

2018 - 2019

WELCOME TO

Grassy Narrows First Nation



**TEACH
FOR
CANADA**



boozhoo



Grassy Narrows First Nation

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation, also known as Grassy Narrows First Nation! We are so happy that you have decided to come live and teach in our community. You will soon see that it is a beautiful place to live.

Grassy Narrows is a drive-in community, located about an hour away from Kenora. We are surrounded by pristine wilderness, which offers the ideal setting for canoeing or fishing.

During your time in Grassy Narrows, please learn about our history and culture. We are proud Anishinaabeg people and we have fought hard and are continue to fight to preserve what is means to be Anishinaabeg. We live our culture through hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting medicines, picking berries, conducting ceremonies, singing, dancing, and telling stories. It will be our pleasure to teach you about these various aspects of our culture.

We very much hope you will enjoy your time in Grassy Narrows. If there's anything we can do to help you settle in, please don't hesitate to ask.

Board of Directors,
Grassy Narrows Education Authority

Hello!

Welcome to the Sakatcheway Anishinabe School! I look forward to working with you and helping integrate into our school community.

We hope you will also take the time to invest yourself at school, get to know the students, and create new opportunities for them to flourish. Please work with us to create a school environment that makes students want to learn. As you settle in, don't hesitate to ask your colleagues for help and advice. Everyone wants you to succeed as a teacher because that means our children will succeed as well!

Thank you for committing to living and teaching in Grassy Narrows First Nation. We look forward to getting to know you!

Pat Stoddart
Principal and Director of Education
Sakatcheway Anishinabe School

Community

Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation also known as Grassy Narrows First Nation is an Ojibwa First Nation located 80 km north of Kenora, ON. We have a registered population of approximately 1,511 members.

Although the Asubpeeschoseewagong people have always lived along the Wabigoon-English River northeast of Lake of the Woods, historians believe that the ancestors of the Northern Ojibway were first encountered by Europeans near what is now Sault Ste. Marie, ON and thus were given the name Saulteaux. Their territory was on the northern shore of the Great Lakes from the Michipicoten Bay of Lake Superior to the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron.



“If you give what I ask, the time may come when I will ask you to lend me one of your daughters and one of your sons to live with us; and in return I will lend you one of my daughters and one of my sons for you to teach what is good, and after they have learned, to teach us”.

– Chief Sakatcheway at Signing of the treaty 1873

Treaty 3

In 1873 Grassy Narrows First Nation, together with other Ojibway tribes, made a treaty with the Canadian government, The Crown, in the person of Queen Victoria, giving up aboriginal title to a large tract of land in northwestern Ontario and eastern Manitoba, Treaty 3 between Her Majesty the Queen and the Saulteaux Tribe of the Ojibway Indians at the Northwest Angle on the Lake of the Woods with Adhesion's. In exchange a spacious tract of land, as much as a square mile of land for each family, in a favorable location on the Wabigoon-English River system was reserved for the use of the tribe. Tribal members were allowed to hunt, fish, and trap on unused portions of their former domain; the government undertook to establish schools; and to give ammunition for hunting, twine to make nets, agricultural implements and supplies, and a small amount of money to the tribe. Alcoholic beverages were strictly forbidden.

On the lands they selected under Treaty 3, the old reserve, the cycle of seasonal activities and traditional cultural practices of the Ojibway were followed. The people continued to live in their customary way, each clan living in log cabins in small clearings; often it was half a mile to the nearest neighbor. Each parcel was selected for access to fishing and hunting grounds and for suitability for gardening. The winters were spent trapping for the Hudson's Bay Company, the summer gardening and harvesting wild blueberries which together with skins were sold for supplies. Potatoes were grown on a community plot. In the Fall, wild rice was harvested from the margins of the rivers and finished for storage. Muskrat were plentiful and trapped for pelts and food. There were deer and moose on the reserve which were hunted for meat and supplemented by fish. Work was available as hunting and fishing guides and cleaning tourist lodges. Whites seldom entered the reserve except for the treaty agent who visited once a year. The only access to the reserve was by canoe or plane. From 1876 to 1969 schooling was at McIntosh Indian Residential School, a residential school in McIntosh, ON.



The Land

Grassy Narrows is located on Garden Lake, a small lake connected by a meandering creek that leads to the magnificent English River.

The English River is 615 kilometers long with a drainage basin of 52,300 square kilometers. It flows west and joins the Winnipeg River. Pristine wilderness, canoeing, and fishing are readily accessible.

Fauna commonly seen in the community include eagles, great blue herons, beavers, and hawks. Moose, lynx, and fur-bearing animals can occasionally be seen. Fish such as walleye, northern pike, bass, and others are common in the area's lakes.

