

WELCOME TO

Marten Falls First Nation / Ogoki Post



TEACH
FOR
CANADA



boozhoo



Marten Falls First Nation

Boozhoo!

Welcome to Marten Falls! We are so happy that you have decided to come live and teach in our community. Your students and community members are really looking forward to meeting you!

Marten Falls is a small fly-in community located on the mighty Albany River, which provides access to numerous rivers and lakes. In summer, these waterways are wonderful for fishing and in winter, you can have fun snowmobiling and snowshoeing. The land also offers ideal grounds for hunting and camping. The Marten Falls school board will organize boating and fishing excursions when the river is open. While in Marten Falls, we encourage you to learn about our history and our culture. Many people here speak Ojibwe.

Of course, you will also be very busy at school and after class with preparation and extracurricular activities. If you love a sport or activity, please share your passion with the students by setting up a club. You can also invest yourself in one of our existing extracurricular activities. Spending time with students outside of class is essential to getting to know them and giving them the chance to get to know you.

Another great way to get to know your students and their families, as well as your neighbours and colleagues, is to participate in events and activities. You will always be welcome to attend, please actively participate.

Have a great time at the Summer Enrichment Program, then bring your learnings, energy, and enthusiasm to Marten Falls at the beginning of the school year. See you soon!

Maria Baxter

Band Councillor, Education Portfolio



A message from Chief Bruce Achneepineskum

Boozhoo,

Welcome to Marten Falls First Nation, also known as Ogoki Post. We are so happy that you have decided to come live and teach in our community.

Your students and community members are really looking forward to meeting you, which will happen during our school grand opening in September.

COVID-19 has effected our childrens' educations, and together we are faced with a challenging assignment to overcome. We will have to work hard to catch up on the missed education that our children have experienced.

This challenge is on you, the principal, the Special Education Team, and the Director of Education.

We are fully confident that you will succeed and offer our children a meaningful education. We look forward to getting to know you as you settle into life here in Marten Falls.

See you soon!

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum

A message from Roger Fobister Sr., Director of Education Marten Falls



Boozhoo. Welcome to Ogoki, in the heartland of Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Cree Country of the Central Boreal Forest of Canada.

You are not making a mistake in deciding to come and teach in our Indigenous lands. You will live among us and experience the harshness of the rugged lands, rivers, and lakes of our area. Living along the historical Albany and Ogoki Rivers where explorers came up the river from Hudson's Bay to settle Canada is where we are. Explorers could not have endured and survived without our help when they came up this way. We were the other half of the fur trade.

You are challenged to come and teach our children and make the curriculum relevant. The Ontario Core Curriculum dominates what is taught to our children. The challenge is to make sure that cross curricular-strategies are implemented so that we teach the best of both worlds of Canada to our children that either culture is equally important.

We have come through a very difficult two-year period in our lives because of COVID-19. There is a considerable impact on our childrens' education because of this interruption. We now have to work together toward ensuring that this generation of children are equipped with the academic knowledge and skills needed to go to the next level of learning and succeed.

Come and enjoy our Indigenous culture in this magnificent setting of the beauty of the wildlife, the land, and the seasonal cycle. We can have fun and enjoy each other's company in this interesting mix of traditions and values, as we work toward a future for our children—whether they join the mainstream world or stay to continue our world of Indigenous culture.

Miigwech,

Roger Fobister Sr.
Director of Education

Community



Marten Falls is also known as Ogoki Post.

A Brief History

- **1600s** Marten Falls has a long and colourful history dating back to the inland movement of the fur trade.
- **1794** Marten Falls is a valuable supply depot for people travelling inland to Lake Nipigon, Osnaburgh House, and other more southerly destinations. Boats and canoes are built at Marten Falls, which is the main post for the Marten Falls District.
- **1905** Marten Falls became a signatory of James Bay Treaty 9.
- **1924** The Marten Falls Trading Post is closed and moved to the present site of the Ogoki Post, 64 kilometers down river from Marten Falls, due to the danger of the rapids at Marten Falls.
- **1926** The community migrated to its current location.



The Land

Marten Falls First Nation is located at the intersection of the Ogoki and Albany Rivers.

It is approximately 400km to the northeast of Thunder Bay. The closest city with year-long road access is Nakina, which is located approximately 160 km to the south.

