Island is a six minute ride by passenger ferry. In winter, an ice road connects McKenzie Island to Cochenour.



Surrounded by wildlife and lakes filled with fish, Madsen (pop. 290) and its neighbour Starratt Olsen (pop. 25), are ideal places to live for those who enjoy exploring the area's great wilderness. Patches of wild blueberry bushes are plentiful along the many bush trails that surround the communities. Above, a grosbeak feasts on winter berries.



Gardening is a favourite activity for many residents of Cochenour (pop. 550). A beautiful public beach, an arena, a tobogganing hill, and a children's playground are all located within walking distance of the town's centre.

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