Grassy Narrows Community Map





Sakatcheway Anishinabe School

Sakatcheway was the name of one Chief who signed Treaty 3 with the Federal government.



School Population

180-220

Grades

JK to Grade 12

School Mandate

“Strong in both worlds”

Key People

Pat Stoddart

Principal

Debby Rapp

Guidance

Darryl Mitchalak

Lead Teacher

Lucy Kokopenace

Reception

Events

Opening Powwow/Feast

Christmas Concert/Feast

Winter Games

Graduation

Fall Harvest

Mission

The Grassy Narrows Education Authority believes that the best education for the children of Grassy Narrows is one which is designed and operated by the parents and community members. The education program is a right of each Band member and the GNEA has been developed to protect and maintain the quality of the education program.

The philosophy of the Sakatcheway Anishinabe School is to provide all students with a foundation in the culture, skills, and traditions that the Ojibway people will need to function in the modern world and to ensure that each student is equipped to make sound decisions about their life.

The elders of our community have told us that each person has his or her own special gifts. The education program will enable each individual to learn their gift and learn how to develop it in the future.



What is your school most proud of?

Our Tech class production of “Home to Me” (available on Youtube) and our outdoor education historical canoe trips.



Unique Classes Offered

Adult Education Evenings, Monday and Thursdays from 4-7 pm.

The Outdoor Education classes have taken “once in a lifetime” canoe trips tracing historical routes. In 2014 the class went from Grassy Narrows to White Dog. In 2015, the class canoed from Grassy Narrows to Kenora.

A Day in the Life of a Teacher

Both high school and elementary school teachers are expected to be at school by 8:20 am. Elementary school teachers should check the schedule to see if they are on duty.

High school

- **8:20 - 9:00** Prep time
- **9:00 - 11:45** There are two 1 hour and 15 minute classes in the morning
- **11:45-12:30** Lunch
- **12:30 - 3:20** There are two 1 hour and 15 minute classes in the afternoon.
- **3:20 - 4:00** Prep time

Elementary school

- Teachers have a balanced day from 8:20 to 3:20.
- There are nutrition breaks from 10:20 to 11:15 and 12:45 to 2:00.
- Prep time varies, depends on the Native Language and gym schedule.





School Facilities

Grassy Narrows has a new modern school building built in 1995 that is well-maintained. There is an elementary and high school wing.

Extracurricular Activities

Archery, painting, volleyball, and chess club

Past clubs that students loved (and would be great if a teacher started again) include: guitar lessons, science and cooking clubs.





Teacherages

Teacherages are fully furnished. Rent is \$150 per month plus electricity. Wifi and cable TV are available in the teacherages.

Pet Policy

Teachers are allowed to have pets.

Cellphones

There is Bell service in Grassy Narrows.





Life in the Community

Regular Activities

Sports and cultural activities are offered in the community.

Arena

There is a recently refurbished arena in the community. Hours vary but it is usually open every evening during winter.

Trapper's Centre

- Family group meetings
- Trappers courses
- First aid training
- Firearms certificate
- Facilitate community meetings

Grassy Narrows Multipurpose Complex

In the evenings, it is used as the community centre.

Community Events

- Spring Break - Winter Carnival - all week family fun activities
- Community Fishing derbies in winter and summer
- Christmas parade
- A Culture Week is occasionally organised. In the fall of 2016, students organised a Culture Week at the old reserve, which was open to all.

Mail

Regular post arrives in Grassy Narrows every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Around the Community



①

①

Community Powwow Grounds

②

Post Office

③

Community Store

④

Marina (on traditional land)



②

③



④



Around the Community



①

Artwork at the Daycare

②

Freshly groomed cross country skiing trail

③

Wild rice

④

Beautiful sunset in Grassy Narrows

Get to Know Grassy Narrows Community Members

MEET CARLA KOKOPENACE

PS Coordinator/Administrative Assistance

What do you like most about your community?

I like the adult education program because it means that everyone can get their education. I like to go out with my dad to fish. This year, I coordinated a Fall Harvest. We plucked ducks, cleaned and processed a deer, and cleaned a beaver.

I also appreciate that when there is a tragedy or death in the community, people come together.

What do you like to do in the community when you have a day off?

I like to go walking, going out on a boat, camping, hiking, picking berries, and just exploring the traditional land that I'm on. Occasionally, I go out to Kenora for a movie or do a day-trip to Winnipeg.

How would you describe your community to someone who has never been?

First thing you will notice when you arrive is a large drum with two feathers created by a couple of locals.

The community is varied: we have a mix of traditional and Christian traditions, as well as people who don't have religious traditions.

We're environmentalists and are fighting to keep what we have left. We set up a blockade against logging in the early 2000s. We had a mercury incident and our water is shipped in. We are working to preserve and restore the waterways.