The location of the land makes it a combination of swampy areas and drier, treeless areas. The close proximity to the rivers coupled with forests full of White Spruce, Cedar, Balsam, Pine and Tamarack trees allow both ecosystems to thrive. Numerous fish species including pickerel, trout, pike, whitefish and sturgeon and animals such as caribou, bears, moose, beavers, martens, etc. are native to Marten Falls land.

The community is in the northern temperate zone, which means it experiences short warm summers and long cold winters.

Marten Falls Community Map



Henry Coaster Memorial School



Welcome!

School Population

46

Principal

Cindi Saunders

Band Councillor, Education Portfolio

Maria Baxter

Grades

Kindergarten
to Grade 8

School Facilities

The school features an Indigenous Cultural and Language Rotunda, a gym, and a baseball diamond.

Classes

Indigenous Language and Culture classes are offered. Daily 5 is used.

What is your school proud of?

We are proud of our culture, school spirit, school program, and facilities for both our children and community.





School Events

Our school has cultural activities prevalent throughout the year based upon the seasonal cycle. For example, in fall is the beginning of the trapping season of fur bearing animals and winter preparations including harvesting. In winter, we continue trapping, but also make products such as gauntlets out of the animal hides. Winter is an important time for storytelling, learning rights of passage, values, and legends. The school Powwow is something to look forward to in addition to the annual community Powwow, which takes place in the third week of August.

Extracurricular activities

Outdoor education, cultural activities, music, volleyball (3-4 times a week), badminton. In addition to these cultural immersion opportunities, the school holds a Career Fair.

A Day in the Life of a Teacher

Teachers usually arrive between 8 and 8:30 AM. Then the School bus brings students for classes which start at 9 AM. There is a 15 minute recess around 10 AM. Lunch is from 11:45 AM to 1 PM. Classes resume at 1 PM until the afternoon recess from 2:15 PM to 2:30 PM. The day ends at 3:30 PM. Teachers are expected to stay at school until 4 PM.





Life in the Community

Regular Activities in the Community

Hockey is a big part of the community. There is an arena that is used for sporting and other community events. Hockey is played evenings and weekends during the winter. In the summer, the arena is used for Powwows, volleyball, and floor

hockey. There is a regular bingo game, and card night. People also engage in outdoor recreation such as snowmobiling, hunting, fishing and camping. Albany River's waters make for exciting canoeing and white-water rafting. There is a boat launch and dock to facilitate access to boats and float planes.

Annual Events

A Powwow and community feasts are held annually. Community and guests take part in cultural events throughout the year, for example April

is geese and duck hunting. Everyone is welcome to participate. Elders teach youth skills such as how to clean game and keep it fresh, how to dry and preserve meat, and how to live off the land.

Traditions and Customs

Most residents are Christian: either Anglican or Roman Catholic, but there are currently no churches. Some community members also continue to practice Indigenous spirituality.



Teacherages



Teachers currently live in 3 modular homes. Two of the modular homes are 4-bedroom units, and one is a 3-bedroom unit. Each of the teacherages contain a living room, kitchen (open concept), and bathroom. The Education Authority is committing to continuing to expand living spaces for teachers, with a 4-plex in development.

Teachers are welcome to bring their pets.

Cell phone service is available.

Quick Facts

Community Name
Marten Falls First Nation

Tribal Council
Matawa First Nations

Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO)
Nishnawbe-Aski Nation



Population On-Reserve

374



Language Spoken

Ojibwe and English



Treaty

Treaty 9



Average Yearly Temperature

-20°C
January

16°C
July

Average precipitation: 200-250 mm in the winter, 450 mm in the summer.



Winter Road Open Dates

Jan - Mar

The winter road starts at Nakina and takes 5 hours.

Around the Community



Getting to and from Marten Falls

- ZAM Air: operates flights in and out of the community every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, leaving from Nakina at noon. Goods can be flown with ZAM Air too. Marten Falls is connected by a winter road to Nakina.
- Goods can be flown in and out of the community with Nakina Air.
- Marten Falls is connected by winter road to Nakina.

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At the airport

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Out on a walk

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Post office

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Variety store



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③



④



BRICLAND/F



Directory

Lynx Convenience Store
807-349-2619

**Education Director -
Roger Fobister Sr.**
807-407-1574

Principal - Cindi Saunders
807-359-2532

School Reception
807-349-2509

Band Office
807-349-2509

Nursing Clinic
807-249-2510

**Nishnawbe-Aski
Police Services**
807-349-1025

Shaw Communications
807-285-3910

TBaytel
87-623-4400

North Star Airlines
844-633-6294

ZAM Airline
800-797-4424



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