Wild Rice Harvesting in Grassy Narrows

In Grassy Narrows, people have been harvesting wild rice (manomin) for centuries.



The wild rice harvest marks the end of summer and the beginning of fall. The window of opportunity for the harvest is brief and dependent upon favourable weather conditions between the end of August and the first 2-3 weeks of September. Rice is harvested on Wolf Lake, the traditional land of the Ojibway of Grassy Narrows. Rice is harvested from a canoe, using two special "rice sticks". One stick is used to bring the rice plants over the canoe and the second is used to gently tap, which knocks the pods of rice to the bottom of the canoe. In the past, the whole community would take part in the harvest, taking the time to harvest the rice together to ensure food for the winter months ahead. Today, those who keep the tradition alive are kept company by the "rice birds": ducks and Canada Geese.

Quick Facts

Community Name

Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation/
Grassy Narrows First Nation

Tribal Council

Bimose Tribal Council

Provincial Territorial Organisation (PTO)

Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT3)

Population On-Reserve



1200+

Language Spoken



**Ojibway
and English**

Treaty



Treaty 3

Average Yearly Temperature



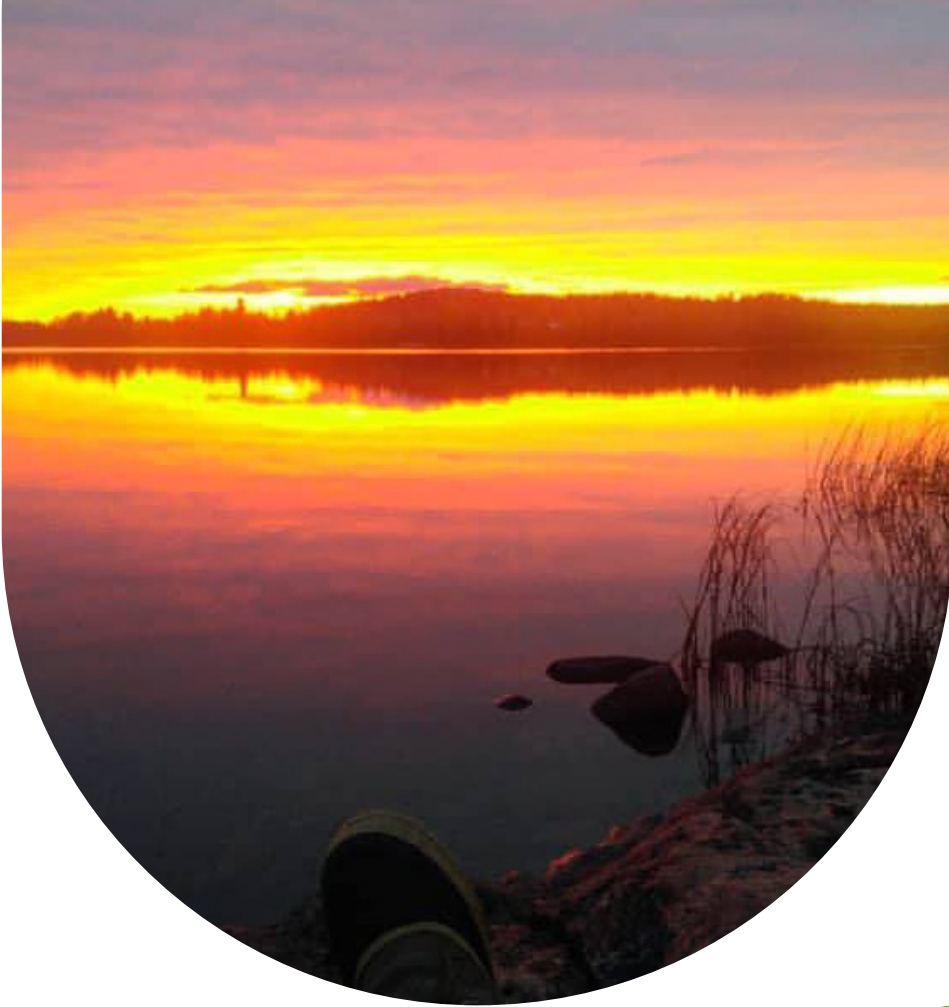
-15°C
January

20°C
July

Access



Accessible
Drive-in Community



Getting To and From Grassy Narrows

Teachers should have their own vehicle. Most shopping is done in Kenora, which is an 80 kilometer drive away. Taxis are very expensive and it can be difficult to get a ride. Grassy Narrows is located off Hwy 671, which is accessible from the TransCanada highway (Hwy 17). The road is winding and paved.

Directory

Sakatcheway Anishinabe School

General Delivery
1 Ed. Drive
Grassy Narrows, ON, P0X 1B0

Telephone: 807-925-2626
Fax: 807-925-2855

Band Office

807-925-2201



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